

September 2025

The Journal

Fen Drayton ■ Fenstanton ■ Hilton

200 years of railway history

See page 20

History of Hilton WI

See page 26

Who's lived here?

See pages 52 & 64

Harvest Festival Services

See pages 22, 43, 45 & 46





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SEVEN⁷H MONTH OF THE YEAR?

In Roman times September was known as Septem, meaning seven, as back then it was the seventh month of the year. Today it is the ninth month and, interestingly the only one made up of nine letters. It was traditionally the time of harvesting which now is all but over by the time we reach September.

September will never be forgotten for the attack on the twin towers in Manhattan on the eleventh. I am sure we can remember where we were when the unbelievable images of planes hitting the towers were beamed into our homes. A day that changed the world as we knew it and took the innocent fun out of air travel.

On a lighter note in this month's Journal we have some fascinating articles on local history. Even our travel feature looks back to the beginning of rail travel. Please enjoy what your editors have prepared with our local contributors and as always if you feel there is something we are missing we are all ears or is that emails?

From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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Please submit any copy by 11 September latest for the October edition.
Cover and introduction photographs by Gill Parrish

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Fen Drayton History Society

Next Talk

6.30pm start at the Three Tuns Pub

**St Ives to Cambridge railway -
Wednesday 8th October 2025**

Speaker: Roy Stoner (Local railway expert;
Swavesey resident)

**Talks are free – apart from the cost of
drinks on the pub crawl!**

PLEASE email nigel.fenner@ntlworld.com
for more info / to book a place.

Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

September 2025

- 06 St John's Ambulance Open Workshop, Village Hall
- 13 Hobbies, crafts and collections, URC
- 13 Macmillan Coffee Morning, Village Hall
- 13 Vegetable produce sale, Village Hall
- 14 Pimms & Pate lunch
- 14 Pet Service, URC
- 21 Village Clean-up, meet at Clock Tower
- 26 Macmillan Coffee Morning, URC

October 2025

- 05 Harvest Festival, URC
- 08 History Society talk (St Ives-Cambridge railway) Three Tuns
- 12 Parish Church Harvest Festival Fen Drayton
- 12 Parish Church Harvest Festival
- 25 Everything Poppy Appeal, Village Hall

November 2025

- 08 Craft Fair, Community Café, Village Hall
- 22 Non-psychoic séance, Village Hall
- 29 Mulled Wine Evening
- 29 Christmas Market, Clock Tower
- 29 Christmas Fayre, Parish Church

December 2025

- 06 A Christmas Carol, Pantaloon Company, Village Hall
- 14 Christmas lunch in aid of Arthur Rank Hospice, Church Centre

February 2026

- 07 Parish Church Fundraising Supper

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

Village News

The Royal British Legion



Members of the Royal British Legion hold a Drop-In session at the Ivy Leaf Club in the Broadway, St Ives on the 3rd Friday of each month from 11.30 to 1.00ish. Excellent for a friendly chat, tea, coffee, cake, etc.

Please note the wonderful poster elsewhere in The Journal for the Poppy Appeal event on 25 October in Hilton Village Hall.

Also - A reminder that the Remembrance Sunday ceremony will take place on 9 November at the Lychgate, beginning at 10.45 for approximately 20 minutes, followed by Morning Service in the Parish Church as usual.

Hilton Community Hub

Alan and Ann Claridge were founder members of the Warm Hub and, when it evolved into our Community Hub, Ann became one of our fabulous organising team with Alan very rarely missing a Wednesday morning at the village hall in spite of his enormous and daily increasing health struggles.

Sadly, Alan passed away in June. Oh, how we miss that funny, knowledgeable, outgoing and mostly patient but hugely courageous gentle man!

We believed that Alan should have written his autobiography but service to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth as a Bugler in the Household Cavalry, the Merchant Navy, a love for narrow boats and his talent with wood were just some of his earlier good times. Alan lived a varied, sometimes spontaneous, always interesting and widely-travelled life so often to say 'oh, yes I've been there' and adding some mischievous memory!

With Ann always in support by his side Alan was also able to be an active member of the Royal British Legion in St Ives where he was recently to meet a fellow member, Pageant Master Dave Lace, also late of the Household Cavalry and who proudly acted as Standard Bearer for his friend at Alan's funeral.



Alan Claridge – our beloved friend, Hilton Lychgate wreath laying, 5 June 2024

Alan and Ann's family have very generously donated the money from his funeral in his memory to the Hub fund, so far totalling £553.50, for which we give our truly grateful thanks because everyone knows how much this donation means to us.

Alan was a true example of the immense value of the support and benefits that we all give and receive from our Hub friends; it is support that we can now give to Ann and Alan's families with any difficult times ahead if they need us.

We can say with real pride that Hilton's Hub is indeed a Community and thank you, Alan for so strongly believing in it as one of its original supporters.

The government gets behind the scenes

A group of government officials from the Department for Transport have been given a look behind the scenes at the engineering, commercial, control and maintenance work that goes into running a modern transport fleet in our region.

The event, run by Stagecoach East, was aimed at giving a better understanding of not only the role that public transport plays within our community, but also the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep a modern and sophisticated transport fleet running.

The day included a tour of engineering, commercial, and control facilities, and provided the opportunity to meet the team that keeps our local buses on the road.

Darren Roe, Managing Director of Stagecoach East, said: "Running a modern public transport network across our busy and forward-looking, but congested, region is a challenge – and one that we thrive on."

As we see the buses going around our region, it is easy to forget the sheer levels of sophistication and effort that go into ensuring that they are in the right place at the right time, properly maintained, and looking the

way that we would expect, in order to give our passengers the effortless quality of service that they desire.

It is a huge undertaking and so we were very proud to be able to talk about some of the work and innovation that makes this possible. I am always hugely impressed by, and grateful to, the people here who work so diligently to keep the wheels rolling. They are truly keeping people and communities connected."



Health – have your say about pharmacies

Pharmacy consultation

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents are being asked to share their views on whether their pharmacy needs are being met, in order to help assess and develop pharmacy services in the area.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board would like to hear from pharmacy users about the services they receive in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The answers will help to define areas where communities are well served and where there may be gaps.

Feedback from the public will help revise the area's Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. The consultation is open until Saturday 20 September at <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pna>



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Progress on Fenstanton Village Hall

The original plans unfortunately came in over budget, so the designs were redesigned whilst keeping the same overall floor space. By making some structural changes, the project is now within budget without losing any of the space originally planned.

The revised plans have now received planning approval. And, the full costings have now been submitted to Cambridgeshire County Council for their approval. Once these are approved the grant funding will be released.

Work has already commenced onsite in preparation for the build, which will commence shortly.

A big thank you to Cambridgeshire County Council for their patience whilst the process was worked through, and to Fenstanton Parish Council for their ongoing support.

Watch this space for progress.

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THIS
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Feast Week 2025: A Heroic Celebration of Village Spirit

This year's Feast Week was a wonderful showcase of everything that makes Hilton such a special community. With a fun-filled "Heroes and Villains" theme, the week was packed with energy, colour, and community spirit — and more than a few capes!



Highlights included a lively Sports Day, impressive art and produce shows, visits from exotic animals, family games evening, cricket match, bingo, a magic show, a science show, an interactive quiz, farm visit, hedgehog house making, board games, inflatables, children's crafts and even circus skills. Music filled the air with performances from the Rock Choir, two fantastic live bands, and not forgetting the lively end of the night Eclipse discos.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the



volunteers and local groups who gave their time, energy, and creativity to make the event such a success, we couldn't do it without you. And of course, thanks to everyone who came along and joined the fun!

Feast Week 2025 was one to remember. Stay heroic, Hilton - we're already looking forward to next year!

Feast Week wouldn't be possible without the fantastic support from our community, and a big part of that is the year-round fundraising that keeps it going. One of the easiest (and most fun!) ways to support is through the Feast Week Lottery.

For just £5 a month, you'll be helping to fund the festivities, and you'll be entered into a monthly draw to win a cash prize! If you enjoyed this summer's celebrations, why not get involved? It's quick and easy to join online at feastweek.co.uk.

Follow us on social media and keep an eye out for news about upcoming fundraisers. Every ticket and every pound really does make a difference!



Hilton Coffee Mornings

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



are held in
 the Hilton
 Methodist
 Schoolroom



on the first Saturday of each month.



6 September 10:00am to 12:00 noon
 4 October 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Hope you will be able to join us!



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 Or contact: Mrs P Hucklesby: 01954 230471

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

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

Good news the youth bus is back

The connections bus will be returning in term time starting on 10 September on Fenstanton football field off Hall Green Lane.

The buses have been converted and aim to provide a safe and welcoming space for young people to gather, access support, and participate in various activities.

They include:

- Comfortable seating areas
- Dedicated spaces for crafts, tabletop games and puzzles
- Up-to-date games consoles and PCs with internet access
- Facilities for playing music and phone charging points
- A snack bar
- Outdoor sports equipment
- An undercover outdoor area

Information from www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk/



Discover Fenstanton's Heritage Trail

Step back in time and explore Fenstanton's rich history with our self-guided Heritage Trail! Wander through the village to see historic landmarks such as the beautiful medieval St Peter & St Paul Church, famous as the final resting place of renowned landscape gardener Capability Brown.

Follow peaceful footpaths along ancient routes that trace Fenstanton's Roman origins and traditional fenland countryside.

Maps and guides are available online (<https://fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk/trail>) and from the Parish Council office on the High Street, making it easy to explore at your own pace. Whether you're new to the village or a longtime resident, the Heritage Trail offers a fascinating glimpse into Fenstanton's past and natural beauty.



Fenstanton Morris dancers

Many thanks to all of you who have watched, clapped, cheered and joined in with Fenstanton Morris dancers this year on Boxing Day, May Morning, the VE celebrations or perhaps you saw us in St Ives!

Practice starts again in October. If you fancy giving it a go as a dancer or as a musician, do get in touch!

JOIN THE FEAST WEEK LOTTERY

WIN THREE CASH PRIZES EACH MONTH

Help fundraise for Feast Week and be in the draw for monthly cash prizes

Buy an annual tickets online at www.feastweek.co.uk
Email committee@feastweek.co.uk
Or ring 07415 916456 for details about setting up a direct debit

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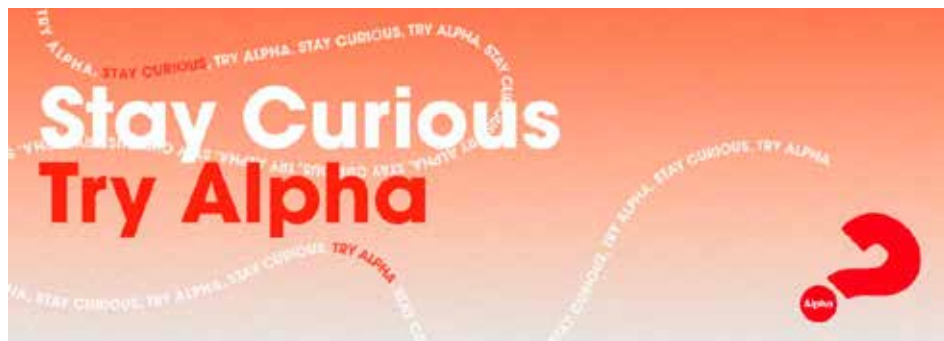
Fenstanton Morris

are recruiting for dancers and musicians now!

If you enjoy music, dancing and having fun, come and give it a try at one of our sessions in October.

The team practise from October until the end of April on Monday evenings (7.45pm) at the Church Centre, School Lane, (off Chequer Street) Fenstanton, Huntingdon PE28 9JR.

