

September 2026

The Journal

Fen Drayton ■ Fenstanton ■ Hilton

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of the Ancients**

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hedgehogs for
hibernation**

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STEAMING Summer

At the time of writing the temperatures have returned to the seasonal normal but are set to raise again next week. Whilst this weather is great for all the families on holiday it is creating havoc for those farming the land around us. Crop yields are down due to the lack of rain and as the ground is rock hard it is impossible to plant the next crop. Not that it would germinate if you could get the seeds into the ground.

The harvest this year has been earlier than ever before and will seem a long distant memory when we celebrate the harvest in October. Scientists have been warning us of the effects of climate change and their words have fallen of deaf ears. Let's hope it is not too late to listen.

One thing that has not changed is The Journal and we are back after our summer break with a bumper issue packed full of interesting articles, so enjoy.



From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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Cover photograph by Gill Parrish



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Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

September 2026

- 01 High Tea, Welcome Space
- 12 Hobbies and Collectibles Day, URC
- 12 Fake News band, Village Hall
- 13 Pimms & Pate lunch (for Restoration Fund)
- 25 Macmillan Coffee Morning, URC
- 26 Quiz Night for Feast Week
- 27 Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church

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
- 24 Poppy Appeal Day

November 2026

- 28 Fenstanton Christmas Market, Clock Tower

December 2026

- 05 Mulled wine evening

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

Village News

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BIG Village Fun Day scarecrow trail and competition



Thank you to all the fabulous Fenstanton folk who supported the Scarecrow Trail, which was enjoyed by families, couples, groups and individuals travelling round the village trail by foot, buggy, bike and car.

Thank you to all scarecrow creators for your fabulous entries. Thank you also to Steve Mann and Naturespace for supporting and sponsoring the Scarecrow Trail.

The winning entries were as follows:

First - Mary Poppins in Church Lane, imagined and created by Catherine Stokes

Second - Tooth Fairy, High Street

Third - Wolly Wonky Welding Service, Headlands



Winning Scarecrow Mary Poppins with creator Catherine Stokes, Head Judge Ron Jacob and Steve Mann, MD Naturespace

Fenstanton Big Village Fun Day – a memorable day

Imagine a scene where hundreds of people, young and old, are enjoying a very sunny day, having fun, eating, drinking, dancing, playing sports, listening to music and whiling away a whole day in safety and happiness. Imagine a village where your children race around, jumping in sacks, throwing wet sponges at their teachers, singing in a choir and dancing to an enraptured audience. Imagine a day where you can check out the dog show, listen to two live bands, enjoy viewing or trying out some tug-of-war high jinx, all for free. Imagine a collection of many clubs and organisations all pulling together to make the best of days for so many people, giving up their time so that others can enjoy a truly memorable day!



Imagine all this, and no cost for entry – actually this all happened in our village. If you missed the Big Village Fun Day this year on 4 July, then you missed out on a great village event, supported by Fenstanton Parish Council.

Hilton & Fenstanton Primary School PTA, along with Fenstanton Football Club, the Fenstanton Parish Church Restoration



Fund group, the United Reformed Church, Scouts and Cubs, Little Piggy and a whole posse of helpers from the Fenstanton Sports Day committee all helped to make this a wonderful event. Thank you to everyone who helped.

If you like what you hear, come along to next year's Fun Day on 3 July 2027 at the school field.

Even better, why not join us in organising the event and contact David Martynski at dhmartynski@gmail.com





Welcome

Coffee, Cake & Church

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

Sunday 23 Aug
Sunday 27 Sep
Sunday 25 Oct

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!

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Village News



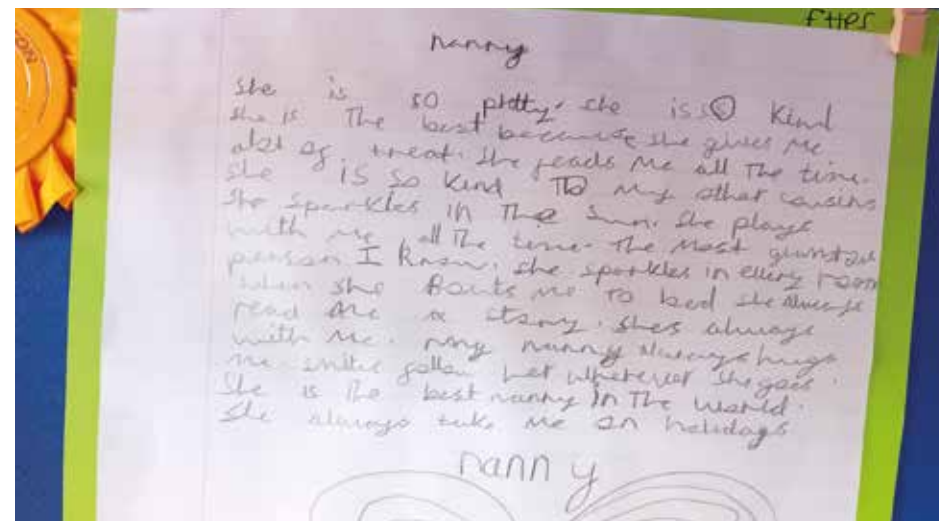
Fenstanton Big Fun Day: children's writing competition

Task: Write about "Why my Grandma/Grandad is the Best".

Prizes were given by The Journal, with the overall winner awarded a book token value £25 and the winners of the other two age categories each winning book tokens for £10.

Winner Year 2 – Year 3, and overall winner of the competition: Ashley, Year 3
Nanny

She is so pretty. She is kind. She is the Best because she gives me a lot of treats. She feeds me all the time. She is so kind to my other cousins. She sparkles in the sun. She plays with me all the time. The most generous person I know. She sparkles in every room. When she puts me to bed she always reads me a story. She's always with me. My nanny always hugs me. Smiles follow her wherever she goes. She is the best nanny in the world. She always takes me on holidays.



Winner Year 4 – Year 6: Jacob, Year 4
Great Nanny Hazel

She is the Best because she always looked out for me and gave me love. I really wish she was here. She provided laughter wherever she went, bringing sunshine indoors. The food she grew was very filling, it always needed applause. I love her very much and I know I will for ever and ever.

Winner Reception and Year 1: Evelyn
Love Grandma

*She is the Best.
 She is kind. She is funny. She is happy.*

Find a defibrillator near you

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

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

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

Fenstanton Church Centre on School Lane
 reclusive.creeps.deleting

Fenstanton Zaza barbers on Headlands
 thing.pylon.relatives

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

Hilton Cricket Pavilion
 clerk.farmland.unroll





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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



Fenstanton
Christmas Market
& BIG LIGHTS SWITCH ON

SATURDAY
28 NOVEMBER 2026
3pm to 7pm

Call for Stall Holders

If you are a craftsperson, food producer, or small business and would like to take part in this magical Christmas event, we would love to hear from you!

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Get in touch: Roy McGee 07949 45376 roy.mcgee@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

Be part of Fenstanton's favourite festive celebration!

Strawberry and raspberry jams for sale at £3 each

In aid of MacMillan Cancer Research.

Contact is Rosemary Blake (Hilton),
01480 830137.



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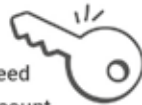


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Hilton Feast Week

Feast Week 2026 – That’s a Wrap!

What a week! A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this year’s Hollywood-themed Feast Week such a fantastic success.

There are far too many people to mention individually, but the Feast Week Committee would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who played a part. From the volunteers who helped set up and clear up, slept in the marquee, manned the kids bar, and lent a hand with Sports Day, to those who organised the wonderful Produce Show and Art Show – every contribution, big or small, helped make the week possible.



Our thanks also go to the many local groups and organisations who led events throughout the week, including Monach Farm for a brilliant Open Farm afternoon, the churches for Songs of Praise, the Teddy Bears’ Picnic and Friday Feast, and everyone else who gave their time, enthusiasm and support. Feast Week is a true community effort, and we simply couldn’t do it without you.



Last, but certainly not least, thank you to everyone who came along, took part and helped create such a wonderful atmosphere. Feast Week wouldn’t be Feast Week without you!

Looking Ahead to Feast Week 2027

Planning is already underway for a very special Feast Week next year as we celebrate 50 years of Feast Week, and we’d love your help in making it our biggest and best celebration yet.

We’re looking for:-

- Old Feast Week photographs
- Programmes, posters or other memorabilia
- Memories and stories from previous committee members
- Your favourite Feast Week moments from years gone by

We’re also looking to grow our team of volunteers. If you think you could help with any aspect of Feast Week 2027, we’d love to hear from you. There’s no obligation to commit at this stage, but we’re keen to build a list of people we can call on as preparations gather pace.

If you have memories to share, memorabilia we could borrow, or would like to volunteer, please get in touch by emailing committee@feastweek.co.uk.

Quiz Night – Save the Date!

Before then, why not join us at our next fundraiser? Our ever-popular Quiz Night takes place on Saturday 26th September, and tickets are available now. Gather a team, put your knowledge to the test and help support next year’s 50th anniversary celebrations. We’d love to see you there!

Helping residents stay independent for longer with mobile wardens

Excerpt from South Cambs District Council news release 2 July 2026

Hundreds of South Cambridgeshire residents are already benefiting from a simple service that reduces loneliness, boosts confidence and helps people stay independent at home for longer – and the District Council is urging more people to take advantage.

The Council is encouraging more residents to make use of the Mobile Warden Schemes which it helps to fund. Mobile wardens help people live independently, safely and happily in their own homes.

Molly Chamberlain, a local resident and client of the scheme, said: “When you are sitting at home 24/7 and you can’t get out for whatever reason, you know that in half an hour the warden is coming. You’ll have a chat and she will cheer you up and you feel 100% better. It’s like going out for an evening with a friend.”

The schemes also provide peace of mind for families and carers, offering reassurance that someone local is regularly checking in and supporting their loved ones.

Molly’s daughter, Gail Cooke, commented: “It’s the reassurance of knowing she’s safe in our own home. I can’t always be there for my



Mum but the reassurance of knowing that there is an extra pair of hands puts my mind at rest, for which I will always be grateful.”

Wardens offer regular visits, a friendly face and a trusted point of contact – helping to reduce loneliness and isolation while improving overall wellbeing and quality of life.

Mobile Wardens also play a key role in helping residents feel safer and more confident at home. Through regular check-ins and help with small everyday tasks, wardens can spot potential issues early and prevent them from becoming more serious problems, supporting people to remain independent for longer.

