

The Journal

Fen Drayton • Fenstanton • Hilton

**March forever
yellow**

See page 39

**New technology
for visually
impaired**

On page 19

**Three days
in New York**

See page 26

**Learn about The
Tudor Hotel's
past - Part 2**

On page 30



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Nothing changes

Regardless of the political or economic conditions Spring never fails to deliver. Every year on cue faithful plants come to life heralding the end of winter and the forthcoming warmer times. Our landscape turns from grey to green in a matter of weeks in a spectacular display of growth and welcome colour.

Publishing The Journal is similar to welcoming Spring each month as from nothing the magazine takes shape and grows into another colourful edition. Articles, news and reports arrive from all quarters of our villages. Reviews and recommendations are submitted. And, from all of this content a team of volunteers craft another edition to print. When that is done it all starts again, month after month.

Enjoy this edition and as always if you think we are missing something please let us know, as after all The Journal is not an award winning community magazine for nothing!



From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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

Cover photograph by Malcolm Lynn

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Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton **Fenstanton** Hilton

March 2026

- 07 Bowls Club Quiz Night, Primary School
- 08 Fenstanton Litter Pick
- 12 Thursday Lunch Club, Welcome Space, Church Centre
- 14 Live Music Night, Village Hall
- 21 Books & Jigsaws Sale, URC
- 21 Feast Week Quiz, Village Hall

April 2026

- 03 PTA Easter Egg Trail
- 04 Easter Egg Hunt, Village Hall
- 09 Thursday Lunch Club, Welcome Space, Church Centre
- 12 Children's Easter Party, Village Hall

May 2026

- 09 Comedy Nite, Village Hall
- 16-17 'Church Full of Art', St Mary's Church
- 16-17 Open Gardens

June 2026

- 18-20 Booze in Fenstanton Pews, Parish Church
- 28 Fen Drayton Village Fete
- 27 June-04 July Scarecrow Competition

July 2026

- 04 BIG Village Fun Day, School Field
- 19-25 Hilton Feast Week

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

Hilton Feast Week



We're already busy planning Hilton Feast Week 2026, taking place from 19–25 July, and we can't wait to share what we have in store. The theme for 2026 is "Hilton Does Hollywood", so expect plenty of Hollywood glam, sparkle and star-studded fun as the village rolls out the red carpet!

Before then, we have two exciting fundraisers lined up. The first is our Quiz Night on Saturday 21 March, with doors opening at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are already on sale, so make sure to secure yours soon. Tickets are £5 each, with teams of up to eight people. A licensed bar and snacks will be available to purchase. www.feastweek.co.uk for tickets or use the QR code on the poster.

Next is our ever-popular Family Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday, 4 April, starting at Hilton Village Hall. There's no need to book – just turn up from 10.30am with enough time to be back from your hunt by 1pm. Maps cost £3 each, and families can follow the route around the village, counting eggs along the way. There's a small prize for everyone who takes part, plus a special prize for one person who counts all the eggs correctly. Back at the Village Hall there will be crafts, café and activities, and we'll also be joined by the animals from Monach Farm.

We hope to see lots of you at these events as we build towards another fantastic Feast Week for Hilton.



Village News

A watchful eye and a helping hand



Planning a holiday but worried about leaving an elderly relative or friend on their own while you are away?

If you live in Fenstanton or Fen Drayton our Age UK Community Warden, Nanci, can help on a temporary basis. Help is always tailored to an individual's needs. This can be just a daily phone call to check all is okay, or it can be help with practical tasks like shopping, collecting prescriptions and making appointments. It is flexible help to ensure a person's safety and wellbeing in their own home.

Peace of mind for caring relatives and friends who won't be able to pop in on a daily basis for a short period while they are away.

Charge to cover costs. Advance notice needed for planning purposes.

For more information about short-term, or longer-term, assistance contact Nanci on 07816 087742 or email wardens@ageukcap.org.uk



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TOWN TRUST

The Town Trust Charity is intended for the benefit of residents of Fenstanton in need of some financial support.

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

Each case is considered individually and treated in strictest confidence.



Hilton Churches' Lent Lunches



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

Wednesday, March 4th – 1, Grove End

- by kind invitation of Carole and Malcolm Lynn.

Wednesday, March 11th – 16, Scotts Close

- by kind invitation of Rosemary Blake.

Wednesday, March 18th – Tanglewood, The Green

- by kind invitation of Jenny Broom.

Wednesday, March 25th – Atticus House, Church End

- by kind invitation of Jan and Bruce Whatley.

Suggested donation - £5.00

Proceeds in aid of MAGPAS



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Learn the HALL way

Want to learn about something new in a relaxed and friendly environment?

With lifelong learning known to improve people's wellbeing, HALL was set up as an independent, not-for-profit group in 2019. Meeting in Huntingdon Library on Monday mornings during term time, the group runs short affordable courses of 5 or 10 weeks led by experienced tutors and has studied a wide range of subjects.

Recent courses and lectures have included the first six United States presidents, power and insecurity in the reign of Elizabeth I, the artists and designers Charles Rennie Mackintosh and William Morris, Wellington's Secret Service, Victorian feminist and reformer Josephine Butler and life in Antarctica and Mongolia.

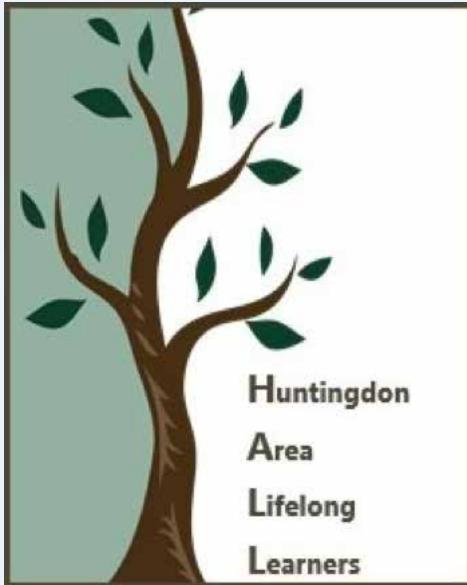
HALL's chair, Ray Bowers from Huntingdon said "With most of our members now retired people, it is good to see so many wanting to continue learning and staying mentally alert. Fortunately our group survived Covid with all courses being on-line using Zoom. We are glad to be back meeting in the library so that we can meet each other in person, but we still have some online sessions during the winter months".

The group has also enjoyed illustrated talks from group members and local speakers on topics ranging from Farm Hall (Godmanchester's house of spies), a Victorian Christmas in Huntingdonshire, Anglesey Abbey and charitable endowments offering opportunities to disadvantaged youngsters in our area before state welfare provision was introduced - to name just a few. Definitely something for everyone!

Currently we are running a 10 week course 'Discovering Ukraine through its Culture' looking at the historical context in which Ukrainian people's traditions, attitudes and behaviour have been shaped through their writers, musicians, artists, language, landmarks and monuments with a tutor who used to visit the country in the past.

Our next sessions will be on 11 and 18 May with Lindsay Fursland who will examine with us various themes in Shakespeare's A Comedy of Errors. In the autumn, starting on 21 September we will have a varied programme of a five week course and individual talks. Everything is still being finalized but will include a look at the rise, fall and renaissance of trams, Operation Market Garden as well as sessions with local historian Liz Davies and Cromwell museum curator Stuart Orme.

Everybody is welcome, there are no membership requirements and you can book in advance or just turn up on the day. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Maggie on huntingdonlifelonglearners@gmail.com or look at our webpage www.call-ed.org.uk/groups/huntingdon/ where course details will be posted as soon as they are available.



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Saturday, 7th March 10:00 - 12:00

Saturday, 4th April 10:00 - 12:00

Come and Join Us for a Coffee and a Chat!

Everyone Welcome

Some places of interest - Part 5

This month we are heading south again, to places which offer a wide variety of experiences, so there should be something in this list for everyone.

Childerley CB23 8BA

A privately-owned historic manor house with a long barn and four acres of romantic gardens, elegant lake and a restored Jacobean chapel. The Hall was the site of the detainment of King Charles I. Now a wedding and conference venue, it is also open occasionally for public events such as open gardens, Shakespeare in the garden and concerts. See www.childerley.org for details.



Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory CB23 7AE

The home of a number of the largest and most advanced aperture synthesis radio telescopes in the world. As it is a research facility, not a tourist attraction, it can only be visited by arrangement or on open days. See the Cavendish Astrophysics (Use the Outreach tab) or the Open Cambridge websites for details.



St Neots Museum PE19 1AE

The museum presents the history of the town from prehistoric times onwards and it includes the original early 20th-century gaol cells where prisoners were detained. Learn about the life of St Neot himself, the medieval priory that once thrived here, the Civil War battle of St Neots and the more recent history of the town.



Royston Cave SG8 7BZ

An ancient artificial cave in the centre of Royston, managed by Royston Town Council. It is thought to have been a place of worship for Knights Templar. Open to visitors from April to September. You can have a virtual tour of the cave on this link:- <https://virtronix360.world/roystoncave/>



The Shuttleworth Collection SG18 9DT

Two places of interest at the same address!

Firstly, the Shuttleworth Collection is a treasure trove of airworthy vintage aircraft. The collection also includes a wide range of classic motor vehicles.



The Swiss Garden SG18 9DT

And secondly, the Swiss Garden is a unique example of a Regency garden in the "Swiss Picturesque" style.

The Runway Café serves both the Shuttleworth Collection and the Swiss Garden.



Village News

Duxford Air Museum CB22 4QR

Britain's largest aviation museum with nearly 200 aircraft (including Concorde) and vehicles. An Imperial War Museum. The site also accommodates several British Army regimental museums including those of the Parachute Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment. See the IWM website for details of air displays. www.iwm.org.uk



Hinxton Water Mill CB10 1RD

A 17th Century watermill in a beautiful setting on the river Cam managed by Cambridge Past, Present and Future. The mill is probably on the site of one mentioned in the Domesday Book. The mill ceased to operate in 1955 but has been lovingly restored. More details are on the CPPF website:- www.cambridgeppf.org



Audley End CB11 4JF

The "best place in England to discover how a great house worked in the past". You can explore the great hall, state rooms and private apartments, all decorated with fine furniture and works of art. The service wing offers a unique insight into life "below stairs". Owned by English Heritage. See the English Heritage website for more details:- www.english-heritage.org.uk.



Bartlow Hills CB21 4PW

Roman tumuli cemetery. Four of the original seven tumuli remain. The tallest is 15m high and is the largest one north of the Alps.

The site dates from the 1st or 2nd Century AD and it is managed by Cambridgeshire County Council. Free admission.



