

April 2024

# The Journal

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Fen Drayton ▪ Fenstanton ▪ Hilton

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## **Riding the footplate of Flying Scotsman**

See page 20

## **How to secure free electricity!**

See page 45

## **Whippets in Hilton**

See page 16

## **It's asparagus season**

See page 35

**Incorporating Spectrum and Focus**

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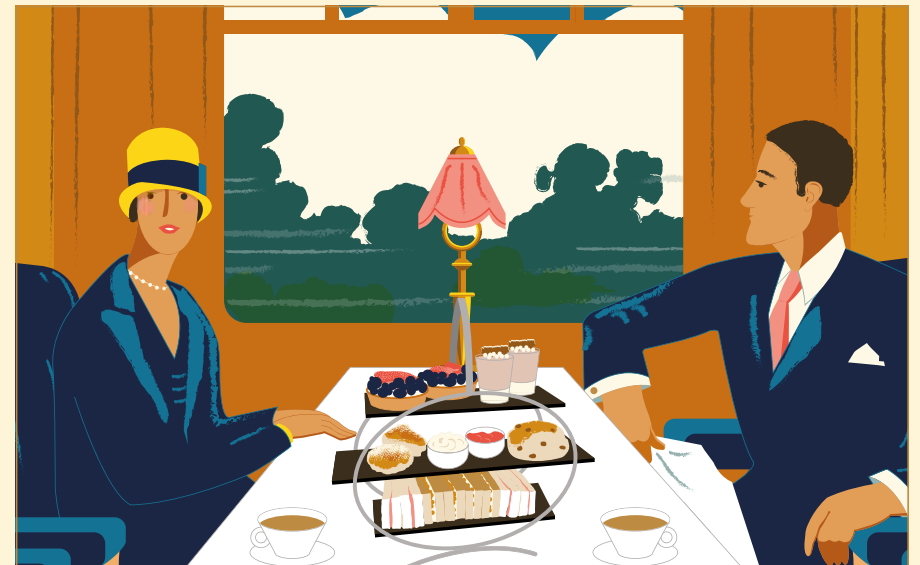


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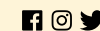
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## Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

### March 2024

29 PTA Easter Egg Trail  
30 Family Easter Egg Hunt

### April 2024

14 Litter picking event  
20 Quiz Night, Village Hall  
20 Books and Jigsaws Sale, United Reformed Church  
20 Healthy Eating on a Budget, Village Hall  
22 Annual Parish Meeting  
25 Annual Parish Meeting, Church Centre

### May 2024

01 Morris, Dancing up the Sun, 5.30am Clock Tower  
04-05 Bowls Club Open Days  
05 10K Race and Fun Run  
11 CCC Flood mobile in Village Hall car park  
18-19 National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens  
18-19 A Church Full of Art, Parish Church  
26 Beer Festival, Village Hall

### June 2024

06-09 Weekend of Summer Fun  
09 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Village Green  
11 Football's early local history - talk by Nigel Fenner, Three Tuns  
20-22 Booze in Pews, Parish Church

### July 2024

06 The BIG Village Fun Day, School Field  
07 National Garden Scheme Open Gardens  
20 Summer Ball  
21 -27 Feast Week  
27 Produce Show

### Sept 2024

08 Pimms & Pate Garden Lunch

### Dec 2024

07 Seasonal Sing-Along

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](mailto:fenstanton@thejournal.life)



The Easter weekend is officially the start of the gardening season with all the local garden centres and nurseries now stocking seasonal colour. It is certainly time to get out into the garden and Afoot in the Garden on page 60 gives you plenty of seasonal tips.

23 April is the day of our patron saint, St George, and that is a great excuse (not that you need one) to roll out the roast beef and Yorkshire puddings!

Don't miss in this issue our rather spooky article on page 9 or the article on eCops where you can keep up to date with local policing activities, see page 44.

Finally, there is still time to sign up for the Easter egg hunts in both Fenstanton and Hilton at the end of March.

## From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

### Editors

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Please submit any copy by 10 April 2024 latest for the May edition.

Cover picture by John Dodgson - Chinese Water Deer outside Fen Drayton

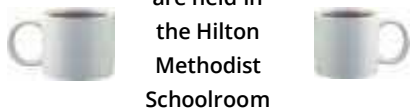
## Lost and now found

The dated head stone from the Fenstanton Toll Bar bridge has been found!

In the history article last month on page 17 by John Deeks, it was suggested that the 1809 head stone had been misplaced and would never be seen again. Luckily it was rescued by Chris Behagg and David Mead during the bridge works and has been safely stored in the village clock tower since 2017. What to do with it is now the question? If you have any ideas we would love to hear from you, please email [info@thejournal.life](mailto:info@thejournal.life).

## Hilton Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings in aid of EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospices)



are held in the Hilton Methodist Schoolroom on the first Saturday of each month.

6 April 10:00am to 12 noon  
4 May 10:00am to 12 noon

Hope you will be able to join us!

# WINNER

Fen Drayton Football Club  
**300 Club draw**  
2023-24 season

## TICKET WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY

We invite the following lucky ticket winners to email Martin Leach, club treasurer on: [martin.leach56@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.leach56@btinternet.com), with bank account details so a direct online payment can be made.

**Congratulations to the winners and thank you all once again for your fantastic support for Fen Drayton Football Club.**

### £10 WINNERS

**Ticket no**

- 34 Richard Daff – Mill Road
- 185 Michael – Whitethorn, Honey Hill
- 300 Wilderspines Garage
- 139 Simon Kerr – Church Street

### £5 WINNERS

**Ticket no**

- 65 Jenny – 4 Vermuyden Way
- 17 Lorraine Leech – Vermuyden Way
- 153 Diane – Bridle House, Horse and Gate Street
- 165 Roy Isden – Horse and Gate Street

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## Barnack Hills and Holes

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust invites you to come along for an evening walk on Tuesday 04 June at Barnack Hills and Holes, near Stamford.

Barnack was once a medieval limestone quarry, but now supports a profusion of wild flowers and butterflies. This site is managed by the Langdyke Trust and is currently designated as a Special Area for Conservation to protect its orchid rich limestone grassland. Eight species of orchid have been reported here, some of which we will see, along with many other flowers such as rockrose, wild thyme, quaking grass and ox eye daisy. We can also look forward to seeing many butterflies, such as small heath, skippers and blues.

Being an old quarry, the paths are very uneven and often steep. The walk will be led by Ross Edgar and/or Catherine Weightman of Natural England and we hope to have a wonderful evening there.

Please meet at 7pm in the car park on Wittering Road, GR TF074048, what3words collect.riverbed.seaweed. Everyone is most welcome to attend. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. For more information please contact George (01480 450809 or georgecottam@virginmedia.com).

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Fenstanton United Reformed Church  
Chequer Street

# Books & Jigsaws On Sale

and  
marmalade



**Saturday 20 April 2024  
9.30am – 12.00 noon**

## One million pound village hall approved

A new village hall for Fenstanton will be built on Crest Drive, on land that was handed to the village as part of Morris Homes' development of the former Dairy Crest Site. Outline planning for the hall was granted in 2016, with the land being handed over by Morris Homes in 2022, thus paving the way for detailed plans to be drawn and presented to HDC planning department; HDC approved those plans on Friday 16 February, granting permission to build.

The cost of the one million pound project will be covered by

£350,000 Fenstanton Village Hall funds.

£500,000 Cambridgeshire County Council grant.

£95,000 Fenstanton Parish Council grant.

£75,000 Huntingdonshire District Council grant.

This ambitious project would not have been possible without the dedication of the Village

Hall Trust, who built on funds raised by the sale of the old hall and a large donation from the sale of the Literary Institute, by many years of fund raising, nor would it have been possible without the generous grants from our three local councils. We are certain our village would like to take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to: the Village Hall Trust, for their dedication and hard work, Cambridgeshire County Council, for their generous half million pounds grant, Huntingdonshire District Council, for their grant and support throughout the planning process, and Fenstanton Parish Council, for their generous grant, support, and continued encouragement.



## Horror on the High Street

I woke with a start! The streetlamp outside my bedroom window was casting flickering shadows through the flapping curtains. I could hear 'it' getting closer and, as the village clock struck, I could feel myself sinking into an abyss of despair. My heart was thumping in my chest and pulsating in my ears. I held my breath as a cold sweat chilled my bones.

The noise was getting closer. I could envisage its huge jaws being thrown back as it gorged on the innards of its victims. Footsteps were getting closer, voices raised as they fed the appetite of this lumbering monster. Then it was my turn to be sacrificed; to be a part of this ritual of satisfying its relentless hunger.

Then as quickly as it came, the noise abated, the footsteps and voices were swallowed up in the darkness. I was left with the shadows on my bedroom wall. A huge wave of relief enveloped me. I was no longer holding my breath; my heartbeat was slowing as I sank back into my pillow in the knowledge I'd survived once more...I had put the bin out!

Joni Grace



# Coffee, Cake & Church

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

**Sunday 28 Apr**  
**Sunday 26 May**  
**Sunday 23 June**

and every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, (excluding Dec)

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# Village News

## Hilton Feast Week



The Feast Week schedule is almost complete, and what a week we have planned for you this year! It all kicks off on Sunday 21 July with sports day and culminates with the produce show and a medieval barn dance on Saturday 27 July. The week between is jam packed with activities including arts, crafts, jousting, live music, yoga, a knights school, teddy bears picnic, birds of prey and much, much more. So get ready to step back in time and join us for a week of medieval merrymaking.

But you don't have to wait until July for some Feast Week fun, we have a couple of fundraisers lined up before then. Put the dates in your diary and please join us if you can;

- Saturday 20 April join us for a quiz night at Hilton Village Hall, £5 per ticket, teams of up to 8 people. Get your tickets on line at [feastweek.co.uk](http://feastweek.co.uk).
- Saturday 8 June don't miss our Summer Party at the Pavilion with live music, a licensed bar and food vans, everyone welcome.



**QUIZ NIGHT**

TICKETS £5 EACH

TEAMS OF STRICTLY 8 PEOPLE MAXIMUM

Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm  
**Hilton Village Hall**

Licensed bar and snacks available to purchase

Tickets on Sale at  
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## Hilton Village Hall


Over the past couple of years, we've been fortunate to enjoy some early summer festivity-filled weekends in Hilton. While we don't have a royal occasion to commemorate this year, we don't want to let that stop us! So from Thursday 06 June to Sunday 09 June, we'll be collaborating with various Hilton groups to organise a weekend of activities for everyone in the village.

