

October 2026

The Journal

Fen Drayton ▪ Fenstanton ▪ Hilton

**Dog walking
problems fixed**

On page 50

**Discover chair
Pilates**

On page 46

**Meet me at the
start line, travel
with purpose**

See page 26

**Tiny café with
big personality**

See page 23

Your Award Winning Community Magazine



wilderspin
GARAGE LTD

A local family-run business

**MOTOR
HOME SERVICING -
MOT'S & HABITATION CHECKS
ALL DONE ON-SITE**



SERVICING & REPAIRS

EXHAUSTS | BATTERIES | TYRES | CLUTCHES | BRAKES | TIMING BELTS

M.O.T. TESTING CENTRE

CLASSES 4,5 & 7 | MOTOR HOMES | MINI BUSES
CARS | VANS | LIGHT COMMERCIAL

FREE
USE OF
COURTESY CARS

AIR
CONDITIONING
SERVICING

FREE
COLLECTION AND
DELIVERY SERVICE



OAKTREE ROAD | FEN DRAYTON | CB24 4SS
Tel: 01954 230273 | Email: wilderspingarageltd@gmail.com
www.wilderspin-garage.co.uk



Oktoberfest

Originally this event, which attracts millions to Munich each year, was a celebration of a royal wedding in 1810. Today it is a celebration of Bavarian food and drink, however the beer served has to be brewed within the city limits of Munich. Traditional parades still prevail during this 16 day event where thousands at a time are seated in temporary structures loosely described as tents drinking beer!

Despite this massive consumption level Germany does not head the top beer consuming countries in the world. Czechia (Czech Republic) takes that spot with 148 litres per capita leaving the UK trailing in a lowly 23rd with half the consumption of the leader.

The UK consumption level could be one of the factors for the closure of two pubs a day in the first half of this year across the country. Something that has not gone unnoticed in our own communities. The heart of many villages are disappearing before our very own eyes. We must support these village assets before it is too late. Just an occasional pint will make all the difference!



From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

Editors

Gill Parrish - fendrayton@thejournal.life
Anne Mustill - fenstanton@thejournal.life
Malcolm Lynn - hilton@thejournal.life

Circulation

Denise May - circulation@thejournal.life

Advertising

Nigel Ferrier - info@thejournal.life

Please submit any copy by 9 October latest for the November edition.
Cover photograph by Malcolm Lynn



**RICHARD'S MOBILE
MECHANIC SERVICES**

Mobile Mechanic - We come to you!

*Reliable - Affordable - Convenient
Professional Service*

- * **DIAGNOSTICS**
- * **MECHANICAL REPAIRS**
- * **VEHICLE SERVICING**
- * **BRAKE REPAIRS & REPLACEMENTS**
- * **BATTERY TESTING & REPLACEMENTS**
- * **CLUTCHES**
- * **STEERING & SUSPENSION**

Fast automotive repairs wherever you need it.

richardsmobilemechanicservices@gmail.com

07368 356105

**FENSTANTON UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH**

Chequer Street

**NOVEMBER
FAYRE**

**SATURDAY
14 NOVEMBER
10.00am -1.00pm**

**BOOKS, PUZZLES,
BRIC-A-BRAC, RAFFLE,
GIFTS, CRAFTS
AND LOTS MORE**

Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

September 2026

30 Formal opening of Community Hall

October 2026

03 Tools with a Mission, URC
04 Harvest Festival and Harvest lunch,
Parish church
04 Harvest Festival, URC
10 Paint and Sip, Village Hall
10 The Fabric Warehouse, Village Hall
10 Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital,
Village Hall
17 Books & Jigsaws Sale, URC
24 Poppy Appeal Day
31 Light and hot chocolate stall, Parish
Church

November 2026

07 Bonfire and Fireworks, The Wilderness
14 Christmas mini craft fair, Village Hall
14 November Fayre, URC
28 Christmas Fair, Village Hall
28 Fenstanton Christmas Market,
Clock Tower

December 2026

05 Mulled wine evening organised by
Parish Church
04-06 Christmas Tree Festival, URC
13 Parish Church Christmas lunch for
charity

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

The Royal British Legion in Hilton



With a truly magnificent effort we have knitted over 1.200 poppies with which to decorate both sides of this wooden bridge during the Poppy Appeal from October 24th until after November 11th, Remembrance Day. Thank you to all the ladies who have lovingly knitted from two or three to literally hundreds. We also owe a huge thank you to the owner, Mick Jones at the Jones Marina and Boatyard for his very generous gift of netting and advice. We can now attach each Poppy ready for the display beside the Lychgate during the Poppy Appeal fortnight on both this and hopefully future years.



BUT THERE'S MORE!

We need to fix them to their netting home! As usual, many hands equal light work so if you can spare an hour or two can we please gather a few willing volunteers to get it done, hopefully no later than early October? Please contact:- marshar17@btinternet.com

Saturday, 24 October we will be holding our Poppy Appeal fund raising event in Hilton Village Hall from 10.30am to 3.30 pm. Teas, coffees, cakes, raffle and the Elsworth, Papworth and Hilton WI choir will entertain at 2pm. This is our 4th year of generous donations and another chance to see those friends you haven't seen for ages! All offers of help, raffle prizes and cakes very welcome even this early! For all information please see the posters and the village Facebook page.

Sunday, 8 November is Remembrance Sunday. This will follow the annual tradition of Commemoration at the Lychgate, starting at 10.45 am followed by morning service in the Parish Church with refreshments to follow.

Wednesday, 11 November. Roland Randall will lead a short commemoration at the Lychgate at 11.00 am after which, as last year, the Community Hub team will generously provide refreshments in the village hall and all are welcome.

Please note that the St Ives branch hold an informal Drop In Morning on the third Friday of each month in the Ivyleaf Club, the Broadway from 11:00 – 1:00 pm. As ever, there are teas, coffees, cake (mostly) and above all friendly conversation. All welcome, membership not necessary.



Hilton Feast Week

Join us on Saturday, 7 November at the Hilton Parish Council Fireworks Display! Stop by our stall to stay warm with mulled wine, hot chocolate, BBQ food, cold drinks, snacks, and fun light-up toys for the kids. It promises to be a brilliant night, so bundle up and join the fun!

Save the Date: Feast Week Turns 50! Clear your diaries for 25th–31st July 2027 as Feast Week celebrates its 50th anniversary. We're aiming to make this milestone year a fabulous Feast Week and we'd love the community to get involved:

- **Helpers Wanted:** We are building a list of volunteers to assist as preparations pick up. Registering your interest now puts you under no obligation.
- **History & Memories:** Got old Feast Week photos or memorabilia we could borrow? We'd love to hear from you.

Support Your Feast Week
Because our main events rely on year-round fundraising, every bit of local support counts. The simplest way to contribute is through the Feast Week Lottery. At just £5 a month, you help keep the tradition alive - and stand a chance to win a monthly cash prize!

Keep an eye on our social media, village notice boards and future issues of the Journal to ensure you don't miss any fundraising events.

To join the lottery, volunteer, or share your memories, visit feastweek.co.uk or drop us a line at committee@feastweek.co.uk.

Small Lotteries Registration No. SSL1952
You must be 18+ to play
For other details and rules of play see feastweek.co.uk

Why pay eye-watering prices for your glasses?

EyeSpecs

a personalised approach to eyewear



Save money -
buy direct -
from the
manufacturer



BOSS
HUGO BOSS

Ray-Ban

OAKLEY

RALPH LAUREN

TOMMY HILF

Pine

25 Edison Road
St. Ives, Cambs
PE27 3LF



Open Monday to Friday 9-5
Saturday 9-1 (by appointment)
PARKING AVAILABLE

www.eyespecsuk.com

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK ONLINE TODAY!
Alternatively call or email us -
01480 499606 info@eyespecsuk.com



*Remembrance Day
Lest we forget*

FOR A FOURTH YEAR

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in Hilton

Saturday 24th October 2026

10.30 – 3.30pm

Hilton Village Hall

Tea, coffee, cake & raffle

Donations for poppies by cash or QR Reader

Jan Whatley will be glad to receive prizes for the raffle.

Promises of cakes to Sue Clark please.





Welcome

Coffee, Cake & Church

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

Sunday 25 Oct
Sunday 22 Nov
Sunday 24 Jan

and every 4th Sunday, (excluding Dec)

11.15am HILTON VILLAGE HALL

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

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

We'd love to see you there!

brought to you by
Hilton Parish Church

Fenstanton Community Hall

Welcome to Our New Village Venue



Fenstanton Community Hall is the heart of our village — a modern, accessible, and vibrant multi-purpose space built to serve residents of all ages.

After extensive planning, community fundraising, and dedicated effort, we are proud to unveil our brand-new facility.



Formal Opening Ceremony

- Wednesday, 30th September**
- 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**
- Fenstanton Community Hall**
Crest Drive, Fenstanton PE28 9BR

All members of the Fenstanton community are warmly invited to join us for the Formal Opening Ceremony, complemented by drinks and nibbles.

This event is a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who helped deliver the new hall — and offers residents a close look at what is available and how to get involved.



Village News

Fenstanton Morris

After a fun-filled summer of dance, Fenstanton Morris are looking forward to the practice season, and would love to welcome anyone who would like to join us.

We are a very friendly group, and the dancing is good exercise (and not too taxing).

We practice on Mondays at the Church Centre, Fenstanton, and our first session will be on Monday 12 October at 7.30pm.

Hoping to see you there!

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




Date for your diary!

Fenstanton United Reformed Church will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival on 4-6 December. We will be sending out letters nearer the time.

In 2024, we had 40+ trees; can we beat that this year?

Any size and shape; be creative!

Fen Drayton village hall

The Fen Drayton Village Hall Committee has recently completed extensive refurbishments to improve and modernise our community space, ensuring it remains a warm, welcoming, and vibrant hub for everyone in the village.



Extensive refurbishments

Main hall upgrades

The spacious main hall has undergone a complete transformation:

- **Renovated wooden floor:** beautifully restored hardwood flooring ideal for classes, dances, and events
- **Suspended ceiling and modern lighting:** new suspended ceiling featuring bright, energy-efficient modern lighting
- **Fresh decoration and curtains:** completely redecorated with new window curtains



- **Upgraded heating system:** an improved heating setup
- **Wi-Fi:** available throughout the building
- **Fully fitted kitchen:** available at no additional cost
- **Licensed bar:** details available upon request
- **Outdoor area:** new outdoor patio and children-friendly play area.

Adjoining committee room

The room has been upgraded into a versatile, modern meeting space equipped with:

- **100-inch flat-screen display:** a high-definition 100-inch flat-screen TV, perfect for presentations, screenings, and business meetings
- **Modern decor and seating:** fresh paintwork, wood-slat feature wall, and comfortable conference seating.

Heart of the community

The hall serves the residents of Fen Drayton and surrounding villages, bringing people together through regular social events and group activities, including:

- **Coffee & Chats:** friendly local drop-ins for a hot cup of tea and a friendly catch-up



- **Community Cafe:** delicious treats, hot drinks, and great local company
- **Regular classes:** a wide variety of fitness, hobby, and educational sessions.

To view full class schedules, upcoming events, or news, visit our brand-new website: <https://www.fendraytonvillagehall.org.uk/>

Host your next event or new class with us



Whether you are planning a small meeting or a large celebratory gathering, our flexible venue offers versatile options.

Support your local space

Please continue to support this vital community venue that brings us all together in so many ways.

Visit www.fendraytonvillagehall.org.uk today to book your next event or discover what's on this week!



Interested in becoming a parish councillor?



Fen Drayton Parish council has a vacancy for a parish councillor. The role is voluntary, but training is available. Meetings are held once a month, except during August and December.

If you care about our village and its future, we would love to hear from you. The parish council is a voice representing the village and its inhabitants to the outside world. It has no jurisdiction on planning decisions, education, road safety, etc, but does have strong powers of comment.

We welcome applications from any Fen Drayton resident over 18 who has lived in the village for more than 12 months.

Please apply by:

email: clerk@fendrayton.org

website: www.fendrayton.org

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





Alex Bulat

District Councillor Update, St Ives South

The first few months as a new District Councillor have certainly been busy. From continuing advocating for Option E (an independent Huntingdonshire unitary council) in May, to raising questions about infrastructure readiness in July working with County Councillor Keane, I have been making the most of every council meeting to represent our local area.

August is usually a quieter month in local government, but this year was different, with controversial proposals from Capital & Centric to develop market-rent flats on council car parks, including the Cattle Market. I have spoken to hundreds of residents and attended all the consultation events to make sure local views were heard.

There was also a vote of no confidence in the council's administration on 1 September, which I voted in favour of. Although the administration survived, I will continue to press for proper accountability and ensure residents' concerns are well represented.

With the Local Plan now being discussed and a decision on future council boundaries still awaited from the Government, there will be more updates soon. Meanwhile, I am here to represent local voices, so please get in touch or drop into my St Ives Library surgeries if you'd like to raise an issue.

CLlr Alex Bulat, Labour and Co-Operative District Councillor, St Ives South
alex.bulat@huntingdonshire.gov.uk



David Keane

County Councillor Update

Work continues on the A141 and St Ives Improvements programme, which is examining how transport can be improved across the wider Huntingdon–St Ives area. This includes road capacity, public transport and active travel. For me, the key test is whether proposals deliver practical benefits for existing communities such as Fenstanton and Hilton, while supporting future growth. I will continue pressing for investment that tackles congestion, improves connections and protects our countryside wherever possible.

