

June 2026

The Journal

Fen Drayton ■ Fenstanton ■ Hilton

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remembered**

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FLAMING June

So here we go, six months through the year and officially into summer. This month we see the longest day of the year and hopefully the weather that supports June's reputation for being the warmest month. Let's hope the effect of climate change doesn't let it rain on your parade.

Don't worry if rain stops play as you can always settle

down with this month's copy of The Journal and enjoy an interesting trip to Norway or how to make perfect lasagne. We also have a topical article on the demise of pubs in Fenstanton, plus all the usual news and reviews.

We hope you enjoy June's edition and as always if you would like to see something featured in The Journal, just drop us a line.



From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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Please submit any copy by 9 June latest for the July/August edition.
Cover photograph by Gill Parrish

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Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

June 2026

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

July 2026

- 04 BIG Village Fun Day, School Field
- 04-05 Open Studios (one studio)
- 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)
- 18-19 Open Studios (three studios)
- 19-25 Hilton Feast Week
- 25-26 Open Studios (three studios)
- 25 Tabletop sale, URC

September 2026

- 12 Hobbies and Collectibles Day, URC

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

Village News

Buckden Repair Café



Buckden Village Hall, PE19 5UY
13.30-16.30 Sunday 21st June 2026

Don't go out and buy something new this Fathers' Day – mend something he already has! Perhaps a dodgy cable on his beard trimmer, slipping gears on his bicycle, a hole in the pocket of his favourite trousers or maybe the garden tools need sharpening? Our talented repairers are ready to help fix it for free, while you treat your wonderful Dad to a cup of tea and a slice of cake from our café.

Bookings open on 18th May. Complete our booking form at: <https://bit.ly/BuckdenRepairCafe> or paper copies will be available in Buckden Library or the Village Hall. Not sure if we can fix it? Get in touch with us RepairCafe@buckdenpc.org.uk with as much detail as you can and photos. You can just turn up on the day, but may have to wait.

If you've nothing to be mended, please do join us for a cuppa.

If you would be interested in joining the team of helpers or would like to become a volunteer repairer please get in touch.

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Caring for St Mary's Together: Our Church, Our Community

Following our well-attended meeting at Fen Drayton Village Hall on Tuesday 3 March, we are pleased to share that positive progress has already been made, with around 30 people coming together in support of the future of St Mary's.

Since then, a small working group has been established under the umbrella of the PCC, with a clear Terms of Reference. This is an important step forward and provides a strong foundation for the work ahead.

St Mary's is now open every day for anyone who would like to visit, and we hope many people will take the opportunity to enjoy this special place. Our Chair, Roger Robinson, has written to you all (see below), sharing more about this and how you can support St Mary's and be part of this work.

We are still keen to welcome others who would like to be involved. If this is something you might be interested in, please do get in touch with:

Rev Rosie at vicar@fenchurches.org.uk or Lorraine Orbell at lorraineorbell@gmail.com



Dear Neighbour

We are delighted that St Mary's is now open every day for anyone who would like to visit - whether for quiet reflection, prayer, or simply to enjoy a moment of peace.

For hundreds of years, St Mary's has stood at the heart of our village, marking life's significant moments through baptisms, weddings and farewells. Like many historic buildings, it now needs essential restoration if it is to continue serving future generations.

Grants are available to support this work, but demonstrating strong support from across the village will be key to a successful application.

That's where we can all play a part.

A Friends of St Mary's Committee has been formed to help lead this work, 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.

There are many other ways you can support St Mary's, and everyone is warmly invited to play a part, whether by supporting events, helping in practical ways, or making a regular contribution to St Mary's Restoration Fund. Even a small regular contribution will make a real difference and help show how much St Mary's means to our community.

You can set up a standing order: Fen Drayton Church - Sort Code: 20-43-63 - Account No. 33340570 (ref RESTN) or if you prefer, make a one-off donation - or more than one! - using the QR code below. Please contact Lorraine Orbell (lorraineorbell@gmail.com) if you would like to Gift Aid your donation.

Together, we can care for St Mary's and keep it at the heart of our village — now and for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Roger Robinson

Chair of Friends of St Mary's Church Group



Joseph Ellis Foundation Trust PARENTS AND CARERS

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

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Welcome

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

Sunday 28 Jun
Sunday 23 Aug
Sunday 27 Sep

and every 4th Sunday, (excluding Dec)

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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



The Legion is as proud and grateful as ever for the amount that has been raised in the 2025 Poppy Appeal - the national total stands at £56.6 million! The actress Tamzin Outhwaite once commented that 'you can't pour from an empty cup'. This national cup is much fuller one!

The Huntingdon and Peterborough WI recently organised a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, near Lichfield, Staffordshire, which could also be described as a park and is well worth a visit. As well as over 400 Memorials maintained largely by a similar number of volunteers there are beautiful walks, frequent seats(!) for humans (dogs too) and a stunning number of beautiful maturing trees. Also, how about an informed ride on the Land Train or your hired buggy, a fantastic shop, Chapel and restaurant? A small fly in the ointment is a name change in September to the Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens. You would quickly realise that a day is just long enough!

Here in Hilton our Poppy knitting has passed the 1,000 mark; a wonderful tribute to the hard work of all our ladies. We should remember that the eventual display will last for years and could be loaned for all manner of appropriate events.

Finally, the St Ives branch holds a regular Drop In Day/Morning at the Ivy Leaf Club in

the Broadway (it's next to the bookshop) on the 3rd Friday of each month from 11.30 – 1:00 ish.

On offer - tea, coffee, biscuits, cake (often) and good old-fashioned friendly chat on whatever pops up.



Tell us about your travels

At The Journal we are always looking for travel articles. Why not send in an article with photographs as we would love to hear from you. Email us at info@thejournal.life



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Village News

Movement made comfortable: discover Chair Pilates

So what is Chair Pilates?

Chair Pilates is a gentle and supportive way to enjoy the benefits of Pilates while using a chair for comfort and stability. The exercises focus on slow, controlled movements that help improve strength, flexibility, posture and balance. (all the important stuff!)

Because you're seated or supported by the chair, it takes away the pressure of getting up and down from the floor, making the movements more relaxed and allowing people to focus on moving in a way that feels comfortable and enjoyable.

It's an amazing way to stretch and strengthen the muscles that support the spine and joints. Over time, this can help improve everyday activities and build confidence in the body, helping people feel stronger and

more independent.

Who is Chair Pilates for?

If you struggle with limited mobility in some way and perhaps find the idea of exercise intimidating, then Chair Pilates could be a wonderful option for you. The exercises can be easily adapted, so they can also be tailored to suit different abilities and comfort levels. Classes can also be a great way to meet new people and hopefully... to have a little fun!

Above all, Chair Pilates is about making exercise feel welcoming, supportive and accessible, helping people reconnect with their bodies and experience the great benefits of regular movement.

See page 36 for classes



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.



Hilton Feast Week

It's not long now until Feast Week, and excitement is building as plans come together for another fantastic community celebration. The schedule has now been finalised, preparations are well underway, and there's a real buzz in the air as we look ahead to a memorable week of events.

This year's theme is Hilton Does Hollywood, and we can't wait to welcome everyone to Feast Week 2026, taking place from 19th-25th July.

Be sure to take a look at the Produce Show classes featured in this issue of the Journal - now is the perfect time to start planning your entries and getting involved.

Thank you to everyone who is helping behind the scenes to make Feast Week happen. We're really looking forward to celebrating together and hope to see you there!



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Coffee Mornings at Hilton Methodist Hall, Potton Road

Saturday, 6 June 10:00 - 12:00

Saturday, 4 July 10:00 - 12:00

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Hilton Town Trust

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

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

Hiltontowntrust@gmail.com or
by phone on 01480 830866

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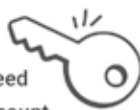
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Village News

Free driving workshops for the over 65s



CAMBRIDGESHIRE
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The Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service Older Driver Workshops are free sessions designed for those over 65 and currently driving, to help them keep driving safely for longer.

To book an Older Driver Workshop, each participant needs to email: road.safety@cambsfire.gov.uk with their name, age, location, and contact number.

The interactive, two-hour sessions cover the following topics:

- Age-related changes when driving
- Eyesight and driving
- Conducting a vehicle check
- Licence renewal
- Signs to be aware of
- Alternatives to driving.

Please note: our Older Driver Workshops do not include a supervised drive.

Older Driver Workshops in 2026 (all sessions run from 1pm until 3pm)**

Monday 1 June at Sawston Fire Station

Tuesday 2 June at St Ives Fire Station

Tuesday 9 June at Cambourne Fire Station

Tuesday 23 June at Sawston Fire Station

Thursday 10 September at St Ives Fire Station

Tuesday 15 September at Cambourne Fire Station

Wednesday 16 September at St Neots Fire Station

Thursday 24 September at Sawston Fire Station

Thursday 8 October at St Neots Fire Station

Wednesday 14 October at St Ives Fire Station

Thursday 15 October at Sawston Fire Station

**The above workshops had spaces as we went to press, but some may now be full.

Online Older Driver online workshop

Wednesday 24 June, 1pm–3pm. To register for the online course, type 'Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service Older Driver Workshops' into your browser and scroll down the events list to 24 June and click on the URL.



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Village News

Calling all proud Fenstanton dog owners!

On Saturday 4 July Fenstanton BIG Village Fun Day will be holding a dog show again this year. This fun event will give your beloved pooch a chance to strut their stuff in the parade ring.