For further details contact Fenstantonbag@gmail.com
Or visit our Facebook page @Fenstanton Morris



Curious about faith?

Then Alpha may be for you and it's coming to Swavesey this autumn!

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. At each Alpha session, after a meal together you'll watch a video which unpacks the basics of the Christian faith in an engaging way, each one looking at a different question of faith. Then in a small group, you'll have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all.

Everyone's welcome; you're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. There's no charge and no pressure to come back. Our team can't wait to welcome you. Whatever age or stage of life you are, we would love you to join us.

Alpha will be hosted at Bethel Baptist Church, 111 Middlewatch, Swavesey CB24 4RP, on Tuesday evenings at 7pm starting on October 7th.

Book your place now by

- scanning the QR code
- calling **07863 299545**
- emailing

karen.smith@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk



Village News

Feast Week hedgehog house building with the community garden team



On a wet Friday morning 30 families joined us in the marquee to build hedgehog houses for the hibernating hedgehogs of Hilton. We had the DIY expert and ex-woodwork teacher Don with us, who had cut out all the plywood panels, with help from some of the community garden committee, and put together 60 packs to be constructed, complete with all the necessary nails and screws. Those of us helping had had a practice run in the community garden two weeks prior to this event so we could help the families on the day.

Don demonstrated the first process of construction and the families then completed it. Then he demonstrated the second phase and so on until everyone had completed their hedgehog house. Then the houses were taken to another area to be painted with waterproof varnish to keep them weatherproof and snug. All the families seemed to have a great time constructing the houses and everyone went home happy with their new hedgehog home.



We were joined by Paul from the Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust who had a display stand with lots of leaflets about wildlife and nature reserves in the area. He also had a display of skulls of different birds and mammals which children found very interesting. He was able to tell the children all about hedgehogs. Paul also built a hedgehog house which he was going to put in his garden as he has three hedgehogs that visit. They will have to fight over the property this winter! Thanks go to Paul for joining us.

It was a very successful morning and we thank Don very much for his help in putting together the packs and helping us on the day. Also we are grateful for a grant from the Highways Agency which enabled us to buy the materials for the hedgehog houses. We hope that some of the families will have a visit from a hedgehog in the future as they need all the help they can get.

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FUNDRAISING With FUN!

at the Free Church, St Ives

St Ives Free Church has been an important part of St. Ives for hundreds of years and its current building, on Market Hill, was built 160 years ago. Forty five years ago, the building underwent a major redevelopment. As well as continuing as a church, it is now used by many charities, community groups and community activities every week. We are open seven days a week and our friendly café, Tookey's, is open five days a week.

Our church building is one of the most recognisable buildings in St Ives – the town centre just wouldn't be the same without it. Unfortunately, the costs of running and maintaining a building such as ours, are huge. The income raised from hire charges, donations and through our activities helps towards these costs - but we need help to refurbish it so that it can continue to be the valuable community resource it is.

This September will mark forty five years since the reopening of the Free Church following the redevelopment. We have formed a "Fundraising with Fun" group to raise as much as we can to help with the required renovations/repairs. We have

identified several areas where we need to replace, repair or update what we have. This includes our chairs, carpets and some windows. We want to improve access for all including our front doors and lift.

We are seeking grants to cover some of the costs and continue to have fundraising events. Our target is to raise £100K.

We will be having a gift week from 13-21 September. We would be extremely grateful for any donations, large or small, from individuals, organisations and companies.

Saint Ives Free Church is a registered charity (1132694) and, if you are a taxpayer, you can gift aid your donation.

Cheques can be sent to our church office – please make them payable to Free Church (United Reformed) St Ives. We have a donations terminal in our building where donations can be made by debit/credit card. Card donations can also be made via our website - www.stivesfreechurch.org

Donations via BACS can be made using the following details:-

Account name: Free Church (United Reformed) St Ives

Sort Code : 30-94-47 **Account No:** 01055946

Reference: FWF / Your Name

Many thanks

St Ives Free Church Fundraising with Fun team

Thank You to Crystal Acres

Fen Drayton PC wishes to thank Nev and Lynne Gill of Crystal Acres Nursery for donating lovely plants for the village sign and Hall Court every year.



Joseph Ellis Foundation Trust PARENTS AND CARERS

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

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- Please speak slowly I am hard of hearing
- Please be patient I have a hidden disability
- Please be patient I have difficulty speaking
- Please scan my pass for me
- Please help me find a seat
- Please let me know when we get to...



If you are, or if you know, a bus passenger who would benefit from an Assistance Card, they can order them online and they are completely free. Just look up "Stagecoach Journey Assistance Cards" on the web or go to: <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/national/journey-assistance-cards>

Fen Drayton village hall improvements

Last month's article, Step into the Past, described the opening of the old Fen Drayton village hall in 1938 and the opening of the new one 50 years later. Now, after 36 years, the village hall is undergoing a series of significant improvements. Last month, the car park was repaired with 40 tonnes of stone, the woodland path created using wood chippings from the branches of dead trees, a new booking system introduced and a new accounting system too.

Our thanks go to Drainage FM for the car park repair and to Stubbins for the new woodland path.

Our next project is to transform the patio area so that hall users can use the outside space.



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What you can do if you witness antisocial behaviour



Antisocial behaviour is behaviour which is a nuisance or annoyance to you, and can cause harassment, alarm or distress to you or to others. Unfortunately, there has been a lot of antisocial behaviour in our villages of late. You can help by reporting antisocial behaviour as follows.

Antisocial behaviour can be anything from aggressive, noisy or abusive behaviour to neighbourhood disturbances involving drugs, abandoned cars or animals. Some antisocial behaviour is a council matter and should be reported to your local council, some is a matter for the Police to deal with.

In Fenstanton and Hilton report antisocial behaviour such as fly-tipping, noise, dog mess, graffiti or discarded needles/drug related paraphernalia to Huntingdonshire District Council. Phone 01480 388388, fill in an online form via the HDC website www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk or email communityaction@huntingdonshire.gov.uk In Fen Drayton report to S Cambs District Council, tel 01954 713000 or website www.scams.gov.uk

Report antisocial behaviour to the Police if you feel threatened, or you think the behaviour could be breaking the law. Examples include: illegal drugs or drug dealing, threatening, offensive or indecent behaviour, dogs behaving aggressively to people, vehicle theft, vandalism, dangerous driving.

Remember: call 999 immediately if you or someone else is in immediate danger. Don't wait.

If it is not an emergency, report the antisocial behaviour to Cambs Police by phoning 101 or filling in a form online at www.cambs.police.uk

Or report anonymously on Crimestoppers. Phone 0800 555 111 or report online at crimestoppers-uk.org. This is actually an excellent way to report antisocial behaviour. All reports on Crimestoppers are checked very regularly by the Police.

What really helps to get a result: Collect evidence if you can – keep a detailed record of dates and times, any messages both sent and received, and how the behaviour has affected you.

As long as it doesn't put you in danger, take photos as evidence (for example, crime sites, car reg numbers). Record the times photos were taken.

Encourage all affected neighbours to report the behaviour too. The Police read every report, so the more reports read by the Police, the better the outcome is likely to be.

The Duchess Freehouse

01480 350859

3

SEPTEMBER BINGO NIGHTS

£10 PER BOOK
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6

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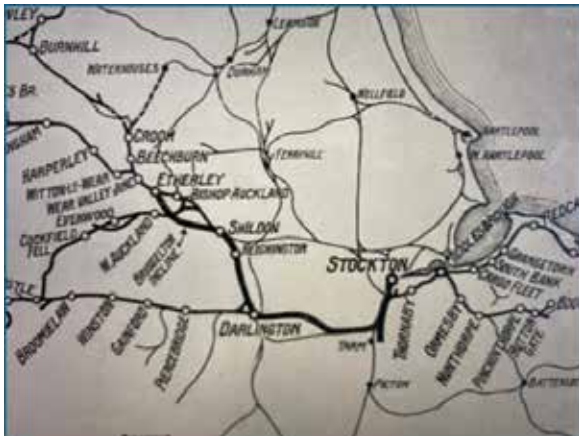
by Bruce Whatley

Most of us I am sure have dates of historical events kept in our memories, probably from repeated attempts by our history teachers!

I would be surprised if to many people the 27th September 1825 holds much significance. This in fact was the opening date of the Stockton and Darlington Railway (S&DR).

Perhaps before discussing the opening of the S&DR it is worth recounting what had occurred before in the development of railways.

Quite remarkably, the story goes back around 2000 years when it has been recorded that the ancient Greeks used wagons or carts guided by ruts cut into rocks, thus enabling them to transport stone from quarries to their point of use.



Route of the Stockton to Darlington Railway



Railways as we know them today however date from the start of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century. In this period the development of railways was driven by the need to transport predominantly coal from the mines to a local canal or coastal port as the Industrial Revolution rapidly developed.

Initially wagonways using horses and gravity satisfied the need, the wagons had wooden wheels, running on flanged wooden rails. Incidentally, the distance between these wagon wheels was approximately 4ft 8in, which became the accepted gauge for Great Britain and a large part of the rest of the world.

The famous engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel pioneered a gauge of approx. 7 feet but many miles of the "standard gauge" had already been laid and the need to transfer goods between different gauges meant by

1892 the "standard gauge" was so well established that all of the "broad gauge" lines were converted to the standard gauge.

I have often wondered what size steam locomotives would have developed into had the "broad gauge" been adopted.

Ironically, it was the canal owners who were some of the main sponsors of these early wagonways and railways, not perhaps realising how railways would make the canals unprofitable.

Turning now specifically to the Stockton and Darlington Railway, the coal mines in County Durham transported their products

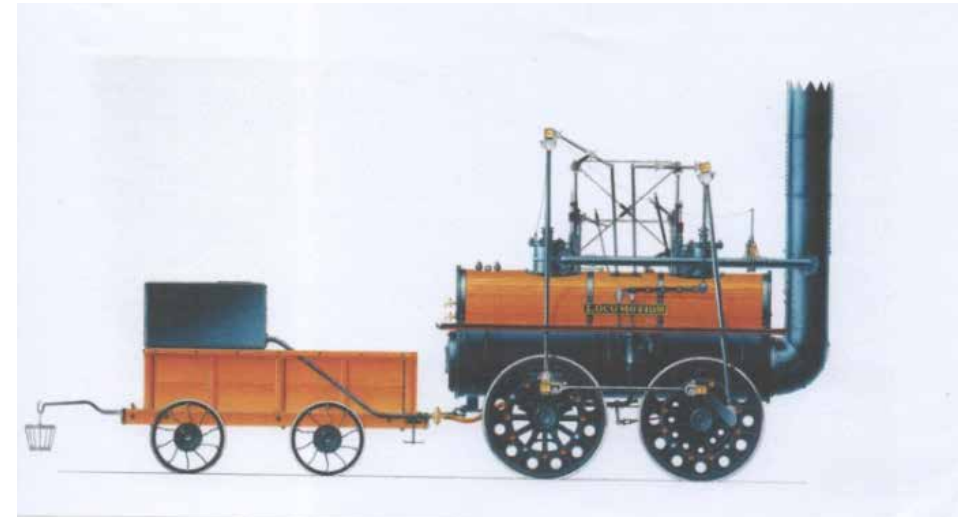
to waterways and the coast using horses and carts as previously described. With increasing demand for coal, a more efficient method of transportation was sought.

After several proposals and the usual battle with local landowners (nothing changes!) an Act of Parliament was granted in 1821 allowing the S&DR to be built between collieries around Shildon to the river Tees running via Darlington.

