

June 2024

The Journal

Fen Drayton ▪ Fenstanton ▪ Hilton

Local artists open their studios

See page 11

Vietnam on two wheels

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Inventing the orange rose

See page 41

NGS Open Gardens for charity

See page 56

Incorporating Spectrum and Focus

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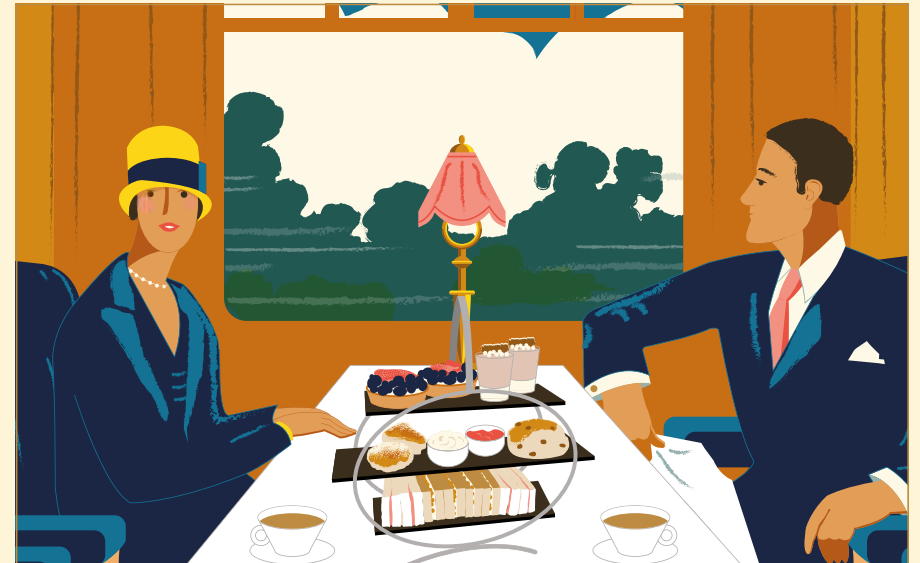


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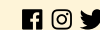
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Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

June 2024

- 06-09 Weekend of Summer Fun
- 06 Lighting the beacon, Village Green
- 07 Games on the Village Green
- 07 Fen Shanty at The White Swan Conington
- 08 Afternoon Tea/Plant sale, Village Hall
- 08 Summer Party, Pavillion
- 09 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Village Green
- 10 Annual Village Meeting, Village Hall
- 11 Football's early local history - talk by Nigel Fenner, Three Tuns
- 15 Coffee with a Cop, Village Hall
- 15 Books and Jigsaw Sale, URC
- 20-22 Booze in Pews, Parish Church

July 2024

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

Sept 2024

- 08 Pimms & Pate Garden Lunch
- 14 Hobbies, Crafts & Collectibles, URC
- 22 Service of Thanksgiving, 150 years, URC

Oct 2024

- 13 Harvest Festival, Parish Church
- 13 Harvest Festival/lunch, Parish Church

Dec 2024

- 07 Seasonal Sing-Along

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

SUMMER SOLSTICE

June sees the longest day which this year is 20 June. Interestingly, this date varies year-to-year by three days. So 20 June is officially half way through the year, although mid-summer's day is celebrated on 24 June. This used to be halfway between planting and harvest but not anymore. Let's hope the weather realises we are in the height of summer and delivers some warmth. The last month saw us with summer clothes on one day and wrapping up the next!

With the advent of summer we dust off our BBQs and we have two lovely accompaniments for any outdoor meal on page 35. If you ever wondered how roses produce such variation in colour, the orange rose is explained on page 41. And, if you like your gardens we have more open next month as part of the National Garden Scheme which raises millions for charity each year, see page 56.

June is also the start of Pride month which is dedicated to celebration and commemoration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender pride. Cambridge will have its own celebrations on Jesus Green on Saturday 15 June where you can expect a free, family-friendly day of music, variety and interactivity on Jesus Green. There will be something for everyone, whoever you are!

From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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Please submit any copy by 10 June 2024 latest for the July edition.

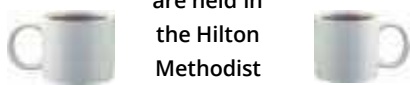
TOMBOLA PRIZES FOR THE BIG VILLAGE FUN DAY

Good news!

Jean is planning to run her usual fantastic tombola stall at Fenstanton's BIG Village Fun Day on Saturday 6 July. Donations of full bottles and tins greatly appreciated. Collection points at Ron's Farm Shop in Chequer Street, and at 28 Bell Lane, Fenstanton. Thank you!

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.



1 June 10:00am to 12 noon
6 July 10:00am to 12 noon

Hope you will be able to join us!

WINNER

Fen Drayton Football Club
300 Club draw
2023-24 season

TICKET WINNERS FOR APRIL

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

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

£10 WINNERS

Ticket no	Winner
91	Vic Jones
34	Richard Daff
297	Alex and Ruth
159	Kat Ward Hunt

£5 WINNERS

Ticket no	Winner
212	Trudy Leach (donated)
21	Mr Lockwood
209	Aurelia Trowsdale
120	Chris Burns

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Local Cambridge Open Studios 2024

Fen Drayton Watercolour Artist Chris Lockwood, Hilton Mixed Media Artist Lynn Norton and Fenstanton Ceramic Artist Paula Armstrong are all busy preparing their studios ready to welcome you this July as part of the Cambridge Open Studios Festival.

It's a great opportunity to meet the artists in person and find out more about how their work is created and what inspires them. Look out for the bright yellow flag with the Open Studios logo in black and red hanging outside the studios. All artists are open from 10am - 5pm.

Chris will be opening her studio on the first two weekends in July, at Garden House, 33 Cootes Lane, Fen Drayton, CB24 4SL (Opposite the Village Hall) She will be exhibiting her watercolour paintings of flowers and animals as well as landscapes (Yorkshire and the Lake District) and seascapes (Cornwall). Her studio is in a light-filled garden room with paintings, cards and prints on display and refreshments available in her garden. www.chrislockwoodwatercolours.co.uk email: chris.lockwood08@ntlworld.com



Lynn will be showing her latest pastel landscapes and beautiful acrylic ink animals. Her new studio at Manor Farm, The Green, Hilton, Huntingdon, PE28 9NA (located on the north side of the Green, behind the Manor House) will be open on the second and third weekend in 13/14 July and 20/21 July. Lynn loves to use mixed media and is influenced by the natural world, painting in both pastels and acrylic ink. www.lynn-norton.co.uk email: norton.lynn@btinternet.com



Paula, a ceramic artist and teacher, will be opening her studio on the first and third weekend 06/07 July and 20/21 July at 5 Rookery Place, Fenstanton, PE28 9LZ (in the shop with the yellow door.) She creates distinctive ceramic sculptures and vessels. Hand building courses and workshops are offered in her studio. Paula enjoys trying new techniques with clay and loves to create work that speaks to the viewer and aims to make distinctive one-off pieces that tell a story. www.parmstrongceramics.co.uk email: paula@parmstrongceramics.co.uk



It is a special year this year as COS celebrates its 50-year anniversary. Today the membership is around 500 with over 250 artists participating each July.

For more information on Open Studios, visit the website at camopenstudios.org where full details of all artists can be found along with directions.

Hilton Feast Week

Plans are in full swing for Feast Week 2024, a week of Medieval merriment, from 21-27 July.

We have just one fundraiser to go before then, playing our part in Hilton's weekend of Summer Fun, from 6-9 June.