The Parish Council will kick things off by lighting the beacon on Thursday evening, 06 June, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. On Friday evening, the Games on the Green team will be in action, with all encouraged to join in the fun. The WI will be serving afternoon tea on Saturday, followed by an evening Summer Party at the Pavilion featuring live music, courtesy of Feast Week.

Wrapping up the weekend on Sunday 09 June, we'll be hosting a fundraiser for the Village Hall. "This is my Theatre" theatre company will present "The Wizard of Oz" on the village green. Tickets for this family-friendly production are now on sale. You can buy your tickets by scanning the QR code on the right, visiting [www.thisismytheatre.com/hilton](http://www.thisismytheatre.com/hilton), or calling 07974 435266.



## 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](https://www.what3words.com/moons.grumbles.admires)

### Fenstanton

Ash's Store (NISA) on the High Street  
[pouting.cabinet.washroom](https://www.what3words.com/pouting.cabinet.washroom)  
Church Centre on School Lane  
[reclusive.creeps.deleting](https://www.what3words.com/reclusive.creeps.deleting)

### Hilton

Prince of Wales Pub on Potton Road  
[mindset.skip.pulps](https://www.what3words.com/mindset.skip.pulps)  
Hilton Cricket Pavilion  
[clerk.farmland.unroll](https://www.what3words.com/clerk.farmland.unroll)

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## District News

For Fenstanton and Hilton

### Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



#### In Focus: Bus Service Routes to be invested in for Fenstanton Ward

Following the announcement of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Mayoral Annual Precept increase to £36 – equating to the annual sum of £3 per month per household. Thirty bus route improvements are to be invested in, including new routes as well as route improvements across the region.

I am pleased to announce Fenstanton was tabled top for new service provision in Huntingdonshire, as part of the Combined Authority's Bus Strategy. The Strategy has stated for the provision of a **link between Fenstanton and Huntingdon Railway Station**. Fenstanton could be incorporated into express service options, linking Cambridge to Huntingdon. Further information will be published in due course by the Combined Authority as they develop a draft route and timetable.

The 1A and 5A services between Bar Hill, Swavesey and St Ives and enhanced frequencies are also to be developed into a draft route and timetable.

Whilst Stagecoach's withdrawal of the Route F between Fenstanton and St Ives, was said to be withdrawn on the basis of low passenger footfall; public transport remains challenging for many in the ward. I will continue to push for the ward to be represented and considered towards the Mayor's improvement in local bus services, connectivity and infrastructure.

Further information can be found: <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/yoursayyourfuture/> The Bus Strategy can be found: <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/bus-strategy/>

#### Council Tax Scheme approved to improve lives of most vulnerable

Huntingdonshire District Council's budget for 2024/2025 has been approved, following our most recent Full Council, for the forthcoming financial year.

Huntingdonshire Band D Council Tax is set to go up by £5 a year to £160.86 from the new financial year starting on 1 April 2024. The rise, which amounts to less than 10p a week, or 3.21%, means that the average household will pay around £3 a week for all the services provided by Huntingdonshire District Council.

The new financial plan sets out a balanced Council budget and identifies how the Council will continue to protect vital frontline statutory services despite decreasing government funding, along with rising costs and inflation.

#### Do you have any queries or questions?

You can contact me by: [clare.tevlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:clare.tevlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) or 07565350014.



# Step into the Past

## 'Go Whippet' the Hilton years by Gillian Sheail



In October, Hilton villagers witnessed the demolition of the bungalow at the junction of Potton Road and Church Lane. This bungalow, with the land between it and the Prince of Wales, and the land on the opposite side of Potton Road, had been central to a business that once flourished in Hilton. It was built as a home for the Lee family who founded and managed Whippet Coaches.

Henry Lee was born in Hastings in 1888, and by 1911 was living with his parents in Islington, where he was described as a 'Carman'. He was gassed while serving in World War I, and was recommended to move away from the smoke-laden atmosphere of central London. He moved to Graveley in 1919, where he was living with his wife Mabel and their sons, Henry and Arthur, at the time of the 1921 Census (their third son, Joseph was born later that year). By this time he was a 'Motor Engineer' and he quickly realised that the people of Graveley and surrounding villages needed a bus service to get to the nearby market towns. He acquired a Model T Ford Ambulance and, with the help of the Graveley wheelwright, turned it into a 14 seater bus, with bench seats along each side. It carried villagers to the markets in St Ives on Mondays and St Neots on Thursdays. The name 'The Whippet' was introduced soon afterwards. A Sunbeam coach was added in 1920 and shortly afterward a Vulcan coach was acquired.

The number of vehicles and routes increased, so by 1926 the original premises in Graveley



were too small and the business moved to Hilton, where Henry Lee acquired a plot of land north of the Prince of Wales. The family home, called Ashlea, and the garage were built facing the Potton Road. The huge garage had a large forecourt on which the buses could be parked and washed, before being accommodated inside. Opposite the garage, parking space was available on land between the White Horse and Milestone Cottages.



The Garage (date unknown)

To prevent unnecessary competition, the 1930 Road Traffic Act required companies to acquire licences to operate regular bus routes. In the same year the first brand-new 20 seat Whippet coach was purchased, followed in 1931 by the first of many Bedford coaches. By this time Whippet had extended services to Bedford, Cambridge and London, with day trips available to attractions such as Wicksteed Park and Whipsnade Zoo. The 1939 Register confirms that Henry Lee, known to everyone as Harry, a Motor Mechanic and Garage Proprietor, lived in the bungalow on the Potton Road, with his second wife, Annie, and his youngest son Joseph, who was a Motor Driver. His second son, Arthur, a Coach Traffic Manager, was living on the opposite side of the Potton Road. The outbreak of war in 1939 limited any further extension of routes, but the coaches were in great demand to carry construction workers to the airfields being built on the flat lands of East Anglia, and later to transport the RAF personnel to the airfields



Whippet Coach at the garage in the 1960s

of Graveley, Upwood, Wyton and Warboys. The post-war period saw a great increase in bus and coach transport. The Company increased both the number of routes, and its contractual services, providing buses and coaches for daily school, college and business runs. A daily service to London featured, while on Saturdays a fleet of coaches set out for Brighton, Eastbourne, Margate, Clacton and other seaside holiday destinations. The expansion of Pye's wireless services in Cambridge, and the factories of Papworth Industries provided more opportunities for daily contracts, while the contracts with the RAF increased in both number and distance.



The Lee Brothers

Henry Lee retired to Herne Bay in 1948, leaving his 3 sons, Henry, Arthur and Joseph to run the family business. 'Go Whippet' as it was then called had a large fleet of buses and coaches. Hilton was exceptionally well-served with buses, and the company provided work for a number of villagers. The name 'Go Whippet' was well-known throughout Huntingdonshire, always linked with Hilton and the Lee family.

By the nineteen fifties, The White Horse opposite Ashlea was no longer a public house; it had been subdivided into three dwellings. Eventually sold by auction in 1955, Arthur Lee acquired the building and the adjacent land between the Methodist Chapel and Milestone Cottages. The White Horse was demolished in 1967. Part of the land became the building plot for Chapel Close, while a bungalow was built on the site of the pub (10 Chapel Close) and Arthur Lee and his wife, moved across the road from Ashlea. Two further houses were built along the Potton Road, Sunnyside and Fairview.



The Garage On Fire 1981

By 1974 the Whippet Fleet consisted of 23 coaches and 13 double-decker buses. More room was needed, and in 1977 operations moved to the new Fenstanton depot on the Cambridge to Huntingdon Road, where there was space for maintaining and housing the vehicles, and the company's administrative offices.

The Hilton garage stood empty for some time, until taken over as a soft furnishing warehouse. It had a dramatic end when fire broke out in the middle of the night of 8-9 June 1981 which destroyed the building. A terrace of 4 houses is now situated on the garage site, while more terraced houses fronting on Church Lane were built on the remaining land originally owned by the Lee family.

Thanks to Peter Lee and Beverley Tack for their assistance with this article. GS.



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## My Travels with Flying Scotsman

By Bruce Whatley

I have been involved with mainline steam engines since 2014, when I was invited to become part of the support crew on a B1 type locomotive named Mayflower. Having acquired the necessary certification needed to be allowed on the footplate and to go lineside, I was able to be involved with many journeys and locomotives to all parts of the United Kingdom. The year 2023 was the centenary of possibly the most famous steam locomotive in the world, Flying Scotsman.

You may have seen the locomotive on news bulletins or in the newspapers as the event was widely publicised. Or even have been one of the in excess of 6000 passengers that undertook Flying Scotsman hauled excursions.



Bruce Whatley and Flying Scotsman

Normally the places for support crew are considerably over-subscribed as everyone wants to partake in the locomotive's celebrations.

You can perhaps appreciate my surprise therefore when I received a telephone call in the Summer of 2023 asking if I was free to be a support crew member on an excursion from London Euston to Chester and back.

Being a life-long London and North Eastern Railway fan and a fan of A3 locomotives in particular (A3 is the class of locomotive that Flying Scotsman belongs to) I immediately said yes. So I set off for Southall in West London two days before the date of the trip. This enabled me to help in preparing the locomotive, including lighting the fire, oiling around in excess of 80 oiling points and generally cleaning the locomotive such that it could be seen in its best light for the adoring public.

A very early start was made from Southall on the day of the trip due to how busy the Great Western main line is out of Paddington these days.

An on-time departure from London Euston was achieved and we picked up further passengers on the way to Chester. The passengers were disembarked, we moved to sidings where the work of the support crew really begins. Sometimes with little over an hour it is necessary to oil the engine, carry out visual inspections and clean the fire. The latter on occasions can require that the existing fire is removed and a new fire lit due to the presence of large amounts of clinker. Clinker forms a hard slab-like covering on the top of the fire which prevents adequate primary air being able to penetrate through the firebed - the result of which is a lack of heat and steam.

The locomotive also requires its tender to be refilled with water and coal. Having achieved all of the above, we took the locomotive and train back to the platform and the passengers boarded. I was lucky enough to be on the foot plate from Chester to London Euston and to Southall where, having checked the locomotive over, I retired to bed in the support coach for a well-earned rest.

I must have done something right as I was invited back a few weeks later for another trip on Flying Scotsman from London Kings Cross to Great Yarmouth and return. As before, I returned to Southall and prepared the engine for the trip. To my absolute delight I was asked if I wanted to go on the footplate from King's Cross to Ely.