The categories will be as follows:

- ◆ Most handsome male dog
- ◆ Dog with most waggy tail
- ◆ Best groomed dog
- ◆ Best rescue dog
- ◆ Best puppy (under twelve months)
- ◆ Best pedigree dog
- ◆ Most attractive female dog
- ◆ Dog with the best trick
- ◆ Dog you would most like to take home
- ◆ Best veteran dog (over eight years old)
- ◆ Best child dog handler
- ◆ Best in show

Rosettes will be awarded to the first three in each category, with trophies for the Best in Show and First Reserve. With an overall prize of a grooming voucher for the Best in Show. Entries will be £2.50 per category, and you can enter your dog for as many categories as you like. All monies collected will be donated to the Biggies League Romanian Rescue Charity. The competition will kick off at 14.00 on the day and entries will be accepted from 13.00.

All dogs must remain on leads whilst in the show ring and on the school playing field before and after the dog show.

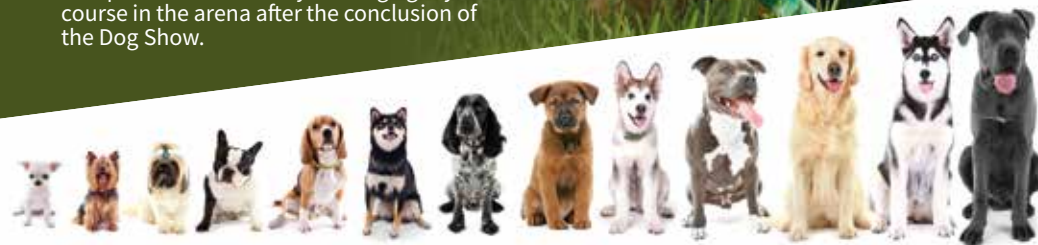


Canine mayhem

Dog agility comes to the BIG Village Fun Day

How agile is your dog? Would you like to guide your dog to run through tunnels, jump fences and complete a slalom run?

If so please come and try our dog agility course in the arena after the conclusion of the Dog Show.





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, 10 June at 2.30pm in the Corn Exchange: The Wisbech Bayeux Tapestry
Come and marvel at Mia Hansson's 10 year project to replicate this historic work of art.

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.

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**Saturday 20 June
9.30 - 12.00 noon**



**Thank
you!**

The team at The Journal would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to **Fenstanton United Reformed Church** for their generous donation of £100 towards The Journal.

It is great to know that The Journal is appreciated. This addition to our funds is very gratefully received and will be used to continue producing our award winning community magazine.

Village News

BIG Village Fun Day Scarecrow Competition

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

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

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

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

We are planning to produce a map to create a scarecrow trail around the village. (Details to follow in the July edition of The Journal.)

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



Fenstanton Morris

Fenstanton Morris will be dancing out in June, with an appearance in and around St Neots on 6 June with other Morris sides.

We are also looking forward to dancing on Quayside, St Ives on the evening of 12 June as part of the Green Week.

On Friday 19 June we will be in Cambridge in the early evening, dancing outside Great St Mary's at 7.30pm, and then at the Mill pub by the river.

Hoping to see you there.

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



Bookings - Fenstanton Community Hall

Main Hall • Weekly sessions | Crest Drive, Fenstanton, PE28 9BR

From Monday, 6th July (Subject to final approval).

Term-time sessions start early September

Monday

- 09:30–11:30 Seniors Ballet (Silver Swans) (*term-time only*)
- 14:00–16:00 Short Mat Bowls

Tuesday

- 14:00–16:00 Tai Chi
- 18:15–19:30 Tang Soo Do – Korean martial art
- 19:30–20:30 Fitness to Music (*term-time only*)

Wednesday

- 09:30–11:30 Pilates
- 15:30–17:00 Crafty Cats Club – creative homework/learning support (*term-time*) / Summer holiday craft club (*summer holidays*)
- 18:00–20:00 Adult & Junior Ballet or Jazz (*term-time only* – time and format TBC)

Thursday

- 10:30–12:00 Home Education Club
- 14:00–16:00 Short Mat Bowls
- 18:15–19:30 Tang Soo Do
- 19:30–20:30 Fitness to Music (*term-time only*)

Friday

- 09:30–11:00 Baby & Toddlers Group
- 15:30–17:00 Crafty Cats Club – creative homework/learning support (*term-time*) / Summer holiday craft club (*summer holidays*)

Other regular bookings

Youth Club

- Including links to Connections Bus resources and programme – 1 or 2X weekly during term-time (19:00–21:00) and school holidays (weekdays).

Bi-weekly

- Sunday PM / Friday evening alternating – Yoga (*time TBC*)

www.fenstantonvillagehall.org



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

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JOIN US FOR REGULAR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ANTICIPATED TO INCLUDE:

- THE THURSDAY MURMUR CLUB**
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Mental Health and Wellbeing
- CARD & BOARD GAMES**
Chess, Draughts, Dominoes, Backgammon, Scrabble, Cribbage
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Upcycling/Repair/Creative Arts, Selling at Community Markets

Ian Sollom MP

South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire District Council Elections

The dust is finally settling on what has been a very busy election period. Thank you to everyone who took the time to speak to me, our candidates and our members on the doorstep over the campaign period. Our Liberal Democrat councillors will always listen to the concerns of the community and will continue to stand up for what matters most to you.

I am pleased that the Fen Drayton, Fenstanton and Hilton area now has two excellent Liberal Democrat councillors: Vivien Biggs in the Swavesey Ward (South Cambridgeshire District Council), and Nick Sarkies in the Fenstanton Ward (Huntingdonshire District Council).

Visit to Fen Drayton Primary School

It's always a pleasure to get out and see the breadth of education being delivered across the constituency. I was recently invited to visit Fen Drayton Primary School to speak with pupils about my role as an MP and the work of Parliament, and to watch an excellent presentation from year 5 and 6 pupils on the school's values. With governors and leadership staff, I discussed



the unique challenges faced by a small rural school such as Fen Drayton – which were particularly highlighted when part of the school was badly damaged by a fire in August 2024.

As is so often the case when I speak both to teachers and parents, SEND provision is top of the agenda; particularly the impact that tight financial constraints are having on schools trying to deliver the right support for every child. We Liberal Democrats have long advocated for a credible plan to recruit and retain the staff needed to ensure every child gets the education they deserve, and with the Government's schools' white paper now published, we will be continuing to push for this.

Surgeries and Further Information

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

I regularly update constituents on my work in Parliament and across St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire through an email newsletter. If you would like to sign up, please do so at www.iansollom.org/emails.



Coffee And Chats

EVERY 2ND & 4TH
WEDNESDAYS OF THE
MONTH

JOIN US FOR A
CUPPA AND A TREAT FEN DRAYTON
VILLAGE HALL



11am till 1pm



Fen Drayton talks schedule - 2026

6.30pm start at the Three Tuns Pub

Papworth Hospital – local history - 10 June

Speaker: Steve Bridge (CEO 1988 to 2016)

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

Led by: Revd Geoff Dodgson

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

Led by: Nigel Fenner

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



HILTON COMMUNITY HUB

Come and join us at Hilton Village Hall
on Wednesday mornings from 10.30—12.30

SUMMER PROGRAMME

3rd June	Theme - National Egg Day Activity - Janastory Quiz - Eggs
10th June	Theme - British Tomato Fortnight Activity - Heather Chambers - Hilton Community Garden Quiz - Red
17th June	Theme - National Eat Your Vegetables Activity - Plant Climbing French Beans Quiz - Vegetables
24th June	Theme - Upcycling Day Activity - Anna - Huntingdon Recycling Centre Quiz - Upcycling / Cycling
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

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David Keane County Councillor for The Hemingfords & Fenstanton

It has now been almost a year since I was elected as the Cambridgeshire County Councillor for The Hemingfords & Fenstanton division, which includes Fenstanton, Hilton, Hemingford Grey, Hemingford Abbots, Houghton & Wyton and Wyton on the Hill. I wanted to use this first article to introduce myself properly and explain a little about what the role involves.

County councillors deal with a wide range of services that affect everyday life: highways, drainage, transport, adult social care, children's services, education, libraries, public health, waste disposal and more. Much of the work is not dramatic, but it matters: following up potholes, checking drainage concerns, chasing highways updates, attending parish meetings, helping residents find the right route through council systems, and making sure local issues are not lost inside a very large organisation.

A significant part of my first year has been spent building relationships with parish councils, officers and community groups. I have tried to attend as many parish meetings and local events as possible, because the best way to understand an issue is usually to hear it directly from residents and those who know the village well.

In Fenstanton, I have been pleased to support work around the Village Hall project, including following up with County Council officers on the matched funding process. I have also been working with the Parish Council on issues including Huntingdon Road, Hall Green Lane, Low Road, gullies, bridleways, weed spraying and residents' parking concerns. These are often slow-moving matters, but I know they are important to those affected and I will continue to press for clear answers and practical progress.



In Hilton, I have attended parish meetings and local events, including Hilton Feast Week, and have followed matters such as traffic speeds and highways concerns. I also took part in the County Council delegated decision meeting relating to new 20mph and 40mph speed limits in Hilton, an example of how local concerns can move through the formal county process.

Alongside local work, I serve on County Council committees including Adults and Health, Planning, and the Pension Fund. These responsibilities involve scrutiny of major services and long-term decisions affecting the whole county.

My aim is to be visible, practical and responsive: to listen, follow up, and explain what can be done, what cannot, and why. I look forward to continuing to work with residents, parish councils and community groups across the division.



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is fresh, flavourful, and crafted with care. And, for those warmer days, their new summer drinks menu is not to be missed; with refreshing iced coffees including the standout iced honeycomb latte - made using honey from the farm itself - and even an Eton Mess iced latte.

The menu celebrates honest, local food with meat from the on-site butchers and produce from the fields. Brunch is served until 12, or settle in for a leisurely lunch until 3:30. If you're looking for something a little sweeter, Lauren from Flourish Bakes has it covered. Baking on-site daily, she brings you an irresistible selection of cakes and treats - so there's always something special to discover, including a show stopping gluten free three-tiered cake.