I have also been working closely with District Councillor Alex Bulat on the implications of Huntingdonshire's emerging Local Plan. Although planning is a District Council responsibility, major development inevitably affects County services, including roads, schools and transport. Our shared position is clear - new housing must be matched by credible infrastructure. We are therefore scrutinising the evidence behind the Local Plan; particularly how proposed growth interacts with the A141 and wider transport network.

It was also a pleasure to attend the Open Day at Fenstanton's new Village Hall. This major investment in the village's future will provide valuable facilities for residents, local groups and community activities. As your County Councillor, I will continue working to ensure the interests of Fenstanton and Hilton are strongly represented.

CLlr David Keane
The Hemingfords & Fenstanton

Vivien Biggs

District Councillor

In May, I was elected to represent Swavesey ward on South Cambridgeshire District Council. The ward comprises Fen Drayton, Swavesey and Lolworth. I am one of 43 Liberal Democrat Councillors on the Council.

I have lived in Fen Drayton for the past 17 years and enjoy the sense of community we have here.

It has been a busy few months. I am on three main committees: planning, licensing, scrutiny and overview.

Planning is busy on a number of fronts. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan is emerging and will shape how the area grows over the next 20 years. The government has created the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation, a statutory body covering Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, aiming to plan for long term sustainable growth by co-ordinating the delivery of infrastructure, investment and strategic developments.

Additionally, South Cambridgeshire's land supply figures are now identified separately from Cambridge City. This has resulted in the Council having a 7.83 year housing land supply, so we are in a stronger position to argue that there is no need to grant planning permission simply because of an alleged lack of housing land supply.

So, there is a lot happening, not to mention the news that the reorganisation of local government has been paused for now!



Nick Sarkies

Councillor, Fenstanton and Hilton Huntingdonshire District Council

Since I came to the Fenstanton Parish Council meeting three months ago, there have been three major developments which affecting us in Hilton and Fenstanton.

First Local Government Reorganisation; this will now not involve Huntingdonshire District Council in the near future, so a great deal of preparatory work may have been wasted.

Second a proposal to build on the central car parks in Huntingdon, St Neots and St Ives by a developer has been received with such dismay by the citizens that it will not happen and an inquiry will take place into the processes leading up to this ill-conceived scheme to regenerate the town centres.

Third, yesterday evening and last night Councillors voted to put the Local Plan to 2046 out for public consultation for another round of consultation. This decision was hotly debated, because many councillors were very concerned about the readiness of infrastructure.

The complexities of the planning system have been complicated again by the latest iteration of the National Planning Policy Framework in August 2026. But government has set targets for house building, come what may, and Huntingdonshire's targets amount to about 30,000 new houses, with some 14,000 new jobs for their inhabitants. I have been persuaded that the planning inspectorate will not allow the developments unless infrastructure is provided and that a detailed plan is better than no plan which risks haphazard development everywhere.

So it is now vital that we all consider the latest Local Plan and make our views felt.

Some councils have written to support the Local Plan. You should look at it and make your views known.

So what of the rest of the news from the district council in the last few months? Well, solar panels, grey bins, leisure facilities and support for local initiatives like Fenstanton's new community Hall...these should certainly be celebrated.



A coworking space and business engagement centre.

Available to be used by budding entrepreneurs, start-up businesses, community groups and Community Interest Companies.

Use for meetings, desk space, workshops and small engagement events.



New on-site cafeteria now open

Network, innovate and collaborate with us **free of charge**.

Monday to Friday
9am – 4pm

South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne, CB23 6EA



www.scambs.gov.uk/south-cambs-connect

RON'S FARM SHOP

Homegrown and local produce

Flowers, shrubs, plants, fruit, vegetables and much more



☎ 01480 495127

2 Honey Hill, Fenstanton PE28 9JP

Twin Electrical Services LTD

All work undertaken
no matter how small

- EV Car Charger Installation
- Sockets and Lighting
- Fault Finding
- Rewires
- Fuse Board Upgrades
- Testing & Inspection
- Landlords Safety Certificates (EICR)



Call Phil on 07796 492953

Fenstanton Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on

Saturday 28 November 2026,
3.00 - 7.00 pm

At the Clock Tower

Lights Switch-on at 6.30pm



★ Santa's Grotto



★ Letters to Santa



★ Food stalls



★ Licensed bar



★ Craft and gift stalls



★ Entertainment

Volunteers needed

to help on the day, especially
to clear up afterwards



Sponsored by

Fenstanton Parish Council

Contact: anne.mustill@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk



Ian Sollom MP

Environment Agency: Summer work and preparing for winter

I recently held my regular catch-up with the Environment Agency's Director for the East of England to discuss their work over the summer and how they are now preparing for the winter period.

Meeting with the Great Ouse Boating Association (GOBA) over the summer – and joining them on a short cruise – I heard just how important maintaining river infrastructure is for climate adaptation and flood prevention. The structures along the riverside in our area are now 50-60 years old and are in need of urgent repair. I am pleased that work on Brownhill Sluice near Over has now begun – something I have been calling for since I was first elected.

Over the summer, the EA team worked closely with fire services to advise on tackling Fens wildfires and to make water available from surrounding areas during an extremely challenging time. It dealt with many incidents of large branches falling from trees due to the heat, which not only causes blockages in the waterways, but causes an increase in stagnant water and duckweed.

We discussed the Fens 2100+ project and the EA's commitment to continued investment in the project and communication around it as it develops. The EA is now entering its winter planning phase and will be looking at resilience measures in place in preparation for possible flooding.

Cambridgeshire Countryside Watch (CCW)

Cambridgeshire Countryside Watch does vital work supporting rural communities across our county, including in Fenstanton, Fen Drayton and Hilton, and I was pleased to meet with representatives to hear more.

The group has over 600 members and a wider network of around 1,000 people and it shares information via WhatsApp groups from policing teams and other organisations



with rural communities. It recently helped emergency services fighting a wildfire at the Holme Nature Reserve by identifying farmers who could provide water and assistance and helping coordinate the communication between the fire commander and local people and landowners.

It was interesting to hear how important farmers are in supporting emergency services and wider communities including by helping in searches for missing people; reporting suspicious or missing vehicles; helping clear fallen trees and supporting people during storms and severe weather.

CCW is always looking for new members – if you are interested, please email ijonesccw@yahoo.com

Summer surgeries

Thank you to everyone who dropped into one of my pop-up surgeries this summer. It was great to meet so many people at different venues across the constituency and to hear more about what matters to the people in our communities.

It's the first time that I have run pop-up surgeries like this, and I am looking forward to continuing them soon – do look out for adverts on my social media pages and in this newsletter.

ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk

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



Local History Society

Fen Drayton

Fen Drayton talks schedule - 2026/27

6.30pm start at the Three Tuns Pub

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

Led by: Nigel Fenner

RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes – 10 February 2027

Led by: warden Simon Freedman

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

HILTON Fireworks & Bonfire



Saturday 7th November
£4 per adult, £3 per child.
Cashless/card payment is preferred.

Under school age free.

Gate opens at 6pm.

Fireworks start at 7pm.

Bonfire will be lit as part of the Firework display.



Food and drink available
courtesy of Hilton Feast Week

Please, no sparklers. Light up toys will be available to purchase.

Parking is restricted so please consider walking.

In the interests of safety please do not drive up Wraggs Row.

Combustible bonfire donations will be accepted from Hilton residents on Saturday 7th November from 9am to 1pm— no metal, and no painted, treated or manufactured boards please (including chipboard, particle board, plywood, OSB etc).

Z CARS

Private Hire
Airport Specialists
4-8 Seaters available

01480 462046

z.cars@outlook.com
www.airport-transfers-cambs.co.uk

**Competitive prices
on journeys
Please call for a quote**

The Churches in Hilton invite you to
FRIDAY FEAST.



Join us from 5.30-7 p.m.
on **Friday, October 16th** at the
PARISH CHURCH in Hilton.

**FOR MESSY CHURCH CRAFTS ON
THE SUBJECT OF SEASONS,
FOR WORSHIP AND
A LIGHT SUPPER.**

ALL WELCOME

Churches in Hilton

Harvest FESTIVAL

Come and celebrate this
year's harvest
at the Methodist church
at 11.15 on

OCTOBER 11TH

We're collecting for
Godmanchester's food bank and
Water Aid. Goods can be left at the
church on Sat 10th from 10 a.m.

Learn the HALL Way

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

With lifelong learning known to improve people's wellbeing HALL was set up as an independent, not for profit group in 2019. Meeting in Huntingdon Library on Monday mornings during term time the group runs short affordable courses of 5 or 10 weeks led by experienced tutors alongside individual lectures with local speakers. History, Ukraine, Art and Culture are just some of the areas studied.

During October, we will run three one-day courses:-

- Life at Norman Cross: the World's First POW Camp
- Tales of the Riverbank – a Journey through Time (Local Stories about the Great Ouse)
- Regency St Neots in the Time of Jane Austen

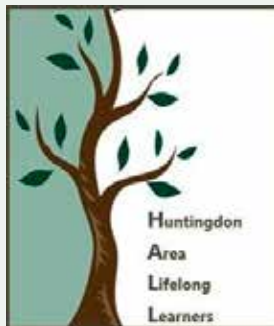
November will see us change focus and look over 5 weeks at the part the River Great Ouse has played in local life over the centuries with experienced tutor Keith Grimwade. This short course will cover the geology, geography, history and drainage of the Fens whilst also considering the impact of climate change, environmental issues and government policy on the future of this unique environment. This course will start at 10 am and finish at 12 noon.

We will then finish the term on 7th December with a talk on the Rise, Fall and Renaissance of Trams in the UK with a local speaker, Ray Bowers.

2027 spring term will see us cover topics such as the Whitechapel Murders, Berlin, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the darker side of the Industrial Revolution, the rise and fall of the Dukes of Manchester, finishing with Crocodile Poo and Bear Fat! Something for everyone!

All are welcome, there are no membership requirements or qualifications required and you can book in advance or just turn up on the day. All sessions are £6 per week.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Maggie on huntingdonlifelonglearners@gmail.com or look at our webpage www.call-ed.org.uk/groups/huntingdon/ where course details are posted as soon as they are available.



Some of the group and local tutor Marina Burrell at a recent course on 'Discovering Ukraine through its Culture'

TOOLS WITH A MISSION

If you are sorting out your shed and have spare tools, please donate them to **Tools with a Mission.**

If you google Tools with a Mission there is a list of tools they want and don't want.

On Saturday 03 October there will be a collection of tools at Fenstanton United Reformed Church 10.00am – 1.00pm for

Tools with a Mission.



Fenstanton United Reformed Church

Harvest Festival



Songs of Praise
Sunday 04 October
3.00pm

Poppy Appeal

Hello, it's coming up to The Poppy Appeal again and we always do amazingly in Fen Drayton!

If anyone is interested in being involved in the door-to-door collection please do contact me. It can take as little as 30-60 mins. If your child/young person is involved in Scouting or Guiding, this should also contribute towards badge-work (they must be accompanied by someone over 18 years, though).

Last year we had some wonderful poppies on our lamp-posts – we are planning to do the same this year, so if any local businesses would be interested in sponsoring one (or more), please do drop me a message.

We start door-to-door collections Saturday 24 October and, as usual,

hope to have boxes in our local businesses as well.

For more information, my email is gonecompletelybonkers@gmail.com

Money collected is used to help members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families, supporting serving and ex-serving personnel (for more information see www.britishlegion.org.uk).

Thank you, all – and let's see if we can celebrate another record! Jo





BEAUTIFUL BATHROOMS

Designed Around Your Lifestyle



Designing and Supplying Beautiful Bathrooms across Cambridgeshire for over 20 Years
BESPOKE DESIGN | PREMIUM PRODUCTS | EXPERT SERVICE

Ready to Create Your Dream Bathroom?
Book Your Design Consultation Today

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS

☎ Sawston | 01223 837939

☎ St Ives | 01480 598750

✉ sales@cambridgeshirebathrooms.co.uk

🌐 cambridgeshirebathrooms.co.uk

Let's do coffee

Houghton Tea Room – the tiny cafe with a big personality!

Right in the centre of the picturesque village of Houghton, near the Three Horseshoes Inn, is a little gem of a cafe stop, handy for those exploring the area's beautiful riverside walks – or wandering around the village.

Owned and run by Lyn, who makes all the cakes and savoury snacks herself, this bright and welcoming cafe is a delight, offering delicious cakes and light lunches at modest prices. And while the cafe is small, with just few indoor tables, there is outdoor seating during warmer weather.

Car parking close to the cafe is usually no problem, and the National Trust Houghton



Mill car park (free for members) is just a few minutes' walk away. Houghton Tea Room is a popular stopping-off place for walkers and cyclists – as there's nothing like a slice of Lyn's homemade coffee and walnut cake (or a cheese scone or sausage roll) to keep you going as you hike or cycle!

The cafe offers a take-away service as well as eat in.

Opening times are:
Wednesday to Friday 10.30-15.30; Saturday 10.00-15.00

As autumn approaches and it's not warm enough to sit outside, it's best to call ahead and book a table.

Houghton Tea Room, 1 Mill Street, Houghton, Huntingdon PE28 2AZ

Tel: 07894 950151.





Chimney Sweeping & Exterior Cleaning

Trained by and registered with The National
Association of Chimney Sweeps

Every chimney sweep includes a video inspection of
your chimney and certificate of sweep as standard.

Prices start at just £65 per chimney.