It is difficult to express my feelings at coming out of Kings Cross on Flying Scotsman's footplate; if you had told me as a young teenage trainspotter in the early 1960s that in 2023 I would be able to achieve this it would have seemed total fiction.

Whilst waiting for the signal to depart I could not help reminiscing on all the famous locomotives, drivers and trains that had been on the same tracks that I was now sitting on, including Mallard.

I in no way wish to diminish the wonderful hard working volunteers who keep our preserved railways operating. The speed on these is restricted to 25 mph. Flying Scotsman is not! At its line speed of 75 mph all your senses are stimulated, the heat from the fire is intense as the firehole doors are opened and closed to put coal on. The noise is very loud as you rattle over points and junctions although the famous clicky-clack has long disappeared on most routes with the advent of continuously welded track. Your eyes are constantly flicking between the various gauges, to ensure everything is performing correctly.

We get the green flag and we are away pulling out through the gas works tunnel where in at least one incident a train of in excess

of 20 coaches was despatched during the second world war. We turn right at Hitchin through Royston, Cambridge and to Ely to take water. Onward through Thetford forest and eventually arriving at Great Yarmouth to be received by a massive crowd. Incidentally, the stations and lineside all the way had been filled with large amounts of well-wishers smiling and waving.

As on the Chester trip we serviced the engine and set off on the return trip. This time I went through the corridor tender just before Ely and rode on the footplate to Cambridge. As we pulled into Ely to my surprise and delight



were my daughter Jennie and granddaughter Abi - truly a special moment. All went well and we arrived back to Kings Cross and then on to Southall.

The next day some unusual events occurred. People I had never seen before closely examining the engine and coach, the engine getting an extra special clean. I obviously asked what was going on and was told that I couldn't be told but would I clean and repaint four headlamps. Now the railwaymen reading this will know the only time a locomotive carries four headlamps is on the royal train. That is exactly what happened a couple of days later when Flying Scotsman took King Charles from York to the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.



## St Mary's Fen Drayton St Peter and St Paul Fenstanton



We look forward to welcoming you!

There are two churches in our benefice: our Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul in Fenstanton and our Chapel of Ease, St Mary's, Fen Drayton. Both our churches look forward to welcoming you to any of our services. We hope to see you soon!  
**Please note - services held in St Peter & St Paul's Church, Fenstanton are live streamed where possible, details via <https://www.fenchurchbooking.org.uk>**

### April 2024 – Services and Events

Sunday 7 April	10.30am Fenstanton	Parish Service with Holy Communion
Thursday 11 April	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer For Zoom details, please contact Rev Rosie
Sunday 14 April	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion Worship For All
Thursday 18 April	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 21 April	10.30am Fenstanton 6pm Fenstanton	Parish Service with Holy Communion with Sunday Club for children Sung Evensong (BCP)
Thursday 25 April	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 28 April	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Morning Praise Family Communion

### A Church Full of Art

Coming up in May on the weekend of 18-19 May, 'A Church Full of Art' in Fenstanton Parish Church. An art exhibition featuring the work of lots of local artists. Watch out for more details next month in The Journal, on posters and social media. For further details about exhibiting please contact Deborah Hunt or email [deborahedmans@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deborahedmans@hotmail.co.uk). Thank you.



### Rev Rosie writes: Hello – how are you doing?

News this month includes a new service time for Sunday Services in the Parish Church, Fenstanton. For a number of reasons we need to move the time from 10am to 10.30am, every week.

With the arrival of spring and the clocks moving to BST, our monthly Evensong service will move from 5pm to 6pm. Evensong is a very traditional service using Book of Common Prayer, and often our choir outnumbers our congregants. If a more traditional service is more your 'thing' then why not come along and join us, you will be very welcome.

Perhaps you have children? Why not come along to a Sunday service where we have Sunday Club, which meets in the church first before going to the Church Centre. Or try Worship for All – a short service where all ages learn about the Christian faith together. On the second and fourth Sundays we usually have a small band of musicians, which may include a combination of piano, trombone, trumpet, French horn, saxophone, flute, cello and violin. We have our organist, Keith, play for us on the first and third Sundays.

Do stay after the morning services and join us for a cuppa.

**St Mary's, Fen Drayton** has services twice a month, at 9.15am, as per the service calendar above. We don't currently have an organist but we are quite good at unaccompanied singing, which may be to the same tune, or not... As Psalm 100 says, 'make a joyful noise to the Lord'. There is usually a small congregation of between 5 and 12 so it would be lovely to see more join us twice a month.

**Until next time, God bless.**

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallowin: 01480 467393 email: [rosie.tallowin@btinternet.com](mailto:rosie.tallowin@btinternet.com)

Churchwardens: Philip Blunt 01480 461751 and Ian Hucklesby 01480 465211

**For your information:** please note that the Parish Church, Fenstanton has a ramp for disabled access which can be deployed upon request. There is also a toilet, with disabled access, in the church and heating.

St Mary's has a small threshold that may be possible to navigate with a wheelchair. There are no toilet facilities, yet, and limited heating (on our list of things to do).

Although we have fixed pews in both churches there are plenty of spaces available for wheelchairs, prams and buggies. We will be happy to help you find a space if that helps you to feel welcome among us as we worship.

Returning in 2024 

Booze in  
Fenstanton Pews

Save the  
Date!



20,21,22  
June 2024

at Fenstanton  
Parish Church

# FUN DAY

Sat/Sun 4-5 May  
11:00am - 3:00pm



**FREE ENTRY**

## Fenstanton Bowls Club

*Come and join the bowling fun at our open days.  
All ages are welcome.*

*All you need on the day is to wear flat shoes or trainers.*

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Prize  
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*Everything else will be provided  
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*One lucky person or couple can  
win free membership for the year.*



For membership details and any other information or queries regarding the club please email [fenstantonbowlsclub@outlook.com](mailto:fenstantonbowlsclub@outlook.com) or call Barry on 07541968125.



Put the date in your diary  
We look forward to seeing you soon



<https://fenstantonbowlsclub.co.uk/find-us/>

## News from the Pews

### Hilton Methodist Church



On the 2nd Friday of each month, at 5.30 pm in Hilton we have Friday Feast – beautiful craft activities prepared for children but anyone young at heart is welcome. Located in the Anglian Church, adults get to enjoy an end of week glass of wine. It's lovely. Last month was my turn to deliver a short children's address - I was asked to explain the meaning of the words of the Grace. 'Dear God!', I thought. Libraries have been written on this and you want a fun, two minute talk!!!!.... I reached for the wine!

Most of us remember the words.... or near enough: - 'May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now, and for evermore'. The apostle Paul (you remember him .... the one who used to keep busy by killing Christ's followers) goes on at great length about 'Grace' but basically says it's God freely accepting us because his son, Jesus, died for our sins. Hmm ... I remembered what I thought about this when I was small.

I didn't feel I had sinned really. Ok, I was no goody two shoes by a long way; but I didn't see whatever I had done wrong required Jesus to die on a cross on my behalf. Far be it for me to take issue with St Paul but.... really? Perhaps he should stick to speaking for himself. After all it was him doing all the persecuting, not me!

As an adult, having now managed some decent sinning, I see this slightly differently. But more because I realise how it's nigh impossible for anyone of us to live well without having a negative impact on someone else (think climate change,

capitalism, wars etc).

Sin is ingrained in the human experience and it's impossible for any of us to totally avoid it – just think where your pension funds are invested for example....

But I also remembered what farmers do when they need to get an orphaned lamb adopted. They wipe the orphan with the scent of another lamb and its mother, and this results in her not noticing the extra mouth to feed, the extra body to look after, is not one of her own.

For me that's Grace – whether we see ourselves as culpable or not, humans, by definition, cannot match the perfection of God. The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is what covers us so that God doesn't notice. God sees us as his. May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ cover you this month.



*Sue*

You can contact Revd.Sue by email: [sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk](mailto:sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk) or by phone: 07483 153948

#### Services in April

7 April	10:00am	Mrs. P Zähler
14 April	11:15am	United Service at the Parish Church
21 April	10:00am	Dr. D. Ward
25 April	10:00am	Rev. H. Walker

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# Fenstanton Morris will be dancing at Dawn



Wednesday 01 May  
at The Clocktower  
Fenstanton, 5.30am



Contact [fenstantonbag@gmail.com](mailto:fenstantonbag@gmail.com)  
for further details or via our  
Facebook page

If you would appreciate help to purchase books or items needed for further education, then apply to this trust. Founded in 1728, the trust has helped many residents of Fenstanton and Fen Drayton.

The fund is not a large one but every little helps.

A little help can go a long way.

Apply in writing to:  
Mrs T Dellar  
[terridellar@btinternet.com](mailto:terridellar@btinternet.com)

**The Joseph Ellis Foundation Trust**

All applications are dealt with in privacy  
Help can be given for travel or living expenses.

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[www.hiltonvillagehall.com](http://www.hiltonvillagehall.com)

or call  
07752 678415



Find us on **HILTON VILLAGE HALL, CAMBS**



**No Membership  
fee increase  
for 2024/25!**

## **Our 2024/5 Membership Year is about to start!**

### Here are the advantages of becoming a Member:

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

### **Why not sign-up for our 1 month Free Trial in April to try out the courts before deciding whether to join us**

Find more information about our Club & details of the membership costs on our website – [fendraytontc.co.uk](http://fendraytontc.co.uk) or 



# Hilton Summer Ball

SATURDAY 20TH JULY 2024  
MARQUEE ON THE GREEN  
(BLACK TIE & POSH FROCKS)

## ORDER OF EVENTS

6:30PM - FIZZ RECEPTION & CANAPÉS  
7:30PM - DINNER IN THE MARQUEE  
FOLLOWED BY - DANCING TO A LIVE BAND  
& CHARITY RAFFLE  
1:00AM - CARRIAGES

Dining by:



TICKETS ARE PRICED @ £70.00  
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For further information, please contact:  
HILTONSUMMERBALL@OUTLOOK.COM



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## Separation and Divorce is hard for everyone

Splitting up can be done inexpensively, but if you rush and make bad decisions, the costs can be high, both financially and emotionally.