Clearly they were not convinced of the advantages of steam locomotives as the Act of Parliament stipulated that horses should

This was obviously great news for George as he had been appointed chief engineer for the line.

He was immediately awarded a contract to build two new steam locomotives for the railway at their recently opened factory in Newcastle upon Tyne. The company, Robert Stephenson and Co, was to become famous for the building of "Rocket" which won the Rainhill Trials in 1829 associated with the Liverpool and Manchester Railway which opened in 1830, but that is a whole story in its own right.



Locomotion

be used. Despite the Act being granted the promoters of the project didn't like the route chosen and they appointed a rising star, George Stephenson, to carry out a new survey.

George, with the help of his son Robert who was only 18 years old at this time, proposed a shorter route. He also strongly suggested that steam locomotives should be used, perhaps due to an invested interest as we will find out later!

In 1823 Parliament approved the new 25 mile route and agreed that "moveable engines" could be used.

The route that Stephenson surveyed was not flat, particularly at the western end and because of this, stationary engines, again supplied by Stephenson, were used on the rope-hauled inclines.

Something that still occurs today is the fact that original budget was far exceeded. Having said that, one has to consider that the boundaries of engineering were being pushed, with wrought iron bridges, arched masonry bridges and high embankments all needed to take the heavier weight of the wagons and locomotives.

Some development of the rails had taken

Continued overleaf

TOOLS WITH A MISSION

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

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

On Saturday 04 October there will be a collection of tools at Fenstanton United Reformed Church 10.00am – 1.00pm for

Tools with a Mission.



Fenstanton United Reformed Church Harvest Festival



Songs of Praise
Sunday 05 October
3.00pm

FEN DRAYTON TOTS

A relaxed and welcoming group for little ones aged 0 – 5 years held at Fen Drayton Village Hall!

JOIN US FOR

- Arts and crafts
- Themed activities
- Messy play
- Toys and games
- Snacks and drinks

THE DETAILS

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

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming sessions!

facebook.com/fendraytontoddlers



Painting showing how rails were originally set without sleepers

place from the wooden wheels and rails. On the S&DR wrought iron rails some 15ft in length were utilised joined together with fishplates. The rails being laid on individual stone blocks, not sleepers.

Thousands of people turned up for the opening day - and bearing in mind the railway was designed to carry coal and not passengers - some 500 people were prepared to travel in the one coach provided and around 20 coal wagons.

Despite passengers being carried on the opening day, the necessary income to support the line would be by the transportation of coal. Indeed horse drawn coaches would be used until 1833 to satisfy

the needs of any passenger transportation.

The locomotive used on the opening day was called fittingly "Locomotion" and continued in service until 1841. It was then used as a stationary engine before being preserved and for many years resided on the platform at Darlington Bank Top Station.



It is now located at the National Railway Museum in Shildon.

To conclude, the S&D railway wasn't the first to haul passengers, wasn't the first to use steam power, but perhaps its significance is that it drew together all the developments that had gone before and led quite rapidly to the "Railway Mania" that followed. Around 20 miles of the original line still exist between Shildon and Stockton and run over one of the major engineering achievements, the Skerne Bridge in Darlington.



The Skerne Bridge at Darlington



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Making a Difference Locally

District News

For Fenstanton and Hilton

Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



In Focus: Civil Parking Enforcement in Huntingdonshire:

Civil parking enforcement (CPE) has launched in Huntingdonshire and is the outcome of a process that decriminalises a number of on-street parking offences. This enables them to be enforced as a civil matter by a local authority. From August 2025, many on-street parking enforcement matters will be enforceable by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC).

Under CPE, the police will still retain enforcement powers for:

- dangerous and obstructive parking
- vehicles parked on pedestrian crossings and zig zag lines
- moving traffic offences, for example speeding and passing through 'no entry' zones.

For further information (including a map where you can see where CPE impacts the Ward and District), go to: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/streets-parking/parking/civil-parking-enforcement/>

Council Launches new Community Health and Wealth Building Fund:

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has launched the Community Health and Wealth Building Delivery Fund, following the adoption of its new strategy aimed at improving the quality of life for residents across the district.

The first phase of funding is being rolled out (£50,000) of a wider £750,000 Delivery Fund corresponding the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. To find out more, visit: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/huntingdonshire-community-health-and-wealth-building-strategy>

Anti-social behaviour in the ward:

If there are concerns of anti-social behaviour or criminal activity, you get in touch with our local policing unit. Find out more: <https://www.cambs.police.uk/area/your-area/cambridgeshire/huntingdonshire/st-ives/about-us>

You can also report a crime, here: <https://www.cambs.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Cambridgeshire Constabulary work closely with community leaders and residents, listening to you to act on information and help rectify the issues that matter to you most. Your local team are there to protect, gather information and reduce crime in your community and the wider area.

Consisting of a dedicated Sergeant, Police Constables (PCs) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) under the command of an Inspector, the Neighbourhood teams are supported by additional officers from across the wider area, including Neighbourhood Support Teams.



Do you have any queries or questions?

You can contact me by: clare.tevlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or 07565 350 014.

History of Hilton WI

by Ruth Salem

Hilton lies in the old county of Huntingdonshire on the ancient drove route between St Ives and London. One of Hilton's most distinctive features is the turf maze. Cut in 1660, it is now one of only eight remaining turf mazes in England. The maze is situated on the Village Green which is central to many village activities and celebrations. These events would not be the same without the WI's contribution of tea and cakes for everyone.

The National Federation of WIs began in Anglesey in 1915 and there has been a WI in Hilton since 1920, interrupted by two short suspensions. One of the earliest records in our archives is a 1924 photograph of Hilton WI members visiting the Empire Exhibition at Wembley, which was opened by King George V.



Hilton WI Members visiting the Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1924

With a membership numbering 62, we are one of the largest WIs in the Huntingdon and Peterborough Federation. At our monthly meetings, our programme of speakers covers many topics such as healthy living, wildlife, environmental issues, history and often comedy.

Times for Celebration

Hilton WI has supported many village celebrations. For Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953 we provided a village tea in a large, thatched barn on the Green.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, was marked with cream teas, but we also improved the environment by cleaning roads and bridleways in the village.



Wall hanging for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Hilton WI's Ruby Anniversary 2012

During the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002, a children's playground was opened for which we contributed a "tactile maze" for visually impaired children and, of course, we made 150 cream teas for villagers and visiting dignitaries.

2012 was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and also the Ruby anniversary of Hilton WI re-starting after a short closure. Organised by our craft group, members each contributed an embroidered square for a wall hanging depicting the many aspects of our activities and interests in that year.

During the Bank Holiday weekend which marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, Hilton WI hosted 'Games on the Green'

with a royal theme and the village shared an afternoon of fun and togetherness.

Sadly, we lost the Queen later that year and an oak tree was planted on the Village Green by the WI to commemorate and celebrate her reign.

Times of Hardship

Minutes in October 1939 show a rather matter-of-fact attitude to the outbreak of war; "It was suggested that meetings in future be more in the form of relaxation, perhaps sewing, knitting or mending!"



Poster drawn by the author and artist Angelica Garnett in 1950

Members were asked to bring "one or two small cakes or biscuits to pool and be handed round as refreshments". We adjusted to the blackout and air raids by holding meetings in the afternoon. Despite shortages, the WI held a New Year children's party for evacuees and used money raised by a "social" to provide a party for a nearby searchlight unit.

Members ensured spare ground was cultivated to grow fruit and vegetables, picked rose hips to make syrup containing vitamin C, and organised a village "fruit centre". One member kept a register for the

"wool without coupons" scheme. Eager to improve conditions in the country the President, Judith Leycester, wrote an essay for the "Post-War Planning Competition" in 1942.

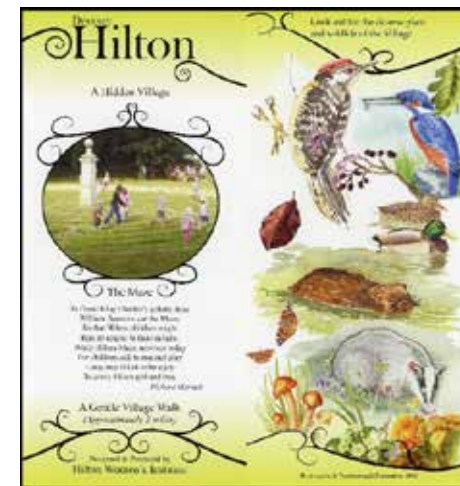
The WI also showed concern for others by making collections for Queen Charlotte's Hospital and the Russian Red Cross. We have a letter of thanks for this from Clementine Churchill, written from 10 Downing Street on rough "wartime" paper.

During the sombre times of war, WI meetings continued to mix serious topics with light-hearted fun in the form of games and competitions. These varied from the practical "best darn in a woollen sock", "best dish of unrationed food", to the whimsical "drawing a cat blindfolded", "sticking pins in a potato" and "peeling a potato left-handed"!

The WI received a gift food parcel in 1949 from Boree Creek, New South Wales, Australia and members held a draw to share out the contents.

Arts and Crafts

In 1950 membership was flagging and a new member offered to make some recruitment posters. She was the artist, Angelica Garnett. Membership increased by 40% over the next two years and examples of her arresting posters still remain. During the 1950s,



Continued overleaf

performance and drama were strong points. One highlight was an entertainment in February 1956 produced by Angelica Garnett, which included "Mrs. Garnett's (living) Puppets". We used our own resources for meetings during that year, as speakers were prevented from travelling by the petrol shortage following the Suez Crisis.

For the Golden Jubilee of the WI in 1965, Phyllis See won a draw to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Her account of the day is contained in a "Jubilee Scrap Book" compiled and decorated by WI members.

The NFWI held a 'One Step Further' competition in 2009 to design a leaflet for a local walk. We drew on the wide range of knowledge and skills of our art, craft and book groups and Hilton WI won 2nd place nationally! The Parish Council and the Town Trust generously funded a print run of 5,000 leaflets enabling us to distribute copies to every household in the village and to places of interest in the area. The District Council also included the walk in their 'Walks for Health' programme.

Two members were privileged to attend the celebration in 2015 for the National Federation of WIs' Centenary at the Albert Hall, and a member was also invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to celebrate this event. Again, we compiled a Centenary Scrapbook documenting Hilton WI activities during that special year.

Technology Breakthrough

The WI has always embraced practical innovation, learning about electric cookery in 1940; automatic washers in 1965; microwave cookery in 1985 and computers in 1999.

"Surfing" the NFWI website in 2002, the President saw that the producers of the film "Calendar Girls" sought WI members to become extras. Hilton answered the call, and members spent a fascinating day filming in London. On the film's release in September 2003, almost 100 WI members and guests filled the local cinema in Huntingdon. The screening was followed by a "bring and share" party in the Village Hall attended by villagers aged from 9 to 90.

The Covid lockdown in 2020 prevented meetings in the Village Hall, but our recently appointed President, Sue Clark, organised

Zoom meetings. Members also supported each other by email with a weekly newsletter full of humour, poetry, photos and personal anecdotes. We later produced two books compiling the newsletters sent out during Lockdown.



The Queen's Message

Queen Elizabeth II, a long-term WI member, gave a speech at the National Centenary meeting, praising the WI organisation for continuing to grow and evolve with its members as so much had changed for women in British society in the previous 100 years, but the WI had been a constant throughout. 'The WI continues to demonstrate that it can make a real difference to the lives of women of all ages and cultural backgrounds, in a spirit of friendship, cooperation and support.'