Ickworth IP29 5QE

An impressive country house near Bury St Edmunds, owned by the National Trust. It is a neoclassical building set in parkland. The house is also the home of a very large collection of antique silverware. See the National Trust website for more details:- www.nationaltrust.org.uk.



Duxford Chapel, Whittlesford CB22 4NL

An unusual medieval building with an enigmatic history. It is simply built and dates from the 14th Century. It is owned by English Heritage and admission is free. More details on the English Heritage website:- www.english-heritage.org



QUIZ?



Fenstanton Bowls Club Quiz Night

Sat 7th March

**Arrive 7:00pm for 7:30pm start
Fenstanton & Hilton Primary
School Hall**

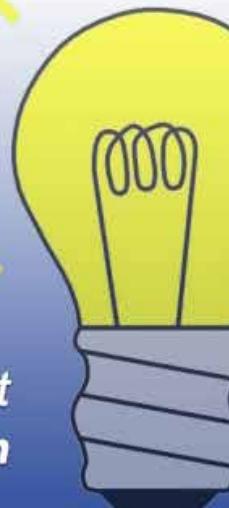
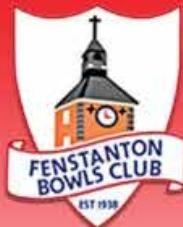
Max 8 Players per team

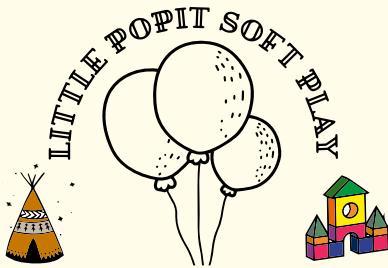
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Hilton Town Trust

Hilton Town Trust is a small charitable trust which exists to provide support to the village and villagers of Hilton. Grants are available to village organisations or to individuals.

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

Hiltontowntrust@gmail.com or by phone on 01480 830866

Joseph Ellis Foundation Trust **PARENTS AND CARERS**

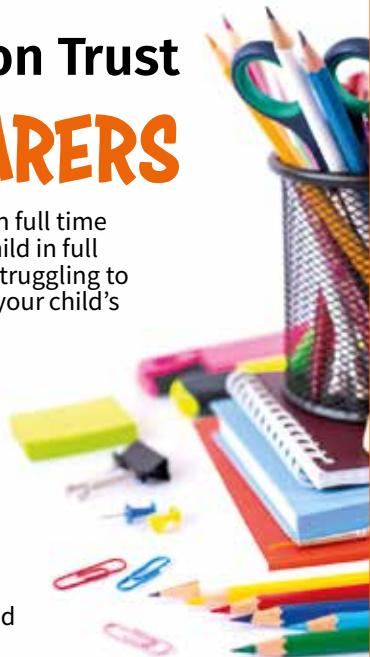
If you are a resident of Fenstanton with a child in full time education or a resident of Fen Drayton with a child in full time education (year 7 or above). And, you are struggling to purchase clothing or equipment necessary for your child's education (academic or physical).

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Could you help support Hilton Village Hall?

Hilton Village Hall is run entirely by volunteers and is a vital hub for our community. As a very small committee, we are actively looking for new members who would like to play a hands-on role in helping to run, support and shape the future of this important village facility.

We understand that not everyone can commit to joining a committee, so we are also inviting villagers to support the Hall through flexible, project-based volunteering. This allows people to offer their time, skills or experience in a way that suits them, without any long-term commitment (unless they decide they would like to become more involved).

We are currently looking for help with two priority projects planned for 2026:

Hallmark accreditation support

We are working towards Hallmark accreditation, which will help strengthen governance, sustainability and future funding opportunities for the Village Hall. We would welcome support from anyone with administrative or organisational skills who is comfortable helping with documentation and policies.

Building repairs and improvement project support

We are planning some important building repairs and improvements to help maintain and protect our beautiful Grade II listed Village Hall for future generations. We would particularly value support from anyone with experience in construction, project management or similar areas who could help with planning, coordination or liaising with contractors and specialists. Experience working with listed buildings would be especially helpful, but is not essential.



Even a small amount of time or expertise could make a real difference and help safeguard this much-loved community asset.

If you might be interested in joining the committee, supporting one of these projects, or simply finding out more, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Village Hall Committee at info@hiltonvillagehall.com.



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Find a defibrillator near you

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

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

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

Fenstanton Church Centre on School Lane
reclusive.creeps.deleting

Fenstanton Zaza barbers on Headlands
thing.pylon.relatives

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

Hilton Cricket Pavilion
clerk.farmland.unroll



Tubs2Pubs

The total so far sent off to date, 3/02/2026, is 1089, with another 7 days to go.

Thank you to everyone who has given tubs. These have gone to Greene King Pubs, who sell them to a plastic recycling company. The money raised goes to MacMillan Cancer Care.

We will let you know the total in the next Journal.

Jean, Mavis and John



The Royal British Legion



The annual Cambridgeshire County Conference was held at Sawston Village College in January. It is a formal event with the presence of 12 Standards from branches throughout the county.

Also, we were honoured once again by the presence of King Charles' Lord Lieutenant here, Mrs Julie Spence, OBE, CSTJ, QPM. Mrs Spence read a message of thanks and encouragement from His Majesty, our Patron, followed by her own words quoting the challenges and successes of 2025.

It was also a chance to greet our many friends from branches countywide and we in the St Ives branch were proud to receive the cup as the most efficient branch for the second year!

During this year's Poppy Appeal in Hilton we are aiming, with the appropriate permission, to decorate the wooden bridge beside the Lychgate with knitted poppies and already have a number of ladies hard at work like those in the French Revolution!

So if anyone would like to join the scheme please contact the number below. I have wool and a simple pattern, for example an experienced knitter could complete one in under an hour. Or would you prefer to sponsor a ball of red wool?

Clearly, the more poppies we manage, the greater effect wherever our display will be!
(Phone: 01480 831186)

Finally, eagle eyes have spotted an error in the February Issue. The Poppy Appeal event will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 24 October 2026, not September. Our thanks to the friend who noticed the mistake and apologies for the error!

Hilton Community Hub

"Hooray, we made it. The Hub table football tournament 2026 drew to a nail biting finish on 4 February as Macclesfield Jeff defeated Cambridge United Sam 2-1!!

The Hub Cup was presented by Hub Cup Man, Joe Saunders, who had the idea for the tournament, built the pitch and coached the players.

Well done boys!"



We have also had a message from Andrew Gipson, Laurie Gipson's son, about how much his father enjoyed the Hub. (Laurie died on 28 December 2025.)

"I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who organises the Hub every Wednesday. Dad took some persuading to come along initially, but he really looked forward to coming every week, and we spoke every Wednesday evening about the things he had been up to, and the lovely lunch."

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New technology service for visually impaired community

Huntingdon based Funeral Directors, William Peacock and Sons have partnered with local sight loss charity, Hunts Blind, to fund a new technology service to support the local blind and visually impaired community.

Based in Huntingdon, the charity Hunts Blind supports over 700 people who are living with sight loss across Huntingdonshire and has a mission to support its members to live as independently as possible. It had noticed that while technology was continually advancing and creating new opportunities that potentially making everyday life easier for the people they support – its members, 71% of whom are aged 70 and over – were not able to access it due to sight barriers and being unfamiliar with the technology.

This is when it got in touch with local Funeral Directors, William Peacock and Sons, who generously agreed to fund a new service. This has allowed the charity to employ a Technology Advisor who can visit its members in their own homes and support them with any technology needs it have. This has included setting up face recognition on mobile phones for easier access, setting up Alexa devices and providing education and support in using mobile accessibility applications. These applications include screen readers and Seeing AI apps which help people living with a visual impairment navigate the world around them – converting documents such as menus and letters to audio for example.

One member who has benefited from this service is local resident Ann. She was having difficulty using her TV and getting sound as she couldn't see the remote control. At over 90 years of age and experiencing significant vision and hearing loss, being able to use her TV is very important to Ann. Hunts Blind's Technology Advisor Brendan was able to visit Ann at home. He organised a larger

remote control and helped her navigate to her favourite channels, taking time to give demonstrations so she could access these herself. Ann was thrilled, '*I cannot recommend the service enough!*' she said.

This service has been supported thanks to the generous support of William Peacock Funeral Directors and a grant from Arm Cambridge Community Fund.

Business Leader at William Peacock and Sons, Sharon Rutter, shared their motivation



for supporting this scheme, '*Independence, dignity and opportunity should never be limited by eyesight. Supporting Hunts Blind is a meaningful way to help break those barriers down. It is an honour to support a local charity that empowers individuals, builds confidence and supports people to live a full independent life!*'

With the numbers of people living in the UK with sight loss predicted to double to over four million by 2050, these services are increasingly becoming a lifeline for the local community. Hunts Blind also runs an outreach support service, organises regular social groups and runs a mobility aid centre from their offices in St Mary's Street, Huntingdon.

If you or someone you know is experiencing sight loss and would benefit from support, please visit www.huntsblind.co.uk or call 01480 453438.

Bringing the community Together

Fenstanton residents were treated to a complimentary fish and chips lunch at the Welcome Space on Thursday 5 February, an event made possible by a generous £2,000 grant secured by Amit Puntambekar of Ash's Shop.

This gathering was part of an ongoing series of community lunches designed to bring neighbours together and foster a warm, inclusive atmosphere.

A dedicated team of Welcome Space Volunteers lovingly prepared the meal, which was enjoyed by more than sixty attendees. Meals were also delivered to those unable to join in person due to ill health, ensuring no one was left out.

What's On Next at the Welcome Space

Thursday 12 March, 12:30 – Pie & Mash

Thursday 9 April, 14:00 – Easter High Tea & Raffle

Amit Puntambekar (right) with Heather and Roy McGee Welcome Space organisers



Letters to the Editor...

Celebrating our village community

Residents of Fenstanton are truly fortunate to live in a place with such a strong and genuine sense of community spirit. Throughout the year, people come together to support village events, from much-loved Christmas celebrations to activities that bring neighbours of all ages together.

Particularly heart-warming is the care shown to our older residents. The provision of a welcoming warm space, along with good food and friendly conversation, reflects a community that looks out for one another and values inclusion and wellbeing.

As a newcomer to the village, I have found it incredibly refreshing to live in a place where people still take the time to speak to one another, offer help, and genuinely care about their surroundings and their neighbours. This sense of connection is something special and not to be taken for granted.

The Parish Council also deserves recognition for its tireless work in ensuring the village remains clean, bright, and well cared for. Their dedication, often behind the scenes, plays a vital role in maintaining the high standard of our local environment and supporting the community spirit that makes this village such a wonderful place to live.

Together, these efforts create a welcoming, supportive village that residents can be proud to call home.

