

March 2024

The Journal

Fen Drayton ▪ Fenstanton ▪ Hilton

A crucifixion in Fenstanton

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Changes to our constituency boundary revealed

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Goa in detail

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For a great Easter recipe

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Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

March 2024

- 01,8,15,22 Lent Lunches, 56 Church Leys
02 Bowls Club Quiz Night, Church Centre
06,13,20 Churches Lent Lunches, different hosts/locations
16 Churches Together, Roving Supper
16 Books and Jigsaws Sale United Reformed Church
23 Free café/concert with Swavesey Community Choir, Village Hall
29 PTA Easter Egg Trail
30 Family Easter Egg Hunt, Village Hall

April 2024

- 20 Quiz Night, Village Hall
25 Annual Parish Meeting, Church Centre

May 2024

- 01 Morris, Dancing up the Sun, Clock Tower
04-05 Bowls Club Open Days
05 10K Race and Fun Run
18-19 National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens
18-19 A Church Full of Art, Parish Church

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
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

Spring has sprung!

With the first daffodils taking flower spring is definitely on its way. It is so good to see the fresh new growth that heralds the warmer weather. With the amount of rain we have had recently it is hard to believe we will ever see summer without growing webbed feet.

In this issue of The Journal our travel article on Goa should bring you some warmth whilst our Weather Watch feature does offer some explanation to the current weather patterns we are 'enjoying'. In our Business Spotlight we feature one of our long established businesses locally and don't miss our diet of worms on page 59.



From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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Please submit any copy by 11 March 2024 latest for the April edition.

Hearing Aid Maintenance



Cambridgeshire Deaf Association (CDA) Hearing Help:

A new Hearing Aid Maintenance session, starts Wednesday, 6th March running from 10am to 12pm at Bar Hill Community Church, the Meeting Room, Viking Way CB23 8EH. Subsequent sessions will run on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

The venue has free parking and is wheelchair accessible.

To book in please go to our website www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk, telephone 01223 416141, or just turn up on the day.

Our service also provides a wonderful volunteering opportunity either as a Technician or Receptionist, full training is given.

Please get in touch with me personally if you might like to find out more information on our volunteering roles. Thank you.

Gerry Robinson
Gerry.robinson@camsdeaf.org
 or call 07538 27269



The Hilton Pantomime By Patsy Cowtan [Mrs Darling in Peter Pan]

Our thanks to Helen and to Ken.
 For a brilliant show, again.
 To Andy and others, as we know.
 Without them, there would be, no show.
 And now to our, clever cast.
 I will leave me, to the last.

To Sue and Chrissie, our motley crew.
 I wish there had been, more of you.
 Rochelle and Joel played their part.
 In, to them, an odd form; of art!
 Brad, with his most fearsome look.
 Almost forgot, to bring his hook.

Izzy and Seb, at a young age.
 Showed no fear, when on the stage.
 And what more, can I say

About Bridget and Sue Hay.
 Such troupers, they have been.
 To carry off, one whole scene.

Our stand-in Larisa, all the time
 As Tinkerbelle, was sublime.
 And Georgia, as we all know.
 Would be the star, of any show.
 And as for an oldie, such as me
 Thanks for such great, company.



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Spring Walks April 2024



**Huntingdonshire
Local Group**

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust invites you to come along to the following walks in April.

The first walk will be at Portholme Meadow on Saturday 20th April beginning at 10.30 am. Dr. Pat Doody will lead this walk and will focus on one of Portholme's specialities, the snakeshead fritillary. We also hope to see and hear corn bunting and skylark. Please meet at the entrance to the meadow at Godmanchester Lock, TL241704. What3words: amused.finishing.bulky. Nearest postcode PE29 2NB.

This will be followed by our annual bluebell walk at Brampton Wood on Sunday 28th April at 10.30am. The walk will be led by George Cottam and other Wardens, depending upon demand. We will look at the rich variety of spring flora, focusing on the bluebells. We also hope to see and hear the wonderful birdsong at this time of year. Please meet at the Visitors' Barn, near Brampton Wood Car Park, Grafham Road, Brampton, nearest postcode PE28 0DP. GR TL 184699. What3words:skinning.rhino.headboard.

Both walks take approximately 2 hours. Please note that paths at both sites are very uneven and likely to be wet. 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).

Part of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Registered Charity No: 1000412

WINNER

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300 Club draw
2023-24 season**

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We invite the following lucky winners to email Martin Leach, club treasurer: 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

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140 Denise, Mead House
208 Chris Leach
157 Stephen, Fisherman's Barn
83 Gemma, Middleton Way

£5 WINNERS

Ticket no

289 Glen Black, Oaktree Road
221 Dawn Fairey, St Mary's Court
288 Ruth and Alex, Old Post Office
295 Jean Swainson, c/o Tracey O'Neill

Crucifixion in Fenstanton

The skeleton of a man who was crucified in Roman-era Fenstanton is on display as part of a blockbuster exhibition at the British Museum.



Discovered as part of an excavation in Fenstanton prior to the start of recent housing development. The body is only the second confirmed example of the Roman use of this barbaric punishment ever unearthed, and the first found in Europe. It was possible

to prove death took place through crucifixion, as a nail was found lodged in the man's heel!

The site of the Roman settlement in Fenstanton is on the Via Devana, the Roman route which ran from Colchester through Cambridge and on to Chester.

The astonishing local find was the subject of a BBC4 documentary **The Cambridgeshire Crucifixion** which was shown in January and is still available on BBC i-player. The documentary carried out a facial reconstruction of the man as well as scientific analyses, which identified he was likely to have been a lower status Briton who lived his whole life in Cambridgeshire.

The British Museum's new exhibition is called **Legion: Life in the Roman Army** is open daily until 23 June. Booking is necessary and adult tickets are £22.00.

Peter Pan

Mrs Darling and Nana are now dozing by the fire while Wendy and Michael are in their beds dreaming of their magical adventures and the Town Crier has moved to his next engagement.

Peter Pan, the lost boys and girls and Smee are enjoying peace in Never Never Land with Mayhem and Chaos still busy with their motley washing. The captain's strong rum has kept Mayhem's Black Spot away and the cannons and pompom ammunition are stowed away, just in case. So Colonel Mustard's training worked after all!

Darkly muttering his ad-libs, asides and 'I'm not really bad' Hook has walked the plank and been taken by the crocodile (hooray!).

So, writer and director Helen sends her massive thanks to the wonderful cast of thousands (well, actually 15) and prompters Pauline and Pam; also to the technical and carpentry team Ken, Andy, Dean and Chris for all their hard work and patience with her



constant 'can yous', 'would yous' and 'we've got a problem'.

Thank you also to the Village Hall committee ladies for the programmes, tickets and for running the bar. And lastly, but of course not least, to the three fantastic audiences who sang, booed and cheered mostly in the right places.

Me? I'm just enjoying the memories of the happy times of the last four months. MS.

P.S. More fun and frolic is in the planning pipeline !



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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

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All applications are dealt with in privacy
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Hilton Feast Week



July is fast approaching and, along with finalising plans for this year's Feast Week, we are busy with the fundraisers. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the comedy night last month, a fun evening of merrymaking helping to raise funds for a week of 'Medieval Merrymaking' in the summer, 21 - 27 July 2024.

We have our ever popular Family Egg Hunt booked for Easter Saturday, 30 March, join us at the Village Hall between 10.30am and 1pm where you will be able to purchase an egg hunt map showing the route of the village to follow to spot the eggs!

There will be a prize for every egg hunter plus a winning prize for someone who manages to find them all. Everyone welcome, no need to book.

Keep your diaries clear for our next quiz night on Saturday 20 April. Tickets will be available on the website soon.

Visit our website or follow us on social media for more information on upcoming events.



Family Egg Hunt

Saturday 30th March 2024

£3 per map
for the egg hunt route around the village, this includes a small prize at the end.

Join us at
Hilton Village Hall
10.30am - 1.00pm

There will also be -
Crafts ◦ Refreshments ◦ Tombola

Note from the publisher

For advertising opportunities please email info@thejournal.life. Space is booked on a yearly subscription basis and runs from September 23 until August 24.

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Village News

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

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


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

The FD 10k Committee

Fenstanton United Reformed Church
Chequer Street

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and marmalade



Saturday 16 March 2024
9.30am - 12.00 noon



Saturday 6th July

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District News

For Fenstanton and Hilton

Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



In Focus: Fenstanton and Hilton to go into new Parliamentary Constituency - St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire

The Boundary Commission for England announced in 2023, its revised proposals for Parliamentary Constituency boundary changes across the country. This is to take effect when the next General Election is called.

The Constituency boundary changes combine sections of Huntingdon Parliamentary Constituency and South Cambridgeshire Parliamentary Constituency, to form a new seat; encompassing Mid Cambridgeshire, from Fenstanton & Hilton, to St Neots to Histon.

Following the proposed changes from the Boundary Commission and only when the next General Election is officially called, Fenstanton and Hilton will no longer be a part of Huntingdon Parliamentary Constituency (Jonathan Djanogly as sitting MP). Fenstanton Ward is to be cut off from this Constituency, and moved into the newly created St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire Parliamentary Constituency.

