

December 2024/January 2025

The Journal

Fen Drayton ■ Fenstanton ■ Hilton

Barmouth beckons

On page 29

Winter gardens

On page 45

Keep warm and healthy this winter

See pages 8, 14 and 17

What's happening to our weather?

See page 73

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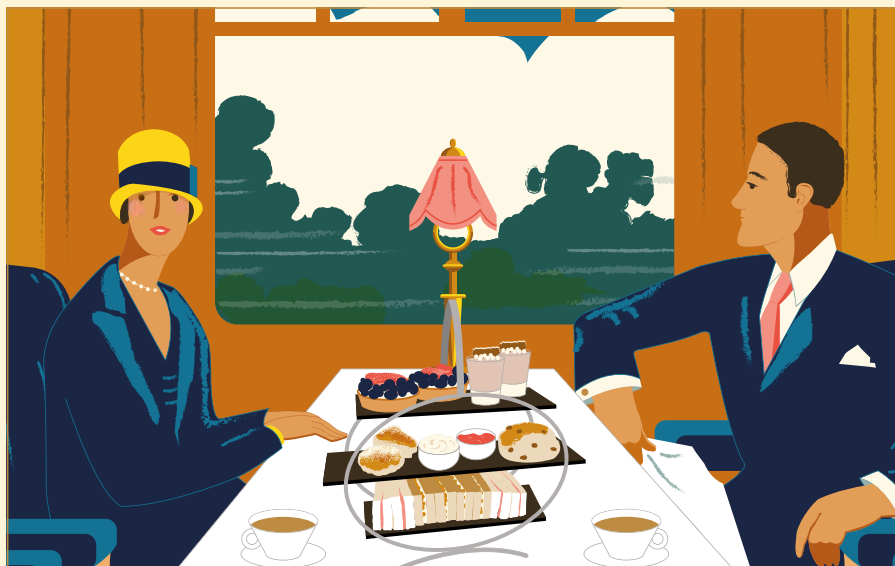
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 Don Edwards 11/24

Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

December 2024

- 01 Christmas Lights, outside Three Tuns
- 03 Meet your Neighbourhood Policing Team, online Fenstanton and Hilton
- 06 Christmas Lights, Clock Tower
- 06-08 Christmas Tree Festival, URC
- 07 Seasonal Sing-Along, Village Hall
- 13 Winter Fair, Primary School
- 14 Swavesey Community Choir, Community Café
- 21 Books and Jigsaws Sale, URC
- 21 Christmas Crunch (crafts and lunch) for children, Fenstanton Church Centre
- 26 Fenstanton Morris, Clock Tower

January 2025

- 18 Books and Jigsaws sale, URC

February 2025

- 08 Comedy Night with Jubado's
- 08 Sing-a-long & Supper, Church Centre

March 2025

- 22 Quiz Night

April 2025

- 19 Family Egg Hunt

May 2025

- 10 Murder Mystery Evening with Strictly Murder
- 17-19 Fenstanton Open Gardens
- 17-19 Art Exhibition, Parish Church

June 2025

- 19-21 Booze in Fenstanton Pews, Parish Church

July 2025

- 05 BIG Village Fun Day
- 27-Aug 02 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



Season's Greetings

As the first sign of winter weather is upon us we start the predictions of a white Christmas. Extremely unlikely in our area, although there was a few years back a hurricane when the weather man Micheal Fish did not predict any wind! So never, say never.

In this issue of The Journal we have a number of articles regarding staying healthy this winter, these are when worth a read. We are off to Wales for this month's travel round up and have a very seasonal feel to our gardening feature.

Don't forget to support the numerous Christmas activities taking place in our villages. Keep warm and enjoy this special time for year. And, as this is a bumper issue covering December and January, we will be back in February. Until then have a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year from all the team at The Journal.

From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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Please submit any copy by 09 January latest for the February edition.

Photograph provided by Gill Parrish



Hilton Feast Week

Thank you to everyone who supported us at our stall at the Fireworks display last month, and thank you to the Parish Council for putting on a fabulous display and inviting us to be part of the fun!

Don't forget to put the dates in your diaries for our upcoming fundraisers;

- **Comedy Night with Jubado's – Saturday, 8th February 2025**
- **Quiz Night – Saturday, 22nd March 2025**
- **Family Egg Hunt – Saturday, 19th April 2025**
- **Murder Mystery Evening with Strictly Murder – Saturday, 10th May 2025**

And most importantly, don't forget to save the dates for Feast Week 2025:

Saturday, 27th July – Sunday, 2nd August 2025

The Feast Week Lottery runs year round and is an essential part of the fundraising required to put on Feast Week each year. If you are not already part of this please consider signing up, for just £5 a month you can support Feast Week as well as being in with a chance to win a monthly cash prize.

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.



7 December 10:00am to 12:00 noon
4 January 10:00am to 12:00 noon
1 February 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Hope you will be able to join us!

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Winter Fuel Payments - don't miss out!

Under new changes outlined recently by the Government, access to the Winter Fuel Payment will be restricted, with only pensioners receiving a means tested benefit able to access the payment.

With these changes coming into effect, South Cambridgeshire District Council is asking all pensioners in the district to complete a short Pension Credit calculation online at <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>.

Pensioners in the Huntingdonshire District Council area are asked to refer to <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/residents-of-pensionable-age-are-urged-to-check-if-they-are-eligible-for-pension-credit-to-access-the-winter-fuel-payment/>

Pension Credit is one of the most under claimed benefits in the UK, with around 40% of eligible residents not claiming it. This winter, the Pension Credit will be the only



way for pensioners to be able to receive the Winter Fuel Payment, so it is essential that all who are eligible make a claim. Even receiving just £1 a week through Pension Credit opens the door to receiving the Winter Fuel Payment, additional support with Council Tax, a free TV licence if over 75, and much more, so it is worth claiming.

If you are eligible, you can apply at <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim>. To receive the Winter Fuel Payment this winter, you must apply by 21 December 2024 and backdate your application to at least 22 September 2024.

Dragons, Damsels and Demoiselles

Sex and Violence in the Insect World

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome Steve Cham on Wednesday 8th January at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall.

This talk will focus on the fascinating behaviours of dragonflies, damselflies and demoiselles in and around the home counties.

Steve has been fascinated by dragonflies since childhood and is currently a member of the British Dragonfly Society (BDS) conservation group. He has previously been the county recorder for Bedfordshire as well



Wildlife Trust for
**Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

Huntingdonshire Local Group

as being the National Co-Ordinator for the BDS recording scheme. Steve's main interest is in the behaviour of this group of insects and this will be illustrated by his talk.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. Booking is not necessary. The charge is £4.00 and payment is by cash or card. We meet at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB. For more information please contact Tim – 07941 261346 or timpfryer@googlemail.com.

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

Fenstanton Glebe Allotment Association Autumn Newsletter



In October we held a competition for the biggest pumpkin and the winners were Hazel and Chris with a pumpkin measuring 180cms round its circumference. Nine plot holders took part and the prize was a voucher.

Now is the time to plan what to grow next year, with garlic and onions already sown for summer harvesting. There is still time to plant spring bulbs and many plot holders



will have beautiful displays of daffodils, tulips and alliums during this time.

The allotments are still growing produce throughout the winter months, such as brussels, parsnips, leeks, winter cabbage and potatoes, but time at the plots has slowed down and for many it is just maintenance and overwintering beds.

There have been changes on the allotment steering group, saying goodbye and thank you to both Jan and Ian who held the positions of Secretary and Chairperson, and welcoming Amy and Steve as their replacements.

As always, we are grateful to the Parish Council for its continued support.

If you are interested in having a plot, or want to find out more about having an allotment, please email the Secretary at secretary.fga@btinternet.com.

Hilton Carol Singing - Tuesday, 10 December

If you would like to join us as a singer or as a collector, please come to the Parish Church at 6pm. Refreshments for all singers and collectors at the end!

For the past two years Carol Singing round Hilton has supported Mission Possible with great success. Mission Possible has now been taken over by Christian Hope International and they are now running the Star School which we supported. This school has been built from scratch and now has 1000 pupils receiving education, food and in some circumstances shelter. Help us to help

give these children a better start in life — free from walking miles to get water instead of being educated

The singers won't be able to get everywhere — so if you would like to donate to Christian Hope International, please put your donation in an envelope and drop it off at 7, Chequers Croft.



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SATURDAY

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Hilton Community Garden

Highlights of the 4th A.G.M.

The last 12 months saw many more developments.

The crops have been fantastic with an abundance of carrots, potatoes, beans, rhubarb and tomatoes and also salad crops, beetroot, celeriac and raspberries.

We have organised various social events including a fish and chip supper in the garden and a Pimms and Gin welcome event for people who have moved into the village in the last couple of years.

A visit to Kathy Brown's garden was very successful with 28 people attending this beautiful garden in Bedfordshire and enjoying a delicious tea with cakes decorated with petals from her garden.

A plant sale was organised in June for the community garden funds and we assisted at

the NGS Open garden event serving teas and each event raised close to £340.

The Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs and Beavers groups have visited the garden again and helped us to plant and look after the garden. They, and the Warm Hub, planted potatoes ready for the produce show.

For Feast Week we organised a treasure hunt in the community garden and pulled mandrakes in the poly tunnel where everyone had to wear ear defenders in order not to be killed by the screaming mandrakes. We entered several classes at the annual Village Produce Show and weighed the potatoes for the potato competition.

This garden is for everyone and I am so pleased that it is indeed enjoyed by everyone. In the next year we are introducing a visitor book to record the number of visitors and the comments that they make.