When seeking advice on ending your marriage and reaching agreement with your spouse over future arrangements, there are alternatives to traditional "lawyer to lawyer" negotiation and/or formal court proceedings:

**Mediation:** Trained in conflict resolution and family law, a mediator facilitates discussions between you and your spouse and can inform you about potential financial and childcare arrangements, helping to reopen the discussion if things break down. This reduces your legal costs because you and your spouse shoulder the burden of gathering/sharing information yourselves, and while your mediator's hourly rate may not be any cheaper than those of your solicitor, you'll spend far less time together with the mediator.

**Collaborative law:** You and your spouse instruct solicitors and conduct discussions round the table with a commitment to resolving your differences without resorting to court proceedings. There will be the short term cost of instructing solicitors to help you reach agreement together, but if agreement is reached, you avoid the long term cost of drawn out litigation. Most of all, you keep control of the process, something that is lost the moment a court is asked to determine your future.

**How to reduce the cost? - Avoid these mistakes**  
**Unrealistic expectations.** One household is

about to be split into two. Unless you're a rock star, expect money to be a little tight.

**Getting into an endless battle.** Turning the negotiations into a battleground will drain your emotions and your finances. Pick your battles wisely.

**Getting hung up on the numbers.** A fair split is not necessarily an even split. Two households will be needed. Priority will be given to housing any children.

**Not listening to professional advice.** If you are paying for legal advice, listen to it. The mediator, solicitor or collaborative practitioner will know more than your friends or family!

### What can Leeds Day offer?

We have a team of specialist family lawyers who provide expert, impartial advice to help resolve family issues. Headed by **Simon Thomas**, a trained collaborative solicitor based at the firm's St Neots office with over 22 years' experience, we offer a comprehensive range of family law services. **Charlene Powell** is a solicitor of 4 years experience is also based at the St Neots office. **Lee Bailham & Lisa Leader** are our solicitors based at the Huntingdon office. Both undertake family law work with more than twenty four years' experience each. We believe a calm approach to matrimonial disputes is the best option and that the best lawyers keep their clients out of the stress and expense of court proceedings, compromise being the ideal solution.



Simon Thomas

Lee Bailham

Lisa Leader

Charlene Powell

To find out more or to book an appointment contact Leeds Day on 0333 577 2250, send an email to [family@leedsday.co.uk](mailto:family@leedsday.co.uk) or visit our website: [www.leedsday.co.uk/family](http://www.leedsday.co.uk/family).



## Hilton Parish Church

Dear Friends,

I'd like to wish you a very Happy Easter!

I don't know when you will get your copy of The Journal, but by the time you read this Easter Sunday might well be past. So why would I wish you a Happy Easter in the April edition, when Easter Sunday was on 31 March? The reason is that much of the Christian church continues to celebrate Easter for several weeks, right up until Pentecost, which this year is on 19 May.

So we are still very much in the Easter season. Christians make a big deal out of Easter, year after year, more than they do for Christmas. Why is that? Why celebrate for a whole seven weeks something that after all comes around every year? The simplest explanation for this is that the events we remember at Easter, whether you believe they happened or not, have changed the world, and continue to shape it, like no other events in history. Not everyone believes that Jesus rose from the dead, but his first friends and followers, convinced that he had, went out into all the world with that message, and since that day some two thousand and 20-odd years ago, countless men and women, trusting in that message, have made the world better – yes, despite all the horrors of religious war – better, kinder, more loving and more hopeful.

Our laws, our ways of treating one another, even such things as our systems of health and education, are all deeply influenced at their root by faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, no matter how hidden or forgotten that may be. Most definitely worth making a fuss about, every year and always.

Happy Easter!

With love,

David

### Services in April

Sunday 07 April	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 14 April	11:15am United Service at the Parish Church
Sunday 21 April	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 28 April	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church service in the Village Hall

There will not be a Friday Feast in April – back on 10 May.

### Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

Holy Communion Wednesdays (2.30pm) Bible study Fridays (10am)

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



**Fenstanton United Reformed Church**  
Chequer Street, Fenstanton

[www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)

We are pleased to welcome you to our friendly church.  
Sunday morning services are at 09.30. All are welcome.

### 2024 Services

#### April

07 April	Revd Christine Davies
14 April	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
21 April	Revd Dr Catherine Ball & Steph Atkins
28 April	Led by Richard Lewney

#### May

05 May	Revd Christine Davies
12 May	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
19 May	Revd Dr Catherine Ball & Steph Atkins
26 May	Led by Faith Paulding

#### Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

Tuesday 09 April	2.30-4pm
Tuesday 14 May	2.30-4pm

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary

### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St Ives

Church of the Sacred Heart,  
19 Needingworth Rd.

Parish Priest: Rev Thomas J Walton

Tel 01480 462192,

[www.sacredheart-stives.org](http://www.sacredheart-stives.org)

Mass Times: Saturday 17.00,

Sunday 09.00 and 11.00

### The Particular Baptist Chapel

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There has been a witness to the  
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since 1643

Services are on Sundays at 10.30am  
and 2.30pm and on Thursday  
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## Life on a Plate

### Asparagus Season! Asparagus and cheese tart

A favourite vegetable in the Spring is asparagus. Ron's Farm shop in Fenstanton will soon have the indoor grown variety (April) and hopefully outdoor grown spears in May.

Classically chargrilled and served with butter, lemon and pepper, or with a poached egg and hollandaise sauce. But here's a recipe for those wanting a good meal using asparagus as the main show; serve with new potatoes and grilled beef tomatoes.

#### Ingredients

- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thaw according to package instructions
- Flour, for the work surface
- 1 small tub of cream cheese or ricotta cheese
- 1 large egg
- 3 Tablespoons chopped parsley
- 1 Tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- 300g gruyere cheese
- Salt and pepper
- 12 Small Asparagus spears or 6 large (Cut in half lengthways to make 12)
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil



#### Method

- Preheat oven to 200C or gas mark 7
- Sprinkle the counter with flour.
  - Roll out the thawed puff pastry into a 16-by-10 inch rectangle. It does not have to be perfect!
  - Cover a baking sheet with parchment paper and place the puff pastry on it. If using a sheet of puff pastry, use the sheet it was wrapped in.
  - With a sharp knife, lightly score the pastry dough 1 inch in from the edges. Do not cut all the way through the dough.
  - Pierce the dough inside the border with a fork about every inch.
  - Bake until light golden brown, about 10 minutes.
  - Stir together the cream cheese or ricotta, egg, parsley, lemon juice, cayenne, salt and pepper.
  - Spread the cheese mixture on the inside of the border of the pastry.
  - Sprinkle the Gruyere on top of the ricotta.
  - Trim the ends of the asparagus so that they are all about the same size and fit inside the pastry. Place the asparagus spears inside the tart shell. Alternate the tips and bottoms so that they fit better.
  - Brush the asparagus with olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
  - Bake until the spears are tender, about 20 minutes. Enjoy warm or at room temperature.

The



VILLAGE  
Fun Day

Saturday 6th July

Bring your tables and chairs and enjoy an afternoon of live music from The Stylus Band and the City of Cambridge Brass Band to help us make this day really special.

Lots of food available including hog roast from Little Piggy, BBQ, ice creams, cakes and bar.

Noon to 6pm • F&H Primary School Playing Field  
Sponsored by your Parish Council



Fun for all the family

Incorporating Sports Day and the PTA Summer Fair

**Games Stalls Tombola Traditional Races Tug of War Penalty Shoot Out Trampolines Bouncy Castle Archery.**  
And, don't forget to take a look at our **Vintage Vehicle Display.**

Why not enter the **Produce competitions** including cakes, jams, liqueurs and more.  
Full list to be announced.

A day out for the whole family • Free entry  
Making Fenstanton an even better place to live

## Latest news from Fenstanton Parish Council

### Village pond footpath

Your Parish Council is delighted to announce the completion of the improvement to the footpath alongside our village pond. This improvement enhances the area's aesthetic appeal, matching the rest of the footpath and the area surrounding the Clocktower, whilst still providing a safe surface for all users.

Can we please ask that drivers avoid parking on the footpath to give it the best chance of lasting for many years to come. We believe this improvement reflects our commitment to maintaining and enhancing the beauty and functionality of our village amenities.



### New defibrillator - In memory of Geoff Pryke

Your Parish Council is installing a new defibrillator at Rookery Place soon, this will provide a third defibrillator for our Village. We would like to thank Zaza Barbers who have kindly agreed to allow the defibrillator to be mounted on the exterior wall of their premises.

The defibrillator will be dedicated to the memory of Geoff Pryke, Geoff served as a Parish Councillor for many years until his passing in November 2023.

Your Parish Council has funded this defibrillator in the hope that it will one day save a life and spare other families the pain of losing a loved one.

We encourage everyone to familiarise themselves with the location of the new defibrillator and, if possible, to learn how to use it. This knowledge could one day help you save a life.



## The Community Hub

Your Community Hub, based at the Church Centre, has been open for a little over a year and has gone from strength to strength.

Monday morning at 10.00am we hold a Chair and Standing exercise class; lasting around 50 minutes, it is followed by Free Tea and Toast served by our dedicated volunteers. The class or the toast? regularly attracts around thirty people (my money's on the toast!)

Tuesday morning 9.15am to 11.45am is our Baby and Toddler group, this is a great place to meet other mums and dads and for the children to develop their social skills. There is no charge and no need to book. Free refreshments are available all morning.

Tuesday afternoon our Hub turns into a café from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. There is always cake and the usual snacks with the occasional pop-up, like our upcoming Easter Afternoon Tea, with hot cross buns, sandwiches, and a fabulous Easter Raffle.

We also have pop-in guests, such as Claire Dunbar, who offers holistic wellbeing advice and free hand or shoulder massage, or Mama Jo's Mischief with craft sessions at our toddler group. Look out for our Coffee with a Cop event coming soon.

### Who Pays for the Community Hub?

Fenstanton Parish Council facilitates the Community Hub, working with the Church Centre and the Parish Church, it covers the cost of hiring the Hall. The Hub, which is run entirely by volunteers, also receives an annual grant of £500 from Huntingdonshire District Council; that grant goes towards running costs such as equipment and printing.

**YOUR DONATIONS** are important to us, as they pay for the food and drink at our regular events, and at our pop-up events, your donations also go towards the cost of our Exercise Instructor for the Chair and Standing Exercise Class.



## Councillor Surgery – dates

Councillor surgeries are now held once a month on a Saturday morning 10am – 12pm at The Hub, 6 High Street, Fenstanton.

