

April 2025

# The Journal

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Fen Drayton ■ Fenstanton ■ Hilton

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**A cheese and wine travel experience**

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**Discover Doggerland**

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**Tomato seeds sown in Fen Drayton**

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**Children's Easter project**

On page 51



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## Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

### April 2025

- 05 Nestbox building, Community Garden
- 18 PTA Easter Egg Trail
- 19 Books & Jigsaws Sale, URC
- 19 Family Egg Hunt
- 26 Paint and Sip, Village Hall

### May 2025

- 01 Fenstanton Morris, Clock Tower
- 04 Fen Drayton 10K Race and Fun Run
- 07 VE Day Commemoration, Lychgate
- 08 VE Day Commemoration events
- 10 Plant Sale and Swap, Village Hall
- 10 Murder Mystery Evening with Strictly Murder
- 10 Planting vegetable seeds, Community Garden
- 10-11 Bowls Club Fun Days
- 17-18 Fenstanton Open Gardens
- 17-18 Art Exhibition, Parish Church

### June 2025

- 19-21 Booze in Fenstanton Pews, Parish Church
- 28 Jazz in the Village, Village Hall

### July 2025

- 05 BIG Village Fun Day, School playing field
- Camb Open Studios, varying weekends in July, Fenstanton, Fen Drayton, Hilton
- 25 Hilton Summer Ball
- 27-02 Aug Feast Week

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



It is amazing how the supermarkets move seamlessly from one celebration to another. Mother's Day blends into Easter with chocolate eggs sitting comfortably alongside fragrance and gin. Easter, this year, is later in April than previous years and there are plenty of themed events featured in this month's magazine.

The end of March saw the clocks go forward and days are really starting to open out at this time of year. Let's hope we get a spectacular summer as it seems a long time since we had a really good run of great weather. BBQ, salads and ice cream seem a distant memory.

Once again The Journal is packed full of interesting articles. Don't miss the exposé on owning a rabbit, which is very topical for Easter. Or the fascinating piece on Doggerland. Plus, the holiday notes from some children at Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School are an absorbing insight into the variety of travel destinations.

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

### Editors

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Please submit any copy by 10 April latest for the May edition.  
Cover photograph provided by Malcolm Lynn.

## The Royal British Legion in Hilton

As you will know, 2025 is a very special year in remembering the 80 years since the end of World War Two. The Legion will of course be joining and sometimes leading these commemorations with members of St Ives Town Council and publicity of both solemn and amusing events will appear closer to 08 May, VE Day, so please do watch for them when you are in St Ives.

The Women's Section of the St Ives branch is celebrating our 88th birthday this year - what an achievement! We actively raise funds and in return we enjoy caring friendships and support. We meet at the Ivy Leaf Club in the Broadway every second Monday from 11:30



to 1:00pm. We serve warm greetings, tea, coffee, biscuits and often, cake.

The Ivy Leaf club is our base, it is also the venue for our Drop in Mornings every third Friday from 11:30 to 1:30. Those who drop in receive the same warm greetings and enjoy chat on every subject and the usual teas, coffees (free) or why not buy a drink at the bar?

So give us a try!

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20 car spaces for lots of visitors

### Grass Patio

for children's parties



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

## 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.



5 April 10:00am to 12:00 noon  
3 May 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Hope you will be able to join us!

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## Do you own a top dog?

At the Fenstanton BIG Village Fun Day on Saturday 05 July there will be a dog show for the first time. This will give you the opportunity to see if you own a winning dog. Not quite Crufts but close enough on a local scale.

The categories will be as follows:


- ◆ Most handsome male dog
- ◆ Most attractive female dog
- ◆ Dog with most waggy tail
- ◆ Dog with the best trick
- ◆ Best groomed dog
- ◆ Dog you would most like to take home
- ◆ Best rescue dog
- ◆ Best veteran dog (over eight years old)
- ◆ Best puppy (under twelve months)
- ◆ Best child dog handler
- ◆ Best pedigree dog
- ◆ Best in show

Rosettes will be awarded to the first three in each category with trophies for the Best in Show and First Reserve. With an overall prize of a grooming voucher for the Best in Show. Entries will be £2.50 per category and you can enter your dog for as many categories as you like. All monies collected will be donated to the Biggies League Romanian Rescue Charity.

The competition will kick off at 14.00 on the day and entries will be accepted from 13.00. All dogs must remain on leads whilst in the show ring and on the school playing field before and after the dog show.



## Find a defibrillator near you

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

Fen Drayton Village Hall on Cootes Lane [moons.grumbles.admires](#)  
Fenstanton Ash's Store (NISA) on the High Street [pouting.cabinet.washroom](#)  
Fenstanton Church Centre on School Lane [reclusive.creeps.deleting](#)  
Fenstanton Zaza barbers on Headlands [thing.pylon.relatives](#)  
Hilton Prince of Wales Pub on Potton Road [mindset.skip.pulps](#)  
Hilton Cricket Pavilion [clerk.farmland.unroll](#)

## Spring walks

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome you to guided walks at Portholme Meadow and Brampton Wood in April. Please note that both walks are likely to be wet and muddy so wear appropriate footwear.

Pat Doody will lead the first walk at Portholme Meadow on Wednesday 16th April at 5pm. As many of you will know, Pat is an expert on the fauna, flora and history of the meadow. Pat will focus on the snakeshead fritillaries, but we may also see spring birds such as corn bunting and skylark. There will be a charge of £5.00 payable by cash or card. Please meet at Godmanchester Lock, TL24107042. Nearest postcode PE292HB. [What3words regular.interests.dries](#).

On Sunday 27th April, we will meet at 10.30am for a walk at Brampton Wood.



**Huntingdonshire  
Local Group**

This will be led by our Chairman, Tim Fryer (and others depending on numbers). As usual we will focus on the bluebells, but we should also see a rich variety of flora and fauna. There is a small car park on site. [GR TL18446981](#); [What3Words Plates.plodding.photocopy](#). The charge is £5.00 - cash only.

Please note that these walks could be subject to cancellation if we have a wet spring. Please check the website ([wildlifebcn.org](#)) nearer the time. For more information contact Tim - 07941 261346 or [timpfryer@googlemail.com](mailto:timpfryer@googlemail.com)).

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



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Or email: [churchcentre@outlook.com](mailto:churchcentre@outlook.com)  
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Casual	£15.00	£10.00	£17.50	£10.00



Please join us to Commemorate  
the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**11am**

**The Lychgate, Hilton**

Following the commemoration, all are  
welcome at the Community Hub,  
in the Village Hall, for light refreshments

# FUN DAY

Sat/Sun 10-11 May  
11:00am - 3:00pm



**FREE ENTRY**

## Fenstanton Bowls Club

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

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

**Free  
Prize  
Draw**

Everything else will be provided  
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One lucky person or couple can  
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For membership details and any other information or queries  
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or call David on 07876343900.

MAY 25						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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



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

## Village News

### U3a Open Day

St Ives Corn Exchange, Tuesday 29 April 2-4pm



The u3a Open Day is the perfect opportunity for adults coming up to their retirement years to explore a diverse range of creative, educational or social interest opportunities. You will see how you can develop your interests, make new friends and have fun.

You will have the chance to meet existing members and explore the variety of groups on offer including arts, sciences, humanities and sport. From painting to philosophy, languages to digital skills, the u3a offers something for everyone, no matter your background.

Highlights on the day will include opportunities to discuss retirement, demonstrations and entertainment from the singing and music groups. Free refreshments also available.

*"At u3a we believe that sharing interests and hobbies leads to new friendships and*

*opportunities,"* says Peter Cooper, Chair of St Ives u3a. *"Our Open Day is an ideal chance to see what's on offer and how you can get involved. We are especially hoping to see people who are already semi-retired, working part-time or who find they have more time on their hands, to see how joining u3a now will enhance their retirement and may even inspire some to start a new group."* The u3a has over 900 members and 60+ groups, many of which are full or have waiting lists, so as a result new ideas from enthusiastic individuals are always welcome. Members all work together to make groups a success and there is a support team on hand with plenty of volunteers to help.

To learn more about the u3a and the Open Day please visit: <https://u3aivo.uk/open-day-2025/>

The u3a look forward to welcoming you and sharing the joy of lifelong learning!

### Jigsaw Exchange – Hilton Parish Church

Do you like doing jigsaws?

Do you know we run a jigsaw exchange in the parish church in Hilton? It's free and easy to get involved .... the puzzles are stored in the church which is open during the day, or evenings by request. We have puzzles suitable for all ages and abilities The idea is that you just go in and exchange your puzzle(s) or, if you don't have a puzzle to exchange, then just borrow one and bring it back when completed. We can even collect and deliver puzzles for anyone with limited mobility and, of course, would be happy to receive puzzle donations.

For more information, please contact Rachel Wood (830866) or Jenny Broom (830413)



## Hilton Feast Week

### Family Egg Hunt, Saturday 19th April

Join us on Easter Saturday, 19th April, for a fun family Egg Hunt starting and finishing at Hilton Village Hall. For just £3 per entry, you can collect a trail map at the hall and explore the village to see how many hidden eggs you can spot. Every hunter will receive a small chocolate egg, and there's a special prize for one keen-eyed participant who finds them all!

In addition to the Egg Hunt, there will be crafts, refreshments, and a tombola to enjoy. We'll also be joined by some animal friends from Monach Farm for you to meet.

No need to book— simply turn up on the day for a morning full of Easter fun! The event runs from 10:30am to 1pm, but be sure to pick up your trail map in time to return to the hall by 1pm.

**We can't wait to see you there!**



### Murder Mystery Evening with Strictly Murder, Saturday 10th May

*"Rose Soles has been the treasurer of her local amateur Dramatic Society for many years. She is now retiring and moving to the south of France with her husband, Reg. Her 'friends' in the society have decided to put on a special leaving tribute for her. But all is not what it seems and foul play is afoot!"*

Come along and enjoy a fun evening and see if you can find out whodunnit!

Gather your team of up to 8 people, or come along solo and join a team on the night, for an evening of suspense and intrigue! Watch the play unfold, uncover clues, and question the suspects to crack the case.

Tickets are £15 each and include food, with a licensed bar available to purchase drinks. Get your tickets now at [www.feastweek.co.uk](http://www.feastweek.co.uk).

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## Hilton Parish Church Fabric Fund

Please consider donating your loose/unwanted change to the upkeep of the fabric of Hilton Parish Church.

I will deliver boxes to your house and collect them three times a year, or less frequently, if you prefer.