Heather Chambers



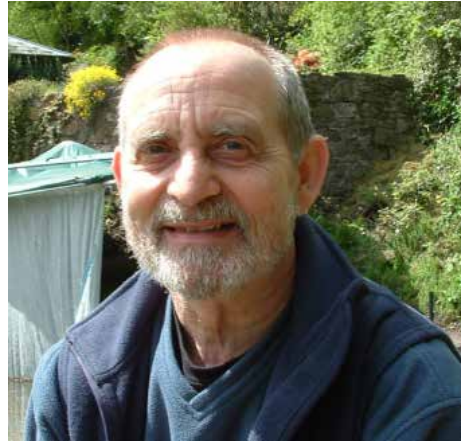
In memory of Ray Whitby

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Arthur Rank Hospice in Ray's memory. As a family we were overwhelmed by the love and support we received during and after Ray's death from motor neurone disease on 5th June.

Ray lived in Fenstanton for most of his 78 years and contributed to so much over that time, in various village events, being part of clubs and organisations around the county and as a local businessman.

But there wasn't much that gave him more pleasure than the years he spent being part of Sports Day, from its inception in 1977 until only a couple of years ago, when his health prevented him from carrying on. So I must say a very special thank you to the Sports Committee for their incredibly generous donation of £500 to Arthur Rank in Ray's memory.

The Arthur Rank Hospice took wonderful care of Ray (and me), from their 'living well'



sessions, to supporting him with his disease and ensuring he had a peaceful death at home with his family. I cannot put into words how much we appreciated their support and kindness, which is why I'm so thankful that the total donations to them, in Ray's memory, has come to over £2600!

Finally, a personal heartfelt 'thank you' from me for all the love and care I have, and continue to receive, from so many friends and family in and around the village. Ray felt, and I still feel, truly blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful people. The loss of my lovely Ray is beyond words, but you all help make it so much more bearable. Thank you again from Niki Whitby.



Note from the publisher

For advertising opportunities please email 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.



Stay healthy this winter

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is urging anyone eligible for their COVID-19, flu, RSV or pneumococcal vaccines to make sure they've had them this winter. Please check if you, or someone you care for, is eligible



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
Integrated Care System

Each vaccine has a slightly different eligibility criteria as follows:

- Flu vaccine – for anyone aged 65 or over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2025); have certain long-term health conditions; are pregnant; live in a care home; are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance; or live with someone who has a weakened immune system.
- COVID-19 vaccine – for anyone aged 65+; those aged between six months and 64 years who are at increased risk of getting seriously ill due to a health condition or treatment; people who live in a care home for older adults, and those who are pregnant; and frontline health and care workers.
- RSV vaccine – for anyone who is pregnant, or aged 75-79.
- Pneumococcal vaccine – for anyone 65 or over (only one dose is needed).

To find out more about these vaccines and how to book them, or find a walk-in clinic, please visit The Vaccinators website <https://www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators>



Coffee, Cake & Church

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

Sunday 26 Jan

Sunday 23 Feb

Sunday 23 Mar

and every 4th Sunday, (excluding Dec)

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TOWN TRUST

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

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Hilton Royal British Legion

On behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, a huge thank you to Jan and Bruce Whatley for their Open House fundraising day.

These events involve a huge amount of work before and after the event so the Legion's gratitude is immense. By means of Bruce's train rides and Jan's large number of cakes and raffle prizes, a very large amount was raised - the final total will be announced in the February edition of The Journal.

May we also thank all who helped Jan and Bruce, very especially Margaret Andrew who organised the raffle magnificently throughout the day.

Led by Dr. Roland Randall, the Lychgate ceremony on Remembrance Sunday was attended by a large congregation including a welcome group of Brownies and Rainbows who placed wreaths, brought their Standards and had composed their own tender words to say about Remembrance.

Alistair Stewart, previously a Royal Engineer, placed the WWI wreath; Mandy Adams placed the one for WWII, remembering her father and grandfather who had both served in the Army.

Julie Elliot was our Standard Bearer, Bobbie Lambert, once a St Mary's Royal Air Force nurse, recited the Exhortation and Peter Balicki, chairman of Hilton Parish Council and representing the village, recited the Kohima.

Dr. Randall led Morning Service in the Parish Church and Dr. David Ward of the Methodist Church gave the address.

Again, thank you to everyone here in Hilton who have contributed to the 2024 Poppy Appeal so generously in so many different ways.



Hilton Town Trust

HTT 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	

Preventative support in Fenstanton and Fen Drayton



Please do read this if you are looking out for an elderly person in either Fenstanton or Fen Drayton and particularly please read this if you yourself are over 60.

I am in my seventies. I am lucky enough to be still fully physically active and mentally capable of doing anything I want to do. I live with my equally active husband and we can look out for each other and solve problems together. But what if this wasn't the case?

For the last two years I have been on the link committee of the Cambs North West Villages Age UK Community Warden scheme. I have learnt about what a Community Warden does and it has opened my eyes to the potential benefits for over 60s who could do with some help. Not to mention peace of mind for their caring relatives and friends.

It's a unique scheme. Some of you may already know our Warden, Rachael Mortimer. Rachael really does care about the people she looks after and often goes above and beyond to provide the most consistent and flexible service possible to promote both physical and mental well-being. She helps build confidence and independence. She maintains confidentiality at all times. Working with families where appropriate to ensure best support, what she does is centred to each individual's needs. It is important that it's the same person who turns up or phones, not somebody different every day, as is often the case with home carers - a regular visitor is soon aware if something is not right. The whole purpose of a Community Warden is to keep an individual independent in their own home for as long as possible. Nobody wants to go into hospital or have carers come in if they don't have to.

So, what does Rachael do? Essentially, she contacts clients daily Monday to Friday to make sure they are ok. Yes, she can collect prescriptions and do a bit of shopping, but the following are just a few of the many other things she can do. And if Rachael can't

do something herself, then she "knows a man who can"! She has:

- Often recognised that something is wrong and taken appropriate action
- Taken individuals with an urgent need to the optician, the doctor, the dentist and even the vet!!
- Applied for benefits and blue badges
- Waited in long queues on behalf of clients on the phone and at the bank
- Sorted out problems with prescriptions, hospital transport and appointments
- Found out where to have broken-down household items repaired
- Taken individuals to clubs etc to promote independence outside the home
- Oh, and I understand Rachael plays a mean game of dominoes!

Residents of Fenstanton and Fen Drayton can try out the Community Warden service for free for the first three months. The Parish Councils in both villages really believe that the service is worth promoting and have agreed to cover the cost of a three-month trial. After three months there is no obligation to continue using the service.

After that, the current charge is £10 per week for a single user, £12 for a couple. At this point I expect some readers are thinking, "my son/daughter/friend will do that for nothing, it's not worth paying". But when you think about private care costing on average £25 an hour, I think it's a bargain.

Especially if support now from the Community Warden could prevent the need for paid care in the future by spotting a problem early. Rachael can never replace family, but although they are willing, do busy family members really have the time to be running around after you?

Do give it a try. For more information, call Rachael Monday to Friday on 07971 951412

Fenstanton Village Hall Trust - Latest news

It seems like an age since our new village hall was granted planning permission by Huntingdonshire District Council back in February this year, but the wheels have been turning in the background. The Fenstanton Village Hall Trust (FVHT) trustees have been busy pulling together all the necessary information on services, piling, steel works, etc. to allow our architects to produce plans, engineering drawings, and detailed specifications. The trustees have also produced a business plan and financial forecasts which will soon be available on our new website, currently under construction.



Building will start February next year

The FVHT have invited three building companies to tender for our new village hall build. The companies have been supplied with plans and specifications, and we should be able to appoint our preferred bidder in early December. Building will start in February next year.

Annual General Meeting

The FVHT annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 December at 6.30pm at the Fenstanton Church Centre, School Lane, Fenstanton PE28 9JR.

Please come along to get all the latest, chat

with the trustees and enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Be a Trustee

These are exciting times for the FVHT, and our hard-working trustees need some help. Could you be a trustee? If you have a few hours a month to spare and would like to contribute to the future of our wonderful village, we'd like to hear from you. We'd be especially pleased to hear from **anyone with a marketing background.**

Please contact: Roy at heathroy52@gmail.com

Fen Drayton Village Hall booking clerk vacancy

We need someone to manage Fen Drayton Village Hall's internet booking system for a few hours each week.

This is a paid position, plus a bonus to be agreed. Full training will be given.

Start date: January 2025. If you're interested please email:

Jackie Parr (jparr813@gmail.com) or Bridget Close (bridget.close52@gmail.com)

We're also looking for new committee members! If you'd like to help, please contact us for more information.

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Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



Pension credit

Residents of pensionable age are urged to check if they are eligible for Pension Credit to access the Winter Fuel Payment, which is worth up to £300 per household.

Pension Credit could be worth on average £3,900 per year for those who are over the state pension age (66+ years), on a low income.

Claims can be backdated by up to 3 months, but claims will need to be made by 21 December 2024 in order to receive a backdated Winter Fuel Payment.

Please visit www.gov.uk/pension-credit or call 0800 99 1234 to find out more and apply by 21 December 2024 to be eligible for a backdated Winter Fuel Payment.

Climate and Environment

Huntingdonshire District Council's successful 2024 Climate Conference took place in November - bringing communities from across Huntingdonshire together to problem solve and inspire.

Following partnership working, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) have launched a new Climate Opportunity Fund

- Funding up to £1M total capital projects
- Bids of £50K to £150K are welcome from not-for-profit organisations 10% match funding required
- Eligible bidders are not for profit organisations (including parish councils, social enterprises and voluntary organisations). Application window: 25th November 2024 to January 17th 2025.

For more information head to: www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/news/category/climate-change/

CPCA are also still running Rural Business Grants in Huntingdonshire, for more information head to: www.cpcagrowthhub.co.uk/huntingdonshire-rural-business-grants/

Council Champions Sustainability with Reusable Period Products Initiative

HDC is excited to be working with Hey Girls, an award-winning social enterprise, to provide free reusable period products to residents of Huntingdonshire!

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For information see: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/reduce-your-waste/hey-girls-free-reusable-period-products/

or contact wasteminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Do you have any queries or questions?