Making things more complex for Fenstanton Ward, we will still remain a part of Huntingdonshire, for the Huntingdonshire District and Cambridgeshire County Council local authority boundaries – these are not changing. The boundaries do not affect local authority services, from Huntingdonshire District Council or Cambridgeshire County Council.

Have you got any concerns or questions? You can contact me by:
clare.tevlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or 07565350014.



*New St Neots
and Mid Cambs
Parliamentary
Constituency Map*

Fenstanton and its Turnpike and Bridge

by John Deeks

During the 17th century the local roads were in a very poor state, resulting in increased traffic on the river which in turn caused overcrowding of the port of St Ives and erosion of the river banks. Twenty first century Fen Lane gives an impression of how road surfaces were from the time of the Romans to the early 20th century. In 1698 a traveller wrote of the state of the roads in Fenstanton. "So full of holes and quicksand, I dare not venture the water covering of them".



Picture for illustration only

In an attempt to improve the nation's road network, a number of Turnpike Acts were passed in Parliament followed shortly after by the setting up of Turnpike Trusts. These were private companies established to raise funds by tolls to keep the roads in good repair. Over the following years there were a number of additional acts all of which became known as "turnpike mania". The first such turnpike in Huntingdonshire was in Stilton in 1663. We do not know the date that the Fenstanton turnpike was set up, but we do know that it was in operation in 1746.

The act gave the trustees responsibility for maintaining a specified part of the existing highway. It provided them with powers to achieve this; the right to collect tolls

from those using the road was particularly important. Local gentlemen, clergy and merchants were nominated as trustees and they appointed a clerk, a treasurer and a surveyor to actually administer and maintain the highway. These officers were paid by the trust.

At the bottom end of the organisation chart were the gate-keepers. They had to interpret the sometimes complex toll regulations, count the beasts in a drove, measure wagon wheels, weigh vehicles and determine who was eligible for exemptions.

They were usually paid between five and seven shillings a week, but the meagreness of their remuneration was usually offset by a rent-free house, often supplied with free candles and fuel. However, gate-keeping was particularly vulnerable to fraud, such as overcharging travellers, failing to account for the tolls, and taking bribes not to weight vehicles where a weighing machine was in use.

Even by employing inspectors, there was no effective control on gate-keepers' activities, so

leasing gates for a fixed sum was popular, although even this was no guarantee against fraud. Trusts were obliged by law to auction the lease of a gate, with the starting bid being equivalent to the sum it produced in the preceding year. Thus, if the gate-keeper who was eligible to bid for the lease on a gate withheld receipts to decrease the gate's income, its rental value was lowered, while those attending the auction could fix the bidding between themselves in advance.

In the earlier Tudor period, legal statutes had placed responsibility on the parish church vestry (Vestry in early modern England was the gathering of parishioners to transact parish business) to maintain all its roads. This arrangement was adequate for roads that the parishioners used themselves but

proved unsatisfactory for the principal highways such as Fenstanton High Street and the Huntingdon Road that ran through the village, as these were used by long-distance travellers, drovers and Waggoner's.

The trusts supplied the funds for erecting the Fenstanton tollhouse and stable that accommodated the toll-collector as well as the turnpike gate itself. The act gave a maximum toll allowable for each class of vehicle or animal, for instance one shilling and six pence for a coach pulled by four horses, a penny for an unladen horse and ten pence for a drove of 20 cows. The trust applied this income to pay for labour and materials to maintain the road. From these charges half a penny would be paid to the women and children of the village to gather stones from the fields. These would be used to repair the road and fill in any potholes!

Specialist 'toll-farmers' would make a fixed payment to the trust for the lease and then organise the day-to-day collection of the money, leaving themselves with a profit on their operations over a year. For example, in 1746 the tollbar lease was up for auction at a starting price of £400, which in today's valued would be around £40,000. So a tollbar would appear to have been a very profitable proposition.

The trust managing the Godmanchester to Cambridge section had its headquarters in the Valiant Trooper Post Inn. The Valiant Trooper (now a dress shop) was located in the High Street between the George (now the Duchess) and the Rose and Crown (the house next to the fish & chip shop). The actual toll bar was situated adjacent to the toll bar bridge on the left hand side as you leave the village. This site is now occupied by a house called The Slipway and the actual slip road from the A1307.

The Turnpike Bridge spanned the Hall Green Brook which was for many centuries, much wider and deeper than it is today. The Low Road that we know today did not exist; it was just a pedestrian footpath that ran from the Huntingdon Road, past Hall Green House running across Hall Green, which was then the village common land.

The Huntingdon Road was a continuation

of the High Street heading north and, as its name infers, it ran to Huntingdon. Another road led off leading to St Ives called Top Road, now known as London Road. It was a perfect spot for a toll bar, as the bridge was already there and anyone coming from the south or north had to come through Fenstanton High Street to get to Huntingdon or St Ives. There was another tollbar on the London Road at Hemingford Grey, so to get to St Ives from Fenstanton you would have had to pay at both tollbars.

The introduction of our toll gate would have been resented by the local community which had freely used these roads for centuries. The Turnpike Act had given magistrates powers to punish anyone damaging turnpike property, such as defacing milestones, breaking turnpike gates or avoiding tolls. Early on opposition was particularly intense and there were sporadic outbursts of vandalism and violent confrontation by local men. Sometimes gatekeepers were told that if they resisted they would be killed.

Turnpikes declined with the coming of the railways and then the Local Government Act of 1888 gave responsibility for maintaining main roads to the local authorities. Under the act of 1888 a new class of road emerged. All former turnpike roads that had become public highways since 1870 were designated "main roads", as were roads between "great towns" and those leading to railway stations. The trust ceased to operate in Fenstanton in 1813, shortly after the enclosure of the village common land and the establishment of the present Low Road. The enclosure act dictated that the new Low Road would be toll free. There are no records in the archives that tell us when the tollbar and house were removed.

By the early 21st century the Tollbar Bridge over the Hall Green Brook had become unsafe due to the heavy usage that it had not originally been designed for. So in the first half of 2017 the bridge and its culvert were rebuilt at a cost of £648,000. The original brick bridge and culvert dated from 1809 and there had been a headstone with this date. Somehow this historic stone was 'misplaced' and has never been seen again!

John.deeks@ntlworld.com



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Fenstanton Headlands 2.50pm – 3.40pm

Fenstanton Chapel Green 3.50pm – 4.20pm

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Fenstanton Headlands 10.10am – 10.45am



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A Susegaad Goan

By Francis Barreto

What comes to mind when thinking of Goa? I thought about this for a long time. Known for its gorgeous beaches and hippie vibe, this tiny state in western India offers much more than that, with a fascinating blend of Indian and Portuguese influences that are reflected in its buildings, cuisine and art.

Think of long weekends and lazy holidays filled with sun, sand and festivities. These days, the attractive beaches might look like they've been colonised by foreign hippies and rave-goers, but looks can be deceiving as its rich European history and connection dates back centuries. In 1510 the Portuguese defeated the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur. For over 400 years the Portuguese ruled and Goa only became part of India in 1961, 14 years after the rest of the country won its independence from Britain. The result of this mixing of cultures is one of the most fascinating things about Goa, defined by a leisurely pace and laid-back attitude. Lois, my wife, always says that there is a distinctive slow-paced clock designed for this place. Perhaps there's no better way to describe the vibe in Goa than 'susegaad', a Konkani term derived from Portuguese that alludes to a sybaritic, contented way of life - or the feeling that you can 'sink into life here'.

Churches and temples

With 95% of Goans being either Hindu or Christian, it is no surprise you can't walk a mile without seeing enough chapels and churches to put an English pub crawl to shame! Saying that, their numbers are not the impressive part, but their beauty and history most certainly are.

The Portuguese influence still

can be seen today in the form of Braganza House in Chandor (a former capital city of Portuguese rule). Here you can ask to be shown round by the current owners who will give you a potted history of this once magnificent building. They even claim to have the little fingernail of Saint Francis Xavier in their small and beautiful chapel, which is a great honour!

To see where it all began, a visit to Old Goa is what's needed. Here you can experience places like the 17th century Basilica of Bom Jesus, the Se Cathedral (the largest Roman Catholic church built by the Portuguese in Asia, with its distinctive single belfry - the other one was struck down by lightning in 1776 and never rebuilt) and the Church of the Lady of the Mount, which has expansive views over the Mandovi River.

When plague decimated Old Goa in the 19th century, the capital was moved a few miles west to Noa Goa, or New Goa, now known as



Panaji or Panjim, the capital. There you'll find the whitewashed Immaculate Conception Church, originally built in 1600, with zigzag steps modelled after Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga, Portugal. After this I would stroll through Fontainhas, the colourful Latin Quarter, where you'll find old villas splashed in shades of marigold, turquoise and emerald and fountains with handmade Portuguese tiles aplenty. Instagram was made for neighbourhoods like this!

Eating local

Kokni Kanteen might not look like much from the outside, but this restaurant, modelled after Portuguese-era khanavats, or taverns, is warm and inviting inside with old photos, spice racks and clusters of chillies, garlic and onions hanging on the walls. Order a fish thali and seemingly never ending platters of seafood favourites like kingfish, mackerel curry, tisryo (clams), prawns and more, arrive. If that's not enough, add a coriander-heavy chicken cafreal or mutton xacuti to the mix.