We repair log burners, fit chimney cowl, CCTV
surveys and nest removals.

We also offer exterior cleaning services including
window cleans, gutters, soffits, fascia, cladding,
solar panels, conservatories, roofs and more!

Call or text for a free quote

07563 613797

mdkingservices@gmail.com

www.chimneysweepcambridgeshire.co.uk

The Highs and Lows

Weather Watch by Patrick Landucci



Whether you endured or enjoyed this year's summer, the extraordinary and at times unprecedented weather which we experienced resulted in the UK's weather record books being rewritten as multiple records smashed, some dating back to 1836, making Summer 2026 one which will live long in the memory. As I write this article in late August it is another blazing hot sunny day, so there is still time for more to be broken. Even the infamous Summer of 1976, 50 years ago, was at times, overshadowed by the one this year.

Conditions in both the summers of 1976 and 2026 had similar features - i.e. sustained warmth, heat waves, prolonged drought, rivers and reservoirs drying up, hosepipe bans, copious amounts of sunshine, crops failure, premature harvest, early leaf drop and a brown sun scorched countryside leading to widespread wildfires. Of course it was not like this everywhere in the UK.

Scotland generally enjoyed much more temperate conditions. The exceptional conditions affected most of England and Wales, being particularly extreme in southern and south-eastern areas including East Anglia. Among the exceptional events were:-

1. 35°C (95°F) exceeded in four consecutive months for the first time, May, June, July and August.

2. At least five heatwaves with daily temperatures exceeding 30°C (86°F) occurring over 4 months.
3. The sunniest July on record with the months total being equivalent to over 10 hours of sun per day.
4. 22 August ended a sequence of 54 consecutive days when 25°C (77°F) was reached or exceeded.
5. July was especially dry with several places having no measurable rain. Hartford, Huntingdon was one such place. It was the driest month ever recorded, beating February 1891 and June 1925.

After weeks of little or no rain and many people wondering when it would rain "properly" again, incredibly within the space of three days a total of 3.20 inches (83.00mm) fell on 27, 28 and 29 August, starting with 1.4 inches on the 27th, 0.40 of an inch on the 28th and another 1.4 inches on the 29th measured at my home in Huntingdon. As a consequence, August became the wettest month of the year!

Conditions in the UK have been replicated across much of Europe this summer, in fact worse in terms of heat and wildfires. Global weather events will return as usual next time.

“Meet Me at the Start Line”

By Tim Ramsdale

In July 2025 my brother asked me what I wanted for my birthday. I told him I wanted to get fit. A week later he'd signed us both up for a hundred-mile ultramarathon in Scotland, with a single line of challenge attached. “Meet me at the start line”.

Over the next nine months I went from barely being able to run a 5K, through more than 1,200 kilometres of training, to standing at seven in the morning on 4 July beneath Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland with a hundred miles of coastline ahead of us to the finish line near Edinburgh Castle. This is that story — and it doesn't end the way I planned, which turns out to be the best part.



Bamburgh Castle

What 1,200 kilometres of training actually looks like

Mostly it looks like Cambridgeshire. Lap after lap of the same roads, in the dark, before or after work. But a few of them stand out.

Christmas in the Alps. The plan didn't care that I was on holiday, so I went out anyway — slushy snow underfoot, feels-like minus four, no flat ground anywhere. My activity notes from that week are a masterpiece of understatement: “There's nowhere flat!” and



Lake Montrioud

“Not the right terrain for this run.” The miles counted all the same.

The weekend of 3–5 April, which I'd like to nominate as the single most ridiculous thing I did all year. I went out for drinks with a friend on the Friday. I came home to find the front door had been locked from the inside and I couldn't get in. I'd been meaning to do an overnight session for weeks, so at half past midnight I simply started walking — Histon to Royston station, 30km, six hours, with a halfway refuelling stop at a kebab shop in central Cambridge among the closing-time crowd, several of whom asked my professional opinion on the city's best nightclub. As I noted at the time, I'd prepared well: three pints of beer and two large scotches. I caught the 6am train home.

Then I ran 30 kilometres on the Saturday. Then my wife and I went to London for dinner and the theatre, for which I wore brand new smart shoes, which gave me an outstanding blister. Then I ran a half marathon through

London on the Sunday morning on top of the blister.

Eighty kilometres, Friday to Sunday. Half of what the race would demand, in rather more time — but that was the weekend the hundred miles stopped feeling impossible. And the blister was oddly reassuring: I now knew I could run on damaged feet, which is not a theoretical concern in an ultra.

Making it routine. Over the last 9 months, running started off being something I had to force myself to do - out of fear that I'd



The Golden Gate Bridge

run only 5k of the race and be done. But something magical happened - after a while I found that if I hadn't been out running, then I had an urge to go out. I managed to squeeze in runs in the morning, runs between meetings, runs at night (my favourite) and runs when on business trips - new cities to explore. Running round Stanford at sunrise, running around Dubrovnik in blistering heat, St Ives whilst the car was in for a service. And it genuinely made me happy!

The one that convinced me. On 5 June I ran 43 kilometres off-road around Cambridge, mostly in exercise zone 3, and finished genuinely happy. “Just need to do that another three times,” I wrote afterwards, “in

a weekend, and I'm sorted.” By then I was averaging around 80 kilometres a week.

4 July, 07:00, Bamburgh

Sunshine, a castle, and six hundred people on a start line. My brother next to me, which had been the entire point for nine months.

We ran most of the first eleven miles at a decent clip and it was amazing — falling into conversation with Ironman finishers and people with several fifty-milers behind them, everyone still fresh enough to be sociable.

Aid stations came every eleven miles, and the first one introduced me to watermelon with salt, which is the single best thing I have ever eaten (on a run...) and which I recommend to everyone regardless of whether they intend to run anywhere.

We kept running. Twenty-two miles, more food, feet strapped. Somewhere on the road out, our family intercepted us to cheer us on, which lifted us for the next stretch entirely. At thirty miles we hit our first drop bag, drank sweet tea (fixes all ills), ate everything

in reach, and set off into the most challenging part of the course.



The Scottish Border

SAVE THE DATE!

Fen Drayton

Community Cafe

Saturday October 10th

1030 – 1230



Shepreth
Hedgehog Hospital



Toenail trimming/filing
Ingrown toenails
Hard skin removal
Fungal infections
Corns
Diabetic footcare

Treatment in your own home.

Contact Warren
wpfootcare@outlook.com
07759 432566

Graham Malkan

Interiors and more; Carpentry,
Tiling, Decorating, Kitchens,
Bathrooms, Bespoke Furniture
and Outbuildings



Over 20 years
of satisfied
customers

Call Graham on 07799 850237
or 01480 764334
info@graham@yahoo.com

www.grahamleemalkan.com

Trains, Boats and Planes



Eyemouth

Miles thirty to forty was the climbing. Poles out, head down. And this was the moment the whole nine months paid out — the hills were *no problem at all*. I marched up them, driving with arms and legs, overtaking people, and realised somewhere near the top that I had become genuinely, measurably fit. I don't think I've enjoyed an hour of exercise more in my life.

Tea at the summit. Extra layers on as the sun went down. And then we started descending in the dark, and the day changed.

Between forty and fifty miles it was pitch black, cold, and we were walking. Following signs, moving steadily, not in any trouble — but not fast, and well behind where I wanted to be. At the fifty-mile aid station, at one in the morning, we did the maths: our legs and feet and the climbing we'd already done meant the remaining fifty miles would be a walk. Not a run with walking in it — a walk. And that didn't seem to achieve anything. So we stopped. Fifty miles.

What we actually got

The watch says 78 kilometres, 1,709 metres

of ascent, eighteen hours, five thousand calories. Strava auto-paused somewhere in there, so call it fifty miles honestly earned.

I am so proud of this achievement. When I started this, I couldn't run five kilometres. Since then I've lost 22 kilos, run several half marathons and full marathons in training, walked to Royston in the middle of the night on a kebab, and covered fifty miles of a hundred-mile ultra with my brother. The "did not finish" is not the story. The story is that a birthday conversation turned into the fittest year of my life.

What's next

The Marathon du Médoc — 42 kilometres through the vineyards of Bordeaux with a six-and-a-half-hour cut-off, wine at the châteaux, oysters at around 38 kilometres and steak on the way round. The goal is to finish as close to six and a half hours as humanly possible. It would be rude to rush.

And will we go back for the other fifty miles? Do you know what — I think we might. Stay tuned.

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

Opening times

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

18 High Street, Fenstanton, Cambs PE28 9JZ

M: 07477 878537
T: 01480 461959

EASTON & COOK
Independent Funeral Service

Owned and Managed by
Andrew Cook Dip FD.
Kay Easton Dip FD. M.B.I.E.

Providing a caring and personal service
24hrs a day for all your funeral needs

Office and Chapel of Rest
2b Harding Way
ST IVES, Cambs PE27 3WR
Tel: 01480 301400



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



NEED A PLUMBER?
MDS PLUMBING & HEATING LTD

Serving the community
for over 20 years.

- Natural Gas, LPG and Oil
- Boiler repairs & emergency calls
- Boiler Replacements and Servicing
- Central Heating Repairs and Upgrades
- Hot Water Cylinders and Un-Vented



Mark Dibblee



07860 829 591

email: plumbing@mdservices.uk.com

www.mdservices.uk.com

Afoot in the Garden

Preparing for 2027!

Tree's leaves have been dying since July to defend themselves from the summer drought. I have a holly tree with more than 50% of its leaves brown (see picture) and a birch tree with only 20% of its leaves still green. At least leaf clearing should be an easier job this autumn although I doubt we will notice it! Our gardens have really suffered in the dry heat leaving dead and patchy lawns and plants renowned for their ability to survive dry conditions struggling to survive. For the future it brings us back to the same advice. Plant in the autumn and early spring to allow plants to establish strong root systems. Choose drought resistant plants. When planting new/replacement plants add plenty of organic matter and excavate good sized planting holes (at least twice the depth and circumference of the plants pot). Firm and water after planting and apply a good layer of mulch after planting and mulch again in late spring when the soil is damp. Hard prune established plants especially if they have suffered this summer. Plants are expensive so you might consider direct sowing annuals and biennials to keep the costs down.

Tasks for October include cleaning patios and paths, especially in shady areas. Hose pipes can be drained and packed away for the winter and taps should be isolated by turning their stop cock off, and wrapped to prevent them from freezing. Check the stability of fencing and timber structures, oil hinges, check latches, locks, lighting and shed roofs for leaks and carry out repairs if necessary. October is still a good time for planting and almost the last chance to set



bulbs. I especially appreciate the autumn flowering bulbs like cyclamen neapolitanum, autumn crocus and the showy colchicums! The soil is still warm enough to split, divide and replant perennials. Lawns should be edged and bare patches repaired. Scarify first to remove old grass leaves (thatch) and work the top inch of soil into a good friable tilth before raking in your lawn seed. To help protect your grass seed after sowing I recommend mixing it with a little top soil. Borders should be weeded, any perennial weeds treated and fed with a slow-release organic fertiliser and mulched. I suspect that our roses will have a good flush of flower this autumn and they do seem to cope well in a drought.

October Top Tips

- Clean patios and paths
- Mulch borders
- Plant spring bulbs, trees and shrubs
- Divide perennials
- Sow hardy annuals/perennials

raypuddefoot@gmail.com



Award-winning village store

Family run convenience store, trading since 1988



For all your household needs. Fresh bread, milk, fruit and vegetables plus and extensive wine and beer selection.
Wide range of frozen goods and ready meals.
Newspapers and lottery cards.

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 07.00 - 21.00

Saturday 08.00 - 21.00

Sunday 08.00 - 17.00

16 High Street, Fenstanton PE29 9JZ

01480 466225

 ashsshopfenstanton

Nisa
Making a Difference Locally

Chair Pilates

Fen Drayton Village Hall
Wednesdays 2:30pm

Improve strength, flexibility, and posture
in a supportive and welcoming environment.



For more info or to book a class please email
hollystandbrookpilates@gmail.com or call 07894436140

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



Trials and Tribulations in Hilton

by Malcolm Lynn

At the trial of Walter Peck for his assault on George Goodman Hewett in 1830 (see *The Journal*, Sept 2026), the judge at Huntingdon Quarter Sessions, Mr Justice Gaselee, said that “there was evidently much of bad feeling in this parish” and asked whether “there was no possibility of putting an end to these matters?”.

You may recall from the earlier article that in cross-examining Mr. Hewett, the Counsel for the Defence claimed that Mr. Hewett was “a man of ceaseless litigation, appearing constantly at the Sessions and putting the Parish to an almost ruinous expense”. The jury also heard that at the time of the assault, the defendant had shouted at Mr. Hewett, “YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO THE CHURCH AND THE PARISH; old Mr Theed told you so”.

In this article, I will cover some of the background to this “bad feeling” and leave you to judge whether Mr Hewett really was a “disgrace to the church and the parish” or not.



Mr Hewett's Home - Hilton Hall

One of the issues at the time was a dispute over “The Well at Hilton”. Although it would be good to know precisely where this well was, the records only state that it was in the public highway and that Mr Theed, of Hilton House, had sunk it in order to supply his tenants with water. Mr Hewett, as a self-appointed guardian of the public purse, objected on the grounds that Mr Theed

had plenty of room for a well on his own premises. He then took matters into his own hands and arranged to have the well filled in. He had won his point but had left the hapless cottagers of Hilton without a convenient supply of water to fill their buckets.