You can contact me by: clare.tevlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or 07565350014.

Step into the Past

Reeve's Ditch, Hilton By Gillian Sheail

Reeve's Ditch is the stretch of water beside the High Street in Hilton. It is fenced off from the road, shaded by trees and home to an assortment of ducks. What is known of its origin and former use? Historically a Reeve was the manager of a manor and overseer of the peasants, which suggests that the use and maintenance of this body of water was his responsibility. Its origin is obscure but it appears as a broad stretch of water on the oldest village maps. It is very shallow, and during the drought of summer 2022 it dried up completely. Old photographs and accounts of the feature provide a little more information.

A reliable water supply is essential for both humans and animals, especially in the agricultural parts of East Anglia where annual rainfall is low. Settlements usually developed around a good source of water, and in Hilton this was probably at the head of Reeve's Ditch. A spring or seepage of water at this point was of vital importance to the village. In time, wells or boreholes were dug here, and later pumps were erected at the

site. Water trickled down across The Green to join the larger stream running through the village. Over time the Ditch was enlarged to form a shallow, but broader feature which provided water for village animals and those being driven through the village on the way to market at St Ives. The water was also available in case of fire. The Reeve would have oversight of the Ditch, allocating the use of the water and ensuring good maintenance of the water body. Today Reeve's Ditch is part of The Green, with a waste water pumping station where the old pumps were located.

A photograph taken in 1906 shows animals roaming the High Street close to the Ditch, while children are gathered round the pump, an obvious meeting point for villagers. Nine years later in 1925 another photograph shows the full length of the Ditch in front of The Old Post Office and Hilton Hall.

Louis King describes the location in his account 'A walk through Hilton in the 1930s'*
There were no houses in the field facing Reeve's Ditch. It was a long meadow





1925

used for grazing. The small cottage at the end of Reeve's Ditch was once the village Post Office. Between this cottage and Reeve's Ditch was a hand pump mounted on a platform; it was erected this way so that the water carts could be filled directly from it. Winters in the thirties were much colder than now and most years there would be skating on Reeves Ditch. There was no mains water in the village at this time, so this large volume of water was most useful in case of fire and in summer the metal wheel rims of harvest carts would become loose, so the carts would be taken through the pond. The wooden wheels would expand, thus tightening the rims.

A little later in the early 1940s Tony Yates, a schoolboy evacuee from London who was living with his grandmother in the Old Post Office writes in 'My Life in Hilton during World War 2'

Drinking water was kept in an enamelled pail of which there were several. It became my duty to replenish the water every morning from the pump at the end of Reeve's Ditch. In

the early days I had to make several trips but as I grew older and stronger the trips became fewer and fewer.



Rita Furniss sailing a boat in Reeve's Ditch 1938

Step into the Past



Children from the village school standing on the ice 1928 (also the blackberry bushes)

He adds more information about Reeve's Ditch

At that time the road running alongside Reeves Ditch had no embankment. The ditch was framed by blackberry bushes growing alongside the road. In late summer when the water was low, one could walk along the shoreline and pick blackberries. In winter the ditch would fill and there was a danger that the water would undercut the road. One day several army trucks filled with soldiers and equipment arrived. They quickly removed the blackberry bushes and built an embankment using sandbags filled with concrete.

Reeve's Ditch had its place in village life. While in summer the children could paddle and play in the water, in cold winters freezing conditions heralded the arrival of the skating season. The Ditch was shallow and obviously deemed safe. Clearly 'Health and Safety' did not present any problems when children from the village school were photographed standing on the ice in 1928. Today cars speed along High Street almost unaware of the feature that once was of great use and pleasure.



William Garnett skating on Reeve's Ditch

* Descriptions and photographs from Hilton Digital Archive



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Fenstanton Headlands	2.50pm – 3.40pm
Fenstanton Chapel Green	3.50pm – 4.20pm

Route H25 – 4th Thursday In The Month

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Quiz Night

Thursday 24th Oct Thursday 14th Nov Thursday 12th Dec

£2 entry per person - teams of 6 people max - begins 8pm

Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

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Monday 23 rd December	12:00 - 22:00	12:00 - 14:00 17:30 - 20:30
Christmas Eve	12:00 - 23:00	12:00 - 16:00
Christmas Day	TBC	Closed
Boxing Day	12:00 - 18:00	12:00 - 16:00
Friday 27 th December	12:00 - 23:00	12:00 - 14:00 17:30 - 21:00
Saturday 28 th December	12:00 - 23:00	12:00 - 14:00 17:30 - 21:00
Sunday 29 th December	12:00 - 22:00	12:00 - 17:00
Monday 30 th December	Closed	Closed
New Year's Eve	12:00 - 01:00	12:00 - 20:00
New Year's Day	12:00 - 21:00	12:00 - 15:00

Open as normal from Thursday 2nd January 2025

Restaurant Closed Monday 6th - Tuesday 14th January 2025

** Merry Christmas from us all **





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Bewitching Barmouth beckons

By Anne Mustill

Barmouth, or Abermaw in Welsh, (meaning mouth of the Afon Mawddach river) is one of our most favourite holiday destinations. We have travelled all over Europe, even once towed a caravan over the Alps all the way to Rome, but every now and again we just have to go back to Barmouth.

Barmouth is a small, charmingly old-fashioned seaside resort in Northwest Wales, just outside the Snowdonia National Park, on Cardigan Bay on the north side of the Mawddach estuary. The town itself has a range of small shops, a reasonable Co-op supermarket, a market on Thursdays, a small

theatre and a fair number of coffee shops and cafes. It has a small fair and amusement arcade near the beach, which is sandy, and you can buy the fish and chips and candy floss typical of a seaside resort. Once a fishing port, Barmouth has a small harbour, plus a long prom about a mile long, with lots of reasonable parking. You can hop on a train at the station in the centre of Barmouth to go north or south along the coast to take in the sea views.

We are not the first people to love Barmouth. Charles Darwin spent two whole summers here in the 1820s, collecting samples for his studies. Other famous holidaymakers include Shelley, Wordsworth, William Wilberforce and General Booth. Wordsworth described it so, "With a fine sea view in front, the mountains behind, the glorious estuary running eight miles inland, and Cadair Idris within compass of a day's walk, Barmouth can always hold its own against any rival."

We first fell in love with Barmouth when our children were little and we were looking for a beach holiday with the added bonus of mountains nearby for fell walking. We rented a flat with windows overlooking the end of the prom and we were hooked. That's



Continued overleaf

Trains, Boats and Planes



two-carriage trains travelling along the coast rumble across the bridge right beside you as you walk.

One of our favourite eating places is part-way along the Mawddach Trail at Penmaenpool. The George III inn was once a station on the disused railway to Ruabon and it retains its station character, complete with signal. It serves up good food with views of the Mawddach estuary, which is wide at this point. A rackety vehicular toll bridge crosses the estuary here, a £1 toll saves a good few miles if you

despite our daughter being frightened of a doorstop in the shape of a Welsh dragon! We often saw “porpoises” swimming across the bay (we found out recently they are probably dolphins) and in bad weather we watched waves crashing over the sea wall at the end of the prom. And the sunsets were, and still are, to die for.

The Mawddach estuary is stunning all the way from Barmouth inland as far as the quaint town of Dollgellau, about 8 miles away. (Our German friends renamed it Doodle-doo!)

Motor round the estuary, or walk from Barmouth across the railway viaduct known as Barmouth Bridge to try the Mawddach Trail on the other side. This is an 8 mile long cycleway and footpath on the bed of a disused railway and was the subject of one of Julia Bradbury’s original Railway Walks. Or you can walk one way and catch a bus back! Crossing the bridge is a real experience in itself, as Barmouth Bridge, built in 1867, is a Grade II listed single-track wooden railway viaduct 820 metres long. Not only can you enjoy the fantastic views, but

don’t want to go as far as Dollgellau. When our children were small this was renamed the Troll Bridge and we had to look out for trolls as we crossed over! Every September the annual Barmouth Hurly-Burly event is held: swimmers use the incoming tide to race from Barmouth to Penmaenpool.

At the mouth of the estuary the little Barmouth ferry, once used by Royal Mail, still carries people across to Penrhyn Point opposite, where there’s a narrow-gauge railway to the village of Fairbourne. And





if little trains are your passion, 11 miles south down the coast from Fairbourne is Tywyn, the seaside terminus of the Tallylyn Railway, which travels inland into southern Snowdonia.

Now the mountains. For peak baggers, Mount Snowdon is about an hour away by car. The downside these days however is that Snowdon has huge numbers of tourists, enough to put us off. The ridge walk behind Barmouth is much quieter and takes you first to Diffwys (750m) and eventually to the Rhinogs. And Cader (or Cadair) Idris is virtually on your doorstep, just south of Dolgellau. At 893 metres, this peak is one of the most popular in Wales for walkers, but thankfully doesn't have as many visitors as Snowdon. Cadair Idris means "Idris' Chair". Idris is usually taken to be the name of a giant. Legend says that anyone who sleeps on the side of this mountain will awaken either a madman or a poet. The natural depression which is the chair was formed by a cirque glacier during multiple ice ages. There are three main paths to the top: The Pony Path begins either at Dolgellau or at the Mawddach estuary and is the easiest but longest of these. From the top there are fantastic views of the Mawddach estuary, Barmouth Bridge and Cardigan Bay.

Then for those who love history, there are



the castles. Harlech Castle, just north of Barmouth, stands atop the small town of the same name and is well worth a visit. Castel y Bere is not far away too. And north of Harlech is the Italianate village Portmerion, used as a backdrop for a number of films and TV shows, most famously the 1960s show "The Prisoner".

And I still haven't mentioned visiting the Llanfair slate caverns along the coast. Nor the fact that there used to be a gold mine along the north side of the estuary which in 1899 produced £60,000 worth of gold.