As local families descend to Miramar Beach to watch the sun set, the spotless Mum's Kitchen is working hard to serve them the best, most fiery, Goan fare. For more than two decades, the owners have tapped into the recipes of Hindu and Catholic mothers of Goa to create an authentic menu of sungtchem peri-peri (prawns), pamphlet recheiada (pomfret stuffed with red masala) and beef pepper garlic. Soothe the fire with an order of chourico pao, a local bread studded with sausage.

Classy cocktails

If you ask any Goan when is their preferred time to go to Goa, the answer is always April/May, as it is the season for urrack, a local drink distilled from fermented cashew

apples. With its strong aromas and pungent palatability, this is something I love - usually served with Limca (a cloudy lemonade), garnished with mint and green chilli for that extra bite.

When we visited Goa just after the Covid pandemic we were gobsmacked to see Goa catching up with the western world in gin making, with homemade gins infused with beautiful traditional Indian flavours like turmeric, coriander and star anise all perfectly garnished with guava.



After tasting the flavours of Goa and as the clock hits 4 pm, we pack our beach bags and head to the shore to watch the sun kissing the Arabian Sea and enjoy few cocktails as our British-born kids look forward to indulging themselves in chips and ketchup from the beach shacks!

Beach and sun

Goa is incredibly spread out, so if you're short for time, you'll need to choose between spending your time in North or South Goa. Generally speaking, South Goa is more

Trains, Boats and Planes



secluded, serene and not as ravey or hippie cultured, making it good for a relaxed holiday. If you want a 'scene', with buzzing beaches and nightlife, head north. Here you'll find a variety of options: Arambol beach has a hippie vibe; Ashwem and Morjem are trendy; Vagator is known for its cliffs and rocky coves and beautiful Mandrem is accessed by a rickety walkway over a creek.

We love South Goa, Palolem is one of the most famous beaches. It is in a small relatively safe bay where tourists live around the edge of the beach in shacks and fishing boats can be seen early in the morning unloading their catch. In the early evening people gather to see the sunset, which is an incredible sight and one you will never tire of.

Away from the beaches you will find many authentic towns and villages where you can see the day-to-day lives of the Goan people. Here you will see and hear the early risers, the bread man who brings your bread on his bicycle, the fish man so his fish is nice and fresh and the toots of the horns as people make their way to work on their motorbikes as well as cows wandering across the roads to find the sweeter grass and the coconut and sugarcane sellers encouraging you to stop and taste their wares.

The Goan shopping experience

I remember, as a kid, visiting one of my 31 cousins in North Goa every year and then visiting the famous Mapusa market. This colourful market is open every day, but it is in full swing on Fridays when it becomes alive with the aroma of fresh spices as vendors from all over Goa flock here to sell their wares. I particularly love Myndoli banana (keli) also known as Moira banana, which is a foot long in size and grown in the villages of Bardez (North Goa district). It is the most popular and tasty banana compared with other varieties and during those times it was only available at Mapusa market.

Goa is also famous throughout Asia for its street markets, night markets and flea markets. Skip the souvenir shops and boutiques and try out these markets for a typical Goan shopping experience. These shopping places are heaven for those who know how to bag a great deal. Bargain hard, and you will have bags full of souvenirs to take home. The Chapora fish market is the ideal place for a seafood lover. For fresh seafood ingredients, you must head to the jetty along the Chapora river where local fishermen come with their daily catch and you can get the best of kingfish, crabs,

mussels, prawns, pomfret and lobsters. Located on Arpora Hill, between Baga and Anjuna beach, the Saturday Night Market is famous for its casual atmosphere, which is an extension of Goa's evergreen image. This place is the perfect destination if you are looking for some funky jewellery, clothes, bags and other accessories. The market is also home to many bars and restaurants where you can spend time amid good food and live music. The Wednesday Flea Market of Anjuna is also a perfect Goan market example. A renowned daytime market, this place is a mix of Kashmiri, Gujarati and Tibetan shops selling clothes, accessories and ethnic Goan artwork.

Getting there

Travelling to Goa hasn't been easier with regular flights to this tropical paradise from

cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. However, the fastest way to reach Goa from the UK is to take a direct flight from Gatwick to Goa, although my recommendation is to go through Qatar as you break the journey evenly and the airport and in-flight facilities of Qatar Airways are impeccable.

As a proud Goan, I could go on and on about my own town. However if you are planning a fast-paced tour of some of India's main sights (Golden Triangle or back waters of Kerala) then I will always recommend ending the trip in Goa. Not only to catch up on relaxation, but to bring you back to the UK with a new laid-back feeling from what is known as a bustling country. And, always remember, if you need any travel tips you can catch me anytime at the Three Tuns!





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>

March 2024 – Services and Events

Sunday 3 March	10am Fenstanton	Parish Service with Holy Communion with Sunday Club for children
Thursday 7 March	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer For Zoom details, please contact Rev Rosie
Sunday 10 March Mothering Sunday	9.15am Fen Drayton 10am Fenstanton	Holy Communion Worship For All
Thursday 14 March	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 17 March	10am Fenstanton 5pm Fenstanton	Parish Service with Holy Communion with Sunday Club for children Choral Evensong (BCP)
Thursday 21 March	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday	9.15am Fen Drayton 10am Fenstanton	Morning Praise Family Communion
Thursday 28 March Maundy Thursday	8.30am on Zoom 7.30pm Fenstanton	Morning Prayer Holy Communion
Good Friday	11.30am Fen Drayton 2pm Fenstanton	Good Friday walk begins from St Mary's with a short act of worship. Walk from Fen Drayton to Fenstanton including a stop for picnic lunch Hour At The Cross Service
Holy Saturday	10-12noon Fenstanton	Prayer Spaces
Clocks go forward! Easter Sunday 31 March	9.15am Fen Drayton *10.30am Fenstanton	Easter Day Holy Communion Easter Day Holy Communion *please note time change

Rev Rosie writes: Hello – how are you doing?

As we journey through the season of Lent, we are moving towards Holy Week and Easter. If you gave something up for Lent, how is that going? What did you decide to give up? Lots of people give up something they feel is indulgent – like sugar, chocolate, cake, biscuits or maybe alcohol. In this way the temptation or lure of whatever it is, is sacrificial, recognising Jesus' temptations in the wilderness for 40 days, while he was praying and fasting. Jesus refused to be tempted, turning to Scripture to counteract those temptations. Can we be like him, responding to temptations with the discipline of turning to Scripture and prayer? But just as we know spring follows winter, we know that Lent moves to Holy Week and Easter. We hear the story again, Palm Sunday through to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and a quiet Holy Saturday. Then, what joy! The sun rises to the proclamation "Alleluia. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed. Alleluia". The bells ring, the organ thunders with the great Easter hymns. What is your favourite Easter hymn, by the way? Will you join us ??

Do take a look at the service calendar, or posters on display. Check out our facebook page for up to date details, as there will be various activities for children, families and those who need a time for themselves. From Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday, might you join in the Good Friday walk or perhaps take that opportunity to sit in quiet reflection on either Good Friday or Holy Saturday?

Until next time, God bless.

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallwin: 01480 467393 email: rosie.tallowin@btinternet.com

Join us on Mothering Sunday Sunday 10 March 2024

9.15am at St Mary's, Fen Drayton

10am at St Peter & St Paul, Fenstanton

Posies will be available in either church



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.

FUN DAY

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



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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



Is it just me or is the world as we know it changing and not for the better?

As a Minister I am very wary of being thought a prophet of doom and gloom, but recently a non-Christian friend made a telling comment – ‘Look at it another way’ she said, ‘What can we point to that’s improving?’ I am not alone in harbouring anxiety as our world becomes irreversibly more fragile and ever more a dangerous place for many. That it is still possible for most of us to live pretending this is not the case, is little comfort.

As a Minister you might expect this to be a call to return to church. Here too I am cautious. Few have ever been in the first place or have much idea of what Christianity is about. Whilst Hilton Methodist Church is both friendly and hospitable, our rituals and traditions are unlikely to mean much if you have no faith background.

If that’s you, you might be interested in the resources available on the national Methodist Church website. Particularly now as we look towards the most important date in our year – Easter, celebrating Christ’s resurrection. Christ, who lived in equally if not more turbulent times, who called out the injustices of his day so much so he was crucified only to overcome the barrier of death by rising again and who remains ever present.

This is the core of our faith. God unbounded by time, place, culture, ritual or tradition. God goes where God goes – ours is to see and join in. Nationally Methodists offer a rich mine of diverse resources about faith and spirituality.



Take a look here - <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-andeaster/unbounded-love/>

Or if you are really brave, get in touch and consider crossing our threshold. Fresh eyes are a real help to our seeing and removing barriers – ever more important in these so very difficult times.

Sue

You can contact Revd.Sue by email: sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk or by phone: 07483 153948

Services in March

3 March	10:00am	Rev. Sue Baker-Maher
10 March	11:15am	United Service at the Methodist Church
17 March	10:00am	Dr. Barbara Spencer
24 March	10:00am	Rev. Sue Baker-Maher
31 March	10:00am	Easter Day Service led by Dr. Roland Randall

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Hilton Parish Church

Dear Friends,

If you live in Hilton or have passed through recently, you may have seen scaffolding around the parish church tower. This is for work to repair the pointing in the masonry, and it is likely to take several weeks. It is a labour of love – and money! Both the love and the money come from the many people who generously support the life and work of the parish church through regular giving, or by contributing at special events such as the Christmas bazaar or the roving supper. (I think the love is also expressed, though they might be surprised to have it put this way, by the skill of the workers. This is specialist work, and takes craftsmen to execute it well.)