The immediate result was this piece of doggerel, attributed to “a lady of Hilton who loves good water” which was sung at the “Red Cow” tavern. (Now Oak Tree Farm).

*“God gave us water,
Theed made it good;
Hewett took it from us,
God damn his blood.
The Devil's dead,
all Hell will rue it;
His friend succeeds him,
G.G. Hewett.
Alas, poor Hilton,
how you'll rue it
If you are governed by G.G. Hewett”*

Mr Hewett alleged that the ‘lady of Hilton’ was none other than the Parish Constable, William Hodge, whose accounts were the subject of the dispute between Mr Peck and Mr Hewett which was covered in the earlier article. Hodge was heard to give a rendition of this doggerel in the blacksmith's barn, which according to the Huntingdon Gazette, “amazed the gaping rustics placed around”.

Mr. Hewett was outraged by this and sued Hodge for libel. The case was heard at Huntingdon Assizes in August 1829 and Hodge was judged to have been the author, not only of that doggerel, but also of the following skit on the destroyer of the well. Hodge was fined £5 (about £750 in today's money) and to be confined until the fine was paid and he was bound over to keep the peace for a year.



The Red Cow in about 1920 (Now Oak Tree Farm)

*‘There is a man in Hilton parish,
whose name I do not mention;
Who for to stry* poor people's water,
it is his full intention
He's called an old informer,
it is a scandalous name;
He'll do any mischief for the lucre of gain.
If this old rogue into limbo should get,
For strying people's water,
it would show him a trick;
The rich would rejoice, and the
poor they would sing,
For strying a well of water,
it is a great sin.’
stry = destroy

Interestingly, one of the members of the Grand Jury in this case was Edward Theed, Esq. – who in modern times would have been disqualified because of his association with both the plaintiff and the defendant in the case. Maybe Mr. Theed recused himself from the jury or maybe they did things differently in 1829!

Mr. Hewett won that case but he lost the next one he was involved with, which concerned his refusal to pay the “Poor Rate”. The issue was that the churchwardens wanted to evict a poor widow from her cottage in order to provide accommodation for a churchwarden's servant. Mr Hewett objected to that and he decided to pay the widow a sum of money equal to that which he was expected to pay for the “Poor Rate” instead of actually paying the “Poor Rate” itself, so that she could stay in her cottage.



TELEVISION MOBILE SERVICE

**CHECK REPAIR COSTS BEFORE
THROWING YOUR TV AWAY!**

- TELEVISION REPAIRS AND TUNING
- INSTALL AND DEMONSTRATION OF SMART TV
- CATCH UP INCLUDING BBC IPLAYER & ITV HUB

- WALL MOUNTS & BRACKETS - SUPPLY & FIT
- AERIALS - SUPPLY & FIT
- AERIAL POINT EXTENSIONS

CALL JOHN FABISZ
07887 887319
Email: john.fabisz@sky.com



CHIMNEY SWEEP

J. L. WIGHT

Guild of Master Sweeps
Fully Insured
Certificates issued
Problems solved / qualified advice



Lawson@camsweep.co.uk

01954 253315

9 Cow Lane, Rampton.




DJ I

DENISE JACKSON INTERIORS

www.denisejacksoninteriors.co.uk
3 Long Furlong, Over, CB24 5PG

CURTAINS • BLINDS • SOFT FURNISHINGS

I hand sew beautiful, **BESPOKE CURTAINS, ROMAN BLINDS AND SOFT FURNISHINGS** that are designed to meet your individual needs.

I'm able to supply a **LOVELY RANGE OF QUALITY FABRICS** from leading companies, or we can make use of fabric you may already have.

This also includes **ADAPTING EXISTING WINDOW DRESSINGS**, either for a new space or to freshen up what you already have.

To complete your transformation, I have a range of **TRACKS AND POLES** to supply and fit and **FINAL HANGING AND DRESSING** are all part of my service.

For friendly, helpful advice and to arrange a **FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION** in your home with a personal quotation, please get in touch:

01954 200070 • 07910 507514
DENISE@DENISEJACKSONINTERIORS.CO.UK

Step into the Past

The parish authorities were not best pleased that he had decided not to pay the "Poor Rate" so they applied to the court for a warrant for distress on Hewett's goods. The case was heard at the Huntingdon Quarter sessions in January 1831 (just two months before the case covered in the earlier article) and the court was told that Mr. Hewett had "declared himself chancellor of his own share of the parish exchequer". The court ordered that the warrant was ordered to remain in force and he was ordered to pay costs of 40 shillings.

The Huntingdonshire Archives show that Mr. Hewett was no stranger to the working of the legal system. The records of the Quarter Sessions show that Mr. Hewett was involved in about five other cases around the same time, most of which were concerned with disputes with the Overseers of Hilton over the amount of the assessment for rates or non-payment of the rates.

However, there was one other case, in November 1828, which showed that there had been some bad blood between Mr Hewett, the Hilton Overseers and the Parish Constable for some years concerning the maintenance of the roads in the village. Road maintenance was the responsibility of the Hilton Surveyor and as it was an unpopular and unpaid job, it was one that Hilton did

not fill very often. In this case, Mr Hewett initiated a prosecution against the Parish Constable for "neglecting to give notice in writing to Mitch Smith of Hilton of liability to serve as surveyor of the parish within the next three days". William Hodge was found guilty and was fined 40 shillings (around £300 today), which seems an extraordinarily severe fine for an apparently trivial offence.

It seems that the Mr Hewett had a particular interest in road maintenance. As a Trustee of the turnpike road which had a tollbar at Hemingford Grey, he had brought a prosecution against the tollgate keepers there in 1824 for undercharging their friends from Hilton, which meant less funds for repairing the roads. There was also a prosecution in 1823 against the Hilton Overseers and the Parish Constable for not repairing a highway in Hilton, which I assume was initiated by Mr Hewett.

Thanks are due to the Huntingdonshire Archivist for her help with records of the court cases. Other sources of information are The Cambridge, Wisbech, Ely, March, Chatteris, Manea, Upwell, Thorney, Whittlesea, Soham, Linton and Royston Advertiser 7 August 1829; The East Anglian Magazine, March 1981; the Hilton Village Photograph Archive and the book Hilton, Huntingdonshire by Jack Dady.

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



Fenstanton Parish Council has moved!

We are pleased to announce that Fenstanton Parish Council has successfully relocated to its new office at the Community Hall, Crest Drive, Fenstanton, PE28 9BR.

The move provides the Parish Council with a modern and accessible base from which we can continue to serve the residents of Fenstanton. We look forward to welcoming parishioners to our new office and continuing to support the community from this excellent facility.

Office opening hours

The Parish Council office will generally be staffed from 10:00am to 2:00pm, Tuesday to Thursday.

However, both the Clerk and Assistant Clerk are available throughout the working week (excluding weekends and Bank Holidays) and can be contacted by email or telephone if you have any Parish Council business.

Contact Details

✉ Clerk: clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

✉ Assistant Clerk: assistantclerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

☎ Office: 01480 465300

📱 Mobile: 07542 681976

Residents are also welcome to call into the office during staffed hours with any Parish Council enquiries.

Community Hall enquiries

As the Parish Council is now based within the Community Hall, we would like to clarify that Fenstanton Parish Council is not involved in the day-to-day management or operation of the Community Hall.

Any enquiries regarding hall bookings, events, facilities, hire charges, or hall management should be directed to the Community Hall team via their website:

Fenstanton Community Hall

<https://fenstantonvillagehall.org/>

We look forward to continuing to work with and support our community from our new home on Crest Drive and thank residents for their support during our relocation.

Community Group funding – Apply now!

Are you part of a Fenstanton-based club or community group? Your Parish Council is now inviting applications for this year's funding awards.

Closing date: 31 October 2026

Applications considered: Early November Parish Council meeting

Grant payments: Issued shortly afterwards. This is a great opportunity to support the valuable work our local groups do for the community.

For more information and to request an application form, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Remembering Peter Hayes

Many people in Fenstanton will remember Peter Hayes, who gave a great deal of his time to the village during his years as a Parish Councillor.

Peter served on the Parish Council for several years and was a member of both the General Purposes Committee and the Burial Board Committee. He was always willing to help and played an active role in supporting the village and its residents.

One of Peter's regular jobs was inspecting the village play parks. For many years, he carried out these checks to help make sure the equipment and play areas remained safe for local children and families to enjoy. It was often a behind-the-scenes role, but one that was very important and much appreciated.

Sadly, Peter moved away from Fenstanton due to ill-health and we were very sorry to hear of his recent passing.

The Parish Council would like to thank Peter for all the hard work, time and dedication he



gave to the village over the years. His contribution to Fenstanton will not be forgotten, and he is greatly missed by those who had the pleasure of working alongside him.

Our thoughts are with Peter's family and friends at this difficult time.

Community Hero – Call for nominations

It is that time of year once again, and your Parish Council is looking for its next Community Hero.

If you would like to nominate a parishioner who you feel is worthy of this award and has made a major contribution to the Fenstanton Community, please contact your Parish Clerk before 31 October 2026.

Previous winners of this prestigious award include:-

2025 Nigel Ferrier

2024 Roy and Heather McGee

2023 Philip and Jane Blunt

2022 Neville Nightingale

2021 Jean Ding

2019 Geoff Martin

2018 Ray Whitby

2017 Garth Turner

2016 Rosanne White, Sanda Williams and Marion Page (preschool)

2015 Donna Butcher

2014 Deryck Burton

2013 Spectrum Team

2012 Garth Turner

2011 Ron Jacobs



Parking around junctions – A safety reminder

The Parish Council has recently received concerns about parking in various locations around the village, particularly at the top of Swan Road, where vehicles have been parked immediately around the corner and very close to the junction.

Parking too close to a junction can create significant safety hazards for all road users. Vehicles parked on or near corners can restrict visibility for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, making it difficult to see oncoming traffic and increasing the risk of accidents. This is especially concerning on roads used by children, families and those with mobility issues.

Residents are reminded that the Highway Code advises that vehicles should not be parked within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, unless signs or markings indicate otherwise. These restrictions are in place to ensure drivers have a clear view when entering or leaving a road and to help maintain safe traffic flow.

While we appreciate that parking can sometimes be challenging, we would ask all

motorists to park considerably and think about the safety of others. A vehicle parked in an unsuitable location for a short period can still create a dangerous situation for other road users.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor concerns raised by residents and will work with the relevant authorities where necessary. However, improving road safety is something we can all contribute to by parking responsibly and showing consideration for our neighbours.

By working together, we can help keep Fenstanton's roads safe for everyone.



Parish Councillor Saturday Surgeries

Saturdays 10.00 – 12.00pm Community Hall, Crest Drive, Fenstanton PE28 9BR. 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.

31.10.2026	Tina Yates	Jade Purkiss
28.11.2026	Martin Hewitt	Sally King

Next Parish Council meetings

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

In addition to our regular meetings, we also hold:

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

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

Date	Meeting	Time and Location
Thursday 8 October	PC Ordinary	7.00 pm Church Centre
Thursday 26 November	General Purposes	7.00 pm Church Centre

To contact your Parish Council Clerk Telephone: 01480 465300

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





Paint

— AND —

Sip





A FUN, RELAXED EVENING OF
PAINTING, LAUGHTER AND
GOOD COMPANY!

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER | 7.30PM



£35 A TICKET

INCLUDES A GLASS OF PROSECCO
OR SOFT DRINK



GET YOURS AT
HILTONVILLAGEHALL.COM



LICENSED BAR

ALL MATERIALS
AND TUITION
INCLUDED TO PAINT
"HIGHLAND HUE".
SUITABLE FOR
ABSOLUTELY ANYONE,
NO PAINTING
EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

RAISING FUNDS FOR
HILTON VILLAGE HALL



SCAN ME
TO BOOK!



40

Fenstanton and some strange stones

By John Deeks

Having lived in the village for the past 43-years and having walked the streets many, many time, I thought that I recognised most places and things. But it shows just how wrong one can be!



Recently I went for a walk through the underpass to the west side of the village, something that I have done many times before. At the top of the path from the underpass, I noticed a large block of stone. I went over and took a good look at it and realised what it was.

On my return journey east, back through the underpass, I suddenly noticed at the side of the pathway, hidden by a waste bin, another block of stone, identical to the one on the west side. I wonder how many people have also noticed these stones and wondered what they were. Both of them have been worked from a single large stone with a horseshoe etched at the front.

Both of these stones are mounting blocks and could be at least three hundred years old if not more. But where have they come from and why are they there? With their close proximity to Grove House, I think that we can safely assume that they were originally the mounting blocks for the old house. There is always the possibility that one of them was removed from Oaklands House when it was demolished. But being extremely large and

heavy I think that this is unlikely. Especially as they are identical with the same motif. Why two of them and why are they where they are I am unable to explain? Possibly someone in the village may have a memory of them being removed. With a number of public houses in this location, it is possible that one of them came from there. Especially likely for the George (The Dutchess) which was a posting inn. Lots of people, lots of horses.

But what is a mounting block? A mounting block, horse block, carriage stone, is an assistance for mounting and dismounting a horse, or high cart or carriage. Mounting blocks, (historically known as "louping-on stones" in some regions), were common stone or wooden steps used primarily in the 18th and 19th centuries to assist riders, especially women in side-saddles or those with reduced mobility, in mounting horses and carriages.

Common outside inns, churches, and grand homes, they were essential infrastructure before automobiles. Now they are no longer a common feature of inns, churches, farms, country houses, etc where they were once an obligatory feature. The generally poor condition of roads up until the late 18th century meant that most passenger transport was by horse, literally on horseback.