Please contact me on 01480 830157 or e mail -stephenbridge2@aol.co.uk if you feel you can help us to maintain this lovely building.

Thank you.

FENSTANTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Chequer Street

## BOOKS & JIGSAWS ON SALE

Saturday 19 April 9.30 – 12.00 noon



## Village News

### Hilton Village Hall

The Hilton Village Hall Committee is thrilled to announce two exciting events coming up to help raise funds for our village hall.

First, on Saturday 26th April, we are delighted to welcome back The Paint Club for another creative session. Following the success of last autumn's event, this time we'll be painting "Chickens." It's a fun and relaxing activity suitable for all, even beginners! Tickets are £35 each and include all materials, expert tuition, and a glass of Prosecco on arrival.

Then, on Saturday 28th June, we are excited to host Jazz in the Village. Join us

**PAINT AND SIP**

**THE PAINT CLUB**

**SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 7PM**

£35 A TICKET ( INCLUDES A GLASS OF PROSECCO OR SOFT DRINK)

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

RAISING FUNDS FOR HILTON VILLAGE HALL

## Hilton Community Garden

The Community Garden would like to bring to your notice the following lecture organised by the Cambs and Beds Hardy Plant society:-



5 April 2025, 2.00 p.m - Speaker: Peter Williams

### Special Plants for Small Gardens

Members Free - Visitors £4.00

The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 8JH

Free Parking

For further information contact details [www.hpscambsandbeds.co.uk](http://www.hpscambsandbeds.co.uk)

Spring Plant Sale Sunday 11th May 2025 - 10a.m. 'til 12 noon

### Jazz in the Village

"Very cool music played in a magical atmosphere - this will appeal to jazz novices as well as hardcore enthusiasts." - *Times Music Magazine*

from Scotland

as seen at the fringe

**Ian Millar saxophone**

**Dominic Spencer piano**

"Beautiful soaring magic! I was blown away by your show, just breathtaking!"

"...expect warm, intelligent, reflective, human music..."

**Bar** HILTON VILLAGE HALL  
Grove End, Hilton, Huntingdon PE28 9PF

Accompanied under 16s free **Sat 28<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm £12** doors open at 7pm

tickets available at [www.hiltonvillagehall.com](http://www.hiltonvillagehall.com)

[www.millarandspencer.co.uk](http://www.millarandspencer.co.uk)

for a memorable evening with Ian Millar and Dominic Spencer, whose accessible and melodic jazz style has been a great success for many years at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and at various other jazz festivals across the UK. A licensed bar will be available to complement the fantastic music. Tickets are £12 each, and under-16s are welcome to attend for free with an accompanying adult.

Tickets for both events are available on our website at [www.hiltonvillagehall.com](http://www.hiltonvillagehall.com).

Come along and support Hilton Village Hall – a great resource in our local community.



## Hilton Town Trust

Hilton Town Trust is a small charitable trust which exists to provide support to the village and villagers of Hilton. Grants can be provided to village organisations or to individuals, depending on circumstances and may be able to help with...

- Capital expenditure for groups and organisations in the village
- Setting up new community initiatives
- One-off village celebrations
- Cost of living grants
- Education expenses
- Organised enrichment trips

Of course, there are limited funds but what we do have is there to help all the people of Hilton. So if you have a project or know of someone who would benefit from some support please contact one of the Trustees, in confidence, with the details.

Rev David Busk	436400	Rachel Lawton	831669
Jenny Broom	830413	Malcolm Lynn	831629
Rachel Wood	830866	or HiltonTownTrust@gmail.com	



## Hilton Churches' Lent Lunches



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

**Thursday, March 27th – 1, Grove End**  
by kind invitation of Carole and Malcolm Lynn.

**Thursday, April 3rd – Tanglewood, The Green**  
by kind invitation of Jenny Broom.

**Thursday, April 10th – 27, Scotts Crescent**  
by kind invitation of Sandy and Richard Monk.

Suggested donation - £5:00

Proceeds in aid of MAGPAS



## Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



### In Focus: A balanced budget for

Huntingdonshire District Council has agreed a balanced budget for 2025/2026. It includes plans for investment into the community and essential services, while ensuring we maintain a balanced financial position.

### Council Tax for a Band D property to rise by just £5 a year (less than 10p a week)

Councillor Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader of Huntingdonshire District Council, added: "At a time when councils across the country are grappling with financial pressures, I am proud that Huntingdonshire District Council remains focused on long-term financial sustainability".

"This financial stability has enabled us to invest in the Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy. This people-centred initiative aligns our resources with what matters most to residents as research consistently shows that factors like good employment, strong social ties, and physical activity are essential to quality of life. Through collaboration with our community and partners, we aim to create a healthier, more inclusive, and prosperous future for all of Huntingdonshire."

Huntingdonshire District Council has taken action to support local people, by ensuring that the lowest income households can get Council Tax relief (up to 100%) in 2025/26. Find out more about council support here: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/benefits/council-tax-support/>

### New electrical waste bins installed by Church Street Car Park, Fenstanton for all residents.



By participating in this new collection service, residents will be helping to reduce the environmental impact of e-waste and contributing to a safer, cleaner community. This new service accepts small electrical items such as mobile phones, remote controls, and small kitchen appliances such as kettles and toasters, but does not accept large electrical items or hazardous waste. Larger items can still be taken to the nearest recycling centre for proper disposal.

Do you have any queries or questions? You can contact me by: [clare.tevlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:clare.tevlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) or 07565350014.



\*Figures are based on 24/25, formal notification from all preceptors had not been received.

## Busway set to get improved Sunday service – it's time to explore!

The Cambridgeshire Busway will see an improved service from April – with buses running up to every 15 minutes – as local people are encouraged to get out and explore our beautiful local countryside and heritage.

The changes, which will come into effect from Sunday 20 April, will see Service A increase from hourly to every 15 minutes from St Ives Park and Ride to Cambridge City Centre. This improves the frequency and capacity from St Ives Park and Ride and Orchard Park to Cambridge City Centre. This will replace some journeys on Service B, which will now run hourly.

David Boden, Director of Business Development at Stagecoach East, said: *"The Busway runs right through some of the most beautiful countryside in our region, and is an easy and great value way to get out and about. Watching the scenery go by as you travel between Cambridge, St Ives, and Huntingdon is a wonderful way to spend time."*



## 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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## New Bar Opening Times

Wednesday – Friday	3:30pm – 10:30pm*
Saturday	12pm – 10:30pm*
Sunday	12pm – 9pm

\* No under 16's after 9pm

## Upcoming Events

### Bingo Nights

Dabbers at the ready!... Join us on  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
From 7:30pm.

Keep an eye on Facebook page for more details!

### Quiz Nights

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April  
From 7:30pm

Cash Prize for first place!  
£2 entry pp | Max 6 per team

## Knock out Darts Competition

We are hosting an **'All Welcome'** Darts Competition on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April!  
More information will be posted upon our Facebook page nearer the time.

## Chess Club & Games Evenings

Calling gamers across the board! Get your game on every Sunday evening from 5pm with friends and/or family! Be it chess or other board games alike, trading cards, traditional card games, popular mobile games, board games or other...

Gamers Unite on Sunday evenings to share their interests...

Bring your own board game to play with friends or family if you like!

## And now for the main Event... Easter Weekend!

Live Music over the weekend – Band to be announced in April!

Bank Holiday Monday open from Noon - 9pm

Did someone say "Pimms o'clock"...? Cheeky Pimms!



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# Easter Holiday Scheme Places for free



Would your child like to attend a fully funded holiday scheme this Easter where fun experiences, a meal and snacks are included?

Children in receipt of benefit-related free school meals are eligible to attend a participating holiday scheme for 16 hours.

Please visit the County Council webpage for details and the wider eligibility criteria:

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Questions: [HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

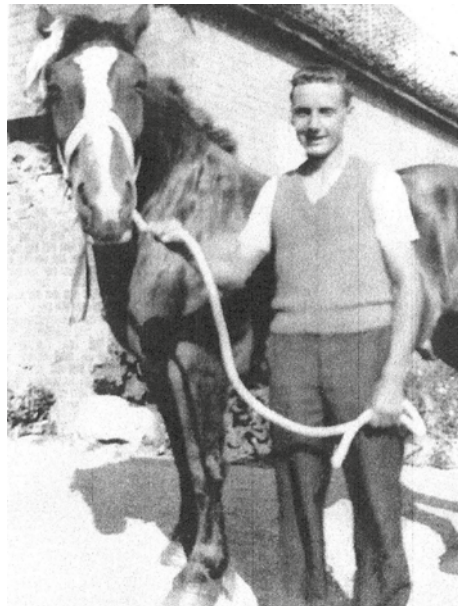


## Early days of Fen Drayton LSA

By Richard Treeby

On 1 November 1935, 10 men from County Durham, who had been selected to be smallholder tenants on the newly formed Land Settlement Association estate, arrived in Fen Drayton. Among them was Tom Collier from Perkinsville, a small mining village about 10 miles from Durham City. They were billeted in Fen Drayton House and looked after by Mrs McDermot who had been housekeeper to the previous owner, Mr Iveson. A further 10 men joined them after Christmas.

The men's first task was to build new roads and trackways. They surfaced the tracks of Daintrees Lane and Springhill Road, created Middleton Way and Oaktree Road and cleared



the land of orchards in Cootes Lane.

The holdings then began to be allocated; Tom Collier was given number 26 in Springhill Road. While the houses were being built, the men worked on the land learning the growing trade under the supervision of Mr Piper, the estate manager. The holdings then began to produce crops of lettuce, tomatoes and potatoes.

As the houses were completed families started to join the men, including Tom's wife Mary and his son and daughter, who arrived from Perkinsville. The holding was flourishing: as well as crops, he began rearing pigs and poultry. As soon as he was old enough, Tom's son John Thomas (also known as Tom) was employed by the builder erecting the estate houses, subsequently becoming an LSA employee working with horses, carting and ploughing, alongside Charlie Giddings.

Charlie Giddings lived with his wife Hannah in a cottage at the bottom of Cootes Lane and was known locally to be a real character – and a “Fen Tiger” skater. During the winter water was let out of the dykes to flood the



*Tom and Charlie (wearing a cap) with their horses*

fields, leaving silt on the ground to act as fertiliser. When the waterlogged fields froze over, Fen men, known as Fen Tigers, put on their special skates and held speed skating competitions. Charlie was also a folk singer who sang mainly in the Three Tuns, which he visited most nights. He had his own seat – and woe betide anyone who dared sit on it!

