

July/August 2026

The Journal

Fen Drayton ▪ Fenstanton ▪ Hilton

Reliving medieval Fenstanton

On pages 32-35

Venice a living museum

On pages 26-29

Places of interest - final instalment

See pages 11 & 12

For a special cheesecake

See page 59

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A month of Celebration

Lord Byron once said of July, it is the month when English winter ends, only to recommence in August – but what did Lord Byron know!

July celebrates many activities during the month and our favourite is 24 July which is 'Tell an old joke day' and to that end see page 61 of this issue.

July is also a unique month in which a grand total of seven US presidents have died – more than any other month. We would not like to see another added to the statistics!

This is our combined edition with August, so we will be back in September as our editors, distributors and contributors take a well earned rest. We hope you enjoy this issue.

From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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Please submit any copy by 7 August latest for the September edition.
Cover photograph by Gill Parrish

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Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

July 2026

- 27 June-04 July Scarecrow Competition
- 03 Open Morning, Community Hall, coffee with your MP
 - 04 BIG Village Fun Day, School Field
 - 04-05 Open Studios (one studio)
 - 05 Music and Song, WI Choir, Village Hall
 - 10 Sip and Paint, Village Hall
 - 11-12 Open Studios (one studio)
 - 11 Concert by Skylark, St Mary's Church
 - 12 Walk the Ouse Way (see poster)
 - 18 Books and Jigsaws Sale, URC
 - 18 Swavesey Community Choir, Community Hall
 - 18-19 Open Studios (three studios)
 - 19-25 Hilton Feast Week
 - 25-26 Open Studios (three studios)
 - 25 Tabletop sale, URC

August 2026

- 08 Alzheimer's Society coffee morning, Community Hall
- 15 Books and Jigsaws Sale, URC

September 2026

- 12 Hobbies and Collectibles Day, URC
- 13 Pimms & Pate lunch (for Restoration Fund)

October 2026

- 04 Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church
- 04 Harvest Festival and Harvest lunch, Parish church
- 24 Poppy Appeal Day

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

Village News

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Fenstanton BIG Village Fun Day Scarecrow Competition

In the build-up to the Big Village Fun Day, scarecrows will be on display outside homes and businesses from Saturday 27 June until the Fun Day itself.

A map to help locate the scarecrows around the village can be found at Ron's Farm Shop and will also be available on the BVFD social media.





Hilton Feast Week 2026

It isn't long now until our "Hilton does Hollywood" themed Feast Week begins on Sunday 19th July. Below you can see all the activities on offer during the week. You can find more information in our full programme found online at www.feastweek.co.uk.

Sunday 19th July	
12.00pm - 5.00pm	Sports Day on the Green starting with the penalty shoot out. Bring along a picnic. Monach Farm will be selling their Capri latte ice cream.
5.00pm - 6.00pm	Songs of Praise with live band in the marquee.
7.00pm - 10.30pm	Join us in the marquee to watch the World Cup Final.
Bar and Kids' bar in the cricket pavilion 12.00pm - 7.00pm, then marquee bar open 7.00pm - 10.30pm. Pimp my Fish food van from 5.30pm	
Monday 20th July	
10.30am - 11.30am	Family Yoga with Gosia in the marquee.
2.00pm - 4.00pm	Children's crafts in the Village Hall.
6.00pm - 8.00pm	Adult cricket match on the Green.
Bar and Kids' bar open in the cricket pavilion 6.00pm - 8.00pm	
Tuesday 21st July	
10.00am - 11.00am	Hilton Baby and Toddler Group host a special session with Disco Baby in the Village Hall (suggested ages 0-5 years, older siblings welcome).
11.00am - 12.00pm	Guys and Gals rehearsal in the marquee - all children welcome to come and learn the dance routine.
12.00pm - 4.00pm	Visit to Monach Farm.
1.00pm - 6.00pm	Drop off Art Show entries at the Village Hall.
5.00pm - 7.00pm	Family games on the Green with inflatable slide.
Bar and Kids' bar open in the cricket pavilion 5.30pm - 7.00pm	
Wednesday 22nd July	
11.00am - 12.00pm	Guys and Gals rehearsal in the marquee - all children welcome to come and learn the dance routine.
12.15pm - 1.45pm	Children's Feast Week service in Hilton Parish Church followed by a teddy bear's picnic (bring a picnic and a furry friend).
2.00pm - 3.30pm	Board games in the marquee.
5.00pm - 5.45pm	'Fab Science' show on the marquee stage.
6.00pm - 7.30pm	The Art Show opens for viewing and voting in the Village Hall.
7.00pm - 10.00pm	Stand up Sit down Bingo in the marquee. Followed by Eclipse Disco.
From 5.00pm - Bar, kids' bar, Feast Week BBQ & Purple Pepper Mexican food	
Thursday 23rd July	
11.00am - 12.00pm	Guys and Gals rehearsal in the marquee.
1.30pm - 4.30pm	On Stage Performing Arts sessions.
5.00pm - 6.00pm	Jude Simpson: Silly Songs and Ridiculous Rhymes at the marquee (suggested age 5+).
6.00pm - 7.30pm	View the Art Show in the Village Hall and place your votes.
7.00pm - 10.00pm	Family Interactive Quiz and Eclipse Disco.
From 5.00pm - Bar, kids' bar, Feast Week BBQ & Pizza Mondo food van	
Friday 24th July	
3.00pm - 4.30pm	Friday Feast in the marquee.
7.00pm - 8.00pm	Guys and Gals perform on stage, followed by a children's disco.
7.00pm - 9.00pm	View the Art Show in the Village Hall and place your votes.
8.00pm - late	Line Dancing, followed by Karaoke and Eclipse Disco.
From 6.00pm - Bar, kids' bar, Feast Week BBQ & food vans Wrapnroll and the Churno Bar	
Saturday 25th July	
8.00am - 10.00am	Drop off your Produce Show entries in the marquee.
1.00pm - 4.00pm	Produce Show in the marquee. The John Croft Vehicle Show and Circus skills by the Pavilion. View the Art Show in the Village Hall.
2.00pm - 2.30pm	Fancy dress parade in the Maze.
4.00pm - 5.00pm	Village 'tea and cake' and presentation of prizes for both the Produce and Art Shows. This will be followed by the Summer Grand Draw and the Feast Week Lottery July Bumper Draw.
7.00pm - 8.00pm	Swavesey Community Choir perform.
8.00pm until late	The Sidekicks take to the stage then Eclipse Disco.
From 6.00pm - Bar, kids' bar, Feast Week BBQ & food vans Hawrap and Churnoblenable.	
Sunday 26th July	
10.30am - 11.30am	Collect your Art Show exhibits from the Village Hall.
10.30am - 12.30pm	Clear up and put away - Adult help gratefully received (no children please).

Fenstanton Community Hall

Fenstanton Community Hall – New Hall Opening

Fenstanton Community Hall is opening in July. This short survey will help us deliver activities, groups and events that the Fenstanton Community want to use.

Let us know what you want

With the new Community Hall scheduled to open in early July, we are finalising plans for the first few months.

We're keen to get an idea of your likely usage, as well as an early indication of your preferences and any further suggestions, to allow us to adapt our thinking. Please scan the qr code above to access the survey.

What's already booked

Our on-line calendar and booking system is up and running.

If you are keen to find out more about what's already happening, or interested in booking the hall, whether for a one-off event, or regular activity, please scan the qr code below for a current picture and further information.



Want to see for yourself?

FENSTANTON COMMUNITY HALL

OPEN MORNING

Friday 3 July
10.00 – 12.00

DISCOVER YOUR NEW COMMUNITY SPACE

- Tour the new hall
- See what's on & what's coming up
- Find out how to get involved
- Volunteer opportunities
- Meet your local MP

Grab a coffee and have a chat

EVERYONE WELCOME JUST DROP IN



Welcome

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Sunday 23 Aug
Sunday 27 Sep
Sunday 25 Oct

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or Rachel Wood on 830866

We'd love to see you there!

Come in and grab a cuppa

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Hilton Parish Church

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



Village News

The Royal British Legion in Hilton



At the moment of writing a diminishing number of elderly veterans have been returning to France yet again in Remembrance of the 82 years since D-Day.

Legion members constantly acknowledge all the heroism, it's part of what we are for.

Indeed, a small group of us were recently honoured to receive an invitation to the 102nd (yes, 102nd) birthday party of Liz, our Women's Section President and widow of a Royal Air Force officer. She is physically frail, but mentally as sharp as ever.

One of our ex-service ladies has returned from a week to WW1 Battlefields in Belgium. She knitted poppies for us on the entire journey, stayed in Ypres and one evening attended the Menin Gate ceremony where 54,395 names of the missing from August 1914 to 1917 are recorded. One of her knitted poppies was left there on our behalf for which we are touched and grateful.

Note: this ceremony has taken place every evening since July 2nd 1928 apart from 2 war years.

Poppy ladies continue to knit: WHAT a display we expect! Thank you again everyone.

Also, plans are well underway for the fourth Poppy Appeal fundraising event in Hilton Village Hall on Saturday 24th October from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm. Please have it in your diary to return for teas, coffees, cakes, some wonderful raffle prizes and the friendly conversation with friends you probably haven't seen since last year!



The Australian Brothers in Arms Memorial. John Jack Hunter died in the arms of his brother Jim in September 1917.

All this is in return for your generous donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Reminders: Our Women's Section meets every third Monday of the month at 11.30 and Drop In is at the Ivy Leaf, the Broadway, St Ives, 11.30 on the third Friday of each month.

It's the usual format, teas, coffees, cake and a warm welcome.