Surgeries give Parishioners an opportunity to pop in to discuss any issues they wish to bring to the attention of your Parish Council. Please pop in.

27.04.2024	Anne Mustill	Martin Hewitt
25.05.2024	Paul Kent	Matt Tandy
29.06.2024	Roy McGee	Tina Yates

## Next Parish Council meetings

Your Parish Council meets next on Thursday 11 April at 7.00pm and for the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 9 May at 7.00pm in the Church Centre.

## Annual Meeting of the Parish

The Annual Meeting of the Parish is on Thursday 25 April at 7.00pm in the Church Centre. Put the date in your diary as this is your opportunity to hear what the Parish Council has been working on over the past year and for you to have your say.

## Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers Keeping our village clean

There's a growing tradition among young people in our village to choose litter picking as their volunteer element in the bronze Duke of Edinburgh award programme.

The DofE was founded almost seventy years ago and its mission to encourage personal discovery, self-reliance and responsibility in an environment of social interaction and teamwork has remained unchanged throughout that time.

The bronze award involves; skills improvement, physical activity, volunteering and finally an expedition that involves map/route planning, pitching their own tents and food preparation.

Our first DofE volunteer, back in 2020, was Henry Payne. Henry, who is currently studying economics, physics, and maths at Hills Road Sixth Form College, had several delays caused by the Coronavirus pandemic and completed his award in 2021. Henry's sister Freya also chose litter picking as part of her award programme, completing it in 2022. Following family traditions too are Alice and John Fewtrell, Alice completed her bronze DofE in 2022 and John, our latest volunteer, is currently working through his programme.

Other volunteers who chose to care for the village as part of their DofE bronze award were Grace Jablonski, Evie McCulloch, Carly Orchard and Erin Illman.

Thank you all for caring for our village and setting such a good example.



John Fewtrell



Evie McCulloch & Freya Payne



Alice Fewtrell



Henry Payne

## Tree planting event

A community tree planting event took place on Saturday 2 March, organised by your Parish Council. A big thank you to all who turned up with their spades to help. After consultation with residents, your Parish Council selected fifty trees of various species, including Silver Birch, Prunus, Lilac, Malus, and Sorbus, to be planted in various locations around the village.

The event proved to be a resounding success, thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of volunteers. Together, they contributed to providing more greenery for the village and creating a more beautiful and sustainable

environment for everyone to enjoy.

Your Parish Council remains committed to the well-being of these newly planted trees and will ensure they receive the necessary care and attention to thrive and grow for years to come. A special thanks to Ray Puddefoot not only for organising the event but also for his professional advice on the variety of trees to be planted.



## Why I became a Parish Councillor – hear from some of our current Parish Councillors

There are currently four vacancies for co-option and we would love to hear from you if you would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.



**Cllr Paul Kent** – “It may sound a little cliché, but I decided to become an unpaid councillor because I have had a lot to be grateful for during my working life, which has enabled me to live in Fenstanton. So, after retiring from business, I decided to use this opportunity to give back some of my free time to our community by working as an unpaid Parish Councillor to improve the facilities within our village. I am very proud of our village and genuinely want to contribute towards making Fenstanton an even better place to live. During my time as elected chairman, over the previous nine years I have endeavoured to ensure my colleagues and I work constructively together for the benefit of our community, bringing it together and representing local residents' views at Parish, District and County level, enabling the delivery of improvements for the benefit of our community. My hope is that when residents reflect upon the improvements that have been delivered through the Parish Council, they feel that the Parish Council has positively and democratically improved amenities and life within our community.”



**Cllr Nigel Ferrier** – “When you live in a community you have two choices. You can either sit in the background and do nothing, or become a keyboard warrior complaining about everything and suggesting others should fix things. Or you can get off your backside and help start making improvements. As a Parish Councillor, when you do make changes and see our surroundings improve, it's very satisfying to think that you have helped to leave a legacy for the future. A Parish Council is like running a business, it needs a variety of skills to make it successful. I joined because I believed my skills could benefit the community. In recent years the Parish Council has noticeably helped to improve the village. There is still a lot to do and some of it takes quite a time. We do not have an open cheque book and that in a way provides its own challenges. It is not easy being on the Parish Council, but it can be very, very rewarding, especially if you can make people smile and feel proud of where they live.”



**Cllr Tina Yates** – “I do believe that if you belong to a community then when you can, you should give back to that community. So, in my case I'm giving what time I have and contributing the skills and knowledge acquired during my career. For anyone who cares about the village I can recommend joining the PC as a great way to learn far more about local Government, and about what is and isn't within the remit of the Parish Council. So many people criticise from their computers, instead of trying to be a part of any solutions. I want to help with solutions that can make our village a community that we can all enjoy. Are you a computer critic or a positive person? If the latter, then we need you as a fellow Councillor!”



**Cllr Anne Mustill** – “I joined the Council in 2022 because I felt that there was much less a sense of community in Fenstanton than when my children were young. Joining the Council gave me the opportunity to better this situation by becoming part of the team which delivered The Big Coronation Picnic, also by becoming Fenstanton's editor for The Journal. I wanted to make a difference.”



**Cllr Martin Hewitt** – “Having lived in the village since 1997 I have seen a lot of changes, some for the better and others not. This led to my decision to join the Parish Council, as I realised that I wanted to try and help the community, instead of just complaining about things I disagreed with.”

If you would be interested or would like to know more about the role of a Parish Councillor, please contact your Clerk for further information.

To contact your Parish Council Clerk Telephone: 01480 465 300

Email: [clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk) Website: [www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



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FUND RAISER FOR FEN DRAYTON'S NEW PAVILION

# SPRING BEER FESTIVAL

\*\*\*\*\*

**26 MAY** | **FREE ENTRY** | **ON THE GREEN @ FEN DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL**  
1:00 PM

\*\*\*\*\*

PERFORMANCES BY

**MOJO BAND @1PM | BLUES REVUE @4PM**

**STANDUP COMEDY BY CUSTARD COMEDY @8PM**  
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## Fen Drayton 10k Race and Fun Run

### Sunday 05 May 2024



Bring the whole family along for a day of fun and fitness! We have activities planned for all ages, ensuring that everyone can be a part of this exciting event.

Enter now for either the 10k race (16yrs+) or the Family Fun Run by visiting our website at [www.fendrayton10k.org](http://www.fendrayton10k.org)

We are committed and very proud to once again be raising much needed funds for our local primary school, as well as local charities that support people in the local community and in the East Anglia area.

We are immensely grateful to everyone in the village for supporting our event over the years and welcome anyone who would like to join us in various roles. From sponsorship opportunities, or being a part of our lovely committee, to holding an event stall on the day. Please do get in touch if you would like to support us more: [info@fendrayton10k.org](mailto:info@fendrayton10k.org)

AND don't forget to follow us on Facebook @fendrayton10krun too!

The FD 10k Committee

## Sign up for updates from your neighbourhood policing team

Have you heard of eCops? It's an email messaging system used by Cambridgeshire Constabulary to communicate with their residents.

By registering with eCops, you receive news and appeals, local crime information and crime prevention advice, direct to you as an email. The service is completely free and works alongside Neighbourhood Watch, to bring you messages about your local area. It also allows you to feedback information to your local policing team, to help us police your neighbourhood effectively.

Messages can include crime prevention advice, details of incidents and appeals for your help in reducing crime in the county. We also send a monthly newsletter. So why not sign up to eCops today!

[www.ecops.org.uk](http://www.ecops.org.uk)

## Fenstanton Community Hub

**“There are no strangers here just friends who you are yet to meet”**

**Don't sit at home alone, come to the hub**

**Free refreshments and snacks**

**Open Monday 09.30am 'till noon**

**Tuesday 09.30am 'till noon  
and 2pm - 4pm**

**Church Centre (School Lane),  
Fenstanton PE28 9JR**

**Supported by Fenstanton Parish Council,  
the Church Centre and HDC**

## Business Spotlight

### Free energy is not a dream

When Ross Stewart was undertaking his apprenticeship as a plumber in 2005 becoming one of the regions leading installers of renewable energy was furthest from his mind. His company RDS Heating and Renewables, which now employees 15 people, was formed in 2015 a year after he moved into Fenstanton. Not that he moved far as he was born and brought up in Fen Drayton where his business is now based.

His two children both attend the local schools and when he is allowed time off work he is a passionate carp fisherman. *“Whilst I enjoy fishing I don't compete or anything like that. I would call myself a fair weather fisherman, not one of those all night all weather guys.”* Ross says.

provided 'turn-key' energy solutions for the majority of the new passive style houses built along Middleton Way.

*“However, it is not just privately built new houses that are interested in our design and build service. Small new house developers are starting to recognise the benefits of installing environmentally sound heating and lighting from the outset as it really enhances the property value.”*

In the UK now nearly 50% of our energy is generated using renewable sources which offers additional benefits for those with a renewable system. Free power! *“When the*

# RDS SOLAR

The Future of Home Heating

*grid is over-powered, particularly on windy days, the National Grid wants to off-load power. So it allows users to charge batteries in their house and cars free of charge. Our systems use AI to optimise these further money saving opportunities”.*

*“As a business we are 100% committed to renewable energy solutions and offer a complete design, supply and installation service. We work with clients to*

*provide the best outcome for them ranging from simple solar roof systems to fully blown integrated solutions. Today free energy is not a dream but a reality. It is not just about the cash incentive, it's about harnessing natural resources without damaging the environment.”* Ross concludes.

A great achievement for someone who only few years ago was learning the basics of plumbing!

**RDS is open during normal office hours and can be contacted on 01954 770309 or by visiting their website [www.rdsolar.co.uk](http://www.rdsolar.co.uk)**



With RDS, Ross saw a future in renewables and after extensive research he decided that was the direction in which he wanted to take his business. *“I have, over the years, developed a keen interest in environmental aspects.”* Ross explains. *“I have never really looked at my energy bills but as with a lot of other households it has become a real focus in recent years. With the massive hike in energy costs we have seen a real interest in alternative ways of powering a home.”*

RDS has been in business over nine years and in the last three years has seen a massive increase in its renewable products. They have

## Neighbourhood policing community meeting

- Meet your Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Find out what the team have been working on in your area
- Share your concerns
- Help shape the local policing priorities



**SCAN HERE to find out when your next meeting is.**



**SCAN HERE to fill out the survey**

Call: 101  
Visit: [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk)  
Follow: @CambsCops  
Subscribe: [ecops.org.uk](http://ecops.org.uk)



Creating a safer  
Cambridgeshire

# Mama Jo's Mischief

Welcome to Mama Jo's Mischief. Here, you will find an array of new craft activity ideas every month for children of all ages, as well as occasional places of interest and recommended local events. Happy mischief making!