In the late 1950s Sam Steel started collecting and recording songs of the area. A CD entitled *Heel & Toe*, which includes some of Charlie's songs, is still available from [www.veteran.co.uk](http://www.veteran.co.uk)

With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the concern of the government changed from overcoming unemployment to meeting the need to increase food production rapidly. Preferred applicants for LSA holdings were those with previous horticultural experience. Holding 22 in Oaktree Road became vacant in 1942 when the tenant returned to Durham and was allocated to Mr Edward Madder. He was one of the new category of tenant, having come from Harrow Weald where he had been head gardener and chauffeur at a large house.

All spare land was now brought into production and the field next to Fen Drayton House was ploughed to grow vegetables. All the growers were working flat out seven days a week, meaning that the estate was producing huge amounts of food as part

of the war effort. Produce was delivered to the NAAFIS, sometimes twice per day, to Bassingbourn, Caxton, Kettering, Oakington and Wyton, to name few.

The growers were assisted by Women's Land Army and POWs from Elsworth camp. In 1943 Mr Madder successfully applied for his daughter, Alice, who was still living in Harrow Weald, to be allocated to work on his holding as a land girl.

One afternoon, while Alice

was out for a walk, she met a young man walking his dog. They exchanged a few words, “Are you coming to the Land Army dance on Saturday?” They did go to the dance, which was held in the village hall at the bottom of Cootes Lane. The man was



*Alice (right) with another land girl*

young Tom Collier: a romance followed and Tom and Alice were married in St Mary's church in Fen Drayton on 15 February 1945. Tom continued to work for the LSA, retiring in 1980 after 43 years' service.



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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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Any time between 12 and 2.30 pm.

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

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



For more information contact John or Penny on 01480 464672

## Paws for thought



### Thinking of getting a rabbit? A vet's advice!

Rabbits have long been considered an easy, low-maintenance pet, perfect for children. However, as a veterinary surgeon, I often see cases where well-intentioned owners have underestimated the level of care these animals require. Before bringing a rabbit into your home, it's important to consider whether this pet is truly the right fit for your family.

#### Rabbits are not 'starter pets'

There is a common misconception that rabbits are simple pets, similar to hamsters or guinea pigs. In reality, rabbits have complex needs and require daily care, interaction, and a proper environment to thrive. Unlike rodents, rabbits can live 8-12 years (sometimes even longer), making them a long-term commitment.

#### Not always suitable for children

Many parents choose a rabbit as a pet for their children, assuming they will be easy to handle and care for. However, rabbits are delicate creatures that do not always enjoy being picked up or cuddled. Their fragile spines can be injured if they are held incorrectly, and they can scratch or bite if frightened.

Young children, especially those under ten, often struggle to handle rabbits appropriately. A frightened rabbit may kick out or jump from their arms, leading to injury for both the animal and the child. Rabbits require a gentle, patient approach and are better suited to older children or adults who can understand their needs.

#### Space and exercise needs

Many people still associate rabbits with small hutches, but keeping a rabbit confined in a tiny space is neither humane nor healthy. Rabbits need plenty of space to move, stretch, and exercise. A hutch should only serve as a shelter, not a primary living space. Ideally, rabbits should have a large run or even be free-roaming in a rabbit-proofed room or secure garden area.

Lack of exercise can lead to obesity, muscle weakness, and behavioural issues. A rabbit that is confined in a small space for long periods may become depressed, aggressive, or develop health problems.

#### Diet and health considerations

A rabbit's diet is another aspect of care that is often misunderstood. Many people assume that rabbits can live on a diet of commercial pellets alone. In reality, a healthy rabbit should have constant access to fresh hay, which provides the necessary fibre to maintain their digestive health. Fresh leafy greens and a small portion of high-quality pellets should supplement their diet.

Rabbits are also prone to dental issues due to their continuously growing teeth. If their diet lacks enough roughage, their teeth can become overgrown, leading to pain and difficulty eating. Regular check-ups with a vet are essential to monitor their dental health.

#### Companionship and mental stimulation

Rabbits are social animals and should not be kept alone. A single rabbit is likely to become lonely, leading to stress and behavioural problems. It's best to keep rabbits in compatible pairs or groups. Additionally, they need toys, tunnels, and enrichment activities to keep them mentally stimulated. A bored rabbit may become destructive or develop repetitive behaviours like excessive chewing.

#### Final thoughts

While rabbits can make wonderful pets, they are not the 'easy' option that many believe them to be. They require space, a proper diet, regular vet care, and social interaction. If you are considering a rabbit as a pet, ensure you are fully prepared for the responsibility they bring. With the right care and commitment, rabbits can be incredibly rewarding companions—but they deserve more than just a hutch in the garden and a handful of pellets each day.

If you have any questions about rabbit care or whether a rabbit is the right pet for your family, feel free to speak to our team at Bar Hill. A little preparation and research can make all the difference in providing a rabbit with a happy and healthy life.

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# Trains, Boats and Planes

## Cheese and Wine by Train

by Malcolm Lynn

If, like me, you are fond of cheese, wine and travelling by train, these two train journeys should appeal to you. The "Cheese Train" starts in the picturesque town of Montreux at the eastern end of Lake Geneva and winds its way through some spectacular scenery into Switzerland. The "Wine Train" could hardly be more different - but more of that later.

The MOB (Montreux Oberland Bernois) company runs two special excursions from Montreux, the Cheese Train and the Chocolate Train. Both use part of the panoramic Golden Pass Line, which runs from Montreux to Luzern via Interlaken. The Cheese Train goes deeper into Switzerland than the Chocolate Train and that was the excursion we chose. Maybe we'll try the Chocolate Train on another holiday!



The journey on the Cheese Train takes just over one hour; in the first few minutes, the track climbs steeply out of Montreux, providing passengers with superb panoramic views over the town and Lake Geneva before heading into the mountains where it crosses deep gorges and passes through dense woodland and alpine pastures with breathtaking mountain scenery.

The destination is a small town called Chateau-d'Oex where, at the restaurant called Le Chalet, you can see mountain cheese being made in the traditional way while you enjoy a hot fondue of local cheese. (Even on a hot day in August!) The town's museum houses a fine collection of cowbells and it also serves as the Swiss Centre for the art of paper-cutting, or découpage, with many examples of the art on display.



We had reserved seats for the outward journey, so we could arrive in time for lunch, but we had free choice of which train to use for the return journey. That gave us time to look around the museum and appreciate something of what life had been like before 1906, when the railway reached the town.

*Continued overleaf*

# Trains, Boats and Planes

On arriving back in Montreux, we found the town bustling with tourists but we just had time to see the statue of Freddie Mercury and the Queen Studio Experience before we had to leave. A great day out.



The “Wine Train” was a completely different experience. This train runs through the cellars of the Mercier vineyard at Épernay, which is about a three hour drive from Calais.



The vineyard is one of several on the “Avenue de Champagne” which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Mercier’s cellars are vast, holding millions of bottles of champagne, and they occupy 18km of tunnels that were excavated from the chalk 30m below ground level. In the 19th century, horse-



drawn carriages would take visitors through the tunnels but nowadays visitors travel on a laser-guided train which is reached by a lift from the Visitors Centre.

The business was the brainchild of Eugene Mercier, the “Showman of Champagne”, who was only 20 when he started the Mercier Champagne House. He was an enterprising



and innovative businessman, who was ahead of his time not only by “thinking big” but also in the ways he promoted his business.

As well as encouraging visitors to his cellars, another of his innovations was to use film for advertising and as a consequence of his marketing film of 1906, he is considered to be the inventor of that technique.



However, he is probably better known for constructing the world’s largest barrel, which has a capacity of 160,000 litres. The barrel took 16 years to make and was probably second only to the Eiffel Tower as an attraction at the “Exposition Universelle” in Paris in 1889.

Although the views from the train are understandably rather limited, it was surprising to see a number of examples of bas-relief art carved into the walls and a statue of Miss Mercier that was considered to be too daring at the time to be shown above ground!

The trip was a fascinating experience and the cool (10C) temperature of the cellars was also a very refreshing and welcome change from the heat we had experienced a few days earlier.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Fen Drayton  
**Community Cafe**  
Saturday April 12th  
1030 - 1230

**Spring  
Quiz**

**Fenstanton  
Open Gardens**

Saturday & Sunday  
17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
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costs on our website –  
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# Trains, Boats and Planes

In this section we have some children from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School sharing their recent travel experiences.



## Disney World, Florida

Last summer, me and my family went to Disney and Universal in Florida, USA. We visited a water park, which had lots of rides. We spent six days in Universal Studios, where we went on Harry Potter rides (my favourite!!). The water park was really big and loads of fun. We went to Disney on my birthday! The hotel was fabulous and we had so much fun. There are different places in Disney and me and my dad went on a really scary ride and we had lots of nice food. We went somewhere special for my birthday tea - a buffet!! We hope to visit again soon!

Scarlett - Year 6



## Mauritius

Last summer me and my family went to Mauritius and we had lots of fun!! We stayed in a lovely hotel, with good food, two great swimming pools and a really good view from our room out to sea. The favourite meal I had was the steak, which came with potato wedges. Yummy! One day, we got to go scuba diving in the sea. It was brilliant! We saw lots of fish and even a turtle. The beaches in Mauritius were very nice and the sea was really clear. I would love to visit Mauritius again one day!

Sebastian - Year 5

## Greece

I'm exhausted! It was a six-hour flight but it was so worth it. The hotel was right next to a water park and it was all in-inclusive. My favourite part of it was after dinner you could have dessert as well as fruit (gigantic watermelon). The slides at the water park were so much fun! There was a ride called the 'Water Rapids' and another called 'The Cyclone'. The Cyclone was the best slide I've ever been on; it was like going down the toilet! There was also a drop slide where you just plummeted down. My dad made the biggest splash - it was the best time of my life!

Genevieve - Year 5



## Lapland

Last November, me and my family took a very exciting trip to Lapland! When we arrived we drove to Santa's village and enjoyed the snow. Then we went to an interesting restaurant and had some food then sledded back to our cabin. The next day we went on a ride with reindeers with reindeer fur blankets and had smores while waiting to go on the ride. We also saw Santa and Mrs Claus, and went to a park before having dinner. After a good sleep we went to an underground park for the day, where my sister and dad got lost!! There was a cool acrobatics elf show which gathered a huge crowd. It was the most amazing trip!