For those seeking the bright lights of a big resort, Barmouth is not the answer. But for a more active holiday, with both history and fantastic views of the mountains and the sea, Barmouth fits the bill. We will definitely be back!





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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

Thank you in advance.
Anne-Marie Leech



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News from the Pews



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



We look forward to welcoming you!

There are two churches in our benefice: our Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul in Fenstanton and our Chapel of Ease, St Mary's, Fen Drayton
Both our churches look forward to welcoming you to any of our services. We hope to see you soon!

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

DECEMBER 2024 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday 1	10.30am Fenstanton	First Sunday of Advent Holy Communion <i>with Sunday Club for children</i>
	5pm Fenstanton	Christingle Service
Thursday 5	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 8	9.15am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion, St Mary's
	10.30am Fenstanton	Worship For All – Giving a Gift Service <i>Followed by Christmas Lunch</i>
Thursday 12	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Friday 13	6pm-8.30pm	Fen Youth Group, Fenstanton Church Centre
Sunday 15	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion <i>with Sunday Club for children</i>
	5pm Fenstanton	Traditional Carol Service (with choir)
Monday 16	5pm Fenstanton	Fenstanton and Hilton School Community Carol Service – all welcome
Thursday 19	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Saturday 21	11am – 2pm	Christmas Crunch for children see <i>advert P.36</i>
Sunday 22	10.30am Fenstanton	Family Communion
	5pm Fen Drayton	Nativity, Crib & Carols Service at St Mary's
Christmas Eve Tuesday 24	5pm Fenstanton	Nativity, Crib & Carols Service at SS Peter & Paul
	11.30pm Fenstanton	First Communion of Christmas at SS Peter & Paul
Christmas Day Wednesday 25	9.15am Fen Drayton	Christmas Communion at St Mary's
	10.30am Fenstanton	Christmas Communion at SS Peter & Paul
Sunday 29	10.30am Fenstanton	Parish Holy Communion

JANUARY 2025 – Happy New Year!!

Thursday 2	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 5	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion
Thursday 9	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 12	9.15am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion, St Mary's
	10.30am Fenstanton	Worship For All
Thursday 16	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 19	No morning services	We join with the URC, at 9.30am, for a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
	5pm Fenstanton	BCP(1662) Holy Communion with choir at the parish church
Thursday 23	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 26	9.15am Fen Drayton	Morning Prayer, St Mary's
	10.30am Fenstanton	Family Communion

For your information: 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.

This December: Especially for families with children. For Advent this year, the 24 days leading up to Christmas Day, we will be using the themes of angels in Fen Drayton and stars in Fenstanton as we lead up to our Nativity, Crib and Carols Services.

Look out for the **Fen Drayton angels** which will be out and about all around the village. When you find an angel, you should also find instructions on the tag as to what happens next, including an invitation to a Nativity, Crib and Carols Service at St Mary's, Fen Drayton on Sunday 22 December at 5pm.



Rector: Rev Rosie Tallowin: 01480 467393 email: vicar@fenchurches.org.uk

Assistant Curate: Rev Claire Brockelsby: 07769 106562 email: curate@fenchurches.org.uk

Churchwardens: Philip Blunt 07855 481697 and Ian Hucklesby 01480 465211

News from the Pews



For Fenstanton, there will be **24 stars**, on display during Advent. Where will you find them? Look out for an A4 size poster with a big yellow star. Each star will have a number between 1-24 and will be somewhere in Fenstanton. On a noticeboard maybe, in a shop window...please leave the star for others to find but make a note of where you saw the star, and its number. Can you find all 24 stars? There will be Advent star sheets available in the parish church for you to tick and bring to the Nativity, Crib and Carols service at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Fenstanton, on Christmas Eve at 5pm (or email Rev Rosie to get a tick sheet).

Our church service details are in the services list but special mentions, for the parish church Fenstanton, are:

Christingle Service on Sunday 1 December at 5pm. Monies raised will go to the Children's Society. On Sunday 8 we have our annual Giving a Gift Service at 10.30am, where gifts for children and young people will be passed onto Cambridge Social Services. Looking for a traditional Carol Service? Then do come along to our Carol Service on Sunday 15 December at 5pm. And finally, an event for children, Christmas Crunch on Saturday 21 December from 11am to 2pm in Fenstanton Church Centre. Please see poster for details.

For Fen Drayton: don't forget to put 22 December in your diary at 5pm, Nativity, Crib & Carols.

We are very excited to share with you the winning design for the Christmas Card, which we have organised jointly with the URC Church for the villages of Fenstanton and Fen Drayton. We are so grateful to The Journal for helping us by delivering the Christmas Card to both villages. THANK YOU!! In the card you will find the service details for St Mary's Fen Drayton, St Peter & St Paul Fenstanton and United Reformed Church Fenstanton. We send the card to wish villagers a "Happy Christmas" and share details in one place of the services at our churches. It is great to be working with the URC in this way and we look forward to joining their congregation in January (19 January 2025) for a special service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service begins at 9.30am.

That's all for now, except to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

"Christmas Crunch"

Christmas crafts and lunch

Free children's activities, story, crafts and a simple lunch.

Saturday 21st December 11am-2pm.
Fenstanton Church Centre

Activities for toddlers to teens.
Parents welcome to join us for a simple lunch from 1:15pm.

To help with planning and limited places please book a place
by emailing: ikhuck@virginmedia.com

CHRISTMAS
CRUNCH

Thank you, Katie Hucklesby
Parish of Fen Drayton with Fenstanton

CHRISTMAS
CRUNCH

Hilton Methodist Church



Christmas is loud, noisy, brash and usually, if my past Christmases are anything to go by, they create more than enough trash.

As the Methodist Church's national Christmas theme highlights: "So much expectation. So many voices. Telling us how to celebrate, what to wear, what to eat and drink, what to watch and what to buy".

Usually, I for one am only too glad to empty a bunged-up fridge of Christmas leftovers, fill the recycling bin with all the rubbish, and pile away the tinsel and decorations as soon as decently possible after the so called 'main event'...and.... just.... breathe. Me a Minister and this, the highlight of our Christian winter calendar!

Which is why I am grateful that the Methodist Church is inviting everyone this year to hush the noise. To listen for the love song first released to shepherds and kings alike more than 2,000 years ago, on a midnight clear on a hilltop just outside Bethlehem.

Bethlehem. Hardly a place of peace on earth right now. One of many situations making us all want to bury our heads in a bottle of Bailey's.

But this year I will shopping less and stopping more – hushing the noise to hear and see God in our midst – through friends and family, through the small things we do to ease the way for each other.

I hope you too are able to hush the noise and notice what really matters.

For more information check out <https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/hush-the-noise/>

Revd.Sue Baker-Maher

sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk

Phone: 07483 153948



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

Services in December

1 December	10:00am	Rev Sue Baker-Maher
8 December	11:15am	United Service at the Methodist Church (Gift Service)
15 December	10:00am	Mr. C. Webber
15 December	5:00pm	Carol Service
22 December	10:00am	Rev. J. Bamber
24 December	11:30pm	Rev Sue Baker-Maher (Midnight Communion Service)
29 December	10:00am	Zoom Service – Phone 01480 494014 for the link.

Services in January

5 January	10:00am	Local arrangements
12 January	11:15am	Rev Sue Baker-Maher (United Covenant Service)
19 January	10:00am	Mr. J. Bridge
26 January	10:00am	Dr. B. Spencer

Minister: Rev Sue Baker-Maher email: sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk



Hilton Churches' Advent Lunches

In Aid of Huntingdon and Godmanchester After School Café
Do come and join us for a light lunch between 12:30 and 2:00pm.

Wednesday, November 27th.
Wistow, The Green
by kind invitation of Claire and Nick Sarkies.

Wednesday, December 4th.
20, Chequers Croft
by kind invitation of Christina and Steven Sheppard.

Wednesday, December 11th.
Abbotsmede, Chapel Close
by kind invitation of Linda and Ian Stott.


Wednesday, December 18th.
7, Chequers Croft
by kind invitation of Heather and Ian Woods.

Suggested donation - £5:00 or more

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Hilton Parish Church



Dear Friends,

Candles. Prayers. Emotive singing. Large gatherings. Stirring addresses. Public illuminations. Acts of kindness and generosity. Special messages and greetings. I could be describing some of the trappings of Christmas. But this could also be a description of some of the responses to contemporary outrages and calamities.

Similar activities commemorate both an event long ago with many historical uncertainties – the first Christmas - and events in our time that are unavoidably real. One is a story of hope and one of horror, but the hope comes in a setting of fear, vulnerability, and surrounding darkness. The horror brings with it renewed commitment by some to finding our shared humanity, and even expressions of hope from some of the bereaved.

One phrase keeps coming back to me: 'Fear not.' It appears like a refrain throughout the Bible, and in the Christmas story itself. Mary when she learns she is to bear Jesus, Joseph when he learns Mary is pregnant, the shepherds when the angels approach, all are told not to be afraid. The supreme good news comes in disguise, as something that looks frightening at first. But being told not to be afraid doesn't sound like a solution.

'Fine,' one might reply, 'but how exactly am I to lose my fear?' The words themselves do go some way to calming us. They are what we say to frightened children. But there are also actions we can carry out that in themselves dispel fear, both in those who do them and those who receive them. 'Perfect love drives out fear.' (John 4:18) The secret then is to act in love. That is why the Christmas angels say, 'Fear not.'

Perfect love is coming in to the world. May we act always in His name, and proclaim His peace. Fear not. Love extravagantly. Live generously. Happy Christmas!