Residents or family members who would like to find out more, or refer someone to a local scheme, can visit www.scambs.gov.uk/mobile-warden-schemes





Ian Sollom MP

Update: Potholes and subsidence in Cambridgeshire roads

Cambridgeshire had the worst pothole problem in England and Wales in 2024 with over 22 potholes per mile. A significant amount of the vital funding allocated to improve our roads is swallowed up by the high cost of maintaining peat-affected roads across our fenland areas.

Earlier this year, I pressed the Transport Secretary to adjust the roads funding formula to take into account the unique geology of our area. Since then, I have submitted multiple Written Parliamentary Questions and a letter which all produced the same response: "That the Government will be reviewing the funding formula, but it would not provide any further details of options or approach."

I am therefore pleased that a recent joint letter to the Transport Secretary from Charlotte Cane MP, Pippa Heylings MP and me produced a much more encouraging response that now states "the Department expects to consider underlying geology as

one of the many factors that affect the wear and tear of local roads."

This is a clear step forward. I will be watching closely as the Government develops proposals for changes to the highways maintenance funding formula, and I will continue pressing for a fair deal that recognises Cambridgeshire's unique needs.

Get in Touch

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

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



Fenstanton Cemetery

Memorial safety update

Fenstanton Parish Council has recently carried out a full inspection of memorials in the cemetery to ensure the area remains safe for all visitors. A number of headstones and kerbstones were found to be loose or unstable, mainly due to natural ground movement and age. Where a memorial presents a safety risk, it will be temporarily laid down or secured to prevent injury.

We appreciate that the cemetery is a place of reflection and remembrance, and we will approach all works with sensitivity. If a memorial is still visited regularly, we will place a small notice on the stone inviting families to contact the Parish Council so we can discuss next steps.

These actions are part of our ongoing commitment to keeping the cemetery safe and wellmaintained for everyone. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Parish Council office.

Coffee And Chats

EVERY 2ND & 4TH
WEDNESDAYS OF THE
MONTH

JOIN US FOR A
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11am till 1pm



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.

Alex Bulat, District Councillor for St Ives South

I was elected to Huntingdonshire District Council in May 2026 as one of the 2 councillors for St Ives South ward, which covers Fenstanton North. I am also the County Councillor for St Ives South and Needingworth since 2025. I am the only Labour and Co-Operative District Councillor in Huntingdonshire and I am in opposition as a non-aligned member.

The first few months have been mainly busy with local government reorganisation and local plan discussions. I have been vocal in the council chamber including supporting Option E for a standalone Huntingdonshire unitary

and seconding a cross-party motion from Cllr Keane on the need for infrastructure readiness ahead of the local plan debate. I am on one of the two scrutiny panels - Environment, Community and Health and was also appointed as the district council's representative on the County Health Scrutiny Committee.

I have regular monthly drop-in resident surgeries at St Ives Library and can be contacted at alex.bulat@huntingdonshire.gov.uk for any district issues.



Nick Sarkies, District Councillor for Fenstanton and Hilton

May I introduce myself as the District Councillor for Fenstanton and Hilton, elected at the beginning of May this year. As a resident of Hilton for nearly 40 years, now retired from a career in the local NHS, it is an honour to be able to represent our beautiful villages. I wish to help make our villages even better places to live in the future, seeking to balance the advantages of progress and development with conservation of what is special about our two villages.

Huntingdon District Council is facing two major decisions about its future in the next year. First, Local Government Reorganization will make the Council a unitary authority dealing with matters of social care, education and transport as well as the duties of rubbish collection and recycling, local planning applications and building control, housing, council tax collection, environmental health and supervision of parks and leisure facilities. The decision about the future of

Huntingdonshire has recently been postponed until October. There is also an ambitious Local Plan for the development of our region over the next twenty years with a target of over 32000 new homes (over half of which are already built or committed) and over 14000 new jobs. This Plan will require considerable investment in infrastructure including transport and the provision of water and sewerage. Further details are available from the Huntingdonshire District Council website, <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-update/> and another consultation period is due to start in September.

I look forward to reporting further about the progress of these developments to residents of Fenstanton and Hilton.

Contact nick.sarkies@huntingdonshire.gov.uk



Chris Poulton, County Councillor for Papworth, Swavesey and surrounding villages

It has been a year since I was elected as the Cambridgeshire County Councillor for the Papworth & Swavesey division, which includes Fen Drayton, Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Graveley and Knapwell. In this article I want to introduce myself and explain a little about what I've been doing.

I grew up in Cambridge and have two adult children. I live with my wife in Caxton, hosting Ukrainian refugees. My career has been in technology and renewable energy businesses, working across Europe in multiple industry sectors, championing best practice, and more recently as an investor, supporting start-up companies developing outstanding technologies in the Cambridge area.

As local county councillor, I am working hard to support residents and stand up for our villages. My goal is to help make our area an even better place to live, work and raise a family. I know residents continue to have concerns about the impact of large-scale developments on our villages, the need for proper infrastructure, medical services and road improvements, and protecting our environment and green spaces.

As well as building relationships with parish councils, officers and community groups, much of my first year has been spent on three main issues:

Successive governments have prioritised our area for new housing, without investing in the infrastructure necessary to support an increased population. This has put pressure on local services and increased road congestion. On top of this, we are now seeing plans for four giant A14 logistics hubs around the Bar Hill and Swavesey junctions, which can only cause more traffic and HGV parking problems. I am working with local community forums to lobby Greater Cambridge Planning,



County Highways, the Combined Authority and the new Greater Cambridge Development Corporation to ensure that local voices are listened to, and necessary mitigations are put in place,

Cuts to Environment Agency funding have put our area at risk of serious flooding as nearby Great Ouse sluice gates have been allowed to deteriorate. Working flood gates are essential to controlling water levels when rainfall is high and there is risk of high tides. Last spring, I visited the Environment Agency control centre at Denver to better understand their problems. Fortunately, lobbying of DEFRA by our local MP and the county council has now resulted in funding and the commitment to undertake these important repairs.

As a result of the recent tragic deaths on the busway, the county council is having to install protective fencing along its full length. This will mean that there can only be a limited number of designated, controlled crossing points. Local walkers and equestrians are naturally concerned that this may result in certain footpaths and bridleways which currently cross the busway being blocked. I am working to ensure that their voices are heard, and where possible some of these crossings are included.

To see Cllr Poulton's latest monthly reports visit the Fen Drayton PC website at www.fendrayton.org



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Cambridgeshire and surrounding areas

Let's do coffee



Madingley Hall, a surprising venue

The magnificent Tudor pile that is Madingley Hall is probably best known as being Cambridge University's Centre for Professional and Continuing Education and as a venue for weddings and other functions.

Perhaps less well-known is the Café and Terrace Bar. This is at the back of the Hall, at the end of a long corridor from the main entrance, even though other parts of the Hall itself are not open to the public.



The café serves freshly-brewed coffee and hot and cold beverages, home-made cakes and light lunches. It is an ideal spot to unwind after visiting the Hall's beautiful walled garden, the Yew Topiary Garden or after a walk around the extensive landscaped parkland, much of which was designed by Capability Brown. There is no charge for visiting the gardens or for car parking.

A souvenir guide to the gardens can be purchased for £6.00.

Seating in the café is very comfortable and on fine days you can sit outside on the terrace overlooking the croquet lawn and the park. The café is open daily from 9:30am to 4:00pm and it is dog-friendly. Prices are very reasonable but payment must be made by card or phone.



The Walled Garden



The Croquet Lawn

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited



Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Place: Fenstanton U R Church
Date: Friday 25 September
Time: 10-00am -12 noon
Contact: Jean Ding
There will be a Raffle and Bring
and Buy

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Fenstanton United
Reformed Church

Harvest Festival



Songs of Praise
Sunday 04 October
3.00pm

Fenstanton United
Reformed Church

Hobbies, Crafts and Collections

On Saturday 12 September
10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Vintage/Classic
Cars/Tractors
On show outside

In the church will be

Knitting and Sewing
Handmade Crafts
Handmade Jewellery
Cards and Paper Craft
Books and Jigsaws
Old photos of Fenstanton
Local History

Refreshments on sale
And lots more

Entrance fee is just £1.00
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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.



Egypt, the land of the Ancients

By Roger Davies

What would you have done? Fly to Egypt for a week's holiday the morning after Trump's ultimatum to Iran last April, or stay at home? We decided to go. We were fortunate, a two-week ceasefire was agreed the morning of departure.

Cairo for a first-time visitor is a wonder. The population of 23 million is over twice as big as London. The traffic seems chaotic: the 14-lane ring road makes the M25 seem tame. The only rule seems to be that traffic on each side of the road should travel in the same direction, but even that is optional! Using indicators is rare when changing lanes, instead, barging in front of another car while hooting is the norm. Speed is restricted by having unmarked road humps across the road so all the traffic slows down to crawl over the hump.

The chaotic traffic behaviour belies the fact that Egypt has one of the oldest civilizations in the world starting around 3,000 BC (approximate date of Stonehenge) followed by 33 dynasties until 30 BC. It is incredible that the temples, written language and artwork can still be seen today.

Grand Egyptian Museum

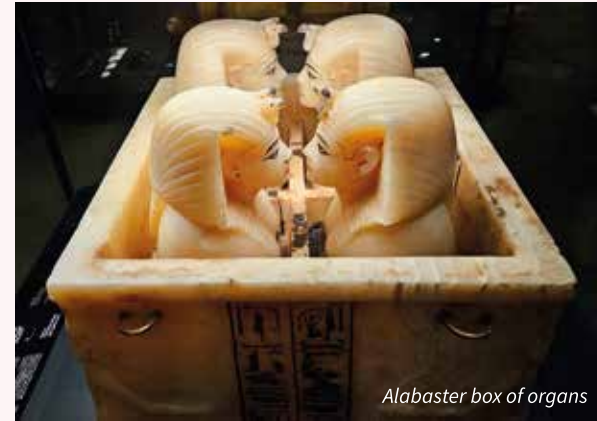


The Grand Egyptian Museum - Tutankhamun

The starting point for any visitor is the Grand Egyptian Museum, opened six months ago. It is impressive, with over 100,000 artefacts in 12 exhibition halls including the complete collection from King Tutankhamun's tomb. The entrance atrium contains the colossal granite statue of Ramses II (known as Ozymandias by the Greeks), 11 metres high and weighing 75 tonnes. He was the king (pharaoh) who fought the Hittites at Kadesh in 1274 BC. Ramses II had engravings made of him smiting the Hittites to build his reputation as a great military ruler.