Violet - Year 5



## Montgenevre, France

My trip with family and friends was really fun and exhausting! I went with another family for a skiing trip in France. It was our second time visiting so I knew how to ski. We had to drive to the airport, then our flight got delayed by 2.5 hours! Then there was a 3-hour plane flight, then a 1.5 hour drive to the mountains. Although it felt like forever, the views of the mountains were amazing. A 'tradition' we do every year is to have French Crepes for lunch as a treat!

I didn't expect to be skiing down a red and black level slope! The hardest part of the trip was walking back up lots of stairs in 5+ layers of clothing whilst carrying heavy skis. It took a while to get used to looking out of the window and seeing a snow storm occasionally, but it was a good surprise to have!

Freya - Year 6

## Menorca

Last summer, me and my family went to Menorca. When I arrived, we hired a car that ran by pedal power and we went down a hill really quickly! When my dad fell out, we all giggled! Next, we went to our hotel to get ready to go swimming. We went on the river rapids then floated on the water in an inflatable ball. Then, we all went to the beach and went to a restaurant for dinner. The hotel room was very comfortable. Each day we could go swimming, and we enjoyed another ride on the pedal car. It was a great time!

Arthur - Year 5





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## 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 or the Lent Course.

### APRIL 2025 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Thursday 3	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 6	10.30am Fenstanton 4-5pm Fenstanton	Holy Communion Lent Course Session 4, in church
Thursday 10	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Palm Sunday 13	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton 2-4pm Fenstanton	Holy Communion, St Mary's Worship For All led by Fen Youth Hosanna to Hallelujah!! Journey with us during the afternoon as we explore Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Day. All welcome.
Monday 14	7-8pm Fenstanton	Time of reflection, refreshments and Compline
Tuesday 15	7-8pm Fenstanton	Time of reflection, refreshments and Compline
Wednesday 16	7-8pm Fenstanton	Time of reflection, refreshments and Compline
Maundy Thursday 17	8.30am on Zoom 7.30pm Fenstanton	Morning Prayer Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
Good Friday 18	11.15am Fen Drayton 2-3pm Fenstanton	Short service of Reflection, St Mary's Followed by a Good Friday Walk & picnic (please bring your own) Hour At The Cross
Holy Saturday 19	10am-12 Fenstanton 8.30pm Fenstanton	Prayer Spaces – All welcome Service of Light
Easter Sunday 20	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Easter Day Holy Communion Easter Day Holy Communion
Thursday 24	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 27	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Morning Prayer, St Mary's Family Communion with guest speaker, Josie

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

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

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

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



Last month we were talking about pancakes and now we are looking forward to our Easter eggs, but what of the bit in between? As our Lent Course concludes we turn our attention to Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Day.

There are a variety of services and activities available, and we look forward to welcoming you.

#### In particular to note are:

**Palm Sunday 13 April, parish church:** in the morning we have our services but between 2-4pm all are welcome to join us in the afternoon when we have some craft activities primarily for preschool and primary age children and their families (siblings welcome too), plus some mindfulness suggestions for anyone who wishes to connect with the Easter story in that way. We do ask that all

children are accompanied by a parent or carer. Refreshments will be available.

**Monday thru Wednesday, parish church:** do join us at 7.00pm for a time of reflection, followed by tea/coffee etc, and ending with Compline (Night Prayer).

**Maundy Thursday 17 April, parish church:** a service of Holy Communion, with the stripping of the altar at the end, a moving end to our service as we approach Good Friday.

**Good Friday 18 April:** will you join us at St Mary's, Fen Drayton for an 11.15am act of worship before going on a Good Friday Walk? Do bring your own picnic. All are welcome. The walk will finish so that those who want to, can join us at the parish church, Fenstanton in time for the Hour At The Cross, a service which helps us to reflect on Jesus' last hour.

**Holy Saturday 19 April, parish church:** All are invited to join us and explore some prayer spaces between 10am and 12noon. Maybe use the time for your own personal thoughts, you will be welcome.

#### 8.30pm Service of Light.

**Easter Day:** Hallelujah – Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!! Join us for an Easter Day service in either church, 9.15am St Mary's Fen Drayton, 10.30am Fenstanton parish church

### FENSTANTON OPEN GARDENS and ART EXHIBITION Weekend 17th and 18th May 2025

Please do save the date for our weekend of Fenstanton Open Gardens and Art Exhibition. We look forward to welcoming you both in the church and around some beautiful gardens in the village. There will be plants for sale as well as art by over 25 local artists and some tasty refreshments too.

## Hilton Methodist Church

The fast-changing perception about our national security dominated as the deadline for submission for this month's Journal loomed. I held off committing pen to paper as long as I could; hoping, praying that the impact of what we have seen emanating from Washington in regard to Ukraine, might just tip back towards some modicum of justice. But no.

At present the situation seems worse not better. The rug on which we have stood since WW2 has been pulled away. We have failed to see that the bubble of security we have lived in, is just that. Pop! In shock, European countries gather to consider how to mount an adequate deterrent to further potential invasion.

With hindsight, it's clear what many, so called, 'prophets of doom' have been saying for a long time. We have failed to maintain foundations on which our society, since 1945, has stood and chosen not to see what otherwise could have been anticipated and so prepared for in favour of short-term gains. The impact of the much-needed radical re-think will be felt by all. We are already aware of the pressure on our public services. For those relying on them it feels like things are going to become ever harder.

The chorus from my Sunday School days comes to mind - many of you will remember 'The wise man built his house upon the rock...' able to withstand the storms and winds that blew around. The foolish man,

who built on the sand, lost his house at the first puff. Now is the time to consider our foundations as individuals and communities - what really matters and what are our core values and to demonstrably live by them.

### Do I see a glimmer of hope?

I draw much from the reaction of Gen Z to the display of what looks to me as the big bad wolf threatening to blow down the houses of those facing the current round of aggressors. Gen Z are reported to be disgusted and appalled and rightly so.

As our country seeks to rebuild robust foundations in order to secure peace, may each of us consider the need to build on rocks, not sand, remembering the values that most faiths share of equality, justice, and a large dollop of grace, not grossosity.



Revd. Sue Baker-Maher

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

### Services in April

6 April	10:00am	Ms. N. Pellatt
13 April	11:15am	United Service at the Parish Church
20 April	10:00am	Ms. V. Almond
27 April	10:00am	Mr. J. Bridge

Minister: Rev Sue Baker-Maher email: [sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk](mailto:sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk)

## Hilton Parish Church



Dear Friends,

'April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land,' wrote T.S. Eliot in the first words of *The Wasteland*. We probably do not think of April as cruel. Most of the time, it is the very essence of Spring, and as often as not the month in which Easter falls as well. Most people enjoy April in this country, and we are more likely to respond to Chaucer at the opening of the *Canterbury Tales*, who speaks of April piercing to the root the drought of March with fragrant showers, so that they bathe the veins of the plants in a flower-engendering liquor, of Zephyrus (the deity of the west wind) inspiring in every wood and heath the tender crops with his sweet breath, of small fowls making melody and sleeping all night with open eye.

But it is possible to imagine what Eliot might be getting at. New life is costly, and cannot come about without great effort. Staying frozen and unchanging can seem the easier option. On April 20th this year we celebrate Easter, the greatest Christian festival, named after a pagan goddess of fertility, Eostre, whose feast was held at the spring equinox. It feels entirely natural, whether we are Christian or not, to celebrate the annual return of warmth and light and growth and beauty. But Christians celebrate these good things as the gift of God, and recognise that warmth and light and growth and beauty, however much we might rejoice to see them around us each spring, can only take root in our own lives through sacrifice - the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and then our sacrifice of ourselves in His service. Our rejoicing at Easter is made deeper and more solemn because it comes to us through Good Friday.

The other great difference between what Christians celebrate at Easter and what all people could find to celebrate each spring, is that the Easter story is of something entirely unexpected. Spring is no less a miracle for taking place every year, but ancient people devised spring celebrations precisely because they anticipated its annual arrival so eagerly. The disciples of Jesus, despite being told several times what would happen, thought that the cross was the end of Him, and were not waiting for any good news in the two days following His death.

If we celebrate Easter with something more than chocolate eggs, then we are really celebrating this great truth: there is no situation so hopeless, no place or time so dreadful, that the renewing power of God cannot break through. We live in great cycles of life and death and rebirth, summer and winter and spring, but over and beyond all that is the everlasting Life, which is God. When it comes, a truly happy Easter to you.

With love,

David

Revd David Busk (01480 436400)

### Services in April

Sunday	6 April	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	13 April	11:15am United Service in the Parish Church (Palm Sunday)
Sunday	20 April	8:00am Easter Day Holy Communion
Sunday	27 April	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall
Sunday	4 May	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Next Friday Feast (Messy Church) is on 9th May.

### Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

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

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

## A view from the Old Manse

Eagle-eyed and avid readers may have wondered why there has been nothing from 'The Manse' over the last eight months or so. With the retirement of the Minister at the end of June last year, both the Fenstanton United Reformed Church (URC) and our sister church, the Free Church in St. Ives, have been without a minister to guide us. St. Neots URC has been without a minister for a number of years. That said, we all continue with our daily activities, and Sunday services. We were told, last year, that it would be unlikely for us to be offered a minister for at least two years, and we would not be placed on the vacancy list unless we signed up, and agreed to, forming a Mission Partnership. A new minister would be expected to look after the three URC churches.

Mission Partnerships are networks of churches that work together to share resources and support each other's

mission. The Eastern Synod of the URC has sought agreement from seven churches to form a partnership, known as the Mid Cambridgeshire Mission Partnership. The churches involved are St. Ives Free Church, Fenstanton URC, and St. Neots URC, three Local Ecumenical Partnership churches; Bar Hill, Cambourne and Northstowe, and also Love's Farm Community Church. The churches have worked well together, and we are well on the way to signing up to the partnership, and could have a minister in place by Spring 2026.

In this day and age, it is important for the church to change, not in its teachings or beliefs, but to embrace the way society sees itself. It is a sad fact that church attendance has fallen so much over the recent years, at a time when we all need an anchor in life, something to believe in, and help us to cope with life. It is hoped that by showing that different churches can work together, and continue to serve the community, we will be there when you need comfort and reassurance.