If you give regularly or occasionally, thank you. I am particularly touched that several people who do not regularly attend church services have chosen to commit themselves to contributing financially, as have some members of our sister church, the Methodists, with whom we have a covenant relationship, an agreement not to do separately whatever we can do better together.

It means a lot that so many people give to ensure the parish church continues to stand. It isn't just the property of those who attend regularly – if it fell down tomorrow, I think we can all agree that the whole village would miss it, whatever people's beliefs might be. But of course, the church is intended to be more than a fine building.

The purpose of those anonymous but very skilled mediaeval builders six centuries ago and more, and the purpose of those who worship there now, is one and the same – that it should be, in the words of Jesus, 'a house of prayer for all the nations' (Mark 11:17), in other words for everyone.

The invitation is always offered to join in that prayer, either privately during the week (the church is open every day) or at public worship.

With love, David

Vicar of Hilton 01480 436400

Services in March

Sunday 03 March	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 10 March	11:15am United Service at the Methodist Church
Sunday 17 March	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 24 March	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church service in the Village Hall
Thursday 28 March	7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service followed by Vigil at Godmanchester Parish Church
Friday 29 March	10:30am Good Friday Service
Saturday 30 March	7:30pm Holy Saturday Service
Sunday 31 March	8:00am Easter Sunday Communion
Friday 08 March	5:30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church)

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

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

2024 Services

March

03 March	Revd Christine Davies
10 March	Mothering Sunday - Revd Christine Davies
17 March	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
24 March	Palm Sunday - Service Led by Alison Jiggins
29 March	Good Friday - Revd Christine Davies
31 March	Easter Sunday - Revd Dr Catherine Ball

April

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

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

Tuesday 12 March	2.30-4pm
Tuesday 09 April	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

Mass Times: Saturday 17.00,

Sunday 09.00 and 11.00

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St Mary's, Fen Drayton - Churchyard

The churchyard of St Mary's, Fen Drayton is currently open for burials and the interment of cremated remains but it is becoming increasingly difficult to locate areas where further burials are possible. A parishioner has a right to be buried in the churchyard where they reside, die in the parish or where their name is included on the Church Electoral Roll, provided the churchyard is open for burials and there is sufficient space.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is conscious of the need and desire of Fen Drayton residents to maintain the tradition of churchyard burials for their departed loved ones so would like to make it possible to keep the churchyard open and available for burials. To overcome the problem of lack of space and to provide an area where burials can continue for the foreseeable future the PCC is considering applying to the diocese for permission to continue with burials in an area where there have been burials in the long distant past. This is not an unusual practice in churchyards where burial areas have been reused over the centuries.

The proposed area for future burials is located in the north-eastern corner of the churchyard and is outlined in red on the accompanying satellite plan. The area includes some ten existing headstones for burials which all took place earlier than 1900 and leads us to conclude that all the burials in this area are probably at least 125 years old. In time these existing headstones will need to be relocated to make space for new burials. Relocation of the old headstones would be carried out in a sensitive way and although they would no longer mark the spot of the original burial they would be re-erected nearby and in a position where the inscriptions would still be legible. Details of inscriptions on the existing headstones that are still legible are as follows:



- William West died 13 May 1883 aged 83;
- Elizabeth wife of William West died 29 December 1875 aged 76;
- Samuel Bollard died 28 November 1850 aged 82;
- Ann wife of Samuel Bollardremainder of inscription no longer legible but date of burial may be 29 November 1830
- Mary Symonds died 31 August 1871 aged 72 also James Symonds her husband died 27 August 1878 aged 80.

If you are a descendant of any of the named people on the headstone inscriptions or have any knowledge of how to contact descendants, the PCC would very much like to hear from you. Please contact churchwarden Philip Blunt 01480 461751 email: pmlblunt25@gmail.com or Ian Hucklesby email: ikhuck@virginmedia.com

Latest news from Fenstanton Parish Council

Fenstanton Parish Council – new website

Your Parish Council has launched a new website, the new website address is fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk For the time being, you will be redirected to the new website if you are using the old address. Your Parish Council hopes that you like the look of the new website and will find it more accessible to use.

Removal of the hedges at Chequer Street and the Cemetery

Your Parish Council decided to remove the Hedges at Chequer Street car park/park after receiving several complaints from parents who felt unable to take their children to the park due to finding needles and other drug paraphernalia in the park. There had also been spates of vandalism, with play equipment and benches being subject to graffiti. Your Parish Council did consider installing CCTV cameras in the hope of combatting the problem, however this was thought to be both costly and intrusive for the small park area. Therefore, your Parish Council agreed that removing the hedges that provide cover for anti-social behaviour was the best solution. Your Parish Council did discuss cutting the hedges back, but felt that this would require continual maintenance and would still provide cover.

There is further work to be carried out at the car park/park, including the planting of three mature trees on the verge in front of the car park, and your Parish Council will be discussing other ways in which it can enhance the area.

Concerning the Cemetery Hedge, your Parish Council has been trying for several years to secure extra land from Cambridgeshire County Council to provide the extra space now needed for burials, but this is taking a very long time and your Parish Council is becoming desperately short of Burial Plots with just a handful remaining. On removal of the Hedge, a number of nitrous oxide canisters were discovered, as well as a vandalised memorial headstone. This shows that this Hedge was also providing cover for anti-social behaviour. Your Parish Council appreciates that the area may not look very pretty at the moment, but once the area is seeded, and grass has grown, this should improve the visual impact. Your Parish Council did seek the advice of an experienced grave digger before undergoing this work and the advice given was that installing fencing would serve to hinder when access is required to dig plots. Between 20 and 40 extra plots have been provided, depending on whether double plots are possible. This would not have been possible without the removal of the Hedge.

Church Lane/Chequer Street junction

Your Parish Council has received concerns about the safety of the Junction where Church Lane meets Chequer Street. The junction is complex, and your Parish Council would like to remind drivers and pedestrians to take extra care at this Junction. Your Parish Council has asked Cambridgeshire County Council to refresh the road markings which have faded over time.

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.

23.03.2024	Nigel Ferrier	Peter Hayes
27.04.2024	Anne Mustill	Martin Hewitt
25.05.2024	Paul Kent	Matt Tandy
29.06.2024	Roy McGee	Tina Yates

Hampton Park - redesign

Your Parish Council has reconsidered the original park proposals as a result of the feedback received from those Parishioners living within close proximity to the park. A small working party met at the end of November to discuss the proposal and came to a compromise. The redesign has included the removal of the plan for a Skate Park, but your Parish Council is considering alternative locations where it may be possible to accommodate this. The redesign will be professionally drawn up before further consideration is given.

History of Fenstanton - leaflet

Your Parish Council will be installing six Heritage Information Boards in various locations around the Village. The boards will provide information about the History of the Village. Jean Ding and John Deeks have been working closely with some of our Councillors to produce the content for the boards. In conjunction with the Heritage Boards, your Parish Council has agreed that it would be a great idea to produce an information leaflet that can be distributed within the Village for those who would be interested in reading about the History of Fenstanton. Your Parish Council also hopes to include the information on its website.

Play Park – resurfacing Rookery Way

Resurfacing work has now been completed at Rookery Way (Metal) Park and is looking much smarter. The park is now open to enjoy again when better weather returns.



Fenstanton Parish Council

Making Fenstanton an even better place to live

Low Road – Active Travel proposal

Your Parish Council was approached recently by the Cambridgeshire County Council Active Travel Team who wanted to gauge whether your Parish Council would be supportive of a proposal to trial an active travel corridor on the Low Road to provide a Non-Motorised User route to St Ives. Two members of the Active Travel team attended the Parish Council meeting on 8 February to present to your Parish Council and to see whether there was support for a possible trial. The presentation showed that there were two possible proposals for consideration, one to allow one-way traffic and another to close the Road completely other than to allow access. Your Parish Council voiced concerns about lighting, flooding, and the safety of crossing at Harrison Way. There were also concerns

raised about the impact of more vehicles using Huntingdon Road single track road, which is in poor condition, the safety of traffic joining the already busy flyover, increased traffic on London Road and the danger of possible traffic queues on the A1307. Your Parish Council also asked if the funding could be used to invest in and improve the Fen Bridleway, which already provides access to St Ives. Unfortunately, the advice was that the Low Road was the area that stakeholders had identified and therefore the Active Travel team could not consider another area. As the Active Travel team was not able to answer many of the concerns raised, your Parish Council felt it could not support this proposal in its current guise.

Next Parish Council meetings

Your Parish Council meets next on **Thursday 14 March** and **Thursday 11 April** at 7.00pm in the Church Centre.

The **Annual Meeting of the Parish** is on **Thursday 25 April**, this meeting is an opportunity for Parishioners to have their say and listen to what the Parish Council has been working on over the past year.

Three vacancies for Parish Councillors

Your Parish Council still has three vacancies for co-option and would love to hear from you if you would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

Are you passionate about the Village you live in? Do you want to help make long-lasting changes? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then please consider becoming a Parish Councillor. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect our community.