New resident of Fenstanton





Wednesday's Tea and Chat Sessions



Tea ◯ Coffee ◯ Cake ◯ Good Company

A friendly, relaxed get-together for anyone who would enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

No pressure, no need to book - just come along.

📍 Where

Fen Drayton Village Hall - Committee Room

📅 When

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday - 11am - 1pm

💬 Who's it for?

This is a community group where everyone is welcome. Whether you'd like a chat, some company, or just to sit with a cup of tea.

Support to help you attend can be discussed on 1-to-1 basis.



More information

Email Rachael

info@fendraytonvillagehall.org.uk

Fenstanton BIG Village Fun Day Scarecrow Competition

Summer is coming and we are looking forward to hosting the BIG Village Fun Day on Saturday 4 July.

Following the success of the inaugural Scarecrow Competition last year, we are inviting the creative folk of Fenstanton to create and display a Scarecrow as a build-up to the BIG Village Fun Day 2026.

We are delighted to announce that the competition is being sponsored by Nature Space (Cambridge), who will be supplying a trophy, medals and a voucher for winning entries.

Scarecrows to be on display outside your home, garden, allotment or business, from Saturday 27 June until Saturday 4 July.

We are planning to produce a map, to create a scarecrow trail around the village. (Details to follow in later Journal editions.)

If you would like to get creative and join the Scarecrow fun, please use the following link, or utilise the QR code supplied. <https://forms.gle/xGvt9Jz47uf6dP627>



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Our local MP reports



Ian Sollom MP

Children's Online Safety – Social Media for Under 16s

The Liberal Democrats have long raised the alarm on social media harms as a public health crisis, and over the past month I have received hundreds of messages from local parents who are concerned about the consequences of social media on their children's safety and mental wellbeing. As a parent myself, I absolutely share these concerns.

In January, we announced our amendment to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, which calls for a ban on harmful social media for under 16s. Our amendment proposes film-style age ratings of up to 18 for the most harmful platforms, and a default rating of 16 for social media. This model, while protecting children from the worst of the online world and providing an incentive for platforms to remove addictive algorithms and harmful content, ensures that children can continue to use sites like Wikipedia for schoolwork, or WhatsApp to stay connected to family and friends. Both could be age-gated from children under a blanket under-16 ban. We think it's important that children are able to access online crisis services such as Childline forums which are caught up in Online Safety Act user-to-user services.

This harm-based approach is supported by children's charities like the NSPCC and establishes a pioneering, age-appropriate standard for the online world, just like we have in the offline world.

When this issue came to a vote in the House of Lords on 21 January, the Conservative blanket ban amendment passed with Liberal Democrat support.

While we believe our age-rating approach would be more effective, we chose to support the Conservative amendment. This issue is too serious to allow parliamentary disagreement on methodology to delay action. Children and young people must



come first, and this vote sends a clear message to Ministers that Parliament expects urgent progress on protecting children online.

The Bill will soon return to the House of Commons, where the Government will need to respond to this amendment and I will continue to hold the government accountable for protecting our children online.

Get in Touch

I continue to hold both in-person and online surgeries to speak directly to constituents about their issues. If you feel you have a problem I could help with, or you have a policy matter you would like to discuss with me, please don't hesitate to contact me at ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk.

If you would like to receive regular updates on my work in the area, please sign up for my newsletter at www.iansollom.org/ emails



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Talks schedule - 2026

6.30pm start at the Three Tuns Pub

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

Speaker: David Saunders (archaeologist)

Talk sponsored by Stubbins, Fen Drayton - with thanks

Papworth Hospital – local history - 10 June

Speaker: Steve Bridge (CEO 1988 to 2016)

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

Led by: Revd Geoff Dodgson

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

Led by: Nigel Fenner

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

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Trains, Boats and Planes

Three days in New York city

By Nigel Ferrier

I still can't believe how much you can fit into three days in New York. It felt like the city never slowed down, even for a second - and somehow that made everything more exciting.

Day one was all about the big, obvious stuff. Times Square was exactly what I expected: loud, bright, and kind of overwhelming, but in a way that makes you smile. We didn't stay long, just enough to take it all in. Bryant Park felt like a secret break from the chaos, and walking through the New York Public Library made me feel tiny in the best way.



Grand Central was buzzing with people going everywhere at once, and standing there watching felt like watching the city breathe. Seeing the skyline from the top of the Empire State Building was unreal - pictures don't do it justice. That night, we grabbed food nearby and ended the day exhausted but buzzing.

Day two was my favourite. We started in Central Park, wandering with coffee in hand,





stopping whenever something caught our attention. It was peaceful in a way I didn't expect from New York. After that, we spent hours in MOMA (Museum of Modern Art), completely losing track of time. Later, we explored SoHo, Little Italy, and Chinatown, drifting from street to street, grabbing snacks and popping into random shops. Walking across the Brooklyn Bridge at sunset was a moment I won't forget - the sky, the city, everything just felt right. Dinner in Brooklyn felt calmer, like we were seeing a different side of the city.

Day three slowed things down. The 9/11 Memorial was quiet and heavy, a moment that really made me stop and reflect. We took a ferry afterward, letting the wind and views reset our mood. The Statue of Liberty felt less like a tourist attraction and more like a symbol you finally understand once you're

there. We ended the trip walking along the High Line, taking our time, not really wanting the trip to end.

New York felt messy, exciting, exhausting, and inspiring all at once. Three days wasn't enough - but it was just enough to fall a little in love.





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Making a Difference Locally

Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



Changes to our food waste

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) will introduce a new weekly food waste recycling service for all households, helping residents recycle more and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Residents will receive their food waste containers ready for weekly collections beginning on 30 March. Every household will receive, free of charge:

- A 7-litre grey kitchen caddy
- A 23-litre outdoor food waste bin
- A letter and leaflet explaining how the service works and what can be recycled.

The new service is being introduced by DEFRA in line with national requirements under the Environment Act 2021, which makes it mandatory for councils across



England to collect food waste separately. All food waste can be recycled using the new service, including meat, bones, dairy, eggshells, coffee grounds, tea bags, and fruit and vegetables.

Public Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation In Cambridgeshire

Residents across Huntingdonshire are being invited to have their say on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation, as a public consultation officially launches today.

The consultation seeks views on how local councils could be structured in the future to deliver services more effectively

and respond to the needs of communities.

Huntingdonshire District Council voted a majority for 'Option E'.

Head to: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/>

Huntingdonshire Launches £750,000 Community Health and Wealth Building Fund

HDC has celebrated the success of its Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy (CHAWS) pilot and has now officially launched applications for its £750,000 Community Health and Wealth Building Delivery Fund.

HDC has opened applications for the main Delivery Fund, with up to £700,000 available over the next three years to support community groups, voluntary and third sector organisations, social enterprises and local partnerships.

The Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy is HDC's long-term commitment to tackling the root causes of health inequality by ensuring public investment benefits local people, places and potential. The fund will prioritise projects that improve health outcomes, strengthen community connection and support a fairer, more resilient local economy.

Applications are now open. Interested organisations are encouraged to apply and be part of shaping a healthier, more connected and more prosperous Huntingdonshire.

Head to: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/huntingdonshire-community-health-and-wealth-building-strategy

Do you have any queries or questions?

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

Step into the Past



A Potted History of the Tudor Hotel - Part 2

By John Deeks

We pick up the story of The Tudor in the 1960's with new ownership by a lady from Barbados. She had four children including a mentally disabled son and an English husband names John Colby.

Saffron Walden Weekly News Friday 2nd August 1963. "The Tudor Hotel, Fenstanton. Fully licenced, residential, under new management. Lunches, teas, dinners, weddings and private parties."

From the Saffron Walden Weekly News October 1963. "The Tudor Hotel Fenstanton. This Saturday some remarkable new specialities including; Poopsie Woopsie soup, Flechenfisch and that well known Russian dish, chicken plav. Don't forget your ticket for HALLOWEEN, October 31st 1963. Dancing to music by Freddie Webb Quartet with Julie Butler. Guest chef this week Ivor Bigganutt, 4 free suppers for 4 washers uppers".

Saffron Walden Weekly News Friday 8th November 1963. "What Do You Want? A quiet natter at the bar, a special dinner for your bank manager. Supper for two by candlelight? Then come to the Tudor Hotel

Fenstanton. Fully licensed. Free house. Supper licence. Restaurant open every day.

Christmas: We are almost fully booked for Xmas Day and only a few dates open during Christmas for private parties.

Having run the business for a few years they sold up and moved to Barbados where they ran a bar. It was there that the husband John was later knifed to death in a bar brawl.

Delys and her husband John sold the business to a casino company from Cambridge, with a (rumoured) brothel upstairs, apparently very popular with people from Cambridge. It was also rumoured that it was owned by organised crime from Cambridge and used to launder money.



Tudor Casino Chip

Cambridge Evening News. "Licensing Act 1964. *Tudor Casino Club. Notice is hereby given that an application has been made to the magistrates court for a certificate and that the court are satisfied that the owners of the registered club known as 'Tudor Casino Club' situated at Tudor House, Fenstanton are structurally adapt and bona fide".*

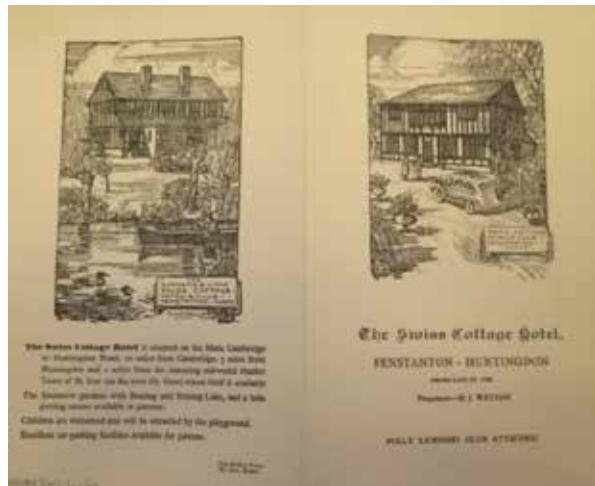
Cambridge Evening News Thursday 19th June 1969. "Female Croupier. Attractive young woman required to train as a croupier for one of the most exclusive casinos in East Anglia, transport arranged. Please apply after 10pm, to casino manager, The Tudor Casino, Tudor Hotel Fenstanton."

24th September 1969: Cambridge Evening News September 1969. Licence granted for the sale of alcohol. "The court was satisfied

that the premises of the registered club known as Tudor Casino Club situated at Tudor House, Fenstanton and considered part of the Tudor House are structurally adapted and bona fide intended to be used for the purpose of habitually providing for accommodation of persons frequenting the premises, substantial refreshments to which the sale and supply of intoxicating liquor is ancillary".