**Geoff Hawkins**  
Fenstanton URC Secretary



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

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

### 2025 Services

#### April

- 06 Revd Christine Davies
- 13 Revd Christine Davies - Palm Sunday – **Holy Communion**
- 18 Revd Christine Davies - Good Friday
- 20 Revd Christine Davies - Easter Sunday
- 27 Mr Bob Parkin

#### May

- 04 Revd Christine Davies
- 11 Revd Chris Baker – **Holy Communion**
- 18 Revd Christine Davies
- 25 Machrina Ejaz - Student Minister

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

- Tuesday 08 April 2.30 - 4pm – Led by John Williams
- Tuesday 13 May 2.30 - 4pm – Led by John Williams

**Geoff Hawkins** Fenstanton URC Secretary  
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

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

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Sunday 09.00 and 11.00

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# From seeds sown in Fen Drayton

Tim Robinson moved to Mill Road in Fen Drayton in 1961 when he was three, with his brother Paul and parents Roger and Mary.

His close childhood friends were Neil Robinson (no relation – the families were good friends) and Colin Lockwood from round the corner in Cootes Lane. Tim and Paul spent a carefree childhood in the village, building soapboxes to race around the disused Mill Road gravel pits, playing table tennis with their friends in their father's packing shed, fishing in the river and riding their bikes (later graduating to motorbikes). Tim also played for the Fen Drayton under 16s football team.

Tim went to the village school next to the Three Tuns (now the Montessori school), then, along with his friends, to Swavesey Village College, where he met his future wife, Karin.

Inspired by his greenhouse tomato-growing father's work ethic and technical expertise, Tim enrolled at the Hertfordshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture in St Albans (now Oaklands College), where he completed a four-year diploma in glasshouse production.



Paul and Tim (right) - Tangmere Nurseries



Tim and Karin - Kentucky 2024

His first job after college was with a large tomato grower, Van Heyningen Brothers, in Kent, where he became senior supervisor. He then joined Tangmere Nurseries, expanding into peppers as well as tomatoes.

Meanwhile, Wil Van Heyningen had moved to Arizona and was a main player in setting up Eurofresh Farms in Willcox, Arizona. He asked Tim to join him, so Tim and his family moved to Arizona in 1997. The company grew into a successful enterprise, with over 300 acres of tomatoes.

Ten years later, Village Farms, a company with nurseries in the US and Canada, headhunted Tim as its vice president of production. He was responsible for developing large-scale greenhouse management, pioneering automated labour and pest control systems and implementing innovative cropping techniques.

In 2020 Tim joined AppHarvest in Morehead, Kentucky as vice president of production. He said, "I joined AppHarvest because the team's vision and enthusiasm are taking our industry to a new level." AppHarvest is resource and energy efficient, climate resilient, and locally grown. and Tim believed that this was the direction the industry needed to follow.

As retirement approaches, Tim works as an independent consultant to companies in America and Ontario. He is enjoying life in his Kentucky log cabin with six acres of land, with Karin, dogs and horses and is close to his son and daughter and five grandchildren. He still has fond memories of Fen Drayton, where the seeds of his career in tomatoes were first sown.



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## Interested in becoming a parish councillor?



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

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

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

Please apply by:

*email:* fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

*website:* fendrayton.org

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



# Mama Jo's Mischief

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

## Easter Egg Wreath

Happy Easter! We have a craft suitable for all ages and abilities, it's super easy and you'll end up with a very sweet Easter decoration to admire for years to come.

### What you will need:

- Coloured pens/pencils
- Glue
- Scissors
- Ribbon

### Method:

- Draw a few egg shapes and cut them out.
- Add the outline of swirls, dots, stars, carrots, bunny faces or any other design you might like on the eggs.
- Let your child colour in the eggs
- Glue the eggs together to form a circle.
- Pierce a hole in one egg and thread both end of the ribbon through it.
- Tie the ribbon in a bow and you should be left with a loop behind it for hanging on the wall.



Join us at our next craft session to make these lovely wreaths.  
Fenstanton Church Centre  
Tuesday 18 April  
9.30 - 11.30

  @mamajosmischief



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# Afoot in the Garden

## Men and metal

I regularly work in collaboration with Ariane who owns Cambridge Border Design. I concentrate on the overall layout and hard landscaping, while Ariane looks after the planting. Ariane with her Dutch/French heritage often has expat European clients. They are always amused that our English customers regularly specify 'No yellows!' We ask 'What no daffs?' Oh! they reply, daffodils are ok! We also find that men like straight lines, especially if they mow the lawn and trim their hedges. While ladies are made of fragrance and flowers, boys are made of metal and grease, thistles and thorns. Men appreciate trees and giants like cardoons, onopordum giganteum and the large campanulas, especially the 4' 1.2m tall c. Kent Belle with its large hanging bells of copper blue? I should 'Give a man a plant day might be an idea for future Palm Sundays?

April is just about the best month for sowing seeds. Half-hardy annuals and first season flowering perennials are great value and can fill the spaces between shrubs with summer colour. April is also an excellent time to plant trees, shrubs, perennials, roses and summer flowering bulbs like lilies and gladioli. Introducing lots of organic matter into the soil when planting, along with a good mulch afterwards, will reduce the amount of summer watering needed.

Don't forget to firm the soil and water well after planting. With watering in mind most of us use quick-fit hose connectors. If they leak replacing the washers it's much cheaper than buying new connectors!

Feeding your plants, especially roses and shrubs will ensure they stay fit and healthy. If black spot is a problem on your roses, April is the time to start spraying them!

Edging your lawns will make your garden look so much crisper. Lawn treatments can be used if rain is forecast. The soil level in your borders should be 3-4" 75/100mm below lawn level to avoid the creeping rye grasses that bind your lawn together from running into your borders!

Loosen tree ties a tad so they don't throttle your tree's trunk!



## April Top Tips

- Planting.
- Sow annuals.
- Edge lawns.
- Plant summer bulbs
- Replace hose washers



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## Fen Drayton volunteers needed!

My name is Anne-Marie and I'm in the process of setting up a new Neighbourhood Watch for Fen Drayton, with the help and support of the parish council, the police and our area Neighbourhood Watch contact.

Currently we have coordinators for Cootes Lane, Springhill Road/Oaktree Road, Daintrees Road/Park Lane and The Rosary/Church Street. I'm now looking for volunteers for all the other areas, especially Middleton Way and Mill Road.

Being a NW coordinator only takes up a small amount of time and you would a valuable asset to your community. If you are interested or would like more information please drop me a message: [amleech2000@gmail.com](mailto:amleech2000@gmail.com)

Thank you in advance.  
Anne-Marie Leech

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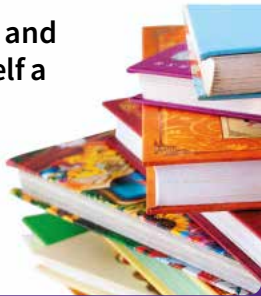
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# Hilton Parish Council



Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 03 March

### 20mph

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) has submitted the agreed proposal for formal consultation as of November 19th. However, we were 24th in line for publication and consultation, so they cannot provide an exact date at this stage. We will update you as soon as more information becomes available.

### Graveley Way Trees

Hilton Parish Council discussed all of the information presented by both residents and CCC regarding the ownership and maintenance of these trees. The Council has agreed on the following resolutions regarding the trees on Graveley Way:

- The Council will not maintain these trees, as they are considered the responsibility of the homeowners, based on advice from CCC.
- Homeowners are advised to clarify ownership with the Highways Searches Department of CCC or seek legal advice.
- The trees will be included in the annual tree survey, and homeowners will be informed of any recommended safety work.
- The Council is willing to assist where possible, including incorporating Graveley Way tree work into the main annual tree work program if agreed, with costs recharged accordingly.

### Maintenance Contracts

The Council discussed the renewal of their open spaces maintenance contracts and resolved that:

- The Council has decided not to renew the contract with TP Garden Maintenance.
- The Clerk has been requested to present a new maintenance proposal for the garden, playground, and ditches at the April Council meeting.
- The 1.7% contractual price increase (CPI) for JSC services has been noted.

### Streetlight in The Grove

The Council has approved the installation of

a new lantern for the streetlight in The Grove, near the playground. The new lantern will provide illumination for both the road and the path, at a cost of £275 + VAT.

### Website Domain

The Council has agreed to renew the website domain for nine years at a cost of £154.64.

### All Stars and Dynamos Cricket Courses

The Council has agreed to run the cricket courses again this year, subject to volunteer availability. Further details will be shared once arrangements are confirmed.

### Annual Parish Meeting

Hilton Parish Council has scheduled the Annual Parish Meeting for Thursday 15th May at 7:30pm, subject to venue availability. The Annual Parish Meeting is a yearly gathering where residents can engage with the Parish Council, discuss local issues, and hear updates on community projects. Unlike regular council meetings, this meeting provides an opportunity for parishioners to raise concerns, suggest ideas, and learn about the Council's activities over the past year. Hope to see many of you there!

### VE Day

The Council has agreed to light the beacon at 9:30pm on VE Day, Thursday 8th May 2025, with the proclamation taking place at 9:20pm. District Councillor Clare Tevlin will be invited to perform the lighting ceremony. Residents are welcome to attend and take part in this commemorative event.



**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 7th April 2025 in Hilton Village Hall. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the Council's website [www.hiltonparishcouncil.com](http://www.hiltonparishcouncil.com). Parishioners are welcome to speak at council meetings on agenda items.**

## Chequer Street Playpark

Your Parish Council is excited to be able finally to advise you that the work to improve the play equipment at the Chequer Street playpark has been successfully completed. We believe the improved play area is a fantastic addition to the village and will be enjoyed by our children for generations.

We would like to express our thanks to the Mick George Community Fund through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), administered by GrantScape, a charity specialising in community benefit fund grants, for providing the majority of the funding for this project.



## Pump Track survey

Your Parish Council would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all residents who participated in the pump track survey, whether by completing it online or by returning paper copies to The Hub on the High Street. We received over 200 responses. Once we have validated all the responses and compiled the data, we will share this information with everyone. **Thank you for your valuable input!**



## Using public footpaths

Your Parish Council has received reports of increasing damage to grass footpaths throughout the village, particularly on footpaths 4 and 9, which run from the Churchyard entrance through to Hampton Park and down to the river across the fen.

These paths are designated for foot traffic only and are becoming severely churned up and muddy, making them difficult and unsafe for pedestrians. We kindly request that cyclists and horse riders seek alternative routes to help preserve these footpaths for their intended use. Thank you for your cooperation.

## VE Day celebrations

Your Parish council is supporting this year's 80th VE day celebrations. Please see the separate notice within the magazine on page 74 for more details.

## 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.

29.03.2025	Paul Kent	Roy McGee
26.04.2025	Tina Yates	Martin Hewitt
31.05.2025	Nigel Ferrier	Matt Tandy

\*Please note that there may be changes to the Councillor/s scheduled.