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MILO - a cat for dog-lovers

by Doreen Bates

Milo had arrived into our lives around the time of lock-down (via Woodgreen), around eight years old, he was a beautiful blond, lilac-tipped Burmese, the 'lilac' meaning he had grey ears/face/tail and paws in pale grey with soft, thick creamy fur. We had to learn pretty quickly what cats were all about, having only had dogs to care for and preferred - or so we thought.

Unlike dogs, with their happy, open and smiley faces accompanied with vigorous wagging tail when anyone entered the house or a room, and always being ready for a game - Milo walked neatly passed us and, over the next few days, carefully selected his preferred place to sleep ALL DAY FOR HOURS, quite unlike any dog. He was definitely not at all interested in being picked up onto a lap for a stroke which was a great shame as you will see from his photo, he was so soft and cuddly.

The next thing for us to organise was to make sure the garden was cat secure for around three weeks, and you have no idea how many days/hours we spent constructing all manner of ingenious barriers (WE thought) to prevent his getting out and accessing Church End, usually fairly quiet but, it only takes one car. Colditz had nothing on us but he remained completely determined to 'beat the system'.

One Sunday morning during Milo's own lock-down, he jumped up onto a wheelie bin, balanced along the fence top trying to force his head through the fine netting we had erected between small bamboo sticks, he looked like Ena Sharples in a hair net! I was watching him but he out-witted me, scrambled down the fence onto the gravel driveway and began heading towards the parked car, at which point I made a lunge to grab him but, unfortunately continued lunging onto my knees and side of face, only afterwards realising I had scratched my new, costly glasses - urrrgh!

At the end of the three weeks in a battle of wits, we decided it was actually cruel trying to keep him confined so removed all barriers - his challenges gone, he wasn't bothered any



more and content to find a favourite bush in the shade to spend his days sleeping in 'his garden'. During those long, hot days of lock-down we became more confident even leaving him out all night and, in the mornings he would be waiting patiently at the back door, then wander in and have his breakfast.

Milo wasn't the least bit interested in the bed or toys he'd arrived with so, I decided to get him a play tower with scratching post. He had begun clawing at some of our furniture to have a good old scratch, actually standing on his scratch-pad to get at the wood! Anyway, this enormous box arrived and, after checking with husband, Ian, as to whether we needed Council Planning Permission, it was quickly assembled. He LOVED the delivery box, ignored the biscuits I'd put on top of the tower and that was that. Fortunately we got a refund.

During any bad weather, he'd spend time indoors either on the stairs, under the desk, annoyingly helping us to type by walking across the keyboard or on the various chairs at his disposal and, of course, near any nice warm radiator. Our dogs had their baskets. During one round of stormy weather, Milo really did not want to go out for his 'constitutional' but eventually plucked up courage then rushed straight back through the door into the utility room and waited patiently for me to let him into the kitchen. I had the bright idea to put down newspapers to soak up the mud and wet off his paws but he really did not understand, he sat neatly to one side of the papers and waited for me to open kitchen door.

He was a very much admired cat by any of our visiting friends and neighbours but, any pet owner will understand, there comes a time in a long life to "let go". Thank you dear Milo for giving us all such delight and laughter at your antics over the precious years you were with us. Signing off from your Household Team.



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A short cruise to Norway

By Malcolm Lynn

At over 125 miles long, the Sognefjord is the longest ice-free fjord in the world and it was our introduction to our cruise around three of Norway's spectacular fjords. After leaving Newcastle on a Thursday afternoon, we arrived at our first port of call, Skjolden, on the Saturday morning. Skjolden is a small village at the head of the fjord and it is also on a main road across Norway but the fjord is still very deep there and can easily accommodate cruise ships such as the Balmoral, which has 11 decks and a displacement of 43,500 tonnes. (See photo).



Balmoral at Skjolden

We took a coach tour from the village to the highest point on the route across the mountains, through spectacular scenery, quite a lot of snow (by British standards) on a road with many hairpin bends. It was a steep climb, with some impressive drops, so it was easy to see why that trip isn't recommended for anyone who suffers from vertigo! Although there was a bike hire business in the village, we didn't actually see



Olden on the Nordfjord

any cyclists – kamikaze or otherwise – while we were there.

One of the joys of being on a cruise like this is that someone changes the scenery for you overnight, so the following morning we found ourselves at the town of Olden on the Nordfjord.

As it was early Spring in this part of Norway (mid-April), the temperature wasn't impressively high and although we didn't have much sunshine, we didn't have any rain, fog or snow either. The excursion from Olden to the Kjenndalen glacier was mainly by boat along the emerald-green and tranquil Lovatnet lake, which is surrounded by high mountains. After reaching the end of the lake, we boarded a double-decker bus for a surreal journey through the forest on a single-track road to a viewpoint near the foot of the glacier.

Although the glacier doesn't look very large from a distance, it is actually just the lowest arm of the Jostedalsglacier, the largest in continental Europe. The blue colour of the glacial ice contrasted with the white colour of the surrounding snow and the forbidding dark hues of the mountains. (The blue colour is due to the fact that glacial ice contains very few air bubbles because it has been compressed by the weight of snow over

many years.) On the way to the glacier, our party sampled the delights of home-made waffles served with cream and strawberry jam. Such is life!



On the way to the glacier

In the evening we enjoyed a fine dinner en route to our next port of call, Åndalsnes on the Romsdalen fjord, while our ship glided through magnificent scenery, with the snow on the mountain tops glistening in last of the

day's sunlight.

Even though the town is at a latitude of more than 62° North, it has a temperate climate thanks to the Gulf Stream. It is also at the end of the Rauma railway line, which provides a connection eastwards to Lillehammer and Oslo. The railway itself features in a Netflix film, "The Gold Run" which tells the story of how the Norwegians saved Norway's 50 tonnes of gold reserves from the Nazi invaders in 1940. The tourist train into the mountains is also called "The Golden Train" to recognise that chapter in Norway's history. The railway has also been voted "Europe's most scenic train journey" by Lonely Planet – quite a claim! The route passes through awe-inspiring mountain scenery and along the bottom of Europe's tallest vertical rock face, the "Troll Wall". It also features a switch-back tunnel in order to climb through the mountains and the impressive bridge across the Rauma river



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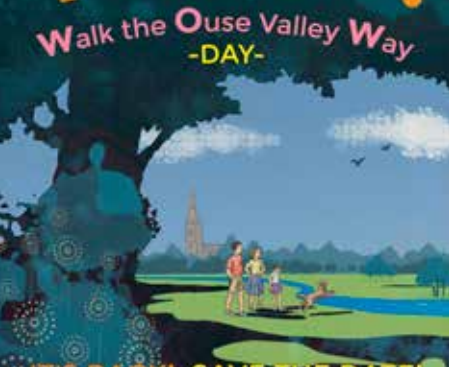
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Cable car at Åndalsnes

gorge, the “Chicken Bridge”, has featured in a number of adventure films, including Mission Impossible. The whole area has now become so popular with film companies like HBO and Netflix that it has earned the nickname “Trollywood”!

Ålesund was our final port of call in Norway and was the only city we visited, other than Newcastle. Although it is built on seven islands, it is quite a small city by British standards but it is situated in a spectacular setting and is a popular destination for cruise ships. Fortunately for us, there were no other cruise ships when we were there, so there were no more than about 1,000 tourists in town that day, although in the summer time there can be ten times that number when some really big cruise ships call. Many of the streets are pedestrianised, offering shops, art galleries, cafes and an Irish pub. Much of the city centre was rebuilt with art deco architecture after a disastrous fire in 1904 and although some buildings were subsequently

demolished and rebuilt in more modern styles, many art deco buildings are still standing. In the Second World War the city was a centre of resistance against the Nazis and monuments commemorate the Heroes of Telemark and the covert link between the city and Shetland.

We decided against climbing the 418 steps to the cafe at the summit of Mount Aksla, which provides the best views of the city, so the photograph shows kayakers in the harbour in the older part of the city centre instead.

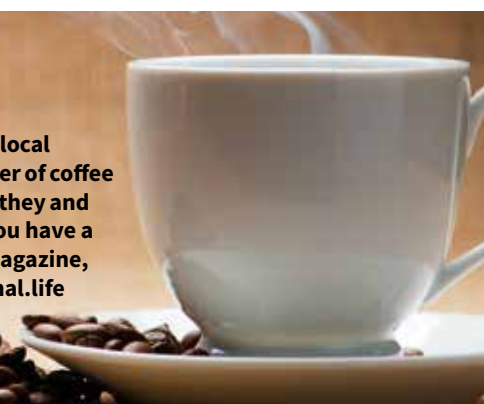


Ålesund

The cruise was a fascinating way to see just a part of Norway and to learn more about the country. Our last day was spent at sea in calm weather, where we were able to see a number of oil and gas platforms from the deck, relax in the lounges or take part in some of the many indoor entertainments. A most enjoyable holiday.

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



The demise of the pubs of Fenstanton

By John Deeks

Fenstanton has been blessed with many public houses of the years and none more so than in the early 1900s. Why were there so many pubs in Fenstanton? There are a number of reasons why Fenstanton had so many pubs. In past times drinking water had been contaminated by the large number of toilets and cesspits that over the centuries had contaminated the underground water. So, it was safer to drink beer that had been boiled which destroyed most contaminants.

In addition, our village was and is on the old Roman road heading north and south. Anyone travelling through from London, Cambridge and on to Huntingdon and further north would have to come through our High Street.

We have to remember that the majority of working men in the village worked on a farm. In the days before mechanical assistance all work was done manually. So, at the end of a working day most men would go to their chosen pub to 'sink' a few pints.