To qualify to become a Councillor you must be a British subject, 18 years old or over and be on the electoral roll, or you must reside within Fenstanton or within 4.8km of Fenstanton or occupy as owner or tenant any land or premises therein or have their principal or only place of work there and must not be disqualified from holding office as a Councillor.

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.

MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

Fenstanton Spring Clean-up – 24 March



To contact your Parish Council Clerk
Telephone: 01480 465 300
Email: clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk
Website: www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Fenstanton Community Hub

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

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Open Monday 09.30am 'till noon

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**Church Centre (School Lane),
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the Church Centre and HDC**

Find a defibrillator near you

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

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

Fenstanton
Ash's Store (NISA) on the High Street
putting.cabinet.washroom
And
Church Centre on School Lane
reclusive.creeps.deleting

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



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Life on a Plate

Stuffed saddle of lamb with parsley and pine nuts

This roast lamb recipe makes a great centrepiece for special occasions such as Easter Sunday. Buy local lamb, the taste is far superior to supermarket lamb. At Rosegate Farm (Swavesey), the butchers will bone their home-bred saddle of lamb for you because it's a tricky job to do at home. Ideally you would make the stuffing the day before roasting. This lovely meat can be served with your favourite roast potatoes or make a creamy dauphinoise – the perfect match.

Ingredients

1 boned saddle of lamb
Salt and pepper

For the stuffing

2 handfuls of flat-leaf parsley
50g of pine nuts
250ml of double cream
6 garlic cloves
120g of breadcrumbs
Salt and pepper
1 sprig of mint for serving



Method

To make the stuffing, bring a large saucepan of water to the boil. Pick the leaves from the parsley stalks and blanch for 2 minutes. Remove and plunge into a bowl of iced water. Drain well and squeeze until very dry in a clean tea towel. This will keep the parsley green while cooking the lamb.

Toast the pine nuts in a dry frying pan, stirring frequently, until they are light golden. Alternatively you can toast them in an oven set to 180 °C for 6-8 minutes.

Place the cream into a pan and bring to the boil. Grate in the garlic and add the blanched parsley. Reduce the heat to a very gentle simmer, taking care that it does not catch on the bottom of the pan. When the mixture starts to thicken, add the toasted pine nuts and remove the pan from the heat.

Stir the breadcrumbs into the hot cream a little at a time as you may not need all of them. Mix well and leave to cool.

Lay the saddle of lamb on a work surface and carefully trim away as much fat as possible from the flank part. Trim the two fillets as well and season all the meat with salt and pepper

Spoon the stuffing down the centre of the saddle. Lay the two fillets on top and roll up the joint, tying it tightly and evenly with kitchen string. Put the stuffed lamb on a roasting tray and leave until ready to cook.

To cook the lamb, preheat the oven to 220°C/ Gas mark 7. Roast the saddle for 25 minutes for pink meat and 10 more minutes for well done, then leave to rest for about 20 minutes

To serve, remove the string and carve the lamb into fairly thick slices. Serve with carrots, broad beans and peas, use the juices of the lamb in your gravy.



Fen Drayton Tots

Open to all with babies, toddlers and Pre-school children
 Lots of space indoors and out
 Warm and welcoming group

Mondays Fen Drayton Village Hall, 10am - 12pm during term time
 Find us on Facebook: Fen Drayton Tots
fendraytontots@gmail.com

Hilton Churches' Lent Lunches

In aid of Break*

Do come and join us for a light lunch
 between 12:30pm and 2:00pm.




Wednesday, 6 March: Atticus House, Church End
 Wednesday, 13 March: 1, Grove End
 Wednesday, 20 March: 20, Chequers Croft

Suggested donation - £5:00



*Break is a charity working across East Anglia to pave the way for a brighter future for children and young people who have experienced the care system.



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NHS Retirement Fellowship



Did you work, in any capacity, for the NHS during your working life?

If so, how about joining our local branch of the Fellowship? We are a friendly group which meets on the 4th Friday of the month in Godmanchester. We have a speaker each month (we try to have a variety of interests covered), refreshments, then a short business meeting.

We have various outings during the year as well as interest groups, regular lunch club and an annual holiday.

Why not give us a try? We would love to welcome you.

For further information please contact Julia Mitchell:
Tel 01480 301252 Mob 07703582694 Email graylingsjim@gmail.com

Business Spotlight



Working all hours

When Jo and Ash Puntambekar opened their village store in 1988, they could not have imagined over three decades later that it would be winning national awards. Ash's, as the high street shop is affectionately known, has already been awarded the Best Chiller Retailer and Best Convenience Retailer of the Year along with numerous other accolades.

not ever being one to do things by half embarked on an international research project to find out what makes a good convenience store. "The most important thing I learnt was that the quality and freshness of the produce is critical. So it is no coincidence that we have 28 deliveries a week ensuring everything is as fresh as possible. That has its own headaches as food

This national recognition is the result of years of work by their son, Amit. Brought up literally over the shop he never saw himself as a 'shop keeper', in fact he almost fell into it. After completing his Masters at Warwick University in International Relations he worked for a short time in London to save some money before, he hoped, going onto Cambridge to study for his PhD.



Amit a few months old with Ash in their shop.

will go out of date and if we cannot sell it at a reduced price we distribute it free of charge to families in the village that we know could use some extra help. I personally hate food waste."

"Over the years the village has been very good to my parents and my ethos is to return some of that goodwill and we now regularly contribute thousands of pounds to local charities and organisations every year. Being part of village is not all about profit but being an active part of the local community."

"I hated working in London and went back home to prepare my PhD application. Whilst there I kept dipping in and out of the shop helping my parents with all elements of running the business." Amit explains, "I really got the bug and when my father announced he was selling the business I begged him to give me a chance at running it."

Despite Amit's good intentions theft from the shop is a real issue, as it is for the majority of shopkeepers nationally. In the school holidays last year Amit saw £500 worth of individual chocolate bars stolen from the shop!

Ash gave Amit four weeks to prove he was serious and, if not, the business would be sold as a buyer was already in the wings. Amit took up the challenge and worked all hours to persuade his father he was the man for the job. After four weeks Amit had made a significant impact on the business and 'the rest is history'.

Amit is a self confessed workaholic, working long hours keeping the business going and when asked what he does in any time he has off he replied "I love 1970's sitcoms and believe it or not one of my favourites is 'Open all Hours.'" Is there anything else to say?!

Ash's can be found on the High Street, Fenstanton and is open seven days a week. Why not call in and see for yourself what a great asset to the village it is!

Amit threw himself into his new career and

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
Follow: @CambsCops
Subscribe: ecops.org.uk



Creating a safer Cambridgeshire



Stall holders wanted

If you a business or represent an organisation and would like a stall at The BIG Village Fun Day in Fenstanton on 06 July please contact David at dhmartynski@gmail.com

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!

Indoor Picnic & Movie

This month, we've got something a bit different for you and your little ones to try. With winter seemingly lasting forever, we've been missing our garden picnics, so we put together a little indoor picnic alongside a Disney movie.

Sky and I love spending time together, and this was the perfect way to waste a rainy afternoon.

Low cost, low hassle and loads of fun - we will be repeating this time and time again until we can get back outside!

Checklist

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandwiches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dips | <input type="checkbox"/> Cushions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juice/Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Cuddly toy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit Medley | <input type="checkbox"/> Wipes/Kitchen roll |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veg sticks | <input type="checkbox"/> Bib |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> Plates/Bowls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic blanket | <input type="checkbox"/> Movie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets | <input type="checkbox"/> Comfy socks |

Local Groups

- **Hilton Baby & Toddler Group**
Tuesdays (term time only) 10am - 11.30am - Hilton Village Hall
- **Fen Drayton Tots**
Mondays 10am-12pm (term time only) - Fen Drayton Village Hall
- **Fenstanton Baby & Toddler Group**
Tuesdays (all year round) 9.30am - 11.30am - The Church Centre, Fenstanton



Please send all enquires to mamajosmischief@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR FRIDAY FEAST

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

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



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Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

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

Message from the chair

At last the days are getting longer and it was a pleasure to see the snowdrops coming up – a cheery site after the dark winter days.

The parish council continues to follow Plantlife's advice on how to manage the village verges and they have just been given their second cut. They will now be left until August/September to allow beneficial insects to thrive. Of course, verges will continue to be cut where necessary for traffic safety.

The Cambridgeshire County Council Floodmobile will be in the village hall car park on 11 May (10 am to 4 pm). Expert advice will be on hand offering practical measures to make properties more flood resilient. The Community Cafe is also open from 10 to 12.30.

The parish council has applied for a Local Highways Initiative grant to provide better signage at the narrow bridge on Cambridge Road. Money allocated from the Northstowe S106 fund is insufficient to deliver the project as the parish council would wish.

The grant application for funding towards replacing the pavilion has been submitted. We needed to show as much community engagement as possible, so thank you to everyone who signed the petition: 222 residents and 134 footballers as we go to press. Thank you also to local businesses for their support.

The parish council has launched its new website (www.fendrayton.org), which is both vibrant and easy to navigate.