These words support the characteristics of sharing, of participating in and enhancing village life, friendship, fun and self-improvement demonstrated by Hilton WI over the last 105 years.

LOOKING FOR STALLHOLDERS

Christmas Fayre

Hilton Parish Church

Saturday 29th November

from 1pm – 4pm

We still have some spaces for stallholders at our Christmas Fayre this year. Ideally suited to anyone who can offer interesting gifts and/or other handmade goodies for sale on the day.

It's not really suitable for product resellers, catalogue orders or beauty products, sorry. Tables just £5.

To find out more, please contact Rachel Wood on 830866.

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Route H9 – 2nd Tuesday In The Month

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

Route H11 – 2nd Thursday In The Month

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

Route H25 – 4th Thursday In The Month

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



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Royal British Legion
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2025

Saturday 25th October 2025

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friends and chat over
tea, coffee, cake, surprises and
perhaps a song or two!

10.30am - 3.30pm

Hilton Village Hall

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Afoot in the Garden

After the sunshine comes the rain

After the rain cometh the weeds! A young couple were so proud to show me their freshly- weeded garden. I was diplomatic, but it did look like the ugly goat had visited (you'll know this goat by its crooked teeth!).

To deal with the autumn flush of weeds your first option is to hoe. For fine detailed weeding, close to plants, a kneeler is must. With age, I have begun to admire kneelers with raised handles to aid standing. The ease with which a weed can be pulled very much depends on your soil type and condition. Any soil that's had plenty of organic matter (humus) incorporated should have a nice open tilth - ideal for extracting weeds. The first weeding tip I was taught was, "Grab the weed low down and pull upwards. Weeds are designed not to get blown out of the ground sideways." Deep-rooted perennial weeds can be dug out, smothered or treated with the dreaded weedkiller. Stubborn weeds, especially willowherbs, can be dug out with a small fork. Mulching with organic matter is key in improving your soil's water retentiveness structure and will make weeding so much easier.

As the sun seeps lower in the sky its light enhances the red and orange tones in our gardens. September is a great time to visit garden centres and nurseries for plants to add autumn colour to your garden.

Your tasks for September

When the soil is moist you can start planting, including bulbs. Squirrels absolutely adore crocus bulbs. After planting, I always protect them with small pieces of wire netting secured with metal pins.

Trim hedges and remove any unsightly stems from herbaceous perennials.

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



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

Check fences and paving for wobbly posts and slabs.

Enjoy the last of the summer sun, maybe with glass of something nice!



September Top Tips

- Weeding
- Planting
- Lift and divide herbaceous
- Trim hedges
- Sow half-hardy annuals

raypuddefoot@gmail.com

Pump Track Day a huge success at Hampton Park.

The temporary pump track event at Hampton Park was a fantastic success, enjoyed by young people from across the village. Throughout the day, the track was in constant use, with no quiet moments – a clear sign of how popular and well-received it was!

Here's what some of the parents had to say:

- "Our kids really enjoyed it. Thanks for organising – let's hope we get the permanent one soon!"
- "Really great set-up this morning... thanks to those who organised."
- "My two had a great time this morning. The guys running it were lovely to the kids – thank you!"
- "Thank you for such a lovely day for all the family."

A big thank-you to everyone involved in making the day such a success.



Parish Councillor Saturday Surgeries continue!

Saturday surgeries continue to be held at The Hub, 6 High Street, Fenstanton, from 10:00am to 12:00pm. We encourage all Parishioners to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with their Councillors and discuss any local issues or concerns.

27.09.2025	Martin Hewitt	Anne Mustill
25.10.2025	Matt Tandy	Simon King
29.11.2025	Tina Yates	Martin Hewitt

The Councillors attending is subject to change and we will inform you of any changes on social media.

Next Parish Council meetings

Thursday 11 September, Thursday 9 October and Thursday 13 November at 7pm in the Church Centre. Parish Council meetings occur on the second Thursday of each month, except in August and December, unless there is pressing business to discuss.

To contact your Parish Council Clerk Telephone: 01480 465300

Email: clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

Website: www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Meet your new Clerk

Hello! I'm Sarah Barber, the new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Fenstanton — and what a stunning village to be working in!

I've recently relocated from South Wales and now live in the lovely neighbouring village of Hemingford Grey with my partner and our two lively dogs.

With several years of experience as a Town Council Clerk, I've developed a real passion for supporting communities and ensuring local councils run smoothly. I'm excited to bring that enthusiasm to Fenstanton and look forward to working with residents, councillors and local groups on the journey ahead.

Become a Councillor

Fancy making a splash of positivity in your community?

Your Parish Council is inviting you to step up and make a difference by becoming a Parish Councillor! We currently have two vacancies for co-option and we're looking for passionate, community-minded individuals to fill them. Curious about what's involved? If you have questions or just want to learn more, get in touch we're happy to chat and share all the details!

To contact your Parish Council Clerk -Telephone: 01480 465300,

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

Calling Stall holders



Get involved in the village clean-up



Use them or lose them - buses stopping in Fenstanton.

Real-time updates and exact stop times are available via the bus companies' websites and Apps, Bustimes.org and Moovit.

Public transport is a vital service for many in our community, but it relies on regular use to remain viable. Several bus routes now serve Fenstanton, offering connections to St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridge, and nearby villages. We encourage all residents to support these services where possible—whether for commuting, appointments, or leisure—so they continue to operate. Below is a summary of routes, stops, and timetables to help you make the most of what's available.

No	OPERATOR	ROUTE	Stops	Arrival time at Fenstanton Stops
T1	Whippet	Cambridge- Huntingdon via busway	Rookery way and Clock tower Clock tower one minute after Rookery Way	Monday – Friday 6:38, 7:23, 8:37, 9:48, 10:58, 11:58, 12:58, 13:58, 14:59, 16:14, 17:14, 18:19, 19:18, 20:22, 21:16, 22:13 Saturday 7:08, 8:53, 9:56, 10:56, 11:58, 12:59, 14:14, 15:14, 16:18, 18:18, 19:18, 20:21, 21:15, 22:13
T1	Whippet	Huntingdon- Cambridge via busway	Clock tower and Rookery Way Rookery Way one minute after Clock tower	Monday - Friday - 7:04, 8:08, 9:19, 10:26, 11:26, 12:26, 13:26, 14:39, 15:39, 16:44, 17:44, 18:49, 19:45, 20:47, 21:39, 22:36 Saturday - 7:03, 8:32, 9:26, 10:25, 11:25, 12:38, 13:38, 14:43, 15:44, 16:45, 17:45, 18:50, 19:45, 20:45, 21:38, 22:36
X3	Whippet	Huntingdon -Cambridge	High Street and Rookery Way	Monday - Friday – 5:14, 6:12, Saturday – 5:18, 8:04 Not Sundays or Bank holidays
X3	Whippet	Cambridge - Huntingdon	High Street and Rookery Way	Monday – Friday – 17:45 Saturday 19:41 Not Sundays or Bank holidays
5A	Stagecoach	St Ives- Barhill Via villages	Clock Tower Greenfields (near)	Monday - Friday 6:40, 8:10, 9:40, 11:10, 12:40, 14:10, 15:00 *15:40 17:10, 18:40 *school holidays only Saturday - 6:40, 8:10, 9:40, 11:10, 12:40, 14:10, 15:00, 17:10, 18:40 Monday – Friday 6:34, 8:04, 9:34, 11:04, 12:34, 14:04, 17:04, 18:34
5A	Stagecoach	Barhill- St Ives Via villages	Rookery Way	Monday – Friday 8:40 *8:35, 10:00, 11:30, 13:00, 14:30, 16:00, 17:30, 19:00, 20:30, *school holidays only Saturday - 8:35, 10:00, 11:30, 13:00, 14:30, 16:00, 17:30, 19:00, 20:30.
68	Central connect	Boxworth – St Ives St Ives - Boxworth	Rookery Way Greenfields (opposite) Rookery Way Greenfields (near)	Monday – Friday -7:00 06:54 Monday – Friday – 18:22 18:15
66	Whippet	Fenstanton – St Neots	High Street, Rookery Way	Monday- Friday 4:40, 5:38, 6:08, 6:28 Saturday - 6:40, 6:45, 7:15, 8:30 Not Sunday or Bank holidays
66	Whippet	St Neots - Fenstanton	High Street, Rookery Way	Monday – Friday 16:05, 19:01, 20:23, 23:22, 01:22 Saturday - 18:34, 19:04, 20:22, 23:22, 01:22 Not Sunday/ Bank hols
9	Dews Market line	St Ives- St Ives towards Hilton & Elsworth	Swan Road, Rookery Way, High Street Greenfields (near)	Monday & Friday 9:58 (Rookery way) 9:59 (Swan Road) 10:00 High St. Monday and Friday 12:38
9	Dews Market line	St Ives – St Ives towards Fenstanton and Elsworth	Chequer Street, Swan Road, High St Greenfields (near)	Monday and Friday (Chequer St) 12:42 (Swan Rd) 12:43 (Rookery Way) 12:45 Monday and Friday 9:21
67	Central connect	St Ives to St Neots	Greenfields (near)	Monday – Saturday 7:20, 9:19, 11:19, 13:19, 15:19 Sunday - 9:19, 11:19, 13:19, 15:19
67	Central connect	St Neots to St Ives	Greenfields (near)	Monday – Saturday 10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15 Sunday - 10:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15
67B	Central connect	St Ives to Papworth	Greenfields (near)	Monday – Sunday including Bank holidays 16:30

Revitalising the Old Orchard – a space for nature and community

Your Parish Council is currently exploring exciting plans to improve the Old Orchard. The vision is to transform it into a vibrant, welcoming space that supports local wildlife, enhances biodiversity, and provides a peaceful, enjoyable area for everyone in the village to use and enjoy. We hope to create a haven where nature thrives and the community can come together – whether for quiet reflection, outdoor learning, or maybe village events.

Watch this space for updates and opportunities to get involved!




The flag was flown in support of the Lionesses

Fenstanton proudly flew the flag in honour of Britain's Lionesses, showing our village's support throughout their incredible campaign. Their recent victory is a triumph not just for the team, but for women's football across the nation. The Lionesses have inspired millions with their teamwork, determination, and sporting excellence. We celebrate their hard-earned win and the pride they've brought to the country—well done Lionesses!



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

Fenstanton Ash's Store (NISA) on the High Street

Fenstanton Church Centre on School Lane

Fenstanton Zaza barbers on Headlands

Hilton Prince of Wales Pub on Potton Road

Hilton Cricket Pavilion

moons.grumbles.admires

pouting.cabinet.washroom

reclusive.creeps.deleting

thing.pylon.relatives

mindset.skip.pulps

clerk.farmland.unroll



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Sunday 26 Oct
Sunday 23 Nov

and every 4th Sunday, (excluding Dec)

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Revd David Busk on 436400
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Bird's Eye View



An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

This September, on two dates only, we are bringing canoeing back to Fen Drayton Lakes. You will be led on an exploratory journey around islands and reed to experience the reserve from an angle rarely seen by visitors.

We are working in partnership with a well-respected water sports company to deliver this exciting event so no previous experience of canoeing is required. You will be in expert hands and guided by a reserve warden with many years knowledge of the site and its wildlife.

As you paddle gently through the waterways, you'll find yourself immersed in a world teeming with life. Majestic bitterns stand sentinel in the reeds, their long legs perfectly adapted for wading through shallow waters as they hunt for fish. Moorhens dart among the reeds, their distinctive red bills and black plumage adding splashes of colour to the landscape. With patience and a keen eye, you may also catch a glimpse of an otter moving through the water, a real highlight of any visit to the reserve.