## Parish Council tree planting initiative – some of your photographs

Thank you to all the residents who shared photographs of the trees they received and have now planted as part of the free tree initiative! We are delighted to see that the apple trees are thriving at the allotments, and the winter-flowering cherries are already blossoming in your gardens. It's wonderful to know that they are settling in well and will bring years of enjoyment.



## Electrical recycling bin

Recycle your small electrical items (smaller than a microwave) at the new collection bin located in the Church car park. Anything with a plug, battery, or cable is accepted. Please note: vapes, loose batteries and light bulbs are not accepted.

**Leaving items beside the recycling bin is considered fly-tipping and may result in a fine.**

Both car and household batteries can be disposed of at the household recycling centres in Alconbury, Bluntisham and St Neots.

Most shops that sell household batteries have collection bins for used household batteries, these can be located through Recycle Now. Why not try avoiding waste in the first place? Buy a charger and rechargeable batteries if possible. It will save you money in the long term and help protect the environment.



## New trees on Honey Hill

Have you noticed the two new additions to Honey Hill green? The purple plum *Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra' has been planted, offering a spectacular display of pink blossoms early in spring, followed by bronze foliage that deepens to a rich purple and culminates in vibrant autumn colours.

These trees promise a stunning spectacle throughout the seasons.

## A plum job for Fenstanton Parish Council

You may have seen activity at the green space near Gardener Crescent – your Parish Council is transforming The Old Orchard into a vibrant community asset. We're clearing overgrowth, preserving fruit trees, securing the site with fencing and preparing for grass seeding, aiming for a summer completion after a thorough risk assessment.



*Aerie view of old orchard (triangle in the middle)*

This triangular, 200m x 70m green space, an archaeologically sensitive area, will remain open to all. For long-time residents, it may evoke memories of a thriving orchard, before the A1307 realignment, where fruit picking was a village pastime.



*Before clearance*

This new space, conveniently located near the planned Village Hall, offers exciting possibilities. We want your input! What would you like to see at The Old Orchard? Consider:



*After clearance from same position*

- Biodiversity: Bat boxes, bug hotels, wildflower meadows?
- Recreation: Dog-friendly area, benches, pump track, trim trail, zip line?
- Accessibility: Disabled-friendly paths?
- Simple Enjoyment: Just open green space?

Share your ideas or concerns by visiting The Hub at 6 High Street, emailing [clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk), or calling 01480 465300. Let's shape The Old Orchard together!

## Next Parish Council meetings

Parish Council meetings occur on the second Thursday of each month, except in August and December unless there is pressing business to discuss.

The Parish Council's next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, 10 April, at 7.00pm** at the Church Centre. The Annual Parish Council meeting will take place in May. However, the exact date is still to be confirmed. Please note that in May 2025 the second Thursday of the month coincides with VE Day, so the Parish Council's May meeting may be rescheduled. Stay tuned for updates on the new date, which will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

## Age UK Community Warden scheme

This service is for people aged 60 and over



The service assists older people to continue to live independently at home by providing daily contact (Monday to Friday) and support, either by a personal visit or telephone call, to ensure a sense of security and wellbeing.

### How can the Warden help?

- ◆ Listening to your concerns and linking you to helpful information and guidance
- ◆ Advice on other local community services
- ◆ Small items of shopping
- ◆ Collecting prescriptions
- ◆ Reading post
- ◆ Making phone calls on your behalf, if requested
- ◆ Ensuring your safety and wellbeing

### Who can the Warden help?

This service is for people aged 60yrs and above living in certain areas in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough. It is important to note that the warden is not a domestic, home help or a carer providing physical care.

The Community Warden is employed and paid by Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and must not undertake tasks for you on a private basis.

Courtesy of your Parish Council, residents of Fenstanton can try out the Community Warden service, to promote both physical and mental wellbeing, for free, for the first three months. The current charge is £15 per week for a single user or £18 for a couple.

Please contact Nanci DelaMare-Lyon, our Community Warden, directly, on 07816 087742 or email: [wardens@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:wardens@ageukcap.org.uk)



## Become a Parish Councillor – we currently have two vacancies.

Are you interested in making a positive impact in your local community? If so, your Parish Council would like to hear from you. Currently, there are two vacancies for co-option, and the Parish Council would love to hear from you if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

If you are interested or would like to know a little more about the role of a Parish Councillor, do not hesitate to contact your Clerk for further information.

To contact your Parish Council Clerk Telephone: 01480 465300

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

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### Navigating Parental Disputes: School Holiday Arrangements

It is that time of year where two parents are separated, disagreement can arise in regard to their child's living arrangements throughout the school holidays and often revolve around conflicting holiday plans, travel arrangements, and concerns about childcare during breaks. These issues can escalate quickly, leading to heightened stress and strained relationships between parents and for the children involved.

If, after exhausting all dispute resolution avenues, an agreement cannot be reached, an application to the court for a Child Arrangements Order (CAO) may be necessary. CAOs offer a structured approach to resolving such conflicts, providing clarity and stability in determining where children will spend their holidays both short and long term.

#### Understanding Child Arrangement Orders

Obtaining a CAO for school holiday arrangements involves considering various legal factors, the priority being the children's welfare and the ability of parents to cooperate. Whilst some parents may be able to reach agreements through negotiation or mediation, others may require court intervention to formalise arrangements.

CAOs are legally binding court orders that outline where children will live and how much time they will spend with each parent. They come in various forms, including Specific issue orders (addressing particular matters like schooling or healthcare) and Prohibited steps orders (restricting certain actions by one or both parents).

CAOs can provide a clear framework for parents to follow. These orders can specify holiday schedules, allocate holiday time between parents and establish communication protocols. By outlining expectations and responsibilities, CAOs can help reduce conflict and promote cooperative co-parenting.

#### Benefit for the Children

CAOs are granted in the child's best interest and as described above, their welfare is paramount. CAOs aim to promote stability and consistency for the children, ensuring they have a structured routine during breaks. A CAO leaves no room for debate, these orders are legally enforceable and compel the parties to adhere, minimising disagreement and the emotional stress often experienced by the children themselves.

#### Help is at hand

If you require further advice on the process of obtaining a Child Arrangement Order (CAO) or any other family related matter, please make an appointment to see Lisa Leader or any member of the family team at Leeds Day. Alternatively you can complete the contact enquiries form on the website: [www.leedsday.co.uk/contact](http://www.leedsday.co.uk/contact) or if you would prefer to speak to someone then please do contact Leeds Day on 0333 577 2250 or email [lisa.leader@leedsday.co.uk](mailto:lisa.leader@leedsday.co.uk)



Lisa Leader - Senior Associate Solicitor

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

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- ✿ To find out more, call Rachel on 830866

- ✿ Second Friday of month
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## Life on a Plate

### Auntie Bella's Yorkshire Yeast Loaf

Being a war time recipe it is given in Imperial weights! It is not as complicated as it might seem. Best cooked in a one pound sized bread tin to slice and serve buttered and with cheese the Yorkshire way

#### Ingredients:

- 3 oz butter or margarine
- 3 oz sugar
- 1 egg
- 8 oz plain flour
- 1 teaspoon syrup or treacle
- Three quarters of a cup of milk
- A pinch of salt
- Half a teaspoon of yeast (they used fresh then, usually dried nowadays)
- 8oz dried fruit
- Half an ounce of bicarbonate of soda
- 1 teaspoons spices (optional)



#### Method:

Prepare the baking tin by lining it with greaseproof paper or a layer of grease  
 Cream sugar and fat  
 Beat the syrup and egg into the mixture  
 Warm the milk, pour some of it onto the yeast and keep warm, save a little for the bicarb  
 Stir the dried fruit and flour to the mixture alternately  
 Add the yeast mixture then the bicarb one likewise  
 The old recipe says to bake in a slow oven for two hours, but it's best to check if the knife comes out cleanly in our modern way.  
 Kept in an airtight container this will last up to two weeks but it's never had to wait that long in our house!

### Scottish Grandad's Porridge

#### Method:

Pour about 40 grams of porridge oats into a saucepan with a cup of full cream milk and heat until it's thickening  
 Put into a bowl  
 Meanwhile heat a cup of the same milk, and pour into another bowl  
 Sprinkle with salt. Yes, salt!  
 Enjoy spoonfuls alternately between the two bowls  
 In icy winters have whisky available or in your porridge

**Apologies** In last month's recipe we left out a key ingredient. Please use 9oz/260gms of self raising flour when making the date and walnut cake. Enjoy.



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## Business Spotlight

### 20-20 vision

When you drive around an industrial estate do you ever wonder what goes on behind those closed doors. What's being stored? What's being manufactured? Is there some kind of hi-tech specialist research that's being hidden behind nondescript facades?

Edison Road, St Ives, is home to exactly one of those businesses, EyeSpecs which is managed by Mat Kennedy. This 34 year old local chap joined his father's business just a few years ago. Mat was born and bred in St Ives, went to Wheatfield Primary School and then onto the St Ivo before ending up studying for a degree in business management at Anglian Ruskin in Cambridge.

Mat after studying worked for Andrew, his father, in his hi-tech lens manufacturing business. The business was established over 20 years ago and now supplies independent opticians across the UK with their lenses. In his mid-twenties he left the business to do his own thing and ended up working for a number of hi-tech companies in sales and business development.

*"One of the places I worked at in Cambridge was full of high level technical geeks. They were incredible people at the top of their game. It was a really exciting place to work."* Mat explains.

However, he always had the urge to run his own business, so a couple of years ago he rejoined his father's company. *"It was the transition from being a pure manufacturer to a retailer that really interested me. Our aim is to take away some of the technical jargon and suggest lens options which are best suited to the customers lifestyle and prescription needs. We guarantee big savings coming direct to the manufacturer with a fantastic range of designer and non-branded frames for all budgets and styles. The feedback that we*

## EyeSpecs

*hear so often is how good our frame selection is, the personal service and advice we provide with huge cost savings."*

When not at work Mat spends time with his wife and his first child, now just nine months. *"I also try to fit in some golf and watching football. I'm a Manchester United fan, but you might not want include that in the magazine!"*



Andrew and Mat

Mat's vision for the future is to provide an eye testing facility. *"That way we can provide an end to end service. With our new website people will be able to make online bookings. We are going to trial opening at weekends initially and then look to open in the evenings. I recognise that we are missing out on 40-60 year old professionals who are in full-time work. We are hoping that our flexible hours will make it even more convenient for them."*

EyeSpecs can be found on Edison Road and is currently open 09.00 -17.00 weekdays

## Contact:

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

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

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

## Pavilion

The parish council has submitted a grant application to the Thalia fund to enable progress to be made on rebuilding the pavilion. If we are successful it will finally allow us provide a suitable facility.