Please join us for a Summer Party at the Pavilion from 5pm on Saturday 8 June, where we will have live music, a licensed bar and food vans. We will also be running the bar for other events over the weekend, we look forward to seeing lots of you there!

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
 Hilton Feast Week 2024
 will be held
 21st - 27th July 2024
 Join us for a week of Medieval
 Merrymaking





If you would appreciate help to purchase books or items needed for further education, then apply to this trust. Founded in 1728, the trust has helped many residents of Fenstanton and Fen Drayton. The fund is not a large one but every little helps.

A little help can go a long way.

Apply in writing to:
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***The Joseph Ellis
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All applications are dealt with in privacy
 Help can be given for travel or living expenses.




HILTON PARISH COUNCIL
 Hilton Community Garden
 theWI INSPIRING WOMEN
 Hilton Feast Week

HILTON WEEKEND OF SUMMER FUN 6TH - 9TH JUNE 2024

THURSDAY 6TH
 HILTON MARKS 80 YEARS SINCE THE D-DAY LANDINGS, JOINING IN THE NATIONAL BEACON LIGHTING IN CELEBRATION OF THE 'LIGHT OF PEACE' THAT EMERGED OUT OF THE DARKNESS OF WAR.
 CRICKET PAVILION BAR OPEN FROM 8PM
 BEACON LIGHTING AT 9.15PM

FRIDAY 7TH
 THE GAMES ON THE GREEN TEAM INVITE EVERYONE TO JOIN THEM FROM 5PM
 THERE WILL BE ROUNDERS, CROQUET, GIANT CHESS AND LOTS MORE. FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
 CRICKET PAVILION BAR OPEN FROM 5PM

SATURDAY 8TH
 COME DOWN TO THE VILLAGE HALL WHERE THE WI HOST A FREE AFTERNOON TEA -EVERYBODY WELCOME & THE COMMUNITY GARDEN HOLD A PLANT SALE BOTH 3-5PM
 JOIN THE FEAST WEEK TEAM FOR A SUMMER PARTY AT THE PAVILION
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 5PM - LATE

SUNDAY 9TH
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Making a Difference Locally

District News

For Fenstanton and Hilton

Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



In Focus: Grants

New Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme launched

Local organisations are able to apply for grants of up to £2,500 from Huntingdonshire District Council, for initiatives that support their communities and the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy. You can find at more about the Strategy here: <https://letstalkhuntingdonshire.net/hub-page/the-place-strategy>

Community Chest Grants

For Community Grants this year, HDC welcomes applications from community groups and organisations based in Huntingdonshire, who would like to help us achieve the following priorities that have been set out within the Corporate Plan for 2023-28:

- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone
- Keeping people out of crisis
- Helping people in crisis
- Lowering carbon emissions

New HDC Capital Grant Funding for Rural Businesses

HDC has allocated £350,000 to support the growth of rural businesses with a grant from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, following an award from the government's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The allocation of grant funding will be prioritised to businesses, including farms, to diversify income streams and opportunities resulting in a new product or service in addition to developing and expanding sustainable rural tourism offers.

HDC will fund 50% of the capital value for projects costing up to £150,000. The minimum award will be £5,000, based on a project value of £10,000. The maximum award will be £75,000, based on a project value of £150,000.

For more information on all HDC and other grants, please see: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-democracy/grants/>

Do you have any queries or questions? You can contact me by: clare.tevlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Step into the Past

Some thoughts on the area of the parish that is now RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes

by Richard Close

For most of the last few thousand years, the area that is now the reserve was riverside gravel terraces and grassland in a large river valley, formed by glacier action from the last ice age. At its height, about 22,000 years ago, the ice may have been a mile thick above the land. After the 'big melt' and when the land had recovered, ancient hunter-gatherers returned and would have roamed along the river banks fishing and hunting game. Then, around 8,000 years ago, others from the continent began to settle and become farmers growing ancient wheat and corn and raising animals. The people buried their dead in earth and stone mounds as seen in the short film, Ouse-side Barrows and Fishing Weirs: Palaeochannel Archaeology at Over/Needingworth (www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5Z0V0TeQ2Q&t=726s).

Our fen has a similar scheduled, and apparently undisturbed, ancient mound – a bowl barrow named Low Hill (see below). Thirty metres across by two metres high, it was a notable feature in its own small field. Later, instead of leaving it with a wide skirt of land to show its profile to advantage, it was cut close during gravel excavations and is now on a small piece of land at Elney Lake and is looked after by the RSPB. Sadly, also taken out for gravel, was an ancient trackway named Elney, or Low Fen, Drove

– a picturesque tree-lined drove at least 2,000 years old leading from a Roman farm and villa in the Springhill area. In the 1950s, an eminent mathematician, Augustus Ward of Ivy House, found Roman remains at the river end of Elney. Cambridge University excavated what was thought to be a small Roman building connected to barge traffic. At another Roman site on Elney, south of the busway, more Roman roof tile and brick was found.

Things did not change much until Ramsey Abbey started to dam the river to build corn mills c.1000 AD. There was much anger as this affected river traffic and peoples' lives and flooding became more of a problem.

During the medieval period strip farming took place on the higher and drier land near the village. Later, Vermuyden and the Adventurers started draining the Fens, which, again angered locals who relied on fishing and fowling. The grazing pastures created would have seen twice-daily comings and goings of cattle. At one time there were three milking herds in Fen Drayton.

Then, in 1847, came the Cambridge to Huntingdon railway line. To build it above the flood plain required large quantities of gravel, so a ballast hole was dug, which became the go-to fishing spot for village boys in the

1940s, 50s and 60s. During the Second World War around 30 RAF airfields located in old Cambridgeshire, required large quantities of building material, as did the cold war airfields of the 1950s and 60s, such as Alconbury, which needed hard runways for heavier aircraft.

When St Ives Sand and Gravel started working the Fen Drayton pits, their vehicles were small and did not impact the village too much. Then, before health and safety legislation, locals could get up close to the gravel as it came out the ground. Hundred million-year-old fossils such as ammonites and echinoids (sea urchins), mixed with much later mammoth teeth and flint tools such as hand axes, arrow heads, and even worked antler bone could be found. If we had had more knowledge of the subject then, many more specimens could have been saved. One item lay in my fossil box for 50 years before I realised it could be of interest and took it to the Portable Antiquities Scheme office at Shire Hall. It was identified as an antler mattock (hammer) head used for making flint tools, now classified as of county importance. (See CAM-7DCAEE.) Eventually national gravel companies took over the pits and eight- then 10-wheeled lorries rumbled through the village causing dust, noise and vibration. In the late 60s, the heavy lorries, plus Phantom jets on final approach to Alconbury, made Fen Drayton not a great place to live! Eventually, a new access road, avoiding the village, was built and is now the RSPB reserve entrance road.

The Cambridge to St Ives railway closed to passengers in 1970 but freight continued until 1977. However, Fen Drayton then had its own British Rail timetable and station halt for the sand trains, some of which went over to France as the sand was of such high quality. The last train to run was a diesel excursion for locals in 1989. There was much debate as to what to do with the old trackway. A group of rail enthusiasts (including several local vicars!) wanted to run a preserved railway, the Cast Iron Group a full rail service, and a road was

also suggested. A guided busway, similar to one in Adelaide, Australia was proposed in 2001 and in 2011, the world's longest busway opened!

At the same time the gravel seams were running thin and gravel extraction petered out. Originally the land was to return to agriculture, but, as guessed by locals, they needed something to fill the 10-metre holes. Household refuse was proposed but, fortunately, the Environment Agency would not allow it as it would pollute the river. For a few years windsurfing took place on the lake now called Drayton Lagoon.