Canoeing offers a sustainable way to explore these delicate ecosystems without disturbing the wildlife. The quiet, non-intrusive nature of a canoe allows you to observe animals in their natural habitat without causing

undue stress or disruption. It's a chance to become a mindful observer, blending seamlessly into the environment and experiencing nature in its purest form.

So, consider grabbing a paddle, embarking on an adventure and letting the wonders of the natural world unfold before you.

To see further details and book tickets for this event and all other upcoming events, please visit: events.rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes

Other upcoming events at Fen Drayton Lakes

Wednesday Wander Guided Walk - 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.

Volunteering Opportunities

We have a variety of different volunteer roles on the reserve including our practical work groups, visitor engagement and breeding bird surveys. If you would like to find out how you could get involved, please get in touch.

Email: fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk



The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654. Photograph: There's a network of channels to explore by canoe



St Mary's
Fen Drayton
St Peter and St Paul
Fenstanton
We look forward to welcoming
you in both churches!



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

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

September 2025 – Services and Events

Thursday 04	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 07	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion <i>with Sunday Club</i>
Thursday 11	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 14	9.15am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion, St. Mary's
	10.30am Fenstanton	Worship For All
Thursday 18	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Friday 19	6-8.30pm	Fen Youth Group, Fenstanton Church Centre
Sunday 21	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion <i>with Sunday Club</i>
	6pm Fenstanton	Sung Evensong
Thursday 25	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 28	9.15am Fen Drayton	Morning Praise, St. Mary's
	10.30-12 Fen Drayton	'Open Sunday' event in Fen Drayton
	10.30am Fenstanton	Family Communion

Accessibility in our churches: The Parish Church (Fenstanton) has a ramp which can be deployed upon request. There is a toilet, with wheelchair access. St Mary's (Fen Drayton) has a small threshold that may be possible to navigate with a wheelchair. There are no toilet facilities. Although we have fixed pews in both churches there are plenty of spaces available for wheelchairs, prams and buggies.

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallowin: 01480 467393 email: vicar@fenchurches.org.uk
Assistant Curate: Rev Claire Brockelsby: 07769 106562 email: curate@fenchurches.org.uk
Churchwardens: Philip Blunt 07855 481697 and Ian Hucklesby 01480 465211

'The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it'

Psalm 24:1

You will have noticed over the summer that the fields surrounding us have ripened, the hedgerows have offered their berries, and the harvest has been gathered in. As we celebrate Harvest and give thanks for all that we have, Psalm 24 reminds us that everything we enjoy and depend on, belongs to God. Harvest is a time to give thanks for all that nourishes us, both physically and spiritually, and in our churches we mark the season with a special Harvest Festival Service. Whether you visit our churches regularly or occasionally, or if you are just curious and would like to know more, you are very welcome.

To give you time to think about joining us for our Harvest activities, here are the dates for our Harvest services and Harvest Lunch:

Sunday 12 October - 9.15am in Fen Drayton (service of 'Harvest' Holy Communion), and **10.30am in Fenstanton** ('Harvest' Worship For All, suitable for all ages). Followed by Parish Harvest Lunch in Fenstanton Church Centre, in aid of Arthur Rank Hospice. Contact Ian Hucklesby (email: ikhuck@virginmedia.com) for details and tickets. Everyone most welcome.



Evensong

Did you know that in St. Peter and St. Paul's (Fenstanton) on Sunday 21 September we have a service of Sung Evensong starting at 6pm, and on Sunday 19 October, at the same time, we have a service of Choral Evensong complete with choir! Evensong seems to be having a bit of a revival nationally, which is exciting! Is this a service you would enjoy, or would you enjoy singing with our choir? You would be made very welcome, and do be in touch with us if you would like to join our choir.

Pimm's and pate event

On Sunday 14 September we have our next church fundraising event – Pimm's and Pate!! Would you like to join us, in a lovely village garden, 1pm for 1.30pm and enjoy a wonderful lunch of home-made pate, salad, cheese and biscuits and a delicious dessert, all washed down with a glass or two of Pimm's (or a soft drink alternative). This social fundraising event is in aid of Fenstanton Church Restoration Fund. For more information and tickets please contact: Email: ikhuck@virginmedia.com

We look forward to seeing you!



ST MARY'S CHURCH, FEN DRAYTON

Open Sunday

28th September
10.30-1.30pm
Hot drinks/Cake
A chance for us to
say 'thank you' and
plan for the future

Register Your Interest

Consider joining
our Project Group
to repair and
improve the
building

How Can You Help?

Complete the
questionnaire using
the link below:



THE STORY...

St. Mary's has stood at the heart of Fen Drayton village for centuries and has served the community in many ways. We are hopeful it will be part of the village story for many more years to come.

A THANK YOU...

We are especially grateful to those who volunteer to tend to our church and churchyard, and would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you. To show our appreciation for all the hard work and dedication, we are serving **hot drinks and cake**, after our Sunday service, on the **28th September between 10.30am and 1.30pm** and we would also love to see anyone who is interested in the future plans for St. Mary's, whether you know the church well, or would like to get to know us better.

THE FUTURE....

St. Mary's is now in **desperate need** of a series of repairs and improvements. **With your help we can address these building issues, starting a new chapter in the history of our church and keeping St. Mary's thriving for future generations.** Your help can make a significant difference, why not drop in during **'Open Sunday'** to register your interest in the project, or to have a chat with us about the future of your church.

Hilton Methodist Church



Dear Friends,

September is one of the times we celebrate New Year within Methodism. The summer provides us with the opportunity to stop and take stock and ensure that as we go forward we go forward with God's agenda and priorities. In Matthew 6:10 we read, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done.'

What might the fulfilment of that verse look like for us in 2025? How might we discover God's priorities for us as churches?

I think the following story provides a good starting point. It had been some time since Jack had seen the old man. Life simply happened including a move to a different part of the country. There was little time to think about the past nor much time in the present to spend with his wife and son. He was working on his future, and nothing could stop him.

Over the phone, his mother broke the news, "Mr Belser died last night. The funeral is on Wednesday". Jack went to the funeral and the night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mum went to see the old house next door one more time. "What's wrong, Jack?" his Mum asked.

"The box is gone" he said. "What box?" Mum asked. "There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most'" Jack said.

Sometime later Jack returned home one day to find a note asking him to pick up a parcel from the Post Office. Inside was the gold box and an envelope.



Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside before unlocking the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch. Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover.

Inside he found these words: "Jack, thanks for your time!" The thing Mr Belser valued most was Jack's time.

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes reminds us, 'There is a time for everything...' (3:1) and the psalmist encourages us to pray, 'Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.' (Psalm 90:12). Worth contemplating and acting on, in my view.

Best blessings, James

Rev'd. James Bamber

jjamesbamber@gmail.com

Phone: 01480 453857

Services in September

7 September	10:00am	Ms. V. Almond
14 September	11:15am	United Harvest Festival Service at the Parish Church
21 September	10:00am	Dr. D. Ward
28 September	10:00am	Mrs. L. Charlton

Hilton Parish Church

Services in September

- 7 September 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 14 September 11:15am United Harvest Festival Service in the Parish Church followed by a bring and share lunch in the Parish Church
- 21 September 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 28 September 11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall

Friday 12 September 5:30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church)

Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

Holy Communion Wednesdays (2:00pm) Bible Study Fridays (10:00am)

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



Fenstanton United Reformed Church

Chequer Street, Fenstanton

Sunday morning services are at 09.30. All are welcome.

2025 Services

September

- 07 Revd Chris Baker
- 14 Revd Christine Davies - Holy Communion
- 21 Led by Richard Lewney
- 28 Revd Christine Davies

October

- 05 Led by Alison Jiggins
- 12 Revd Christine Davies - Holy Communion
- 19 Revd Christine Davies
- 26 Revd Christine Davies

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

- Tuesday 09 September 2.30 - 4pm – Led by John Williams
- Tuesday 14th October 2.30 - 4pm – Led by John Williams

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

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Church of the Sacred Heart,
19 Needingworth Rd.
Priest in charge: FR. T. J. Monteiro
Tel 01480 462192,
www.sacredheart-stives.org
Mass Times: Saturday 17.00,
Sunday 09.00 and 11.00

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Redemption

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- 5.30pm – 7pm
- Parish Church
- Hilton





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News from the Pews

A view from the Old Manse

Keeping a church going is like running a business; always something to be done just to maintain the building, ensuring sufficient money is available, and to be there when someone needs solace.

Since Revd Dr Catherine Ball retired, we have been without a Minister. We are blessed that we have a retired Minister in our congregation who is at home in our congregation, and enjoys preaching. Our Pulpit Supplier works tirelessly to try to ensure that we have someone to preach for us each Sunday morning, and the Elders fill in when no one is available, which happened recently.

An Elder suggested that we invite an Arthur Rank Hospice ambassador to speak to us. The ambassador was a volunteer, who spoke engagingly about the work of the Charity, how it started, the expansion of the work, and the compassion of the volunteers. The outstanding care is provided free of charge to patients and their families and looks after over 3,800 patients a year at the Hospice and in patients' homes. Founded in 1981, the basis of this work goes back to Dame Cecily Saunders, who

had established St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham in 1967, the world's first purpose-built hospice. It differed from previous hospices in that it did not just care for the dying, but also for the physical, social, psychological and spiritual needs of its patients and their family and friends. The death of a dear friend had shown her that "as the body becomes weaker, so the spirit becomes stronger".

Below are three poignant quotes attributed to Dame Cecily.

"You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die."

"How people die remains in the memory of those who live on."

"Suffering is only intolerable when nobody cares. One continually sees that faith in God and his care is made infinitely easier by faith in someone who has shown kindness and sympathy."

Geoff Hawkins
Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cicely_Saunders

https://www.azquotes.com/author/20332-Cicely_Saunders



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website: www.fendrayton.org

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Teal Close

Teal Close's official opening took place on 12 August in brilliant sunshine.

Hosted by the housing association, bpha, guests enjoyed drinks, pizza and ice creams from the catering van while chatting to bpha personnel. Sue Gyles, the PC chair, paid tribute to Jackie Isden, who initiated the affordable housing project in 2018 and saw it through to completion early this year.

bpha were excellent hosts and guests included Teal Close residents, SCDC staff members and parish councillors as well as our county and district councillors, Chris Poulton and Sue Ellington.

New pavilion

Eagle-eyed Fen Drayton residents will have noticed that the old wood pavilion is no more. The pavilion project team has been working hard to progress the groundworks for the new building and the foundations are now in place. The spec for the new building has been finalised and the team is awaiting delivery. We



don't have a completion date as we go to press, but expect it to be late September.

Guided busway

In response to the recent court case where CCC was found to have 'historic failures' and was fined £6m, CCC is now implementing further safety improvements on the guided busway. These include installing fencing along its entire length and reducing speed limits.

CCC is also addressing flooding issues on the busway path, including the section between Swavesey and Fen Drayton. More details to follow in the next issue.

Cllr Sue Ellington, Swavesey Ward

The Boxworth Gateway development includes building a logistics site where lorries redistribute their goods, on the right hand side opposite the existing service area. The initial proposal is being developed with some discussion with local parish councils. Significant concerns are being worked through by all parties. At this stage there are no firm plans, but I will be talking about this in the future.

The consultation on the geographical options for the new unitary authority(ies) has closed. Council leaders from all district and county authorities will now put forward their proposals to the government in November. We believe that the district and parish elections will be held as planned in May 2026, but this could change. Again, there are many decisions to be made and I will keep you informed.