## Pump Track

SCDC, which managed the Rural England Prosperity Fund, from whom we had a grant to enable the track to be built, met with the PC in March to inspect the facility.

They were pleased to hear how much it was being used and took lots of photos but as it was the middle of the day no one was using it and they hope to revisit soon.

## Village hall

Since January a new team of volunteers has been appointed to run the Fen Drayton Village Hall Charity.

Small villages rely on volunteers, without whom services would not function. Rachel Clowery now manages the village hall bookings and is building on Sue Young's excellent work.

Children's parties are increasingly popular and fund-raising events planned for the summer include a raffle and tabletop sale with refreshments, on Sunday, 11 May.

The rest of the team is focused on improving the hall. The meeting room with bar facility has just had a makeover and further refurbishments are planned in future.

Every year the car park is damaged by rain and frost. We need volunteers to repair this winter's damage. If you could help for a few hours, please get in touch.

To improve the hall's environmental impact, we've applied for a Net Zero grant to install solar panels and a suspended ceiling.

The new team has plenty of enthusiasm to get things done but we are always looking for more volunteers, including someone with IT expertise, to give up a few hours a month to help out.

If you would like to help your village hall with any of the above, please contact us on: [fendraytonvillagehallweb@gmail.com](mailto:fendraytonvillagehallweb@gmail.com)



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If you would like to help your village hall with any of the above, please contact us on: [fendraytonvillagehallweb@gmail.com](mailto:fendraytonvillagehallweb@gmail.com)

## Sue Ellington - South Cambs district councillor's report

As we come to the end of the financial year, South Cambs District Council (SCDC) is in a relatively good financial situation. The income from Ermine Street housing, which is privately owned by the council, helps the administration to carry out its responsibilities and promote their Green to the Core strategy.

SCDC has, however, decided to increase council tax by the maximum permissible and to raise councillors' allowances. On the plus side, I'm pleased that the village has benefited from a number of significant grants, enabling the construction of the pump track and improvements to the village hall.

Over the coming year we will be faced with a significant change in the way local government is organised. The government has decided that district councils should be abolished and all local authority services delivered by a unitary authority. All the current authorities are required to submit a first draft of how this might be established by the end of March 2025.

I'm concerned that SCDC has called an emergency council meeting on 19 March to agree the draft they will submit, without consulting the public.

Even as I write this, on 7 March, I have no idea of the size or configuration of this new authority. You will hear more over the coming months!.

Contact me if I can help on 0777414633. Sue Ellington - District Councillor Swavesey and Fen Drayton Ward.

## Community Cafe

Our next cafe is **Saturday 12 April**, from 10.30-12.30 pm in the village hall, featuring a Spring Quiz!

Again, we'll have a donation box for foodbank contributions and urgently need household cleaning and personal hygiene items, such as toothpaste, shower gel, etc.

The cafe trustees provide grants to support local organisations/clubs and events. It has been our pleasure recently to grant a donation to Squirrels, the youngest members (4-6 year olds) of the scouting movement. Amongst other things they purchased for the group were two first aid kits.

We were also pleased to support this year's village pancake race, enabling the purchase of a medal for the winners of each race category.

## News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



The second half of the spring term was a really busy one here at FHPS. We started the half term by celebrating Founders Day and the start of the Scouting and Guiding movements. It was a huge thrill to see so many children at school in the uniforms of the groups they belong to – Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers, Rainbows and Squirrels. We held an assembly in school to look at the values of these groups. We found many connections to our own values of Community, Determination and Integrity. We have included a picture of the children with this article.

One of the highlights of the school calendar took place in March with our Reading Week. This included Reading Breakfasts for all of our children and parents/carers; a peg-character competition organised by our PTA; the chance for children to hear different teachers read; opportunities to read in different spaces; designing book tokens; making character props; and, of course World Book Day itself on 6 March. What a week it was!



Our Year 6 children enjoyed taking part in a quiz held by the Rotary Club of St Ives at the end of February. Several local schools took part, with teams working together in their own school and quiz masters calling results through to the central team. The children had a lot of fun and enjoyed working together to complete the challenges, and maybe one or two biscuits too!

Four members of our Year 6 cohort took part in the Local Authority's English Challenge in March. Congratulations for Freya, Lauren, Oliver and Joshua who represented us all. We are very proud of the children for taking part and showing our values in the community.



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

## Passing Place: the Fenlands, Flooding, and its Futures

Shannon Best, curator

I grew up in the Fenlands, a landscape shaped by the movement and management of water. Originally marshland, agricultural demand during the 1600s led to its artificial drainage for arable plots, though pockets of wetland persist today. This land has been incrementally changed by sea-level rise, human-made intervention and flooding; with a dynamic interplay between inundation and drainage, the land lies significantly below sea level, making it some of the lowest land areas in the United Kingdom. This constant push and pull between land and water has long informed my understanding of home.

It is from this awareness that the exhibition *Joining Doggerland* formed. Held at APT Gallery, London, from 6-16 February 2025, this mixed-media group exhibition took its name from the lost land of Doggerland – a prehistoric plain once connecting Britain to mainland Europe, before warming climates led to its submergence – to raise urgent questions about what it means to hold steady



*doggerLANDscape* © Olivia Louvel.  
Photo by Paul Kendall.

in the face of environmental uncertainty; to act as committed witnesses to processes of loss and change across the UK.

As part of the exhibition's public programming, I am co-leading a free guided walk with members of the Cambridgeshire Geological Society along the Fen Edge Trail, through the village of Stretham. On Sunday 4 May, from 2 - 5 pm, we will traverse a landscape in flux – one that bears the markers of geological, agricultural, and social histories. Along the walk, we will visit Stretham Old Engine: once used to pump water from fenland marshes into the River Ouse, this historic drainage engine serves as a tangible relic of land management practices and their effects on the region's pasts, presents and futures.

The walk acts as an invitation: to engage directly with the land, and to reflect on the possibilities still embedded within its evolving terrain. The Fenlands, like Doggerland before it, carries the weight of history. But within that history is also a reminder that landscapes, and the communities within them, are always adapting and finding ways to endure.

If you are interested in attending, please see [www.fenedgetrail.org](http://www.fenedgetrail.org) and email: [info@camsgeology.org](mailto:info@camsgeology.org) to book your place.

# What you're Missing

## **Girlguiding** Hilton Rainbows and Brownies

Hilton Brownies are having an exciting time! In February we opened our Time Capsule which was created in 2000, with the help of Nicole who was there at the time! We found letters written by brownies addressed to 'Brownies of the Future' telling them what fun they were having as well as information about their pets and families, photographs of the brownies, a copy of the Brownie magazine, a summary of activities done in that year, letter to parents, samples of badges and coins from the year 2000. Many of the activities, we still do today.

In half term, some of our Brownies joined with Papworth girls and travelled to Paris where they climbed part of the Eiffel Tower, had a boat trip on the Seine and a tour of some of the sights. They visited Disneyland

and enjoyed the thrills of the rides. A brilliant trip and thanks to the leaders who arranged this. A week later most of the girls, together with some Rainbows, enjoyed a Pyjama Party sleepover, also with Papworth units where they played games, heard stories, made lots of crafts as well as their own pizzas for tea. For many girls, this was their first sleepover away from home but hopefully not their last with guiding.

At the start of the term, the Rainbows each brought a friend to try out Rainbows and hopefully join, they had fun with parachute games and activities. Rainbows are also doing a Peter Rabbit challenge badge including a visit to Mr McGregor's garden (Community Garden) and an Easter Egg hunt.

Lots of badges and awards earned by both units.

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

## Hilton Art Club

Our February session was titled 'Poles Apart: Arctic and Antarctic' and there was plenty of scope for our artwork, with paintings of penguins particularly popular, as well as a puffin and sea life and landscapes of snow and ice (see picture).

Kathy reminded us about the forthcoming all-day 'Concertina Sketchbook' workshop with tutor and artist Christine Lockwood, which sounded very exciting.

We now have the numbers for attendance and have purchased the sketchbooks for the day.

**11 April 9.30 am -12.30 pm 'A Play Date':** bring materials, favourite or unused, to experiment with.

Please note we are reverting to the earlier start time for Spring, apart from workshops.



## Hilton Women's Institute

**That robin in the garden is setting out his territory and a riot of spring colour is showing itself in all manner of places. April and May are exciting months with so much happening in the countryside.**

It's just the same with Hilton and especially our WI with a number of us rising from our 'winter hibernation'. Even more members are newly trying Canasta, one of our Sue's was pleased to have 12 ladies at her first Rummikub and the usual Craft Club and Book Club continue to thrive.

Ever ready for a challenge, a small group has been supporting the Knitted Bible Exhibition in Godmanchester Parish Church by knitting a large number of flowers, fastening them to

a large net and using that to adorn one of the church windows; we were pleased with that challenge! Someone once quoted 'everyone can bring a level of happiness up to a different level'. Oh, yes we can!

18 of the film fans among us have recently enjoyed

The Miracle Club at the Corn Exchange in St Ives and are eyeing the 'What's Ons' in Huntingdon. We shortly aim to take that long-postponed local boat trip when water levels allow and the coach trip to London is nearly full.

No doubt we will be planning our participation in acknowledging the 80 year anniversary of VE day and then VJ day.

Our March meeting involved our AGM when Wendy, our fantastic President, had decided not to continue for a third year. Our gratitude is beyond words because without those two years of her strong support we would not have had a WI in Hilton. We showed our thanks with a beautiful bouquet, a bottle of something sparkly and a poem written by Mel in her honour.

Now we thank and welcome Pam for taking the helm and we know that she will lead us as successfully as all our preceding chairladies.

The rest of the evening involved two challenging quizzes by Mel and Pam so as ever, a good time was had by all!

**New members always welcome:-**  
hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com



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# What you're Missing

## FPC Welcome Space

Fenstanton Church Centre, School Lane, Fenstanton

“There are no strangers here, only friends that haven't yet met”

FPC Welcome Space is a free facility funded by your Parish Council, voluntary donations and external grants, and is run entirely by volunteers.

### Opening Times

Mon 9:30am to 12:00 noon    Tues 9:15am to 11:45am    Tues 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Free drinks and snacks and free wi-fi always available.

We hold our Baby & Toddler group on Tuesday mornings.