Thankfully, in 2007, the RSPB took over the area. It is a nationally known site for birds and fishing, particularly by the Monster Carp anglers! If the stand out bird species in the reserve is the bittern, then the stand out, individual fish would be one called The Client, which is probably over 40 lbs, but its exact weight remains a mystery!





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Cycling Vietnam

By Jamie Ward

Vietnam is increasingly a popular holiday destination famed for amazing scenery, friendly people, and great food - so I was excited to head out on a cycling holiday, travelling overland by a mix of bike, train and bus from the capital city of Hanoi in the north, to Ho Chi Minh City in the south.

Travelling solo, I met my tour group in the lobby of a Hanoi hotel. A mix of nationalities, ages and backgrounds, we all had one thing in common - zero experience cycling on roads in a city of 8 million people and 6 million motorbikes, used here by almost everyone to get around (parents riding with multiple children on one bike is a common sight!). This makes the roads chaotic to say the least, combined with fume-filled air and blaring horns.

Having been daunted enough just crossing the road (turns out raising your hand and slowly stepping out does the trick), getting on a bike here suddenly didn't seem like such a good idea! But led by a fantastically knowledgeable, fun and well-organised guide called Chi, we headed out for a lap of West



Lake. After a stressful few kilometres dodging motorbikes and cars from all directions, we started to find our feet as everyone seemed to naturally weave around everyone else.

The next day we headed into the countryside of north Vietnam. I travelled with Intrepid, an Australian company specialising in small group travel and responsible tourism, for example employing local people on fair terms and supporting small businesses. This meant we were joined by a local team who looked after us and our bikes along the way; and stopped at small roadside restaurants and even people's homes to eat, experiencing



food and local culture we never would have otherwise.

After staying overnight in a homestay, where the family served us a delicious dinner and plied us with rice wine served from a coke bottle, we continued (with slightly sore heads...) towards Ninh Binh. Known for its apparently stunning forest-covered karst rock formations towering above rice paddies, Ninh Binh was used as a location for Skull Island in the King Kong film - I say apparently, as the low cloud and driving rain we experienced meant we didn't see much!

Luckily, we were soon heading south by sleeper train to the promise of tropical sunshine. Waiting at the station, we were approached by a group of schoolchildren keen to chat to practice their English. While Chinese, French and Russian were historically the predominant foreign languages spoken here, English is now taught in all schools and is spoken well by most young people.

The train provided a surprisingly comfortable night's sleep, and we soon arrived in Huế, formerly the

capital city until Ho Chi Minh took power in 1945. Huế's citadel was also a scene of a major battle during the 1968 Tet Offensive; however the remnants of the American War (as it's known there) are rarely visible on the surface nowadays. Chi explained to us how many Vietnamese people have opted to look positively to the future rather than be resentful about the past. I later learnt more about the horrendous events of the war from a Vietnamese rather than Western perspective in a local museum, which only reinforced how incredible it is that Vietnam



Trains, Boats and Planes

seeks to build positive relationships globally, and not only welcomes American tourists but also Presidents with open arms.

We continued south, frequently greeted by local people with shouts of 'hello' and high-fives as we went. We grew more used to the (lack of) road laws and customs, such as red lights being apparently optional and people on motorbikes often darting up the wrong side of the road. But despite this, almost everyone was incredibly calm, courteous and friendly.

We then headed over the Hai Van Pass – the 500m ascent presented the biggest physical challenge of the trip, compounded by the now hot and humid conditions – but we were rewarded with the most stunning views along Vietnam's coastline. We spent the next day recovering in Hoi An, formerly a small fishing village and now a popular tourist destination because of the traditional lanterns which adorn the brightly-coloured streets. Hoi An is also renowned for its tailoring (you can get a tailor-made suit in 24 hours) and amazing three-course meals in high-end restaurants which cost less than a tenner.

As we continued along the coast we passed through multiple fishing villages, as well as the cities of Quy Nhon and Nha Trang. The roads adorned with flags bearing the hammer and sickle, frequent posters and statues of Ho Chi Minh, and loudspeakers blaring government propaganda, were frequent reminders that while Vietnam now has a largely free-market economy, it remains a one-party Communist state where free elections are not held, and the government exercises tight control over enterprise, education, and the judiciary.

As the trip neared an end, we left the coast for the mountain town of Dalat. With hillsides lined with villas and chalets, Dalat resembled a French ski resort (without the snow) - it

was originally built by French colonialists and remains a popular holiday (and second home) destination for many of Vietnam's richest businesspeople and government officials. Being 1500m above sea level, this also provided us with some respite from the heat!

We then embarked on our longest continuous ride of over 100km to the up-and-coming coastal resort of Phan Thiet, before heading to our final destination of Ho Chi Minh City – or as its still known to many locals, Saigon. Perhaps most famous to Westerners for dramatic scenes when the American military pulled out in 1975, Saigon is now a prosperous city of high-rise buildings and tree-lined boulevards. There's lots of motorbikes here too, and perhaps I was just accustomed to the chaos by now, but Saigon felt a much more relaxing place compared to the initial culture-shock I experienced in Hanoi two weeks earlier.

In all we cycled over 650km through this friendly and fascinating country. From the food, culture and history to the beaches and rolling hills, Vietnam has something for everyone. And whether its by bike or not, travelling overland as part of a small tour group provides an opportunity for experiences you would never get otherwise, alongside likeminded people from around the world – I would highly recommend it.



Hilton Summer Ball

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

ORDER OF EVENTS

6:30PM - FIZZ RECEPTION & CANAPÉS

7:30PM - DINNER IN THE MARQUEE

FOLLOWED BY - DANCING TO A LIVE BAND

& CHARITY RAFFLE

1:00AM - CARRIAGES

Dining by:



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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>

June 2024 – Services and Events

Sunday 2 June	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion and farewell lunch to our two ordinands on placement with us, Hannah & Claire
Thursday 6 June	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer For Zoom details, please contact Rev Rosie
Sunday 9 June	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion Worship For All
Thursday 13 June	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 16 June	10.30am Fenstanton 6pm Fenstanton	Holy Communion with Sunday Club Choral Evensong (BCP)
Thursday 20 June	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
20/21/22 June		Booze in Fenstanton Pews (see poster)
Sunday 23 June	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Morning Praise Family Communion
Thursday 27 June	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 30 June	No morning service 6pm Fenstanton	Ely Cathedral ordination service Patronal Festival Afternoon Songs of Praise, with Holy Communion. Light refreshments served after the service.

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallwin: 01480 467393 email: rosie.tallowin@btinternet.com
Churchwardens: Philip Blunt 01480 461751 and Ian Hucklesby 01480 465211

For your information: please note that the Parish Church, Fenstanton has a ramp for disabled access which can be deployed upon request. There is also a toilet, with disabled access, in the church and heating. St Mary's has a small threshold that may be possible to navigate with a wheelchair. There are no toilet facilities, yet and limited heating

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

Returning for 2024

Booze in Fenstanton Pews

20th, 21st & 22nd June



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

Opening Times
Thursday - 5pm - Late
Friday - 5pm - Late
Saturday - 12pm - Late



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News from the Pews

Hilton Methodist Church



Services in June

June 2	10:00am	Rev Sue Baker-Maher
June 9	11:15am	United Service at the Parish Church
June 16	10:00am	Local Arrangements
June 23	10:00am	Rev Clifford Owen
June 30	10:00am	Rev Sue Baker-Maher



Minister: Rev. Sue Baker-Maher 07483 153948
sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk

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READER'S REVIEW...