Mounting blocks were especially useful for



women riding side saddle or pillion, that is 'riding double', allowing a horse to be mounted or dismounted without a loss of modesty. Women would often ride behind their husbands or servants. The blocks were also used to assist ladies and men into and out of carts and carriages.

Mounting blocks were usually made from stone or wood and prior to the era of the motor car they were very common. Some have three or more steps leading up to a platform which gave extra height and therefore easier access to the saddle and less chance of falling when dismounting. A few



had a wall or some other support to one side of the steps; some were built as memorials and bear inscriptions.

Mounting blocks today are primarily used by modern equestrians for beginners and for people who have difficulty mounting (either a tall horse, or a short person, or someone with some mobility impairments). Modern mounting blocks are usually made of wood or of moulded plastic.

A horse is best mounted using a mounting block because it is easier for the rider to mount the horse, it puts less strain on the stirrup leathers when mounting and it decreases the chances of the saddle slipping to one side when mounting. Thereby reducing the chances of a fall and possible injury to the rider. A horse or pony is mounted from the "near" side, which is the horse's left side.

As an afterthought, perhaps the parish council could arrange for the waste bin to be re-positioned so that the east block can be easily seen!

September 2026

John.deeks24@gmail.com



*Soft Furnishings
by
Pamela Anne*



I live in Hilton and make bespoke, hand finished, quality soft furnishings including

- * Pleated or Wave headed Curtains and Sheers ***
- * Roman Blinds ***
- * Box and Scatter Cushions ***
- * Lampshades * Bed Valances and Runners ***

I am happy to visit you at your home to discuss your soft furnishing requirements.

I offer a no obligation free consultation and quote. Please contact Pam using

Mobile/Text: 07411 805 715 or Email: Pamela.Lammiman@gmail.com

AMUSF Essential Soft Furnishings Diploma - Qualified and Accredited with Distinction 2021

Strawberry and raspberry jams for sale at £3 each

In aid of MacMillan Cancer Research.

Contact is Rosemary Blake (Hilton),
01480 830137.



FEN DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL



Large Hall

For exercise, dances and parties

Large Car Park

20 car spaces for lots of visitors

Grass Patio

for children's parties



www.fendraytonvillagehall.org.uk

T.N Walsh

(ENG Tech, MCIPHE)

EST. 1989

PLUMBING & HEATING

MOB: 07887 561525

TEL: 01954 780252

Email: Thomasneilwalsh@outlook.com

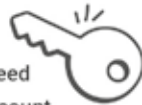


Christopher THE LOCKSMITH

ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?

We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service
A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989

- Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors
- No Call Out Charge
- No Fix No Fee
- All Work Fully Guaranteed
- 10% Senior Citizen Discount



For More Advice & Help Call Christopher:

07772 111 222

www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk

DRAINAGE FACILITIES DFM MANAGEMENT LIMITED

- Septic tank emptying
- Treatment Plant Cleaning
- Pump station cleaning
- Drainage cleaning
- High pressure water jetting
- Fat trap cleaning
- Interceptor cleaning
- Soak-away cleaning



Commercial

Domestic

Repair and Install

Drain cleaning



Telephone: 01767 677600

Email: info@drainagefm.co.uk

Please quote - The Journal for a discount

Movement made comfortable: discover chair Pilates

By Holly Standbrook

For many people, the idea of starting an exercise class can feel a little daunting. Perhaps your mobility isn't quite the same, or you suffered an injury? Maybe getting down onto the floor and back up again isn't an option, or you're just simply not sure that traditional exercise is right for you. But movement doesn't have to mean getting down on a yoga mat, lifting heavy weights or keeping up with a fast-paced fitness class. Chair Pilates offers a gentler way to move, using a chair for support, stability and reassurance.

So, what is chair Pilates?

Pilates a low-impact full body workout that builds core strength, improves flexibility, and enhances overall posture through slow, controlled movements. Chair Pilates is an

accessible form of Pilates where exercises are performed either seated, or standing using the chair for support. It combines the core principles of traditional Pilates with the added reassurance of having a chair nearby, so instead of worrying about whether you'll be able to manage the physical demands of a traditional exercise class, you can concentrate on the movement itself and enjoy the experience.

The movements are generally slow and controlled, with a focus on working within your own comfortable range. Exercises can help develop strength, flexibility, balance and body awareness, while also encouraging you to pay attention to how your body feels as you move. Over time, this can help improve everyday activities and build confidence in the body, helping people feel stronger and more independent.

Gentle doesn't mean ineffective

It can sometimes be easy to assume that if an exercise is gentle, it isn't doing very much. Chair Pilates can challenge that idea. Small, controlled movements can encourage the muscles around the spine and joints to work harder than you think, improving strength, balance and coordination. The emphasis isn't on how far you can stretch or how many repetitions you can complete it's about quality of movement rather than quantity.

Who is chair Pilates for?

Chair Pilates can be particularly appealing if you have limited mobility, reduced confidence with exercise, or simply want something a little gentler. It can also be a great option for people who have perhaps become less active over the years and aren't sure where to start.

The beauty of chair Pilates is that exercises can be adapted. Everyone's body is different, and a good class should allow you to work at a level that feels comfortable for you rather than expecting everyone to perform exactly the same movement in exactly the same way.

You don't have to be fit. You don't have to be flexible.

And you certainly don't have to be "good at exercise". You just need to be willing to give movement a try.

Benefits of joining an in person class.

Connection: Exercise can sometimes feel like something we are supposed to do on our own. But attending a regular class provides an opportunity to meet people, start up conversations, have a giggle and become part of a friendly, supportive group! Exercise doesn't have to be serious, competitive or intimidating. It can be something you look forward to.

Confidence: There can also be something reassuring about exercising in person, particularly if you're nervous about starting. Trying a new exercise on your own can leave you wondering: "Am I doing this correctly? Am I pushing myself too hard? Is this movement suitable for me?" In a well-run group class, you have an instructor there to guide you, demonstrate the exercises and keep an eye on how you're moving. Exercises can be adapted when necessary, and you can ask questions if something doesn't feel right. That reassurance can help people build confidence in their own bodies.

Consistency: Making a commitment to

a class (especially one you enjoy) can really help you stay consistent with your exercise which is absolutely key to seeing improvements in fitness, as well as confidence. Exercising little and often can lead to amazing progress.

Every small movement counts, every little bit of strength matters, and every time you move your body, you're reminding yourself that exercise doesn't have to look a certain way to be worthwhile.

Chair Pilates is about making movement welcoming, supportive and accessible, helping people discover that exercise really can be for everyone.

If you've been thinking about trying Pilates but weren't sure whether you could manage a traditional class, perhaps it's time to take a seat.

Hollystandbrookpilates@gmail.com

Please speak to your GP or relevant healthcare professional if you're unsure whether exercise is suitable for you, particularly if you have a medical condition or significant mobility concerns.



Save the date

Hilton Christmas Fair

Saturday, 28 November

2:00pm - 5:00pm

Venue - Hilton Village Hall

Request - Would any craft people who would like to have a stall please contact Ann Claridge (ann_claridge@hotmail.com) or Jan Taylor (jan.laburnum@gmail.com)

FENSTANTON UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
Chequer Street

BOOKS & JIGSAWS

ON SALE

Saturday 17 October
9.30 - 12.00 noon




**GCE
GROUNDWORKS LTD**

Footings | Drainage | Patios
Driveways | Fencing | Digger
Hire | Grab Lorry

Tel: 07737 884643 or 01480 535478
gregg@gcegroundworksltd.co.uk
www.gcegroundworksltd.co.uk

Gregg Ellis, 5 Conington Road,
Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire,
PE28 9LB

BARRY'S PLAICE
Serving Traditional Fish & Chips For Over 40 Years

THE GREAT BRITISH TAKE AWAY



OPENING TIMES:
Tues, Weds & Thurs: 4.30 - 9pm.
Fri & Sat: 12 - 2pm & 4.30 - 9pm.
Closed on Sunday & Monday

GLUTEN FREE MENU available every day.

Telephone orders welcome for collection
01480 462 382
High Street, Fenstanton, PE28 9LQ
(We are located opposite the Clock Tower)



**FENSTANTON
DENTAL**

Caring for your smile every step of the way.

We are accepting new patients.

- ✓ Membership Plans
- ✓ Emergency Appointments
- ✓ Anxious Patients

Call or visit our website to book an appointment
01480 381129
www.fenstantondental.co.uk

BOUTIQUE WHITENING ✱ invisalign Enlighten™



N AND M DECOR
ESTABLISHED 1986
FATHER AND DAUGHTER
BUSINESS

ALL ASPECTS OF DECORATING AND
SMALL MAINTENANCE
NO VAT

FULLY INSURED

07799598810

EMAIL NANDMDECOR@HOTMAIL.COM

BASED IN FENSTANTON



**Cambridgeshire
libraries**

Mobile Library service

Route H9 – 2nd Tuesday In The Month

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

.....

Route H11 – 2nd Thursday In The Month

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

.....

Route H25 – 4th Thursday In The Month

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



**Cambs Light
Removals**

For all your removal
needs

Telephone
01480 352220
07894 526863

cambslightremovals.com

The biggest dog walking problems — and how to fix them

By Nigel Ferrier

Dog walking should be one of the best parts of your dog's day. But pulling, barking, distractions and unpredictable behaviour can quickly turn a relaxing stroll into a stressful chore. The good news is that most common walking problems can be improved with consistency, patience and the right approach.

Pulling on the lead

A dog that constantly pulls can make walks uncomfortable and difficult to control. Often, pulling is simply a learned behaviour: your dog pulls towards something interesting, and eventually gets there.

How to fix it: Reward your dog whenever they walk beside you on a loose lead. If they pull, stop moving or calmly change direction rather than allowing them to reach their target. Keep training sessions short and rewarding, and gradually increase the level of distraction.

Barking at other dogs

Some dogs bark because they are excited; others may be nervous, frustrated or protective. Whatever the reason, shouting at your dog can make the problem worse.

How to fix it: Give yourself plenty of distance from other dogs and reward calm behaviour before your dog starts barking. Over time, gradually reduce the distance while continuing to reward them. If your dog is particularly reactive, consider working with a qualified force-free trainer.

Refusing to walk

A dog that suddenly plants their feet can leave you wondering what went wrong. They could be frightened, tired, uncomfortable, distracted or simply unsure about where you're going.

How to fix it: First, check for obvious causes such as hot or cold weather, sore paws or an

uncomfortable harness. Avoid dragging your dog. Instead, encourage them with a cheerful voice and high-value treats, and reward even a few steps in the right direction.

Chasing squirrels, birds and other distractions

Dogs naturally want to investigate moving animals, cyclists and other exciting sights. Once they are focused on something, getting their attention back can be challenging.

How to fix it: Practise a reliable recall and an attention cue such as their name or "look at me" in low-distraction environments first. Reward generously when they choose to focus on you. Keeping your dog on a lead or long line in areas with wildlife can also prevent unwanted chasing.



Overexcited greetings

Jumping up, lunging towards people or desperately trying to greet every dog can make walks chaotic.

How to fix it: Teach your dog that calm behaviour earns attention. Ask for a simple behaviour, such as sitting or standing quietly, before allowing a greeting. Not every person or dog needs to say hello, either. Sometimes the best solution is simply to keep walking.

Make walks easier, not harder

The key to better walks is not perfection—it's repetition. Use rewards your dog genuinely values, give them enough time to sniff and explore, and practise desirable behaviours regularly. Most importantly, remember that behaviour changes take time. A calm, consistent approach will usually achieve far more than

punishment or frustration.

Good reads on dog training are: *The Other End of the Leash* by Patricia McConnell, *The Culture Clash* by Jean Donaldson and *Don't Shoot the Dog!* by Karen Pryor. All available at a good book seller or via Amazon.





HEMINGFORD
ARB

PROFESSIONAL TREE SURGEON

- ⌘ Felling/sectional felling
- ⌘ Crown reduction/thinning
- ⌘ Pollarding
- ⌘ Shaping
- ⌘ Hedge trimming
- ⌘ Stump grinding
- ⌘ Firewood for sale
- ⌘ Free quotation

All aspects of garden and tree work covered.
NPTC Qualified. Fully insured.

Tel: 01480 463674
Mob: 07876 521605
Email: hemingfordarb2016@gmail.com



HEMINGFORD
ARB





MC
DRAINAGE COMPANY

We offer a full range of professional drainage services to prevent water damage and ensure your property remains safe and secure, no matter the weather.

For a discount please quote Journal on enquiry

- ✓ Drainage Surveys, Investigations & reports
- ✓ Drain Repairs
- ✓ Emergency Drainage services
- ✓ Drain Unblocking Services and more

07496 508596 <https://www.mccleaningltd.co.uk> Cambridgeshire and surrounding areas

News from the Pews

Hilton Parish Church



Dear Friends,

You probably know the ancient Greek myth of Pandora's box. Pandora was the first human woman, and she was given a jar or box which she was told not to open, but of course she did, and out flew all the troubles of the world: sickness, death, war, famine, and so on. When all the woes of humankind had flown out to plague the world for evermore, the only thing left in the jar was hope.

Doesn't that strike you as about right? No-one can deny that those troubles are out there, whatever story we tell to account for them. But there is always hope, isn't there?