Another group of people who came to the village were the drovers. These drovers would drive their cattle, sheep and ducks to the St Ives market. They came from all over the country. Many would stop off in Fenstanton as local farmers allowed them to graze their stock in their field prior to going on to St Ives market. The drovers would frequent the local pubs.

In the harvest seasons many itinerate labourers came to the village to find work. Especially when the fruit harvest was ready. At one time Fenstanton was well known for growing fruit especially plums. Lots of men (and their families) would come over from Ireland and were accommodated in local homes. They would have spent a lot of their earnings at the local pubs,

The George Posting Inn (now the Dutchess) was the main stopping point for coaches passing through. It was a posting inn, a place where stagecoaches carrying the post would stop to change horses and exchange

passengers. It would have been a very busy place for many centuries. Even before the days of the stagecoach, travellers would have stopped here for refreshment and accommodation.

The Queen's Head in Talls Lane is a bit of a puzzle. It is strange that this inn was used by many mail coaches considering that it is well away from the High Street which was the main route from Cambridge to Huntingdon. The inn was also used by pilgrims who were on their way to take the Holy Well water at Holywell on the other side of the river Great Ouse. Apparently if they purchased a pint of ale the landlord would take them, (free of charge) by pony and trap, to catch the Holywell ferry.

The list of public houses below has been compiled with the help Jack Dady's book 'Beyond Yesterday' and the 1901 England census:

Hearts of Oak pub, Church Lane. Mentioned in Jack's book but not in the 1901 census, possibly closed between those dates. Now a private residence.

The Queen's Head coaching inn, Talls Lane. Publican Jim Abrams who was born in Ramsey. He had a second job as a bricklayer. Burned down in the 1920s and then replaced by a bungalow.

The Chequers pub, Checker Street. Publican Joseph Witherow, aged 72. Born in Fenstanton and was a retired bricklayer. Now a private residence.



The Blue Cow Pub, Chequer Street. Publican George Holmes who was aged 29 and born in Elsworth. He had a second job as a butcher. Now a private residence and air BnB.

The King William IV Pub (King Bill), Huntingdon Road, opposite Chequer Street. Publican William Joyce aged 48 and born in Fen Drayton. He had a second job as a brewer and cellarman. Now a private residence and Air BnB.

The Rose & Crown Posting Inn, High Street, next to what is the Duchess's car park and now a private residence. Publican John Hewson aged 33 and born in Ramsey. His second job was as a master gardener.



The Sign of the Valient Trooper pub, High Street. Publican William Land who was born in Norfolk. Next to the fish and chip shop, now a private residence.

The George coaching and post inn, High Street, (now renamed The Dutchess). Publican Charlotte Brown aged 50 and born in Godmanchester. She was the widow of George Browne retired soldier. He purchased the Inn after retiring from the army. Charlotte ran the business for more than 20 years.



The Prince of Wales Feathers pub, High Street, now demolished and replaced by a house.

The Crown pub, High Street, now the Crown & Pipes. Publican William Land aged 67 and born in Norfolk. He was a retired policeman.

The Brewer's Arms pub, High Street, at the site of the old brewery. Publican William Fellows he had a second job as a gardener. Now a private residence

The Swan pub, corner of High Street and Swan Road, now a private residence.

The Woolpack pub, the junction of Huntingdon Road and Hilton Road. Publican Frederick Basford aged 37 and born in Fen Drayton. His second job was as an engine driver on a local farm.



The Royal Oak pub, Honey Hill. Publican William Roberts aged 46 he was born in Elsworth. Now a private residence.

The Bell pub, Bell Lane. Publican James Garrard born in Elsworth. Now demolished together with a row of cottages to make way for a row of terraced houses

The Black Bull pub, Bridge Terrace, London Road. Publican Elizabeth Troughton aged 40 and born in Leeds. She was married to a soldier.

In addition, there were unregulated beer houses, where beer was brewed in the kitchen and sold through the front window.

It's interesting that even as far back as 1901 most publicans could not earn a living without having a second job.

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Fenstanton Pubs from the 1939 register:

The Black Bull, London Road, Albert Laurie, publican and chicory labourer. London Road was then in the parish of Fenstanton but is now part of St Ives. Now the Sultan Indian restaurant

The Woolpack, Huntingdon Road, William Fordham, publican and groundsman at Wyton RAF base. Demolished in the 1960s to make way for the A604 later the A14.

King William IV, Huntingdon Road, Charles Loates, publican. Now a private residence and Air BnB.



The George Inn, High Street, Harold Glenton, inn keeper. Later renamed as the Dutchess. Now closed.

The Crown Inn, High Street, George Green, inn keeper, a police pensioner. Later renamed the Crown & Pipes.

The Royal Oak, Honey Hill, Anthony Hopkins, publican and wholesale milk worker. Now a private residence.



The Chequers Inn, Chequer Street, William Fox, publican. Now a private house.



The Tudor Hotel was not listed here as in 1939 it was a tea room.

Fenstanton Pubs in 2026:

The Crown & Pipes, High Street corner of Bell Lane.

The closure of public houses across the county is not unusual but possibly more so in Fenstanton. These closures reflect the changing habits of the population and it proves more than ever the old adage 'use it or lose it'!





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Afoot in the Garden

Blooming June

I had a non-flowering climbing rose growing under a purple leaved maple tree, (*Acer platanoides* 'Crimson King') I removed the lower branches (raised the head) and hey presto the rose now flowers! It is Mme Alfred Carriere, with space enough as its 15+ footer. It was at one time the go to white climbing rose with beautiful and fragrant flowers. Iceberg is more floriferous but without a scent.

For many, June is a month to take a holiday before the great summer price hike. So here are a few tips for preparing pots and tubs for a holiday.

A week before you go on holiday reduce the amount of water you give them, even allow pots to dry out a couple of times. This will harden off the growth. Arrange for a friend or family to water for you. Set up an irrigation system. Keep it simple a sprinkler on a timer is adequate. See photo below



Move pots and baskets to a shady area of the garden.

Dead head and trim bedding plants before you leave. (You can remove all the flowering heads with flowers of geraniums).

Water and then feed pots with diluted liquid fertiliser and your pots will stay moist for longer.

Place pots in saucers to give them a reservoir.



Tasks for June

It is a traditional time for pruning hedges. However, to avoid disturbing nesting birds, farmers and landowners are encouraged to prune later in the year. If it is a tight formal garden hedge then, I think its ok. Prune and feed spring flowering shrubs like forsythia, ribes, and viburnums. Lilac trees can be cut back by a third after flowering. Wisteria side shoots can be trimmed to four buds to promote later flowers. Train Japanese quince and trim side shoots back to four buds to encourage flowers next spring. Dead head/summer prune and feed roses. Sow hardy annuals and perennials like forget-me-not, aquilegia, campanula, foxglove, and scabious. And finally, water and regularly feed summer pots.

June Top Tips

- Prune/feed spring flowering shrubs
- Edge lawns
- Prune and feed roses
- Sow forget-me-not
- Sow perennials

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Fenstanton Headlands	2.50pm - 3.40pm
Fenstanton Chapel Green	3.50pm - 4.20pm

Route H25 - 4th Thursday In The Month

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Family law in the digital age

At Leeds Day LLP, we understand that family law is never just about paperwork. It is about people, relationships and life changing decisions. Whether someone is dealing with separation, children arrangements, financial uncertainty or concerns about the future, they need clear advice, practical support and a legal team they can trust.

That is where our Family Department makes a real difference.

Family law has changed significantly in recent years, and technology is now an important part of how modern legal services are delivered. At Leeds Day, we use those developments to make the process more efficient, more accessible and, where possible, less stressful for our clients.

Court procedures are increasingly digital. In the Financial Remedies Court, cases are often managed through online systems, with key documents uploaded electronically and strict requirements for digital bundles. This means family lawyers must be organised, responsive and confident in managing cases in a modern court environment. Our team recognises the importance of careful preparation and timely handling of documents in order to keep matters progressing smoothly.

Technology has also transformed the way we communicate with clients. Leeds Day aims to use email as the primary means of written communication, and where confidentiality is a particular concern, encrypted email communication may be used.

Meetings and advice can be provided face to face and also virtually as part of the firm's service delivery. This flexibility can be invaluable for clients who are balancing work, childcare, travel or the emotional strain that often accompanies family difficulties.

At the same time, we never lose sight of the human element. Technology should support good legal advice, not replace it. Sensitive conversations still require judgement, empathy and an understanding of the wider picture. Our

Family Department combines modern ways of working with a personal and thoughtful approach, helping clients feel informed and supported at every stage.

Family cases also increasingly involve digital evidence, including messages, emails, photographs and recordings. Handling this material properly requires care, discretion and sound legal judgement. Alongside this, confidentiality and data protection remain central to our work. Leeds Day's terms and data protection documentation confirm the firm's approach to processing personal data and protecting client information.

Leeds Day LLP is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. We provide services from Godwin House, George Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3BD, with offices at Huntingdon and St Neots. Our Family Department is committed to delivering professional, practical and approachable support when clients need it most.

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



Lisa Leader - Senior Associate Solicitor

Annual Meeting of the Parish

Chair's report 2025/26

The purpose of the Annual Meeting of the Parish is to provide an update on what your Parish Council has been up to during the previous 12 months.

However, I'd like to note that this is also the end of the current term of office for all parish councillors.

Of the nine councillors who were elected in 2022, only two remain current members. We co-opted additional councillors over this term, who have enabled the Parish Council to continue to function.

All Council seats are up for election in May and nominations are now closed. For the first time in a while we have a contested election, as we have 13 applicants for the 11 seats in the South ward. Hopefully after the election, we will also have applicants to be co-opted for the North ward. It would be good to have a full complement of parish councillors for the year ahead.

We started this council year with quite a lot of upheaval having taken place, with no permanent Clerk or Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) in place.