With love,

David

Rev'd David Busk (01480 436400)

Services in December

Sunday 1 December	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 8 December	11:15am United Gift service at the Methodist Church
Sunday 15 December	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 22 December	11:15am Holy Communion
Tuesday 24 December	4:00pm Crib Service
Wednesday 25 December	8:00am Christmas Communion
Sunday 29 December	8:00am Holy Communion

Services in January

Sunday 5 January	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 12 January	11:15 Covenant Service at the Methodist Church
Sunday 19 January	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 26 January	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall

Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

Holy Communion Wednesdays (2.30pm) Bible study Fridays (10am)
Please contact Rev'd David Busk (01480 436400) for Zoom access details



Fenstanton United Reformed Church

Chequer Street, Fenstanton

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

Services

December

- 01 Led by Keith Cakebread
- 08 Revd Christine Davies
- 15 Led by Geraldine Swain
- 15 3.00pm Carol Service
- 22 Revd Christine Davies - Holy Communion
- 25 Revd Christine Davies
- 29 Elders Led Service

January 2025

- 05 Elders Led Service
- 12 Revd Christine Davies - Holy Communion
- 19 Led by Pauline Zahner
- 26 Revd Christine Davies

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

- Tuesday 10 December 2.30 - 4pm
- Tuesday 07 January 2.30 - 4pm

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St Ives

Church of the Sacred Heart,
19 Needingworth Rd.

Parish Priest: Rev Thomas J Walton

Tel 01480 462192,

www.sacredheart-stives.org

**Mass Times: Saturday 17.00,
Sunday 09.00 and 11.00**

The Particular Baptist Chapel

Church Lane, Fenstanton,
PE28 9JW

There has been a witness to the
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since 1643

**Services are on Sundays at 10.30am
and 2.30pm and on Thursday
evenings at 7.15pm**

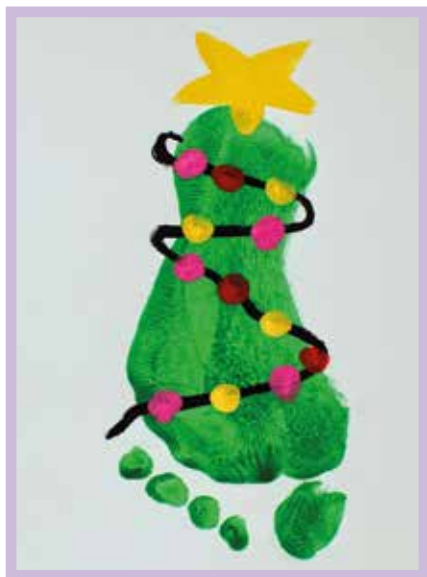
We still use the Authorised, King
James Bible, believe in Particular
Redemption

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!

Christmas Tree Feet

Wow, I was not ready for December to come around so quick. Thank you to all our little mischief makers for getting stuck in with our arts and crafts this year. We hope you have all had a wonderful year and enjoy your Christmas and New Years celebrations.



My daughter loved decorating our Christmas Tree (yes, we have already put it up), so we thought it'd be fun for her to decorate her own 'foot-tree'.

This activity was lots of fun, especially as we imagined what else our footprints could look like.

What you will need:

- Paint
- A5 white card
- Your child's foot

Don't forget to leave the green footprint to dry before decorating it.

TOP TIP:

When all the paint has dried, add a drop of PVA glue to the baubles and star and sprinkle glitter on top of them to add a bit of Christmas magic.



MERRY
Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

You're invited to our
Christmas Special Craft Session!

at
Fenstanton Baby & Toddler Group



Fenstanton Church Centre
Tuesday 17th December
9am - 11am



@mamajosmischief



FEN DRAYTON TOTS

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Mondays Fen Drayton Village Hall, 10am - 12pm during term time
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A burnt sprig of holly

Always the showman I remember dad always managed to prick and burn his fingers when he removed the smoking holly sprig from the Christmas pudding. His wounds were soon healed by a glass of brandy. Naturally he would only use a sprig with berries and not all holly trees bear fruit. Hollies varieties come with male flowers, female flowers or both on the same tree. The best variety for your Christmas pud is probably 'J C. Van Tol' which is self-fertile, having both male and female flowers, and has the added benefit of being almost spineless. We grew 28 varieties in college and I remember 'Ferox' also known as the hedgehog holly and two varieties for the panto season. 'Golden King' which has berries and is actually a female and 'Silver Queen' which is a male variety. Other varieties I particularly remember are 'Handsworth New Silver' with attractive purple stems named after a park in Sheffield and 'Belgica Aureomarginata' which produces berries and has subtler colouring than 'Golden King'.

Winter colour

The low winter sun, when it does shine, lights up the garden and coloured barks and evergreens come into their own. Winter flowering shrubs like camelia, jasmine, mahonia, skimmia and viburnum are a welcome joy, while pansies, violas, bellis and snowdrops and sometimes crocus flower at ground level or in our pots and tubs.



Cultural tasks

Continue to gather up fallen leaves for the compost heap. On frost free days garden trees and shrubs can be pruned and perennials tidied. Avoid walking on the lawn in frost conditions or exceptionally wet weather. You can still plant trees shrubs, perennials during mild spells. You can also plant out bulbs that have finished blooming indoors like narcissus and hyacinth. Do not be afraid to mow lawns in mild weather. In severe weather protect pots and tubs, wrap them to a wall if you can, and don't forget to drain out hose pipes, fittings and turn off and wrap outside taps.

December/January *Top Tips*

- Enjoy colours of winter
- Turn off outside taps
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Weed, mulch and tidy
- Plan for next year



raypuddefoot@gmail.com

Fenstanton Morris

will be dancing on

Boxing Day

Thursday 26 December



at The Clocktower
Fenstanton, 12pm



and The Three Horseshoes,
Houghton PE28 2BE, 1pm



Contact fenstantonbag@gmail.com
for further details or via our
Facebook page

Hilton Baby & Toddler Play Group

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Hilton Parish Council



A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 04 November

Budget and Precept

Hilton Parish Council has agreed their draft budget which is shown below. This does include the increase to NI announced in the recent budget.

	Budget 25/26
Receipts	
Precept	£39,826.00
Fireworks	£2,000.00
Interest	£2,300.00
Total	£44,126.00

Payments

Payroll	£15,073.16
Green Open Spaces	£3,500.00
Maintenance Contract	£13,060.00
Maintenance Person	£3,921.84
Maintenance Materials	£400.00
Insurance	£920.00
Subscriptions	£650.00
Stationery & Office	£250.00
Utilities	£3,250.00
Training	£75.00
Audit	£400.00
Venue Costs	£450.00
Fireworks	£1,600.00
Fireworks earmarked reserve release	-£500.00
Lighting & Maintenance	£586.00
Donations	£60.00
Playground	£140.00
Electoral	£40.00
Website	£250.00
Total	£44,126.00

This budget will result in a precept of £39,826, compared with the current precept of £36,980. This is an increase of £2,846, or 7.7%. At the current tax base, this equates to an increase of £6.26 for a band D property, or 52p per month. The Council will be ratifying this budget and precept at their December meeting, to enable parishioners to comment if desired.

Tree Work

The volunteer group has completed several pieces of tree work and relocated all of the resulting material to the bonfire site. The Council has authorised the annual tree work at a cost of £2,030, which is within budget.

20mph Application

The Council has reluctantly agreed to proceed with the plans drawn up by CCC for the 20mph limit in the village. As you can see from the drawing below, the 20mph areas (blue) will cover most of the village. Hilton Road across the Green will remain 30mph (grey) as will the section of Potton Road from the junction with Church End to the shop. There will be 40mph buffer zones (orange) on Graveley Way, St Ives Road and Potton Road. The Council has been corresponding with CCC to get the Green and Potton Road included in the 20mph scheme, however following their executive review they state that keeping the 30mph limits in these areas is in keeping with the guidelines and that this could be reconsidered in the future if additional traffic calming features or residential development was installed. The next stage in this project is the Traffic Regulation Order application, which will include formal consultation, so residents will be able to contribute to this project. The Council will advertise the consultation once there is more information.



The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 2nd December 2024 in Hilton Village Hall. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the

Council's website www.hiltonparishcouncil.com. Parishioners are welcome to speak at council meetings on agenda items.

Gift Service

at the
Hilton Methodist Church
Sunday 8th December, 11.15am – 12.15pm

All donations gratefully received.
Monetary Donations go to Action for Children.
Gifts are for Woodland Lodge in Hinchingsbrooke who help families, children and teenagers needing support and respite.

We would especially love donations of sensory toys but no board games please.

**Ring 01480 830407 or 01480 830686
for more information**



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Financial help for unmarried parents. Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989 – What is it?

Schedule 1 of The Children Act 1989 enables the family Court to make financial provision for the benefit of children. Potential applicants include a parent of a child, a guardian or special guardian of the child, a person named in a child arrangements order as a person with whom the child is to live or the child themselves.

In practice the main classes of Applicant are unmarried parents who have no rights to financial support for themselves in the same way as married parents who can apply in their own right under The Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 for financial provision.

The number of children born to unmarried parents is rising, some 51.4% were born to unmarried parents in 2022 (ONS data) and so it is surprising that this Act is not more widely used.

What orders can the Court make?

Lump-sum

A Lump sum order can be made for the benefit of a child. This differs from a lump sum under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 as under schedule 1 the Courts can make many lump sum orders and it is not restricted to just one. Claims can include for a vehicle needed for the child, furnishing a home or even medical and dental fees. One notable feature of Schedule 1 is its flexibility. The Court has the discretion to tailor orders based on the unique circumstances in each case. This adaptability ensures that the financial provisions align with the specific needs of the child and the financial capabilities of the parents.

Transfer of property

The transfer of property can be ordered to meet the housing needs of the children. With this order the property which is transferred will usually be returned to the owner when the children reach a certain age typically at the age

of 18 or when they complete tertiary education. In some limited cases the Court may order that a property transferred out right to the child and held in trust for them during the minority with the difference being that it would not then revert to the transferring parent when the child attains the age of 18.

Periodical payments

In the majority of cases child maintenance is assessed by the Child Maintenance Service, save, where the non-resident parent's income exceeds the maximum level then the Schedule 1 allows the Court to order one parent to make regular 'top-up' maintenance payments to the other parent for the benefit of the child. This ensures a consistent and reliable source of financial support to cover the child's day-to-day expenses. This can include an order that the non-resident parent pays a child's school fees and other appropriate educational expenses.