Eric Morecambe, (John Eric Bartholomew) the famous comedian had his first heart attack in 1968 and later in 1969 he had bypass surgery at the old Papworth Heart Hospital, at that time, located in Papworth Everard. As his home was in Surrey and he found the travel distressing he decided to buy the Tudor Hotel as a base for his many visits to Papworth hospital. At the same time he purchased the Golden Lion in St Ives, probably as a financial investment.

His mother, Sarah Bartholomew, known as Sadie, ran the Tudor whilst Eric recuperated from his operation. Eric lived in the Tudor for quite some time and was well known in the village. He started to be bored with just resting so his mother asked a local farmer if he would teach him to fish in the ponds on his farm. This he did and Eric became an addictive fisherman, probably helping with his recuperation.



Marketing from the 1950s

When well enough Eric returned to his home in Gloucestershire and his brother-in-law took over as landlord of the Tudor. It was then that the Tudor was taken over by two new directors, Alan Bartlett, an experienced publican at The Torrington Arms in North Finchley, London, and his sister Joan Bartholomew, Eric's wife.

All the funding for the new company was provided by Joan's husband Eric. In a history booklet on The Golden Lion website, it states: "It was a time when the comedy double act of Morecambe and Wise were revelling in their first smash-hit TV series and had two movies under their belts. "Eric's son, Gary, explained that his father wanted to use his new wealth to establish an income for his family outside of show-business. Alan Bartlett ran the new company, but from a distance. "He remained at his own business in North Finchley, while employing managers to run The Golden Lion, and another hotel, The Tudor at Fenstanton."



Matchbox label

Cambridge Daily News, (sorry no date).

"The Tudor Hotel in new hands. The Tudor hotel Fenstanton has changed hands in a deal worth almost £250,000. The hotel which stands on the corner of High Street and Swan Road has six bedrooms, a large restaurant, bar and function room. The sale was handled on behalf of London owners Bart Inns, who

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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
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Step into the Past



The Tudor with its extensions



The Tudor before the extensions

also own the Golden Lion in St Ives. The hotel has been bought by a business man with an interest in catering. The main building is a mock-Tudor design, there is a large brick built single storey addition to the rear and there is parking for thirty vehicles”

The purchaser was Andreas Hajinicold (known to all as Andrew) who was a restaurant manager at the Savoy Hotel. He focused the business on the restaurant offering a French menu and silver service. He employed three chefs all former employees of the Savoy Hotel. It continued to function as a hotel and they were producing breakfast, lunch and dinner. It became the ‘Go To’ place to hold a wedding reception and it was full most weekends.

In the late 1970’s there was a financial recession and local people were no longer in a position to pay for the silver service restaurant. So Andrew introduced superior bar meals concentrating on homemade pies with vegetables. He became renowned for these pies and the place was always busy on a Saturday night. Andrew later installed a local man as a manager who ran the business for a matter of a few months. Things did not work out and so finally Andrew decided to sell the business.

In August 1997 the business was purchased by a Thai lady Supunnee Young, her husband and their two sons. For many years it was run as a Thai restaurant and it was the most popular Thai restaurant in the area especially on a Saturday night. As the food was cooked by Thais it was as close to authentic Thai food as could be found outside of Bangkok.

Cambridge Town Crier, Thursday 26th November 1998. “*Tudor Hotel & Thai Restaurant. Lunch and evening meals. Lunchtime – International menu, Evenings – Traditional Thai menu. Sunday lunch – Thar Buffet £9.50. Christmas Day Special, traditional English lunchtime buffet £20.*”

But all good things must come to an end. Supunnee Young decided to retire and the restaurant was closed down after a final New Year’s Eve party, but unfortunately I am unable to remember the year.

Memories from local residents:

“*Across the road (Swan Road), a narrow lane with a ditch alongside there were beautiful gardens belonging to a friend (Mrs Bennett) of my mother. She had a large café come restaurant built in the style of a Swiss Chalet and in the grounds was a lake in front of the Swiss Cottage, which had a thatched roof, a balcony and was a fairy tale place for children. For clients of the café there was an enormous rocking horse and during weekdays and school holidays children were allowed to play in the gardens.*”

“*The Tudor Inn had a pond behind and it was a bit of a magnet for small boys. When I was at the village primary in the mid-1950s, we called it Bennets and the pond was full of toads in the breeding season. My father must have had permission from the owners but later the owners became fed up with boys getting in so he and erected a tall fence along the roadside with ‘caution 10,000 volts’ signs on it. We just made holes in the fence and carried on as before. About the same time the owners*



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Step into the Past



The cottages in Swan Road in the 1930s

started a 'night club' in a shack next to Swan Lane and opposite the house (Magnolia) we lived in then. It didn't last long.

"Our family lived in Swiss Cottage from 1952 to 1991 and during our time it was known as Mathyns. I clearly remember the last vestiges of the pleasure garden with rustic bridges across to the islands in the pond and an old thatched summer house at the end of the garden near the Tudor. We occasionally dug up iron numbers associated with clock golf. The lawn was re-laid by my father in about 1954 with the help of one of the Barnett family using his horse drawn plough and, assisting with the work was Pet Lille, a countryman



The Swiss Cottage pictured in early 20th century

who lived in a caravan at the top of the Fen. He was often in our garden with his donkey".

Looking to the future

The old Tudor Hotel was recently demolished to make way for new homes. The design of the new dwellings reflects an obligation to preserving and enhancing the character of the immediate area. The position of the new buildings will be on the footprint of the old Tudor Hotel together with a single detached house to the rear. Drawing on the original building's character the design gives an echo of traditional Tudor style.



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“Blowing up a hooley.”

By Richard Close

The other week we had a very windy day, a ‘blusterous’ day as Winnie-the-Pooh would say. In my head I recalled hearing my mother say, “Be careful out there, it’s blowing up a hooley.”

If one looks online the origin is given as either an Irish or Scottish word, ‘hooley’ meaning a riotous party or ‘hoolie’ from ‘hoolan’, an Orkney word for a storm or gale.

In 1895 the Derbyshire based financier and industrialist, Ernest Terah Hooley, purchased Papworth Hall and estate for £70,000 as it was nearer London than Risley Hall, Derbyshire and would better suit him for his entertaining.

At one time he owned many of the national companies we know today including Dunlop, Raleigh and Bovril. Apparently, his riotous parties were legendary and there was scandalous talk throughout the district. Hence the origin of the local explanation Mother gave. It seems however he was very generous to Papworth, re-roofing the church and restoring many houses and giving work to local people.

In 1897 he was appointed High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and

Huntingdonshire and was later selected to be a parliamentary candidate for Ilkeston.

Unfortunately, Hooley sailed too close to the wind in his business dealings and was made bankrupt four times and served two prison sentences, which put paid to his political intentions.

To pay debts he sold Papworth Hall in 1908, but still lived a lavish life until his death in 1947.

The hall and estate was bought by the Cambridgeshire Tuberculosis Colony in 1918 and in 1929 was renamed the Papworth Village Settlement, still under the remarkable Dr (later Sir) Pendrill Charles Varrier-Jones. The hospital passed to the newly-formed National Health Service in 1954 and, in 1963, it became the Papworth Trust, which played quite a significant part in local life with its fundraising events such as fetes, parades and bingo, to which many locals went each month.

The hospital used to lend Fen Drayton equipment and furniture for our own summer fetes, with a part of the proceeds usually donated back. The hospital closed and was re-opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 2019 as The Royal Papworth Hospital on the Addenbrooke’s campus site.

As far as I understand it, Papworth Hall is currently used by a specialist school and the old hospital site as a training ground for the emergency services.





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March forever yellow

March's many yellow flowers glow bright and almost beckon the sun to shine. It's not just Daffodils! Primrose, primula (flower heads on stalks), doronicum, celandine, hamamelis, berberis, mahonia, cytisus, euphorbia along with many lesser-known yellow flowering plants flower in March. English customers often specify 'no yellow flowers' and then, when daffodils are mentioned agree to yellow flowers in spring. But only in SPRING? Powerfully fragrant plants also catch our noses in spring. One of the strongest is the evergreen and trimmable sweet box (*Sarcococca*). Other fragrant spring flowering plants include daphne, viburnum, osmanthus and the shrubby honeysuckle (*Ionicera fragrantissima*). Every garden should really have at least one of these fragrant plants in its borders.

March is a busy month for gardeners. Dealing with the spring flush of weed seedlings should be a priority. If not already mulched finish off a weeded beds with a layer of compost/bark etc, (I am a great fan of composted bark). March is a most rewarding time with results of your labours seen quickly which make it an ideal time for instant gardeners. Sow half-hardy annuals like antirrhinum, calendula, clarkia, cornflower, godetia, larkspur, malva, nigella, phlox, poppies (Iceland and Californian) and sweet peas which will flower in the summer. Perennial seed to sow now include Aquilegia, foxgloves, lavenders, lupins and scabious. Spring is also great for planting container grown trees, shrubs, perennials and roses. Firm, water and mulch after planting so your new plants get the best possible start. The same advice applies when lifting and dividing perennials.

Prune and feed and tidy shrubs, perennials and roses. Gently fork in fertiliser and mulching your borders will improve your gardens flower power over the summer ahead. Now I notice I have mentioned



'mulch' quite a few times, I really ought to get on with it

Spread lawn MOSS+WEED+FEED to give your lawn a good start too the year now. Carefully follow the instructions on the products to avoid damaging the grass.



March Top Tips

- Feed and mulch
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Divide perennials
- Treat lawns
- Sow hardy annuals

Fenstanton Parish Council

Making Fenstanton an even better place to live

With elections looming could you help shape Fenstanton's future? Become a Parish Councillor!

Fenstanton Parish Council is looking for local residents who would like to get more involved in their community by becoming a Parish Councillor.

Being a Councillor usually means giving around 2-3 hours a month, attending meetings and helping make decisions that affect village life - from local services and facilities to events and community projects. You can give more time if you wish, but even a small commitment can make a big difference.

Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers. You don't work alone - all decisions are made collectively as a Council, with support from the Clerk and fellow Councillors. No prior experience is needed, just an interest in the village and a willingness to listen, learn, and contribute. Anyone aged 18 or over and has lived or worked in Fenstanton for the last 12 months is eligible.

If you care about Fenstanton and want to have a real say in how Fenstanton is run, this could be a rewarding way to get involved.

If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch with the Parish Council.

clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk or 01480 465300 or call in to one of our Saturday surgeries for an informal chat. (details below)

Fenstanton Parish Council is responsible for a wide range of services, projects and ongoing maintenance that help keep our village safe, welcoming and looking its best throughout the year. From funding community projects and events, to maintaining green spaces, play areas and public assets, the Council works year-round to support village life and invest in Fenstanton for the benefit of everyone who lives here.