Ali Watchman, our Assistant Clerk and Kevin Mitchell, a former councillor who stepped in as locum RFO, kept the Council running as smoothly as possible while the search for a new Clerk and RFO took place and I'd like to extend my thanks and gratitude to both of them.

After a lengthy recruitment process, in June we were delighted to welcome Sarah Barber as our new Clerk and RFO.

Sarah joined us from Coedffranc Town Council, having relocated to Hemingford Grey to be closer to her family.

Our handyman Chris Burns continued to work effectively to support and maintain the services required to provide village amenities.

Draft financial year end accounts are currently being prepared for the period ending 31st March 2026. The unaudited annual accounts will be made available to members of the public around June or July this year.

In order to maintain the current level of service provided and achieve a balanced budget in the coming financial year 2026/27, the Parish Council voted to increase the precept by 10.3%. However, due to the increase in the number of properties in the village, this equated to a 6.6% increase or 85 pence per month for a Band D property in the village, roughly half last year's increase.

At the year-end the total balance in the Council's accounts stood at £196,010.75, which as well as the operating reserves, includes funds already committed to projects but not yet spent.

The planning committee reviewed 27 applications, ensuring all approved plans are in keeping with the needs of the village.

We upgraded the electricity supply to the Clock Tower in order to accommodate the Christmas Market and improve the safety of the supply. We also carried out essential maintenance and repairs to ensure that the Clock Tower is preserved for future generations.

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

We also continued to fund The Big Village Fun Day and funded the inaugural Christmas Market event including the purchase of the Christmas tree.

We started funding the Connections Bus youth project, which runs weekly during term time, and I would like to thank Fenstanton Football Club and Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School for their support in hosting the Connections Bus.

We held a successful pump track trial event on the Hampton field last summer, which was well attended and very popular.

We continued to support both the Age UK warden service and Fenstanton Glebe Allotments Association; gave a grant of £300 to the Friendship Club, donated £100 to the poppy appeal and voted to purchase and donate equipment to the newly formed short mat bowls club.

In association with the Net Zero Villages

Grant funding scheme and Cambridgeshire County Council we installed a new pedestrian crossing on Cambridge Road and extended the footpath from the High Street to this crossing.

We also continued to deploy our MVAS units in the village, rotating the units at known speeding hot spot locations.

We undertook regular monitoring of the play areas, to ensure they are safe and there are repair works planned for when the risk of frost has passed.

Last year CCC Highways and Transport committee approved the reconstruction of the Hall Green Lane/Manor Drive collapsed drain. These works are planned for this financial year, and we will continue to press the County Council to ensure they happen.

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

We continued with monthly parish councillor surgeries on Saturday mornings, for parishioners to raise their concerns or seek clarification on village activities face to face with parish councillors.

We also continued to use the Journal, Facebook and the Parish Council website, to communicate news and information to parishioners.

Last year the Council undertook a survey of the cemetery using ground penetrating radar in an effort to identify any further potential plots and while there may be spaces available, these will still need to be confirmed by digging trial holes.

No new potential areas to extend the cemetery have been identified but this is still a priority for the Council.

As before, during the last year we maintained many areas of the parish, including areas previously the responsibility of the District and County Councils.

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

The Parish Council plans to continue with and support the following existing initiatives

- Developing the Parish Council asset register

- Developing plans for Hampton Pocket Park
- Developing plans for a pump track
- Developing a Neighbourhood Plan
- Providing financial support for The Big Village Fun Day and Christmas Market
- Providing financial support for the Connections Bus youth project

We are also looking into registering Assets of Community Value and intend to continue to look to further improve road safety and connectivity within the parish.

As the new Fenstanton Community Hall approaches completion, the Parish Council has agreed to move their office into the new building later this year, providing an improved work environment for our employees, better access for the public and a guaranteed revenue stream for the hall.

The business of the Council has continued to function efficiently and professionally, and I have been extremely proud of the way our staff and councillors have conducted themselves, especially given the tumultuous start to the council year.

Fenstanton is a wonderful community, with so many volunteers giving time when they can, and collectively they make a big difference.

From the groups who run events like the Big Village Fun Day, the litter pickers who help keep our village tidy, the trustees of the new village hall, those who deliver the Journal or help at the Welcome Space, to the individuals like Donna Butcher, David Mead, Jean Ding and Roy McGee, who do so much between them.

It is this community spirit that makes Fenstanton a great place to live, and that inspires your Parish Council through the year.

Therefore, I'd like to acknowledge these volunteers, along with all those I've not mentioned, and offer the council's thanks for all they do on behalf of this parish and the wider community.

I would also like to thank District Councillor Clare Tevlin and County Councillor David Keane for their assistance with promoting the interests of the parish to the District and County Councils over the past 12 months.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all those councillors, past and present, who have worked tirelessly over the last four years not only in council meetings but also behind the scenes. Whether it's pitching for funding, writing to and meeting

with various stakeholders, delivering projects, helping with litter picks, assisting with inspections to the cemetery and play parks and much more, I offer my thanks for all their contributions.

Responsible Financial Officer's Report 2025/26

I have held the post of Responsible Financial Officer and Parish Clerk since the end of June 2025. Prior to this, I worked as a Clerk to a Town Council in South Wales and have been employed within local government since 2020. Since joining Fenstanton Parish Council, my focus has been on developing a clear understanding of the village, its priorities, and the Council's statutory responsibilities and ongoing commitments.

The financial position I am reporting this evening relates to the year ending 31 March 2026. These figures remain subject to any adjustments following the forthcoming internal and external audits, which are due to take place in the coming weeks. The full and audited Council accounts will be published in July 2026 following submission of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, or AGAR.

Overall, the Council's cash balance has increased during the year, from £192,141.99 to £196,010.75. This balance includes committed expenditure, most notably £40,613.50 earmarked for the new Village Hall. It also includes funding relating to the Cambridge Road development, which has now been completed at a total cost of £80,000 and is due for payment in May 2026. Once this payment has been made, the adjusted balance will be £116,010.75.

As of 31 March 2026, the Council held £74,148.27 in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund, together with £454.62 in a Unity Trust Bank account. In addition, the Council holds £2,585.27 on behalf of the Youth Club.

Moving on to operational expenditure, the majority of the Council's income continues to come from the annual precept, which is collected through Council Tax by Huntingdonshire District Council. For the 2025–26 financial year, the precept was set at £204,930. This has increased to £226,033.87 for 2026–27, representing an increase of 10.3 per cent.

To put this into context for residents, the annual charge for a Band D property has risen from £153.29 to £163.45. This is an increase of 6.6 per cent.

Additional income during the year has been received from the Glebe allotments, along with reimbursements for grounds maintenance work carried out on behalf of Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. There has been around 19k of miscellaneous income which includes bank interest.

The Council's operational spending covers the daytoday running of the Parish Council office, including staffing costs for both the Clerk and Assistant Clerk. It also includes routine village maintenance such as waste bins, general repairs, floral displays, the Christmas tree, and the twiceyearly cleaning and maintenance of the village pond.

A new local contractor has recently been appointed for the cutting and maintenance of green spaces, following a Council decision that this arrangement offers better value for money and a more thorough service.

The increase in precept reflects rising operational costs and expanded



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.

responsibilities, including tree and grass maintenance, footpath upkeep, and the installation of new benches. The cost of these services now totals £41,195.62. In several cases, these responsibilities have transferred from Huntingdonshire District Council, and Fenstanton Parish Council has continued the work to ensure that appropriate standards are maintained within the village.

During the year, the Council also spent £12,886.46 on clearing and maintaining the Orchard, with clear plans in place for its future development. As with many councils, we are also seeing increased staffing and general running costs due to wider economic pressures, alongside growing demand as higher tiers of local government reduce or withdraw certain services due to budget constraints.

In addition, urgent restoration works were carried out to the Clock Tower at a cost of just under £6,000. I'm pleased to note that this work is now covered by a tenyear guarantee.

The Council continues to support a range of local initiatives and community groups, including the Welcome Space and the Christmas Market. Financial support during the year includes £8,000 to the Big Village Fund Day and £4,000 to Age UK Fenstanton. The Connections service is now fully funded by the Parish Council, with costs to date totalling £10,329. Also, a thanks must be shown to Councillor A Puntambekar for the support and application made for grants for the Welcome Space which have been awarded by Nisa Stores – Community Funding for a sum of £2000

In summary, the Council remains in a healthy financial position. However, it is important to note that no further Community Infrastructure Levy funding is currently anticipated. At the same time, the Council is experiencing increasing pressure and demand for the services it provides. While we remain committed to supporting valued community initiatives, it is essential that we continue to manage our finances prudently and maintain a cautious approach to future expenditure.

The Big Village Fun Day 2026 - watch this space

Your Parish Council is currently planning its stall for the upcoming community event and discussing ideas to make it both informative and fun for residents of all ages.

The stall will include information about the work of the Parish Council, current projects, and how we support the local community. We are also looking at including a game or activity, along with other interesting displays and useful local information.

We hope you'll come along, say hello, and find out more about what your Parish Council does.



Food waste caddies – Please put them out correctly

Thank you to everyone using the food waste collection service. A few simple steps help keep collections quick, clean, and tidy.

Please place your food waste caddy at your usual collection point by the boundary of your property on collection day. Make sure the lid is fully closed, and do not overfill it.

Only food waste should go inside, including fruit and vegetable peelings, leftovers, bread, rice, meat, fish, tea bags, coffee grounds, and eggshells. Please do not include packaging, plastic bags, liquids, or general rubbish.

To keep your caddy fresh, use compostable liners, rinse it occasionally, and always keep the lid shut.

By separating food waste, we can reduce landfill and turn waste into useful energy and compost. Thank you for helping keep our parish cleaner and greener.



Parish Councillor Saturday Surgeries

The last Saturday of the month 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.