If you would like to discuss this issue further or any other family matter our team of family solicitors at Leeds Day LLP will be able help. The team consists of experienced family law solicitors, all of whom are members of Resolution (www.resolution.org.uk) and include Resolution accredited specialists in divorce, finances and children.



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 or visit our website: www.leedsday.co.uk/family.

Sandbags for residents at risk of flooding

Your Parish Council has taken proactive steps to prepare for potential flooding by purchasing and storing a quantity of sandbags. These sandbags are available for distribution to Parishioners whose homes may be at risk of flooding. To arrange for collection, please contact the Parish Council using the provided numbers or email address.

Fenstanton Parish Council
Making Fenstanton an even better place to live

Free
Sandbags

If your home is at risk of flooding

your Parish Council have a limited number of sandbags available to loan to residents of Fenstanton.

To arrange collection please contact:

clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

Telephone: 07542 681976 Out of hours telephone: 07949 453767



A new bench for the village

The new bench by the village sign is now in place. It's the perfect spot to rest your weary legs and watch the world go by.



Fenstanton Community Award

Your Parish Council is delighted to announce that Heather and Roy McGee have been voted by Parishioners as this year's Community Heroes! Their tireless dedication to the FPC Welcome Space, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for all, has truly made a difference in our community. Their kindness and welcoming smiles have brought joy to many. A heartfelt thank you to Heather and Roy for their invaluable contributions.

Village Car Park improvements

Your Parish Council has improved the church car park by installing bollards to prevent vehicles from parking on the grass and causing damage.

At Chequer Street car park the height barrier has been removed and width restriction bollards are to be installed. The ditch at the front of the car park has been cleared and reinstated to help alleviate any future flooding.



Councillor Surgeries

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

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

30.11.2024 Tina Yates Martin Hewitt

25.01.2025 Anne Mustill Matt Tandy

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

A boundary fence at the Cemetery

Earlier this year, the Parish Council removed the hedge along the footpath at the cemetery to provide much-needed additional burial plots. The hedge was overgrown with brambles and served as a screen for anti-social behaviour. In its place, the Parish Council

has installed an attractive fence that still allows for some extra burial plots. This change has been welcomed by those visiting their loved ones' graves along the boundary.



New equipment for Chequer Street Play Park

Your Parish Council is excited to announce that we will soon be adding new play equipment to Chequer Street Play Park. All being well, work is scheduled to commence on 12 December. These improvements have been made possible by a grant from the Mick George Community Fund, which is funded through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) and administered by GrantScape, a charity that specialises in community benefit fund grants.

Reminder - New tree planting initiative – a Tree for your garden

Your Parish Council remains committed to its Tree planting initiative as part of our zero emissions efforts. With this in mind, your Parish Council has agreed to offer residents the opportunity to receive for free a Tree to plant in their garden. If you would be interested in receiving a Tree and a post, please contact Councillor Roy McGee – roy.mcgee@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk or the Clerk.

Next Parish Council meetings

Your Parish Council meets next on **Thursday 9 January at 7pm** in the Church Centre. There will be no meeting in December unless your Parish Council believe it necessary, please keep an eye out on our website and Facebook page.



Christmas Tree - Disposal

Your Parish Council is pleased to announce a potential service to be offered by Dellar Tree Services:-

a convenient and charitable way to dispose of your real Christmas tree after the holidays.

This initiative would involve setting up a tree shredding site in the Chequer Street Car Park. Residents would be able to bring their real Christmas trees for shredding, with a small donation going to a worthy cause. This is a fantastic opportunity to:

- Dispose of your tree responsibly: Shredding ensures your tree is recycled and doesn't end up in landfill.
- Support a good cause: Your donation will benefit a local charity (details to be announced).

We are still finalising the details, but keep an eye out for further information on our website: www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk or our Facebook page.



Parish Councillor – Vacancies – Make a difference!

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 465 300

Email:
clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

Website:
www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk



A poster for a "Welcome Space Winter Warmer" event. The background is blue with white snowflakes. It features a bowl of red soup and a sandwich. Text includes: "FPC", "The Church Centre, School Lane, Fenstanton", "Welcome Space Winter Warmer", "SOUP & SANDWICH", "Tuesday January 14th. 12.30pm to 4pm", "Fenstanton Parish Council", "Supported by: Fenstanton Town Trust, the Church Centre, & HDC", and a "Warm Welcome" logo with hands.

A poster for a "Welcome Space Christmas Afternoon Tea" event. The background is white with green pine branches and gold ornaments. It features a box of raffle tickets. Text includes: "FPC", "The Church Centre, School Lane, Fenstanton", "Welcome Space Christmas AFTERNOON TEA", "Thursday December 19th. 2pm to 4pm", "Mince Pies Cakes RAFFLE", "Coffee Tea Sandwiches", "A Free Event", "£1 per raffle", "Fenstanton Parish Council", "supported by: Fenstanton Town Trust, the Church Centre, and HDC", and a "Warm Welcome" logo with hands.

There's a Warm Welcome at FPC Welcome Space

With fuel prices increasing and the days getting shorter and darker, Fenstanton Parish Council Welcome Space has opened its doors as a Warm Welcome Space to bring people together this winter. As the nights draw in, ushering in darker and colder months, FPC Welcome Space is here to support anyone struggling with loneliness or heating their home.

Fenstanton Parish Council wants to ensure that everyone knows how to find a place of belonging; we want to make sure people know our doors are open and ready to welcome them.

Welcome Space is a warm, welcoming, safe, and free space that is open to everyone in our community. We will be open every Monday 10am to 12noon and every Tuesday from 9.15am to 11.45am and 2pm to 4pm.

On Monday mornings between 10 and 11 we have our popular Chair and Standing exercise class.

On Tuesday mornings we hold our Baby and Toddler group.

On Tuesday afternoon we have various activities and serve tea, coffee and cakes.

You can find our Warm Welcome Space at the Church Centre, School Lane, Fenstanton, PE28 9JR

For more information contact: Roy McGee
roy.mcgee@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk
 Tel. 07949 453767

We will look forward to giving you a warm welcome this winter.

STOP PRESS! Working with Huntingdonshire Volunteer Service, we can now offer FREE TRANSPORT to and from the Church Centre for residents with mobility problems. Contact Roy for further information.

We will look forward to giving you a warm welcome this winter.

Finally, Your Parish Council would like to wish all their Parishioners a Merry Christmas and hopes you all have a very happy and healthy 2025.

JOIN US
FOR
**FRIDAY
FEAST**

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

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



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Seasonal Yorkshire Wine Cake

This method of preparing a fruit cake was given to me years ago by two Yorkshire sisters. It makes a lovely Christmas cake.

Ingredients:

12oz. / 350g Currants
6oz. / 175g. Sultanas
6oz. / 175g. Raisins
4oz. / 100g. Glace Cherries (cut into pieces)
2oz. / 50g. Finely cut mixed peel
4oz. / 100g. Plain flour
4oz. / 100g. S.R. Flour
Half teaspoon Cinnamon
Half teaspoon Mixed spice
6oz. / 175g. Butter
6oz. / 175g. Dark brown or muscovado sugar
3 Eggs
Half cup Sherry (the cheapest is fine)
Extra cherries and split almonds for decoration



Method:

The week before you intend to cook the cake weigh out all the fruit. Pour on the sherry. Stir each day for five days. Keep in a cool place during this process.

Double line a 7" deep cake tin.

Mix the cake mixture in the usual way - creaming the butter and sugar, then adding the eggs and flour.

Transfer to the cake tin, smoothing the top carefully. Decorate the top of the cake with split almonds and cherries. Place in a cool place overnight. This prevents the fruit from sinking when it cooks. If you want to decorate your cake with marzipan and icing leave out this step.

Cook for one hour at 130 degrees, then two hours at 120 degrees. Check after two hours and if a cake tester comes out of the cake clean it is done or extend the cooking time as necessary.

This is a lovely moist cake. There is no need to dose the cake with brandy. Indeed if you do the cake crumbles.



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Passion personified

If you are looking for a passionate and enthusiastic vet, then look no further. Hayley Baker who owns Vet for Pets in Bar Hill absolutely fits the bill. Her practice is situated above Pets at Home next door to Tesco.

Hayley, who originates from Guildford, has always wanted to be a vet since she was five after spending time in consulting rooms with her aunt who was a veterinary nurse. She studied at Trinity Hall, Cambridge for three years and then undertook a further three years of study at the University's Veterinary College on Madingley Road before qualifying in 2008. Whilst at Trinity Hall she openly admits that she maybe spent too much time rowing rather than studying. However, it all paid off as in 2006 her crew won the ladies' Boat Race setting an all time course record for which she was awarded a Cambridge Blue. She met her husband through rowing and



to this day he still coaches the University's mens' Boat Race crew at their facilities based in Ely. Hayley has a long rowing history in her family and she is actively trying to discourage her daughter to follow in her footsteps.

On completing her training she tried a spell at equine veterinary work but quickly realised

her passion was for smaller animals and hence Vets for Pets. She moved to Reading for four years

before returning to Cambridge to set up her own business. Her practice in Bar Hill is state of the art and houses operating equipment that is only found at the Royal Veterinary College in London. She specialises in key hole surgery as this is less invasive than the normal surgery used on pets. Hayley explains, *"Key hole surgery is taken for granted in humans so why should we not use it on our pets. The animals recover much more quickly and the whole process is less uncomfortable for your pet. Dogs walk out after surgery the same way they walked in. We are one of only a handful of vets in the UK offering this facility and I spend a lot of my time training other vets in the technique using our dedicated training facility here on site."*

Her practice has a number for operating theatres including one exclusively for dental work which has a dedicated air extraction system to prevent the spread of bacteria dislodged in teeth cleaning.