Parish Councillor Saturday Surgeries

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

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

28.03.2026 Matt Tandy Anne Mustill

25.04.2026 Hayley Howatt Mike Collison

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

Discover Fenstanton's Heritage Trail

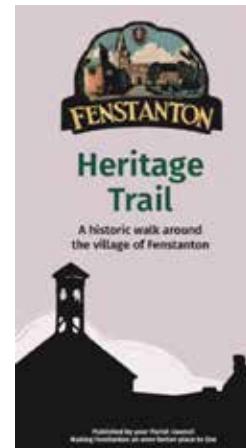
Did you know Fenstanton has its very own Heritage Trail? It's a lovely way to explore the village, learn about its history, and see familiar places in a whole new light.

The trail takes you around key historic spots in and around the village, with information that brings Fenstanton's past to life — perfect for a gentle walk, a weekend wander, or something to enjoy with visiting friends and family.

Whether you're new to the village or have lived here for years, the Heritage Trail is a great reminder of the rich history right on our doorstep.

Why not give it a try and see what you discover?

Leaflets are available from the Parish Council Office, The Hub, 6 High Street Fenstanton and The United Reformed Church.



Next Parish Council meetings

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

In addition to our regular meetings, we also hold:

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

Details of all upcoming meetings, along with agendas and minutes from previous meetings, can be found on the Parish Council website - www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Date	Meeting	Time and Location
Thursday 12 March	PC Ordinary	7.00 pm Church centre
Thursday 26 March	General Purposes Committee	7.00 pm Church centre

Fenstanton Parish Council

Making Fenstanton an even better place to live

Fenstanton Flag Flying schedule for 2026

Official flying days for the Union Flag will always take precedence over the St. George's flag. This schedule is not intended to be prescriptive but provides the likely dates which a flag may be flown. Unless otherwise stated below, the Union Flag may be flown as per Government guidance.

Union Flag – Official Flying Days 2026

- 1 March – St David's Day
- 17 March – St Patrick's Day
- 20 June – Official Birthday of HM The King
- 17 July – Birthday of HM The Queen
- 8 September – Accession Day of HM The King
- 8 November – Remembrance Day (2nd Sunday in November)
- 14 November – Birthday of HM The King
- 30 November – St Andrew's Day (subject to Christmas Tree)
- Opening and Prorogation of Parliament – Dates vary

St. George's Flag

- 23 April – St George's Day (England)

Football – England National Teams

- Men's – World Cup throughout June and possibly July (St George's flag flown)
- Women's – no major tournament

Rugby – England National Teams

- Men's Six Nations: All of February and first two weeks of March (St George's flag flown)
- Women's Six Nations: All of April and first two weeks of May (St George's flag flown)

To contact your Parish Council Clerk Telephone: 01480 465300

Email: clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk Website: www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Note from the publisher

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





Jigsaw Exchange

Hilton Parish Church

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

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

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

FEN DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL



Large Hall

For exercise, dances and parties

Large Car Park

20 car spaces for lots of visitors

Grass Patio

for children's parties



www.fendraytonvillagehall.org.uk

Welcome Space Lunch Club

Thursday 12 March
12.30pm to 2pm

"There are no
strangers here
Only friends you
haven't yet met"



Menu

Traditional Pie & Mash

A choice of Chicken or Beef pie served with Creamy Mashed Potatoes and Seasonal Veg.

Black Forest Gateau

Layers of chocolate sponge, cherries, and fresh cream, finished with dark chocolate shavings

Book Now! Tel: 07949 453767
fpcwelcomespace@gmail.com

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FEN DRAYTON TOTS

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

JOIN US FOR

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

THE DETAILS

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

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming sessions!

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



News from the Pews



Hilton Parish Church

Dear Friends,

We are now well into the season of Lent. Something that might help us think about the meaning and value of this season is, surprisingly, the Rule of St Benedict. He was a Christian monk who reformed the monastic world of his day (the late fifth and the first half of the sixth century), and wrote a rule for monastic life that has become the foundation for almost all western monastic religious orders.

It might seem that a document written for monks living 1,500 years ago could have little to say to us. But as we contemplate the ways in which we can simplify our lives to make room for Lent, I offer you the following extracts, light-heartedly but sincerely, for our own reflection.

“Everyone has her own gift from God, one in this way and another in that” (1 Cor. 7:7). It is therefore with some misgiving that we regulate the measure of others’ sustenance. Nevertheless, keeping in view the needs of the weak, we believe that a hemina (½ pint) of wine a day is sufficient for each. But those to whom God gives the strength to abstain should know that they will receive a special reward. If the circumstances of the place, or the work or the heat of summer require a greater measure, the superior shall use her judgment in the matter, taking care always that there be no occasion for surfeit or drunkenness. We read it is true, that wine is by no means a drink for monastics; but since the monastics of our day cannot be persuaded of this let us at least agree to drink sparingly and not to satiety, because *“wine makes even the wise fall away”* (Eccles. 19:2). But where the circumstances of the place are such that not even the measure prescribed above can be supplied, but much less or none at all, let those who live there bless God and not murmur. Above all things do we give this admonition, that they abstain from murmuring.

In order that the vice of private ownership may be cut out by the roots, the Abbot should provide all the necessary articles: cowl, tunic, stockings, shoes, belt, knife, stylus, needle, handkerchief, writing tablets; that all pretext of need may be taken away. Yet the Abbot should always keep in mind the sentence from the Acts of the Apostles that *“distribution was made to each according as anyone had need”* (Acts 4:35). In this manner, therefore, let the Abbot consider weaknesses of the needy and not the ill-will of the envious. But in all his decisions let him think about the retribution of God.

What would our church – or our world – look like if a little of Benedict’s rule percolated through it? May you have a very joyful Lent.

With love, David

Revd David Busk (01480 436400)

Services in March

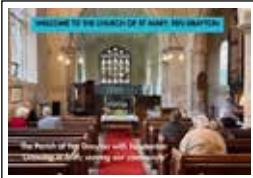
Sunday 1 March	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 8 March	11:15am United Service in the Methodist Church led by Rev. Helen Hollands (Head of the Methodist Church in East Anglia)
Sunday 15 March	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 22 March	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall
Sunday 29 March	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Friday 13 March	5:30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church)

Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

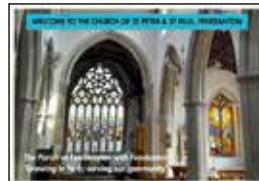
Holy Communion Wednesdays (2:00pm) Bible Study Fridays (10:00am)

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

News from the Pews



Have you seen our new Postcards, for St Mary's Church, Fen Drayton and for St Peter & St Paul, Fenstanton?



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

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

March 2026 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday 01	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion with Sunday Club
Tuesday 03	7.30pm FDVH	Community meeting re St Mary's (see notice)
Thursday 05	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 08	9.15am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion Fen Drayton Village Hall
	10.30am Fenstanton	Worship For All. Followed by Lent Lunch in aid of charity of the year 'Hands at Work Africa' (see poster)
Monday 09	7.30pm Fenstanton Church Centre	Lent group meeting in the Saunders Room All welcome
Thursday 12	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 15 Mothering Sunday	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion with flowers and Simnel cake
	6pm Fenstanton	Choral Evensong
Thursday 19	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 22	9.15am Fen Drayton	Morning Praise, St Mary's Church!!
	10.30am Fenstanton	Family Communion
Monday 23	7.30pm Fenstanton Church Centre	Lent Group meeting in the Saunders Room All welcome
Thursday 26	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sat 28/Sun 29	Clocks go forward 1hr	
Sunday 29 Palm Sunday	10.30am Fenstanton	Palm Sunday Holy Communion
	2-4pm Fenstanton	Children's Easter crafts and activities in church
Monday 30	7.30pm to 8.30pm Fenstanton	Time of Reflection, refreshments and Compline
Tuesday 31	7.30pm – 8.30pm Fenstanton	Time of Reflection, refreshments and Compline
Wednesday 1 April	7.30pm – 8.30pm Fenstanton	Time of Reflection, refreshments and Compline



Did you notice our church postcards at the top of our page?

We have had them specially printed, to be left in both our churches for any visitors to take away with them. The postcards include our contact details and a lovely photo of each church. **Do have a look!**



A REMINDER!! St Mary's survey update – the story continues

You are warmly invited to meet on Tuesday 3 March at 7.30pm in the Committee Room at Fen Drayton Village Hall. Light refreshments and warm conversation will continue our discussions on the future of St Mary's Church, and we would love to hear your thoughts and ideas in person.

We are also hoping, with community support, to hold a special weekend in Fen Drayton 2026 - **A Church Full of Art and an Open Gardens event, both on 16 & 17 May** - celebrating local creativity, bringing villagers together, and welcome visitors from further afield to enjoy some of Fen Drayton's beautiful gardens. If you would like to share your garden or artwork or be involved in any way please contact Ian Hucklesby 07850 470085



We are planning two **Lent group sessions** in March, on Mondays 9th and 23rd, at 7.30pm in the Saunders Room, in Fenstanton Church Centre. The group will meet for an hour. Please be aware that the Saunders Room is accessed via a flight of stairs. If you would like to join us and an evening group is not suitable for you (or a flight of stairs) then please do get in touch with Rev Rosie as we may be able to offer you an alternative venue and time to meet.



Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter:

This year we end March with Palm Sunday and begin April with Easter, with Holy Week squeezed in the middle. So do look out for our services and events, which we will advertise on our noticeboards, on our website and on Facebook.

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallowin: 01480 467393 Email: vicar@fenchurches.org.uk

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

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

Continued overleaf

News from the Pews

PARISH OF FEN DRAYTON WITH FENSTANTON

SOUP LUNCH

Sunday 8th March

Fenstanton Church Centre

12.45 for 1pm

Our lunch in Lent includes homemade soup, bread and cheese, tea/coffee

Adults £6, Children 3-12yr £3

Children under 3 free

Raffle



Open to All



For tickets:
please contact Katie on 07745 044781 or email
ikhuck@virginmedia.com

Proceeds to 'Hands at Work Africa'
(our charity of the year)



Parish of Fen Drayton with Fenstanton
Fenstanton Parish Church
Mothering Sunday Service
With Holy Communion
Sunday 15th March
10:30am

Flower posies for all,
refreshments and Simnel cake
served afterwards

All most welcome



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Hilton Methodist Church



Dear Friends,

An author reflecting on an American Football game wrote the following:-

'The crowds in the stands were cheering wildly as their teams fought for the winning points. Suddenly one of the players fumbled the football. Another player scooped it up and began running toward the goal line. However, his team-mates' excitement quickly turned to dismay as they watched him run toward the opponents' goal line!'