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Village News

Some places of interest - Part 8

This is the last of our "Places of interest" series, with ten more places that we think you might like to visit, which brings the total number of places listed in this series to eighty. Our lists have included only two nature reserves - because they have other claims to fame - and we haven't included any places of interest in Cambridge because there are so many but we hope we have been able to kindle some interest in "what else is out there". If we have missed somewhere you think we should have included, please let us know!

Wicksteed Park NN15 6NJ

A fun park and country park near Kettering with something for everyone. There are over 25 rides for children of all ages and 281 acres of parkland with playgrounds and walking trails. Family wristbands for the rides can be bought on-line, saving up to 20%. Entry to the parkland is free but there is a charge for car parking. See www.wicksteedpark.org for details.



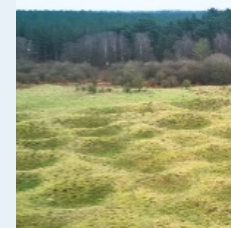
Alconbury Weald Bunker PE28 4DA

One of Britain's largest military bunkers, the "Magic Mountain" was designed to withstand a direct nuclear attack. It was completed in 1988 and became redundant in 1989 with the fall of the Berlin Wall; it is a site that symbolises the Cold War period. It is rarely open to the public but you can take a short video tour online at [Historic Alconbury Weald](http://HistoricAlconburyWeald.com) | Alconbury Weald



Grimes Graves IP26 5DE

The largest known prehistoric flint mine and the only one open to the public. There is a new exhibition space and people (aged 7 and above) can descend into a flint mine to see how Neolithic people lived and worked. See the English Heritage website for more details. You can take a virtual tour of Greenwell's Pit at [Grime's Graves Virtual Tour](http://Grime'sGravesVirtualTour.com) | English Heritage



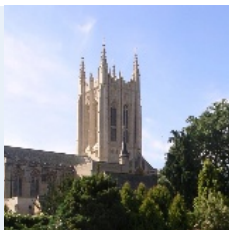
Bury St Edmunds Abbey IP33 1LS

Located in the heart of Bury St Edmunds, the abbey was once one of the richest and most powerful Benedictine monasteries in England. Its remains are extensive and include the complete 14th-century Great Gate and Norman Tower, as well as the impressive ruins and the altered west front of the immense church. Managed by English Heritage. Free admission.



St Edmundsbury Cathedral IP33 1LS

Originating in the 11th century, it was rebuilt in the 12th and 16th centuries as a parish church and became a cathedral in 1914. Guided Tours run from April to the end of October on Mondays to Saturdays at 11.30 am. There are also Tower Tours on Wednesdays and Saturdays from March to October. The Tower Tours are restricted to visitors aged between 10 and 80.



Lavenham Guildhall CO10 9QZ

One of the most spectacular timber framed buildings of medieval England, the 500-year old Guildhall has had a chequered history, including being used as a prison, a workhouse and, more recently, as a location in Harry Potter films. It is owned by the National Trust. See the National Trust website for more details.



March and District Museum PE15 9JJ

The museum is housed in a former school building in the heart of the town. It offers a fascinating insight into the community's history through a wide variety of displays covering subjects such as the drainage of the fens and railway history. Exhibits include recreations of a Victorian kitchen and a Fenland cottage. Open on Wednesdays and Saturdays 10:30am – 3:30pm. Free admission.



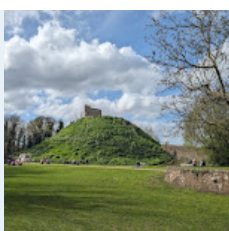
West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village and Country Park IP28 6HG

One of England's great archaeological sites, West Stow has extensive indoor galleries and a stunning recreation of an Anglo-Saxon village with eight buildings, surrounded by 125 acres of unspoilt countryside. Visitors can explore history and nature or take part in one of the many events held during the summer. See www.weststow.org/whats-on/ for details.



Clare Castle Country Park CO10 8NW

Open 365 days a year with parking, toilets, a café, Victorian railway buildings and the remains of a castle keep overlooking the town of Clare, the park boasts children's play areas, trails, rivers and ponds. It is also the starting point for a number of walks as well as the fascinating Clare town trail. See Clare Castle Country Park | Suffolk's most diverse Country Park for details.



Castle Acre Priory PE32 2XD

East Anglia's biggest and best-preserved monastic ruins with much to see. The impressive West Front is largely intact and the west range, which is virtually complete, is a mansion in itself. The remains of the monks' living quarters include a 24-seater toilet block! There are places to eat in the village of Castle Acre. See the English Heritage website for more details.



Village News

Classic cars wanted

If you have a Vintage or Classic car, please would you bring it along to the green outside Fenstanton United Reformed Church on Saturday 12 September between 10.00am until 4.00 pm and join our display there. It would be great to see your vehicle as part of our Hobbies, Crafts and Collections event.

Please contact Jean on jeanelizabethding@gmail.com if you can be there.



The Corn Exchange, The Pavement, St Ives PE27 5AD



Do join us from September to June at 2.30pm on the second

Wednesday of the month for stimulating lectures on the Arts from top-class lecturers. £6.00 on the door or join for a year. Our Society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts.

Our events provide welcoming places to hear expert lecturers share their specialist knowledge about the arts. Our members contribute to and preserve our artistic heritage through volunteering and grants. Our work creates a better, healthier and more connected society.

Forthcoming lectures:-

Wednesday 9 September at 2.30 pm: Britain's Art Deco Architecture.

A lecture by Pamela Campbell – Johnson on the glitzy hotels, iconic tube stations, cinemas and lidos of the 1920s and 30s.

Wednesday, 8 October at 2:30pm in the Corn Exchange: Patience - Gilbert and Sullivan's aesthetic opera. Peter Medhurst will examine the history, reception and contemporary satire found in Patience - the most topical of all Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

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MORNING

8th August 2026

DEMENTIA COFFEE MORNING

PLEASE COME ALONG TO JOIN US TO RAISE MONEY FOR ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

09:30 - 12:30

Fenstanton Community Hall
Crest Drive
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Coffee, cake, raffle and more



Village News

Fenstanton Morris

Fenstanton Morris will be dancing at the Potty Festival in Sheringham on Saturday 4 July (hoping to dip our toes into the sea); at the Admiral Vernon in Over at 7.30pm on Friday 10 July and at Ely Folk Festival on Sunday 12 July - there will also be dancing around the town in Ely on that day and on Saturday 11 July.

In August we will be at the Red Lion in Histon at 7.30pm on Friday 7 August. September will find us at the Peterborough Morris Day of Dance on Saturday 26th.

Hope to see you around!

Sarah Charlesworth, Fenstanton Morris Bag,
email: fenstantonbag@gmail.com



Tombola prizes for the BIG Village Fun Day

Jean will be running her usual fantastic tombola stall at Fenstanton's BIG Village Fun Day on Saturday 4 July. Donations of full bottles and tins greatly appreciated. Collection points at Ron's Farm Shop in Chequer Street, and at 28 Bell Lane, Fenstanton.

Thank you!



Our local MP reports



Ian Sollom MP

Surgeries and Further Information

Each week I have been holding both in-person and online surgeries to speak directly to constituents about their issues. If you feel you have a problem I could help with, or you have a campaign matter you would like to discuss with me, please don't hesitate to contact me at iansollom.mp@parliament.uk to request a surgery appointment.

I regularly update constituents on my work in Parliament and across St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire through an email newsletter.

If you would like to sign up, please do so at www.iansollom.org/emails.



Coffee And Chats

EVERY 2ND & 4TH
WEDNESDAYS OF THE
MONTH



11am till 1pm

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VILLAGE HALL



Fen Drayton talks schedule - 2026

6.30pm start at the Three Tuns Pub

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

Led by: Revd Geoff Dodgson

**Sport in Fen Drayton - come and share y
our memories - 14 October**

Led by: Nigel Fenner

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



HILTON COMMUNITY HUB

Come and join us at Hilton Village Hall

on Wednesday mornings from 10.30—12.30

SUMMER PROGRAMME

1st July	Theme - Lasagne Awareness Month Activity - Irish Bingo Quiz - Italy and Pasta
8th July	Theme - National Video Game Day Activity - Slot machines - Dave Bish Quiz - Technology
15th July	Theme - National Hot Dog Day Activity - Bake Bread Quiz - Bread and bread making

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS THROUGHOUT AUGUST
SKETCHING GROUP ON HILTON VILLAGE GREEN
FROM 10-30 to 12-30**



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Hilton & Fen Drayton Open Studios 2026

Open from 10am to 5pm
Free entry

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

Lynn Norton

Manor Farm, The Green, Hilton, PE28 9NA

18th & 19th July
25th & 26th July

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



Kieron Dunk

Orchard House, The Green, Hilton, PE28 9NA

18th & 19th July
25th & 26th July

Kieron is at heart a landscape painter but enjoys any subject that catches his eye. Working with oil on board, he paints in a fluid free style aiming to capture the moment.

Chris Lockwood

Garden House, 33 Cootes Ln, Fen Drayton, CB24 4SL

4th & 5th July
11th & 12th July

Chris is a watercolour artist who loves to paint flowers, landscapes, seascapes and animals. Her working studio is in a light filled garden room with paintings, cards and sketchbooks on display.



Nina Sage

3 Pecks Close, Hilton, PE28 9QN

18th & 19th July
25th & 26th July

Nina enjoys portraying the natural world, creating colourful multi-layered relief prints in small variable editions. Lino and block printing workshops available.

For more information about Open Studios, visit the website at camopenstudios.org where full details of all the artists can be found along with directions to their studios.