"This is a quick note to say how much I enjoy looking through and reading 'The Journal magazine'. It's full of interesting articles, information and colour. Thank you all for producing such a wonderful magazine."

Sarah

Hilton Parish Church

Dear Friends,

Last month the Hilton Brownies visited the parish church to help work towards their local history badge. They were a delightful group of girls, full of curiosity and intelligent questioning. They were welcomed by our two Churchwardens, Rachel Wood and Jenny Broom, Esther Bates, our tower captain (who looks after the bell ringing), and myself as vicar.

While one half of the group went up into the ringing chamber to learn about the bells, I tried to help the other group learn a bit about the history of the church, and what is for me more important, the meaning of the building and its contents. We looked at the 11th century chancel arch, the oldest part of the church, the spooky blocked off staircase with a stone skull on one of the steps, the font, the wooden eagle used as a lectern for reading the bible, the altar, the stained glass, and so on.

It made me realise in a new way that all these very solid objects, made with great craft and love over many centuries, exist only to point towards things – and presences – we cannot see: Jesus, crucified and risen, God and his living word, the love that is the *raison d'être* of Christians, the great company of those who have gone before us, and much more. I came away from the lively and friendly 40 minutes or so with the charming Brownies with a renewed and deeper appreciation for the legacy and depth of faith in this corner of God's world, and our duty to continue to fan the flames of this tremendous hope and joy in our own time. You are always invited to be part of this great work.

With love

David

Services in June

Sunday 02 June	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 09 June	11:15am United Communion Service at the Parish Church
Sunday 16 June	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 23 June	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church service in the Village Hall
Sunday 30 June	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Friday 14 June	5:30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church).

Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

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

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



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Fenstanton United Reformed Church

Greetings!

Finally, the weather has warmed up and the sun is shining as we approach the summer months! This is the time in the church calendar when we celebrate the Christian festival Pentecost – 50 days after Easter. This festival recalls God's Spirit coming upon the early church. We sometimes have balloons and cake as we are remembering the birthday of the church.

We have much to give thanks for at Fenstanton United Reformed Church. The hedge is trim and the small trees out front are growing and the beautiful rose garden in memory of church friends gives colour and fragrance. Thank you to those who keep it tidy!

After sixteen years of ministry here and at St Ives Free Church I will be retiring at the end of June. It has been a privilege to serve here: it is a warm and hospitable church with attractive and comfortable facilities. It has traditional services with a Hobbies Day each year with tractors and old-fashioned cars out front, Harvest celebrations with displays of local fruit and vegetables, and Christmas carol services. Yet it has also adapted with the times as we use a TV for slides and video clips in worship. We have joined in community events such as supporting the After School Club. We have continued to serve the community: hosting local groups, Jean running a Knitters and Natters group which sends knitted blankets and garments to charities, holding Coffee Mornings and serving hand-cooked hot dinners. Many baptisms, weddings and funerals have been celebrated here. We have some members who have been here for years and some who have recently joined. I will miss it very much!

It is now a time of transition for our church as we prepare to join with other United Reformed churches: St Neots URC and Loves Farm and Local Ecumenical Partnerships of



Cambourne, Bar Hill and Northstowe, to form a new URC Mission Partnership. An exciting time to share resources, information, and friendship with other churches in the wider area.

As our church grows and changes it continues to seek faithfully to serve the community for its benefit, well-being and peace.

Every blessing!

Warmest wishes,
Catherine

Revd Dr Catherine Ball, minister
Tel 01480 352 058
catherine.ball58@gmail.com

Geoffrey Hawkins, Church Secretary
Tel 01480 462001
geoffrey.hawkins@virgin.net



Fenstanton United Reformed Church
Chequer Street, Fenstanton

www.urc.org.uk

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

2024 Services

June

02 June	Revd Christine Davies
09 June	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
16 June	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
23 June	Revd Dr Catherine Ball – Retirement service
30 June	Revd Christine Davies

July

07 July	Led by Alison Jiggins
14 July	Revd Christine Davies – Holy Communion
21 July	Led by Geraldine Swain
28 July	Revd Christine Davies

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

Tuesday 11 June	2.30-4pm
Tuesday 09 July	2.30-4pm

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary

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Hilton Baby and Toddler Play Group

Planned Activities

JUNE 4	Kite Making
JUNE 11	Paper Dolls
JUNE 18	Collage Pencil Pots
JUNE 25	Cartoon Colouring
JULY 2	Summer Printing
JULY 9	Ice Breakout
JULY 16	Summer Party

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Life on a Plate

It's barbeque season!

If you're cooking more than just a sausage and a burger, here are a couple of side dishes that go fabulously with a Rump Steak or a Butterflied Leg of Lamb!

Potato and Green Bean Salad with Pesto

Prep time 15 mins
Cooking time 30-40 minutes

Ingredients:

One bag of Charlotte potatoes halved or quartered lengthways
1 tbsp of olive oil
Sea salt to taste
250g green beans
1 red onion
One jar of green pesto or feel free to make your own
1 small bunch fresh basil

Method:

Preheat oven to 220C or Gas 7. Toss potatoes in the oil and sea salt, arrange on a baking tray. Bake for 30 – 40 minutes or until lightly brown, turning once or twice during cooking. Set aside and leave to cool.

Blanch the green beans, cut in half, 2 mins max in boiling water, take out and put into very cold water to stop the cooking process. Cut in half (to make them shorter)

Tear the basil leaves into small pieces and discard the stalks. Peel and finely slice the red onion.

Combine the potatoes, beans and red onion and stir in the pesto and basil leaves, Add a little more olive oil to loosen the salad and serve.

Anglo-Asian Salad

Ingredients of salad:

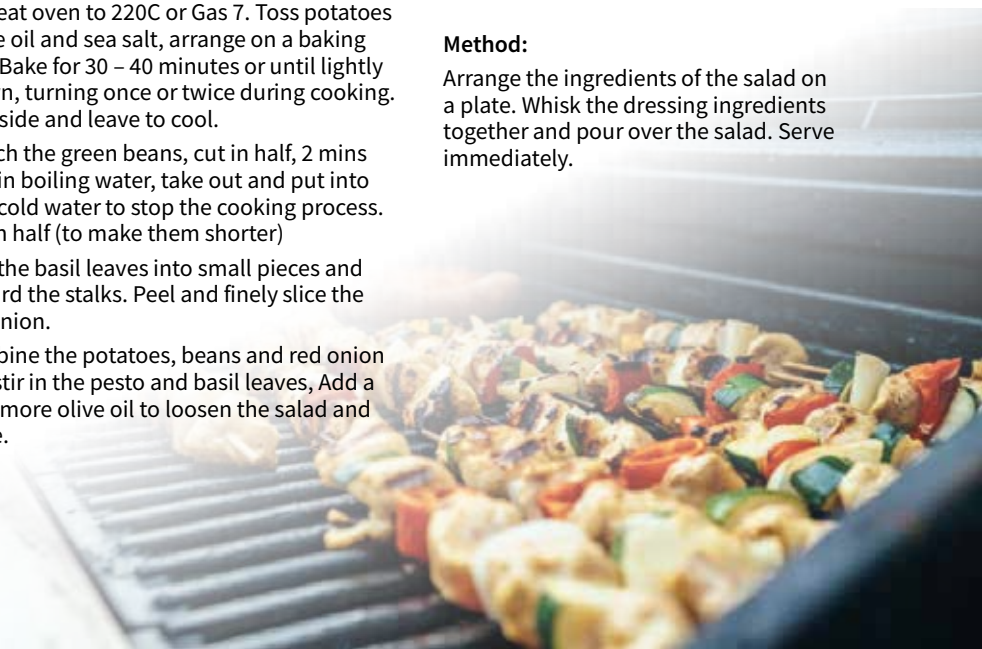
2 tsp garlic oil. If this isn't available use olive oil with 1cm squeeze of garlic puree
1 packet (180g) Salad leaves
3 tbsp chopped fresh mint
1 red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped
2 spring onions finely sliced
1 small pack of Lancashire or White Cheshire cheese, crumbled

Dressing:

2 tbsp of fish sauce
1 tbsp redcurrant jelly
2 tbsp rice wine vinegar, or dry sherry
1 tsp dark soy sauce

Method:

Arrange the ingredients of the salad on a plate. Whisk the dressing ingredients together and pour over the salad. Serve immediately.