The most popular section of the museum is the Tutankhamun exhibition. It includes nearly 6,000 artefacts. The mummy is encased in a series of nested structures like a Russian doll. There are four nested gilded shrines (boxes like containers). In the smallest of these shrines there is a stone sarcophagus containing three nested coffins with a gold inner coffin and the death mask. The organs except for the heart were put in an alabaster box topped with the heads



Alabaster box of organs

of four guardian goddesses. The relics also include a throne, chariots and objects such as sandals.

A BBC 4 programme last April explained that the boy king had inherited genetic defects: a club foot and epilepsy, which would have weakened his immune system. Genetic



Tutankhamun's throne relic

defects arose from inbreeding, as incestuous marriage to retain the sacred bloodline was the norm. His parents were brother (Akhenaten) and sister. Tutankhamun also had a fractured left femur which could have become infected and caused his death. Also, in 2023, a research team discovered DNA from several strains of a parasite (*Plasmodium falciparum*), indicating that Tutankhamun was repeatedly infected with a severe strain of malaria. From the new museum, there is a

view of the pyramids of Giza, built in 2600 BC. The scale is staggering. The Great Pyramid is 140m high with 2.3m blocks weighing on average 2.6 tonnes and took around 26 years to build. And, by the way, it was a sultanate that ruled Egypt in the 14th century that destroyed the nose of the sphinx, not Napoleon Bonaparte.

Tombs - Valley of the Kings

To get an idea of how the ancient kings were buried, a visit to the Valley of the Kings south of Cairo is a must. The valley is on the west side of the Nile because the ancient Egyptians believed that the afterlife was



related to the sun's cycle. As the sun 'died' over the west bank and was 'reborn' in the east, so by being buried on the west bank, the dead would also be reborn. This has left

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



Trains, Boats and Planes



Pyramids of Giza

a collection of 65 tombs built over 500 years from the 16th to the 11th centuries BC in a relatively small area.

The tombs were not only for kings but also favourite nobles and wives and children. The corridors leading down underground are decorated with images and hieroglyphics of the kings, gods and goddesses. The quality of the paintings and engravings is mostly very good considering their age. It is difficult to understand what the images mean without some knowledge of the Ancient Egyptian myths and beliefs, so here is a brief explanation.

The Osiris Myth

The Osiris myth is the basis for much of the ancient artwork and for the concept of mummification. Osiris inherited the kingship

from his ancestors descended from the creator of the world Ra. He was murdered by his brother Set who took over the throne and sought to marry Osiris's wife, Isis. Isis refused Set and restored her husband's body, allowing him to posthumously conceive their son, Horus. Set, then cut Osiris into 16 pieces and scattered them across Egypt. Isis searched out the pieces and recreated Osiris who became the first mummy. Horus, the son of Isis and Osiris, became Set's rival for the throne. Horus won the conflict and Set was destroyed, thus Horus became king of Egypt.

The king in each tomb is shown in his tomb's engravings and paintings as part of the myth. For example, Ramses III with Horus.

Temples - Luxor, Karnak and Edfu

The most visited temples are in Luxor and Aswan between 400 and 600 miles south of Cairo. These are modern cities with a good range of hotels. The larger hotels have attractive locations on the east bank of the Nile.

The temples have one or many large gateways, or pylons. Many of the temples have statues, pylons and columns decorated with paintings and engravings showing the king who built



Osiris portrayed as a woman holding an ankh



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Trains, Boats and Planes

Ramses III with Horus



it and/or scenes from the Osiris myths. For example, the temple at Luxor constructed from 1400BC onwards originally by Amenhotep III and then by Ramses II has two statues flanking the first pylon entrance. These were statues of Amenhotep, but Ramses II erased Amenhotep's names and replaced them with his own.

In the temple court there is a statue of a sacred scarab beetle. Visitors are told that if they walk around the statue the requisite number of times (three, seven or nine) they

will have good luck, marriage or a child. There were a lot of visitors doing the rounds!

The scenes from the Osiris myth are best seen at one of the best-preserved temples, the Temple of Edfu built in Ptolemaic times around 200BC. Its entrance pylon on the left shows Ptolemy XII defeating his enemies and in front of the entrance there are two statues of Horus as a falcon. Inside, there are magnificent columns and beautiful engravings.

When to visit Egypt

What is the best time to visit Egypt? In early April the temperature in Aswan was over 30°C and it exceeds 40° in the summer months. The best time to go is November to March.



Hotel on the Nile - evening

Let's do coffee

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





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Hilton: magistrate fined for assault on doctor in churchyard

by Malcolm Lynn

Huntingdon Quarter Sessions would not normally be the court to deal with a case of assault – but when the alleged assailant is himself a magistrate, the case cannot be heard in a Magistrate's Court.

For that reason the judge, Mr Justice Gaselee, found himself presiding over a case that would normally have been tried in a lower court. It would be an understatement to say that he was not best pleased, not only because the trial reflected badly on the judiciary but also because he had another sixty prisoners awaiting trial in his calendar.

You may be relieved to learn that the offence dates from October 21st 1830 and the case was tried in March 1831, so there is no risk of any of the people involved suing The Journal for libel!

The case before the court concerned an alleged assault by Walter Peck of Hilton on George Goodman Hewett, who lived at Hilton Hall. As a recently-appointed magistrate and a Churchwarden, Mr Peck (born in

1781) was a farmer of some standing in the community, which numbered about 320 people then. Mr Hewett was also prominent in the community, as a surgeon and a former Churchwarden, although he was not popular in the village.

Hewett's evidence was that the assault took place at a meeting to inspect the constable's accounts. There were only three people present at the meeting, Peck, Hewett and the Parish Constable, William Hodge. Hewett objected to some items in the accounts but Peck thought they should be allowed. Because there were only the three of them there, Peck ordered the constable to go and find some more people to attend. Hewett was affronted by Peck's attitude and said that Peck was treating the constable too much like a servant.

Hewett told the court that Peck then left with the constable and that he, Hewett, followed shortly afterwards, where he found Peck at the church door. As Hewett passed

him, Peck called out to Hewett "YOU ARE A BLACKGUARD", to which Hewett replied, "I am no blackguard; blackguards swear". Peck answered back – "YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO THE CHURCH AND THE PARISH; old Mr Theed told you so". (Old Mr Theed was probably Rev. Edward Theed, who was 74 at the time and who was living at Hilton House). Peck then flew into a rage, rushed up to Hewett and said "I'll give you a threshing." Hewett continued, "As the defendant is a powerful man, I retreated from him towards the gate in the churchyard but he knocked off my hat and wig, cut my eye open and beat me on the ground till I called out "murder". Peck then shouted "damn you,

you may call but nobody will come to help you".

Hewett said he felt "faint and exhausted" and walked to a nearby farmhouse, leaving his wig in the churchyard. He then went home and rode to Huntingdon to get medical attention from Mr. Fox. He clearly felt that his injuries were too serious to be a case of "physician heal thyself".

On cross-examination, Hewett said, "I did not call him a rascal. I did not go round him or strike him. My hand might have touched him when I was warding off his blows. There might have been words passed between us at passing the accounts. I might have said that I was ready for Peck, with pistol, sword, law or pocket - but not on that day. Many things are said by men in a passion and forgotten. I was not in a passion on that day". For some reason, this assertion caused great amusement and laughter in the court!

The Counsel for the Defence, Mr. Gunning, then switched his questioning to examine Hewett's character; "You are pretty constant appellant, I believe, at the Sessions?" Hewett said, "I believe you know that. (The background to that remark will be the subject of a future article in The Journal).

The doctor from Huntingdon, Mr Fox, was then called as a witness and he testified that Hewett's face had been "much bruised" and that there was a wound under his eye an inch and a half long.

The Counsel for the Defence, then addressed the jury. He described his client, Peck, as a gentleman of private fortune, and universally respected whereas Hewett had a reputation "as a man of ceaseless litigation, appearing constantly at the Sessions and putting the Parish to an almost ruinous expense". Several witnesses were then called to prove that Peck, the defendant, was a very peaceful and quiet man.



The crime scene - the path to Hilton church door

The jury then retired to consider their verdict and they deliberated for some time. When they returned, their verdict was GUILTY.

The judge then asked if there was no possibility of putting an end to these matters. (He was referring to a number of cases that had previously been brought to the court brought by Hewett). "There was evidently much of bad feeling in this parish", he declared, and with that, he adjourned the case for sentencing the following day.

The next day, Peck was sentenced to pay a fine of £20, or around £3,000 in today's money.

Although these events happened many years ago, the names of the people involved have not been forgotten. Memorial tablets in the Parish Church mention Edward Theed and George Goodman Hewett and I assume that Peck's Close in Hilton is named after the Peck family, or possibly Walter Peck himself.

Main references for this article:- The Morning Herald (London), 11 March 1831, page 4; The Bury and Suffolk Herald, 16 March 1831, front page; Hilton, Huntingdonshire by Jack Dady; The East Anglian Magazine, March 1981 and The London Gazette, 13 November 1829.



Huntingdon Town Hall, formerly the Court House

"I absolutely love everything about it! I was hooked, right from the start. Our teacher, Charlie, is so encouraging. She is very clear in her instructions and makes it all great fun. The music is varied and always a delight. It is very challenging to begin to learn to dance in your senior years, but I can sum up the whole experience by saying that I look forward to my class; a highlight of my week."

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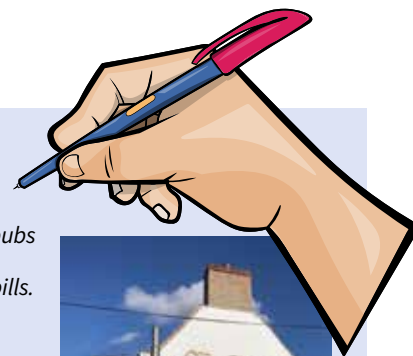


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The RAD Silver Swans programme is designed for the over 55s, but classes are open to all ages

Letters to the Editor...



In July 2026 the Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, said that pubs are "our cultural heritage" and that he was taking steps in April 2027 to help them survive by cutting business rates' bills.