Fenstanton Church Centre

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Casual	£15.00	£10.00	£17.50	£10.00



Coffee Mornings at Hilton Methodist Hall, Potton Road

Saturday, 4 July 10:00 - 12:00

Saturday, 1 August 10:00 - 12:00

Saturday, 5 September 10:00 - 12:00

Come and Join Us for a Coffee and a Chat!

Everyone Welcome

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Let's do coffee



Free coffee in Hemingford Grey

Somewhere well worth a visit is the lovely drop in café at the Parish Centre in Hemingford Grey. There is no charge for barista style coffee, a variety of teas, toasted teacakes, sausage rolls and delicious cakes. However, donations, either by cash or card, are always welcome.

There are comfy sofas, tables and chairs and a very pleasant outside walled area behind the café. Well-behaved dogs are welcome both inside and outside.

The café is run by St James' church which is a short walk away and provides a pleasant place to sit and admire the river with a backdrop of the building which was built around 1160.

You could also visit The Manor House in Hemingford Grey and book a guided tour of the house which is the oldest continuously inhabited house dating back to the 12th century. The house is open every day but visits must be booked in advance by phoning Diana Boston on 07984 897589 or contact



by email via diana_boston@hotmail.com. The gardens can be visited at any time and it costs £6 per person, although are free when you visit the house.

Parish Centre, 33 High Street, Hemingford Grey PE28 9BJ

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A living museum

By Nigel Ferrier



Our first sight of Venice came not from a railway station or a motorway, but from the waters of the lagoon. After landing at Venice Marco Polo Airport, we made our way easily to the water taxi pontoon and boarded one of the sleek wooden boats that provide perhaps the most stylish airport transfer in Europe. As the taxi accelerated across the lagoon, the city gradually appeared on the horizon: church domes, bell towers and rows of faded palaces shimmering in the afternoon light. It felt less like arriving in a city and more like approaching a stage set from another age.

Our base for the visit was Hotel Gabrielli, ideally situated on the Riva degli Schiavoni, just a short stroll from St Mark's Square. From the waterfront outside the hotel there were uninterrupted views across the lagoon, with boats constantly passing and the island church of San Giorgio Maggiore standing prominently across the water. One of the pleasures of staying here was simply stepping outside early in the morning before the crowds arrived and watching Venice wake up.

As with most first visits, we gravitated initially towards the great landmarks. The highlight was undoubtedly the magnificent Doge's Palace. Its ornate Gothic exterior is impressive enough, but the real surprise lies inside. Room after room is decorated with extraordinary paintings and gilded ceilings that speak of the wealth and confidence of the old Venetian Republic. Standing in the vast council chamber, it was easy to imagine the city at the height of its power, when



Venetian merchants and sailors dominated trade routes stretching far into the eastern Mediterranean. Crossing the famous Bridge of Sighs provided a reminder that beneath the grandeur lay a political system capable of dealing firmly with those who fell foul of its laws.

A completely different experience awaited at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. After the opulence of the Doge's Palace, the modern art museum felt refreshingly intimate. Set beside the Grand Canal in the former home of Peggy Guggenheim, it contains an astonishing collection of twentieth-century art. Even visitors with only a passing interest in modern art are likely to find themselves lingering over works by Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock and others. The peaceful sculpture garden offered a welcome escape from the bustle outside.

The next morning we took a vaporetto across to Murano. The journey itself was enjoyable, providing changing views back towards Venice. Murano is best known for its glassmaking, a tradition that dates back centuries. Watching craftsmen transform glowing blobs of molten glass into delicate vases, animals and chandeliers was genuinely fascinating. What looked impossible one moment somehow emerged as a finished object a few minutes later. Murano glass is



very expensive so our souvenirs were limited to a selection of glass sweets. Beyond the workshops, Murano proved quieter and more relaxed than central Venice, making it a pleasant place to wander.

Yet the most memorable moments were often the simplest. Venice rewards aimless exploration more than almost any city. Some of our favourite hours were spent getting deliberately lost in the maze of narrow alleys and tiny bridges that connect the islands. Every turn seemed to reveal another picture-postcard scene: washing hanging above a canal, a small square shaded by trees, or a solitary gondola gliding silently beneath a bridge.



The best meals were rarely found on the main tourist routes. Instead, we sought out small restaurants hidden in the back streets, places where menus featured local seafood rather than tourist clichés and where diners lingered over meals rather than rushing to the next attraction. Sitting outside on a warm evening with a plate of fresh fish and a glass of Venetian wine while watching local residents pass by felt far more authentic than dining in the shadow of the major monuments.

At the same time, it was impossible not to notice the pressures facing the city. Venice remains beautiful beyond description, but



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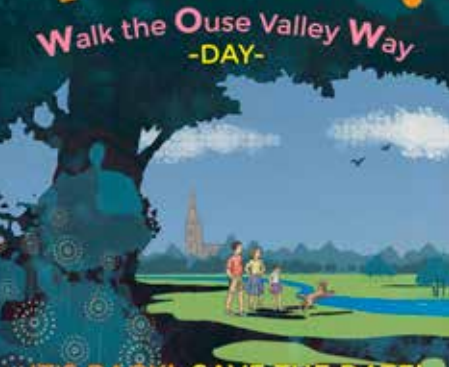
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Trains, Boats and Planes

there is a sense that it is struggling with its own success. The sheer volume of visitors can be overwhelming, particularly around St Mark's Square and the Rialto. Many buildings that once housed families now seem devoted to holiday accommodation, and one hears repeatedly that the permanent population continues to decline forced out by high rents. It is easy to understand the concern that Venice risks becoming a place visited by millions but lived in by very few.

Even so, moments of genuine local life still emerge. Early in the morning, before the tourists awake, market traders unload produce from boats, residents walk to work

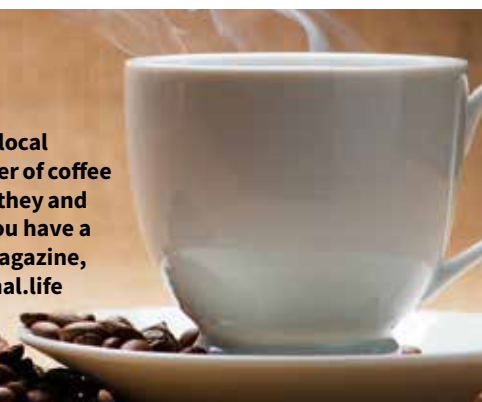
and children make their way to the few schools that remain. Venice feels less like a museum and more like a real city that is somehow struggling to survive in the twenty-first century.

By the end of our visit, what lingered in the memory was not simply the famous sights but the atmosphere itself: the sound of water lapping against ancient stone, the absence of cars, the play of light on the canals and the feeling of stepping briefly into a different world. Venice may be changing and its future may be uncertain, but it remains one of the most captivating destinations in Europe that must not be missed.



Let's do coffee

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



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Medieval (1066–1485) Life in Fenstanton

By John Deeks

This is a short guide to the medieval streets of Fenstanton.

The sounds and smells of everyday life

The parish church bells ringing out calling people to mass or to announce the death of a villager. The blacksmith's forge breathing fire and the noise of metal being worked. Lots of pigs running around the streets and houses eating anything that had been discarded by the people and their animals. Cattle on the great common and in the muddy streets on their way to the milking parlour in Bell Lane. The noise of the animals being slaughtered in the abattoir on the Hilton Road. Lots of rotting human and animal

dung. General waste from houses, shops and stalls. Before toilet paper was invented, people at that time cleaned themselves using a variety of accessible, natural, or reusable materials. Such as moss, leaves, straw, and hay. So much noise and even more smells, Fenstanton was never a quiet or sweet-smelling place.

Hygiene

Even at the best of times the medieval age was medically and hygienically challenged. There were diseases such as TB (tuberculosis), typhus, influenza, leprosy, dysentery, smallpox, diphtheria and measles, plus different types of fevers, fluxes, coughs,

heart disease, cramps, toothaches, catarrhs, cataracts, scabs, boils, tumours and burning ague (a common term for malaria). There was also a heavy population of fleas, lice and flies which cohabited with the people.

This was a time when you could die from a broken arm. Badly treated it could get infected and there were no such things as antibiotics back then. Accidents were a regular and often fatal occurrence. You could drown in one of the many fens, a local ditch, a pond or lake – there were plenty of these around at that time. You could drown when collecting water from the river or fall off a ladder and break your neck while clearing a pigeon's nest from the church roof. You could set fire to your house by leaving a candle burning when you went to bed. You could get trampled by a cart or horses or even be mauled by a cow or pig.

There was a small settlement of lepers where today the Shell garage sits. For many centuries this area was known as Spittals Furlong. Medieval dental extraction was without anaesthetic. Medieval tooth pullers were travelling professionals who extracted teeth with a hammer! The patient was tied to a chair and the tooth puller would then use a chisel and hammer to crack the tooth from the jawbone. No anaesthetic existed, patients just screamed. Tooth extraction often resulted in severe jaw fracture, infections and permanent disfigurement. Success rates were abysmal; patients often bled to death from uncontrolled haemorrhaging afterwards. But I guess that if the toothache was bad enough most people would try anything!

Home sweet home

If you were an ordinary villager, the chances were that you would be living in a rented cottage consisting of two rooms. It probably came with your job on a local farm with no such thing as insulation or damp proofing, running water or sanitation – just four walls with a thatched roof that leaked and a single fireplace that served for heating and cooking. Furniture and beds were unknown and there was no such thing as spending time on your own, there were always people around you.

If you were slightly better off, a craftsman perhaps, you might live in a larger cottage

with two floors. You may own a table, two chairs, some kitchen utensils, some knives and spoons but no forks. These did not arrive until 1611. You would have straw on the floor sprinkled with dried herbs to take away the smells of the house. If you were lucky, you might have a candlestick although candles were a luxury. Most people had to make do with rush lights. These were rushes from the fen dipped in pig fat and they would smell most unpleasant. There would have been a straw-filled mattress on the bed and if lucky, a couple of pillows. All the members of your family would sleep in the same room. No such thing as personal space or 'me time'.