Crime in Fen Drayton

During 2023 there were 43 crimes in Fen Drayton, according to police statistics for South Cambridgeshire - 62% of which were burglary, theft and vehicle crime. Burglary and theft occurs more frequently in the roads on the outskirts of the village, where there are fewer houses.

Fen Drayton has a 20% higher crime rate (crimes per 1000 population) than Swavesey and Over, but the difference may be a result of under reporting in the other villages.

It is important that residents report every crime no matter how minor.

In December, the parish council raised crime issues with Anthony Browne MP. We also wrote to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire, who said he would contact the Neighbourhood Police Inspector and the Community Safety Partnership, to "investigate this and come back with some updates."

In the meantime, it's important that we all do as much as possible to prevent crime, such as locking buildings and cars. The village has a WhatsApp group where residents report unusual, potential or actual criminal activity.

Sue Ellington - South Cambs district councillor

South Cambs District Council is gearing up for the future by looking at the budget for the coming year. SCDC is in a relatively good financial state compared with many other councils, but the administration is concerned about the government's plan to introduce a Fair Funding Review in 2026, which may push much government funding towards county and unitary authorities. So the revenue from the New Homes Bonus, which pays the council for new homes, and from the Cambridgeshire Business Rate Pool which pays the council for additional businesses in South Cambs, and raises council tax, will help to build reserves for potential cuts in 2026.

SCDC continues with the four-day week trial against Department of Levelling Up instructions and is providing the required

data on a weekly basis. The information has finally been made available and has led to questions around the use and cost of agency staff and the predicted saving or cost of this. I hope the council will produce these figures and allow the elected members to vote on whether this trial should continue.

For help with any district council issues, contact: cllr.Ellington@scambs.gov.uk 01954 202923 or 07774 146331

Community Cafe

The January cafe welcomed Alison, a MAGPAS volunteer trainer, for a CPR/defibrillator training event. 18 people signed up for, and participated in, this simple and practical session, using a mannequin to practise their technique and learn how to use a defibrillator.

Most cardiac arrests occur at home and, sadly, only one in 10 people survives, making the training vital.

Fen Drayton's public defibrillator is located at Fen Drayton village hall, Cootes Lane, Fen Drayton CB24 4SL with clear instructions on how to use it.

The January cafe also saw the inaugural meeting of Fen Drayton Gardening Club, which was extremely well attended. The club now has its own Facebook page and WhatsApp group.

The next cafe is on Saturday 9 March.



The Highs and Lows

Weather Watch by Patrick Landucci



What a dramatic end to 2023 and start to 2024 dominated by storms, gales and heavy rain. According to the Met. office the last 6 months of 2023 were the wettest on record, in our region dating from 1836. Just under 16" (404.2 mm) fell from 1 July to the end of December. Somewhat curiously the Met. Office start their "storm naming" year on 1 September and by the end of January 2024 there have been 10 named storms, compared with just 2 for the previous storm year. Whilst each storm impacted different parts of the UK to varying degrees the two which affected our region most were storms "Babet" (18 to 20 October) and "Henk" (2 and 3 January). In both cases secondary low pressure systems followed in their wake delivering a double dose of heavy rain, both causing widespread flooding. After "Henk" the river Great Ouse burst its banks around St. Ives flooding roads and properties including those in Fenstanton.

Autumn 2023 was generally mild and it was not until 26 November that our first air frost occurred, which heralded a two week cold spell with the temperature below freezing all day on 2 December. After a wintry first week in December, four weeks of very mild, wet, dull and stormy weather followed, brought by unremitting south-westerly winds. On many days the night time minima stayed above 7C (45F), i.e. the normal day time maximum for December. 10C (50F) was reached or exceeded on 20 days during this period which was totally frost free. Cold weather returned during the middle two weeks of January which was mostly dry with hard frosts. Minus 5.7C (21.6F) was recorded

on 18th. No snow in our area but other parts of the UK particularly in the northern half had considerable falls. Mild conditions returned for the rest of January.

As usual I will highlight a few examples of extreme weather elsewhere, this time in Europe.

1. Scandinavia. As we experienced a completely frost-free 12 days of Christmas, there was deep freeze in Norway, Sweden and Finland. On 5 January Norway had its coldest temperature for 25 years in a village just north of the Arctic Circle when -43.5C was registered. In northern Sweden -43.8C was recorded, just short of 80 degrees of frost. Roll forward three weeks and temperatures 10 to 15C (18-27F) above average occurred.
2. Spain. On 25 January during a period of unseasonable warmth 28.5C (just under 80F) was recorded in the Murcia region and widely in the mid 20's C (70-75F) in other areas including Alicante and Granada.
3. UK. New January record highest temperature 19.6C (67.3F) was recorded in the Scottish village of Kinlochewe in the north-west highlands on 28.1.24.
4. European largest hailstone. On 24 July 2023 a hailstone measuring 19cm (7.75") was found in the Italian town of Azzamo Decimo which beat the previous record by 4cm. This compares with the all-time world-wide largest hailstone of 20cm which fell in South Dakota, USA on 23 July 2010.



Come and share our Lent Lunches

at 56 Church Leys, FENSTANTON, PE28 9QD
(opposite Parish Church car park and Hampton Close)

on Fridays

March 01, 08, 15 and 22

Any time between 12 and 2.30 pm.

You are very welcome to join us for any or all the occasions.

The idea is to share a simple lunch of soup and bread, (usually a choice of 3 or 4 soups) to share the company of others, and to donate, roughly what you would have otherwise spent on a meal out, to our charity, which this year is

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<https://www.amostrust.org/>

For more information contact John or Penny on 01480 464672

FENSTANTON BOWLS CLUB
QUIZ NIGHT
SAT 02 MARCH, 7.00PM
FENSTANTON CHURCH CENTRE

For more info & book tickets contact:
Julie: julie3315@gmail.com or
Elaine: elaine.ward58@btinternet.com or
call 01480 300040

ONLY £5 ENTRY PER PERSON

Fen Drayton Primary School



We had a busy final few weeks of the autumn term with discos, lots of Christmas activities. Ducklings (Reception) and Swallows (KS1) put on a fantastic production of the Nativity for their families, as well as the rest of the school. The children worked so hard learning their lines plus all the songs and gave amazing performances on the day!

In January, we took our years 4-6 to London to perform at the O2 Arena, singing with the Young Voices choir. They were part of 8000 children who sang their hearts out to an audience of their friends and families. As always, we were extremely proud of our children.

We love a school trip, but we also enjoy welcoming visitors. Swallows class has been learning all about the Great Fire of London this term and welcomed a drama group to work with them to get a deeper understanding of the events from 1666. The children enjoyed dressing up and getting into character as they took part in lots of different activities.

Our work to improve the school environment has continued, with new lighting throughout school and new fencing at the front. Once the weather warms up, we will be looking to develop a quiet area plus sensory garden and vegetable patch. If you are able to support

us in any way, with an extra pair of hands or by fundraising, we would love to hear from you!



If you would like to find out more about us, take a look at our website 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 or call 01954 273346 to arrange a visit.

Nina McQueen
Headteacher



News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



The headline from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School is the publishing of our Ofsted grading, following our inspection in December. We were delighted to share news of our 'Good' outcome with our community in January. The school returns to this grading thanks to the hard work of staff, governors, pupils and community members over a long period of time. With this outcome secured, we are now focused on our continuing improvement and ensuring the offer to our pupils remains at least 'Good'.

Despite the shorter days of this spring term, we have been pleased to keep so much outdoor activity in place for our children. Running, football, netball and hockey clubs have all continued, and we were pleased to welcome the team from Bikeability, who worked with our Reception Class children on balance bikes to develop their riding skills.

At the end of January, we hosted visitors from OpenView Education, who led interactive sessions for our children as part of Safer Internet Day, which focused largely on children's online communication and conduct. All of the children engaged positively with the important messages.

In early February, a small group of Year 6 pupils took part in the Local Authority's English Challenge. I am delighted to share that our children won the heat and have progressed to the next round. Our congratulations to Evie, Elodie, Finley and Joseph!

In March, many schools will be celebrating World Book Day. As part of this, we are looking forward to hosting reading breakfasts with our community, and our PTA will be hosting a book fair. This will raise funds for the school whilst providing access to high-quality texts for our children.



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 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 photo is from January's workshop with Sue Eddy - "Frozen Fen in mixed media", which was very enjoyable.

During the morning we learned new techniques.

Our discussion session about Sue's photo was very useful and she showed us how to change aspects of a photo to make a better composition for a painting, for instance leaving a break in the middle of a line of trees, to lead the eye into the picture. Sue also stressed the importance of doing sketches in preparation and using a sketch book regularly, which we will try to do.

Thank you to those who brought cake.

Friday 15 March 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Town and Gown: Cambridge Scenes.

Please bring your own pictures/props



Fen Drayton Tennis Club

The new season will start on 1 April 2024 with membership lasting for one year. Apart from the basic provision of being able to book the courts without further payment there are a number of other areas, which might be of interest to those thinking of joining the club.

Coaching

As in previous years, the club will be providing coaching for junior and adult players. Professional coach, Diane Cobb, will be running junior lessons on Wednesday and Friday afternoons starting with three sessions before Easter and continuing over the summer term. If interested, and for further details, please contact Matt Norton at nortmatt@gmail.com. Dates for adult coaching are currently being arranged.