The council has made the four-day week into a permanent contract for all staff, despite many concerns raised by residents. It feels that it has increased recruitment, given staff a greater work life balance and that the key indicators have not significantly decreased. I feel that there was insufficient base data on which to determine any changes in service delivery, and insufficient research responses to produce any valid judgement on success or failure. But I feel it creates a negative perception of council workers, which is unjustified and a negative attitude from the council tax payer to the council.

On a more positive note, local organisations have recently received grants from the council to improve their facilities. I hope other organisations will look at the long list of grant opportunities on the website and make an application. The district council is going to be discontinued - so are the grants, so take your opportunity now!

If I can help, phone me on 07774146331 or email cllr.ellington@scambs.gov.uk

Community cafe

Our September cafe will be hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning as in previous years; in the past customers have been very generous in their support of the national charity.

Alongside this, the gardening club will be running a produce sale, with delicious fresh fruit and vegetables, and plants from various gardens around the village.

Please support the club and Macmillan on Saturday 13 September .

In November we will hold a winter/ Christmas fair again. In the past we've had local people selling fused glass, ceramics, beauty products, cards and Carriages afternoon tea vouchers.

So, if you make and/or sell items and would like a stall, please email fendraytoncommunitycafe@gmail.com to book your place early.



Who's lived here?

This is the third essay in a short series of famous Fenstanton residents. With all the new housing erected in the village over the past few years it is more than likely that many of the people new to the village will not have heard of these people.

Lancelot Brown

By John Deeks

Let's get one thing straight from the start. Lancelot Brown is more often referred to as Capability Brown. The word Capability was a derogative name only used behind his back. It stemmed from him saying that a large piece of land had capabilities instead of opportunities.

Lancelot Brown was born in August 1716 in Northumberland the son of William Brown, a farmer and his wife Ursula who worked as a servant in the big house on the Kirkharle estate. After leaving school Lancelot went to work at the big house as an assistant gardener. In later years he returned to design and remodel the grounds and gardens of this estate.

At the age of twenty five he moved on to the stately home of Lord Cobham at Stowe in Buckinghamshire. There he had the responsibility for both architectural and

landscaping work in these famous gardens. Three years later in 1744 he married his wife Bridget. Together they had nine children of whom five survived.

Lancelot Brown became the man you called on when you became bored with your vistas and your ha-has (a hidden wall) were turning into a bit of a yawn; he was so sought-after that his fees used to embarrass eminent members of the landed gentry.

Following Lord Cobham's death in 1750, Capability Brown moved to London to set up his own architectural and improvement practice. This was a move which would result in the creation of many of the finest landscapes and gardens in Britain. In 1764 he was appointed 'Chief Gardener' at Hampton Court Palace, a post he held alongside his own business until two months before his death in 1783.

Despite Brown's humble birth he appears to have been accepted by the aristocracy and much of his time at Burghley House would



Burghley House

Continued overleaf

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Who's lived here?

have been spent dining and socialising with them. Today we would call this networking. It was just the kind of great-house community where 'things' could have happened and been treated with discretion. And that brings us to the story that Lancelot Brown fathered a daughter whilst at Burghley House. We do not know who the mother was but there can be no doubt that she would have been a member of the upper class. He did give the child his family name and she was christened Mary Elisabeth Brown.

Mary Elisabeth Brown married Peter Cowling junior. His father of the same name was well known in Fenstanton. There is no record of this marriage in the Huntingdonshire or Cambridgeshire registers. It is possible that they married abroad. Mary Elizabeth Cowling (Brown) lived to be 90 and she died in 1846 so she would have been born around 1756. What is certain is that Mary Elizabeth Cowling had a comfortable life in Fenstanton. Her husband Peter died in 1824; she was a widow for twenty-one years.

In the 1841 census we see that Mary Elizabeth Cowling was living in the George Inn Fenstanton, then a very upmarket coaching inn, today known as The Duchess. Her son known as Peter Lancelot Cowling was of independent means and a clerk in Holy Orders. Also living with Mary was her granddaughter Mary Ann Cowling who also was of independent means.

Mr Inskip Ladds was the church architect for Fenstanton and in or around 1910. He sketched a Cowling and Brown family tree which survives in his papers in the Norris Museum. He extended a dotted line from the Brown's tree to Mary Elizabeth Cowling. Mr Inskip Ladds was much in tune with local life. The Cowlings' niece, Mary Ann Cowling had only died twenty five or so years before. Well within living memory and living memory informed him that Mary Elizabeth Cowling was Lancelot Brown's natural daughter. Thus the connection between the Cowlings and Brown families, who were buried together in their vault beneath Fenstanton chancel,

is explained. In 1939 a new central heating boiler was installed in the parish church and a number of coffins were removed to make way for the boiler. It appears that no one kept a record of these coffins or where they were subsequently reburied.

Brown was in Cambridgeshire a great deal, or just passing through and the existence of Mary Elizabeth as a sturdy and appealing ten-year old in need of a secure future surely becomes a powerful reason for his purchase of the Fenstanton estate which has always seemed an illogical enterprise. Fenstanton, conveniently placed between Cambridge and Stamford (Burghley) was well away from Hampton Court and London gossips and from his wife and family, whom he would not have wanted to hurt for the world. And yet, Fenstanton was always his secret. It seems more than likely that Biddy (his wife) never came here until she was brought here in her coffin.

One of Brown's clients was Lord Spencer, 8th Earl of Northampton, whose deceased brother Charles had commissioned Brown to redesign the gardens at Castle Ashby in 1761. Avenues were laid out, ponds created and the ice-house rebuilt, in the words of Brown, "in a very expensive manner and place". The Earl, who was also frittering money away on political campaigning, came to the conclusion he could only pay his gardener's bill by cashing in some assets. Lancelot Brown, it turned out, had been hoping to acquire a country estate of his own and so, in the summer of 1767, the Earl of Northampton sold him the Manor of Fenstanton, at the favourable price of £13,000 (about £2 million today).

The centrepiece of the estate was the village manor house in Chequer Street, a handsome late 17th-century brick house with Dutch gables. But the value of the property laid not so much in the bricks and mortar as in the vast amount of land, 2,668 acres, that came with it.

An insurance policy taken out by Brown with the Sun Insurance Office, dated October 1,

1773, puts the value of the manor house itself at just £145, less than the "malting office and chambers" next door, which were valued at £155.

Soon after he purchased the estate he would have moved his daughter Mary into the manor house and here she would grow up wanting for nothing. Although Brown never made the manor house his home he would have spent many happy times there watching his daughter grow up. His main home remained 'Wilderness House' at Hampton Court, which came with his job there as Chief Gardener. But he did however involve himself in Huntingdonshire, becoming High Sheriff of the county in 1770.

Also included in the estate was a grand 18th century Georgian styled house on the Huntingdon Road and this is where Brown intended to spend his retirement. It remains rather a mystery why such a fashionable and sizeable house was built on what was essentially a farm homestead.



If Capability Brown had great plans for the Manor of Fenstanton, he never came to realise them. In 1777 Brown had his assistant John Spyers create a detailed map of the estate. The map also included suggestions for



The Manor House, Fenstanton

improvements so it is not a true reflexion of the manor of Fenstanton in 1777.

Brown died in 1783, in Hertford Street, London, on the doorstep of his daughter Bridget's house. She had married the architect Henry Holland. Lancelot Brown died a rich, respected and much-loved man. The Manor of Fenstanton remained in the ownership of Brown's family until 1823.

As Lord of the Manor he was brought here to be buried. His funeral took place on Sunday February 16th 1783. But where is he buried? No one seems to know for sure. The marker is in the north side of the church grounds but it is not intended to mark the burial spot. Inside the church chancel is a memorial to the Brown family. Although the Brown family burials are detailed in the parish register there are no headstones for the Brown family anywhere in the churchyard.

Today, the £13,000 which Capability Brown paid for the estate would hardly buy you the now redundant title of Lord of the Manor of Fenstanton. That was auctioned in 1987 for £11,700.

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Hilton Parish Council



A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 7 July

Major Oak Assessment and Churchyard Upkeep

The Council approved a professional assessment of the Major Oak on the Green at a cost of £941.10 + VAT. Warning signs will be installed to ensure public safety. Meanwhile, concerns about strimming in the churchyard led to the Clerk being tasked with arranging a meeting with Church representatives to ensure that maintenance is in keeping with the Church's wishes.

The Council also agreed to support the Church in future fundraising efforts for the wall, though the longstanding matter of the church wall is now considered closed.

Cricket Wicket Gets a New Angle

In an effort to improve conditions for players and the Cricket Club, the Parish Council approved the trial re-orientation of the cricket wicket, subject to appropriate insurance and risk assessments. This pilot initiative will be closely monitored.

Traffic and Speed Concerns

Following parishioner correspondence, it was agreed that speed tables are not an appropriate solution for HCVs on Potton Road. Residents are encouraged to report HCV infringements directly to the police. Additionally, the Council will formally support the proposed 20mph speed limit scheme and urged residents to respond to the consultation before the 14th July deadline. A summary of facts and a link to the consultation was shared via the Council's website, noticeboards, and social media.

Support for Local Fitness

The Council gave its full support to a proposal from Fitness Rush Community CIC, who will offer free outdoor exercise sessions for residents aged 65+, using part of the Village Hall car park.

Bonfire Night Set for 8th November

Preparations are under way for Hilton's much-loved Bonfire Night, to be held this year on Saturday 8th November. Cllr Claire Sarkies will liaise with the fireworks organiser, and the Council has approved a budget of up to £1600 + VAT. Hilton Feast Week CIC will be invited to provide refreshments.

Green Spaces: Safety and Maintenance

Tree safety near Reeves Ditch was discussed, with the Council approving essential works and instructing the Clerk to install warning signs. The purchase of Osmo Oil to maintain benches in public spaces was also approved.

Updates on Local Highways Improvement Bid

The Council agreed to increase its contribution to the Local Highway Improvement bid for the crossroads project to £12,884, recognising the importance of improving road safety. This will strengthen the case for funding success, and will only be paid if the funding is awarded.

Representation and Local Engagement

Hilton Parish Council will send representatives to the Water Systems Management Forum, reflecting its commitment to long-term flood planning. While no formal response will be made to the Local Area Energy Plan or public rights of way hierarchy engagement, individual councillors are encouraged to respond to the Local Government Reorganisation survey.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 1st September 2025 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.

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Life on a Plate

Swiss Roll

Delicious swiss roll is all to do with how you make it. An electric mixer is essential. The ingredients are straightforward:

Ingredients:

- 3 Large eggs
- 3oz. Self-raising flour
- 3oz. Caster sugar
- Seedless raspberry jam

Equipment needed:

A large mixing bowl, basin, electric mixer, sieve, scales, swiss roll tin, baking parchment, spatula, sharp wide blade knife, serving plate.

Method:

1. Carefully line a swiss roll tin with the parchment, taking special care of the corners.
2. Place the eggs into the mixing bowl (having checked for any stray egg shell bits).
3. Add the sieved caster sugar.
4. Mix the eggs and sugar to a very high in volume, very pale in colour and the mix leaves a trail when you lift out the electric mixer. It takes several minutes.- just keep going.
5. Weigh the flour into the basin.
6. Sieve the flour three times, each time it will gain air and add to the lightness of the finished swiss roll.
7. Remove the blades from the mixer.
8. Use one of the mixer blades to very carefully incorporate the sieved flour into the egg mixture.
9. Very carefully spread the mix into the swiss roll tin, paying special attention to the corners.
10. Bake at 160 degrees for 12 minutes or until evenly golden.
11. Whilst the swiss roll is cooking, cut a second piece of baking parchment larger than the swiss roll.
12. Sprinkle caster sugar over the parchment.
13. Prepare the jam by stirring well / or warm slightly.
14. Carefully remove the swiss roll from the oven.
15. Place upside down on the prepared parchment.
16. With the sharp knife cut across the narrow side of the swiss roll 3 centimetres from the edge.
17. Carefully spread with jam.
18. Using the parchment as an aid, roll as tightly as you can from the short side with the cut.
19. Have your serving plate ready.
20. Place the swiss roll, carefully into the serving plate.
21. Enjoy.