## Easter Bunny Headband

Happy Easter! I know this come a little late, but with the Easter Holidays stretching between March and April, I thought this craft would be a good way to extend the Easter cheer. My three year old daughter absolutely loved making this headband recently, it was really easy to put together and it's the perfect activity for kids of all ages, so I thought we'd share it with you. Follow the steps below to make this yourself. Check out our Instagram page for more detailed instructions.

### Step 1

With your black pen, draw a pair of ears on a piece of card, these can be any shape and size you want. Then also draw what will become your front piece, I drew Easter eggs, but you could draw chicks, or flowers etc. I let my daughter colour these in before cutting them out.

### What you will need:

Ruler  
Scissors  
Glue  
Card  
Black Pen  
Colouring pencils/pens

**Tip:** Draw your designs out with a pencil first to make sure you're happy with it then go over it with the black pen (I used a sharpie).

### Step 2

Cut out two strips along the length of a piece of card approx 2 inches in width. Cut out your ears and front pieces, stick the ears to the back of one of the strips facing forwards. Next, stick your Easter eggs or other front pieces you've designed on the front of the strip in front of the ears.

### Step 3

Glue or staple the two strips together forming a circle, cutting any excess off when you measure over your child's head.



You can now find us on Instagram, so be sure to tag us in your craft pictures. @mamajosmischief

JOIN US  
FOR

# FRIDAY FEAST

- ✿ Free All Age event
- ✿ Get creative
- ✿ Food & Fun
- ✿ Informal gathering
- ✿ Churches of Hilton together
- ✿ For all faiths, and none
- ✿ 10 May, 14 June & 26 July (FW)
- ✿ To find out more, call Rachel on 830866

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





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# update



## Contact:

email: [fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com)

website: [www.fendrayton.org](http://www.fendrayton.org)

post: PO Box 1 102, Fen Drayton, Cambridge CB24 4WZ

## Message from the chair

As I write this, the days are getting appreciably longer and all around the yellow of daffodils indicates warm weather and spring are almost here.

However, for the third time this winter, Fen Drayton High Street and the junction with Daintrees Road were flooded in February. It affected around 80 village households, mostly preventing access by car. In addition, the sewage system was overwhelmed by floodwater resulting in contaminated water bubbling up through High Street manholes.

Vehicles, predominantly larger vans and lorries, driving through the floodwater at speed, causing a wash to run across the pavement to the properties, exacerbated the problem. The nursery school had to close after water caused by vehicle wash entered the building. Despite the road closed signs put up by Highways, some people still ignored them and drove through the water, often at excess speed. Please respect all road closed signs and, if you must drive through the floodwater, please do so extremely slowly to prevent causing a wash.

The flooding was caused by exceptional rainfall in January and February (three times the usual monthly levels). It was also reported that some of the sluice gates on the River Ouse may not have been fully operational, which led to higher water levels in the Ouse which in turn impacts how quickly the water in Oxholme Brook can drain away.

When the River Ouse is high, the water in Oxholme Brook, which runs along the High Street, is unable to drain away and, as more water comes into the village from Conington and beyond, the High Street and Daintrees Road flood.

Since the flood in the winter of 2020/21, Oxholme Brook and the ditches around the football field have been dredged. Anglian Water installed larger-capacity sewage pumps and the parish council set up a village Flood Group to provide residents with sandbags, practical assistance and information to help deal with potential flooding. The Flood Bus that provides flood prevention advice will be in the village on 11 May from 10am to 4pm. However, these measures do not address the fundamental issue of preventing water from upstream

entering the village when the River Ouse water levels are high. The Daintrees Road residents are seeking a meeting with the Environment Agency and the parish council is due to have a meeting with the local MP, CCC, SCDC, Anglian Water and Highways to discuss potential solutions and agree an action plan.

Finally, a big thank you to Bannolds for delivering sand for filling sandbags to the village hall car park so quickly!

## Cost of living grants

The Town Lands charity has started a new round of grants for villagers who are in serious financial difficulties. Leaflets with application details were delivered to all households at the beginning of March.

## Village hall car park closure

The village hall car park will be partially closed on Wednesday 17 April for the felling of dead elm trees in woodland on the west side of the village hall.

## Sue Ellington - South Cambs district councillor

Fen Drayton has had more than its fair share of flooding this winter and I have been working with the parish council to get all parties with influence, together with Anthony Browne MP, to find a way forward and improve the unacceptable situation. The authorities need to work together to look at the whole catchment area and make proposals for improvement.

*Left: April blackthorn blossom*

Cambridge and Peterborough Age UK is experiencing financial problems which may affect the Community Warden services for Fen Drayton. South Cambridgeshire District Council is currently undertaking an independent assessment of the service and the value it provides. I'm sure SCDC will continue to support the service, as the whole strategy for care of the elderly is that they should remain at home where they want to be.

For help with any district council issues, contact: [cldr.Ellington@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.Ellington@scambs.gov.uk) 01954 202923 or 07774146331

## Fen Drayton Community Cafe

At the February cafe the village bowls club put out a mat and encouraged interested people to have a go! Many people did just that and the club members were very busy all morning. The Gardening Club had their second meeting, which, again, was very well attended. People had been invited to bring any gardening equipment along for a spring clean and these items were returned at the March meeting.

The popular watercolour-painting workshop was back by popular demand at the cafe on 9 March, with puffins as the subject matter!

**The next cafe is Saturday 13 April  
10.30 am-12.30 pm. The Gardening  
Club meets at 10.45 am.**



## Fen Drayton Primary School



Last Thursday, 7 March, was World Book Day. This is an event that every year is greatly anticipated by both pupils and staff, and is a highlight on the school calendar. The day kicked off with an assembly at which we all sang the World Book Day song by MC Grammar, who KS2 saw perform at the O2 arena when we joined the Young Voices choir.



We then shared the book, *Ada's Violin*, by Susan Hood and then began a whole host of book related activities, which continued throughout the day and were enthusiastically entered into by the children. Books were shared between the different year groups as well as within their own classes. Added to this we also had adults sharing their favourite books with the children. There was a rich variety of costumes where children dressed as one of the their favourite characters or in comfortable clothing for the day. It was a really fun, enjoyable and interactive day.

On Tuesday, 5 March, some of our Y5 & 6 took part in a Cambridgeshire schools hockey tournament. Our teams achieved first and third placings in their division and they worked incredibly hard in a very competitive environment. We are very proud of their teamwork, sportsmanship and all the hard work on the day. Well done all!

The Rotary Club hosted their annual Y6 quiz night at school at the end of February. Our team of Y6 competed against 12 other

schools from the local area. Overall we finished in sixth place with an overall score of 140 points from a possible 150. It was a fantastic effort from the children who worked really well together as a team and did themselves, and the school, proud. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.



If you would like to find out more about us, take a look at our website: [www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk](http://www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk). We have spaces in most year groups but it's always worth giving us a call to discuss further. Please email [office@fendrayton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@fendrayton.cambs.sch.uk), or call 01954 273346 to arrange a visit.

Nina McQueen  
Headteacher



## News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



We started this half term in school by celebrating Founder's Day and the beginning of the Scouting and Guiding movements. Around 40 of our pupils wore the uniforms of the various Rainbow, Beaver, Cub, Brownie, Guide and Scout groups they belong to. We were pleased to focus on the values and laws of these groups and the way they link with our own school values: Community, Determination and Integrity.

Last half term finished with some fantastic poetry performances in the school hall, as part of the units of English work the children had been completing. It

was a thrill to see the skill and confidence the children delivered their performances with.

We very much enjoyed our Reading Week, around World Book Day on 07 March. We hosted reading breakfasts each morning,



where families enjoyed reading with their children, along with a breakfast butty!

There was also a 'Peg Character' competition, run by our fabulous PTA. You can see some with this article. There were around 150 entries, with a winner from each class receiving a £10 book voucher for their efforts. On World Book Day itself, there were some great costumes and props to enable children and adults to step into their book characters for the day.

A group of eight Y6 children enjoyed competing in the Rotary Club of St Ives' Primary School Quiz at the end of February. Later in the term, four of the same Y6 pupils will be competing in the final of this year's English Challenge, following their previous success in winning the area heat. We are sure the team will represent the school and their peers brilliantly.

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

FENSTANTON & HILTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

**EASTER EGG TRAIL**  
Find the clues, solve the puzzle...  
... win a prize!

Teachers Pupils Parents

Friday 29th March, 10.30-12.30  
Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School  
Raffle & Guess how many eggs in the jar!

## Hilton Art Club



The committee met for coffee at The Golden Lion in St Ives, to discuss the new programme, which was agreed on. It was decided that we would have to increase the subscription, which hasn't changed for some years, to £40 from June.

Subsequently, after consultation with members, the start time during the winter months (November – March) would be put back to 10 am to allow for adverse weather, which was also thought to be helpful for our tutors for the workshops. The start time for April to October remains at 9.30 am.

The February session, illustrating the cover of a famous book, inspired some very lovely artwork. Thanks to those who brought cakes.

**19 April 9.30 am to 12.30 pm Under The Water: Rivers, Lakes and Oceans.**  
Please bring your own reference pictures/props.

## Fen Drayton Gardening Club

Fen Drayton Gardening Club is a fabulous, friendly and inclusive group who welcome members with all levels of skill and knowledge. We meet on the second Saturday of the month at 10.45 am, as part of the village Community Cafe (held at the village hall). We also have a Facebook group and a WhatsApp chat for our members - just search Fen Drayton Gardening Club on Facebook and from there you can request to join the WhatsApp chat.

The club is free to attend, however we do ask that people purchase a cuppa, cake or bowl of soup to support our friends at the cafe. We look forward to welcoming you to a meeting soon!



This term, Brownies have been working on the East Anglian Air Ambulance Challenge badge. They learnt the phonetic alphabet, had a visit from the volunteers who told them about the amazing work the charity does, had a session on life saving CPR and tried out a test defibrillator. They are also about to do a sponsored silence to raise money - should be fun! We learnt about Leap Year and the various traditions round the world and had a froggy-themed craft session, decorating cakes, making concertina frogs as well as learning some new games.