Councillors attending Surgery on 30 May will be shared on Facebook and at the Hub following the election.

Next Parish Council meetings

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

In addition to our regular meetings, we also hold:

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

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

Date

Thursday 18 June (TBC)

Meeting

PC Ordinary

Time and Location

7.00 pm Church Centre

To contact your Parish Council Clerk Telephone: 01480 465300

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

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Jigsaw Exchange Hilton Parish Church

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

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

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

News from the Pews

Hilton Parish Church



Dear Friends,

When I was at theological college (which is what the Church of England calls its vicar training schools), we had a tutor called Michael Williams. Like many of us, I have found it very easy to forget much of what I have been taught, but I do remember Michael saying this: 'Make sure, when you are preaching, that what you have to say is good news.'

Christians call their message about God and Jesus Christ the gospel, which is old English for good news. I have tried always to follow Michael's advice, and when I preach to make sure that people don't walk away feeling they have been told off or given doom and gloom. I am not exactly preaching now, just sharing some thoughts, but here is a piece of definitely good news, which I am sure we could all do with. There is a YouTuber called Simon Clark, who has a PhD in atmospheric physics, and is, I think, an excellent communicator of scientific knowledge, especially concerning climate change and green energy.

In a recent posting, Simon shared some graphs and figures from a couple of technical reports that show that in 2025, the demand for electricity generated worldwide from fossil fuels fell by 38 terawatt hours. According to the internet, a terawatt hour is a million million watt hours, so 38 of them is the equivalent of keeping 950 thousand million lightbulbs on for an hour. And the world wanted that much less energy from fossil fuels last year, thanks entirely to the growth in clean energy such as wind and solar power.

At long last, we are starting to use less of the dirty expensive stuff that comes from underground and can only be used once, the stuff that has got us into all kinds of trouble. We have a long way to go, but it's the right direction, and that trend will almost certainly accelerate. Good news indeed. For those who believe this world is not ours to mess up in the first place, but is on loan to us from the God who created it, this is proper Gospel.

May God bless his good earth, and teach us before it is too late to care for it properly. And thank you Michael Williams, and Simon Clark, for being in your very different ways heralds of good news. May we do likewise.

With love, David

Revd David Busk (01480 436400)

Services in June

7 June	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
14 June	11:15am United Communion Service in the Parish Church
21 June	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
28 June	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall

Friday 19 June 5:30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church)

Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

Holy Communion Wednesdays (2:00pm) Bible Study Fridays (10:00am)
Please contact Revd David Busk (01480 436400) for Zoom access details

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 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.

June 2026 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Thursday 04 June	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 07	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion and Sunday Club
Thursday 11	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 14	9.15am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion
	10.30am Fenstanton	Worship For All
Thursday 18	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
	5pm till late	Booze in Fenstanton Pews
Friday 19	5pm till late	Booze in Fenstanton Pews
Saturday 20	12noon till late	Booze in Fenstanton Pews
Sunday 21	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion and Sunday Club
	6pm Fenstanton	Choral Evensong
Thursday 25	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 28	9.15am Fen Drayton	Morning Praise
	10.30am Fenstanton	Family Communion

Over the past few weeks we've had some changes in personnel in the parish. Rev Claire Brockelsby, our Curate for the past 18 months or so, has moved on to continue her ministry as Curate-in-charge and to look after the people and 4 churches that make up the Fen Church Edge Benefice (around Sawtry). We said farewell in our accustomed style with good food and a few drinks over a lunch in Fenstanton Church Centre and we wish Claire well in her new role and pray God will continue to bless her and her ministry.



After 12 years Philip Blunt has stepped down as Churchwarden for our parish. Nine years of committed service, regularly each week helping the business of the church run smoothly, whether that be with services, helping to maintain the buildings or unglamorous but necessary paperwork and lots more besides. On behalf of everyone, thankyou Philip.

We are delighted that at our Annual Meeting Lynn Beecroft was nominated and duly elected to the role of Churchwarden along with Ian Hucklesby. Lynn is already learning the role and we thank Lynn for stepping up to take on a new challenge.



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.

Booze in Fenstanton Pews

18th, 19th and 20th June 2026



St Peter and St Paul's Church
Fenstanton, PE28 9JS



Thursday: 5pm - Late
Friday: 5pm - Late
Saturday: 12pm - Late

Real Ales • Ciders • Gin • Wine
Soft Drinks • Hot Food



Facebook: @boozeinfenstantonpews
Email: boozeinfenstantonpews@gmail.com

In aid of Fenstanton Parish Church Restoration Fund

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



Fenstanton United Reformed Church

After Easter, the Church continues to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the new life in Christ that God offers to all.

I recently visited Anglesey Abbey, a National Trust property in Lode near Cambridge. It was a glorious spring day, and although the car park was very busy, the Abbey, or at least its grounds, didn't seem busy. I enjoyed walking around the grounds, it was too nice to go into the house, so I've saved that for another visit.

The Wind in the Willows Sculpture Trail was very interesting, and thought provoking, as dotted around the site were statues of Mole, Toad, Ratty and Badger. Twelve figures in total, each one with information about how

wildlife, farming, people and the environment are all connected. Although some of the gardens at the Abbey were not at their best, as it was the wrong time of year; I was too late for all the snowdrops and daffodils, and too early for the full glory of the rose garden.

It struck me that the gardens, like life, have fallow periods when nothing much seems to be happening, yet these periods are necessary as plants and humans rest, gather their resources and energy ready to burst forth into bloom, and life, when the time is right.

Although necessary, these fallow periods can be hard to cope with, but like plants, we need these times to rest, reflect, and gather our thoughts. For everyone, including people of faith, this can seem like a wilderness experience, but our faith helps us to cope with this seemingly unproductive period in our lives, before we are able to blossom once again, renewed, and prepared ready to deal with the ups and downs of life.

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Hilton Methodist Church



Dear Friends,

I recently read these words from Hebrews 3:13, '...encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today...' They seem particularly fitting as in the Christian calendar we remember St Barnabas on June 11th, someone known for his building others up. Alongside the words from the Bible I read a wisdom story which reiterated for me the power of encouragement and words to bring life:-

'Once there lived a very poor man whose wife was healthy and happy every day. Meanwhile, the Sultan's wife got thinner and sadder by the minute. The Sultan, who showered his wife with riches and brought her lavish gifts from his travels, could not understand. He sent for the poor man and asked to know the secret of the poor wife's happiness.

"Very simple," replied the poor man, "We feed on the meat of the tongue." So, before he left on an expedition, the Sultan gave orders to the staff to obtain tongue meat from the different animals in his domain and provide his wife with whatever she preferred. Yet when the Sultan returned, his wife was as thin as ever.

Exasperated, the Sultan sent for the poor man again and suggested that they switch wives for a while and see what happens. Immediately, the Sultan's wife began to thrive in the poor man's home. Her eyes sparkled and she grew plumper. The poor man's wife became thinner by the moment in the Sultan's house. Her eyes dulled and she became listless.

At his wits' end, the Sultan brought the poor man back once more. "I have given each woman tongue meat from all kinds of animals, yet they wither in my palace.

But with you in a poor dilapidated hut, they thrive. I demand to know why!"

"Ah, you misunderstood me," the poor man replied. "The meat of the tongue that I spoke of does not come from animals. It is that we tell each other stories, talking and laughing together all day long. That is the best meat of the tongue."

God delights in calling forth our best selves and invites us to share in this wonderful task. Who might you uplift through your actions and words? As we move into summer may we travel alert to the signs of hope around us sent from God to fill us with courage and help us live building others up too.

With blessings, James

Revd. James Bamber

jamesbamber@gmail.com

Phone: 01480 453857



Services in June

7 June	10:00am	Rev. James Bamber
14 June	11:15am	United Service in the Parish Church
21 June	10:00am	Rev. Pam Siddall
28 June	10:00am	Local Arrangeme

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



TABLE TOP SALE

in aid of church funds.

Rent a table or Garden pitch
6ft table @ £10, 5ft tables @ £8,
4ft table @ £5, Garden pitch @ £5.

Venue: Fenstanton United Reformed Church
Chequer Street PE28 9JQ
Telephone: 01480 462 001
e-mail: Fenstanton.urc24@hotmail.com

Saturday 25th July 9am - 4pm
Entrance Fee £1.00

Hot & Cold Refreshments, Bacon / Sausage Rolls



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

Sunday morning services are at 09.30. All are welcome.

2026 Services

June

07 Revd Christine Davies
14 Revd Alison Davis - **Holy Communion**
21 Revd Christine Davies
28 Revd Christine Davies

July

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

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

Tuesday 09 June 2.30 - 4pm - Led by John Williams
Tuesday 14 Jul 2.30 - 4pm - Led by John Williams

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

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Life on a Plate

Lasagne

This recipe has both a vegetarian and a meat version,

Ingredients:

For both versions:-

- 1 red pepper/capsicum
- 1 medium onion
- 1 box tomato passata
- 2 oz./ 55gm. mushrooms
- Salt and pepper to your liking
- Basil to your liking
- 1 packet, lasagne sheets.
- Cheese sauce
- Approximately half a pint of milk
- 4oz./115gm. Strong cheddar cheese or mozzarella if you prefer.
- Approximately 1 tablespoon cornflour
- Salt to your taste
- Extra grated cheese to cover the finished dish.

Requirements

An ovenproof square shaped dish approximately 10 inches square, 2½ inches deep or 24cm. square, 5cm deep.

Method

1. Chop all above ingredients
2. Gently fry the onion until just soft.
3. Add the mushrooms - fry on a high heat or they will be very watery.
4. Add the chopped red pepper and fry until softened.
5. Add the passata.
6. Add salt, pepper and basil to your liking.
7. Cook for about 20 minutes until flavours are well combined. Leave to cool
8. Either leave the sauce chunky or blend in with an autochop or blending stick to a smoother consistency.