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 Huntingdon – Godwin House, George Street, Huntingdon PE29 3BD T: 01480 454301
 St Neots – Xenus House, Sandpiper Court, St Neots PE19 8EP T: 01480 474661

The Wedding Season is here! Do you need a Pre-Nuptial Agreement?

The wedding season is underway. Understandably everyone's focus will be on the wedding day. However, although perhaps an unromantic and negative prospect, consideration should be given to the effect of the marriage on the couple's financial future. This is where a Pre-Nuptial Agreement can be essential.

A Pre-Nuptial Agreement (or Pre-Nup), in the UK is a legal document drawn up between a couple before their marriage to outline how each of their assets will be divided between them in the event of a divorce. Although Pre-Nuptial Agreements are not automatically legally binding in England & Wales the family courts will look to uphold a Pre-nuptial Agreement if certain qualifying criteria are met. It is important to remember that the Court will always have the last word and will view all matters (including the terms of a Pre-Nuptial Agreement), within the provisions of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973.

The aim of the Agreement is to offer some certainty in circumstances where parties prefer to agree in advance the distribution of their assets on divorce rather than leaving it to the

discretion of the Divorce Courts. Without a Pre-Nuptial Agreement if the marriage ends both parties' assets, even if acquired before the marriage, could be held to be matrimonial assets to be included in the "matrimonial pot" and shared.

Contrary to popular belief, Pre-Nuptial Agreements are not reserved for the rich and famous. They are more likely to be put in place where one party already has or is likely to acquire more assets than the other, for example couples who are marrying in later life, those entering into a second marriage, those with large inheritances or other pre-acquired assets.

For a Pre-Nuptial Agreement to have the best chance of being upheld by the Court on a divorce the Agreement must be considered fair to both parties and there are other strict criteria that must be met when preparing the Agreement.

The family team comprises Simon Thomas, Lisa Leader, Lee Bailham and Charlene Powell. All are highly experienced solicitors. In addition, Simon Thomas also specialises in collaborative family law.



Simon Thomas Lee Bailham Lisa Leader Charlene Powell

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



Saturday 6th July

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

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

Fun for all the family Incorporating Sports Day and the PTA Summer Fair

Games Stalls Tombola Traditional Races Tug of War
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 And, don't forget to take a look at our Vintage Vehicle Display.

Why not enter the
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Honey Hill – Cherry Trees

Following the loss of one of the branches from one of the Cherry trees on the green at Honey Hill your Parish Council engaged with an arborist to examine the trees due to safety concerns. The arborist has reported that the tree in question is diseased and will need removing. He has recommended that the remaining trees are thinned out and selectively pruned to help preserve them. These trees are the responsibility

of Cambridgeshire County Council who have been notified and will arrange for their arborist team to assess the trees. In the meantime we are having the offending tree scanned so we can be 100% sure of its condition before any further action is taken. As the trees are in a conservation area we have applied for permission for work and it is hoped that this can be implemented later in the year after the nesting season.

Potholes – repairs

Hopefully, you will have noticed that work to repair the potholes in the village has begun. Potholes on Headlands have now been repaired. Temporary repairs have been made to the potholes at the Low Road/Huntingdon Road and Conington Road junctions. Full resurfacing of these areas will take place later this year. Your Parish Council will continue working closely with our CCC Highways Officer to address further issues.

If you spot a pothole in the village, please report this to the Clerk by email.



Flooding – Environment Agency Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meeting

One of your Parish Councillors recently attended the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meeting presented by the Environment Agency to hear their report on local flooding issues. It was apparent from the information shared by the Environment Agency that there were inconsistencies in the report risk assessments, which our Councillor highlighted. A representative from the Environment Agency has agreed to meet with representatives from your Parish Council along with representatives from Hemingford Grey Parish Council and other interested parties to understand the issues raised by our Councillor.

West Brook and Hall Green Brook

Your Parish Council has reported several blockages along both West Brook and Hall Green Brook to the Environment Agency. However, the Environment Agency has advised that the blockages are not their

responsibility. Your Parish Council will be meeting with a representative of the Environment Agency to understand who is responsible for clearing the blockages.



- Every Monday*** 10am Free Chair and Standing Exercise Class.
10am to 12 noon Free Tea, Coffee, Toast,
- Every Tuesday** 9.15am to 11.45 Free Baby and Toddler Group
9.15am to 11.45 Free Tea, Coffee, Toast, Snacks.
2pm to 4pm Free Tea, Coffee, Cakes, & Conversation
- June** Clare Dunbar - Holistic Wellbeing
Pop-ins. Tuesday June 11 & Monday June 17 9.30am to 11.30am
Mama Jo's Mischief – Childrens Craft
Tuesday June 18 9.30 to 11.30

Fenstanton Community Hub

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9.30am to 11.30 am
Tuesday May 28
Tuesday June 18
Tuesday July 30

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* Except Bank Holidays

MUGA – Netball Posts

Your Parish Council recently acquired two new netball posts for the MUGA. Unfortunately, the previous posts were vandalised. The Fenstanton Ladies netball group expressed their gratitude to the Parish Council for providing the new posts so they can continue to meet regularly to play.

Councillor Surgery – dates

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.

29.06.2024	Tina Yates	Martin Hewitt
27.07.2024	Nigel Ferrier	Anne Mustill
28.09.2024	Matt Tandy	Paul Kent

*Please note that there will be no Councillor Surgery held in August.

Fenstanton Annual Meeting of the Parish

The Annual Meeting of the Parish was held on Thursday 25 April, this meeting is not a Parish Council meeting, it is a meeting where residents have an opportunity to hear what the Parish Council has been up to over the past twelve months and for residents to have the opportunity to speak on whatever topic they wish. Disappointingly, only one member of the village attended as well as some Parish Councillors. If you would like to read the Chairman's report and the Responsible Finance Officer's report for 2023/24 you will find these on our website.

Drain Clearance – Cambridgeshire County Council

Cambridgeshire County Council have now completed gully clearance on Church Lane and Manor Drive. Further gully clearance is scheduled and listed on their 13-week planned works order, these areas include Manor Drive, broken flip lid kerb outlet, Low Road, Hall Green Lane and between 8-10 Chequer Street.

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 four 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

Next Parish Council meetings

Your Parish Council meets next on **Thursday 13 June and Thursday 11 July at 7 pm** in the Church Centre.