Team matches

In recent seasons the club has entered a team in an under-18 boys' league with a good measure of success. On occasions they have defeated teams from much larger clubs. For

summer 2024, Ben Caley, Jake Stevens and Henry Pyne, from the boys' team, will form the nucleus of a team to be entered in the men's league.

We need more players for the squad. This will be particularly so when the younger players have educational commitments.

Club play

In addition to the regular club sessions, we intend to set up a ladder system this year. This will provide, effectively, an internal club league. It enables players to arrange competitive matches at times that suit themselves. This might well appeal to players who are unable to attend club sessions.

Visit our website: www.fendraytontc.co.uk



Hilton Women's Institute

Did anyone spot the mistake last month? No? Well, there was one!

We all knew that Sarah Doig would be with us and her enthusiasm, believing it was to be on the subject of Road Signs. We were both embarrassed and then fascinated - it was Village Signs!

3,000 of Britain's villages display such a sign, with East Anglia in the lead. The origins were in Norfolk when the Prince of Wales established a school of signs in Sandringham in 1900. In 1912, King George V encouraged nearby Wolferton to place a sign and an addition was then made for the late Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. Signs could sometimes be stolen; one in Walberswick denotes a ship from a battle in 1665 and was stolen in 1984 only to be found in a Kentish garden in 2012!

Signs can be made from various materials, many being wood carved by Harry Carter of Swaffham and metal and mosaics are now used. Clever connections are made. For instance the Old Buckenham sign is double sided, provided by its WI and depicts a deer, the old name for a Buck. Many depict nothing. What about Eaton - it shows an elephant eating a ton! It's a fascinating subject, we need to keep looking on our journeys out and about.

During the month some of us have attended a Sea Shanty Workshop at Federation with plenty of singing and others are planning a journey on the Nene Valley Railway ending with tasty fish and chips. Meanwhile our clubs continue with Canasta; so successful with beginners that for the time being we have had to return to members only.

In February we are hearing stories of a London Taxi Driver, so more of that next month.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

On a sad note, we recently learned of the passing of our oldest member, Ros Howells, close to her 99th birthday and several of our members were able to support her family at her funeral.

Finally, we owe a huge thank you to Mel who seeks out our wonderful variety of speakers; she has already completed the list for the coming year and even into 2025!

Ian Fleming once said 'Always say yes to adventures. Say no - and you will lead a very dull life'. It's certainly true in our WI!

We always welcome new members - hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com



What you're Missing

Fen Drayton Lions

by manager Simon O'Neill

We've had a great start to the year with three wins on the bounce, All have been cup games, so we keep marching on.

As always we've played some fantastic football and got the results we deserved. You can't play brilliantly all the time and sometimes you have to dig deep and grit your teeth to try and grind out a result - and to be fair the lads have done just that.

The key has been getting a consistent side out and good numbers so we can keep rotating the subs, giving some of the lads a breather. Hopefully this will continue and we can see where the cup run takes us!

Thanks again for all who come down to cheer us on - it's very much appreciated!



You look like a role model!

At 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scouts, we LOVE doing what we do - empowering young people with skills for life, helping them make friends for life and starting them on the adventurous journey through Scouting - which can last for life.

But with more than 50 children waiting to join our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections, we need your support. Could you be one of our amazing volunteers who can guide the next generation through their Scouting journey?

With roles to fit around your skills and commitments, volunteering with us is a hugely rewarding experience - and looks great on your CV too!

To find out more about starting or continuing your Scouting journey with us, visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/1stFenHilScouts>, or email us at comms@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk.



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.

17 January

We were pleased to hear a presentation about the role of the "Village Warden". It was very informative and good to learn that there is help available to anyone who has needs. The Parish Council will help with funding for the first three months. Support information is available at:- Wardens@ageukcap.org.uk 07812 496004 07944 181307

31 January

We had a great afternoon with more history from John Deeks. He spoke about the crucifixion site that featured in a TV programme, it's amazing what went on in Fenstanton's past. He tested our memories of entertainment in the 1940s/50s, stars that made us laugh and are long gone. Of course, some of us had no memory of those times!!!

Upcoming Meetings

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 28 February | Jennifer Corille will be sharing some of her poetry with us. |
| 13 March | Martin John will be entertaining us with his music. |
| 29 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

Fen Drayton Gardening Club

Fen Drayton Gardening Club is a fabulous, friendly and inclusive group that welcomes members with all levels of skill and knowledge. We meet on the second Saturday of the month as part of the village Community Cafe (held at the village hall).

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 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.

We look forward to welcoming you to a meeting soon!



What you're Missing

Hilton Flower Club

05 February was our workshop, 35 ladies had an enjoyable afternoon creating a wonderful flower arrangement, which you can see in the photo. Well done to you all.

04 March Tim Meakin will be our flower demonstrator, we know it will be a very entertaining afternoon with wonderful flower arrangements, not to be missed.

08 April Lesley Beeton will be bringing spring into her flower demonstrations, we always look forward to seeing her it will be a wonderful afternoon.

13 May Steffie Shield MBE will be giving a talk on Capability Brown, should be a very interesting afternoon, men are welcome to join us.

19 June is our outing to Beth Chatto's garden, if you are interested please ring June for details 01480 830306

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



Fen Drayton Village Hall

Spotlight on Fen Drayton Bowls Club

If you went to the February Community Cafe, you will have had an opportunity to try out indoor bowls (see photo).

The honours board on your right, as you enter the village hall, reveals those who have previously enjoyed this very sociable sport and taken part in the various league matches throughout the year.

Fen Drayton Bowls Club began in 1991/92, according to the first entry on the board, with short mat bowls. By 1995 there were green bowls entries. Quick question: what's the difference between lions and tigers? If you are a member of the bowls club, you will know that the Lions meet inside (short mat bowls) and the Tigers meet outside (green bowls). Lions meet between September and April, on Monday afternoons and Friday evenings. Tigers meet outdoors between May and August. It's a friendly club, with members enjoying the social aspect of meeting and chatting as well as a game of bowls, and they would love to have new people join them!

If you would like to know more, just come along when the bowls club meets- you will have a warm welcome! Or, for more information, contact Mike Gillett on 01480 385297.



Fenstanton Football Club update

It has been one of the wettest winters on record and unfortunately this has meant we have been busy rescheduling and postponing most of our home games due to our Hall Green Lane pitches being under water. With this in mind, we thought it would be nice to focus on our U12 team this month, as it's the only youth side that plays at Fenstanton School rather than Hall Green Lane, so has benefited from continuous playing this winter!

The Under12s have been together since Under 7s, formed mainly with players from Fenstanton and Hilton, but we've been



pleased to welcome players over the years from surrounding villages as we've moved from 5 aside to 7 aside and now 9 aside. We are particularly proud that they are still a mixed sex team as we've seen other teams in the league lose their female players as they get older. This year (2023/4 season) has been the first year of 'competitive' football, where results and the league are published, and the team have been testing themselves against some of the best teams in the area, as we are in the top division for the Hunts youth league age group. The season has seen some great performances in wins, draws and of course some losses. At the halfway point we sit in mid table, having played 10, won 4, drawn 1 and lost 5, scoring plenty of goals along the way. Fenstanton own grown boys, Archie and Thomas, are vying for the golden boot, but 6 of the squad have registered goals already this season. Clean sheets have

been a bit more difficult to come by, but we have managed 2 in the 10 games, credit to the defence and to our amazing goalie Bert in particular, who can often be seen flying through the air like a salmon. As mentioned, all our home games are played at Fenstanton School, so if you are ever wanting to come along to support your local team you'll find us there most Saturday mornings, support is very much welcomed. As always, we must thank our parents who turn out to cheer the team on in all weathers, to the school for providing the playing surface, which has held up remarkably well given the aforementioned weather, to Alex, Richard and Lewis, our coaches, and, most importantly, the players themselves - a great set of boys and girls. Here's to a great second half of the season!

Finally this month we wanted to share with you our latest kit that is being worn by our eldest players at the club (The Veterans). To qualify you must be over 35 years of age and I think you will all agree they are looking 'pretty in pink', thanks to securing sponsorship from OMNIE who specialise in underfloor heating and heat pumps, which some of the team are fully qualified to fit.



Let's hope we have drier weather ahead of us so we can get back to more games on our home turf. As always, if you would like to get involved in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch at fenstantonfootball@outlook.com

Spring marches on

Not so much a march as a stutter from sun to rain and back. When the sun shines natures hidden gems reveal themselves. One hidden gem whose seductive fragrance you might smell is sweet box. It is well named and could replace caterpillar ravished box hedging. Evergreen and trimmable sarcococca confusa is most like box, hookeriana and humilis varieties have some burnishing while ruscifolia is quite vigorous. They are unlikely to thrive in full sun on light soils but are mostly good doers.

I hope you are fit, as March should be your busiest month. It's the most rewarding time with results of your labours seen quickly which make it an ideal time for instant gardeners. Good soil preparation is crucial when planting in March. Incorporate copious amounts of organic material, feed, firm, water and mulch for new plants to get the best possible start. The same advice applies when lifting and dividing perennials. Keep an eye open and avoid damaging emerging bulbs and replant if disturbed.