In my opinion The Duchess, an early 18th century Grade II listed building formerly known as The George, embodies that description. Its rich cultural history is essential to enable Fenstanton maintain its unique character. Just a few examples of Fenstanton's history: It is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086: It was the site of a Roman villa, and recent archaeological finds in 2017 discovered evidence of a Roman Crucifixion; It was the ancestral home of John Howland, one of the Pilgrims on the Mayflower which landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620: In the 18th Century Lancelot "Capability" Brown purchased the Manor in Fenstanton and there is a headstone in the churchyard of St Peter & St Paul Fenstanton.



Parts of The Duchess pub date back over 500 years and would have been a witness, and part of, a myriad of historical events.

In March 2026, without warning their customers and the village, the owners of The Duchess pub stated on their Web page that it had closed its doors permanently. I personally felt that the owners were custodians of a village community asset. They had renovated the pub to an exemplary standard, with a wonderful restaurant, patio area, car park. All of which had disabled access. It was well supported when events were put on - Rotary Club quizzes, music nights (even organised their own choir), bingo, Bank Holidays, celebrations, wakes, football and golf teams. Sadly, events dried up, as did footfall.

Thankfully the Crown & Pipes was renovated by Mr & Mrs Humphreys and opened in November 2025 in time for the Christmas market. With the best will in the world the Crown & Pipes will not be able to sustain the village in wintertime due to its limited space & lack of disabled facilities. There were five drinking establishments when I came to the village 35 years ago; down from over 16 through the years and the majority of which are now private houses.

In an effort to ensure The Duchess pub is considered a village asset, because it helps with maintaining social interests and contributes to the social well-being of the local community, if it were to be sold, the Parish Council has put in an ACV (Asset of Community Value) application to Huntingdon District Council (HDC). This would give the community opportunity to bid for it.

Unfortunately, the owners objected and HDC turned down the application, citing we had not provided enough evidence as to why it should be considered. Written testaments from villagers were sent, but to no avail. The Parish Council is writing to appeal, but we need more evidence.

If anyone feels they can help change HDC's decision, please email me at jonigrace1@icloud.com stating your name, post code and why you used The Duchess other than drinking. Our MP Ian Sollom is aware of the situation.

Thank you for taking time to read this.

Joni Grace



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Afoot in the Garden

Strategies for gardening in a drought

As I write (05 August 2026) my lawn is brown except for the deep-rooted weeds like dandelions and creeping potentilla! Deep rooted weeds are among gardeners' worst enemies, blackberries in our hedges, bindweed in our borders, ground elder in flower borders, the list goes on. Will our lawns survive this prolonged hot, dry summer you ask? Well actually lawns are pretty resilient but many will probably need some attention in the autumn. Weed treatment will be needed, while scarifying will remove old grass leaves, called thatch, (It always amazes just how much comes out of even a small lawn). A top dressing with lawn-sand or screened top soil can be raked in and any bare patches that become apparent over-seeded.

If the summer of 2026 is the new normal then we need strategies for helping our garden plants to survive especially as plants can be expensive My thoughts are as follows.

1. Plant in the autumn
2. Make sure you have eradicated any weeds especially perennial weeds before planting
3. Choose plants with some drought resistance
4. Dig even deeper, wider planting pits and incorporate plenty of organic matter
5. Incorporate mycorrhizal fungi to aid establishment.
6. After watering in your new plantings give them a good deep mulch and mulch again in the spring.
7. After flowering, prune, feed, water and mulch.

TASKS FOR SEPTEMBER

September is a time to enjoy the last of the summer sun, plan for any changes you want to make and prepare for the autumn and winter ahead. Check fences and paving for wobbly posts and slabs.

Trim hedges and remove any unsightly



stems from herbaceous perennials. If the soil is moist enough plant pot grown trees, shrubs, perennials and spring flowering bulbs.

Edge lawns, apply autumn treatments and raise the mower blades to help shade out moss.

Cut back, lift and divide perennials that have finished flowering.

Take semi-ripe cuttings from plants like lavender, hebe, salvia, rosemary and penstemon.

Direct sow seeds of half-hardy annuals like calendula, cornflower, flax, larkspur, love-in-a-mist and poppies.



September Top Tips

- Plant bulbs
- Lift and divide herbaceous
- Trim hedges
- Sow half-hardy annuals
- Take semi ripe cuttings

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

Route H25 - 4th Thursday In The Month

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Please help keep Fenstanton clean: Pick up after your dog

Dog fouling continues to be a growing issue around Fenstanton, particularly on our footpaths, bridleways and green spaces. Many residents have raised concerns, especially parents with young children and those who use mobility aids, as dog mess is not only unpleasant but a genuine health hazard.

We know most dog owners in the village are responsible and always pick up after their pets. However, even a small number of missed incidents can make a big impact on shared spaces that everyone uses.

Please help us keep Fenstanton clean and safe by always picking up after your dog and disposing of waste in any public bin. If a bin is full, please take it home—leaving bags on the ground or hanging them on fences creates an even bigger problem. Our village is a place we're all proud of. A little care from each of us makes a big difference to everyone.

Thank you for doing your part.



Parish Council stall at the Big Village Fun Day

A big thank you to everyone who visited the Parish Council stand at the Big Village Fun Day 2026. We were delighted to welcome so many residents, who took the opportunity to chat with attending councillors, share their views, and learn more about the work of the Parish Council.

Our cake-tasting competition proved particularly popular, with visitors sampling the entries and casting their votes for their favourite. The winning result, along with the recipe, can be found elsewhere in this edition of the Journal.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you at future community events.

Please slow down when entering the Village

Fenstanton Parish Council has received reports of vehicles entering the village from the Cambridge direction via the flyover at excessive speeds.

We kindly ask all drivers to slow down as they enter the village and to adhere to the 20-mph speed limit. Driving above the speed limit puts pedestrians, cyclists, residents, and other road users at risk.

The 20-mph limit is in place to help keep everyone safe. Please take care and help make Fenstanton a safer village for all.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Keeping our footpaths clear - Please trim your trees and hedges

The Parish Council has received several reports from residents about trees, hedges and bushes overhanging footpaths and bridleways around the village. In some areas, vegetation has encroached so far onto the paths that they have become narrow and difficult to use, especially for prams, wheelchairs, mobility scooters and anyone with limited mobility.

The nesting season has now ended, and hedges and trees that are obstructing public pathways can now be trimmed back. Landowners are responsible for ensuring

that vegetation from their property does not encroach onto pavements, rights of way, into playparks, communal areas or shared routes used by the community.

We kindly ask residents to check their boundary hedges and trees and carry out any necessary trimming to help restore safe access. A small amount of maintenance can make a big difference to those who rely on clear, accessible paths around Fenstanton.

Thank you for helping keep our village safe, tidy and welcoming for everyone.

Update on the horse chestnut tree on the URC green

Many residents will remember the Parish Council's efforts last year to try to save the horse chestnut tree on the URC green. Unfortunately, despite those attempts, the tree has continued to decline.

Cambridgeshire County Council, who own the tree, have now carried out a further inspection. Their arborist has advised that, due to its condition and the increasing risk of falling branches, the tree will need to be felled for safety reasons. This is not the outcome any of us hoped for, but public safety must come first.

CCC have assured us that they aim to replace any lost highways tree with two new trees, chosen to suit the location and to thrive long-term. Replanting will take place during the winter planting season,



when conditions are best for young trees to establish.

We know how valued this tree has been within the village, and we will keep residents updated as plans progress.

Human waste at bus stop

We have received reports of human waste and discarded toilet paper behind the Cambridge-bound bus stop at Headlands. Please take extra care when using the area, particularly if you have children or dogs with you.

We respectfully ask whoever is responsible to stop this behaviour. It creates a health hazard, is unpleasant for other residents, and requires additional time and expense to clean up.

Thank you to everyone for helping to keep our village clean, safe, and welcoming for all.

Could you represent your community on Fenstanton Parish Council?

Fenstanton Parish Council currently has two vacancies in the North Ward and would particularly welcome applications from residents living in this area of Fenstanton Parish, including Elizabeth Court, Greenfields, London Road, Low Road and Maytrees - St Ives.

While councillors from the South Ward can, and have in the past, represented the North Ward, the Parish Council is keen to ensure that all parts of Fenstanton have a strong local voice. We want residents in the North Ward to feel fully connected to parish life and represented in the decisions that affect the whole community.

Parish councillors play an important role in shaping the future of Fenstanton. They help represent local views, support community projects and work to improve facilities, services and opportunities for residents. From commenting on planning applications to helping deliver local initiatives, councillors

have a real opportunity to make a positive difference.

With two vacancies currently available, this is an excellent opportunity for North Ward residents to become involved in local government and help ensure their area is well represented. No previous experience is necessary, just an interest in the community, a willingness to listen to residents, and a desire to contribute to village life.

Being a parish councillor is both rewarding and worthwhile. It offers the chance to work alongside a dedicated team of councillors and staff, gain new skills, and play an active role in supporting the community.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk:

clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

01480 465300

Parish Councillor Saturday Surgeries

Saturdays 10.00 – 12.00pm The Hub, 6 High Street, Fenstanton. Pop in for a chat with Councillors. Whether you have concerns to raise or ideas to improve our village, we'd love to hear from you! Let's work together to make Fenstanton even better.

26.09.2026	Roy McGee	Kevin Mitchell
31.10.2026	Tina Yates	Jade Purkiss
28.11.2026	Martin Hewitt	Sally King
30.01.2027	Anne Mustill	Hayley Howatt

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 10 September	PC Ordinary	7.00 pm Church Centre
Thursday 24 September	General Purposes	7.00 pm Church Centre

To contact your Parish Council Clerk Telephone: 01480 465300

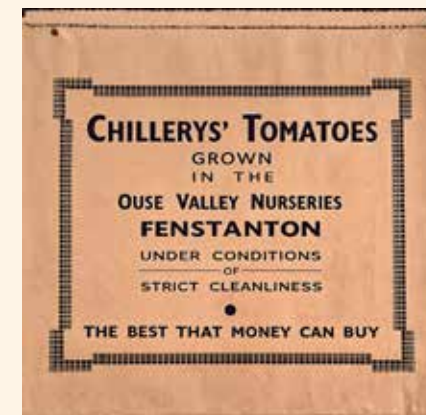
Email: clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk Website: www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Old Fen Lane

by J. W. Chillery
1958

This poem is about life in the 1950s in the road in Fenstanton now known as The Fen. The road remains unadopted and it still leads to "the river and fields", though the railway line at the end of the bridleway has been replaced in recent years by the guided busway.