The miracle of orange roses

100 years ago, an orange flowered rose was just a dream! The story begins in 1882 when Monsieur Pernet-Ducher started using pollen from the long cultivated rich yellow rose r. foetida (foetida meaning stinking). It intermittently sported to rosa foetida bicolour with petals yellow on the outside and orangey-red on the inside. Tradition has it that rosa foetida was introduced from Persia in the 700 hundreds. After more than a thousand years propagation it was renowned for being infertile. That is until Mons. Pernet-Ducher spent almost a decade before he eventually grew two seedlings. The first was infertile, while the second led to the bright yellow and fiery red roses we know so well today. Initially buff and amber coloured roses were bred then various shades of apricot, orange and brighter oranges that made previous orange roses look pink! As 'Alexander' did to 'Superstar'. Then in the early 1990s, 100 years after the first cross 'Fellowship' was introduced with leaves, thorns and flowers so reminiscent of r. foetida Bicolour!

Tasks for June

It is a traditional time for pruning hedges. However, to avoid disturbing nesting birds, farmers and landowners are encouraged to prune later in the year. If it is a tight formal garden hedge then I think its ok to trim but please 'with care'. Prune and feed spring flowering shrubs like forsythia, ribes, and viburnums. Lilac trees can be cut back by a third after flowering.

Wisteria side shoots can be trimmed to four buds to promote later flowers. Train Japanese quince and trim side shoots back to four buds to encourage flowers next spring.

Dead head/summer prune and feed roses. Sow hardy annuals and perennials like forget-me-not, aquilegia, campanula, foxglove, and scabious.

Water and regularly feed summer pots. If you are away for a few days water then feed with liquid fertiliser shortly afterwards and pots will stay moist for longer.



June Top Tips

- Prune/feed spring flowering shrubs
- Edge lawns
- Prune and feed roses
- Sow forget-me-not
- Sow perennials



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Fenstanton Community Hub

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Business Spotlight

A very local story

In Fenstanton there are three families that are woven into the history of the village; Barnett, Burgess and Jacob. The Jacob family can trace their roots back to 1760 when they first appeared in the Parish Register and today Ron Jacob is carving out the next chapter of this families' history.

Born in a house on the corner of Church Lane, he now lives and runs the village farm shop opposite to where he was born. *“I haven't moved far! I was born over the road and lived in the house next door and now live here next to the shop. The village has grown over the years and I think on the whole that is for the better. It would have sadly died without the new developments,”* explains Ron.

His grandparents bought the adjoining cottages (2 and 4 Honey Hill) and the surrounding land in 1938 for three hundred pounds nine shillings and eight pence! They ran a market garden business there supplemented by other land on what is now the allotments and Walnut Tree Crescent.

Ron walked around the corner to his first school which was then housed in the old Church Centre. *“I can still remember Miss Mumms the reception teacher. The rooms were divided by partitions and we had one coal heater for the whole space. The older boys were sent to the cellar to collect the fuel.”* Next stop was St Ivo school. Ron can remember cycling in a large group down the Low Road to St Ives, which was fine until it flooded even in those days!



RON'S FARM SHOP Homegrown and local produce

“I left school at 15 in 1960 the year I was Head Boy. I joined the family business working with my uncles and learnt how to work the land, which is knowledge you never lose.”

Ron's uncle Fred was particularly enterprising and ran the local courier business. With Primrose, his horse and cart he would run a delivery and pick service to St Ives and back. If you wanted his services you simply put a J sign in your window. He later upgraded to a small van for what was simply an early version of Amazon.

At the age of 24, Ron bought a shop on the High Street. *“It was a typical village shop with fruit and veg on one side and sweets, newspapers and cards on the other. We did Christmas trees every year and flowers on special occasions. We had the shop for 20 years and sold it in 1990.”*

After a few years of market trading Ron opened Ron's Farm Shop in 1995. *“I source all of our produce direct from growers and suppliers around Wisbech, so most things are very seasonal. I supplement the produce with items I have grown myself, so I haven't lost the skills learnt all those years ago from my uncles,”* Ron says.

Ron has always been interested in sport and cricket is his real passion having played for the local cricket team from the age of 12. Today, Ron's playing of sport is restricted to golf, which he tries to fit in each week weather allowing.

As anybody who shops at the Farm Shop knows, you cannot go in or out without a chat with Ron. This is what makes it so special. As his family are so deeply ingrained in Fenstanton there is little Ron does not know about the history of the village.

Ron's Farm shop is a massive asset to Fenstanton and we'd all be lost without it! Whether it's for extra veg for Sunday lunch or bedding plants or just a chat, you can always be guaranteed a cheerful welcome!
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Date: 15 June 2024

Time: 10am - 11.30am

Place: Fen Drayton Village Hall
Community Cafe



Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

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

Dogs ... again!

The parish council has received reports that dogs are running free on the football field. Dogs are only allowed on the football field if they are on a lead and being walked around the perimeter – there are notices stating this clearly. The field is used regularly for sport, both adult and particularly children, so any dog mess on the field is a health hazard.

Village hall car park

The parish council is responsible for the two grass aprons either side of the entrance to the car park and for the woodland on the left-hand side. The village hall is responsible for the car park itself.

The parish council has redefined the parking area by putting boulders on the edge of the grassed area (thank you to the volunteers who rolled them into place) and using tree trunks and bark chippings at the edge of the woodland. Four dead trees in the woodland had to be felled for safety reasons, so we used them to mark the boundary and spread the bark chippings as a weed suppressant. All smaller branches have been left in a pile as a wildlife habitat. This meant that no material needed to be

taken off site. The contractor working on the neighbouring affordable housing site filled in some of the potholes.

Speedwatch

The Speedwatch team continues to monitor vehicle speed through the village. It's a bit short of numbers, so if you think you could help, please contact the parish clerk. The MVAS monitor is deployed in several locations around the village as a reminder to drivers to stay within the speed limits. It also collects data of vehicle counts and speeds which can be used to support grant applications we may make for traffic safety/calming measures.

Crime in Fen Drayton

Last month a public meeting was held with PC Smits of the Neighbourhood Police. Over 30 people from the village attended. In response to questions about why the police did not attend every incident, it was explained that there are only five officers to cover 115 villages. Residents should report all crimes, and any CCTV footage provided by the public is valuable to the police. There was also a discussion about creating a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village. A follow-up meeting with

PC Smits and PC Coppard will be held in the village hall on Saturday 15 June from 10.00 to 11.30, in a Coffee with a Cop session. A crime prevention session will also be held at a future community cafe.

District Councillor, Sue Ellington

I know how well the parish council and individuals work together as a community to solve problems in the village, including flooding, and provide recreation facilities for both children and adults. The Lord Lieutenant, Julie Spence, as the King's representative in Cambridgeshire, has many opportunities to recognise the work of individuals, voluntary groups and businesses in the district. She is keen to hear about voluntary services and is available to give supportive advice via her deputies. If you wish to know more, the following websites can help.

You can nominate an individual for an honour here: [How to nominate - UK Honours System \(cabinetoffice.gov.uk\)](http://How to nominate - UK Honours System (cabinetoffice.gov.uk))

You can encourage a business to put themselves forward here: [The King's Awards for Enterprise: About the awards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://The King's Awards for Enterprise: About the awards - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))

You can nominate a voluntary group here: [The King's Award for Voluntary Service - official website \(dcms.gov.uk\)](http://The King's Award for Voluntary Service - official website (dcms.gov.uk))

For help with any district council issues, email: cllr.ellington@scambs.gov.uk or call: 01954 202923 or 07774 1463.

Left: Egyptian goose and gosling on river.

Fen Drayton 10k and Fun Run

On a pleasant sunny morning, 200 runners gathered at the start line on Cootes Lane. There were many supporters out on the course to encourage the runners as they headed towards the RSPB reserve, past Swavesey Windmill and along the guided busway to Fenstanton before heading back to Fen Drayton and the welcoming finish line in the village hall field.