Food

The staple food of most of the poor villagers was bread and some basic vegetables; most people never had a solid motion! The cost of fresh meat was beyond most people who worked the land. The supply of fish was controlled by the local land (and river) owners. This diet meant that the population was vulnerable to famine when the crops failed and last year's harvest had been eaten. Then there were the many civil wars and social unrests, when soldiers would come to the village and take away any food that they could find. So, protein was in very short supply for landless labourers.

Then there were the dodgy bakers (and there were many of them), who understated the weight of a loaf of bread or sold contaminated bread (using chalk etc). If you were thirsty you tended to drink a small ale, weaker than today's ales but safer than the contaminated local water.

Growing up

There wasn't much to do as a medieval child other than working for a few pennies. It depended mainly on what sex you were and into which class you were born. If you were a girl, you may be able to read a little, probably verses from the bible taught by the village priest. It was unlikely that a girl could write more than her name. What she was really looking for was a husband who could look after her. Parents were happy for their daughters to marry very young as this reduced the cost feeding the family. If you were a boy there were more opportunities



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open to you. Only boys of freemen could possibly have access to an education or an apprenticeship. Young children from poor homes, both sexes, were sent out to earn a little money, some as young as five years old, sitting in a field chasing off the birds from the crops. Children were more vulnerable to diseases and many babies died at birth or soon after.

Holy smoke

Medieval Fenstanton was a place of superstition and fear. The church was very important in people's lives, in fact medieval people's lives revolved around the church and the Christian holidays and the saint's days. The parish church bells would be rung to announce a death but not at the funeral, unlike today. If you died and it was thought that you had committed suicide, your body would be just thrown into a ditch. The medieval church was an incredibly powerful, institution that functioned as both a spiritual guide and a governing force. It dictated daily life, controlled education, collected

heavy taxes, and wielded massive political influence. For the average peasant, religion was highly visual and sensory. Since most people were illiterate, church interiors were covered in vibrant murals and stained glass to act as "picture books" of scripture. The air was filled with incense, and services were a spectacle of chanting and elaborate rituals. Daily life revolved around the church. People were required to attend multiple times a week and citizens paid a 10% tax (a "tithe") on their income or produce. In exchange, the local parish priest provided vital community functions like baptisms, marriages, and funerals.

Everyday life in medieval Fenstanton could be a grind – it was hard work, whether you were rich or poor. Forget nine to five, it was more like five to nine! After reading this I am sure that you will be glad that you live in the Fenstanton of 2026 and not in the medieval village.

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Cohabitation law reform: What it could mean for couples

More than 3.5 million couples in the UK now cohabit. For many, living together is a committed and long-term choice. Couples buy homes, raise children, share household bills and plan their futures together – often without realising that the law treats them very differently from married couples and civil partners.

One of the most common misunderstandings is the idea of the “common law spouse”. In England and Wales, this status does not exist. No matter how long a couple has lived together, an unmarried partner does not automatically gain the same financial rights as a husband, wife or civil partner if the relationship ends or one partner dies.

This issue has returned to the spotlight because the Government has launched a formal consultation on reforming the law of cohabitation, which is due to close on 14 August 2026. The consultation is an important step in considering whether the law should provide better protection for cohabiting couples while still respecting personal choice.

At present, when cohabiting couples separate, disputes are often dealt with under property and trust law rather than family law. This can make outcomes uncertain, technical and expensive. The court may focus on who legally owns the home, who paid the deposit, who contributed to the mortgage, and whether there is evidence of a shared intention about ownership.

That approach can feel harsh. For example, one partner may have reduced their working hours to care for children, paid for food and utilities while the other paid the mortgage, or supported the other's career or business. Yet those contributions may not automatically translate into a financial claim on separation.

The proposed reforms do not mean that cohabiting couples would simply be treated the

same as married couples. Instead, the debate is about whether there should be a clearer, fairer framework for certain qualifying couples. This might include couples who have lived together for a minimum period, or who have children together. Possible remedies could focus on financial disadvantage suffered by one partner, or economic benefit gained by the other, because of the relationship.

The consultation is also likely to consider how couples can retain autonomy. Some couples may not want legal obligations to arise from living together. Any future system may therefore include ways to opt out, provided proper safeguards are in place. This could be particularly important for later-life relationships, farming families, business owners, blended families and those wishing to protect inherited assets.

The key message is that planning remains essential. A cohabitation agreement can record what each partner owns, how the home is held, how bills are shared, and what should happen if the relationship ends. A valid Will is also crucial, as an unmarried partner does not automatically inherit under the intestacy rules.

With millions of couples potentially affected, the Government's consultation could represent a significant moment for modern family law. Whether reform follows or not, cohabiting couples should understand their current position and take practical steps to protect themselves and their families.

Leeds Day LLP assists clients with cohabitation agreements, property disputes, separation arrangements, children matters and Wills for unmarried couples. A timely conversation can help avoid uncertainty and provide peace of mind for the future. To speak to our specialist family team, contact Leeds Day LLP today on 0333 577 2250 or at family@leedsday.co.uk.



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Afoot in the Garden

Start early in the next heat wave

I remember when I owned a nursery starting work as early as 4am during heatwaves. It is such a special time of day on a warm morning with a clear blue sky and the early still peace. The summer months are a time to put the hard graft behind us and find the time to enjoy the fruits of our labours. Keeping the garden in order is all that's really required. The summer months are also a wonderful time to gather ideas for the future. Local open gardens are the perfect way to find out which plants should grow well in your area.

Tasks for the summer months

Water and regularly feed summer pots. If you are away for a few days water then feed with liquid fertiliser shortly afterwards and pots will stay moist for longer.

Prune and feed shrubs that have finished flowering in early summer like choisya, philadelphus, weigelia and escallonia and viburnums.

Lilac trees can also be cut back by a third after flowering.

Climbers can be trimmed and trained.

Trim wisteria side shoots back to four buds to promote later flowers, but always remember to keep a few vigorous, juvenile shoots from the base.

Train and trim Japanese quince cut side shoots back to four buds to encourage flowering.

Prune bush roses (ht and floribundas) and then feed and water. Once flowering shrub roses and rambling roses can be pruned hard after flowering. It's quite common in France and Italy for rambling roses to be cut down to 20 or 30cms after flowering.

Trim back perennials that have finished flowering and then feed and water. Sow hardy annuals and perennials like forget-me-not, aquilegia, campanula, and foxglove.



July/August Top Tips

- Water/feed containers
- Pruning and trimming
- Low mow lawns
- Take summer cuttings
- Sow hardy biennials

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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

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Meet your new Parish Councillors

Roy McGee

Roy has lived in Fenstanton for more than 25 years. Over that time he has considered himself fortunate to work alongside many others on projects that have helped improve village life, including street and play area enhancements, tree planting, and regular community litter picks.

Together with his wife Heather and a group of volunteers, Roy established the Welcome Space, which now offers activities and support for residents of all ages. He has been part of the team behind the village's new Christmas Market and, as a trustee of the Village Hall Trust, he has supported the delivery of the new Community Hall which is opening in July.

Roy looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with residents, volunteers and fellow councillors to support the village and its community.



Jade Purkiss

Jade has lived in Fenstanton for 9 years, and as a new mother, wants to ensure the village is both safe and family friendly. Working for a national charity means that she is passionate about wellbeing and communities. Jade hopes her contribution will make a positive local impact.

Adam Janocka

Adam is a grounded and approachable individual with a calm presence, sharp attention to detail, and a strong sense of loyalty and honesty. Passionate about football and known for his dry sense of humour, he brings a dependable, no-nonsense attitude to everything he does. Whether supporting others, organising teams, or quietly getting on with the job, Adam is someone people can rely on. He takes pride in building positive relationships and is looking forward to working closely with, and supporting, the local community.



Kevin Mitchell

Married for almost 40 years, with a son and a granddaughter, Kevin has lived in Fenstanton for the last 9 years. Prior to retiring, he spent many years in senior level recruitment, working in the UK, Europe, Middle East and Australia. Prior to that he trained as an Accountant. Kevin says he is a big sports fan, sadly watching rather than playing these days, and he loves nothing better than a good pub quiz! In addition to his role as a Parish Councillor, he is a Trustee for Fenstanton Village Hall Trust, and Treasurer (designate) for Hunts u3a.



Sally King

A relative newcomer to the village, Sally has lived in Fenstanton for almost 20 years, married to a husband born and bred in Fenstanton. With a busy working life dominated by newspapers and magazines, Sally now runs a boutique legal recruitment company and says that she is enjoying the extra time WFH allows, finally having some free time to give something back to the village that has been very good to her. Now her 4 children are grown up, Sally says she lives a relatively quiet but never dull life with her 4 dogs, chickens, failed racehorse and 2 delinquent donkeys.



MUGA lighting and community safety – Have your say

The Parish Council is exploring whether low-impact lighting and/or community safety measures, including CCTV, may be appropriate for the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

This review has been prompted by requests from user groups, particularly the local netball club, which has highlighted the challenges of using the facility during the darker winter months. At this stage, no decisions have been made, and the Council is seeking views from residents, users, the school, and the wider community before deciding whether any further work should be undertaken.

Should lighting be considered further, the Council would only be looking at low-impact lighting solutions designed to minimise light spill and reduce impacts on neighbouring properties and the surrounding environment.

We would like to hear your views on:

- The potential benefits of improved lighting.
- Any concerns regarding neighbouring properties or the environment.
- Community safety measures, including CCTV.