Rainbows have earned a Bear challenge badge with lots of bear related activities, they brought in teddy bears and played Guess Who, made teddy passports, did a bear quiz and learnt about the different types of bears in the world. We have an Easter Themed session planned for the last session of term.

I would like to thank all our brilliant leaders, helpers and the rota of mums without whom we couldn't run sessions and our three Duke of Edinburgh girls who are excellent.

If you would like to put your daughter's name down for Rainbows or Brownies (we do have a waiting list for Brownies) or would like to find out about volunteering with us please visit the girlguiding website or contact me via email: [girlguidinghilton@gmail.com](mailto:girlguidinghilton@gmail.com)

Karen Baker, Rainbow and Brownie Leader

## Hilton Women's Institute



At our February meeting Paul Shelford, the husband of our member, Sue, talked to us about his time as a London cab driver. Paul was a Civil Servant for 25 years until he developed a dislike for the struggles of commuting and decided to study The Knowledge.



It needed over 5 years of study, in his private free time, mainly at weekends travelling firstly through the 6 mile inner ring then on to the outer 12 mile radius on a moped - a distance of 25,000 roads, even to know the presence of every Blue Plaque house.

The first taxi licence was issued in 1652 when the size of the horse was specified and in his famous diary Samuel Pepys wrote of horse and carriage drivers taking people away from the Great Fire. Hansom cabs came in the 19th century and were motorised from 1908. Cabs now cost £63,000, must be MOT checked every 6 months, be adapted for disabled passengers and drivers are obliged to have regular medical checks.

There are traditions: the first fare on passing is free, also all passengers in military uniform and Remembrance Sunday veterans after the Cenotaph parade.

The green building in the photograph shows a charity provided shelter and food for cab



drivers, and are now listed buildings.

Several times during his talk Paul halted to praise Sue for her patience and support before and since he earned the treasured badge and his special cab finally 'died' recently - hence his retirement after 15 years on the road.



We continue our regular clubs, a group now watches for attractive films in Huntingdon, and some members recently visited the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Hall, a trip organised by the Federation team in Huntingdon.

Our March meeting needed to be the AGM for the annual reports and election of President and committee members. We welcomed the unanimous re-election of Wendy Webb as President for another year.

In her report Wendy said how she believes that Hilton WI is 'all about friendship and trying new things'. Thanks were expressed to Debbie for her secretary's 2023 month by month report with her usual fun power point and Anne's financial assessment. AGM business duly completed we played some light hearted games, some of which were rewarded not with chocolate but with 'Jellyatric Jelly Babies'. All proof that Annual General Meetings need not be boring!

Members are very welcome.  
Contact :- [hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com)

# What you're Missing

## Fenstanton Friendship Club

If you would like to meet new friends and socialise, please come along and help the club grow. Age is no barrier and we welcome everyone into our fold. It is always good to get new ideas and suggestions for meetings. We meet every other Wednesday at 2.00pm, 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.

Come along and check us out, you will find a friendly group and a warm welcome.

### 14 February

On this day we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of the club with an afternoon tea and special birthday cake. We had food of the era, spam sandwiches and rock cakes for example. Many things have changed in the last seventy five years and we spent time reminiscing helped by a quiz with questions relating to the 1940s. Obviously many of us did have first-hand experiences of those times but it was fun learning about the "Good Old Days". Valentine's Day was acknowledged too, with heart shaped biscuits and raffle prizes related to the day.

### 28 February

Jennifer Corville read her own poetry to us. She is so talented and funny. The subjects were varied, some sad, some poignant, others made us giggle. All poems from Jennifer's life experiences, brilliant afternoon.

## Upcoming Meetings

**13 March** Martin John will be entertaining us with his music.

**27 March** Off for lunch at the Marina.

**10 April** A talk from the Wildlife Care Group.

**24 April** Josie Charter will be bringing us up to date with her work after her recent visit to Malawi.

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



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## TOWN TRUST

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

If you think we may be able to help, contact the Clerk to the Trustees at [janet@vacfrance.com](mailto:janet@vacfrance.com) or Clerk to the Fenstanton Town Trust c/o 10 Conington Road, Fenstanton PE28 9LB

Each case is considered individually and treated in strictest confidence.



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# What you're Missing

## Hilton Flower Club

**04 March meeting** - Tim Meakin was our flower arranger, he did five wonderful arrangements, all different colours and different designs.

Five lucky ladies won an arrangement to take home.

**08 April** - Lesley Beeton is our flower demonstrator. Her theme is, Spring Is Coming, looking forward to seeing her again.

**13 May** - Steffi Shield MBE is coming to give a talk and slide show about Capability Brown and his work around Cambridgeshire, including Hilton and Fenstanton. Should be a very interesting afternoon, anyone is welcome to join us.

**19 June** - is our annual outing, we are going to visit Beth Chatto's Garden. If you would like to join us, please ring for more details. June Grover 830306 / Beverley Tack 830571

**Hilton Village Hall: 2pm - 4pm Entrance: £6.00**  
(includes tea/biscuits)

**No Membership just pay at the door.**

**Look forward to seeing you all. Beverley / June**



## Royal British Legion in Hilton and the Poppy Appeal 2024



**Alan Scott, the chairman of the St Ives and district branch of the Royal British Legion has generously volunteered to run the 2024 Poppy Appeal and to include Hilton.**

This is a huge undertaking - ordering boxes, tins, wreaths, etc. even as early as the summer, assembling them and then delivering to businesses, supermarkets etc. so Alan can only achieve this with the support of his committee and members and we are grateful to be part of his remit. He hopes that by another year a more permanent Poppy Appeal Organiser will have volunteered (Membership of the Legion is not necessary). Hilton's participation will mirror last year's, namely boxes and collection tins will be assembled in St Ives and a very kind offer has already been received to collect and distribute them to our businesses and then return them after Remembrance Sunday, for the contents to be counted.

It is very possible that Margaret and Charles

Andrew's very successful open day in 2023 will be repeated somewhere in the village on Saturday 26 October - but confirmation of that is for later!

Incidentally, the current total for 2023 raised in the district so far is at least £21,000.

Finally, the media is already announcing the various battle commemorations in 2024 - D Day, Monte Cassino, Market Garden, Arnhem, Kohima and Imphal, Scheldt, etc. So the St Ives team would appreciate any information about your forefathers who may have been part of these campaigns for a commemorative exhibition in the Norris Museum. There will also be short remembrance ceremonies by the Legion at the Memorial in St Ives on the appropriate days.

As ever, the support of our local service men and women past and present continues.  
**Contact Alan Scott :- stives.chairman@rbl.community**

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# What you're Missing

## Fenstanton Football Club update

First up and hot off the press!!! We are really pleased to say that our Under 16s team have beaten Sawtry in the semi-final of the cup, winning on penalties. This is a huge achievement and we hope as many people as possible will join us on 25 April (7.00pm KO) at St. Neots Town football ground, to watch us play Buckden in the League Cup final. Well done to Ali and his team! We can't wait to cheer you on!



This month we would like to focus on our Under 8s, who are playing their second full season. We have come a long way since February 2022, when four players started training as a very small group of Under 6s. Numbers have continued to grow, and we currently have 14 boys and girls in the squad, who attend either Fenstanton & Hilton or Fen Drayton primary schools. This comprises the full allotted ten for 5-a-side games in the Hunts Youth 'mini' league and cup, with a further four who join us in playing friendlies. The squad size can increase to 14 next season as we start playing 7-a-side, and similarly increase as we move through the age groups. We are chuffed to have been in the (informally) designated 'top' league for two of the three rotations this season. Games are deemed 'non-competitive' at this age group with results not being published externally. They are captured by the Hunts Youth League with the mini-leagues adjusted over the season to try and get teams playing others of a similar ability.

Goals are never in short supply in our games, often at both ends! There is certainly lots

of promise in the group with some great performances across all positions as the players continue to learn the game and grow in confidence. It has been great to see how much they have developed since starting out.

When not flooded (it's been very wet the past few weeks), home games are played on Saturday mornings on the mini pitch at Hall Green Lane, so please come along and watch as all support is welcomed. On Thursday evenings during these winter months the group train at Swavesey Village College on the Astro pitch, before returning to Hall Green Lane when the evenings turn longer in the spring. The team is very excited to play the remaining games in this season. We have several tough challenges ahead in the mini-league and hope to progress in the plate competition. Thoughts will then turn to the exciting array of summer 5-a-side tournaments and the switch up to 7-a-side for the 24/25 season. We would finally like to take the opportunity to say a massive thanks to all the parents, who continue to turn out in great numbers home and away; to Paul, who referees many matches, encouraging children on both teams; to the coaches for all their time, hard work and efforts; and to all the players – a very spirited group of boys and girls, who certainly love their football!

If you or your children would like to get involved, please contact the club at [fenstantonfootball@outlook.com](mailto:fenstantonfootball@outlook.com)

**UNDER 16 LEAGUE CUP\_2023 - 2024**  
FINAL

25/04/24 19:00 ST NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

 **Buckden Juniors U16 Eagles** VS  **Fenstanton Youth U16**

**Venue: ST NEOTS TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**  
ROWLEY PARK KESTER WAY, ST. NEOTS, Cambridgeshire  
PE19 6SL

## April - Spring in all its glory

On Monday 05 April 1982 I joined a Garden Centre in Cologne, (the Falklands war had just started). Returning home 18 months later was a revelation. So many plants grow here that wouldn't survive a German winter (and mums roast lamb was a real treat). For gardeners, Easter has now become the start of the planting season and many of those less hardy plants are available in garden centres from now. Plants are six degrees less hardy in a pot, most plant roots start to grow when the soil temperature reaches six degrees.

### Beginners planting tips

Choose plants for your soil type and the sun/shade levels you are planting them in. Decide on a colour scheme for each border and season. Plants with large green/yellow leaves work best in shade, small grey/silver leaves in sun (blue bells for shade, snowdrops semi-shade, crocus for sun). Tallest plants at the back of your borders, lowest at the front, look for colour combinations of flower and foliage. Train climbers on trellis or use vine-eyes, wire and buckle tie strainers.

Before planting turn your plant around and see if it has a good/bad side. When planting add plenty of compost (dig your planting hole the size of the pot. Fill the hole with planting compost, double the size of the hole, mixing the compost with your soil as you increase the size of the hole. Use the compost/soil mixture around your plant roots. Firm, water and mulch.