Later, the 2.5k fun run took place and there were all-day attractions including a bouncy castle, ice cream van and a chiropracter!

Thank you to the organisers and sponsors as well as all the volunteers who helped the event run so smoothly on the day.

Fen Drayton Community Cafe

The committee has decided to donate £250.00 to Magpas in thanks for the CPR and defibrillator training it provided at January's cafe. Magpas relies totally on donations and provides valuable help at difficult times.

The committee has also opened applications for grants to Fen Drayton organisations and clubs again. An application form and further details are on the village Facebook. Or, contact fendraytoncommunitycafe@gmail.com. Applications must be submitted by Friday 5 July.

The next cafe, is Saturday 8 June from 10.30 am to 12.30pm. The Gardening Club meets at 10.45 am.



News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



As I write this, we are enjoying some sunnier and much warmer weather, which has hopefully given us a taste of things to come! Our children have enjoyed being outside and accessing our field areas at lunchtime. We hope to take as much learning outside as possible this term, to make the most of our extensive grounds. We also look forward to seeing many of you enjoying the space at the BIG Village Fun Day on Saturday 6 July!

By the time you read this, Year 6 children across the country will have completed their end of Key Stage assessments (SATs). Our children will have enjoyed their SATs breakfasts and some additional 'down time' to celebrate the end of the week! We hope things have gone smoothly for all Year 6 children in local schools, as they prepare for their final days in primary school.

Last half term, four of our Year 5 children competed in the 2024 Maths challenge. We are very proud of these children (picture included), who represented the school

wonderfully well and worked with collaboration and respect throughout the event.

At the end of April, we were delighted to welcome Pete Thompson (aka The Skipping Ninja) to school. Pete worked with all of our children, from Preschool to Year 6, and we were all wowed by the show Pete put on during our morning assembly!

At the end of this half term, we will be welcoming the Royal Institution for a school science day about Explosive Food. The day will include exciting workshops for the children and an after-school community show. This event, and the visit from Pete Thompson, has been funded by the fantastic work and generosity of our PTA.

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



Summer Raffle

1st Prize - £250 cash

2nd Prize - £200 Xtreme360 Voucher

3rd Prize - £150 Pencil drawing portrait by local artist plus many more.....

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What you're Missing

You look like a role model!

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

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

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

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



Hilton Art Club



The April Session, 'Under The Water', was very productive and there were pictures of sea creatures, including turtles, beautiful fish, a crab and seahorse, sea scene, etc.

A lovely morning, with delicious cakes and good company.

Kathy B gave out her notices, reminded everyone about the Feast Week Art Show in July and we welcomed new member, Tracey, to the club.

Friday 21 June, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm Beach Finds: think shells, driftwood, etc.

Please bring your own pictures / props..



Hilton Women's Institute



Comedians and sometimes the media often refer to WI groups as 'all Jam and Jerusalem' but let us in Hilton dispel that myth. Yes we did sing Jerusalem at our Annual General Meeting for once this year - and why not?

But Jam, oh no. When, ladies have we ever discussed recipes, jams and chutneys? Maybe, though we should be thinking more about using nature's bounty.

As well as our very varied subjects by monthly speakers, we have a number of clubs and groups, for example, around 16 or more members play canasta fortnightly.

To Craft club we take our own current project which can be everything from knitting, crochet, patchwork, tapestry and rug making - even to pauses for long discussions trying to put the world right, sympathy, cures for every ailment and plenty of tea, coffee, biscuits, sometimes even cake. One member regularly comes just for that!

Another monthly group, called Art for Fun is really that when Jan, our guide and teacher finds

new, challenging subjects and we mostly keep the results to ourselves because it really IS Art for Fun.

We have a monthly book club, tales will be wonderful, horrid, controversial and there is a possible French conversation group in the pipeline. Subjects for the next few months by speakers are Spinning, Gemstones, Adventures of a Ghosthunter, Beekeeping and Better Hearing.



Members enjoying fish and chips on the "Flying Codman"



The WI logo is 'the WI Inspiring Women, and yes, we do here!

The thread through all of these groups is of course WI's traditions for tea and cake etc but the real ties are the friendships and concerns we all have for other members which makes us very special.

New members of all ages are always welcome.

hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com

What you're Missing

Fenstanton Friendship Club

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

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

10 April



Tara from Cambridgeshire Wildlife Care came to talk to us about what we should do if we encounter any wildlife in danger. We learnt a lot about the different species and their needs, how imperative it is to get help from those qualified in animal

care. Young animals may appear to have been abandoned but it is not necessarily the case. Any problems, please go online to Cambridgeshire Wildlife Life Care where you will be directed to the best help for the situation you are facing. Tara was very enthusiastic and obviously cared for all animals and has been engaged in looking after sick hedgehogs.

24 April

We were privileged to hear from Josie Charter on the work being done in Malawi. It's amazing the progress that has been made over the last twenty years with some of the

children even qualifying in the medical field. This is wonderful but there is still a lot to be done. The photographs of the children are beautiful, they are so happy with so little. There is another container ready to be filled and shipped out. Josie has lists of needs if you would like to contribute.



Upcoming Meetings

22 May

We embark on a river cruise on the "Ladybird". We leave at 10.00am and return at 3.00pm from the Hartford Marina. At midday we will stop for fish and chips or you may bring a picnic lunch. There may be some places available if you would like to join us. The cost is £12.50, plus the cost of lunch if needed.


5 June

Firefighters from Huntingdon Fire Station will be coming to talk to us about fire safety. We will be able to look around the tender too.

19 June

If you are a Brass band enthusiast, you are in for a treat. We have Andrew Bannister coming to play for us, B and E flat cornet player, who has played for Grimethorpe Colliery Band, Brighthouse and Rastrick and many others. Sure to be a great afternoon.

3 July

Strawberry tea. 

Good things coming up in June, watch this space. Any questions please contact me. Marie News bubblenews@gmail.com 01480 350119

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Let's Run Girls Fen Drayton



Let's Run Girls is dedicated to empowering women to improve the health and wellbeing of their local communities in the UK. We currently have supportive running groups in twelve different locations in Cambridgeshire including Fen Drayton.

The free weekly run sessions are led by a dedicated team of volunteer Run Leaders who are passionate about supporting other women to get into running. If you're already running and would like some company and extra motivation, the weekly steady run group is a great option for you. All paces are welcomed, we just ask that you can continuously run for at least 20-25minutes. We also deliver a beginners course each year for those new to, or want to get back into running. The next beginners course is starting soon.

The Fen Drayton group meets every week at 6.45pm on Monday evenings outside the Fen Drayton Village Hall. Find out more or register by scanning the QR code (@letsrun girls.com), or contact info@letsrun girls.com for more information.



SCAN ME

What you're Missing



Hilton Rainbows and Brownies

We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead. We have already visited RSPB Sandy as part of the Anglia region Feeling in Good in Nature initiative and 15 of our girls explored the reserve, made bug hotels and took part in nature games and activities. At Rainbows we are doing sports-themed activities based on the Olympics and hope to visit Monach Farm later in the term. Brownies are exploring the village landmarks and visiting the church and bell tower towards the Local History Badge.

We are also organizing a trip to see the Standing Tall Giraffe Trail in Cambridge during


May half term and visiting Meadow Lodge Farm in Bluntisham for a Nature Discovery session in the orchards. Lots of badges to be earned and a number of girls are on track to receive their GOLD award this term.