- Current and future use of the MUGA.
- Any anti-social behaviour or security concerns in the area.

Your feedback will help inform the Council's next steps and ensure that any future decisions take account of the needs and concerns of the community.

To share your views, please email clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk or contact the Parish Council.



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 9 July	PC Ordinary	7.00 pm Church Centre
Thursday 30 July	General Purposes Committee	7.00 pm Church Centre
Thursday 10 September	PC Ordinary	7.00 pm Church Centre

To contact your Parish Council Clerk Telephone: 01480 465300

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

Visit the Parish Council stall at Fun Day!

Fenstanton Parish Council is looking forward to being part of this year's Fun Day and we hope residents will come along and join in the fun.

Do come and see us and find out about what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year. There will be a display of photographs and information about past and planned projects and activities within the village. There will also be a range of leaflets and information for residents to take away.

We are planning a traditional, Fenstanton-themed Pik-a Stik activity for the children

(win a prize every time!) and we hope everyone will join us in choosing an official "Cake for Fenstanton".

We look forward to seeing everyone there and making this year's Fun Day another fantastic community event!



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.

27.06.2026	Martin Hewitt	Roy McGee
25.07.2026	Anne Mustill	Tina Yates

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



Fenstanton Parish Council

Committees and Working Groups

2026

Updated 21.05.2026

General Purposes committee:-

Cllr M Collison, Cllr M Hewitt, Cllr Hayley Howatt, Cllr R McGee (Vice), Cllr K Mitchell, Cllr T Yates (Chair).

Finance and Constitution committee:-

Cllr M Collison (Vice), Cllr M Hewitt, Cllr H Howatt, Cllr K Mitchell (Chair), Cllr R McGee, Cllr A Puntambekar and Cllr Tina Yates.

Planning committee:-

Cllr M Hewitt, Cllr A Janocka (Vice), Cllr R McGee, Cllr A Puntambekar, Cllr J Purkiss and Cllr T Yates (Chair)

Burial Board committee:-

Cllr M Hewitt, Cllr K Mitchell, Cllr A Mustill (Chair), Cllr A Puntambekar, Cllr R McGee and Rosie Tallwin (Rector)

Staffing Committee:-

Cllr M Hewitt, Cllr A Janocka (Vice) Cllr K Mitchell, Cllr R McGee, Cllr A Mustill, Cllr A Puntambekar and Cllr T Yates (Chair)

Rights of Way Working Group:-

Cllr M Collison, Cllr M Hewitt, Cllr McGee and Cllr T Yates

Resilience Working Group:-

Cllr M Collison, Cllr M Hewitt, Cllr K Mitchell, Cllr Tina Yates.

Tree Survey/Planting Group/Hampton:-

TBC at GP Meeting

Twin Electrical Services LTD

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- Rewires
- Fuse Board Upgrades
- Testing & Inspection
- Landlords Safety Certificates (EICR)



Call Phil on 07796 492953

Jigsaw Exchange Hilton Parish Church

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

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

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

FEN DRAYTON TOTS

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

JOIN US FOR

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

THE DETAILS

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

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming sessions!

facebook.com/fendraytontoddlers

News from the Pews

Hilton Parish Church



Dear Friends,

Firstly, a very heartfelt and inadequate thank-you to everyone who responded so generously to our recent appeal for funds to repair the churchyard wall. I imagined we might get a few hundred pounds. In the event, we easily passed our target figure of £12,000. This is truly exceptional, and shows what a giving community Hilton is. The excess gives us a contingency fund, always useful with any building work.

If there is anything left over after the work is done, I hope everyone will be happy for us to put it in our general building fund - with an ancient church like ours, there is always the need for maintenance and repair. I said in my appeal letter that we hoped to start work in the next few weeks. We still do, but although we have planning permission, a condition of that was for the planning officer to approve the materials to be used. We are waiting for that approval. In the meantime, my thanks again to all who have given so kindly, not just in this latest appeal but over many years of fundraising for the wall.

The wall had to be repaired, to prevent possible collapse, danger, and even indignity to those buried next to it. But when it is done, no human heart has been renewed, no bruised life touched with healing kindness, no hope given to a restless and aching world. Those are the kind of things the Christian Gospel - the Good News - brings about when it is truly and deeply followed. The call and the challenge remain the same - can we make those things real, not just fancy words? Actually we can, and probably do, even though it is most often on a very small scale. This year, at the instigation of Nigel di Castiglione, Clerk to the Parish Council, the two churches of Hilton gave a report on their activities to the annual Parish Meeting. (My thanks to Pauline Zähler for producing this at very short notice.)

Over the past year, the church members and the villagers of Hilton have given supplies to Godmanchester Food Bank, £563 to Water Aid, around £1,000 to East Anglia Children's Hospices, £660 to Diamond Hampers, £523 to Action for Children, £647 to Christian Aid, £336 to the Arthur Rank Hospice, £540 to Jimmy's Shelter in Cambridge, and £590 to the DEC appeal for the Middle East. Hiltonians do not just repair walls. They build bridges to a better world. Thank you, and God be praised.

With love, David

Revd David Busk (01480 436400)

Services in July

Sunday 5 July	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 12 July	11:15am United Service at the Methodist Church
Sunday 19 July	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 19 July	5:00pm Songs of Praise in the Feast Week Marquee
Friday 24 July	3:00pm Friday Feast (Messy Church) in the Feast Week Marquee
Sunday 26 July	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Parish Church

Services in August

Sunday 2 August	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 9 August	11:15am Holy Communion
Sunday 16 August	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 23 August	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall
Sunday 30 August	8:00am Holy Communion

Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

Please contact Revd David Busk (01480 436400) or Rachel Wood (830866) for Zoom access details"



News from the Benefice of Fen Drayton with Fenstanton



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

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

July and August 2026 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Thursday 2 July	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Saturday 4	Fenstanton school field	BBQ at Big Village Fun Day afternoon
Sunday 5	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion and Sunday Club
Thursday 9	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Saturday 11	7pm Fen Drayton	Skylark Concert with bar and raffle
Sunday 12	9.15am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion
	10.30am Fenstanton	Worship For All with Josie from Support Malawi
Monday 13	7.30pm Fenstanton	A Pause in the Month
Thursday 16	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Friday 17	6-8.30pm Fenstanton	Fen Youth BBQ Newcomers welcome
Sunday 19	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion
	6pm Fenstanton	Choral Evensong
Thursday 23	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 26	9.15am Fen Drayton	Morning Praise
	10.30am Fenstanton	Family Communion
Thursday 30	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
August		
Sunday 2	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion
Thursday 6	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 9	10.30am Fen Drayton	St Mary's Patronal Festival Communion <i>No service at the parish church, Fenstanton</i>
Wednesday 12	6.30pm Fen Drayton	History Group visit to St Mary's

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallowin: 01480 467393 Email: vicar@fenchurches.org.uk
Churchwardens: Ian Hucklesby 07850 470085 Lynn Beecroft 07803 712021

Thursday 13	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 16	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion
Thursday 20	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23	9.15am Fen Drayton	Morning Praise
	10.30am Fenstanton	Family Communion
Thursday 27	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 30 August	9.30am URC Fenstanton	Joint service with URC

A BIG thank you to everyone who enabled or supported our Fen Drayton Open Gardens and St Mary's Church Full of Art weekend back in May. Thank you to the kind folks who shared their wonderful gardens and the artists for exhibiting their talented artwork in church. Our brilliant volunteers



made it happen and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves around the village and inside the church throughout the weekend and we are delighted to have raised £2,600.00 for the restoration fund at St Mary's.



We are now looking forward to another event in St Mary's church- a concert by Skylark trio on Saturday 11 July at 7pm. All the details are on the poster (see overleaf) so please do support our evening in aid of St Mary's Restoration fund. We look forward to welcoming you.

A Friends of St Mary's group has recently been formed, bringing people together, organising events, and building a shared sense of care for our church. We are still

looking for more people to join the group and would be delighted to hear from you if you might be interested. Please contact Rev Rosie vicar@fenchurches.org.uk or Lorraine Orbell lorraineorbell@gmail.com

We are also looking forward to seeing you at the Fenstanton Big Village Fun Day on 4 July- come and enjoy food from our BBQ stall in aid of Fenstanton Parish Church Restoration Fund.

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.

St Mary's Church Fen Drayton

on
Saturday 11th July, at 7pm

A CONCERT BY
Skylark trio

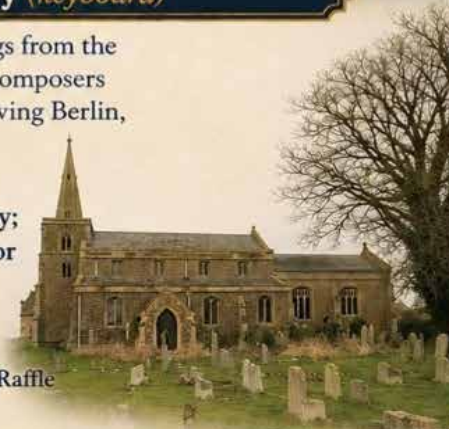


**Jude Short (vocals), Ondřej Cais (trumpet)
and Roger Lilley (keyboard)**

The programme will include popular songs from the twenties, thirties, forties and fifties from composers such as George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Hoagy Carmichael and others.

 **ADMIT ONE** Tickets from Ian Hucklesby; ikhuck@virginmedia.com or **07850 470085**

 £10 ticket |  licensed bar |  Raffle



ALL IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH RESTORATION

Image for illustrative purposes only

News from the Pews

Hilton Methodist Church



Dear Friends,

"It's just too short" I complained trying to make shortbread. The mixture just would not come together and baking was not the only thing on my to-do list. Exasperated, I consulted the recipe only to discover I had used the wrong quantities of two ingredients!! On this occasion my mistake was fairly easily remedied by me adding the correct quantity of each ingredient. Perhaps unsurprisingly the mixture then came together as per the recipe!