Our Chair & Standing Exercise class is on Mondays (10:00am to 10:50am)

Tuesday afternoon we have our Welcome Tea Rooms, offering free drinks, snacks, and cakes.

## Free Special Events

### Easter Afternoon Tea & Raffle

Join us on Tuesday 15 April at 2pm for Afternoon High Tea. We will be serving a sumptuous buffet with Simnel Cake and Hot Cross Buns. Our “Talk of the town” Easter Raffle will also take place with lots of fabulous prizes.

### VE Day 80 Street Party

Thursday 8 May at 2pm we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day with our Indoor Street Party which is part of the wider celebrations going on throughout the village. Join us for a glorious war time feast and sing-along to your favourite 40's songs.



Some of our amazing volunteers

## Note from the publisher

For advertising opportunities please email [info@thejournal.life](mailto:info@thejournal.life). Space is booked on a yearly subscription basis and runs from September 24 until August 25.

Priority will always be given to local businesses. The Journal takes no responsibility for the standard of goods or services provided and accepts no liability on any loss or damage from acceptance of any advertisers.



## Hilton Flower Club

03 March was a great success, our Flower demonstrator, Tim Meakin did six wonderful arrangements getting us all ready for Spring. Six Lucky ladies each took an arrangement home.

07 April Lesley Beeton is doing an Easter Workshop with us, all looking forward to that, don't forget to bring your scissors, cake stand and Easter chicks.

01 May Maddie Bradley is our flower demonstrator, we haven't seen Maddie before so looking forward to meeting her.

19 June is our annual outing, we are going to Kelmahall and Gardens near Northampton.

There is a cafe serving light lunches and drinks, you can bring your own picnic if you prefer.

The cost is £34, which includes the bus and entry to the hall and gardens.

If you are interested please ring:- June 01480 830306 or Beverley 01480 830571

Hilton Village Hall 2pm - 4pm Entrance £6.00 (includes tea/biscuits) No membership, just pay at the door.

Look forward to seeing you at the workshop.



# Welcome

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Sunday 25 May

Sunday 22 Jun

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

We'd love to see you there!

## It Takes a Village...

It was almost a year ago that a few women from Hilton sat around a table in the Prince of Wales, sipping wine and concocting a plan to raise money for the Hilton Community Hub. Never did we realise that the efforts of 17 ladies, four dogs and a whole group of supportive friends and family would blow our fundraising goals out of the water.

There are over 200 Hilton Calendar Girl calendars adorning the walls far and wide... from here in people's homes, in pubs, auto repair shops, farms, lawn and flooring companies to as far away as the USA. We even have a cheeky little song written about us which was performed at our official launch!

We thank Studio MEM, GM Tyres, The Princes of Les band, MKM, Lattenbury Farming Company, R.D.B. Flooring, Primegrass, Planework Ltd, Monarch Farm and Riding Stables, the Co-op in Papworth Everard, the Three Tuns in Huntingdon, Simon Perry, Trevor Havard and Roy Phillips for kindly sponsoring the calendar. And a special mention to Kat Hutchinson who enabled each one of us to shine with beautiful photography and a wicked sense of humour.



As a village, we all care about everyone who lives here, and hope that everyone has the opportunity to flourish. But it takes a village – the collective involvement of a community – to ensure that no one feels lonely or isolated, and everyone feels valued and appreciated - Thanks to all the people who supported us and to the Hilton Community Hub and the amazing people who run it for making that possible. We hope that the £4,000 we have raised through our calendar can provide many more activities, events, food, laughter and fun for everyone who attends each week.

Bridget M. Havard

*"My husband and I are regular users of the hub. The fundraising means we can continue to enjoy the company of others, chat, play games and I for once don't have to think about food or preparation, it just appears and is delicious.*

*I am a carer and my husband is disabled so the continuation of the hub gives us something to look forward to every week.*

*Thank you fundraisers."*



We also had great participation in our launch auction and a couple of very generous donors who ensured that we achieved a massive £4,000 for the Hilton Community Hub so that it can continue without having to worry about where the next grant might come from.

## Fenstanton Football Club

Recently the Fenstanton Youth FC U10s squad enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to train with a professional footballer. Todd Kane started his football career at Chelsea's youth academy where he was youth captain and a Youth Cup winner, going on to play in the Championship and Eredivisie. As a local

lad, Todd has now started his own training programmes through Toddy's Academy and is keen to support local clubs and kids to access high level training. Todd came to the Football Club on a sunny Sunday in March and spent time with the newly formed Under 10s squad, taking drills and supporting game play. The team had fun and learnt some new skills, which they are now keen to take into their upcoming games.

You can watch our youth teams on a Saturday morning and the senior teams on a Saturday afternoon at the Football Club, we would love to see support from the local community.

**If you have any queries please contact the Club by email [fenstantonfootball@outlook.com](mailto:fenstantonfootball@outlook.com)**



Under 10s team with Todd Kane

**Free entry**

# A CHURCH FULL OF ART

**Art Exhibition**

**Local artists**

**St Peter and St Paul's Church, Fenstanton, PE28 9JS**

**17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**12:30 - 18:00**

**Light refreshments available**

**2025**

In aid of Fenstanton Parish Church Restoration Fund

## Fenstanton Glebe Allotments Association

I can't believe it is March already and the growing season is well underway. It's a busy time preparing beds and most of the allotments are showing signs of new growth.

It is not too late to chit potato seedlings. Place them in a seed tray or egg box with the eyes facing up, keep them in a frost-free place for 4-6 weeks, then when the potatoes have sprouted approx 1inch, plant them out. There are many varieties to choose from, grown at different times of the year. Garden centres usually provide information on when to plant the different varieties and what they can be used for.



Other vegetable seeds to plant now are peas, beans, carrots from mid-March and beetroot.

Fenstanton Parish Council has kindly gifted our social plot two apple trees as part of a wider village initiative. Thank you, Ray, for organising this, and Jan and Paul for planting them.

If you think that you would be interested in having an allotment, please contact the secretary at [sgaa@btinternet.com](mailto:sgaa@btinternet.com)

We have several social events that happen throughout the year, as well as competitions



for the tallest sunflower and the biggest pumpkin, which are very competitive!

We are grateful for the continuing support from the Parish Council.



## Fenstanton Friendship Club

If you would like to meet new friends and socialise, please come along and help the club grow. Age is no barrier and we welcome everyone into our fold. It is always good to get new ideas and suggestions for meetings. We meet every other Wednesday at 2.00pm, in the building of the United Reformed Church in Chequer Street. Although we hold our meetings in the church building, we are not affiliated to the church. Our activities are varied and as well as the yearly trips out to lunch, cream teas, boat trips on The Ladybird, strawberry tea and Christmas celebration, we will have various speakers and entertainers.

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

**12 February** We were privileged to have Sean Moyes, "The Banjo Man", to play for us. He is a wonderful musician and a great personality. We had such an amazing afternoon. The music varied from regular banjo renditions to classical music. Sean appeared on the Anglia news programme on Monday 24 February. He will be travelling to Oklahoma in October, where he will be honoured in being the only other English banjo player in the "Hall of Fame" next to George Formby!! Well deserved.



**26 February** Richard from the Norris Museum was able to come and talk to us about "The Witches of Warboys" and witches in general, throughout the ages. It was a well presented talk and very informative. It was incredible to find that for the most trivial of reasons, anyone, both male and female, could be defined as a witch. So watch out if you simply have a skin tag!!! you could be thrown into the village pond, sink or swim according to your witchiness!! In England the punishment was hanging, which was the fate of two women and one man in Warboys.



### Upcoming Meetings

**12 March** An afternoon to mark on your calendars. Rachel George and her accompanist Bron will enthral us with a Flute recital. Also, we will learn more about "Operation Smile", a worthwhile charity helping children with cleft palate.

**26 March** Lunch at the Marina. Always a good meal and company.

**9 April** A trip out to the "Ramsey Rural Museum" where we will have a private tour followed by tea and cake.

**23 April** Brian and Paul, AKA Panache, will entertain us with voice, guitars and great humour.

**Any questions please contact me.**  
Marie Newns [bubblenews@gmail.com](mailto:bubblenews@gmail.com)  
01480 350119

# The Yellow Pages

## Venues for hire

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

## Councils

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

## Community Groups and Clubs

Books and Jigsaws at FURC	01480 498221
Fen Drayton Bowls Club	01480 385297
Fen Drayton Lions FC	07718 900880
Fen Drayton Parent and Toddlers	07549 630124
Fen Drayton Tennis Club	01954 231752
Fen Shanty Folk	07841 599492
Fenstanton Baby and Toddler Group	07742 259653
Fenstanton Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	07531 863368
Fenstanton Bowls Club	07541 968125
Fenstanton Community Hub	07949 453767
Fenstanton Football Club	07968 081874
Fenstanton Friendship Club	01480 350119
Fenstanton Glebe Allotments	07817 786298
Fenstanton 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
Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	01480 831658
Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	07970 404569
Hilton Speed Watch	07540 811115

## Community Groups and Clubs

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
Gas leak	0800 111 999
Non emergency medical	111
Non emergency Police	101
Papworth pharmacy	01480 831415
Papworth surgery	01480 830888

## Emergency numbers

Peterborough City Hospital	01733 678000
Power cut	0800 678 3105
Samaritans	116 123 Free
Swavesey surgery	01954 230202
Water leak	0800 316 7676

## Buses

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

## Pubs and eating places

Carriage's of Cambridge	01954 233279
Little Piggy Cafe	07764 336911
The Duchess, Fenstanton	01480 350859
The Three Tuns, Fen Drayton	01954 230242
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
Frank's Farm	07831 777766
Norwich Sunblinds	01223 904129
Ponders Travel	01954 232802
Post Office and OMIA Store	07533 240954
Respiratory Nutrition	07902 259953
Ron's Farm Shop	01480 495127
Rosegate Farm Shop	07922 588171

## Garden services

G G Landscapes	07889 848117
Hamptons Groundcare	01480 274848
Hemingford Arboriculture	01480 463674
Ray Puddefoot	07501 684935

## 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
Expert Financial	01480 718719
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
Television Mobile Repair Service	07887 887319
Vets for Pets	01223 243535
W&H Peacock Auctioneers	01480 474550
Z Cars Taxis	01480 462046

## Electricians

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

## Plumbing and Heating Engineers

J Halstead	01480 830329
MDS	01480 800810
RDS	01954 770309

## Building services and supplies

Bannold	01954 231666
CanDo Roofing	01354 629575
G B Builders	01487 479253
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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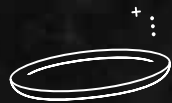
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