Weather Watch by Patrick Landucci

Record breaking warmth, abundant sunshine and lengthy dry spells summarises Spring 2025. It was the warmest Spring since 1884, quite remarkable since minimum temperatures were close to average due to the many cloudless nights following daytime maxima well above average as we experienced the sunniest Spring since records began. It is perhaps interesting to note that 8 out of 10 warmest Springs have occurred since the year 2000, a sign of our changing climate. Measurable rain occurred on just two days in March in our area of the country, another 20 day dry spell occurred from mid March to mid April and a third dry spell of 30 days occurred from 24 April to 23 May. The first of May coincided with a surge of Saharan heat for one day only making it the warmest 01 May on record. (29.3C at Kew). Meteorological Summer started with a chilly and changeable first 10 days of June which belied the dramatic change which then took place with three heatwaves occurring in little more than the following five weeks. For people who lived through the infamous summer of 1976 memories were evoked of the relentless heat and drought which persisted throughout that Summer. Whilst this year I recorded just two days exceeding 32C (90F) during the same period in 1976 there were seven consecutive days when 32C (90F) was reached or exceeded. After another dry month in June in our region of the UK with less than half the average rainfall, 19 July produced a soaking wet day with just over an inch of rain (27mm) recorded. It marked the start of a much more equable spell of weather to the end of July.

Elsewhere in the world exceptional events continued. Here are a few:-

1. Switzerland. Believed to be due to sustained ice loss in the Alps, on 28 May a catastrophic glacial collapse resulted in a massive landslide destroying the village of Blatten. Fortunately early warning enabled the residents to be evacuated ahead of it.
2. Spain and Turkey. A new highest temperature for Spain of 41.C (106.4F) for the month of May was recorded while in July 50C (122F) was recorded for the first time in Turkey.
3. Eastern Australia. Prolonged and very heavy rains caused devastating flooding in late May, the worst in 90 years. The town of Taree (NSW) recorded 427mm (16.7") of rain in two days.
4. Maldives. In early March 2025 extreme rain and thunderstorms dumped 296.1mm (11.6"), the highest daily rainfall total ever observed across this island nation, beating the previous record of 231.5mm set in August 2024.
5. South Korea. In contrast to the above rains a combination of tinder dry land caused by prolonged drought conditions resulted in the largest wildfires recorded in the country fanned by strong winds. They caused the evacuation of around 40,000 people, several deaths and destruction of a number of ancient temples.



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Child arrangements orders: What grandparents need to know

Grandparents often play a vital role in a child's life, providing love, support, and stability. However, when family relationships break down, especially during parental separation or divorce, grandparents may find themselves cut off from their grandchildren. In such situations, many grandparents wonder what legal rights they have.

Currently, grandparents do not have an automatic legal right to see their grandchildren. However, they can apply to the Family Court for permission to seek a Child Arrangements Order (CAO) under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989.

A CAO can be used by grandparents to:

- Request regular contact with their grandchildren (direct or indirect)
- Apply to have the child live with them in specific circumstances

Before applying to court, grandparents are expected to try mediation through a Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting (MIAM). Mediation can help families resolve disputes amicably without going to court. If mediation fails or the other party refuses to engage, grandparents can then ask the court for permission to apply for a CAO.

Unlike parents, grandparents must first obtain the court's permission before making a CAO application. When deciding whether to grant permission, the court will consider the grandparent's connection with the child and any risk that the application may disrupt the child's life.

Courts generally view a grandparent-grandchild relationship as beneficial and are often sympathetic if the grandparent has been involved in the child's life.

Once permission is granted, the court will assess the application for a CAO in the same way it would for a parent. The child's welfare

is paramount, and decisions are made using the 'welfare checklist' in the Children Act 1989, which includes:

- The child's wishes and feelings (where appropriate)
- Emotional, physical, and educational needs
- The impact of changes to the child's circumstances
- Any risk of harm

In cases where the child's parents are unable to care for them whether due to illness, addiction, neglect, or other reasons, grandparents may apply for a CAO for the child to live with them. In some situations, they may also consider applying for a Special Guardianship Order, which provides more parental responsibility.

While grandparents do not have an automatic right to see their grandchildren, the legal system recognises the value of their role. A CAO can provide a structured and enforceable way for grandparents to maintain or restore contact.



Lisa Leader - Senior Associate Solicitor

If you need assistance navigating contact arrangements, call Leeds Day on 0333 577 2250, send an email to family@leedsday.co.uk or visit our website: www.leedsday.co.uk/family

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Head Lines

News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



We hope you have had a fantastic summer since the last edition of The Journal! Perhaps some of you have been away, visiting friends and family or exploring different destinations in the UK or overseas. Our school community comes back together for the start of the new term in September and we will look forward to hearing about people's adventures!!

The end of the summer term was a real success, particularly for our Year 6 children, who have now left us for their new journeys in secondary school. The children had a happy, exciting and successful trip to PGL at Caythorpe Court at the start of July. Later in July, the children delivered a spectacular performance of Let Loose! on stage to parents and families, showing us just how fabulous they all are. The final days of term were filled with fun, games and a barbecue as we wished the children every success in the next step of education.

Our Key Stage 2 children enjoyed walks to the River Great Ouse before the end of the summer term, measuring the flow of water at different points of a meander and identifying physical and human geography along the river. We went on very hot mornings so were pleased to get back to some shade and cold drinks!

We are very excited about welcoming our new Reception Class children to school at the start of September for their first days at 'big school'. We are pleased that so many of these children and families are already known to us as they have been in our Preschool. We are certain this will make their transition into school much smoother.

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



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Who's lived here?

This is the fourth essay in a short series of famous Fenstanton residents. With all the new housing erected in the village over the past few years it is more than likely that many of the people new to the village will not have heard of these people.

Jean and Peter Schofield – actors

By Richard Close



This is a vignette of a lovely couple who passed our way over 40 years ago.

Jean Lockhart 1916 –1987. Born Jean Ogston, she took her stage name from one of her grandparents. She was born in Swansea to Captain and Gertrude Ogston. Captain Ogston had been seconded to the navy from Scotland. Sadly, he died in 1917 when Jean was a baby. Her grandfather was Sir Alexander Ogston KCV0, Surgeon in Ordinary to Queen Victoria, King Edward V11 and George V and famous for his discovery of Staphylococcus.

Peter Schofield 1928 – 2003. Peter's upbringing was very different. Born in Chorley he was brought up in Leyland as the family, including all the aunts, worked in the cotton mills. Although conditions were much better than in the nineteenth century, the noise, danger and long hours still persisted. Peter told of the special silent hand and mouth language that developed called me-

maw. His first starring role was as a small child in costume at the front of a Leyland carnival parade.

Jean and Peter both took up acting as a profession and learned the trade through repertory theatre, where their lives crossed from time to time. Eventually they got together and in 1977 they moved to Church Street, Fen Drayton. They immediately involved themselves in village life, as much as their active careers allowed. Jean seemed to do more TV adverts, often seen in tweeds as a countrywoman character for a bank or building society. Later, Peter had to take riding lessons for his part as the landlord in the 1998 TV programme *The Life and Crimes of Dr Palmer*, which was set in the 1800s.

I remember Peter's first Christmas Eve carol service in St Marys. As it was difficult to hear the Nine Lessons being read, he forsook the lectern and went up into the pulpit, so his voice rang out to every corner of the church and every word could be heard. Everyone sprang up to attention and looked at one another, some smiling. He and Jean



opened the 1982 village fete and then his offer to ask theatrical friends to officiate was gladly accepted. In following years Ruth Madoc (Gladys in *Hi-de-Hi*) and Geoff Hughes (Onslow in *Keeping up Appearances*) performed the opening ceremony.

Ronnie Corbett's opening of one fete was, if I remember rightly, a golfing collaboration between Norman Alsop (whose family had an LSA holding in Middleton Way), who had a company printing golf balls and David Spencer who played at Bourn.

Other acting friends such as Jean Alexander and Gretchen Franklin (*Corrie* and *East Enders*) were due to come too, but ill health overtook (Peter's) Jean and she and Peter left Fen Drayton in 1987. After Jean's passing, Peter bought a flat in Godmanchester but still visited us regularly.

Theatre was always their main love and Peter had been in shows attended by royalty. A list of some of their work may evoke memories of older TV shows and films.

Jean was in the 1978 film *International Velvet*, *Coronation Street*, *Tom Grattan's War*, *Follyfoot* and *Shadow Squad*. Peter was in *Airline*, *Z Cars*, *The Georgian House*, *Coronation Street* (as landlord Joe Dawson), *Emmerdale*, *Juliet Bravo*, *All Creatures Great and Small*, *Blackadder*, *Terry and June* and *Last of the Summer Wine*.

I was recently watching an old episode of *The Sweeney* when Peter appeared as an assistant commissioner and was giving Regan (John Thaw) and Carter (Dennis Waterman) a rollicking for not turning up to meetings. Peter passed away in 2003. He and Jean are laid to rest at St Mary's church.

What you're Missing

Fenstanton Friendship Club

Here we are halfway through 2025 and the club is enjoying many different activities. We were founded in 1949 by a dedicated group of villagers and the Club has gone on in different forms, evolving into our present group. We would love to welcome new members or visitors to enjoy the things that we do. Please come along, meet new friends and bring your ideas for meetings to the table. 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.

We look forward to seeing you.

2 July The strawberry tea 🍓🍓🍓 was very enjoyable with strawberries from the farm in Hilton, freshly picked that morning. Also enjoyed were sandwiches, sausage rolls, pork pies, crisps and cakes, finished off with scones and clotted cream.



We all found the show and tell moments very interesting, learning about handkerchiefs from around the world, a collection of American quarters and dollars, and a glimpse of South Africa at the time of Nelson Mandela's death. The quiz on flowers was fun and tested our gardening knowledge.

16 July We spent an afternoon playing board games including Boggle, Trionimo's and Connect Four. A few games of Hoy Bingo were also enjoyed.

30 July Martin John gave us a delightful afternoon with his skills on the piano, guitar and singing.



Upcoming meetings

19 September We will be entertained by the "Merrymakers".

24 September A talk on the "Mercy Ships"

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

Hilton Flower Club

18 July we had our annual outing to Kelmash Hall and gardens in Northamptonshire. We had a wonderful day, the weather was fantastic, the gardens were a joy to walk round, especially the walled garden which was packed with summer flowers and lovely scented roses and sweet peas.



The house was very interesting, seeing how the gentry lived, then going downstairs to where the servants lived, with rooms showing how they spent their working day. Each room had an audio guide; where the baking was done, the wine cellar and the laundry room, which was very interesting as you were listening to the servants doing the daily chores. It is well worth a visit as it only takes an hour to get there. There is also a tea room serving lunches, cakes and drinks.

1 September: Steffie Shields is giving us a talk and slide show on gardens and flowers. It should be a very interesting afternoon.

6 October is our workshop the cost is £7.50 + £6.00 entrance, this includes flowers, container and oasis. So everyone will go home with an arrangement.