Once again we would really like extra help with Rainbows. We only meet once a fortnight, so 5 or 6 times a term. If this appeals to you, please get in touch at girlguidinghilton@gmail.com or 07970 404569. Please also contact us if you have a daughter who would like to join Rainbows or go on the waiting list for when she is old enough.

Thank you

Karen Baker
Rainbow and Brownie Leader

Find a defibrillator near you

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

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

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

Hilton Prince of Wales Pub on Potton Road
[mindset.skip.pulps](https://www.mindset.skip.pulps)

Hilton Cricket Pavilion
[clerk.farmland.unroll](https://www.clerk.farmland.unroll)



Make sure you have this date in your diary!
Saturday 6 July

Hilton Flower Club

May 13 Steffie Shields MBE gave us a talk and slide show on Capability Brown and on his work around Cambridgeshire. We hope you all enjoyed the afternoon.

June 19 is our outing to Beth Chatto's wonderful garden. We are looking forward to getting ideas for our own gardens.

I will have to report on our experience in the July Journal.

June and Beverley wish all our ladies a wonderful holiday, we will catch up with you at our September 2 meeting when it will be our workshop.

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

No Membership just pay at the door.

Look forward to seeing you all. Beverley / June



Fenstanton Bowls Club

The season for Fenstanton Bowls Club has begun! It was an extremely difficult winter where we faced numerous floods which affected our green and club house, however, with the dedication of our members the green is ready and our club house has been re-decorated. We were delighted to hold our annual Fun Days over the weekend of 4-5 May and were so lucky to have two lovely warm and sunny days. We welcomed 25 visitors to the club who all tried their hand at bowling and enjoyed our hospitality with lots of cake.

If you were not able to come down that weekend, and would like to find out more about us as a club and have a go, everyone is welcome to attend our Social Bowls on a Sunday morning between 10am and 12pm - please just come along and you will receive a warm welcome.

Our league matches have now started. We have a busy season ahead of us as we have both a Men's and Ladies' Team in the Huntingdon & District league, two teams

who compete in the Cambridge & District League and two teams who play on a Wednesday afternoon in the over 60's league. We have our figures crossed for a very successful season for all of them!

If you would like to find out more, please email Barry at barryward30@hotmail.co.uk or visit our website at fenstantonbowlsclub.co.uk



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Fen Drayton 10k and Fun Run

What a day! The weather was glorious and we had a great turn out of runners and spectators for our annual event once again this May. There was so much happening with craft and food stalls, bouncy castles and both a 10k and fun run race, we hoped you enjoyed the event if you came along and supported us.



We want to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all our sponsors and volunteers who helped on the day, from marshalling, setting up and taking down, registration, bag drop – the jobs were endless and would not have been possible without your help. All money raised from the event goes towards local charities including the Fen Drayton Primary School.



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Lastly, our event would not be possible without the dedication of the event committee who give up so much of their time to deliver this event each year. They have done an amazing job and we would love to invite new members onto the committee for 2025. Please get in touch with us if you are interested: info@fendrayton10k.org





Open Gardens in Hilton

As part of the fund raising for the National Garden Scheme (NGS), six gardens in Hilton are opening their gates on Sunday, 07 July from 2pm to 6pm. In contrast to Hilton Open Gardens in 2023, 5 of the 6 gardens are all associated with mid to late 20th Century properties, the exception being the Prince of Wales garden with the pub dating from the 1830's. The six gardens represent a large variety in terms of size and planting.

At 27 Scotts Crescent, the owner, a member of the Hardy Plant Society, uses their breadth of knowledge to great effect with unusual and delightful planting.

In 8 Graveley Way, the garden demonstrates creating a space for entertaining yet still have a beautiful space with trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables and a wild meadow. All in an average sized garden.

12 Westbrook is one of the more established gardens of the 6, but having acquired the somewhat overgrown property only a few years ago, the current owner has worked hard to reclaim the space and showcase a large variety of planting.

The owners of Moat House, College Court, are in the process of remodelling a large plot which consisted predominantly of lawn.

The Prince of Wales private garden is the creation of its very artistic owner and demonstrates a hugely imaginative and different garden with the theme of sustainability and recycling.

At Sherwood House the owners have created a variety of different areas, each with its own contemporary style and theme, whilst also benefiting from views over open countryside.

Hilton, as well as Fenstanton, has associations with Capability Brown, as it was part of the same Manor and several of the open gardens were part of his land in the 18th century. Whilst here, why not visit the historic maze which was cut in 1660 to commemorate the restoration of Charles II?

A selection of beverages and cakes, as well as ice cream, courtesy of Monach Farm, will be served in the Methodist Schoolroom on Potton Road.

Parking is available by the Village Hall on the Green with additional Blue Badge parking at the Methodist Chapel.

Gardens will be open from 2-6pm with a price of £7 per person (free for children under 15). Tickets including a map and guide will be available at each garden.





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Fen Drayton War Memorial	3.40pm – 4.10pm

Route H11 – 2nd Tuesday In The Month

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

Route H25 – 4th Thursday In The Month

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

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An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

This September, on two dates only, we are bringing canoeing to Fen Drayton Lakes. You will be led on an exploratory journey around islands and reed to experience the reserve from an angle never previously seen by visitors.

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

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

Canoeing offers a sustainable way to explore these delicate ecosystems without disturbing

the wildlife. The quiet, non-intrusive nature of a canoe allows you to observe animals in their natural habitat without causing undue stress or disruption. It's a chance to become a mindful observer, blending seamlessly into the environment and experiencing nature in its purest form.

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

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

Other upcoming events at Fen Drayton Lakes

Wild(ish) Camping for Groups - A unique opportunity for groups to camp on site.

Wednesday Wander Guided Walk - Join our knowledgeable volunteers for a walk around the reserve.

Volunteering opportunities

We are looking for new volunteers to join our visitor engagement team here at Fen Drayton Lakes. In this role you will be giving visitors a warm welcome and finding out how you can help them enjoy their visit, whether that's pointing out where they can see wildlife, advising on which trail to go around or providing information about Fen Drayton Lakes and what makes the reserve a special place.

To find out more, please get in touch.

Email: fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk

Visit rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fen-drayton-lakes



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

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	01480 830707
Hilton Flower Club	01480 830571
Hilton HGV Watch	07768 294878
Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	01480 831658
Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	07970 404569

Community Groups and Clubs

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

Community events

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

Education

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

Churches

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

Emergency numbers

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 Horse, Swavesey	01954 231665
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
Post Office and OMIA Store	07533 240954
Pamela Ann Soft Furnishing	01480 831771
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

D Moody	01480 465400
Jason Kirby	01954 211775

Design, printing and copying

St Ives Quickprint Ltd	01480 465215
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Household services

Cambridge Light Removals	01480 352220
Clean Direct	01480 412875
Easton & Cook Funerals	01480 310400
Fairy Dog Mother	01480 461959
Get Refurbed	01223 752947
Hamptons Pest Control	01480 274848
Hilton Private Hire	07521 293434
J L Wright Chimney Sweep	01954 253315
More Space Storage	01480 830130
Red Driver Training	07816 492758
Television Mobile Repair Service	07887 887319
Z Cars Taxis	01480 462046

Electricians

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

Plumbing and Heating Engineers

J Halstead	01480 830329
MDS	01480 800810
RDS	01954 770309

Building services and supplies

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

Car servicing and repairs

Graveley Garage	01480 830462
Wilderspin Garage	01954 230273

The Journal

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

DOMINIC MOODY

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References Available

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