It was written in 1958 by J W Chillery, a member of the Chillery family who ran a successful tomato growing business in the Fen called Ouse Valley Nurseries. Houses now stand where once tomatoes were grown. A resident in one of those houses, Val Rodgers, has very kindly shared the poem with Fenstanton Parish Council.



The Old Fen Lane

*I've seen it when the grass grows green beside
the verge,
and when it's been shoe top deep in mud,
I've seen the dust clouds on a summer day,
when up from the meadows come the loads
of hay.*

*I've seen the snow drifts lay, piling high,
when there was hardly room for passers by,
I've seen many scenes, both gay and sad,
memories of the years gone by since I was
a lad.*

*I've seen the cattle pass up and down,
also people from the country and the town,
Many couples have sweet memories of the
dear old lane,
where they used to court in sunshine and
in rain.*

*Winding its way towards the Ouse,
as a road to the river and fields, it is
chiefly used.*

*At its base runs the railway line,
which has been there for quite a long time,
Every day the trains pass up and down,
carrying people and goods to village and
town.*

*Some families have had long associations
with the lane,
Burgess, Barnett, Jacobs, Martin, Munns,
Not forgetting Harrison of Osier fame,
and two men who for them worked,
were Alfred Crouch and Kelly Cook,
But Quemby was the oldest name,
for generations they lived near the brook.*

*This is where I chose to make my career,
toiling away from year to year,
Producing the good things for others around,
from the Ouse Valley nurseries of wide renown.
All this reward for a life well spent;
which could not have been happier wherever
I went.*

*No Council owns this country lane,
so by the users it is maintained,
and by them often treated very rough,
it makes one think, O what a shame.
Cheer up old girl, perhaps some day,
it may not always be that way,
Over the years that are to come, may
you have the best of luck.*



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Saturday Sept 12th

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Helping hedgehogs prepare for hibernation

As autumn days grow shorter and temperatures drop, one of Britain's best-loved garden visitors begins getting ready for its long winter rest: the European hedgehog. These beloved creatures are in deep trouble: numbers have plummeted from an estimated 36 million in the 1950s to fewer than a million today. In the UK, they are officially Red Listed and classed as vulnerable to extinction, making them a species of serious conservation concern. Hibernation is a critical survival milestone, but with habitats fragmented and food scarce, they need our help more than ever to make it through winter. Our small actions can tip the balance for a creature fighting for its future.

To survive hibernation—when their heart rate drops from nearly 200 beats a minute to just 20, and body temperature falls close to freezing—hedgehogs must build enough fat reserves, reaching at least 600 grams before settling down. You can support this by providing safe, suitable supplementary



Hedgehog in a hedgehog house

food: use meat-based cat or dog food (no fish flavours), specially formulated hedgehog biscuits, or small kitten biscuits. Avoid mealworms entirely—they have an unhealthy calcium-phosphorus balance, and feeding them can lead to obesity and painful metabolic bone disease, harming rather than helping them. Always pair food with a shallow dish of fresh water; hydration matters even in cooler weather. Never offer bread or milk: hedgehogs are lactose intolerant—they cannot digest the sugar in milk, which causes severe diarrhoea, illness and even death. Bread has little nutritional value and fills them up without providing the energy they need.

Next, help them find secure, sheltered nesting sites. Hedgehogs favour dry, quiet spots undisturbed by wind, rain or people. Piles of dry leaves, twigs and branches, log piles, or mature compost heaps all make ideal homes—just check carefully for hidden hogs before clearing or turning these in autumn. You can also put up a hedgehog house: site it in a quiet corner, away from paths and pets, line it with dry leaves,



Hedgehog being weighed in our hospital



Hedgehog in the wild

hay or straw, and cover the roof with turf or plastic sheeting to keep it dry. Leave a small entrance tunnel to deter predators. Even gaps under sheds, hedges or decking work well—please don't block these spaces once autumn arrives.

It is vital to remove dangers as they forage and nest. Check long grass and undergrowth carefully before using strimmers, mowers or rakes. Ensure ponds have shallow edges or a ramp so hedgehogs can climb out if they fall in, and cover drains or deep holes to stop them becoming trapped. Never use slug pellets, pesticides or artificial fertilisers—these are toxic and can kill hedgehogs directly or poison the insects they eat. Instead, encourage natural pest controllers like beetles, thrushes or frogs.

Finally, watch out for hedgehogs in difficulty. If you see one out in daylight—especially in late autumn or winter—or one that looks smaller than a tennis ball, lethargic or injured, it may not survive hibernation alone. Contact Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital: 07947 361187 or a vet experienced in wildlife care, as soon as possible for help.

Every hedgehog that makes it through winter is one more that will emerge in spring to forage and breed. By feeding them safely, protecting their nests and clearing hazards, you are not just helping a garden visitor—you are helping save a species on the brink.

Liz Dams, Trustee – Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity, Education Experience Officer – Shepreth Wildlife Park



The Birds of Monach Farm – Update 2026

by Roland Randall

For many years we have been fortunate to have a pair of native Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) nesting in a field where we had allowed tussocky grasses to predominate. Sady, they did not show up after 2023, perhaps because of old age. However, this year we have been delighted to see their return and THREE pairs laid clutches of eggs and all brought off chicks. Young partridges are now seen on almost daily every dog walk!

The grey partridge (below) was once common in the British countryside, but it has suffered a dramatic 94% decline since the 1980s. Grey partridges have been on the UK's Red List since its inception in 1996, so we are delighted that they have chosen to return to Monach Farm in increased numbers this year, thanks to conservation management of some fields to facilitate ground nesting birds.

The conditions that have encouraged the return of our grey partridges have also seen a continuation of nesting locations for yellowhammer (above) and skylark (opposite), both of which have seen a greater



Yellowhammer

than 60% decline in the last 50 years, mainly thanks to habitat loss.

Once again this year, the very dry late spring and early summer has meant that there has not been enough grass growth to support our livestock without supplemental feeding, so we are having to put hay (notionally our winter feed!) out into the fields. However, the seed in the hay and the insects around the hay racks are other sources of food for our wild birds to enjoy.

Other newcomers to the farm this year have been Hobby, a small falcon that is a summer visitor from Africa that lives off insects and



Grey partridge



Skylark

small birds. These were seen several times in early July. There has also been the return of the introduced Little Owl, which nests in holes of dead, standing elm suckers and has been seen feeding on the large numbers of little toads we have seen around as the ponds have declined in size or dried out completely.

In late May we also heard and then saw the extremely rare Turtle Dove, (obviously passing through) and on the same day we had another summer visitor, the Sand Martin



Ring-necked parakeet

Conversely, we usually get House Martins nesting in the farm buildings, but this year we have only had Swallows.

The final species that has surprised us this year in early spring has been one sighting of Ring-Necked Parakeet *Psittacula kramera*.

It may be that this was an escaped cage-bird. However, there are breeding feral populations in London and other British conurbations, so it is not impossible that the species has spread into Cambridgeshire.



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Hilton Parish Church



Dear Friends,

I used to be a climate change sceptic. It was not that I didn't think the climate is changing, because we can all see that it is; rather, I wasn't convinced that it mattered very much or that we could do anything about it. It is some years since I changed my mind, but I'm not at all proud of having been so slow to wake up. There were two reasons why I resisted facing up to what is happening, neither of them honourable. One is a stubborn streak in me that doesn't like being told there is only one true version of reality, and if you don't accept it you are simply wrong. I still think that is not a helpful way to present any truth – it certainly is not how I would like to present the truth of the Gospel to anyone. The other reason is even worse, I feel: it is much more comfortable not to accept that we are causing immense harm to our world, because then I don't have to change my ways at all.

Climate change does matter, very much indeed. The good news is not only that we can do something about it, but also that a great deal is already being done. Even better, the actions being taken are beginning to have an effect. In the past year, and as a result of a massive expansion of renewable energy, the world's biggest polluter, China, has seen its emissions of CO2 decrease for the first time, and this despite a continuing rise in energy use. Donald Trump has given a huge boost to the growth of green energy by his evil folly in attacking Iran. The total amount of global power capable of being generated by renewable energy (mostly solar, wind and hydro-electric) has just passed 50%.

It is happening. Whether it is fast enough, we will see. And no committed Christian, who believes this is God's good earth, nor any person of conscience, can just sit back and say, 'job done, then.' It most certainly is not. We might quite reasonably feel we can't as individuals do all that much to influence trends in global power generation – though lobbying and campaigning are not pointless activities – but we can all strive to cut back on our own fossil fuel consumption, from turning down the thermostat (on those currently unimaginable days when the house is being heated by the boiler not the sun), to driving a bit slower and sharing lifts when possible, and reducing water usage even when we have plenty of it – after all, it is pumped to our homes by powerful, energy-hungry motors. God give us all grace to be part of the solution.

With love,
David

Revd David Busk (01480 436400)

Services in September

Sunday 6 September	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 13 September	11:15am United Service at the Parish Church
Sunday 20 September	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 27 September	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall

Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

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

Chair Pilates

Fen Drayton Village Hall
Wednesdays 2:30pm

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- Snacks and drinks

THE DETAILS

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

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming sessions!

facebook.com/fendraytontoddlers



News from the Benefice of Fen Drayton with Fenstanton



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

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

September 2026 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Thursday 3	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 6	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion and Sunday Club
Thursday 10	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Saturday 12	Fen Drayton and Fenstanton. All day.	Ride & Stride Fundraiser in aid of 'Historic Churches Trust'
	10-4.30pm	Fenstanton "Churches and Chapels on the Air"
Sunday 13	9.15am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion
	10.30am Fenstanton	Worship For All Followed by Pimms and Pate lunch
Monday 14	7.30pm Fenstanton	A Pause in the Month
Thursday 17	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Friday 18	6-8.30pm Fenstanton	Fen Youth
Sunday 20	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion with Sunday Club
	6pm Fenstanton	Sung Evensong
Thursday 24	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 27	9.15am Fen Drayton	St Mary's HARVEST FESTIVAL
	10.30am Fenstanton	Family Communion

Please note the parish church Harvest Festival is on Sunday 4 October at 10.30am

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.

Looking back, it has been a summer of many events at both our churches, bringing people together usually in the sunshine and to raise money to maintain our two old buildings.

Back in June 'Booze in Fenstanton Pews' a 3-day event in Fenstanton was blessed again with fine weather, lots of visitors and a brilliant team of 40+ volunteers to make it happen. Thank you to each and every one of you. Your support is very much appreciated. In early July, we got the BBQ out again for Rob to cook for 6 hours at the Big Village Fun Day, again raising money to help fund the repairs needed to Fenstanton church caused by subsidence. Thank you to all the team who helped prepare and serve food on the day.