For summer colour on a budget sow hardy annuals like cornflower, godetia, sweet rocket, calendula, poppies, clarkia, antirrhinum, Californian poppies, larkspur, malva, nigella and phlox love-in-the-mist (not in my wife's garden) for example as they are so easy and rewarding. Summer bulbs like gladioli and lilies are in shops and garden centres for planting now April is also the time for allotmenters and veggies to get sowing and planting. Hoe/ weed and feed your shrubs and roses before mulching. One last think! Nothing makes a garden look so neat and tidy as edging your lawn.

raypuddefoot@gmail.com



During the war old Lil had been a destitute street kid (Cologne had been flattened by bombs). Once a week she would cry, tell us how when they knew! It was too late to say anything or you would be labelled a Jew, a gypsy or sub human. She would always finish by telling us how wonderful the Tommy soldiers were to the children. Building shelters, feeding them, giving them blankets and sharing their cake and chocolate. The power of little acts of kindness. Nature's act of kindness to us is in our flowers, trees and gardens.

## April Top Tips

- Planting
- Sow annuals
- Feed and mulch
- Edge lawns
- Plant summer bulbs

## Cutting edge... the art of topiary

In these villages the name and work of the landscape designer, Lancelot (Capability) Brown is well known. He advocated naturalistic designs with lakes, trees and vistas as key elements of his work with the aim of creating a "pretty landscip".

He swept away the earlier formal, enclosed gardens close to the grand house and using a ha-ha (ditch) to keep out the cattle allowed the garden and parkland to merge, giving a great sense of space and pleasing the eye with delightful 'prospects' or views.

Earlier gardens relied on walls and hedges to separate and contain plants. In formal gardens patterns were achieved by winding paths round geometrically-shaped beds. Clipped hedges defined beds and potted trees were strategically placed. Gravel paths and box hedges were key elements, especially in dryer climates where lawns would shrivel.

The art of topiary originated in those dry gardens and became popular in English gardens from the 16C. Pruning, and clipping trees or shrubs into distinctive shapes made a decorative addition to garden design. Patience, a steady hand and good eye are needed at the outset, but once established topiary is easy to maintain.

Levens Hall in Cumbria has an outstanding example of a topiary garden started in 1694. Behind high limestone walls the garden is filled with witches, peacocks, chess pieces, a jug of ale, a judge's wig ... even Homer Simpson (a recent addition). The dark yew trees from which they are fashioned contrast with the light grey of the limestone.

Locally, the garden of The Manor, Hemingford Grey offers some delightful examples of more recent artistry. Lucy Boston, its originator, planted eight tiny yews to border her front path and in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation and fashioned them into crowns and orbs. C.S.



## A FUN COMPETITION FOR ALL AGES!

### What to do

Obtain a seed potato from the Hilton Community garden on Saturdays between 10 and noon and chit it by standing it in an egg box in a cool bright area. The "eyes" of the potato will begin to grow. When the shoots are short and stubby, plant the potato in a 10 litre pot (approx. 28cms wide at top and 23cms high) using any compost or garden soil. Note: larger pots will be disqualified! Only half fill the container with compost and top up as the potato shoots grow. Place pot outside but protect it from frosts. Remember to water it if the weather is dry.

Bring your potato plant, growing in its pot, to the Hilton Produce Show. The judges will empty each pot and weigh the yield.

The winner will be the person whose potatoes weigh the heaviest.

**ENJOY TAKING PART!**





# Hilton Parish Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 4 March



## Maintenance Contracts

The Council approved the green spaces maintenance contracts for 2024/25 at an annual cost of £12,740. The Contractors will provide their feedback and the Clerk is authorised to execute the contracts.

## D-Day Beacon Lighting Event – Thursday 6th June

Hilton Parish Council appointed a working group of Cllrs Capes, Suckling and Balicki to propose an event plan to the Council at its April meeting.

## .gov.uk Domain

The Council decided not to switch to a .gov.uk domain at this time as it is not currently compulsory and there would be an additional cost.

## Portrait of the King

Hilton Parish Council resolved to apply for a free, framed portrait of the King and donate it to the Village Hall.

## Annual Parish Meeting

The date of the annual parish meeting was agreed as Monday 22nd April. This is the annual meeting of the electorate and is not a council meeting. All parishioners are welcome to attend, and community groups will be invited to present a report on their activities this year.

## Litter Picking

The Council agreed to hold a litter picking event on Sunday 14th April from 2-4pm. Cllr Claire Sarkies will be organising this event and further publicity will be available nearer the time.

## Martyn’s Law Consultation

This consultation relates to the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill which is currently in draft form. The consultation seeks views from those responsible for smaller premises which would fall within the standard tier. The Council has delegated the response to this consultation to the Clerk, in consultation with Cllrs Capes and Dulstone.

## Next Meeting

Due to the Easter Monday bank holiday, the Parish Council meeting will be moved to the second Monday of April. Please note that this meeting will be held in the Methodist Church.

*The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 8th April 2024 in Hilton Methodist Church. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the Council’s website [www.hiltonparishcouncil.com](http://www.hiltonparishcouncil.com)*

*Parishioners are welcome to speak at council meetings on agenda items.*

## Hilton Community Book Exchange

### Now Open In The Parish Church

Come on in and grab yourself a good read!  
Church is open daily from 8am to 4pm



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## Hilton Town Trust

A charitable trust which exists to give support to the village and villagers of Hilton

### Have you or has a family member recently started higher education or an apprenticeship?

The Hilton Town trust exists to help villagers who need support. If the cost of living crisis is making providing for further education difficult please contact us. We can provide assistance with equipment for college/university or tools for an apprenticeship.

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## Mobile Library service

### Route H9 – 2nd Tuesday In The Month

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

### Route H11 – 2nd Tuesday In The Month

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

### Route H25 – 4th Thursday In The Month

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

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## Bird's Eye View



### An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

As spring breathes new life into the landscape, the shimmering lakes come alive with a vibrant tapestry of avian wonders, offering a sanctuary for both seasoned birdwatchers and curious adventurers alike. This is one of the best times of the year to connect with nature as birds arrive back from their winter travels, bumblebees emerge from hibernation and blossom lights up the hedgerows.

This year we are putting on a series of events to enable people to explore the reserve in various ways.

Starting in April with what is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the season, we will be running a **Dawn Chorus Guided Walk**. The reward for the early start will be the wonderful soundscape that can be heard around the reserve with help identifying the numerous species, both resident and migrant, singing from trees, hedges, and reed.

At the other end of the spectrum, we have an **Evening Guided Walk** scheduled in May. Take advantage of the opportunity to be guided to various parts of the reserve and be expertly shown the animals which are more active later in the day up until dusk.

**Wild(ish) Camping** is again featuring this year for organised groups at our secluded location on the shores of Ferry Lagoon. You will have a great opportunity to connect with nature, taking photos and only leaving footprints.

Our monthly **Wednesday Wander Guided Walks** have been running successfully

for many years, led by knowledgeable volunteers. By joining one of these walks, you will get to explore some of the best parts of the reserve and learn what can be seen throughout the year. Every walk is different so why not try it for yourself?

Ever thought of learning a traditional skill? Our annual **Willow Weaving Workshop** will be back this year during which you will weave your very own garden obelisk for climbing plants. The event is led by a very experienced weaver and uses willow sourced from the reserve.

For the first time this year, we will be running a **Canoe Tour** at the reserve in the autumn. Slink through the reeds on our new water-based trail to discover one of the harder to view lakes from a new perspective. Guided by experienced staff you will be in good hands.

Whether it's the tranquillity of a leisurely stroll along the lakeshore or the thrill of spotting a rare bird in flight, Fen Drayton Lakes beckons with the promise of inspiring encounters and unforgettable moments.

To see further details and book, please visit: [events.rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes](http://events.rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes)  
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Visit [rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fendrayton-lakes](http://rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fendrayton-lakes)

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654.

Photograph: Learn about wildlife on a guided walk – Ben Andrew



# The Yellow Pages

## Venues for hire

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

## Councils

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

## Community Groups and Clubs

Books and Jigsaws at FURC	01480 498221
Fen Drayton Bowls Club	01480 385297
Fen Drayton Lions FC	07718 900880
Fen Drayton Parent and Toddlers	07549 630124
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	07541 968125
Fenstanton Community Hub	07949 453767
Fenstanton Football Club	07968 081874
Fenstanton Friendship Club	01480 350119
Fenstanton Glebe Allotments	07817 786298
Fenstanton Indoor Bowls	01480 497202
Fenstanton Knitter and Natters	01480 498221
Fenstanton Litter Picking	07949 453767
Fenstanton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides	07730 369565
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	01480 830707
Hilton Flower Club	01480 830571
Hilton HGV Watch	07768 294878
Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	01480 831658
Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	07970 404569

## Community Groups and Clubs

Hilton Speed Watch	07540 811115
Hilton Town Trust	01480 830866
Hilton WI	01480 831186
RSPB	01954 233260
Slimming World	07568 444140

## Community events

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

## Education

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

## Churches

St Mary's Church, Fen Drayton	01480 465211
Fenstanton Parish Church	01480 465211
Fenstanton URC	01480 352058
Hilton Methodist Church	01480 830686
Hilton Parish Church	01480 830866
St Ives Roman Catholic Church	01480 462192
The Particular Baptist Church	01480 830142

## Emergency numbers

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A&E Hinchinbrooke Hospital	01480 416416
Environment Agency (Flood Line)	0845 9881188
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Fenstanton surgery	01480 461873
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

## Emergency numbers

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
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## Pubs and eating places

Carriage's of Cambridge	01954 233279
Little Piggy Cafe	07764 336911
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The Three Tuns, Fen Drayton	01954 230242
The White Horse, Swavesey	01954 231665
The White Swan, Conington	01954 267251

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Television Mobile Repair Service	07887 887319
Z Cars Taxis	01480 462046

## Electricians

DSS Electrical	0800 019 7992
TW Electical	07810 710826
Twin Electical Services	07796 492953

## Plumbing and Heating Engineers

J Halstead	01480 830329
MDS	01480 800810
RDS	01954 770309

## Building services and supplies

Bannold	01954 231666
CanDo Roofing	01354 629575
G B Builders	01487 479253
G C Bricklaying	07375 359035
GCE Groundworks	07737 884643
R D B Flooring	07970 256237
Stormguard Building Services	01480 270744

## Car servicing and repairs

Graveley Garage	01480 830462
Wilderspin Garage	01954 230273

## 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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**26.MAY.2024**

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