At a number of levels my experience has caused me to stop and reflect. God provided a Sabbath for a purpose that we would maintain a sense of balance and well-being in our lives. Had I not been baking when I ought to have been sleeping the error may not have transpired. In these allegedly quieter months of July and August might we find time not to do more but be more?

The other lesson the experience offered was not to assume I'm right and know what other people need, what God wants, thinks or feels. Assumptions diminish relationships and can lead us to acting, speaking, and/or thinking in ways which are far from being Christ-like. Philip Yancey, a Christian author recalls in his book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*: "George Buttrick, former chaplain at Harvard, recalls that students would come

into his office, plop down on a chair and declare, 'I don't believe in God.' Buttrick would give this disarming reply: 'Sit down and tell me what kind of God you don't believe in. I probably don't believe in that God either.' And then he would talk about Jesus, the corrective to all our assumptions about God.

May these days bring opportunities to (re)connect with the God of Love who is present in/through creation and may such encounters may we too call out confidently, 'Bless the Lord, O my soul...' Psalm 103:1

With blessings, James

Rev. James Bamber

jjamesbamber@gmail.com

Phone: 01480 453857



Services in July

5 July	10:00am	Rev. Clifford Owen
12 July	11:15am	United Service in the Methodist Church
19 July	10:00am	Mr. West Thomas
19 July	10:00am	Songs of Praise in the Feast Week Marquee
26 July	10:00am	Mrs. Leonore Charlton

Services in August

2 August	10:00am	Rev. James Bamber
9 August	10:00am	Rev. Helen Hollands (East Anglia District Chair)
16 August	10:00am	Mr Colin Webber
23 August	10:00am	Ms Neat Pellatt
30 August	10:00am	Mrs Pauline Zähler

AIMED AT AGES 0 - 5

HILTON BABY AND TODDLER PLAY GROUP

10AM - 11.30AM

EVERY TUESDAY IN 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 9PF

 **The United Reformed Church**
www.urc.org.uk

Chequer Street
Fenstanton
Huntingdon
Cambs PE28 9JQ

Organist / Pianist Wanted

To start as soon as possible

To play our Organ or Electric Piano at Sunday Services from 9.30am till 10.30am and occasional events throughout the year.

For details please contact.

Church Treasurer - Mrs Jenny Stimpson
Jennystimpson13@gmail.com

Or

Church Secretary - Mr Geoffrey Hawkins
geoffrey.hawkins@virgin.net

 **The United Reformed Church**
www.urc.org.uk

Fenstanton United Reformed Church
Chequer Street, Fenstanton

Minister
Revd Alison Davis

Sunday morning services are at 09.30. All are welcome.

2026 Services

July

05 Revd Christine Davies
12 Led by Alison Jiggins - **Holy Communion**
19 Revd Alison Davis
26 Led by Faith Paulding

August

02 Revd Chris Baker - **Holy Communion**
09 Revd Alison Davis
16 Elders' led Service
23 Revd Christine Davies
30 Joint Service with the Parish Church

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

Tuesday 14 July 2.30 - 4pm Led by John Williams
Tuesday 11 August 2.30 - 4pm Led by John Williams
Tuesday 08 September 2.30 - 4pm Led by John Williams

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

JOIN US FOR FRIDAY FEAST

- Free All Age event
- Get creative
- Food & Fun
- Informal gathering
- Churches of Hilton together
- For all faiths, and none
- 24 Jul (in FW), 11 Sept & 9 Oct
- To find out more, call Rachel on 830866

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

 **Messy Church**

 **BRING A BOTTLE!**

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

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www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf

Questions: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Children who receive
benefits-related free school meals
are eligible and can join us for up to
64 hours of holiday fun this summer.

**FULLY
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News from the Pews

A view from the Old Manse

It was in the April edition 2025 that I first wrote a piece for the Journal under the heading 'A View from the Old Manse'. Here at the end of May, one year later, I am returning to the theme of that first piece, Mission Partnerships, but firstly, I would just like to clarify the difference between the Manse, and the Old Manse.

As many will know, a Manse is equivalent to a rectory, vicarage, or parsonage. The term is most commonly used in Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, and Baptist traditions. Originating from Latin (mansus to dwell or remain), a "manse" historically referred to a house with enough land to sustain a single clergyman's family. The words mansion and manor stem from the same root.

Our Minister, Alison Davis, lives in a Manse. The Fenstanton URC Manse was sold in the early 2000s to fund improvements to the church, opening it up for community activities, in addition to church services. So, the Manse became the Old Manse to signify that it was no longer the home of a minister.

A Mission Partnership was an idea by a United Reformed Church Committee to bring various Christian faiths together, in a collaborative framework where churches team up to achieve shared missional objectives, such as evangelism and community outreach. Fenstanton URC is part of the Mid Cambridgeshire Mission Partnership, consisting of 7 Christian congregations, (3 URC & 4 Ecumenical). Two of the congregations are relatively new, Northstowe Church network and Love's Farm, but the established congregations can learn a lot from the struggles the new churches encountered setting up, and from the fresh insight that they bring to the table. We can all suffer from being set in our ways, and a fresh perspective can open our eyes to new possibilities, which we perhaps hadn't previously considered. The world moves on, and the church needs to change and adapt to it, whilst staying true to its beliefs. It needs to be there for people who are facing new dilemmas, and new circumstances, and be relevant to the society we find ourselves in. If churches cannot find a way to work together, what hope is there for society?

Geoff Hawkins

Fenstanton URC Secretary

fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org



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FENSTANTON
Building Fenstanton an even
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The Welcome Space ♥

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TUESDAY JULY 7
2PM TO 4PM

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same time!

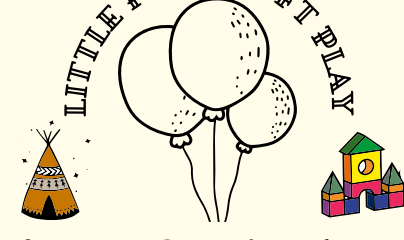
CHURCH CENTRE
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FENSTANTON

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GREAT TIMES

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Life on a Plate

Pineapple cheesecake

A firm family favourite made mostly with ingredients from the store cupboard.

Ingredients:

For the base:

1 small packet ginger biscuits (approx 160 gm or 5oz), crushed
80 gm (2.5 oz) butter (or margarine)

For the filling:

300 gm (8.0 oz) cottage cheese
Small carton double cream
Small tin crushed pineapple (or use a blender to crush tinned pineapple chunks or rings)
1 lemon jelly (sometimes hard to find these days: recipe works equally well with an orange jelly - just a slightly different taste)

Method:

Base

Melt butter gently in a pan and add to crushed biscuits. Stir thoroughly, ensuring all biscuit crumb is coated. Transfer to a suitable flan dish or loose-bottomed flan tin. Press crumb down very firmly. Put in fridge to cool while preparing the filling.

Filling

Melt the jelly in a pan with a little juice from the tin of pineapple. Make up to 300 ml (1/4 pint) with more of the juice (use water if there is not enough juice)
Put cottage cheese, crushed pineapple and melted jelly into a bowl with half the carton of cream and blend until smooth and creamy.
Pour mixture onto the crumb base and leave in the fridge to set.

When set and ready to serve:

Whip the remainder of the cream and use to decorate the cheesecake, along with any leftover pineapple chunks and a few sprinkles of grated chocolate.



Apology Incomplete Recipe for Lasagne in the June edition

Unfortunately, due to an oversight, the recipe we published for vegetarian and meat lasagne last month omitted the final details of how to assemble the lasagne. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. If you would like to have those details, they can be obtained from Malcolm Lynn at hilton@thejournal.life.



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So true!

An Indian chief has three wives living in three wigwams, and one day he offers them new bedcovers.

The first one asks for a buffalo hide cover and this is duly delivered.

The second wife asks for a bearskin hide, and although this is more dangerous to catch, one is eventually delivered to her.

The third wife is the youngest and prettiest and she asks for a hippopotamus skin as a bedcover. This proves extremely difficult to find but eventually she has her wish.

Nine months later the first wife gives birth to a boy, the second wife gives birth to a girl and the third wife has twins.

This goes to prove that the squaw on the hippopotamus is equal to the sum of the squaws on the other two hides



LOCAL



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website: www.fendrayton.org

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

Moore Brook busway crossing

Fen Drayton PC and resident, Andy Brown, recently worked with Swavesey and Fenstanton PCs to retain the busway crossing near Moore Brook, which CCC plans to permanently close when the new busway fencing is installed.

A legal Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) application has been submitted to CCC, supported by over 70 User Evidence Statements (UES) from residents of the three parishes and beyond, two-thirds of whom have regularly used the crossing for over 20 years. We are now waiting to hear the results of the application, which is being prioritised by the definitive maps officer handing the case at CCC.

Our thanks go to Andy who researched the best way to keep the crossing open, liaised with the CCC throughout the process and submitted the completed UES forms.

Sports triangle survey

Fen Drayton households received a questionnaire in early June, asking for the opinions of young people (aged five to 18)



on their use of, and moving, the sports triangle. The parish council hopes to move the sports triangle further away from the pump track to make it easier to use, and ascertain how popular the sports triangle is.