"With our specialist equipment, including the use of AI to speed up biopsy analysis, we are bridging the gap between first opinion vets and referral vets. We are able to do a lot of simple referral procedures here that a normal vet would have to refer on to a specialist, thus saving money for our pet owners"

Hayley has seen a number of interesting cases whilst being a vet including a dog with a very odd shape lump in its stomach that turned out on examination to be toy duck! *"Why and how this dog managed to swallow it whole is a mystery. It was successfully removed and no harm was done to either the dog or the duck which was returned to the children's bath undamaged."*

**Vets for Pets in open Monday to Friday
8am-7pm, Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday
10am-4pm**





update



Fen Drayton floods

Last September Fen Drayton village experienced heavy rainfall that caused water levels in the River Great Ouse to rise dramatically, resulting in floods. It was the earliest time in the autumn that anyone could remember this happening.

Water levels in Oxholme Drain, that runs alongside Fen Drayton's High Street, rose rapidly and within two days the High Street and Daintrees Road were impassable for cars. Highways closed the road to prevent vehicles driving too fast through the water and flooding properties with their bow waves.

The Fen Drayton flood group and village residents also worked to minimise the chance of any houses being flooded. The major problem was the lack of access for emergency vehicles: ambulances to take two people to hospital; and a fire engine to deal with a car stuck in the flood.

Cambridgeshire County Council has now fitted one-way valves on the road drains at the south end of the High Street, as requested by the parish council. They will delay flooding of the road, not prevent it.



To seek a long-term solution, the parish council met with CCC, its consultants, Atkins, and SCDC on 1 October. At that time the priority was to deal with the flood. Fortunately, it receded within a few days as the river levels dropped quickly.

The parish council has set up a further meeting with CCC and SCDC, on 26 November, to see if a short-term solution is possible to moderate the impact of future floods. We will update you in 2025.

Christmas tree lighting up

The Christmas lights will be switched on at 6pm on 1 December. Come along and enjoy the festivities at the Three Tuns.

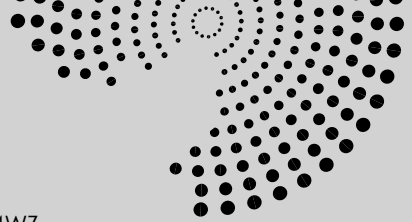


Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

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



Pump track

Thank you to everyone who responded to the village survey relating to the proposed pump track on the village hall recreation ground. Over 140 households responded, with 65% indicating that they were in favour. A breakdown of the results is on the parish council website: www.fendrayton.org.

We have subsequently had a site meeting with the proposed contractor and envisage that the track will run from the tennis courts towards the northern boundary of the recreation ground. Its position will, amongst other things, enable us to keep the current football/basketball triangle in its current site. Screening will be put in place at both ends of the track.

The track should be completed later this year. We anticipate that it will provide a popular new amenity for young children, alongside the tennis courts, zip wire, bowls green and playground.



Community Cafe

The November cafe and Christmas fair was a very busy and enjoyable occasion. Homemade bakes were on offer, with fresh tea and coffee.

This year's fair was our best yet, with fabulous handmade crafts, including ceramics made using the Japanese technique of Raku, locally-made fused glass gifts, repurposed toys and jewellery, cards and skin care products. Lesley's Social Dancing and Carriages were there too, with Lesley signing up new people and Carriages selling vouchers for teas (perhaps destined as Christmas presents?). Local orchard owners and juice producers, Meadow Lodge Farm, offered free tastings.

On 14 December we welcome back the Swavesey Community Choir. As well as the usual coffee, tea and cake, the cafe will serve homemade soup, contributions for which will be donated to a local cause (to be announced).

Top left: Christmas tree lighting up. Other photos are of the Community Cafe Christmas fair





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News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



Happy Christmas! As with all schools locally and nationally, this is always a busy but joyous half term. We are always thrilled to be involved in so many Christmas-related activities, especially those that also raise money for our Parent Teacher Association. This year, our PTA have organised community wreath-making, a Santa Run for the children, a community Winter Fair and Present Rooms for the children to buy gifts for family members. All of the money raised will be used for resources or enrichments activities for our children.

In addition to the above excitement, we will also be full of anticipation for our Christmas Nativity Play, performed by our Preschool, Reception and Key Stage 1 classes. For our older children, there will be opportunities to speak and sing in the Parish Church when we host our annual Christmas Service, an event we always look forward to.

Earlier in the half-term, six of our Key Stage 2 children represented the school at a

Panathlon Games event held at Impington Village College. The children competed in a series of sporting challenges and were delighted with the medals and certificates earned. In mid-November, our Year 3 and Year 4 children had a great day at Sacrewell Farm near Peterborough. I think the highlight of the day was the tractor rides!!

You may remember that recently we worked with Cambridge Kids Club on some new play provision. Since their visits, we have been busy creating our own 'Play Shed' to use every Wednesday lunchtime. This has been made possible by generous community donations and funding from the PTA. The children have been enjoying some happy and prosocial lunchtimes.

Wishing you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year, from all of us at Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School and Preschool.

Hilton Churches Together
Carol Service
Hilton Methodist Church
Sunday 15 December at 5:00pm
Collection for Franciscan Aid in the UK*

 *Franciscan Aid's work in the UK helps to ensure that the ever-growing number of asylum seekers and refugees will be able to access English classes in order to build up skills to help them prepare for future employment and citizenship.

Fen Drayton Primary School



We are all settled in to our new mobiles and school life is returning to 'normal'!

Our new Ducklings (Reception class) have all settled in extremely well. They have been busy learning their phonics and numbers as well as exploring the environment. Swallows (Y1/2) started the year with their 'Food, Glorious Food' topic, where they enjoyed designing and making Fresh Fruit Salads. Robins (Y3/4) are enjoying their 'Ancient Egyptians' topic and particularly enjoyed making Egyptian scrolls and Owls (Y5/6) are learning all about Ancient Greece.

If your child is due to start school in September 2025, then please go to Fen Drayton Primary School - Admissions to find out how to apply for a place. We are always happy to give tours of the school so please get in touch if you would like to look round.

Nina McQueen
Headteacher

Email: office@fendrayton.cambs.sch.uk
Phone : 01954273346

Website : www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk

To donate please go to: <https://gofund.me/4e6cccab>



What you're Missing

Hilton Community Hub

There's an old song , just right for our Hub
*'Merry have we met and merry have we been.
Merry let us part and merry meet again'*

Our wonderful planning team - Jan, Sue, Ann and Cynthia have organised an interesting and varied programme to cover much of the winter, especially including a Christmassy theme, you'll hear about that in February's Journal!

Meanwhile, among the simpler things in life, there is little better than a welcoming smile, a "good morning, how are you?" and a hot drink put in your hand before you've even found a seat. That's the Hub every Wednesday morning when you step into the Village Hall.

Our friends are with us for every reason imaginable and truly, it's a highlight of the week for each one of us.

Times :- 10:00-12.30 (ish, after a tasty light lunch) **And It's All Free To Everyone!**



Hilton Art Club

In October, we had a very enjoyable workshop with Julia Rigby (see picture). Julia was an excellent tutor, who was very generous with her knowledge. She started by demonstrating lots of acrylic techniques, covering paints, paper and brushes.

We then painted our own landscape with Julia giving everyone individual time and advice. Everyone seemed to enjoy the session and produced some lovely work.

Thank you to those who brought plenty of delicious cakes.

20 December 12.15 pm Art Club Lunch at The Windmill, Somersham - members only

17 January 2025 10:00am – 12.30 pm A Bird In The Hand.

Bring your own reference photos.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Hilton Women's Institute



Where to begin this month whilst also visualising our possible news in the February issue and then more in 2025? It's quite a thought.

At our November meeting we welcomed Julia, a new member and the return of Chrissie, contemplated our menu choices for our Christmas lunch, received an explanation of proposed new adjustments to the National Constitution and finally where to go on the summer expedition in July! Never say that a WI meeting is boring or unpredictable .

We particularly thanked Jan (with Bruce) on their very successful open day in aid of the Poppy Appeal together with their team of helpers on the day.

Late on the afternoon of the meeting we were sorry to learn that Trevor Chapman, our speaker on Health through Hearing, was unwell so after a flurry of emails Helen offered to stand in and show us the rudiments of Indian Head Massage, in which skill Helen had trained and taught some years ago.

Formally named Ayurveda, or science of life, it is a form of massage which has been

practiced since 600 BC and 'can reduce headaches and help with mental and emotional wellness'.

Helen quickly ensured that we grouped into pairs with one seated and one standing behind her; she then demonstrated the techniques in their specific order for the standing partner to follow, working from approximately the lower shoulder up to the head. Of those receiving the massage, it was plain to see them relaxing and surprisingly, likewise, their partner. Eyes were closed and the room became silent in a serene atmosphere.

So we have learnt and understood something of the practice and benefits of this ancient alternative treatment with very grateful thanks to the skill of one of our own members and offered at very short notice.

So It now just remains to wish everyone a peaceful Christmastime and a resolve in 2025 to continue the thoughtful kindnesses we constantly give one another.

'Merry have we met and merry have we been. Merry let us part and merry meet again.'



Fen Drayton Poppy Appeal 2024



A huge thank you to those of you who took part in the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal this year, both our door-to-door collectors and our local businesses! Despite the fact many people don't use "real cash" anymore, we raised an amazing £2,054.48

This is by far the highest amount we have ever raised in Fen Drayton!

The final total will actually be even higher, once I have been told the additional amounts collected in our area using our QR code, so watch this space!

Whilst all of our collectors are amazing, there are two special mentions this year. Once again, our Year 6 pupils at Fen Drayton Primary School visited classes each day and this year, despite missing the first week of collecting due to half term, raised an amazing £201.09! And this year Bannolds/Carriages had to ask me for an extra collecting box as they had filled theirs - and then for another one! They, and their customers, raised the extraordinary amount of £1039.56 (next year I'm just giving them 6 boxes!).