The following Saturday 'The Friends of St Mary's' hosted a concert by Skylark at St Mary's Fen Drayton which was enjoyed

by over 50 people. We are very grateful to the musicians for entertaining us and for everyone who supported the first evening event at St Mary's for many years.



In late July following numerous plaster falls, we had a debris netting installed high up hugging the chancel ceiling at St Mary's. This means the whole of the church is now safe to access and use each and every day.

After a thorough clean-up of the whole church it was a delight to host a wedding for the first time in years. Our congratulations to Andrew and Clare- it was a beautiful day and you both radiated happiness. Do get in touch if you are looking to get married in either church- we'd love to host your special day too.

Looking ahead at the next few weeks...

We have a new event in Fenstanton Parish Church on Saturday 12 September from 10am when we will host an amateur radio station as part of the annual "Churches

and Chapels on the Air” event.’ Do feel free to drop into church to see this interesting event and see connections made across the country and the wider world.

This day also sees the ‘Ride and Stride’ fundraiser in aid of the Historic Churches Trust. Do keep an eye out for walkers and cyclists as they energetically visit as many churches in the area as possible on one day.

We have our annual Pimms and Pate lunch on Sunday 13 September. All the details are on the poster below. Do get in touch if you would like tickets, thank you.

Take your pick: This year we plan to celebrate Harvest Festival in both St Mary’s Fen Drayton and Fenstanton Parish church (see poster). Each church will collect donations of non-perishable food for St Ives Foodbank with boxes available in each church porch to drop your donations in from 12 September. Further details of the Foodbank and to see what is currently needed please visit; <https://www.stivesparishchurch.org.uk/foodbank/>



Pimms and Pâté Lunch

Sunday 13th September
1 for 1.30pm

in a beautiful Fenstanton garden

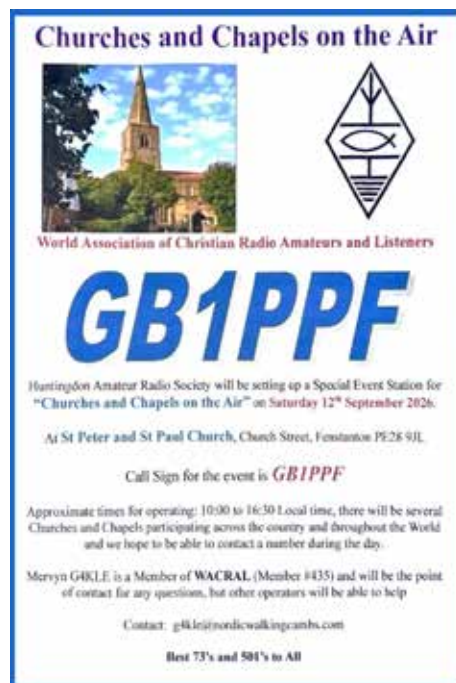
Pâté, cheese and salad lunch with dessert
2 glasses of Pimms or soft drink included

Adults - £15
Under 16's - £7.50

Raffle

For further information and tickets:
ikhuck@virginmedia.com
07850 470085

In aid of 'Fenstanton Parish Church Restoration Fund'



Churches and Chapels on the Air

GB1PPF

Huntingdon Amateur Radio Society will be setting up a Special Event Station for "Churches and Chapels on the Air" on **Saturday 12th September 2026**.

At **St Peter and St Paul Church, Church Street, Fenstanton PE26 9JL**.

Call Sign for the event is **GB1PPF**

Approximate times for operating: 10:00 to 16:30 Local time, there will be several Churches and Chapels participating across the country and throughout the World and we hope to be able to contact a number during the day.

Mervyn G8KLE is a Member of WACRAL (Member #435) and will be the point of contact for any questions, but other operators will be able to help

Contact: g8kle@nordicwalkingcams.com

Best 73's and 501's to All



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

FOOD BANK

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

In aid of
Hands at Work AFRICA

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)

News from the Pews

Hilton Methodist Church



Dear Friends,

One of my favourite races is the relay race. There is something about remembering you aren't in the race alone. At the point of handing on the baton to the next runner there is a moment when both run together – one ready to pass and one ready to receive.

Then almost imperceptibly the change is made, one runner's pace slows while the other speeds up. The race continues. I've found the image of passing on the baton a helpful one in recent days as I prepare to hand on the baton of ministry at Hilton Methodist to Lembe who will be arriving soon.

In a church I once served there was an old photograph of church members from days gone by. I wondered what those in the image would have thought about their church all these years later. When the photograph was taken they couldn't have imagined the changes that would come – new faces, new ministers, different ways of worshipping and communicating, seasons of flourishing and struggle etc. Some people were still in the congregation having faithfully embraced those changes.

For all of us, whatever our age, life doesn't simply remain how it has always been, change is part of all our lives. We can't stop it happening, but we can choose how to respond to it. St. Paul uses a different image to convey the reality of change and our part in it in a letter to the church at Corinth. He writes, 'I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.' (1 Corinthians 3: 6).



Each of us plays our part in bringing God's plan to fuller expression while remembering God alone remains constant through every change and season.

The baton is entrusted to us for a while, and then we are asked to place it in another pair of hands. I am grateful for the opportunity to run this particular of the race with you in Hilton. It has been a privilege to meet, share and travel together.

Now, with deep gratitude, I pass the baton, on to Lembe. May God bless him, and each of you, as together you follow where God leads in the times ahead.

Blessings,
James (Methodist Minister for Hilton)

Email: jjamesbamber@gmail.com
Phone: 01480 453857

Services in September

6 September	10:00am	Rev. Pam Siddall
13 September	11:15am	United Service in the Parish Church
20 September	10:00am	Rev. Lembe Sivile
27 September	10:00am	Rev. Heather Walker

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Fenstanton United Reformed Church

Chequer Street, Fenstanton

Minister

Revd Alison Davis

Sunday morning services are at 09.30. All are welcome.

2026 Services

September

06	Alison Jiggins
13	Revd Christine Davies - Holy Communion
20	Revd Alison Davis
27	Revd Christine Davies

October

04	Revd Christine Davies
11	Revd Janet Tollington - Holy Communion
18	Revd Christine Davies
25	Revd Chris Baker

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

Tuesday 08 September 2.30 - 4pm Led by John Williams

Tuesday 13 October 2.30 - 4pm Led by John Williams

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

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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

Fenstanton Community Hall Hub

Just some of the free sessions we're planning for everyone in a welcoming space to meet neighbours and enjoy the hall.



Book Club

A book club linked to the CCC mobile library where people discuss reads and share recommendations.



Men's Cave

A supportive space for men's mental health and wellbeing to chat, have a cuppa, and enjoy good company.



Card & Board Games

Chess, draughts, dominoes, scrabble, cribbage and more, all skill levels welcome.



Digital Inclusion for All

Help with smartphones, tablets, laptops within our new digital hub



Youth Club

Fun activities, games, and a safe space for young people to socialise and build friendships.



Enhanced Employability

CV writing, interview skills, job searching, and local employer networks.



Community Signposting

HDC advice team, Age UK, local surgeries, MP and Council representatives.



Creative Crafters

Upcycling, repair, and creative arts to learn skills, share talents, and sell at markets.



Family Fun and Fellowship

For toddlers, babies, parents, grandparents and carers to play, chat, and make new friends.

To find out what else is happening in the new community hall go to:
www.fenstantonvillagehall.org
or scan the qr code



News from the Pews

Fenstanton United Reformed Church

It has been an incredible summer, marked by exceptional weather. Hopefully, temperatures have now returned to seasonal norms and the much needed rain has arrived. By the time you read this, it may even be pouring, with the drought already a distant memory.

There have been comparisons with the summer of 1976, another exceptionally hot, dry year. As a young person then, living in a more urban setting, the impact of the lack of rain didn't really impinge on me. This year, however, I am keenly aware of the difficulties farmers and growers have experienced because of the dry conditions.



The long, hot, dry spell reminds us how precious water is: a basic necessity we are usually fortunate to have without difficulty or shortage, although this year with hosepipe bans, and spontaneous fires, we have perhaps become more aware what a precious resource water is. In past years we sometimes used it extravagantly without realising. I hope we have all made an effort this year to use water carefully, and have come to appreciate it more.

Of course, sadly, water shortages are common in many parts of the world, where clean running water is a luxury available only to the wealthy. Statistics tell us that 696 million people lack basic access to clean and safe drinking water. Two hundred years ago, in the 1820s, water companies took water directly from local rivers—such as the Thames in London, which were heavily polluted with raw sewage, industrial waste, and runoff from slaughterhouses. Piped water into homes was a luxury available only to the wealthy, and ran for just a few hours a day. Water supplies routinely spread waterborne diseases like cholera and typhoid.

Those deadly diseases still exist for many millions of people. Charities such as WaterAid and Toilet Twinning are dedicated to help those worse off than ourselves, and encourage us to reflect on our own water use. How lucky we are to have fresh water on tap, but don't waste God's precious gift.

Revd Alison Davis
URC Minister



Chequer Street
Fenstanton
Huntingdon
Cambs PE28 9JQ

Organist / Pianist Wanted

To play occasionally on Organ or Electric Piano at Sunday Services from 9.30am till 10.30am and other 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

Joseph Ellis Foundation Trust

PARENTS AND CARERS

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

We can help

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Teresa Dellar. Jellistrust@gmail.com

Discretion is assured



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Life on a Plate



The BIG Fun Day, 4 July 2026

A Cake for Fenstanton: the winning recipe was Cake B

Three brave Fenstanton cooks took on a challenge set by the Parish Council to bake a "Cake for Fenstanton" for the Fun Day. The task: bake a cake, any recipe, as long as the five foods in Fenstanton street names were included in it, or on it, pears, honey, apples, walnuts and cherries (as in Pear Tree Close or Honey Hill for example).

On the Fun Day the cakes were cut into taste size pieces for customers to vote anonymously for their favourite cake. About 150 people tasted all three cakes and then voted for their favourite. Fantastic comments were received about all three cakes. In the end only six votes separated

the winning cake from the cake which came in last. The cakes looked and tasted very different, but they all tasted great! Fenstanton Parish Council would like to express their very sincere thanks to all three cooks for taking part.

The winning recipe was Cake B, baked by Carole Price. Her recipe is printed below. The Council hopes lots of people will try making the winning cake for themselves.