Housing needs survey

The parish council now has the results of the Fen Drayton Housing Needs Survey undertaken by Cambridgeshire ACRE earlier this year. It invited Cambridgeshire ACRE to its June meeting to present the survey results and answer questions. The full housing needs survey report is available to view on the parish council website: www.fendrayton.org

Local policing

Our local PCSO, John Coppard, has visited the Community Cafe twice recently and intends to continue to visit on a more regular basis. We know he enjoys these visits and they provide him with the opportunity to get to know our village and its residents much better.

If you have any issues relating to safety, or crime in general, please contact the local police or the parish council and we will pass on your concerns.

The local police are also planning a Coffee with a Cop session soon and will be holding a bike security marking for residents. Please keep an eye on the village social media and the parish council website for further information.

Cllr Vivien Biggs: monthly report

As your new councillor, I acknowledge the long and dedicated service of the previous councillor, Sue Ellington.

Elections

South Cambridgeshire District Council's May elections resulted in the Liberal Democrats winning 43 of 45 seats.

The results in Swavesey Ward were:

Liberal Democrat 482

Conservative 424

Reform UK 212

Green Party 152

Labour 44

The turnout was 43.76%

Food waste collection

Weekly collections of food waste began from 11 May 2026 for households in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

Previously, 88% of household food waste in our area was put in black bins and landfilled, giving off methane – a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

The collected food waste is now taken to anaerobic digestion (AD) plants, where the biogas given off by the decomposing food is captured and used to generate power. When fully broken down the waste food becomes biofertilizer, which can be spread on farmland.

Full county councillor and district councillor reports are on the parish council website at: www.fendrayton.org

Next Community Cafe Saturday, 13 July

Along with freshly-brewed hot drinks and homemade cakes, you can participate in a summer quiz at the July cafe. Winners and runners-up will receive a voucher for free coffee/tea and cake at a future cafe.

Looking forward to autumn, the cafe will be hosting its annual Macmillan Coffee Morning in September. This will coincide with a produce sale run by the gardening club. So, if you enjoy fresh home produce, come and see what's on offer!



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Fen Drayton

Community Cafe

Saturday July 11th

1030 – 1230

Summer Quiz



Chris Lockwood welcomes you to her
Open Studio on:
Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th July
Between 10am and 5pm
Opposite the Village Hall



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

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Hilton Parish Council



A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 1 June

Vacancies for people to consider joining the Council

Following the recent local elections HPC is keen to co-opt two people to bring its number to nine and full strength. The Council has posted information on local social media platforms inviting candidates to submit written applications for consideration by the full Council in early summer.

Green Open Spaces

The Council identified specific pieces of work that are to be completed ahead of Feast Week 2026; noted that damage to the Maze walls was to be the subject of a meeting with the contractor who did repair work in summer 2025; and accepted a quotation to have the track along the western edge of the Wilderness flailed once the nesting season is over.

Training

The Council re-affirmed its commitment to Councillors and the Clerk undertaking relevant and accessible courses to enhance the quality, integrity and resilience of its ongoing work for the village.

From our County Councillor

County Councillor Keane reported how CCC has set to work in the 'new year' and highlighted a motion discussed in its May meeting about freight traffic through the region was given due attention. He remains on the Adults' Health and Pensions committees. He agreed to make enquiries about the frequency of lane closures on the 'new' A14 - due to expansion joint repairs, causing lane closures and traffic flow disruptions.

Cricket Courses for young people

The Council was pleased to note how, in the end, the means and resources – both external and

internally from parents/carers of children on the courses - have emerged to run cricket courses again for younger people this summer.

Independent audit arrangements

The Council agreed to appoint CAPALC, the regional professional support body for parish councils, to undertake the internal audit for 2026/7. This is a mandatory requirement and is supported by a subsequent external audit provision.

Financial update

Councillors were pleased to note that the eligible VAT reclaims had been received and that overall expenditure was within budget for the first two months of the year. The Council also renewed its insurance arrangements for the year ahead.

Maze Interpretation Board

The Council reaffirmed its commitment to see this board reinstated; this time to include a QR code to facilitate people accessing the information it shares through suitable technological devices. This work will take time to complete as it involves generating suitable quotations for the work, commissioning the approved outcome, and ensuring the new or renewed board is safely and securely sited for the benefit of parishioners and visitors.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 06 July 2026 in the Village Hall. Agendas will be posted in advance on the village notice boards and the Council's

website www.hiltonparishcouncil.com. Parishioners are welcome to speak on agenda items at council meetings.

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Head Lines

Fen Drayton Primary School



Squirrel Scramble has arrived

We are thrilled that our new trail has officially opened and has already proved to be a huge hit with the children! It has been fantastic to see them making the most of this exciting new addition to our school grounds. And Iris got to see her winning design come to life as the wooden carving was added to the start of the trail.



Limitless Holiday Club

After the success of May half term's holiday camp, Limitless will be back in the summer. They have confirmed 17-21 August, but are hoping to offer another week too. For more information, check out their website <http://www.limitlessactivities.co.uk/>

Join our school family

We currently have places available in all year groups. If you are looking for a warm and welcoming school community, we would be delighted to hear from you. Come and see what makes Fen Drayton Primary School such a special place to learn and grow. See the 'Visit us' page on our website for how to apply or contact us for a tour: www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk/visit-us

Nina McQueen
 Headteacher

School contact details

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

Website: www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk

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



Summer Raffle

1st Prize - Weekend break
2nd Prize - £150 cash
3rd Prize - £150 Pencil Drawing Portrait by Local Artist

Plus....Scudamores voucher, Johnson's Farm entry, Northstowe Tap & Social voucher, The Nail Studio voucher, Grawty Bites coffee and cake for 2, Eclipse Bakery voucher, Messy Witches tarot card reading, and many more.....

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Head Lines

News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



This last half term of the academic year is always a busy one in schools, as we prepare to say goodbye to a cohort of Year 6 pupils whilst preparing to welcome a new cohort of school starters into our Reception classes. We will be saying hello to a large cohort of 40 pupils in September as they start their journey with us.

using our fantastic outside space so regularly.

The summer term also sees several assessments taking place across the school, most notably the Year 6 SATs, but also assessments for phonics in Year 1 and times tables in Year 4. As we wait

for confirmation of results, we have congratulated our children on the way they conducted themselves during their assessments, taking them seriously and trying their best, which is what we always expect, of course. The children, and their families, should be very proud.

We hope you all have a happy and peaceful summer time!!

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



The end of the academic year has also seen plenty of activities for the children. This has included our sports day; a trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park for our Reception children; a visit to the Cambridge Botanic Gardens for our children in Year 1 and Year 2; and a residential trip to PGL at Caythorpe Court for our Year 6 children. Year 6 also prepared and delivered their end-of-year production of 'I'm an eleven-year-old, Get me out of Here!', which was very well received by the rest of the school and by their families.

We are delighted to be working with our partners and Cultivating Change over the next year to enhance and develop our in-school gardening clubs. The team will be leading several projects with our pupils as we continue to develop the range of enriching and therapeutic opportunities accessible to our children. It is great to see the children



Hilton Art Club

We had a lovely morning at the May workshop, which was 'Pasta Printing' with Chris Dommett. Chris demonstrated his way of printing, using a sharp tool to etch a design on a small piece of aluminium paper lining from a juice carton. We then stuck this onto the folded card in the way of a greeting card and using a palette knife, added oil paint to our etching and smoothed over it.

The folded over card was put through the pasta maker and we found that the second or third print was often the optimal one.

We spent the morning trying different designs and paint combinations. Great fun!

Many thanks to Chris for all his assistance throughout. Thanks also go to Kathy Mann and Kathryn Hollow for the cakes.

3 July 10.00am – 12.30pm Carriages of Cambridge, Fen Drayton. En plain air painting/drawing. Coffee in the carriage.

17 July 10.00am – 12.30pm Falling Water. Waterfalls, Raindrops, Running Water, etc.

22 – 25 July Hilton Feast Week Art Show. All are welcome to view our exhibition within the art show. For times, see the Feast Week programme.

7 August 10.00am – 12.30pm Outside the Dolphin Hotel, St Ives (or Ferryboat Inn, Needingworth) En plain air sketching/painting

21 August 10.00am – 12.30pm 'Just Picked': Flowers, Vegetables, Fruit



Fenstanton Glebe Allotments Association

National allotment week runs from 10 August until 16 August and this year the theme from the National Allotment Society is "Grow to learn- Lifelong lessons from the allotment".

The theme celebrates allotments as living classrooms that teach patience, resilience, teamwork and problem solving, while supporting mental and physical wellbeing.

The National allotment week started in 2002 and is dedicated to promoting healthier lifestyles, sustainable living and stronger communities.



Allotments are more than a space to grow produce, they offer opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, develop practical skills, reduce food miles and it also brings people together. Renting an allotment is hard work. It requires patience, resilience (especially this year when sweetcorn and beetroot failed to grow) but it also brings a lot of rewards. Although the weather has been particularly challenging so far this year there is always room for optimism and the feeling of pride when you pick your first crop of the season, standing back knowing that all of the hard work and watering paid off.

Note from the publisher

For advertising opportunities please email info@thejournal.life. Space is booked on a yearly subscription basis and runs from September 26 until August 27. 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.



What you're Missing

Hilton Community Garden

The community garden continues to go from strength to strength. Every Saturday morning, you will find a willing group of volunteers tending the plot, which can be found next to the Wilderness in Hilton. We can now be found on Google maps!

We continue to be a no-chemical garden, and are using egg shells to prevent slugs from eating our crops, but we do continue to wage war with the pigeons. This year we are growing squash and pumpkins on a frame near the entrance and the loganberries are climbing across one of the fences. Watering continues to be required during the very dry weather, but now we are experiencing downpours, everything is growing really well. This includes the weeds! There is a person in the picture and you can just see their legs!