For the vegetarian version:-

9. Chop finely, fry a further 4oz./115gm. mushrooms, or aubergines or the equivalent in soya chunks.

For the meat version:-

10. Add 8oz./225gm lean mince
11. Cook in the passata mix until tender, about half an hour.
12. Leave to go cold.



Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

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

Moore Brook busway crossing

As mentioned last month, Fen Drayton PC, together with Fenstanton, and Swavesey PCs and the RSPB are working to keep the Moore Brook busway crossing at Fen Drayton open to the public after the busway fencing is installed.

To this end, a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) is being drawn up to ask Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to investigate whether this route should be formalised.

Long-term users of the crossing were asked to complete a Public Right of Way

User Evidence Statement, to help establish whether the route in the application is a public right of way.

Around fifty completed statements have been submitted to the CCC by Andy Brown, a Fen Drayton resident who researched and initiated the DMMO process.

The application will be prioritised by the CCC map officer who is handling the case.

Now all we can do is wait and hope it succeeds. Any updates will be posted on the PC website at www.fendrayton.org

Sue Ellington

The parish council also thanks Sue Ellington for her many years of support as our district councillor. Sue was always available to help people and was a valuable source of information about forthcoming changes and grant opportunities. We wish Sue well for the future.

Trees

As some eagle-eyed residents observed, there are spaces in the village hall field where formerly five cherry trees were planted. Unfortunately, due to dry weather the trees didn't survive. The PC has ordered five replacements, which will be planted in November to take advantage of warm soil and winter rain.

Recently, the PC was successful in its grant application for 15 saplings from the Woodland Trust, which will also arrive in November. We have yet to decide where to put the saplings, so if you have any suggestions please email us. The trees must be planted on public/parish council land. At the moment we don't know what species the trees will be.

Community Cafe

The April cafe was extremely well attended by both customers and cafe visitors, as we welcomed the Fabric Townhouse back again. They had a steady stream of customers for the fabrics and haberdashery items that were on sale. We also had a visitor from the Shepreth Hedgehog

Hospital, who thoroughly enjoyed herself and wishes to visit again in autumn, when hedgehogs are preparing to hibernate. Several residents offered their gardens as a safe place to rehabilitate hedgehogs back into the wild.

For more information about caring for hedgehogs, visit the charity's website at <https://swccharity.org>

In May, the garden club had its annual plant swap and sale and we welcomed our local PCSO back. He plans to visit again in July and hopes to bring a colleague with him to carry out bike marking.

On 13 June Chris Lockwood will be running a Watercolour Painting Workshop, from 11.00 – 12.30pm. If you wish to book a place, please email fendraytoncommunitycafe@gmail.com

Potholes

The PC is aware of the difficulties residents face due to potholes in our roads. If you see a new pothole, please report it at: <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en-gb>

Our new district councillor

The parish council congratulates Vivien Biggs on her election as district councillor on 7 May. The day after the election results were announced Vivien was enjoying tea and cake in the community cafe and chatting to residents.

We welcome Vivien and look forward to working with her.



Next Community Cafe

The next Community Cafe is Saturday **13 June** at 10.30 am in the village hall, serving freshly-brewed tea and coffee and homemade cakes. We will also be hosting Chris Lockwood's Watercolour Painting Workshop (see above).



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The Highs and Lows

Weather Watch by Patrick Landucci



Spring starting earlier, this year by 2-3 weeks, and long dry spells are the most noticeable characteristics of the weather in our part of the UK during the last few years, combined with a complete lack of snow and many fewer frosts during the Winter months. Whilst in other parts of the UK different conditions will have been experienced, 2026 gave us a most beautiful early Spring especially the display of blossom. It was however, largely over by mid-April with even the bluebells, which usually flower in May, fading by the end of April.

As with much of last Winter there were no air frosts in either March or April though with a high number of clear cloudless nights a chilly start in the mornings was ensured. A remarkable day occurred on 6 April when, with a diurnal range of 20 degrees C (36F), the maximum temperature reached 25.2°C (77.4°F) which was very close to but not quite beating the all-time UK record for April set in 1949. Half the days in April had unbroken sunshine. Only 2.5 mm (0.10") fell during the month of April, a drought which started in mid-March.

Looking back at Winter 2025/26, December and February combined produced just 3 occasions when air frost occurred and even those nights barely dropped to 0°C (32°F). The only cold spell of the Winter occurred during the first half of January when the coldest night at -6.3°C (20.7°F) was recorded. February was a wet month and

above average, though we were spared the much higher totals which other parts of the UK experienced. For anyone who wants to see snow, we have seen in recent years that East Anglia generally has had very little. In our region of the UK based on the long term average it is just 5 days. In Met.Office terms a snowy day is one which has lying snow at 9.00am.

And now a few notable events further afield!

1. Iceland had its hottest Christmas Eve on record at 19.8°C (19.7°F) while across large swathes of the United States numerous places set new record high Christmas temperatures including 21.7°C (71.0°F) in Denver, Colorado and 26.1°C (78.3°F) at Charlotte, North Carolina, areas normally accustomed to snow at that time of year!
2. In mid-February a Calima event (a strong hot southerly wind, usually lasting 3-5 days which lifts copious amounts of Sahara dust) affected countries in Southern and Western Europe creating appreciable pollution and later "blood rain" over parts of Iberia coating streets and buildings. It also resulted in dramatically colourful sunrises and sunsets.
3. In January and February, France was hit by four named storms which brought exceptionally wet conditions which, after 40 consecutive rainy days set a new national record for the longest sequence since they started measurements in 1959.

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Hilton Parish Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 11 May



A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council

This being the first meeting of the new 'Council year' (May to April), the first items of business resulted in the election for 2026/27 of Peter Balicki as Chairman and Ett McCarthy as Vice Chairman. Time was spent reviewing Terms of Reference and composition of the various committees and working groups; also, the Council's policies including the code of conduct for councillors, freedom of information, data protection, a host of employment matters, as well as standing orders, financial regulations and banking arrangements, asset register and management plan, and the like. Go to www.hiltonparishcouncil.com for more information.

Vacancies for people to consider joining the Council

With two members of the Council having stood down and an uncontested election, HPC is keen to co-opt two people to bring its number to 9 and full strength. For more information contact the Clerk.

Green Open Spaces

The Council agreed to a proposal for post-and-rope fencing (to replace the temporary orange plastic) to go round the Major Oak; supported by suitable signage designed to discourage people going too close – for their own safety and the ongoing management of the tree.

Repairs to the Churchyard walls

The Council was pleased to note the plan to repair the churchyard walls is now expected to take place over the summer; and extended support for the builders to set up a temporary compound to store materials on the Green, near the west wall of the churchyard. In the interests of public safety and to maintain as much use of the path as possible in this period, some temporary fencing will be installed along the edge of the footpath near the east wall running

up to the Lychgate. Any damage will be made good by the contractors at the end of the project.

From our County Councillor

County Councillor Keane reported despite Easter and elections his work had continued on highways and local issues, continuing involvement with county level discussions on local government reorganisation and the future of adult social care services as well as attendance parish meetings and community events.

Cricket Courses for young people

It now seems unlikely formal cricket courses for young people will be possible this summer.

Change of Clerk

The Council had been forewarned of Nicola Webster's intention to resign (because of the demands of her new role as Town Clerk for Huntingdon Town Council) and confirmed the appointment of Nigel di Castiglione as the new Clerk to Hilton Parish Council, effective from mid-May. Contact details are email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com ; phone: 07770697240.

Meeting dates 2026/27

The Parish Council will meet on the first Monday of every month, except August and January i.e a further 9 times in 2026/27. The Annual Meeting in 2027 will be on May 10th (due to the early May bank holiday).

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 1st June 2026 in the Village Hall. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the Council's

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

SAVE THE DATE!!

SUMMER FAYRE

FEN DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL AND
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SHARE WE ARE HOSTING A SUMMER
FAYRE!

28th June | 12-6pm

- BBQ and Food
- Games and Activities
- Plus lots more

Head Lines

News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



Writing competition

I am sure many of you, like us, are looking forward to Fenstanton's Big Village Fun Day on Saturday 4 July. As part of the day, we will be holding a **writing competition for all primary school-aged children living locally**, regardless of which school they attend. Children should base their writing on the theme of **Why my Grandma / Grandad is the Best** (or Nan, Gran, Nanny, Gramps, Pops, Grandpa, etc.).

The competition will have three age categories: Reception and Year 1 (30-word maximum); Year 2-Year 3 (80 word maximum); Year 4-Year 6 (100 word maximum). We will judge entries at school based on the quality of the writing, but most importantly the reasons provided!

The winning entrant will win a bouquet of flowers for their special relative on the day, together with a £25 book token presented at the Fun Day. Winners from the other two age categories will receive a £10 book token. Winning entries will be both displayed at Fun Day and printed in The Journal. Entries should be delivered to the office here at Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School by Monday 29 June. This competition is being sponsored by The Journal, who are kindly supplying all the prizes.

Looking ahead

As we look ahead to the next academic year starting in September, we want to let parents and carers of preschool-aged children know that we have spaces available in our preschool from September. Children can start with us in the term after they turn 3-years-old. The preschool day runs from 9.00am – 3.00pm, but our partnership with Kids R Us means that children can be cared

for at school from 7.30am – 6.00pm. Spaces in Kids R Us for preschool-aged children are limited, so please act quickly to secure your space! If you are interested in your child starting with us, please contact the school office on 01480 375055.



One of our successful and ongoing provisions for pupils is our Gardening Club - we have included two photographs. We are also excited to share that we have recently established a partnership with Cultivating Change and we are looking forward to working with them to extend our provision and enhance the offer of our Gardening Club.



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

Fen Drayton Primary School

New trim trail coming soon...