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Look forward to seeing you all
Beverley and June

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Fen Drayton Bowls Club News

As the summer nights draw in, thoughts once again turn to our indoor season playing short mat bowls.

Short mat bowls is similar to lawn bowls but played on a 22-yard-long carpet in Fen Drayton village hall. You don't need to have played before as there are plenty of members willing to provide help and assistance.

Practice sessions are held between September and March on Friday evenings from 7pm to 9pm. We have a team entered in the Cambridgeshire Short Mat Bowls League with home fixtures being played on Fridays and most away fixtures being played on Sunday afternoons.

The outdoor season will recommence next April and practice sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from 6pm.

If you would like to try your hand at short mat bowls this autumn, please come along

to a Friday practice session – you will be very welcome.

Fen Drayton village hall is located on Cootes Lane, CB24 4SL and the bowling green is directly behind the hall. For more information contact Stephen George, Club Secretary, on 07876 407219 or email at stephengeorge79@gmail.com



Finally, we recently hosted Fenstanton and Hilton Cubs for their final meeting of the summer term – a good time was had by all!

Hilton Art Club

In July, we had outside sketching at Parkhall Nurseries in Somersham, a Village Hall session 'In the Style of ...', which was great fun, being inspired by our favourite artists and trying to paint like them and lastly another outside visit to Carriages of Cambridge.

After refreshments in the 'Lancelot' carriage and catching up with socialising and chatting, the sketching/painting started. At this time, the heavens had opened, so most of us ended up on the platform, where there was some shelter, or in the waiting room. Kathy B headed for the glasshouse, where she produced several pieces in her sketchbook. Her secret, she said when asked about her output, was being alone and no chatting!

Next, was the Feast Week Art Show, where we exhibited a selection of artwork. They looked great! Thanks to those that helped to set up and especially to Chrissie Ball and her husband Chris for putting up and taking down the tables and keeping us informed before the event.

5 September 10:00am – 12:30pm

The Ferryboat, Holywell
En plein air painting

19 September 10:00am – 12.30pm

'A Season Of Mists and Mellow
Fruitfulness' Autumn



Hilton Community Hub

We are presently having our summer break until our return on Wednesday 3 September.

Our final day in July was something of a party - trying and mostly failing to make a newspaper hat, one or two 'holiday' songs, a seaside quiz and the usual tasty lunch.

The buffet table also included a box of Crème Eggs which had been very kindly given to us by Shiva and Priya, who are our new and very welcome Hilton shopkeepers. This generous gesture was much appreciated, especially when Priya and their daughter visited our morning in time to join our lunch and for us to welcome them.

During our break Ken has organised a weekly Wednesday session on The Green to sketch, draw, paint or simply natter, so no doubt more of that next month!

Finally, a HUGE thank you to Jan and all who make our Wednesdays so very special for so many reasons.



Fenstanton Glebe Allotments Association

The Allotment Association held its Summer BBQ which was a huge success. It was great catching up with everyone, and we were lucky with the weather. A big thank you to Chris, who slaved over the BBQ, Ian for the gazebo and BBQ, and the volunteers who made it happen.

We are now reaping the rewards of our labour with bumper crops of potatoes, courgettes and soft fruit. With so many strawberries, I have found a great recipe for fruit compote, which can be frozen and is perfect with Greek yogurt.

Fruit Compote

500g any soft fruit

2 dessert spoons caster sugar

2 dessert spoons lemon juice

Cook on a lowish heat for 20 minutes. Allow to cool and either freeze on the day or keep in the fridge but use within 3 days

If you would like to join our waiting list please contact the Secretary at secretary.fgaa@btinternet.com



Fenstanton Bowls Club

We have been so lucky with the weather this season with very few 'wet' matches! Our mens', Cambridge & District 1st Team and Over 60's 1st team are all doing exceptionally well in their respective leagues, with the Cambridge & District 2nd team and Over 60's 2nd team not faring quite so well, but all having a good time and doing their best!

Since our last report we have held two club competitions. Our newly introduced Pairs comp was played over one afternoon with Daphne Hillam & Sarah Cook progressing to the final against Rob Dulstone & Stuart Bloor.

The Clive Barrow trophy is always a fun afternoon, when it's anyone's game with each player drawing lots for the position they play and the team they play in, over three different rounds. It's the luck of the draw, with each player recording their team score at the end of each round. This year it was very close with Julie Morris winning by just one point ahead

of Penny Mills.

After the competition we said a sad farewell to Julie and Patrick Morris as they have moved to Lincolnshire. Julie and Patrick have been integral members of the club over the last three years, having got involved from day one taking on green keeping roles, team captains and social organisers as well as being fantastic players and helping their teams to achieve promotion last season. We will miss them and wish them well in their new home and look forward to a friendly match against their new bowls club next year.

Last weekend we had our friendly match against Houghton & Wyton and were delighted that four new members to the club this year took part. It's a great way to introduce new members to a competitive but fun game.

The end of the season is drawing near, but still lots to play for and of course finals day in September.



Lining up for the Pairs competition!



Thank you from Jenny Stimpson

In the middle of May I was gardening and had a fall. I would like to say thank you to my neighbours, who came to my rescue, phoned for an ambulance and waited with me until the ambulance took me to Addenbrookes Hospital, where it was confirmed I had broken my hip.

After nine days in hospital I arrived home. I would like to say thank you for all the flowers, chocolates, cakes, fruit, phone calls and so many get well cards. I was overwhelmed with your generosity.

It is now three months later, I'm walking with a crutch, out and about close to home. It will not be long before you all see me all over the village hopefully.

My thanks once again to everyone,

Jenny

PS I hope the three other ladies who had accidents about the same time are improving.

Hilton Women's Institute

Are you thinking of joining Hilton WI? It is a firmly established society here, we were first formed 110 years ago, in 1915, and you will find our fascinating story in this edition, written by Ruth Salem, for which thank you Ruth for a wonderful account.

In July, Roland Randall of Monach Farm gave us a truly interesting talk entitled 'A pastoral oasis in an arable desert' but not all as puzzling as it may seem. Roland gave us the story of his arrival with Dreda to find that the land needed improvement so that their philosophy was and still is to maintain its environmental condition.

This means the rotation of use by the various horses, cattle, etc., also to ensure that the replanted hedgerows support the insects, returning birds, a previously rare butterfly and all wildlife.

Part of a hedgerow around Monach farm is 800 years old; so yes we must remember that we and our nearby farmers are only custodians.

The Hay Barn is similarly treated, its roof now bears solar panels to reduce bills and ultimately supply the National Grid.

Monach Farm is world famous for their breeding of Nubian goats - 22 generations (44 years) and Champions at the Royal Norfolk Show this year. They are reared to sell when young and for ice cream from the milk.



Our planned trip to London was wisely postponed due to the very high temperatures but will now take place on 6 October; identical in detail.

Twelve of us recently took a river trip from St Ives Quay, pausing in Hemmingford for tea and then back again. What a life! Also a large group of us recently filled a few cars and visited the Hitchin Lavender farm for a warmish but fascinating time.

Our canasta group continues to thrive and attract players; we especially made a visit during Feast Week for a demonstration or for taking part.



Our main attraction is of course our Summer Buffet, as ever there will be plenty of food, liquid refreshment (!) chat and a 'What would be the most important of twelve given items to rescue if your yacht is sunk' debate, (or rather major disagreement?). No Edna, it is definitely not your lipstick and Vera not your nail varnish. We know the answer, it's something far simpler!

PLEASE NOTE:- The St John Ambulance will hold an Open Workshop of First Aid at the Village Hall, 10am - 12.30pm on Saturday 6 September. This is open to all.

Finally, it must be a record - we had 13 ladies with birthdays in July!

New members are always very welcome:-
hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Girlguiding Hilton Rainbows and Brownies

At the end of July, Girlguiding introduced some additional brand new interest badges. Many of our girls have completed the current set so we are very excited to start some of the new ones this term. We have already challenged the Brownies and Rainbows to do the Holidays and Sleepover badge respectively during the summer break and look forward to trying out others such as Mechanic, Kitchen Creations and Bird Watching badges for Brownies and Hobbies, Tasty Treats and the Great Outdoors badges for Rainbows.

In July, 5 girls completed their Brownie Gold badge and a number are now continuing their guiding journey with Guides. We



have a few new Rainbows starting with us in September and have some fun and exciting activities planned for everyone whilst working on our Rainbow and Brownie programme.

During August a number of Hilton Brownies and leaders will be spending a few days on an exciting activity holiday with other Brownie units at the Anglia Guiding centre in Norfolk, so we look forward to hearing about their adventures.



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Fenstanton Turnpike Part 2

By John Deeks

In March 2024 my essay on the 18th century Fenstanton village turnpike was published. I thought no more of it until in July 2025 when I received the following email from an antique bookseller. For those people who are new to the village or those who have forgotten the content, the essay can be found on the village website under The Journal archives for March 2024.

"I am a bookseller and bookbinder, and was seeking some paper to match a repair in a book - right kind of paper, colour etc, and decided to remove the endpaper from a discarded book cover. Upon removing it, I found a page of what must be Fenstanton turnpike tickets used as binders waste. They bear the date 177- (left blank so that the year could be written in presumably). In Googling the turnpike, I found your March 2024 article- very informative. Hopefully I will be able to remove both the endpaper and the Turnpike tickets. Hope this is of interest".



This was an amazing discovery so I immediately replied to the sender asking for further information. His reply is as follows.

"I did manage to retrieve the tickets in one piece; there are eight complete tickets plus trimmed examples in the marginal areas and two variations of type ornament used. They do have a market value, but I think that they belong with you really, if you collect things at all. If you were to choose to pass them on to a museum, or copy them to the museum that's fine too. So, they are yours, no charge.

When I post I will include the board that the tickets were adhered to, and the leather on the other side of the board, and the paper that I removed too- I didn't end up using it!"

Now what to do with this item? I will approach the parish council and asked if they would like them framed for their office wall. I will also ask the Norris Museum St Ives if they would like to have them. We shall see where they end up.

John Underwood, Bookseller and bookbinder

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john.deeks@ntlworld.com



Venues for hire

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

Councils

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

Community Groups and Clubs

Books and Jigsaws at FURC	01480 498221
Fen Drayton Bowls Club	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	07876 343900
Fenstanton Community Hub	07949 453767
Fenstanton Football Club	07968 081874
Fenstanton Friendship Club	01480 350119
Fenstanton Glebe Allotments	07817 786298
Fenstanton Town Trust	01480 464753
Fenstanton Indoor Bowls	01480 497202
Fenstanton Knitter and Natters	01480 498221
Fenstanton Litter Picking	07949 453767
Fenstanton Speed Watch	07949 453767
Hilton Art Club	01480 830696
Hilton Baby and Toddler Group	07527 394945
Hilton British Legion	01480 831186
Hilton Community Garden	07488 351128
Hilton Flower Club	01480 830571
Hilton HGV Watch	07768 294878

Community Groups and Clubs

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

Community events

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

Education

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

Churches

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

Emergency numbers

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

Emergency numbers

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

Buses

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

Pubs and eating places

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

Retail

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

Garden services

Hamptons Groundcare	01480 274848
Hemingford Arboriculture	01480 463674

Decorators

Jason Kirby	01954 211775
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Design, printing and copying

St Ives Quickprint Ltd	01480 465215
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Household services

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

Electricians

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

Plumbing and Heating Engineers

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

Building services and supplies

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

Car servicing and repairs

Wilderspin Garage	01954 230273
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The Journal

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



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