Don't be too picky tiding dead foliage of perennials to leave plenty of nest material for our feathered friends. Pruning and feeding roses now shouldn't affect when they flower. Gently forking in fertilizer and mulching your borders will improve your gardens flower power over the summer ahead.

Spread lawn moss+weed+feed to give your lawn a good start too the year now. Carefully follow the instructions on the products to avoid damaging the grass.

To add colour to your garden in the summer you can sow half-hardy annuals in March. Among my favourites are antirrhinum, calendula, clarkia, cornflower, godetia, larkspur, malva, nigella, phlox, poppies (Iceland and Californian) and sweet peas. Perennial seed to sow now include aquilegia, foxgloves, lavenders, lupins and scabious.

raypuddefoot@gmail.com



March Top Tips

- Plant trees and shrubs
- Divide perennials
- Feed and mulch
- Treat lawns
- Sow hardy annuals



A diet of worms!

Long ones, short ones, big fat juicy ones.....

Worms are the gardeners' friend. They are always busy tunnelling, digging, earth-moving, dragging leaves and organic matter into the soil. As they digest they refine the soil and move gases, water and nutrients through it. Worm movement aerates the soil and helps rainwater and plant roots to go deeper. So worms are hugely beneficial to the soil: without them soil would be sterile, and nothing would grow.

Of the 6,000 species of worm known worldwide, 27 live in the UK and the average garden has 7-8 different types. In an acre of fertile soil there may be nearly 2 million worms. Small red ones live on the surface and feed on litter and leaf mould; larger worms are found lower down and create the vertical tunnels which aid the passage of nutrients and water.

Worms need to come together to mate but each worm has both male and female reproductive capacity. Young worms are born from an egg capsule. A chop from the spade does not always destroy the worm.



The head end with its aortic artery survives and even re-grows the missing tail.

But worms are under threat. Worms breathe through their skin so they are vulnerable to drought and over-watering. They are an excellent food source for birds, hedgehogs and moles and other small creatures. A further threat comes from intensively farmed arable land. Heavy machinery compacts the ground; chemical pesticides and artificial fertilisers are killers. If fields are not left fallow neither the soil nor the worms have time to recover.

We are keen to encourage worms to live in the Hilton Community Garden, as well attracting human volunteers to visit and help on Saturday mornings from 10-12 am! You will be made very welcome. CS

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!



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Hilton Parish Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 5 February



20mph Speed Limit Project

The Council discussed the plans put forward by Cambridgeshire County Council for the implementation of a 20mph speed limit in Hilton. Whilst the Council was pleased to note the inclusion of 40mph buffer zones into the village, it rejected the current design as it does not include the Green and the County Council were also proposing to omit the length of the Potton Road from the Church End junction to the shop from the 20mph zone.

Hilton Parish Council has responded to state that it would like the 20mph to extend to the village gates, as the Green is used for children's playing area and also used for social events, children's cricket sessions and weekly croquet club. The cricket outfield actually crosses the road towards the sports pavilion. The road to Monach Farm is a single track lane often used for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The area of Potton Road is the accident blackspot of the village and also will have 16 new houses built on the corner.

Hilton Parish Council was also disappointed to note that the current vehicle activated signs (VAS) would be removed and would like the current VAS to remain and be adjusted to 20mph or replaced.

Long-term Highway Improvement Strategy

The Council received the report following the meeting with the Highway Officer and was interested to note that there is currently vehicular access and a dropped kerb to the properties behind the bus stop. This may provide an alternative solution to the issue of extending the marked bus stop and the Clerk is authorised to consult with the affected residents of Potton Road and the relevant Housing Association.

Maintenance Contract

The Council continues to work on the renewal of the Maintenance Contract for the Green Open Spaces in the village and has agreed the quotes from the current contractors totalling £12,740. The Green Open Spaces working group were tasked with drafting the detailed contracts to present to the March meeting of the Council.

Events

Permission was granted for Hilton Feast Week CIC to hold an event on Saturday 8 June, Hilton Village Hall Management Committee to hold an outdoor theatre on Sunday 9 June, and to co-ordinate events over this weekend, and to the Hilton Summer Ball Committee for their event on Saturday 20 July. The Council continues to work on the potential Beacon lighting event on Thursday 6 June to commemorate the anniversary of D-Day.

Fitness Classes

Permission was also granted to Fitness Rush to hold their classes in the car park adjacent to the Village Hall as part of the health inequalities project, particularly targeting over 50's, cardiovascular disease and frailty.

Internal Auditor

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils' Internal Audit Service was appointed as the Council's internal auditor following their thorough report last year.

Fire Safety

The Clerk was authorised to purchase materials for the pavilion, to enable this community building to comply with the fire safety regulations, at a cost of £137.21 plus VAT.

Highways and Streetlighting Stakeholders Survey

The response to these surveys was delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with Cllrs Balicki and Norton.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 4 March 2024 in Hilton Village Hall. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the Council's website www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Parishioners are welcome to speak 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

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.



2 March 10:00am to 12 noon
6 April 10:00am to 12 noon

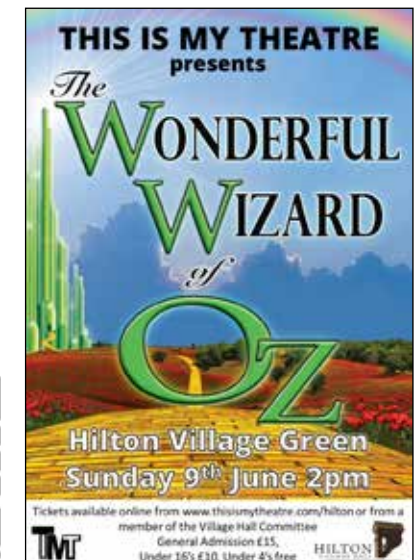
Hope you will be able to join us!

Hilton Village Hall

A huge thank you to the Hilton Players for bringing us such fun and laughter with their take on Peter Pan in early February. It was very much enjoyed by all, and raised over a thousand pounds for the Village Hall.

Looking forward, we have exciting plans for the summer. Make sure you keep 6 - 9 June free in your diaries as we are working with various groups within the village to come up with a weekend of summer fun, culminating in a fantastic outdoor theatre production to raise funds for the Village Hall.

Tickets are already on sale for the Wizard of Oz, performed by the fabulous "This Is My Theatre", which will be held on the village green at 2pm on Sunday 9 June. Use the QR code on the right or go to www.thisismytheatre.com/hilton to buy your tickets, speak with a committee member or drop us an email at info@hiltonvillagehall.com.





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Bird's Eye View



An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

The humble seagull, a study in greyscale, is the characteristic sound of the seaside. Whilst not at the top of the list for favourite birds for many, the more you get to know about them, the more fascinating they turn out to be.

At Fen Drayton Lakes, gulls form a large part of the bird community year-round, and several different species can regularly be seen here. From spring onwards, the breeding birds appear and take up residence on the islands and rafts that are out on the lakes. These are sociable birds that nest at close quarters with each other, but they'll squabble if a neighbouring bird gets within nibbling range.

The main species that nests at the reserve is the Black-headed Gull, a small member of the family with a confusingly brown head in summer. Numbers have reached as high as 600 nesting pairs, but the last year or two has been very tough on them as a wave of highly pathogenic bird-flu has arrived and affected many. However, against all odds some pairs managed to produce young in 2023.

The quantity of gulls increases in late summer when the youngsters join the adults out on the water and learn how to feed. The flush of insect life at this time of year encourages many of them to fly high and pluck the insects out of the air in a surprisingly nimble fashion.

Most gulls undertake large migrations and many of the Black-headed Gulls wintering in the area have come all the way from countries such as Poland, Norway and Finland, a journey they undertake each year.

A feature of the birders' calendar at the reserve are the winter gull roosts when thousands of individuals come into the lakes. It takes a dedicated person to head out in the often cold, rainy, and windy conditions to stand for a couple of hours before dark to see what is arriving. The excitement factor is in not knowing what species may turn up. There are some rare species that come down from

the arctic in winter, such as the Iceland Gull, a bird that has a strikingly pale plumage which earns it the moniker of 'white-winger'.

Why not come down to the reserve to enjoy these charismatic birds yourself?



Dawn Chorus Walk

Be an early bird and join us for a dawn chorus walk on 27th April. Learn about the many different birds that sing at the peak of spring.

Wednesday Wander

Ever thought you'd like to know more about the reserve and its wildlife? Volunteer-led guided walks take place once a month, usually on the second Wednesday.

To see further details and book, please visit:

events.rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes

Email: fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk

Phone: 01954 233260

Visit 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: Black-headed Gull close-up – Henry Cook

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	07531 863368
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

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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

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A&E Hinchinbrooke Hospital	01480 416416
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Fenstanton surgery	01480 461873
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Non emergency Police	101
Papworth pharmacy	01480 831415
Papworth surgery	01480 830888

Emergency numbers

Peterborough City Hospital	01733 678000
Power cut	0800 678 3105
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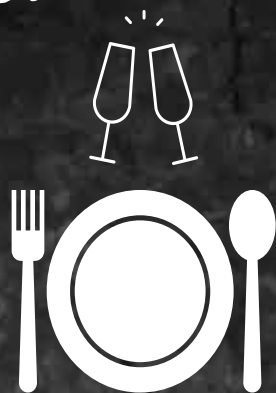

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