In the scramble he became disoriented and actually ran the wrong way. This Rose Bowl blunder earned this player the nickname "Wrong Way Riegel."

Perhaps some of us, whether people of faith or not, can identify with the reality of running in the wrong direction because we are focussing on the wrong goal.

The season of Lent invites us to find time to pause and reflect on the direction of our lives. What is your goal in life? As I think about my answer I'm reminded of the transformation that is taking place in many of our gardens at the moment.

Out of the dark earth where for months everything has appeared dead, new life is bursting forth. For me, we exist to be channels for God in whichever way he chooses to transform situations that seem hopeless.



As we journey through Lent and encounter again God's incredible love for all, may we ensure that we are going in the right direction, have the correct goal in view and allow God to shape and use us instead of vice versa.

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

Services in March

1 March	10:00am	Mrs. Pauline Zähner
8 March	11:15am	United Service in the Methodist Church led by Rev. Helen Hollands (Head of the Methodist Church in East Anglia)
15 March	10:00am	Rev. James Bamber
22 March	10:00am	Mrs. Pauline Zähner

AIMED AT
AGES 0 - 5

HILTON BABY AND TODDLER PLAY GROUP

10AM - 11.30AM

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TERM TIME

FROM 10:00 - FREE PLAY
AND CRAFT/ACTIVITY TABLE

10:50 - SNACK TIME

11:00 - FREE PLAY

11:15 - TOY TIDY UP

11:20 - STORY TIME AND
MATS AWAY

11:30 - GOOD BYE UNTIL
NEXT WEEK!

HILTON VILLAGE HALL
PE28 8PF

HILTON BABY AND TODDLER PLAY GROUP

TUESDAY
10 - 11.30

03
MARCH

WORLD WILDLIFE
DAY

10
MARCH

MOTHERS DAY
CRAFTS

17
MARCH

SCIENCE WEEK

24
MARCH

EASTER
BUNNIES

FOR MORE INFO SEARCH HILTON BABY AND TODDLER
PLAY GROUP ON FACEBOOK

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FEAST**

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- ★ Get creative
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- ★ For all faiths, and none
- ★ 13 Mar, 8 May & 12 Jun
- ★ To find out more, call Rachel on 830866

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



BRING A BOTTLE!



Fenstanton United Reformed Church

Chequer Street, Fenstanton

Sunday morning services are at 09.30. All are welcome.

2026 Services

March

- 01 Revd Alison Davis
- 08 Revd Christine Davies - **Holy Communion**
- 15 Mothering Sunday - Revd Christine Davies
- 22 Revd Alison Davis
- 29 Palm Sunday - Led by Alison Jiggins

April

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

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

Tuesday 10 March 2.30 - 4pm - Led by John Williams

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

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary

fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

Church of the Sacred Heart



19 Needingworth Rd, St Ives
Priest in charge: **FR. T. J. Monteiro**

Tel 01480 462192,

www.sacredheart-stives.org

email: office@sacredheart-stives.org

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

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

The Particular Baptist Chapel

Church Lane, Fenstanton,
PE28 9JW

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

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

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

A view from the Old Manse

Change. There are those who embrace change, and those who detest it. Many of us like our routines, familiar things that we just do, and don't have to spend time thinking about, with the bonus of not wasting time learning something new. Unfortunately, change is happening all of the time, and we have to deal with it whether we like it or not. Changes to timetables, changes to the way we have to do things, and so on. How we deal with it is a matter of choice. Those choices can be to a) ignore it, and it might go away, which rarely works; b) moan about it, and take no action to do anything about it; c) take action, which can work if enough of us protest; or d) embrace change.

You may be wondering what has set me off exploring change. The Fenstanton URC has been having to deal with change for some time now. When our minister retired a year and a half ago, we had to cope with

the change, we no longer had someone to lead us. Our synod decreed that before we could be put on the vacancy list, we had to have an arrangement to work together with a number of other churches; more change. We, and our sister churches of St. Ives and St Neots, worked hard to achieve a satisfactory outcome, and it has been very rewarding. There is now close co-operation between churches of different faiths, and the three URC churches have a new minister, the Reverend Alison Davis.

Alison has a lot on her plate, as she too embraces change, but is facing it with enthusiasm, which is a breath of fresh air for us. Her current workload is such that she has asked me to write this month's piece, but things should be back to normal next month.

And no, I am not one who easily takes to change, but these recent changes have been very positive, so maybe I should be less of a 'stick in the mud'.

Geoff Hawkins
Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org





FENSTANTON Community Litter Pick

**Sunday
March 8**

**Meet at the Clock Tower
at 10AM**

**Everything Supplied
Just Bring Your Own Gloves**

Welcome Space

= FREE =

Baby & Toddler Group



Every Tuesday

9:00 - 11:30 AM

Free Refreshments!

Fun • Play • Chat

All Welcome!



The Church Centre, School Lane, Fenstanton

Macaroon mince tarts

Ingredients:

6 ozs (170gm) shortcrust pastry

4 tablespoons mincemeat – your homemade or favourite commercial brand

2 large egg whites

3 ozs (85gm) caster sugar

3 ozs (85gm) ground almonds

½ oz (15gm) flaked almonds

A few glace cherries, quartered.



Method:

1. Roll out the pastry, cut into 3in (8cm) circles and use to line 10-12 patty tins.
2. Divide the mincemeat between the pastry cases.
3. Whisk the egg whites until they are stiff and fold in the sugar and ground almonds to make the macaroon mixture.
4. Pile the macaroon mixture on top of the mincemeat and sprinkle the flaked almonds on top of that. Place a quartered cherry (or, possibly half a cherry, if you're not married to a Yorkshireman!) in the centre of each tart.
5. Bake in a moderately hot oven (190°C, gas mark 5) for 20 minutes or until golden brown.
6. For those who don't like dried fruit, substitute stewed apple for the mincemeat. It works very well.

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 **Kerry Thompson**

Clerk to Governors



clerk@fendrayton.cambs.sch.uk



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update



Cootes Lane

As many of you are aware, the works in Cootes Lane have not proceeded as we were led to believe by Highways. The PC is in regular contact with Highways and understands that the difficulties lay with the contractors. The PC has been assured that the footpath patching at the junction of Cootes Lane and High Street will be covered when the whole footpath is resurfaced. The PC will post updates on its website and the village Facebook.

Guided busway

Many of you will be experiencing the frustration of using the busway at the moment, given the speed restrictions due to ongoing fencing installation work. At a recent meeting it was made clear that Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) is under an obligation to impose speed restrictions due to safety concerns.

The fencing near Cambridge Central station has already prevented three accidents, which otherwise would have resulted in serious injury at the least.



You can sign up for regular updates from CCC via a link on the PC website at www.fendrayton.org

Housing Needs Survey

By the time you read this you will have received the Housing Needs Survey and hopefully many will have completed and returned the questionnaire too. It is nine years since the last village survey was carried out. It is important that the PC consults with residents about housing needs in the village. Research demonstrates that a healthy community requires housing for all people, not just a

Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

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

select few. Obviously, this includes large houses to accommodate families who have the resources, but also those whose living requirements are more modest.

In thinking about the future of our village, the parish council also takes account of the school, village amenities (village hall and play facilities), as well as access to GPs etc.

Consultation in this way does not mean that the PC will 'build, build, build', as an anonymous correspondent recently wrote. Neither does it mean we don't do our best to lobby for better facilities for our village.

New pavilion

Finishing work at the pavilion (installing a path from the road to the start of the ramp) was completed in early February. This should mean that someone can alight from a car straight onto a paved footway and onto the ramp.

District Councillor, Sue Ellington's report

The Government is now consulting you on the four options for unitary authorities to provide all local services, from housing and planning to social care. South Cambs has opted to promote option B, which would replace the seven current councils with two new councils:

- One for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire

- One for North Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

You can find out more about the four options and take part in the government's

consultation at: [Project: Government consultation into local government re... | South Cambridgeshire District Council](#)

The development corporation idea is now one step closer, as the MHCLG has just launched its consultation on the establishment of a Greater Cambridge Development Corporation. The link to the consultation can be found at [Establishing a Development Corporation in Greater Cambridge - GOV.UK](#)

A development corporation would be given authority to unblock any delays in planning and building the growth of Cambridgeshire homes and businesses, which are in the local plan and the government's vision of innovative research and technology.

The elections on 7 May will elect district councillors for two years only, until the unitary authority comes into force. It is really important that as many current councillors as possible are elected to ensure continuity into the transition and all the unique issues of each village are retained.

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

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

Community cafe

The cafe on 21 March will welcome a MAGPAS trainer, offering CPR and defibrillator tuition. Spaces are limited, so if you would like to take part, email fendraytoncommunitycafe@gmail.com



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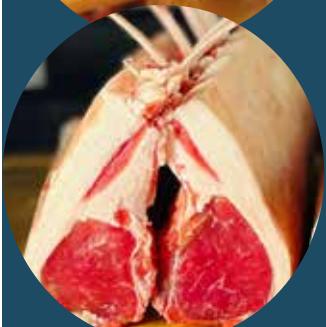
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- Webbsour Bakery
- Burnt Ends BBQ shop
- Sundae Service
- Flourish Bakes
- Natures Posy Flower Field
- Ant's P.Y.O polytunnel and field

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 15th- MOTHERING SUNDAY

Join us for breakfast or a sunday roast to treat your mum this mothering sunday. Booking is essential.

March 7th- FRENCH NIGHT

Not your typical frogs legs and snails, this evening meal is focused on the specialities of French regional food. Bookings available from 6:30pm. Call 07943 797077

March 20st- 22nd - P.Y.O AT THE FLOWER FIELD

No booking required for a relaxed morning visit to the flower field. All sustainably grown on site, you'll find a wide variety of flower for picking. Perfect as a treat to yourself or for a loved one.

Throughout March - CRAFT BUTCHERS

At Remi's we will be celebrating the ex-dairy cow. These animals can be up to 15 years old, the meat is carefully dry-aged and matured to make it tender and rich in flavour. This is a fantastically sustainable way to enjoy your local beef!

April 5th - EASTER SUNDAY

Local lamb from Tetworth Estate available in the Butchers for a home roast or join us in the Bistro for our final roast of the season!

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Hilton Parish Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 2 February



A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council

Green Open Spaces update

The council had been informed of another tree that has fallen on the far side of The Wilderness which is not impeding regular enjoyment of the area. The council noted concerns raised about horses being ridden on The Green and along the footpath at the back of The Wilderness and reaffirmed that - other than on the bridleway - horses are not permitted on common land.

Council Finances

The Council was pleased to note receipt of a donation of £500 from Hilton Town Trust to match the same sum given by the Council towards support for The Journal as an important contribution to village cohesion.