We are delighted that over the last few weeks one of the Duke of Edinburgh students from

Swavesey Village College has been volunteering to help at the garden. She, and her mum, have been busy weeding, planting, sorting out the compost heap, and harvesting salad and vegetables.

We are now planning our entries for the Hilton produce show at the end of July, and once again we hope to win certificates, rosettes and cups.

Do join us on a Saturday morning at 11:00am when we serve hot drinks and a tasty piece of cake or biscuit, to sit and chat for twenty minutes. All are welcome.



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Fenstanton Friendship Club

How can it be June already? It's hard to believe that we are half-way through 2026. Have a great summer!

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.



6 May We had the opportunity to travel to St Ives on the Ladybird boat where we stopped for a fish and chips lunch. The weather was kind to us and it was an enjoyable day. The river and locks are always interesting and the crew brilliant.



20 May Unfortunately Caroline was not well so could not sing for us. We spent the afternoon on a quiz and playing board games. Although not scheduled, everyone had a good time and there was lots of chat and laughter.



Upcoming meetings

1 July An afternoon with The Ukulele Troupe

15 July A trip out to Madingley to enjoy the grounds

29 July A talk on taking care of wildlife by Tara

12 August A coach trip to Sheringham

26 August Talk TBC

9 September A trip to AhReserves farm in WoodWalton.

23 September Music and singing from Panache

7 October A talk on life in South Africa by ElMarie and Tony Erasmus.

21 October An afternoon of piano and guitar music from Martin John.

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

Fenstanton Bowls Club

Our season has got off to a great start with all our league teams doing well. At the end of May we held our first club competition - the Mike Tuppen Trophy and Pairs Competition. 11 pairs took part, playing 3 rounds to get through to the semi-final. Many congratulations to Sarah Cook & Mark Singleton and Benny Blackwell & Gareth Machin for winning their respective semi-finals. The pairs will play each other on Finals Day in September.

The Pitfield Singles competition has got under way and this year we have three leagues playing across the whole season, so lots more matches to come – good luck to all those taking part.

Our first friendly against Great Gransden was held on 7 June. Unfortunately, we came away defeated 1:2. Friendly matches are a great way for new members to play in a competitive match without any pressure. It was a fun and enjoyable afternoon, where we also served our guests afternoon tea. We have other friendlies coming up against Ramsey and Houghton & Wyton later in the season.

There is nothing nicer than being down at the club on a warm sunny day. It is so peaceful and a great way to have fun, enjoy good company and get a bit of light exercise in at the same time! So, if you would like to join us, please pop down to see us. We have specific Open Mornings on Sunday 5 July and Sunday 2 August between 10am and 12pm, but if you are not able to make one of these dates you are welcome to come any Sunday or call David on 07876343900 to find out more.



fenstantonbowlsclub.co.uk

We will be holding free
OPEN MORNINGS
Every 1st Sunday of the month
(7th June, 5th July & 2nd August)
At 10:00am

For anyone who would like to have a go at bowling.

Just bring along a pair of flat shoes or trainers.

All are welcome

Fenstanton Bowls Club is proudly sponsored by the following local businesses





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Our 2026/7 Membership Year is underway!

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fendraytontc.co.uk or 



What you're Missing

Hilton WI

We had a brief summer, did you notice it? Let's hope it gets warmer soon and BBQ smoke wafts into the air. Well what are we up to? We have a constant membership - one or two ladies are having to give us a rest but others are quickly filling the spaces so thank you to everyone for staying with us.

Maybe some of you are attracted to our Clubs? There's the popular Canasta and Rummikub, Book Club is busy with Long Island by Colin Torbin and the cinema group is still thinking about Hamnet and Sing Song Blue. At Craft Club we mainly take our own work but Monica's winter snowmen pattern has appeared! More seriously, several ladies are creating the small comfort cushions that are appreciated by patients at Woodlands who have had mastectomy or prostate operations. Woodlands need many, so Craft Club have available simple patterns, material and stuffing and one lady has already made 20 cushions! Sometimes the simpler things in life are simply wonderful.

So also it was with our Summer Outing to Woodbridge and Flatford Mill with Clare, a Blue Badge Guide taking us through Constable Country in a brand new Dews coach and superb driver. Then - a two hour afternoon boat trip along the river Deben from Waldringham towards Felixstowe fortified by tea and cake in interesting scenery, watching boats of every type, even imposing cloud formations. It was such a relaxing day and the weather was kind so we owe a huge thank you to Pam for arranging such a very special time.



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



For June's meeting we were treated to a fascinating talk by Andrew Brown, both a farmer and a recent High Sheriff of the County of Rutland. He explained that while a Lord Lieutenant represents the monarch but is not involved in legal matters, High Sheriffs have also been appointed by Royal Warrant since the early 690s originally to collect taxes, with a first-appointed female in 1301, and the collective noun of Sheriffs is a Posse.

This historically important position involves many privileges, duties and responsibilities that are now embedded in upholding laws. Curiously, everything is entirely at their own expense including all travel to events and the ornate formal outfit costing - new - around £7,000 with an added requirement - a sword.

Andrew had so much to tell us about historic Rutland that a visit is now high on our list.

What an example he is of that famous quote: "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

New members very welcome : contact hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com

What you're Missing

Hilton Flower Club

May 11th was our workshop; we had 30 ladies doing wonderful arrangements to take home, we had a great afternoon with lots of fun. On June 10th we had our annual outing, which was to Hidcote Manor and Kiftsgate Gardens this year.

7 September is our next meeting. A talk and slide show on wonderful gardens by a lady from Peter Beales Norfolk.

June and Beverley hope all our ladies have a great holiday.

SEE YOU SOON

Beverley



Fen Drayton Bowls Club news

We're a third of the way through our outdoor season at the time of writing, with three victories in our first eight matches. With new seating available, it would be great to have a crowd at any of the six home fixtures we're hosting in July and August. The games on 10, 14 and 27 July start at 6.30 while those on 17, 19 and 24 August start at 6.15, as the nights start to draw in (sorry!)

We've already had one visitor to the club when our new district councillor, Vivien Biggs, tried her hand at bowling in May. If you'd like to have a go, we hold roll up sessions on most Tuesday evenings at 6pm (unless there's a match) and on Thursday afternoons from 2pm.

We also have a Monday afternoon group that meets at 2pm throughout the year for indoor short mat bowls sessions. If

you'd like to come and join us at any of the above events, please contact the club secretary, Stephen George on 07876 407 219, email: stephengeorge79@gmail.com or via our website: fendraytonbowls.co.uk



Hilton Community Hub

In some ways, we should call ourselves **Hilton Community VARIETY Hub**, for that is clearly the times we have every Wednesday morning at Hilton Village Hall and we are all definitely enriched by it. In May, Hilton resident Paddy Burrows brought some examples of her fine sculptures and explained how she created them by first making an armature or skeleton framework on which to build whilst taking care not to overwork the clay form before making a cast to fire in her kiln.

On his birthday from his own varied career, Jeff opened up the World of Weights and Measures, reassuringly full of strict laws and regulations.

In order to raise funds we held a simple Plants and Cakes Day and were thrilled to raise over £400 to support our funds, thanks to our ever generous village friends. We aim for another in due course, with maybe teas and coffees etc once we can muster a group to run that.

For National Egg Day lunch was "?" - Quiche of course, plus that dastardly egg quiz, e.g. How tall was the biggest Easter egg ever made? Tomato Fortnight and National Eat

Your Veg Week (children take note)

On another week, Jan with Julie showed us the rudiments of Tai Chi which are not too challenging.

Variety? Of course!

We have sadly said goodbye to Brian after his long stay with family, off to his much loved 'Country' - Sheffield, Yorkshire. Then Paige and a friend have flown off on a 20 day adventure to Japan and South Korea, there will be varied tales to come.

We're 'on holiday' from July 15th to September 5th but Sam has offered us a weekly Wednesday 'Sketching group on the Green', bring your own everything, even come just for the chat - usual times, we will be there from 10.30 to 12.30.

We all know the Variety is the Spice of Life idea but someone once said 'Variety means Experience'. There's plenty of that here in Hilton

Don't forget, everything available at the Hub is free with kindness and friendship at the top.

Plus the Variety of course!



Work starts on the Hub's entry for the Feast Week Art Competition



Venues for hire

Fen Drayton Village Hall	07596 576515
Fenstanton Church Centre	01954 230471
Fenstanton Community Hall	07496 870331
Hilton Village Hall	07752 678415

Councils

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

Community Groups and Clubs

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

Community Groups and Clubs

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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
Fenstanton Christmas Market	07949 453767
Hilton Feast Week	01480 830605
Hilton Produce Show	01480 830412
Hilton Summer Ball	01480 831299
The BIG Village Fun Day	07713 413060

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

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A&E Hinchinbrooke Hospital	01480 416416
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Fenstanton pharmacy	01480 495159
Fenstanton surgery	01480 461873

Emergency numbers

Fly Tipping	0345 0450500
Gas leak	0800 111 999
Non emergency medical	111
Non emergency Police	101
Papworth pharmacy	01480 831415
Papworth surgery	01480 830888
Peterborough City Hospital	01733 678000
Power cut	0800 678 3105
Samaritans	116 123 Free
Swavesey surgery	01954 230202
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Fenstanton Dental	01480 381129
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Sureclean	07870 338074
Television Mobile Repair Service	07887 887319
W&H Peacock Auctioneers	01480 474550
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Bowling Electrical Services	07903 756915
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Twin Electrical Services	07796 492953

Plumbing and Heating Engineers

Cosy Gas	07411 805067
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MDS P&H Ltd	07860 829591
RDS	01954 770309
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Graham Malkan	07799 850237
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Wilderspin Garage	01954 230273
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