It was lovely to welcome two new people to our team of collectors - if this is something you're thinking about, it's not too early to let me know you'd like to be involved next year. Children are very welcome to join in (with a responsible adult!). For those who are part of Scouting or Guiding it should also contribute towards earning badges! If you're interested, drop me an email gonecompletelybonkers@gmail.com

Thank you! Jo Hitchins (Poppy Appeal Organiser, Fen Drayton & Swavesey)

FENSTANTON UNITED
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CAROL SERVICE



Sunday 15 December
3.00pm

FENSTANTON UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
Chequer Street

BOOKS & JIGSAWS ON SALE

Saturday 21 December
Saturday 18 January 2025
9.30 – 12.00 noon



FENSTANTON

Christmas

LIGHTS



Friday 6th December

6.30pm - 8.00pm at The Clock Tower

Festive Stalls
Hot Dogs
Music
Draught Beer
Mulled Wine
Soft Drinks

Santa switches the
lights on at 7.00pm

Fenstanton Christmas Lights Committee

What you're Missing

Spooky success for Fenstanton Football Club

On 31 October our community came together for a hauntingly good time at our Halloween fundraising event, all in support of the football club and much-needed clubhouse renovations. The event was an overwhelming success, drawing a fantastic crowd eager to celebrate the spooky season while contributing to a great cause.

The day kicked off with a Halloween trail, winding through our beautiful village. In addition to the trail, we had an array of activities that kept spirits high and laughter ringing throughout the day.



Thanks to everyone who participated. Your support makes all the difference, and we look forward to seeing you all at our future events.

Starting with the return of our 'Barrow of Booze' (see picture)!

Keep an eye out for our upcoming events

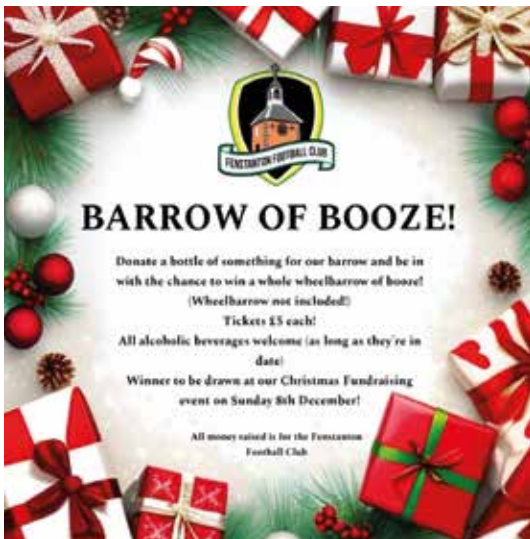
Friday 6 December

'Barrow of Booze' donations and raffle tickets are available at the Village Lights switch on

Sunday 8 December

'Barrow of Booze' draw

*Please pass any donations for our 'Barrow of Booze' to Cat Leith at 21 Honey Hil, Fenstanton. Raffle tickets can be purchased from the fundraising committee, Cat Leith, Bekki Duroemayo-Smith, Laura Rainbird or Jenn Valentine.





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.

9 October We enjoyed a carvery at Hartford Mill, a little later than usual, due to volume of bookings in the restaurant. The company was great and we had fun as well as a lovely meal.

23 October Hannah Shepherd, our community police officer representative, came to speak to us about her role in the village. We had a great discussion on issues within the village and how we as residents can help keep everyone safe. Good informative meeting.



6 November Unfortunately, the speaker due to speak on the “Witches of Warboys” was unable to do so due to an accident.



We enjoyed a very good talk by Chris, a replacement speaker, on “Time through Time”. This took in the measurements of time and explained how we got to where we are today. Very thought provoking and we all agreed “Time” is something we don’t have enough of!!

Upcoming Meetings

20 November An afternoon of music from the “Merrymakers”, with a nod to Christmas 🎄

4 December Our Christmas tea, carols, games and good food as we celebrate the season.

15 January 2025 A general meeting to discuss future bookings. We will have some fun with board games etc.

29 January John Deeks will share his super knowledge of the history of this area TBC

12 February “The Banjo Man” will entertain us with his amazing talent. If you have never heard “Beethoven’s Fifth “ played on a banjo, come along and listen.

26 February Hopefully we will have our speaker on the Witches of Warboys “. TBC

The Friendship Club wishes everyone a wonderful Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

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

What you're Missing

Hilton Flower Club

04 November: We had a very enjoyable afternoon. Lesley Beeton was our flower demonstrator.

She did six fabulous creations, which six lucky ladies took home; we look forward to seeing her next year.

02 December: it will be our end of year Christmas party. June and Beverley will be doing two Christmas arrangements each, these will be added to the Christmas raffle. There will also be our usual eats and drinks to get us in the mood for the festive season.

Our next meeting will be 03 February 2025.

We wish all our flower club friends a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Best wishes to all,

Beverley and June



Hilton Rainbows and Brownies

Hilton Rainbows and Brownies have been busy this term working on badges and testing some new ones. Rainbows decorated jars to make poppy lanterns whilst Brownies made delicate poppy pin badges using tiny beads and used cotton buds to paint poppies onto small jars to hold tea lights.



Some girls took part in the annual Remembrance service at Hilton Church laying wreaths and doing readings. A few of the older Brownies are planning and leading a Christmas session for the Rainbows as part of their Gold challenge. We are practicing Christmas carols to sing at The Chase care home in Huntingdon nearer Christmas when we hope to deliver the Mugs of Kindness we have been collecting items for during the term.

We currently have a full Brownie pack but have spaces at Rainbows. Please use the Join Us link on the girlguiding website to put your daughter's name down or contact us on hiltonrainbowsandbrownies@gmail.com for more information.

We always welcome new volunteers; either young leaders from age 14 or prospective leaders or unit helpers from 18. Please do get in contact if this interests you.

Karen Baker, Brownie and Rainbow Leader

The Highs and Lows

Weather Watch by Patrick Landucci

As I finish this article on Remembrance Sunday, having just experienced 12 days of “anticyclonic sunless gloom”, summer is but a distant memory and yet my last weather review was written at the end of July. Then, despite having had a warm and dry second half of July some were still asking “where has summer gone?”

August, the principal holiday month, continued the warm, dry spell for the first three weeks, with the heat peaking on the 12th, when Cambridge recorded the hottest day of the year in the UK at 34.8C (94F). The remnants of Storm Lilian provided most of the rain which fell in August on the 24th (or 0.60” out of the months total of 0.71”). In many ways summer 2024 was typical of what used to be a “normal” British summer.

I moved with my family from Hilton to Hartford, close to the River Great Ouse on 12 September and was greeted with a thunderstorm in the evening, a rarity this year with none recorded during the three summer months. The second half of September and first part of October brought one of the wettest spells ever recorded in our part of East Anglia, illustrating what a difference a day or two can make when looking at monthly records.

Gillian Sheail recorded a total of 106.4mm in September which fell short of her highest total of 124.4mm (4.85”) which she recorded in 1995. The rain which she recorded on the 1st and 2nd of October totalled 18.2mm which if it had been 2 days earlier and added to this year’s September figure would have just topped the previous record. This is, however, well short of the amount of rain which fell in nearby Bedfordshire, where in some places a new monthly record of 180mm (nearly 7.5”) was established.

Rather unusually for our part of the UK, there have been a number of opportunities to

view the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). A particularly good display occurred on 10th and 11th of October.

The weather during the last part of October and the first 10 days of November were dominated by a large area of high pressure over central Europe, hence the quiet, cloudy conditions. Countries to the south of the high pressure, particularly Spain, have been affected by slow moving intense areas of low pressure with extreme rainfall and flooding events, notably in the Valencia and Barcelona regions where a year’s worth of rain fell in a day, particularly in Valencia where more than 200 people were reported to have lost their lives as well as many homes and properties destroyed.

Given that Christmas is approaching, I am finishing on a lighter note with a few facts about the fascinating history of snowmen. The snowman has long been a symbol of winter joy captivating imaginations through the ages. It was a snowman that appeared on some of the first postcards, starred in some early silent movies and on a couple of the earliest photos, dating back to the 1800s. The tradition of building snowmen dates back to medieval times, since snow was free and in abundance. One story involves the Italian artist Michelangelo who, in 1494, was commissioned by the ruler of Florence to sculpt a snowman in the courtyard of his mansion. Fast forward to the 21st century and the snowman has become a cultural festive icon, inspiring songs, movies and literature. From the Christmas tune Frosty the Snowman to the character Olaf in Disney’s “Frozen”, snowmen have withstood the test of time, they carry with them a piece of history with perhaps a touch of magic too. All that is needed now is some snow this coming winter!

Best Wishes for Christmas everyone.

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Village Hall on Cootes Lane
[moons.grumbles.admires](https://www.what3words.com/moons.grumbles.admires)

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

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

Free!

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*An initial 10week programme
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**Let's
Run
Girls**

Find out more at:
[@letsrungirls.com/fen-drayton](https://letsrungirls.com/fen-drayton)

Or sign up directly at:
[@groups.runtogether.co.uk/LetsRunGirlsFenDrayton](https://groups.runtogether.co.uk/LetsRunGirlsFenDrayton)

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 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides	07730 369565
Fenstanton Speed Watch	07949 453767
Hilton Art Club	01480 830696
Hilton Baby and Toddler Group	07527 394945
Hilton British Legion	01480 831186
Hilton Community Garden	07488 351128
Hilton Flower Club	01480 830571
Hilton HGV Watch	07768 294878
Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	01480 831658
Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	07970 404569

Community Groups and Clubs

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

Community events

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

Education

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

Churches

St Mary's Church, Fen Drayton	01480 465211
Fenstanton Parish Church	01480 465211
Fenstanton URC	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 OMA Store	07533 240954
Respiratory Nutrition	07907 560107
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
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

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