Or is there? Sadly, not everyone feels that there is. Some couples are deciding not to have children because they do not want to bring them into a world they think is doomed. Now it is no good someone like myself, who feels generally hopeful about life, trying to lecture those who feel otherwise. The fears felt by many for the future of our world are genuine and not to be lightly dismissed. The threats from global warming and environmental collapse, not to mention political instability, nuclear weapons, and the corrosion of human sensibilities through the commodification of everyday life, are indeed pressing and potentially devastating. Feeling hopeless in the face of such colossal dangers is not unreasonable.

But it is not the only choice, either. Christians do not of course have a monopoly on hope, but it is certainly one of the chief virtues that a Christian is supposed to cultivate. Hopelessness, or despair, is a block to any action that is not short-term. If we feel hopeless about the future, we might as well eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die. A hopeful person acts as if his or her actions can make a difference, as if tomorrow holds the promise of something more than death.

It is a hopeful thing to bring a loved child into the world, or to start any worthwhile project. St Paul, at the end of his great hymn to love in the first letter to the Corinthians, says that there are three things that endure: faith, hope and love. I believe we can learn to be hopeful – hope-filled – people; not blind optimists, but people who trust that despite appearances we are not doomed to futility. God has brought all things into being for good. May He give us the courage to take heart, take hope.

With love,
David

Revd David Busk (01480 436400)

Services in October

Sunday 4 October	8:00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 October	11:15am	United Harvest Festival Service at the Methodist Church
Sunday 18 October	8:00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 October	11:15am	Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall

Friday 16 October 5:30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church)

Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

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



News from the Benefice of Fen Drayton with Fenstanton



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

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

October 2026 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Thursday 1	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 4	10.30am Fenstanton	Harvest Festival with Holy Communion Followed by Harvest Lunch-see poster for details
Thursday 8	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 11	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion Worship For All with baptism
Monday 12	7.30pm Fenstanton	A Pause in the Month
Thursday 15	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Friday 16	6-8.30pm Fenstanton	Fen Youth
Sunday 18	10.30am Fenstanton 6pm Fenstanton	Holy Communion with Sunday Club Choral Evensong
Thursday 22	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Saturday 24	Clocks change back 1 hour	
Sunday 25	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Morning Praise Family Communion
Saturday 31	11am Fenstanton 5-7pm Fenstanton	Time to Remember Service, all welcome All Hallows' Eve Light and hot chocolate stall- see below for details.

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

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.

Evensong

Do join us for Choral Evensong at St. Peter and St. Paul's, Fenstanton, on Sunday 18 October, at 6pm. Is this a service you would enjoy, or would you enjoy singing with our choir? You would be made very welcome, and do contact us if you would like to join our choir.



Our Time to Remember Service this year is on Saturday 31 October 11am at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Fenstanton.

This is a time when we can remember loved ones who have died, whether recently or some time ago. For some people remembering anniversaries or significant events is an important thing to do. Please do put the date in your diary. If you would like the name(s) of your loved one(s) read out during the service, then please do let us know.

Rev Rosie – email vicar@fenchurches.org.uk or leave a message on 01480 467393 or post a note through The Vicarage letterbox, 16 Church Street, Fenstanton.

There will also be a list at the back of St Peter & St Paul's Church and St Mary's Church, to add names to during the month of October.

Fen Drayton with Fenstanton Parish
Come and join us for

Harvest Festival

St Mary's, Fen Drayton
 Sunday **27th** September
9:15am

Fenstanton Parish Church
 Sunday **4th** October
10:30am

We are collecting Harvest donations for St Ives Foodbank

Followed by
Harvest Lunch
on Sunday 4th Oct
1pm in Fenstanton Church Centre

In aid of

Hands at Work

Please telephone Katie on 07745 044781 if you would like to join us for lunch (Sausage casserole, (or veggie alternative) jacket potato, fruit crumble and custard)

This year the weather has made it a difficult time to grow crops and we are fortunate that we have such a plentiful selection of fresh food available to us from our gardens, allotments, farm shops and supermarkets. As a church community, we will give thanks at our Harvest Festival services in both village churches. (see poster for details)

We are collecting donations of dry foodstuffs for the St Ives Foodbank and donation boxes are in both church porches now if you wish to support this collection, or bring them with you to either Harvest service. Items most needed by the Foodbank at this time are; Cup-a-soup, fruit juice, instant mash potato, instant pasta pots, tinned fruit, tinned meat, tinned rice pudding /custard, tinned vegetables (carrots/peas). Thank you

All Hallows' Eve, Saturday 31 October, 5-7pm

Do look out for our light and hot chocolate stall by Fenstanton parish church gate if you're out and about on the 31st. We'll be offering free light glow sticks and sweet hot chocolate as an alternative to the dark and scary that is well promoted on the night. Come and find Laura and Katie and "let your light shine brightly around the village".



THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Advance Notice: Remembrance Sunday services, Sunday 8 November

All are welcome to the Remembrance Sunday 'Act of Remembrance', at **Fen Drayton War Memorial**, gathering from **10.45am for a 10.50am service** (junction of Horse and Gate Street and Church Street).

In Fenstanton, there will be a short service in **St Peter & St Paul's Church Fenstanton**, beginning at **10.15am**. Then at around **10.45am** we will go to the Fenstanton War Memorial, for the 'Act of Remembrance'. The War Memorial is in the Fenstanton Parish Cemetery, which is adjacent to the churchyard and primary school.

All are welcome to join us for either or both services. A collection will be taken for the Royal British Legion and refreshments will be served afterwards in Fenstanton Church Centre.

 **THE ARTS SOCIETY
HUNTINGDONSHIRE**

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 14 October at 2:30pm 'The Influence of Japanese Woodcuts on Western Art'. This is a change from the information published in our leaflet and in the last edition of The Journal.

There will not be a lecture on October 8th.



News from the Pews

Hilton Methodist Church



The Value of Relationships

"The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is *"knowing how to get along with people."* — Theodore Roosevelt. Whichever way we look at life, we cannot overlook that our connectedness with one another is central to how well we manage the dynamics and fabric of life.

It is more than true that none of us was meant to exist alone, and even if that were true, can you imagine what life would look like if we lived in a vacuum? Whether or not we choose to embrace this reality, the very nature of life has shown, once again, that life is better lived within the ambit of connectedness among people.

The unfortunate reality is that many relationships have lately become more transactional than a hub that connects people to people, minds to minds, heart to heart, cultures to cultures, thereby creating the very essence of existence and living. Research shows that societies with strong relationships are happier and less stressed.

Living life with the assurance that someone is there to hold our hands and our feet leaves us with little to worry about if we stumble and fall. That is the power of relationships; it gives us a sense of assurance and certainty that we can ride the ever-changing scenes and circumstances of our lives with courage, which is born out of the conviction that life is not about me, I, and myself, but rather a journey that calls for all of us to embrace each other and offer the support we all may require at whatever stage of life.



It is therefore important for us to constantly reflect, embrace, and invest in relationships.

This gives us an opportunity as well as a challenge to leave each day with an unwavering commitment to putting value on and celebrating those who cross our path. To be truly successful is to know how to get along with people.

Rev Lembe Sivile
Minister of Hilton Methodist Church.
Lembe.sivile@methodist.org.uk
Mobile: 07483 154590

Services in October

4 October	10:00am	Mr. John Bridge
11 October	11:15am	United Harvest Festival Service in the Methodist Church followed by a bring and share lunch
18 October	10:00am	Rev. Blair Kirkby
25 October	10:00am	Rev. Lembe Sivile

Hilton Baby & Toddler Play Group

Ages from 0-5

Tuesday 10 - 11.30am
(term time only)
£2.50 per family
Hilton Village Hall

Craft Table

Snacks for All!

Toys and Games



Little Piggy Café and Takeaway

Homemade cakes
Homemade pastries
Slow smoked meats
Hog Roasts

Little Piggy Catering Ltd
07764 336911
www.littlepiggycatering.co.uk
21 High Street, Fenstanton, Huntingdon, PE28 9JZ




Fenstanton United Reformed Church

Chequer Street, Fenstanton

Minister

Revd Alison Davis

Sunday morning services are at 09.30. All are welcome.

2026 Services

October

- 04 Revd Christine Davies - **Harvest Festival 9.30am**
Songs of Praise 2.30pm
- 11 Revd Janet Tollington - **Holy Communion**
- 18 Revd Christine Davies
- 25 Revd Chris Baker

November

- 01 Pauline Zahner
- 08 Revd Alison Davis
- 15 Led by Alison Jiggins - **Holy Communion**
- 22 Revd Christine Davies

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

Tuesday 13 October 2.30 - 4pm - Led by John Williams

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

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

Church of the Sacred Heart



19 Needingworth Rd. St Ives
Priest in charge: FR. T. J. Monteiro
Tel 01480 462192,
www.sacredheart-stives.org
email: office@sacredheart-stives.org

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

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

The Particular Baptist Chapel

Church Lane, Fenstanton,
PE28 9JW

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

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

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



SUPPLIERS AND INSTALLERS OF:

- QUALITY CARPETS • CARPET TILES
- VINYLAYS • SAFETY FLOORING
- CORK TILES • LINO
- FLOOR SCREEDS/LATEXING
- REPAIR AND RELAYING

Tel: 01480 831886

Mob: 07970 256237

MEASURING, ESTIMATING AND EXPERT
ADVICE WITHOUT OBLIGATION

PROMPT, FRIENDLY SERVICE

HOME SELECTION SERVICE
FOR ALL CONTRACT & DOMESTIC INSTALLATIONS

CARPET CLEANING SERVICE
USING THE HOST DRY EXTRACTION SYSTEM

Email: RDBflooring@outlook.com
www.rdbflooring.co.uk



Chequer Street
Fenstanton
Huntingdon
Cambs PE28 9JQ
01480 462 001

ORGANIST / PIANIST WANTED

On a Part Time Basis

To play at Sunday services from
9.30am till 10.30am and occasional
events throughout the year.

For details please contact.

Church Treasurer - Mrs Jenny Stimpson
Jennystimpson13@gmail.com

Or

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

News from the Pews

A view from the Old Manse

A church is not just a building, something to look at, and provide a photographic opportunity for some. It is much more than that. For many, it is the hub for the local community to enjoy an activity, the company of others, and to provide comfort when needed. Of course, it also gives those with faith, a place to worship.

But what if it wasn't there, if it fell into disuse, and became a derelict monument, or was knocked down and rebuilt as a commercial building, what then? Much would be lost.

To maintain the physical building so that the church can continue to be a place people visit for their own reasons, it needs to be maintained. That is why the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church asks the Elders (basically the leaders and trustees) to undertake a Quinquennial Inspection, as the title suggests, every five years.

The last inspection was in 2024, and since then the Elders have been working through the recommendations that will keep the 152-year old church standing, and available to the

local and wider community for many more years. The major work identified was the lime mortar pointing, which had deteriorated over time, and the Church windows, which were becoming unstable. Getting the work done is one thing, but getting approval is an entirely different matter. Being a Grade II Listed Building, set in a conservation area, brings with it much paperwork needed for the appropriate approvals. The Synod has its own planning department, under a provision called Ecclesiastical Exemption, which can negate the need to involve the local planning authority. The pointing is relatively straightforward as it is a like-for-like project, digging out, and making good poorly executed repairs from the past. The work to refurbish the windows however, is subject to Listed Building approval, as the Church would like to reinstate three ventilated windows, long ago removed. In the coming months, you may see the windows boarded up, whilst the work is carried out. Don't be alarmed, the church will not have closed; the work will ensure that the church is there for you to use for many more years.

Geoff Hawkins

Fenstanton URC Secretary

fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org



LOCAL



BOWLING ELECTRICAL
SERVICES

ELECTRICIAN

07903756915

alfie@bowling-electrical-services.co.uk

WWW.BOWLING-ELECTRICAL-SERVICES.CO.UK



TOWN TRUST

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

If you think we may be able to help, contact the Clerk to the Trustees at clerk@fenstantontownestate.com or Clerk to the Fenstanton Town Trust, c/o 10 Conington Road, Fenstanton PE289LB. Each case is considered individually and treated in strictest confidence.

HILTON VILLAGE HALL

Available for functions throughout the day, evenings, and for contract bookings

SINGLE FUNCTIONS

Before 7.00pm £15.00 per hour
After 7.00pm £20.00 per hour

CONTRACT BOOKINGS

Before 7.00pm £10.00 per hour
After 7.00pm £14.00 per hour

info@hiltonvillagehall.com

www.hiltonvillagehall.com

or call
07752 678415

Find us on

HILTON VILLAGE HALL, CAMBS



Hello.
How
can we
help?

01480 465215
studio@siqp.co.uk

SIQP

ST IVES QUICKPRINT LTD

Quality print for over 30 years

Check
us out!



Life on a Plate



A Cake for Fenstanton, first runner-up

Last month we printed the recipe which won the Cake for Fenstanton challenge at the Big Village Fun Day on 4 July. This is the recipe for the cake which came a close second, Cake C, baked by Ann Munns.