Matters raised by parishioners

The Council decided to defer updating the Village Map pending known developments (eg the plans for new housing at the west edge of Church End). The Council decided to decline the invitation to go on a waiting list for the provision (by HDC) of a PINK BIN to facilitate recycling of small electrical items such as kettles or hairdryers (not larger white goods). Whilst enthusiastic about the importance of recycling and acknowledging pink bins are available in other nearby villages, the Council felt the siting of such a bin would be problematic in Hilton but invites parishioners to make contact via The Clerk if they are having difficulty in disposing of such goods.

Flood Action Working Group

The newly formed Hilton Flood Action Working Group now includes Councillors, District Councillor Tevlin and interested local parishioners. They have been invited, along with representatives from other nearby villages in the county, to participate in a regional webinar on February 4th.

From our County and District Councillors

County Cllr Keane, having submitted a detailed

written report, highlighted his work in January across 3 key County Council Committees: the Adults & Health Committee wrestling with rising demand and financial pressures; the Environment & Green Investment Committee in which he has called for clearer tracking of operational flood-management activity; also, the Strategy, Resources & Performance Committee which is examining the County Council's financial position, long-term sustainability as well as the Local Government Reorganisation proposals. District Cllr Tevlin confirmed that local elections will take place in early May and we are still waiting for the Secretary of State's decision on Local Government Reorganisation. She drew attention to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy launched by HDC in January, following a successful pilot programme last year, with a fund of £750,000 to allocate over the next 3 years. In line with national government policy we are moving to a new food waste collection system from the end of March and more specific details will be announced soon.

Substantial projects and events

The Council noted quotations for the proposed re-roofing of the village bus shelter, and, in the interests of Health and Safety, to provide more substantial fencing round The Major Oak. As the tree is on 'common land' legal advice is being sought and the Council will liaise with interested parties before a decision on the fencing is made. Both the re-roofing of the bus shelter, the question of fencing round The Major Oak, as well as quotations for some pruning to The Major Oak will be on the agenda of the March meeting; as will an update on plans for the 2026 Fireworks and Bonfire event.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 2nd March 2026 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.



Coffee, Cake & Church

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

Sunday 22 Mar

Sunday 26 Apr

Sunday 24 May

and every 4th Sunday, (excluding Dec)

11.15am HILTON VILLAGE HALL

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

For more information, call

Revd David Busk on 436400
or Rachel Wood on 830866

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The Highs and Lows



Weather Watch by Patrick Landucci



The last 3 months, starting from 1 November, brought many extremes of weather as the impact of several named storms particularly during January varied widely across the UK. Widespread flooding, especially in south-west England and South Wales, often accompanied by damaging gales, e.g. 99 mph in the Scilly Isles on 9 January, exceptional snow-fall in northern Scotland during the first part of January with depths varying from 30 to 50 cm (12" to 20") and many wet days across the country with some parts having more than 3 times their average amount.

One area which largely escaped the extreme conditions was our part of East Anglia. Ironically, one event which did affect us was Storm Claudia, named by the Spanish Met. office. It delivered 3" (76mm) of rain across 2 days 14/15 November, which contributed towards the total of 5" (129mm) which fell in that month. As Claudia moved away, this opened the doors to a blast of northerly winds from the Arctic and our first air frost of the season on the 18th. Mild conditions soon returned, lasting until just before Christmas. Easterly winds then took hold up to the end of the year. They were however, less cold than one might have expected with only one air frost (on the 31st) and daytime maxima reaching 5°C (41°F) or above. A surge of northerly winds marked the start to 2026 with some sparkling winter sunshine, regular night frosts and a very slight covering of snow early on the 5th. Mild air returned on the 12th and for the rest of January the UK became

a battleground between cold conditions of the continent and a very active jet stream fuelled by extremely cold conditions in North America and the much less cold waters of the Atlantic.

Elsewhere, some notable events have occurred globally:-

1. Storm Claudia severely impacted parts of Portugal and Spain, bringing torrential rain, landslides and flooding. A tornado with winds gusting to 138mph hit Albufeira on the Algarve whilst along the Atlantic coast the storm generated waves towering over 40 feet (12m) at Nazare, a popular surfing venue. In parts of Galicia, Spain, 6"(150mm) of rain fell in 24 hours.
2. Russia. The far east of the country was buried by its heaviest snowfall in 60 years, up to 6.5 feet in some areas in the first half of January. In the Kamchatka Peninsula up to 12 feet of snow fell during December. The extreme cold spread south including Shanghai where snow is a rare occurrence.
3. Extreme cold in North America. In January a prolonged period of severe cold following a winter storm which blanketed numerous US states with up to 20"(500mm). Fuelled by winds from the Siberian and Canadian Arctic, the extreme conditions are currently affecting mid-west and eastern states with freezing temperatures as far as southern Florida. Even for areas used to cold conditions in Alliance in Nebraska a temperature of -26°F (-32°C) was recorded, with some recording values up to 59F below normal.



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News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool

Despite the cold, dark and wet weather this half term, our school has been abuzz with activity and so many engaging experiences for our children.

Our Reception Class have enjoyed two days of 'Balance Bike' workshops with Bikeability. The children braved the cold weather to extend their balancing and control skills as part of their development in learning to ride bicycles.

All of our children, from Preschool to Year 6, took part in an art competition this half term. Class teachers selected three winners from their classes, before some of these entries were selected to be entered into the Huntingdon Area Young Artists Competition. That competition will be judged at St Ivo Academy on Saturday 7 March. We have included two examples of our excellent entries.



In January, a small group of children took part in a Panathlon Games event at Swavesey Village College. The children competed against other schools in a series of sporting activities. We have included a picture of our team, who finished in second place on the day. We are very proud of their efforts and achievement.

Our PTA remains very active in school, raising lots of money for our school. The children will be enjoying the PTA's School Disco before half term and looking forward to other events in the second

half of the spring term. We recently used PTA funding to buy a new 'carpet time' rug for our Reception Class, a set of dictionaries for Year 3 and a range of new fluency books to support our early readers.



We will end the first half of the spring term with two days of karate workshops, led by local instructor Adam Carrigan. Then, we will start next half term with a trip to take part in Young Voices at the O2 Arena. Exciting times!!

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

Fen Drayton Primary School



Parent survey

Last term, we carried out an anonymous parent survey and were delighted with the positive response.

Of parents surveyed:

100%

would recommend the school
said their child feels safe
said the school ensures the children are well behaved
said the school lets them know what their child is learning
of parents of children with SEND, said the school supports their child to succeed
said the school supports their child's wider personal development

Of parents surveyed:

97%

said their child is happy at school
said the school lets them know how their child is doing



We are extremely proud of our school, especially after the challenges of last year, so were delighted to know so many of our parents feel the same. We read every comment and have taken onboard constructive feedback but were blown away by the overriding positive comments we received:

"We want to end our feedback with a huge thank you to all the staff. We truly appreciate how much you all do and can see how much you care about our children."

"My child loves coming to school. Thank you to you all for making Fen Drayton such a happy place."

"We chose to send our children to Fen Drayton as we loved the warm, connected family atmosphere."



"I have been impressed by how welcoming the older children are of younger children. This really helped my child settle last year."

"The school is great, with awesome teachers!"

"Fantastic school - cannot recommend enough"

Why not join our school family . . .

We currently have places available in all year groups. If you're looking for a warm and welcoming school community, we'd love to hear from you. Come and see what makes Fen Drayton Primary such a special place to learn and grow. Apply for a school place | Cambridgeshire County Council

Friends of Fen Drayton Primary School

Interested in supporting our school? Our PTA has rebranded to become Friends of Fen Drayton Primary School, meaning you don't have to be a parent or member of staff to get involved in fundraising for our school. Grandparents, neighbours and anyone in the local community is welcome to come on board. If you are interested in finding out more, then please email the office and we'll put you in touch.

To find out what they are up to, follow their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FenDraytonPrimaryPta>

Nina McQueen
Headteacher

School contact details

Email: office@fendrayton.cambs.sch.uk
Phone: 01954 273346
Website: Fen Drayton Primary School





Are you protected? The truth about “Common Law Marriage”

Many couples believe that living together for years gives them the same legal rights as married couples. Unfortunately, this is one of the biggest myths in family law—and it can lead to real heartache if things go wrong.

The reality: No “Common Law Marriage” in England & Wales

No matter how long you've lived together, whether you have children, or if everyone considers you “as good as married,” the law does not recognise a “common law marriage.” Only marriage or civil partnership creates automatic legal rights and responsibilities.

What happens if you separate?

If you're married, the law provides a safety net. The court can consider your income, housing needs, pensions, and long-term security to reach a fair outcome.

But for unmarried couples, it's very different:

- There's no automatic right to financial support from your ex-partner.
- You cannot claim a share of their pension just because you lived together.
- If you gave up work to raise children, there's no guarantee of compensation.
- The court's powers are much more limited—most disputes come down to property law.

Property and children: What you need to know

If you own a home together, what matters most is whose name is on the deeds and whether there's any written agreement about ownership. Sorting this out can be complicated and expensive.

If you have children together, you may be able to claim some financial support or help with housing—but these claims are usually for the child's benefit only and do not provide long-term security for you as an adult.

Don't get caught out - Take control

Many couples make big life decisions—buying

homes, having children, changing careers—assuming they will be protected if things go wrong. Sadly, that's not the case for cohabiting couples.

Here's what you can do:

- **Know your rights:** Living together does not give you the same legal protection as marriage or civil partnership.
- **Be proactive:** If you're buying property together, make sure the ownership reflects your intentions. Consider a declaration of trust or a cohabitation agreement to set out what should happen if you split up.
- **Get advice early:** If your circumstances change, or if you're unsure where you stand, seek legal advice before problems arise.

We're here to help

At Leeds Day, our Family Team has extensive experience supporting families in all situations. We can help you understand your options and put sensible safeguards in place—so you can focus on building your future with confidence.

Want to know more or need tailored advice?

Call us on 0844 567 2222 or email family@leedsday.co.uk. We're here to help you every step of the way.



Lisa Leader - Senior Associate Solicitor

What you're Missing



Hilton Rainbows and Brownies

This term Brownies are learning about safety, risk assessing the village hall and the surrounding outside area, having a first aid session and a visit to Huntingdon Fire Station. They are also visiting Papworth Library and some girls went to see the pantomime, Sleeping Beauty.

Rainbows have been finding out interesting facts about their friends with games and activities, are having a visit from the police and a dance session with Georgia. Their Easter session is being run by some older Brownies doing their GOLD award. Both age groups enjoy these types of session which showcases

the older girls' initiative and planning skills.