If you would like the recipe for one, or both, of the other cakes (Cake A, baked by Denise May, or Cake C, baked by Ann Munns), please do contact fenstanton@thejournal.life

A cake for Fenstanton 2026

Ingredients:

225 g soft butter (or spread such as Stork etc)
225 g caster sugar (half light brown, half dark)
4 large eggs, lightly beaten
275 g self-raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
300 g (in total) fruit (apple, pear, glace cherries)
Chopped walnuts (enough to sprinkle on the top)
2 tbsp approx. honey or more to taste

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan / Gas 4).
2. Lightly grease 20 x 30 cm traybake tin and line it with greaseproof paper, leaving a slight overhang at the edges to easily lift the cake out later.
3. Cream the butter and sugar: mix until pale and light.
4. Add in the eggs gradually, together with the flour, a bit at a time.
5. Chop up the fruit and mix around 1 tbsp of the honey in with it.
6. Add in about half the fruit mix into the batter gently.
7. Spoon half the batter into the lined tin and level the surface. Add the remaining fruit and then the remaining batter.
8. When levelled, sprinkle the chopped walnuts on the cake.
9. Bake for 25–30 minutes.
10. Test the centre with a skewer, it should be clean. The cake is quite soft though, as the fruit is wet.
11. Whilst it is still hot in the tin, put some holes in the top and put the remainder of the honey on so that it goes into the cake.
12. Wait for cake to cool completely in the tin and then you can lift it out using the greaseproof paper and can slice.





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update



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UA decision delay

The government has announced that it is delaying the decision on its preferred model for the new unitary authority councils for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The decision, originally due in July, is now expected in October.

A14 logistics parks

Plans for logistics parks along the A14 are progressing. Fen Drayton PC is part of a forum of local councils looking to ensure the local community's concerns, for example whether our roads are equipped to carry extra traffic, consequences for flooding and availability of water, are heard by planners and relevant authorities.

EAAA clothing bank

During 2025/26, clothing banks hosted by supporters across the region raised an incredible £8,718.37 for East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Donations raised through initiatives such as Fen Drayton's clothing bank help to fund highly skilled doctors, critical care



paramedics and specialist equipment including the familiar helicopters and critical care cars.

Children's playground

Having taken advice from RoSPA, the PC is arranging for a second gate to be installed in the playground on the village hall field. Both gates will also open outwards to prevent easy access for dogs, thereby keeping children safer.

Sports triangle survey

Thank you to all the young people who responded to the PC's sports triangle survey. The responses showed that

around half of you currently use the sports triangle, and half of those that don't use it would do so if it was more accessible. You enjoy all aspects of the triangle, with the basketball hoop being the most popular. The PC will now use these results to support a grant application for moving the triangle to a more accessible location.

Covell's Drain busway crossing

The final total of DMMO User Evidence Statements in support of keeping the Moore Brook busway crossing open was 81. The DMMO is now fifth in the Public Rights of Way's priority list.

Fen Drayton, Swavesey and Fenstanton PCs have started to collect user evidence statements for another DMMO, to keep the Covell's Drain crossing open. For more details see the Fen Drayton PC website at www.fendrayton.org

A message from District Councillor Vivien Biggs

I am concerned about the limited bus service for Fen Drayton residents. Given that the village is so close to Cambridge it seems strange that there is no direct bus.

The Tiger 1 bus bypasses the village on its way from Swavesey to Fenstanton and onwards to Cambridge/Huntingdon Station. I have contacted the Combined Authority which has indicated that the tri-axle double decker buses are too large for our village roads. I have requested more information about this. The CA also indicated that there are other reasons

for bypassing the village – the layover time on the timetable and the possibility that any extension to the travel time would suppress demand for the service. Given that Fen Drayton is the only sizeable village on the route without a direct Cambridge bus service, I believe residents are entitled to ask whether the balance is right.

Please let me know your thoughts on this. My email is cllr.biggs@sdc.gov.uk

Community cafe

The cafe held its AGM in August. The committee announced that since we have been holding Macmillan Coffee Mornings on a yearly basis it has donated nearly £1,000 to Macmillan. Thank you to all residents and customers who generously support the cafe and make these events and contributions possible.

We also received a thank you from MAGPAS for the £250, which we donated in recognition of their work, and for providing CPR and defibrillator training for Fen Drayton residents again earlier this year.

The cafe on 12 September will donate its takings to Macmillan and also host our annual produce sale, thanks to the the FD Gardening Club. If you have any produce that you would like to sell, please bring it to the village hall. The cafe is open for service from 10.30am.



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Children online: What separated parents should know about “sharenting”

From first steps to school plays, family life is increasingly documented online. Many parents regularly share photographs, videos and stories about their children—a practice sometimes called “sharenting”. Usually, these posts are well intentioned. However, when parents separate, disagreement about a child’s digital presence can quickly become a family law issue.

Who decides what may be posted?

A parent with parental responsibility may make decisions about a child’s upbringing. Birth mothers automatically have parental responsibility, while fathers and second parents may acquire it through marriage, civil partnership, registration on the birth certificate or a court order.

Parental responsibility does not necessarily entitle one parent to make every decision alone. Routine matters may usually be handled independently, but important or contentious decisions should be discussed. Posting an occasional photograph may appear routine; creating a public account, sharing sensitive personal information or using a child’s image commercially is more significant.

The child’s welfare remains the central consideration in any court proceedings about their upbringing.

When does sharing become harmful?

A seemingly harmless post may reveal more than intended. A school uniform, location tag or photograph outside the family home could identify where a child studies or lives. Medical information and accounts of behavioural difficulties may remain searchable long after the original post is forgotten.

Posts about family proceedings create additional risks. Children cases are generally private, and restrictions usually apply to publishing information that identifies a child involved in proceedings. Sharing court documents, allegations or details of a dispute online could breach confidentiality rules or a specific court order.

Parents should also consider the emotional impact. A child may later feel embarrassed by

photographs or stories published without their agreement. For older children, unwanted posts may affect friendships, school life and mental wellbeing.

Can one parent stop the other posting?

Parents should first attempt to agree clear and practical boundaries. These might include, keeping accounts private, avoiding names, school details and live locations, obtaining consent before posting, not sharing medical or court information, allowing an older child to express a view and asking relatives to follow the same rules.

If agreement is impossible, mediation may help parents create a shared digital parenting plan. In serious cases, the Family Court can make a prohibited steps order preventing particular conduct or a specific issue order deciding how an aspect of parental responsibility should be exercised.

Urgent court action may be appropriate where posting creates a safeguarding risk, amounts to harassment or breaches the child’s privacy. Depending on the circumstances, it may also be possible to report content to the relevant social media platform.

Pause before posting

A useful question is: “Would the child be comfortable seeing this in five or ten years?” Parents should consider the audience, the information visible in the background and whether posting genuinely benefits the child.

Separation often makes communication difficult, but a child’s online identity should not become another battleground. A few agreed rules—and a moment’s pause before pressing “share”—can protect privacy, reduce conflict and give children greater control over their own digital future.

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.

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Hilton Parish Council



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Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 6 July

Cricket Courses for young people

The Council was pleased to note this year's 'All Stars' and 'Dynos' courses have proved a success – thanks to the good coaching provided, support from parents/carers and Councillors. We plan to do something similar in 2027 and will be starting preparatory work earlier, to try and avoid clashes with other midweek commitments enjoyed by young people.

Consultation on changes to bus services

The Council recognised the importance of buses to parishioners and set up a Working Group comprising a Councillor and the Clerk to submit a contribution to the current consultation on proposed and recent changes.

May Fair in 2027

The Council was pleased to give 'in-principle' support to the idea of holding a May Fair in May next year; from which it is envisaged proceeds will be shared among a number of village groups. Guidance was given on the need for the organising group to take wider counsel on meeting important events' criteria in terms of things like a risk assessment, public liability insurance and safeguarding considerations etc.

From our County and District Councillors

County Councillor Keane updated the Council on his work on highways, flooding and parking issues across the area he serves. This includes his membership and contributions to the Hilton Flood Action Working Group. Recently elected District Councillor Sarkies had submitted a written report in which he mentioned how the Huntingdonshire District Council's Local Plan runs through to 2036 but an update for the subsequent 10 years is imminent. This will be put out for consultation in September.

Green Open Spaces

Councillors and others have been involved in 'walkabouts' to support the work of the newly formed Flood Action Working Group and assess the scope and challenge of important work on ditches that usually happens in the autumn and winter months. Work to install new post and rope fencing (with supporting signage) round the Major Oak has been completed.

Policies

The Council approved revisions to its existing Children and Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy and a new IT Policy. These are displayed on the Council website.

Vacancies for people to join the Council

Following the recent local elections HPC has the opportunity to co-opt two people to bring its number to 9 and full strength. Having posted information on local social media platforms inviting candidates to submit written applications, 3 have been received and will be considered at the September meeting.

Audit arrangements

After completing the Internal Audit process (for 2025/6) in June, the Council has submitted the relevant documents and supporting information to the appointed external auditors who will do their work during the summer months.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 7th September 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.



Head Lines

News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



We hope you all enjoyed the summer holidays and the regularity of the hot and sunny weather!! That same weather made the end of the summer term somewhat challenging as many schools across the country made adjustments to support pupils and staff in the high temperatures. We were pleased to have remained open throughout the periods of warmer weather and to have supported our pupils and our community as fully as possible.

individuals and groups of people within the local community.

The end of term in the summer provided a chance for our pupils to have a taste of life in the year groups they will return to in September. This included welcoming our new Reception cohort to school for two mornings, which was a really positive experience. We will be at 'capacity' as we welcome 40 new children into the main school, although the majority of them will already be used to life in school thanks to their time in our Preschool and the positive experiences the amazing team of staff there have already provided for them.

This autumn we will be looking forward to many of the usual events in our school calendar, such as the Harvest Festival in the Parish Church; the preparations for the Nativity play as we move closer to Christmas; and the first chance to welcome parents and carers of our 2027 cohort of children in to school. We will also be hosting three 'Sporting Athlete' days, when our children will get to experience guided sessions in skateboarding and scooting.

Finally, we wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who made The Big Village Fun Day such a success back in July. It was a wonderful community day involving many



There are far too many to mention them all, but I am sure that all the groups involved, including our own PTA, will have been proud of the way the day went and of the money raised to support good causes locally.

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

What you're Missing

Hilton Art Club

A few places at our friendly club have become available this year.