A reminder of the task: bake a cake, any recipe, as long as the five foods in Fenstanton street names are included in it, or on it, pears, honey, apples, walnuts and cherries (as in Pear Tree Close or Honey Hill, for example)

Old fashioned apple, pear, walnut, cherry and honey cake

Ingredients:

240 g plain flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
2 tsp ground cinnamon
1tsp ground nutmeg
120 g butter
90 g light brown sugar
170 g (1/2 cup) clear honey
3 large eggs
2 tsp vanilla extract
2 med eating apples, peeled, cored, grated (or diced small)
2 med ripe pears, peeled, cored, diced small
35 g chopped walnuts
4 or 5 chopped glace cherries
For the honey drizzle (optional), 1tbsp butter, plus 1/4 cup honey



Method:

Pre-heat oven to 180C/Gas 4.
Butter and line 23cm (9") round cake tin.
Mix dry ingredients together, flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and nutmeg.
In a separate bowl, cream butter and brown sugar together.
Beat in eggs one at a time.
Stir in vanilla extract and honey.
Gradually fold in the dry ingredients into the wet mixture until just combined. DO NOT over-mix.
Add apples, pears, walnuts and cherries.
Pour batter into cake tin and smooth top.
Bake for roughly 60 - 70 minutes or until knife comes out clean.
While cake is cooking, melt butter and honey together. Once cake is out of the oven brush mixture over the warm cake.

Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

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

Community Cafe

At the October cafe we will welcome The Fabric Townhouse, with its wide variety of fabrics and haberdashery.

At the same time we will also welcome SWCC Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital, a charity that cares for and rehabilitates hedgehogs. At a spring cafe the charity recruited several local families willing to provide a foster home for a hedgehog prior to its release into the wild. At the October visit we will learn about how best to support hedgehogs for hibernation.

The cafe committee is looking to recruit more volunteers to help support the cafe. It is nearly nine years old now, and the current committee has overseen its running since the beginning, but new ideas are always welcome.

There are a variety of roles to fulfil, so if you'd like to help ensure the cafe continues to serve the village, please contact the committee at fendraytoncommunitycafe@gmail.com or speak to a committee member at any of our monthly cafes.



Parish clerk leaving

By the time you read this our clerk, Gill Parrish, will have retired after 13 years, during which time she worked with four chairs: Harry Webster, Jackie Isden, Roger Davies and, finally, Sue Gyles.

On behalf of the village and parish council I would like to thank Gill for all her hard work behind the scenes. Gill has a wealth of knowledge about the village and running a parish council. I know I speak for current and previous councillors when I say that her support and knowledge have been crucial in helping the PC to accomplish a number

of large projects over the years, as well as carrying out the routine tasks that the role demands.

Playground repairs

Some of you may have noticed that the table tennis table on the village hall field is damaged. By the time you read this, Caloo will have replaced the damaged half of the table ready for villagers to use over the October half-term holiday.

District Councillor Vivien Biggs

I continue to be concerned about the limited bus service available to Fen Drayton residents wanting to access Cambridge and Huntingdon Station.

I have been in touch with the Combined Authority (CA) who have again stated that our roads do not allow for regular buses of the size of the current Tiger 1. The good news is that the CA would be interested in building a business case with us for a new service that could be produced in the future, backed and evidenced by data received through community engagement and research.

Sue Gyles, the PC chair, and I have indicated that we are keen to work with the CA to develop such a business case so that if/when funding becomes available, we are prepared.

Community involvement will be part of this, and the monthly Community Cafe would be a good venue.

Government to pause LGR

The government has now decided to pause and review the programme for local government reorganisation (LGR) across England, including the plans for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Unitary elections will not be held in 2027 and will be delayed until May 2028.

Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council and Peterborough City Council will instead go ahead with their scheduled elections in May 2027. South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire do not have elections scheduled in 2027.

Consequently, existing county and district councils will continue until probably April 2029, at which point the new unitary authorities will take over.

If you would like to contact me about this or any other matter, please email me at Clr.Biggs@scambs.gov.uk

For more information, county and district councillors' full reports are published on the PC website at www.fendrayton.org

Community Cafe

The next Community Cafe is Saturday 10 October, when we will welcome The Fabric Townhouse and Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital.



RDS SOLAR

The power is yours

- Solar PV Roof Systems
- Solar PV Ground Systems
- Batteries Storage
- EV Charging
- Heat Pump Installations



- Air Source Heat Pump
- Ground Source Heat Pump
- Gas & Oil Boiler Installation
- Underfloor Heating
- Service, Maintenance & Repair

☎ 07950 147793 ☎ 01954 770309

✉ info@rdssolar.co.uk

🌐 www.rdsolar.co.uk

✉ Info@rdsheatingandrenewables.co.uk

🌐 www.rdsheatingandrenewables.co.uk



Quality Bespoke Secure Self Storage



Easy to open & fast to access indoor units with access codes, megapixel CCTV & individual room alarms. Choose as little or as much space as you really need, for any length of stay. Clean, dry, ventilated & condensation free. Friendly & helpful advice with viewings arranged by appointment.

More Space

Located at Graveley PE19 6PH
Mention The Journal for £5 discount on your first month.



- Household
- Business
- Hobby

01480 830130

morespacestorage.co.uk

Sureclean

PROFESSIONAL CARPET
& UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Tile & Hard Floor Cleaning

DRIVEWAY & PATIO CLEANING

Re-sanding & Sealing

GUTTER CLEANING,
INSPECTION & REPAIRS

Roof Moss Removal



Local Company ~ Fully Insured

T: 01480 832021 or 07870 338074

www.surecleancarpetcleaning.co.uk

melwoodcock@outlook.com

LD Leeds Day LLP

Solicitors Offices at:

Huntingdon – Godwin House, George Street, Huntingdon PE29 3BD T: 01480 454301

St Neots – Xenus House, Sandpiper Court, St Neots PE19 8EP T: 01480 474661



My Ex will not cooperate: What can the Family Court do?

Separation often requires difficult decisions about children, finances and the family home. Reaching agreement is usually preferable, but what happens when a former partner refuses to communicate, disclose information or honour an existing arrangement?

In England and Wales, the Family Court can provide a structured route forward. The appropriate application will depend on the particular dispute and whether an order is already in place.

Arrangements for children

If parents cannot agree where a child should live or how much time they should spend with each parent, either may apply for a child arrangements order under the Children Act 1989.

Before making an application, a prospective applicant must usually attend a Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting. The court expects parents to consider mediation and other forms of non-court dispute resolution. Exemptions may apply in cases involving domestic abuse, urgency or child-protection concerns.

The child's welfare is the court's paramount consideration. Relevant factors include the child's needs, wishes and feelings, age, background and the likely effect of any change. A parent's refusal to cooperate may be significant if it adversely affects the child, although the court's purpose is to protect the child's welfare rather than punish either parent.

The court can obtain safeguarding information, make interim directions and request a report from Cafcass. Ultimately, it can determine arrangements despite one parent's continuing objections.

Enforcing child arrangements

Where a child arrangements order is repeatedly breached, an enforcement application may be appropriate. The court will investigate the circumstances and consider whether the parent had a reasonable cause.

Its powers include varying the order, directing unpaid work and awarding compensation

for financial loss. In serious cases, contempt proceedings may be considered. Persistent obstruction can also cause the court to reconsider where the child should live, but any change must promote the child's welfare.

Resolving financial disputes

If a former spouse or civil partner refuses to disclose assets or negotiate, an application for a financial remedy order may address property, savings, pensions, maintenance and other resources.

Both parties owe a duty of full and frank financial disclosure, commonly provided through Form E. The court may order documents to be produced, require questions to be answered or draw adverse inferences where assets appear to have been concealed. Non-disclosure can lead to costs consequences and may enable a financial order to be set aside.

If an existing financial order is ignored, enforcement options can include an attachment of earnings order, charging order, third-party debt order or order for sale.

Protection and practical steps

Harassment, threats or domestic abuse may justify an application for a non-molestation order or occupation order. Urgent applications can sometimes be made without giving the other party advance notice.

Keep communications concise, factual and child-focused. Preserve messages, financial records and evidence of missed arrangements or attempts to reach agreement.

One person cannot prevent matters from progressing indefinitely. Our family law team can identify the appropriate procedure, prepare the necessary evidence and provide clear, practical representation throughout negotiations or Family Court proceedings.

Leeds Day LLP assists clients with a range of family matters. A timely conversation can help avoid uncertainty and provide peace of mind for the future. To speak to our specialist family team, contact Leeds Day LLP today on 0333 577 2250 or at family@leedsday.co.uk.

JASON KIRBY LTD

EXPERT DECORATORS

All Aspects of Internal & External Decorating

Period, Residential & Commercial Properties

Wallpaper & Mural Install, Kitchen Cabinet & Furniture Re-Sprays

Floor Sanding & Restoration, Plastering, Coving & Artex

City & Guilds, NVQ Qualified

For Service, Quality & Reliability



☎ 01954 211775 🌐 jasonkirbyltd.co.uk

J. HALSTEAD

— Plumbing & Heating —

INSTALLATIONS • REPAIRS • MAINTENANCE

Local plumber based in Hilton

Complete bathroom installations
including tiling

All aspects of plumbing undertaken,
big and small jobs welcome.

For a free quote call or email John

07570 387 684 01480 830 329

jhalsteadplumbing@gmail.com

Company number 08236303 Fully insured

TW

ELECTRICAL

For all of your Electrical needs:

Domestic and Commercial

- New Installations
- Full or partial rewires
- Additional / replacement sockets, lights etc
- Fault finding
- Repairs
- Electric Car Chargers Installed

01480 462189

07810 710826

tony-way@ntlworld.com



Hilton Parish Council



A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 7 September

Fireworks and Bonfire event 2026

This will take place on Saturday 7th November. At this stage Councillors are finalising important details including ticketing, parking and ensuring it is a safe and successful event.

Climbing Frame in the Playground

The Council agreed to some costly repairs amounting to almost £1200 to enable this piece of equipment to be put back into safe use. Parishioners are reminded to follow the well-publicised instructions for use of the area.

Water flow issues

The Council received feedback from the first two meetings of the new Water Management Working Group. The broad aim is to bring forward recommendations to reduce the risk of flooding in wet weather conditions and to provide appropriate guidance and support to parishioners at such times. Further meetings, including with representatives of the District Council and Environment Agency, will continue through the autumn and winter.

From our County and District Councillors

District Councillor Nick Sarkies had submitted a written report in which he highlighted recent and ongoing concerns about proposals for the building of flats on town centre car parks in St Ives, St Neots and Huntingdon; intended to promote regeneration in these towns. County Councillor David Keane gave an update on the background to further delays in progress towards Local Government Reorganisation locally; as well as his ongoing engagement with local highways issues and different Water Management and Flood Groups.

Green Open Spaces

The Council noted reports from the Open Spaces Officer to try to provide additional funding for tree work in the next 12 months. The dry and hot

summers of 2025 and 2026 have increased the stress and accelerated the decline of some trees, thereby increasing the burden on Parish Council finances.

Budget and Precept 2027/28

A first review of a draft budget for the next municipal year (April to March) was considered albeit with some important details and components still to be finalised.

Vacancies for people to join the Council

Having received 3 applications for 2 vacancies following the May elections this year, the Council, by secret ballot, co-opted Clare Tevlin and Sharon Walker to join the Parish Council. This raises the Parish Council to its full complement of 9 Councillors.

Grants agreed

Hilton Parish Council agreed to offer financial support to underpin the ongoing success of 'The Journal' publication and to provide maintenance materials for the defibrillator attached to the side of the Pavilion. In both instances the Council has been supported by Hilton Town Trust in making these grants available.

Bequest to the Parish Council

The Council – after careful consideration of all the fine details and subsequent responsibilities – agreed to accept a bequest of some land and for this to be turned into a 'quiet space'. Further details of the work associated with this legacy will be published in due course.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 5th October 2026 in the Village Hall. Agendas will be posted in advance on the village notice boards and the Council's website www.hiltonparishcouncil.com. Parishioners are welcome to speak on agenda items at council meetings.

Fen Drayton Primary School

A fantastic start to the new school year!

We have had a brilliant start to the new term at Fen Drayton Primary School. It has been wonderful to see the children so excited to be back, and we have especially enjoyed welcoming our new Reception children and their families into our friendly, small school community.



being buddies to our new Reception children and are already proving to be a huge help around school – putting out chairs for



It has already been a busy few days! Years 3 and 4 have been flying kites before using what they discovered to design and make their own. Year 5 pupils have been out developing their cycling skills with Bikeability, while our Year 6 children are embracing their new responsibilities as the oldest children in school. They are loving



assembly, helping to set up at lunchtime and even taking charge of the iPads!

Come and visit us

We are delighted to be holding an Open Morning on Saturday 10 October, from 10am–12 noon. Everyone is welcome to come along, explore our newly refurbished school, meet us and discover what Fen Drayton Primary School has to offer. There will be plenty to see and do, as well as refreshments.

We currently have places available in most year groups. Whether you are looking for a school place now or considering Reception for next September, we would love to show you around. Please call or email the school to arrange a visit.

Starting school in 2027?

If your child was born between September 2022 and August 2023, they'll be due to start school in September 2027. Applications must be submitted by 15th January 2027 via Cambridgeshire County Council. Go to www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk/admissions for more information.



fendraytonprimary.co.uk/admissions for more information.

To help families get to know us, we're hosting a Stay and Play session in our Dormice classroom and outdoor area (weather permitting) on Wednesday 18 November from 3:30–4:00pm. To book a spot, please contact the school office by phone or email.

We look forward to welcoming you to Fen Drayton Primary School.

Nina McQueen
Headteacher

School contact details

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

Website: www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk

What you're Missing

Hilton Art Club

We had the last of the year's en plein air visits on 4th September, to Hilton Green and around and inside the church.

Although only a few people attended due to the earlier rain, this abated by 10:00am, so we didn't have to brave the worst of the weather and had a good morning in the village (see photo of some fabulous sketching by Kathy B in the morning).