We are very excited to announce that a brand new trim trail will soon be arriving at the school! Situated at the bottom of the field amongst the trees, the trail has been designed and built by CAP.CO — the team behind the adventure play areas at BeWILDerwood, Burghley House, Sandringham House and the Windsor Estate.

The children recently took part in a competition to name the new trail, and we are delighted to share that the winning entry came from Iris, who chose the wonderful name, Squirrel Scramble! We can't wait for the children to start enjoying it.



Limitless Holiday Club

We are also delighted that Limitless Activities will be running a holiday club at the school during May half term on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th May, from 9.00am–3.30pm. The club is open to all children — you do not

need to attend our school to take part. For more information, please contact info@limitlessactivities.co.uk.

Limitless recently visited the school to run some exciting taster sessions, where the children enjoyed activities including dodgeball, archery and axe throwing. The sessions were a huge hit and created lots of excitement for the upcoming holiday club!



Join our school family

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

Nina McQueen
Headteacher

School contact details

Email: office@fendrayton.cambs.sch.uk
Phone: 01954 273346
Website: www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fendraytonprimary>

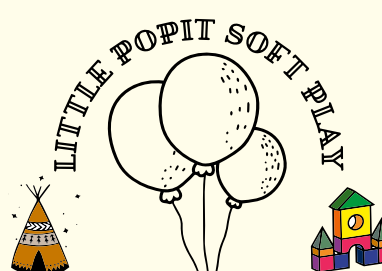


Friends of Fen Drayton Primary School

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

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

You can also follow their activities on Facebook: facebook.com/FenDraytonPrimaryPta



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Hilton Community Hub

As usual, the theme is those three wonderful words - VARIETY, SPICE and LIFE at the Community Hub.

Sue has sourced such surprising National and International Days as Banana Day, Apple Pie Day, Deaf Awareness Day, then our anonymous quizmaster taunts us with similarly topical quizzes!

Of course St George's Day was honoured - question 'in what year was the first King George crowned' and of course we ended with our own rendition of George Formby's famous song "Leaning on a Lamp Post". Lunch? Cheesy Pasta Bake followed by cake! The biscuits and chocolate had already earlier appeared, tempted and been consumed to accompany the teas and coffees.

Big smiles have recently returned with a second visit by Roland and his shepherdess with their newborn lambs and kids plus 'our oohs, aahs and can I hold her/him?' Who knows who loves this most, us or our furry visitors? On another Wednesday we could select a big black bucket in which to plant and grow one potato ready for the summer fair aiming to produce the winning weight of delicious new potatoes.

More seriously, Nigel Sutton, a Fraud and Cyber Security Advisor with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, also came recently to talk to us, warn even, on the tricky subject of Scams

which are very, very common.

We learnt that Cambridgeshire people are prone to lose £1-3million a MONTH by scams - which is equal to crime in the physical world. Victims constantly say 'I feel so stupid'.

However, Nigel had reassuring, sensible words of advice which we can use to avoid this awful crime. They may seem obvious but beware:-

1. Go by that gut feeling if it doesn't look or seem right. Is the Logo heading right, or the spelling? Look closely at the email address of the sender.
2. Use varied passwords. Keep a record of each if you must, but secretly.
3. That phone call - if you don't recognise the number on your screen, ignore and delete it.

In other words the mantra is A B C D

A - assume nothing

B - believe nothing

C - check

D - discuss with friends and family

In fact, spread the word!

We are at Hilton's Community Hub in Hilton Village Hall every Wednesday morning from 10.30 to 12.30 (ish) ALL are welcome and it is all free.



Fen Drayton Bowls Club news

The outdoor season has now started on our new look bowls green with a home victory in our first match on the new surface.

As part of the new and exciting times at the club we have secured sponsorship from a number of local businesses. We are delighted to have seven sponsors - Drainage Facilities Management, EyeSpecs, Fen Drayton Community Cafe, Fen Mobility Centre, RTJ Property Management Ltd, Stubbins Growers and Universal Composite Doors. We have also entered into a partnership arrangement with the St Ives branch of Premier Travel.

We are very grateful to these varied businesses for their support.

On 28 June we are holding an open day as part of the village summer fete - it would be great to see you there

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 join us, contact the club secretary, Stephen George, on 07876 407219, email at stephengeorge79@gmail.com or via our website fendraytonbowls.co.uk



Note from the publisher

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



What you're Missing

Hilton Art Club

The last session was 'Spring Greens', which contrary to what may be thought, was to paint a subject showing the rich greens of Spring.

As the photo shows, we had a very productive morning and it was great to see how each person was inspired to interpret this. Thanks to those who provided the delicious cakes!

Kathy B spoke to us about the May workshop and told us what materials we needed to bring.

19 June 10.00am – 2.30pm Workshop with Ann Biggs:- Perspective and colour mixing and matching.

Bring your lunch.



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What you're Missing

Fenstanton Friendship Club

Looking forward to longer days and warmer weather.

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.

8 April Jason gave us a wonderful insight into the history of jewellery, particularly gemstones. He is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic, travelling the world buying gemstones.

22 April We started at the Norris Museum for a very interesting talk by Chris about the history of humanity, DNA, employment. We had a quiz where we had to date the entry of domestic animals into the country. Needless to say we were very surprised with the answers. Refreshments were provided. We decided we would return to the museum for another meeting next year.



Upcoming meetings

3 June A demonstration and tasting of Summer Canapes by "Wild in the Pantry"

17 June A celebration of summer with our strawberry tea

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

Hilton Flower Club

10 June is our Annual Outing, fingers crossed that the weather will be kind to us.

11 September will be our next meeting. The entrance price will be going up to £7.50

Hilton Village Hall 2pm - 4pm Entrance £6.00 (includes tea/biscuits) No Membership - Just pay on the door.

Beverley.



Fenstanton Bowls Club

Our season has got off to a flying start, albeit with some chilly evening matches! But we are excited for the season ahead with our league games, league and County competitions and club competitions.

We held our Open Days over the weekend of 2 - 3 May but were disappointed to have to take the decision to cancel the Sunday as heavy rain was forecast.

As it was, the rain never materialised! However, we had a glorious day on the Saturday and were pleased to welcome people down and show them the art of bowling and give them an introduction to our club.

If you were planning on coming down and couldn't make it, we will be holding our Open Mornings on the first Sunday of the month (7 June, 5 July and 2 August) between 10am and 12pm when an experienced member of the club will be available to take anyone interested onto a dedicated rink so you can have a go - no equipment needed, just wear flat shoes. We hold our Social Bowls sessions every Sunday (10am - 12pm) so if you cannot make the Open Mornings just pop down and you will receive a warm welcome.

Our website has been updated with lots of information so take a look to find out more at fenstantonbowlsclub.co.uk





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





Our 2026/7 Membership Year is underway!

Here are the advantages of becoming a Member:

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

Still undecided? Why not try the courts using our Pay-as-you-Play option before deciding whether to join

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



What you're Missing

Hilton WI

We are now well into our 2026 series of events within and beyond monthly meetings and grateful to Ruth once more for producing our detailed information programme whilst we also welcome Ann and Sarah to our committee.

In April, Jane Kennedy enthusiastically treated us to the Sign Language world when in no time at all we were able to sign the important means of communication with deaf people much of which are actually logical in concept. Many people will know others with hearing loss and how isolating and lonely it can be and it is so good now at least to be in touch. There were moving and yes, a proud few moments, silently to sign the song 'It's a Wonderful World' altogether. Jane also provided each of us with a signing chart to practice at home.

Our May meeting will be completely different when Casey will be telling us about her working life as a midwife and in June James Williams will be remembering 31 years of Lush Cosmetics; maybe he will bring aromatic samples?

WI members are famed not just for Jam and Jerusalem but all aspects of support for others and Hilton is just the same. We collect postage stamps, items for the Godmanchester Food Bank and our redundant magazines go with Pam to Hinchingbrooke hospital on her voluntary weekly tour of the wards with the Magazine and Book trolley (donations welcome!). Several of us are knitting or crocheting baby clothes and cosy knee covers to donate for sale at the hospital stall in aid of non-medical hospital funds. Then other ladies are sewing special softly padded protectors for the tender areas following serious breast surgery and by May 23rd cake tins and flower pots will be on production lines for the Plant and Cake Sale in aid of Community Hub funds.

Clubs continue, a large group will be seeing 'I Swear' which brilliantly highlights the life of a young sufferer of the Tourette's Syndrome, Craft Club took place a week late when the Village Hall was needed for the local

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

elections and artists have their brushes in action and the Book Club is just as busy.

Finally, we congratulate Mel on her recent zipwire adventure in Wales! Admittedly well protected in safety kit on the journey down the fastest wire in the world - it is claimed! - Mel is both daring and daft (?) but very courageous. There is probably something else on her bucket list - our worry beads are ready Mel!



New members are always welcome, contact Secretary Debbie on hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com



Venues for hire

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

Councils

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

Community Groups and Clubs

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

Community Groups and Clubs

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

Community events

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

Education

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

Churches

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

Emergency numbers

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

Emergency numbers

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

Buses

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

Pubs and eating places

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

Retail

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

Garden services

Hamptons Groundcare	01480 274848
Hemingford Arboriculture	01480 463674

Decorators

Jason Kirby	01954 211775
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Design, printing and copying

St Ives Quickprint Ltd	01480 465215
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Household services

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

Electricians

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

Plumbing and Heating Engineers

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

Building services and supplies

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

Car servicing and repairs

Wilderspin Garage	01954 230273
Richard's Mobile Mechanic	07368 356105

The Journal

Advertising	07768 274456
Circulation	07876 446565
Editorial - Fen Drayton	07711 442473
Editorial - Fenstanton	07952 838121
Editorial - Hilton	07793 794431



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