If you enjoy drawing and painting, get in touch with Gina on 07907568039 for further information. We meet on the third Friday each month, from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm at Hilton Village Hall, as well as hosting the occasional tutorial.

In July, 'Falling Water' was the topic. Despite several people being on holiday, we had a lovely morning, painting waterfalls, water pouring, river rapids, rainwater on a plant, etc. Thanks to Jan for the delicious biscuits.

During Feast Week, we took part in the Art Show in the Village Hall. The artwork looked fantastic, framed and mounted. Chrissie B and her husband, Chris, had done a wonderful job of decorating the hall as a Hollywood 'Oscars' set, or maybe that should be 'Hiltonwood'! See photo above of our exhibition.

4 September 10.00 am – 12.30 pm Hilton Village – en plein air art around Hilton, meeting at the Green.

18 September 10.00am - 12.30 pm Gentle Giants: think elephant, or other overlarge creatures. Bring your own reference material.



Hilton Community Hub

When you read this item September could be back to normal - but in this odd year whatever is normal?

Paige and her friend returned safely from their wonderful adventure to Japan and South Korea, now asking themselves if and when they could return; Lesley is leading the attack on the latest jigsaw puzzle and does she even knit poppies in the night? Joe, Mike E and company are at their card table, Pete quietly lives in his artistic mornings, Monica is creating crochet items for the Hospital gift stall, we have the varying craft days and of course those quizzes - oh, those Quizzes by our very own mystery quiz man.

Before our annual break and Sam's lovely Sketching/Chatting mornings on the Green in August, Heidi Field came from Huntingdonshire District Council to enlighten us on what goes into our waste bins; we had a National Eat - Your - Veg Day,

a Tomato fortnight, plus Dave returned with his collection of Slot Machines and Ann challenged with a form of Irish Bingo. Then there was the ever present conversation to solve all of worldwide, national and local problems and thoughtful concerns for friends, plus that heat, oh that heat.

And finally, our **JAN HAD A BIRTHDAY** and endured that ridiculous hat ceremony just like the rest of us!

Don't forget, if you think you have a problem, try sleeping with a mosquito ...(by the Dalai Lama)

Find a smile, good company and a free morning in Hilton Village Hall every Wednesday, 10.30-12.30ish.



Fenstanton Glebe Allotments Association

Many people may be surprised to learn that there isn't a water source at the allotments and every year a debate occurs on why not. I'm not going to go into the whys and why nots, as this isn't the place for it, but it got me thinking about what other allotment plottolders do when faced with never-ending hot weather and drought conditions.



Not all veg requires the same amount of watering. For instance, peas and beans may benefit from occasional periods of reduced watering, and parsnips and carrots need less irrigation. It's about getting the balance right. Using mulch and bark also helps retain water so plants don't dry out so quickly.

With a few barrels, some simple drainage and a bit of careful planning, allotments can become more resilient through dry spells and heatwaves.

Contact address: secretary.fgaa@btinternet.com

The National Allotment Association has very useful advice and information on water collection and storage, but in the meantime talking to seasoned allotment holders, who have years of experience, yields great advice on watering to get maximum results and a healthy crop to be proud of. The best advice is to encourage plants to develop deep roots by watering fully once a week. This encourages plants to dig deeper into the soil rather than just resting under the surface.





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Coffee Mornings at Hilton Methodist Hall, Potton Road

Saturday, 1 August 10:00 - 12:00

Saturday, 5 September 10:00 - 12:00

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

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

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

Forthcoming lectures:-

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

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

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



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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.

3 June An afternoon with Frank from "Wild in the Pantry". Some great ideas for summer canapes, demonstrated by Frank and tasted by us. Delicious.



17 June We had our yearly homage to the strawberry 🍓 with a lovely afternoon tea.



1 July A musical afternoon with the U3A "Ukulele Troupe". Very uplifting and enjoyable.

15 July Our outing to Madingley Hall. The weather was beautiful, perfect for walking around the grounds. Refreshments in the cafe are excellent.



29 July Tara from Wildlife Care Cambs spoke to us on how we can do our best for the wildlife in our area.

Upcoming meetings

9 September A trip to AhReserves farm in WoodWalton.

23 September Music and singing from Panache

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

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

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

Fenstanton Bowls Club



This season the weather has been a tale of two halves! Starting with a very cold May and early June we have since had the heatwave, and for the first time (I believe) we have had to rearrange matches due to the excessive heat instead of rain! This has brought its challenges, but we are still doing well in all our respective leagues.

Our men's, Cambridge & District 1st Team and Over 60's 1st team are all sitting in the top half of the table, and whilst the Cambridge & District 2nd team and Over 60's 2nd team are not faring quite so well, we are all having a good time and trying our best!

Since our last report we have held two club competitions. The Clive Barrow trophy is always a fun afternoon, when it's anyone's game, with each player drawing lots for the position they play and the team they play in, over three different rounds. It's the luck of the draw, with each player recording their team score at the end of each round. This year the Clive Barrow trophy was won by Ken Rodriguez - well done Ken.

The other competition was the Hetherton trophy, which is open to members who have not won a club trophy in the past. Eight members took part with two rounds of 10 ends each. The semi-finals were won by Benny Blackwell and Chris Payne. They will now fight it out on finals day for the silverware.

Our friendly matches continue with games against Houghton & Wyton and Great Gransden, and it's very pleasing to see new members representing Fenstanton Bowls Club in their first competitive games.

As we come towards the end of the season, there is still lots to play for to improve our league positions! We have two social events to look forward to and of course finals day at the beginning of September.

Fenstanton Bowls Club is proudly sponsored by the following local businesses



Note from the publisher

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Swavesey Community Choir

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What you're Missing

Hilton WI

We hope that our lady members have survived all of those hot days, my but has it not been a stressful summer, it closely resembles 50 years ago in 1976 when lawns were also brown, but they did revive.

We have been reasonably active; the cinema group watched Song Sung Blue based on the life of Neil Diamond at St Ives Corn Exchange, Canasta fans are still meeting and were pleased to demonstrate the game during Feast Week. But Craft club members opted to defer the August meeting until September.

At our July meeting, David Fletcher, an Auctioneer and Fine Art valuer, came to give us ideas of Auctions behind the scenes and his early beginning as an auctioneer in animal markets. He once even found himself required to sell a field of brussel sprouts! He has had a varied career which has found him with appearances in such TV programmes as Flog It.



David Fletcher from "Flog It"
at Hilton WI

David challenged us to the value of the current price of gold, a set of silver sugar tongs and a small tea bowl. We weren't very good!

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

Our August meeting just misses the press deadline so we are looking forward to our Summer Buffet, no, not catering ourselves this time but it's a Fish and Chips evening to be delivered from a local 'Chippy' co-ordinated magnificently by Sarah who ensured the very necessary salt, pepper, cutlery, sauces, etc, etc so more about that next month!

Our planned 'magical' outing to Royal Windsor in November is proving to be very popular, so too our Christmas lunch. Oh dear, that's a year gone.

Mel has advised us that she has some fascinating speakers in 2027, some are even committed in 2028 which also includes our special 90th birthday.

In September we have the curiously named Charity Tandem Bikes by Gee Whizz - that's tempting!

During October it is Hilton's turn to display the small table at the Federation office in Huntingdon. As it is National Breast Cancer month that is our chosen theme, and we will include some items to show visitors how special we are at Hilton WI.

Finally, October 5th is World Smile Day and did you know that the longest ever stretch of spaghetti measured 3776 metres. What a topic for a quiet Sunday afternoon!

If you are new to the village or have never tried our meetings, come and see us on the second Monday of the month in Hilton Village Hall at 7 pm. Or contact: hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com

What you're Missing

Hilton Flower Club

We hope all our ladies had a great summer holiday.

7 September: Dawn Marjoram from Peter Beales Nursery Norfolk, is giving a talk and slide show on "Wonderful Gardens".

2 October: Our flower demonstrator is Bridget Davidson, we look forward to seeing her.

2 November: Tim Meakin will be demonstrating Christmas Flower Arrangements. It will be a wonderful afternoon, not to be missed.

7 December: is our Christmas Party.

Hilton Village Hall 2pm - 4pm

Entrance £7.50 (includes tea/coffee, biscuits)

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.

Beverley



Fen Drayton Tennis Club News

We recently held our annual summer tournament and this time there were seven doubles teams competing in the round robin stage with the four highest game scoring teams progressing to the semi finals. We ended with a final between Ben and Carole versus David and Gary. It was a closely fought contest in front of a gripped crowd with Ben and Carole eventually winning 6-4. Thanks to both the organisers and the players for making this such an enjoyable day.

The club has run another successful coaching programme for juniors and seniors this year. We are lucky to have Diane Cobb (LTA Level 5) coaching at the club. The



juniors have had weekly after school and holiday classes since March and we hope to continue into September whilst we have enough daylight. Diane, along with Matt Norton, also visited the primary school earlier in the year where children from Reception and Years 1 and 2 had great fun learning new tennis skills.

We hope to arrange further sessions with the school.

By the time you read this the court surface will have been cleaned and resealed as part of a continuing maintenance programme so that the courts remain in good condition for play by both members and non-members all the year round. Full details of membership or 'pay as you play' can be found on our website: www.fendraytontc.co.uk



Girlguiding Hilton Rainbows and Brownies

You may have heard or seen in the press that Girlguiding have just introduced a total redesign of the whole uniform into which the girls and leaders have had a huge input - as you might have guessed, the Rainbows wanted pink and both Rainbows and Brownies wanted stripes!!!

This is being phased in as the girls need it so you won't see all the girls wearing it just yet though we think lots will want to!!

This term we plan to work on lots of badges (as they all love a badge!) and Brownies have a visit planned just before Christmas to the Chase Care home to sing carols and make Christmas crafts with the residents.



We currently have spaces in Brownies and Rainbows (not necessarily from the 3 villages) so if you know of any young girls who would like to join us please ask them to get in touch or google JoinUs Girlguiding and follow the links. We would also be keen to hear from any adults with or without experience who would be interested in helping regularly.

Karen Baker – Rainbow and Brownie Leader
girlguidinghilton@gmail.com
Tel. 07970 404569

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	01480 830605
Huntingdonshire District Council	01480 388388
South Cambs District Council	0345 045 0500

Community Groups and Clubs

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

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
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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
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
Stormguard Building Services	01480 270744

Car servicing and repairs

Wilderspin Garage	01954 230273
Richard's Mobile Mechanic	07368 356105

The Journal

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



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