16 October 10:00 am – 12:30 pm 'SHOWING THEIR WARES': Shop Fronts. Bring your reference photos.

New members are welcome – contact Gina on 07907568039 for further details.



Let's Run Girls - Fen Drayton



Let's Run Girls is dedicated to empowering women to improve the health and wellbeing of their local communities in the UK. We currently have supportive running groups in twelve different locations in Cambridgeshire including Fen Drayton.

The free weekly run sessions are led by a dedicated team of volunteer Run Leaders who are passionate about supporting other women to get into running. If you're already running and would like some company and extra motivation, the weekly steady run group is a great option for you. All paces are welcomed, we just ask that you can continuously run for at least 20-25 minutes. We also deliver a beginners course each year for those new to, or want to get back into running. The next beginners course is starting soon.

The Fen Drayton group meets every week at 6.45pm on Monday evenings outside the Fen Drayton Village Hall. Find out more or register by scanning the QR code (@letsrungirls.com), or contact info@letsrungirls.com for more information.



Fenstanton Glebe Allotments Association

As the summer season draws to a close and winter gently creeps towards us, now is the perfect time to think about soil health. When spring is all about seed catalogues and shiny brochures we barely give a thought to how we take care of the soil over the Winter months so that we have successful crops the following year.

Now is the time to add well-rotted manure. Rather than dig it in, let nature blend it in. This improves structure and fuels and protects the soil. During the harsher winter months it is vulnerable to rain, which compacts it, frost cracks it and wind strips it of nutrients. A good mulch also protects the soil from freeze and thaw cycles, encourages worm activity and adds organic matter as it breaks down. As well as well-rotted manure, shredded leaves and straw are also good mulching material.

Rather than having beds sitting idle during Winter, try growing green manures such as winter rye, vetch, clover or mustard. The roots from these plants keep the soil active and, when dug in in spring, they become a powerful soil conditioner, giving your soil the best possible start to the growing season.

There are still crops that can be planted at this time of year. At the end of September you can plant onions for an early yield in the new year. Spinach and salad leaves can be grown in a



sheltered spot and fast growing varieties of radishes and turnips can be planted now.

Having an allotment is hard work and requires time, patience and resilience, but it is incredibly rewarding too.

Happy digging!



FEN DRAYTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

You're Invited to Our Open School Celebration!

Have you seen the changes at Fen Drayton Primary School? Following our exciting improvements and renovations, we'd love to welcome families, friends, former pupils, and members of the local community to come and explore our school.



Explore
Learn
Belong



Come along and:

-  Visit our classrooms
-  Take part in fun activities
-  Explore our outdoor spaces
-  Meet staff and members of the school community
-  Enjoy refreshments in the hall



Saturday 10th October
10:00am to 12:00 noon



No need to book
- just drop in!

Whether you're a current family, a former pupil, a neighbour, or simply curious to see our wonderful school, we'd love to see you there.

We look forward to welcoming you! 



Fen Drayton Primary School, Cootes Lane, Fen Drayton, CB24 4SL

What you're Missing

Fen Drayton Lions



So, the new season is upon us. We've only had two preseason games this year, but both were very positive.

That lads started where they left off, playing some lovely football. It's never about the result but more about getting some minutes under the belt and making sure we play the way we know we can with short, sharp passes - keeping it simple is always key for me.

The boys were rewarded with two good wins and it was like we'd never had a break.

Our first game of the season was a home game as we welcomed Warboys Town a new team in our league. It's always difficult when you don't know anything about the opposition, so we had to just go out and play our game and the lads did just that! After some very impressive football from the Lions in the first half we

found ourselves 9-0 up at halftime.

The second half was all about discipline and continuing to play the way we can to ensure the goals keep coming. After another solid half from the Lions the final score was 16-1 - our biggest win in all the years I've been managing!

I had to praise Warboys because, regardless of the score during the game, they never gave up and I have a huge amount of respect for that.

With one or two players returning from injury, I'm excited to see where this season takes us.

The boys will have to keep on their toes as Dad will be watching from above.

Come on you Lions!

Simon O'Neill, manager



Note from the publisher

For advertising opportunities please email info@thejournal.life. Space is booked on a yearly subscription basis and runs from September 26 until August 27. Priority will always be given to local businesses. The Journal takes no responsibility for the standard of goods or services provided and accepts no liability on any loss or damage from acceptance of any advertisers.





Fenstanton Church Centre

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE - NOW WITH WI-FI

Fenstanton Church Centre provides the ideal venue with Wi-Fi for
Family Celebrations, Community groups & classes, Meetings...

For further information go to-
www.fenstantonchurchcentre.org.uk

Or email: churchcentre@outlook.com
Or contact: Mrs P Hucklesby: 01954 230471

Prices include heating. Commercial use welcomed, please contact for further details.

PRICES PER HOUR	Main hall	Bertha Pitfield Room	Main hall & Bertha Pitfield Room	NEW Meeting Room (upstairs)
Regular	£12.50	£8.00	£15.00	£8.00
Casual	£15.00	£10.00	£17.50	£10.00



Coffee Mornings at Hilton Methodist Hall, Potton Road

Saturday, 3 October 10:00 - 12:00

Saturday, 7 November 10:00 - 12:00

Come and Join Us for a Coffee and a Chat!

Everyone Welcome



ALAN'S CARPETS

Carpets and Vinyl Supplied and Fitted

Showroom Opening Times
Mon, Wed, Fri 10am - 2pm
& Sat 9am - 12pm.
Also by appointment

Express delivery
& fitting.
Free Quotes

We have been in the carpet
trade for 50 years!
Home sample service
available.

Phone

07790 681317 | 01954 232298

1 Station Road, Swavesey, Cambridge CB24 4QJ

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ☒ Reactive & emergency repairs
- ☒ Planned & preventative maintenance
- ☒ Landscaping & yard work
- ☒ General handyman services
- ☒ All specialised trade work
- ☒ Vacant unit turnover
- ☒ Cleaning & janitorial services
- ☒ Waste & debris removal



RTJ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LTD

Property Repairs, Refurbishments & Renovations



01223 751761



rtjpropertymanagement.co.uk



PROUD TO SUPPORT ROYSTON TOWN FC

What you're Missing

Fenstanton Friendship Club

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

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

12 August Our trip to Sheringham. Twenty-two of us left Fenstanton at 9.00 am by coach, arriving in Sheringham by 11.20 am. The weather was beautiful with a breeze coming from the sea. An enjoyable time was had by all with some of us going on the steam and diesel train to Holt.



24 August "Who do you think you are, and how did you get here?" A talk by John Deeks, reminding us of our ancestry and the number of circumstances that enabled our existence. Very thought provoking, many were enthused to trace their family tree.



Upcoming meetings

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

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

4 November Carvery at Hartford Mill.

18 November Revd. Alison Davis minister of the URC will talk of the journey in her chosen vocation.

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

Hilton Flower Club

2 September: our meeting was a talk and slide show on ROSES and who they were named after, right back to the 17th/18th century, they are wonderful old roses with fabulous smells, that are still going today, we had not heard of most of them before. It was a very interesting afternoon.

5 October: BRIDGET DAVIDSON will be our flower demonstrator, we look forward to meeting her and seeing her wonderful creations.

2 November: TIM MEAKIN will be doing CHRISTMAS flower arrangements, we look forward to seeing him again and also getting ideas for our CHRISTMAS arrangements at home.

7 December: CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Hilton Village Hall 2pm - 4pm

Entrance £7.50 (includes tea/coffee, biscuits)

NO membership, just pay on the door.

Look forward to seeing you. Beverley and June



Hilton Community Hub

The summer break gave our organising team time to recharge their personal batteries. Sam offered us sketching mornings in the shade of the walnut tree on the Village Green which was naturally accompanied by conversation or bring-your-own preference. On one of those days we were even entertained to a wonderful, lengthy flying display by Spitfires (Mosquitoes?) rehearsing, no doubt, for a Duxford event (or maybe even for us!)

Thank you so much Sam.

Now we are back to enjoy the marvellous mornings that mean so much to us with a varied programme of interesting fixtures. We've already enjoyed Love Sheep Week and learnt about Fire and Rescue in the Home, still to come; Lucy Williams, the Royal British Legion county fundraiser, advice on Tai Chi fitness and Yorkshire Pudding Day together with those lovely lunches and quizzes that always seem to fit the theme of the day.

International Smile Day takes place on Friday



October 2nd. It was established in 1999 by an American, Harvey Ball, who also invented the yellow smiley face emoji that we all know together with advice to 'do an act of kindness, help one person smile, bring joy to your community'.

This happens every Wednesday morning in Hilton Village Hall from 10:00ish to 1:00ish. If you haven't been yet, we miss you.

Fen Drayton Bowls Club news

Short mat bowls

We have been developing both our short mat indoor bowls and outdoor green facilities.

We have a number of new members both new to bowls and experienced who have joined us this year. Our outdoor season has come to a close, and following restructuring we are now focussing on indoor short mat bowls, which takes place in Fen Drayton village hall. No need to book in advance, turn up on either of the days. We can provide bowls and tuition. Flat soled footwear please.



Mondays 2-4pm | Fridays 7-9pm

Contact: Stephen George
Club Secretary

07876 407219

or stephengeorge79@gmail.com

www.fendraytonbowls.co.uk

If you'd like to come and join us at any of the above sessions, you are more than welcome.

For more information, scan the QR code.



What you're Missing

Hilton WI

2026 marks the 111th birthday of the Women's Institute and it has been suggested that nationally we would like to take a photograph of three lady members standing tall together like a "111". What a challenge 111 years has been and what countless, amazing, achievements made, both as groups and by amazing women. Our colours alone match those of the Suffragettes, in reflection there is so much of which to be very proud.

So what of Hilton today? Hilton has a thriving membership and an exciting, varied list of speakers ahead, even some in 2028.

Our Summer Buffet broke away from the norm, not exactly a buffet but a fish and chips evening. Sarah organised everything necessary - the menu choices, our payments, the delivery and we enjoyed it all without first having to slave over hot ovens this time. It was a pleasant change.

Thank you Sarah.

Our Cinema group is ever alert to Cineworld and Corn Exchange offerings. A large group enjoyed Song Sung Blue, a tender, deeply emotional story based on the life of Neil Diamond; due to its sub-titles we mainly refused Sentimental Journey, but are now

looking forward to seeing Pressure.

Canasta has lit a fire of interest, not only with the fortnightly sessions in the Village Hall but often with smaller groups also meeting for more at home.

Craft Club had a short summer break but we are back with our own projects but there is also a pattern for a fascinating autumnal felt door or window wreath offered in the national magazine. We will also be knitting Beanie hats for cancer patients at Woodlands (based at Hinchbrook Hospital) who have lost their hair.

Finally - about that missing book of stamps.

Check in wallet, check once more.

Hunt through bag, look in drawer.

Scour the shelves, peek in purse,

Turn out cupboards, swear and curse.

Go to shop, buy new stamps, put in wallet, next to stamps.

(with thanks to Brian Bilston)

Are you an interested new member?
hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com



The Yellow Pages



Venues for hire

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

Councils

Cambridgeshire County Council	0345 045 5200
Fen Drayton Parish Council	07704 023534
Fenstanton Parish Council	01480 465300
Hilton Parish Council	07770 697240
Huntingdonshire District Council	01480 388388
South Cambs District Council	0345 045 0500

Community Groups and Clubs

Books and Jigsaws at FURC	07541 358348
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	07541 358348
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

Community Groups and Clubs

Hilton HGV Watch	07768 294878
Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	01480 831658
Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	07970 404569
Hilton Speed Watch	07540 811115
Hilton Town Trust	01480 830866
Hilton WI	01480 831186
RSPB	01954 233260
Slimming World	07568 444140

Community events

Fen Drayton 10k run	07919 254467
Fenstanton Christmas Market	07949 453767
Hilton Feast Week	01480 830605
Hilton Produce Show	01480 830412
Hilton Summer Ball	01480 831299
The BIG Village Fun Day	07713 413060

Education

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

Churches

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

Emergency numbers

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

Emergency numbers

Fly Tipping	0345 0450500
Gas leak	0800 111 999
Non emergency medical	111
Non emergency Police	101
Papworth pharmacy	01480 831415
Papworth surgery	01480 830888
Peterborough City Hospital	01733 678000
Power cut	0800 678 3105
Samaritans	116 123 Free
Swavesey surgery	01954 230202
Water leak	0800 316 7676

Buses

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

Eating places

Barry's Plaice	01480 462382
Little Piggy Cafe	07764 336911

Retail

Alan's Carpets	07790 681317
Ash's Store	01480 466225
Denise Jackson Interiors	07910 507514
Eye Specs	01480 499606
Ron's Farm Shop	01480 495127
Soft Furnishings by Pamela Anne	07411 805715

Garden services

Hamptons Groundcare	01480 274848
Hemingford Arboriculture	01480 463674

Decorators

Jason Kirby	01954 211775
N&M Decor	07799 598810

Design, printing and copying

St Ives Quickprint Ltd	01480 465215
------------------------	--------------

Household services

Cambridgeshire Bathrooms	01480 598750
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
MC Cleaning Ltd	07496 508596
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

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

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



HAMPTONS

GROUNDSCAPE & PEST CONTROL

Your local Pest Control Company based in Huntingdon
and run by local people.

Offering same day service at competitive rates



 T: 01480 274848 / 07519 111667

 info@hamptonspestcontrol.co.uk

www.hamptonspestcontrol.co.uk

Taking the sting out of the job!