As Thinking Day falls at the end of half term, the local schools agreed for scouting and guiding members to wear their uniform to school on Monday 23 February to show their membership of the two organizations and the following week Rainbows, Brownies, some Guides and Young Leaders held a joint session with campfire songs and activities about guiding round the world.

We have plenty of spaces at Rainbows if anyone has a daughter 4-6 who would be interested in joining and we have a few spaces at Brownies too. Please contact Karen on 07970 404569 or email girlguidinghilton@gmail.com or you can register online at www.girlguiding.org.uk

Brownie and Rainbow Leaders

Hilton Art Club

In January, the subject 'Steam' inspired pictures of steamboats, trains, steaming cups of tea and kettles, to name a few. The committee decided to meet in March to plan the next exciting programme, at the Golden Lion in St Ives – date to be agreed. Ideas from members were requested. Thanks for those who brought the delicious cakes.



Friday, 20 March 10 am - 12.30 pm 'La Dolce Vita: Inspired by Italy'. Please bring your reference photos / items.



Art Session on 16 January, "Powered by Steam"

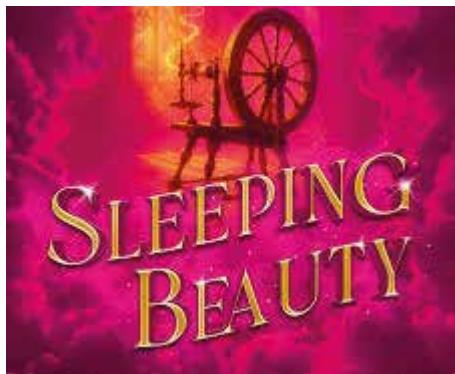
What you're Missing

Fenstanton Friendship Club

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

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

14 January Nineteen members went to the Pantomime at the Leisure Centre in St Ives. It was a wonderful production of "Sleeping Beauty". The costumes, the sets, the dancing and everything about it was so good. It gets better every year. We all had a brilliant time and certainly joined in the banter. Phil Pope was an incredible Queen.



28 January Our General Meeting, essential, to discuss finances and the direction of the club during 2026. It was interesting to read a notice from the fiftieth anniversary of the club in 1999. Going back to the founding of the club when payment per meeting was 2d or 3d per member!!! Things have changed and now the costs have risen so much. It was decided, and voted on, that the meeting

subscription would be £4 with a yearly membership of £15. This will enable the club members to enjoy a varied diary of events. We are grateful for the generous grant from the Parish Council.

Upcoming meetings

11 March Martin John will entertain us with his skilful piano playing and singing. Always a good afternoon with Martin.

25 March A carvery lunch at the Hartford Mill.

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

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Hilton Flower Club

3 February: Valeri Zarno came and gave a talk about aromatherapy oils and how each one can be a benefit to your health. Valeri gave us 4 oils to smell, they were passed round to the ladies and we had to say what we thought they were. Well, we all had so many different results of the smells, it was great fun, some got it right.

A lot of fun was had. Beverley did three flower arrangements that went with the smells of the oils and some herbs. A very enjoyable afternoon.

2 March: Tim Meakin will be our flower demonstrator, we look forward to seeing him and his wonderful flower arrangements. A meeting not to be missed.

13 April: Lesley Beeton will be our flower demonstrator, her theme is BRINGING IN THE SPRING. It will be a very entertaining afternoon.

Hilton Village Hall 2pm - 4pm

Entrance £6.00 (includes tea/biscuits)

No Membership - Just Pay On The Door, all welcome.

Look Forward To Seeing You All, Beverley and June



Fen Drayton Bowls Club news

The indoor bowls season is progressing and the team had their first win a couple of weeks ago at Wisbech St Mary. With three matches still to go, we're looking to climb the table before the end of the season.

Our thoughts are also turning to the outdoors, following the work on the bowling green and here's advance notice that our first outdoor roll up will be at 6pm on Tuesday 7 April, with an Open Morning on Saturday 11 April between 10am and 12pm. The bowling green is situated immediately behind the village hall.

The main club night is on Friday evenings from 7pm throughout the winter months, and we also have a Monday afternoon group that meets at 2pm throughout the year.

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



What you're Missing

Hilton Women's Institute

Well, where to begin? So much is happening in WI world both now and in the weeks and months to come which is exciting - there are no excuses for boredom!

Our recent speaker in February was a very welcome return by Lucy Lewis, the first female in the Bomb Squad and at present she is the Cambridge University Marshall - the first female of its 800 year history. This time she has given us a fascinating title 'Game Show Contestant' and you must wait for news of that puzzle until next month's Journal! What can she be up to, certainly no boredom there.

We are looking ahead to Federation Day in March when two main speakers will be the winner or the Great British Bake Off in 2023 and a second talk will be on the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity.

Here at home in Hilton we are looking ahead to two possible coach outings - in the summer to Woodbridge with a trip on the river Deben and of course, afternoon tea. Then in late November it's a tour of Windsor Castle and to enjoy its famously beautiful Christmas decorations. We're practicing our "oohs" and "aahs" already. Within those longer trips we also have a lengthy choice nearer home to find under our own steam and not forgetting our cinema group. Who organises the weather then?

By sheer coincidence a theme has developed from the previous WI Journal items on the subject of women's rights and developing lifestyle possibilities. This theme continues on Sunday 8 March, the day before our meeting, with International Women's Day.

This organisation 'celebrates women's crucial roles in the environment, economy, education and social justice'. The theme for 2026 is rights, justice and action for all women and girls by fostering equality.

There will be a focus on 5 Cs - Caring, Catering, Cleaning, Cashiering (retail) and Clerical, all of which still contribute to the gender pay gap, often being part-time and many believe consequently to be

undervalued and underpaid.

Women's Day proudly uses colours - purple for justice, green for dignity and white for purity..... This is a huge subject for everyone to think and talk about during the year, not only by we women. Yes, our working and family lives are vastly different from those of the early 20th century and before but there is so much more that we can aim for and achieve whoever and wherever we are.

Hilton WI warmly welcomes new members to our meetings on the second Monday of each month at Hilton Village Hall.

Contact: hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com



the WI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Has he/she really got autism?

Hilton WI's Jan Taylor gave a fascinating insight at the January meeting about her career in special education, spanning approximately forty years, including almost eighteen as a head teacher.

Jan lived, trained and initially worked in special schools in Manchester, where Professor Peter Mittler's research and seminars at the University of Manchester provided important insights, and 'autism' began to be described.

Jan later became head of a special school in West Yorkshire, for children with profound learning difficulties, many of whom were non-verbal. Parents were involved as closely as possible, coming into school each week.

The children learned through 'doing', taking intricate steps, and with staff giving consistently positive, encouraging feedback.

The school's 'Picture Exchange Communication System' also enabled children not only to point to what they wanted, but to work out their reasons for a particular choice - milk or water? A biscuit or a piece of toast? Eventually children moved on to using a series of Makaton symbols, coupled with simple signing, taken from British Sign Language. The numbers of symbols would be increased at the pace of each child, to cover various aspects of school and, possibly home life. Examples included symbols for going to the supermarket, going home on the school bus, or visiting Grandma. Preparing all of this was a huge task, with staff arriving early and staying late, showing total dedication.

And, naturally, implementing the national curriculum was a tremendous challenge for the staff.

Some children were anxious, frustrated, aggressive and totally lacking interpersonal skills, so rigorous safeguarding and safe handling procedures needed to be in place.

Jan created an ethos whereby all staff, along with parents, were involved in planning to meet the unique needs of each child, and all roles, including classroom assistants' were interchangeable.



Despite the many challenges in teaching children with complex needs, there were always joyous moments, such as witnessing the huge excitement amongst the children arriving at school after the summer holidays, and the weekly assemblies where the achievements of individual children were recognised and applauded. Even Bob the school handyman had a starring role - everyone calling him Bob the Builder!

Jan explained that the autistic spectrum is huge and extraordinarily complex, and that there are certainly those who need a diagnosis so that their personal and educational needs can be properly met, but she challenged us to consider whether there could now be an overemphasis on diagnosis?

People with autism can be extremely successful, and Jan gave several examples of this in her talk. So yes, he or she might have autism, but this can be managed. Aren't we all unique? Aren't we all part of life's rich tapestry?

New members who would enjoy our WI company can contact hiltonwiselectary@gmail.com

The Yellow Pages

Venues for hire

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

Councils

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

Community Groups and Clubs

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

Community Groups and Clubs

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

Community events

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

Education

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

Churches

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

Emergency numbers

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

Emergency numbers		Household services	
Gas leak	0800 111 999	Cambridge Light Removals	01480 352220
Non emergency medical	111	Christopher the Locksmith	07772 111222
Non emergency Police	101	Easton & Cook Funerals	01480 310400
Papworth pharmacy	01480 831415	Fairy Dog Mother	01480 461959
Papworth surgery	01480 830888	Fenstanton Dental	01480 381129
Peterborough City Hospital	01733 678000	Hamptons Pest Control	01480 274848
Power cut	0800 678 3105	Hilton Private Hire	07521 293434
Samaritans	116 123 Free	J L Wight Chimney Sweep	01954 253315
Swavesey surgery	01954 230202	More Space Storage	01480 830130
Water leak	0800 316 7676	Sureclean	07870 338074
Buses		Television Mobile Repair Service	
A2B	0800 001 6255	W&H Peacock Auctioneers	01480 474550
Dews Coaches	01487 740241	Z Cars Taxis	01480 462046
Stagecoach	01223 423578		
Whippet Coaches	01954 230011		
Pubs and eating places		Electricians	
Barry's Plaice	01480 462382	Bowling Electrical Services	07903 756915
Little Piggy Cafe	07764 336911	TW Electrical	07810 710826
The Duchess, Fenstanton	01480 350859	Twin Electrical Services	07796 492953
The White Swan, Conington	01954 267251		
Retail		Plumbing and Heating Engineers	
Alan's Carpets	07790 681317	Cosy Gas	07411 805067
Ash's Store	01480 466225	J Halstead	01480 830329
Denise Jackson Interiors	07910 507541	MDS P&H Ltd	07860 829591
Eye Specs	01480 499606	RDS	01954 770309
Ron's Farm Shop	01480 495127	T. N Walsh	07887 561525
Garden services		Building services and supplies	
Hamptons Groundcare	01480 274848	GCE Groundworks	07737 884643
Hemingford Arboriculture	01480 463674	Graham Malkan	07799 850237
Decorators		R D B Flooring	07970 256237
Jason Kirby	01954 211775	Stormguard Building Services	01480 270744
Design, printing and copying		Car servicing and repairs	
St Ives Quickprint Ltd	01480 465215	Wilderspin Garage	01954 230273
The Journal		Editorial	
Advertising	07768 274456	Fen Drayton	07711 442473
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