

February 2025

The Journal

Fen Drayton ▪ Fenstanton ▪ Hilton

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Tales from a taxi driver

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25 years and still sewing

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MBE awarded locally

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New bus service for Hilton

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Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

February 2025

- 08 Comedy Night with Jubado's
- 15 Sing-a-long & Supper, Church Centre
- 15 Books & Jigsaws Sale, URC

March 2025

- 01 Bowls Club Quiz Night, School Hall
- 22 Quiz Night

April 2025

- 05 Nestbox building, Community Garden
- 19 Family Egg Hunt

May 2025

- 01 Fenstanton Morris, Clock Tower
- 04 Fen Drayton 10K Race and Fun Run
- 10 Murder Mystery Evening with Strictly Murder
- 10 Planting vegetable seeds, Community Garden
- 17-18 Fenstanton Open Gardens
- 17-18 Art Exhibition, Parish Church

June 2025

- 19-21 Booze in Fenstanton Pews, Parish Church

July 2025

- 05 BIG Village Fun Day, School playing field

Cambs Open Studios, varying weekends in July,
Fenstanton, Fen Drayton, Hilton

- 25 Hilton Summer Ball
- 27-02 Aug Feast Week

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



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is on its way!

Already the evenings are extending as we move towards Spring. January certainly saw some winter weather, although here in Cambridgeshire we did not have the heavy snow seen in other parts of the UK.

In February we celebrate Valentine's Day and of course Shrove Tuesday which is always a highlight for children. Until 1940 we used to have National Kissing Day (15th) where boys could ask a kiss from the girl of their choice. A practice that would seem politically incorrect today for certain.

As always in The Journal we have a range of articles for you to enjoy. This month we see a new feature Paws for Thought which will look at different aspects of pet ownership. With the increase of household pets over the last few years this should prove to be an interesting addition to your magazine.



From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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Please submit any copy by 07 February latest for the March edition.

Cover photograph provided by Gill Parrish

New MBE awarded locally



As part of the St Ives branch of the Royal British Legion, we are intensely proud that one very special member was awarded an MBE in His Majesty's recent New Year Honours, recognising 40 years raising funds for the Royal British Legion and Royal Air Force veterans.

Warrant Officer (retired) Ed Kelly received his letter from the Cabinet Office days before his 101st birthday. He has held most offices of the Legion since his retirement from the Royal Air Force in 1982, including organising the Poppy Appeal, and he enjoys visiting schools and local cadet forces.

Having enlisted in the Royal Air Force at the age of 19 he trained in Canada. He then flew with several squadrons in Lancaster and Canberra bombers and became known as the most experienced navigator of those aircraft.

Notably among those squadrons, he was flying in the Berlin Air Lift from 1948 - 1949 and during the Suez crisis of 1956. He was with one of the 29 aircraft that attacked the Battleship Tirpitz in 1944 and was an operator on a Thor nuclear missile site during the dangerous Cuban missile crisis in 1963.

Ed was also awarded the Air Force Medal.

At 101, Ed is still an active committee member of the Legion and only recently ceased marching on Remembrance Sunday. He was provided with a seat this year but no, he stood throughout the ceremony and his main concerns nowadays are attending church whenever he can and helping to care for his disabled wife.

A hero? Most certainly.

May we also remind our readers that this year, 2025, there will be ceremonies to mark the 80 years since the end of the Second World War. What a privilege it is that we have Ed Kelly, one of a very few still with us to thank for their part in that conflict.



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 February 10:00am to 12:00 noon
1 March 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Hope you will be able to join us!

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Then and now: Bus ticket machine technology



Stagecoach East is continuing to celebrate 40 years of serving communities in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire by showcasing the development of ticket-machine technology.

The bus operator has released a picture from its archive of a Setright ticket machine, which was once a well known feature of transport across the region. The portable Setright used a number of dials and a handle to crank out paper tickets to local people.

Whereas modern ticket machines are computer-enabled and can store hundreds of routes across different depots; they dispense tickets at the press of a button. They constantly keep track of where the bus is so that customers can see this information on the Stagecoach App. They also accept smart and contactless cards for ease of payment,

and ensure consistent pricing across the region. Messages can also be sent to Drivers through the ticket machines.

David Boden, Business Development Director of Stagecoach East, said: *“As we celebrate 40 years of Stagecoach East/Cambus, it is important that we remember our heritage of such iconic items as the ticket machine, but also appreciate the modern technology which helps to get our loyal customers where they need to go as quickly and conveniently as possible.”*

“A modern bus is a technological marvel - including our fleet of electric buses - and we are proud to bring our modern fleet and technology to the heart of this forward-looking and progressive region. Features like contactless payment are essential for new customers in the modern day.”



Old Setright machine designed to be portable



Modern machine computer enabled to give consistent prices and allow contactless payment

Five top tips for injury-free training for the Cambridge Half Marathon

by Suvanne Southgate, owner of Cutting Edge Podiatry

At least half of recreational runners are injured in the UK each year, according to research. So, if you are training for the Cambridge Half Marathon on 9 March, what steps can you take to avoid becoming one of the statistics?



1. Give your body time to adjust to training

Increasing distance and speed before your body is ready to do so – and not having enough recovery time in between runs – are common causes of injury. So don't increase your mileage by more than 10% in any given week, make sure you have rest days, and alternate speed and distance runs. Also, take time to warm up and cool down, which helps maintain flexibility.

2. Alternate runs twice weekly with strength and flexibility training

Running with muscle weakness and imbalances often causes overuse of muscles not strong enough to do the job being asked of them. An overuse injury is caused when the muscles have no time to adapt or recover between training. Ideally, you need to alternate your runs twice weekly with strength and flexibility training.

3. Wear the right trainers

Trainers are expensive but don't retrieve the ancient ones at the back of the wardrobe – or use the ones you wear every day to take

the dog for a walk. Get some advice from a proper running shop where they can look at your gait and recommend the appropriate trainers for your running style. And these are then your 'running trainers' only.

4. Pay attention to running gait

Familiarise yourself with some basic running gait knowledge or seek professional advice. For example, when striking the ground with the heel, having the knee too straight at impact will significantly increase the risk of injury. By not overstriding, you'll allow the knee to flex appropriately.

5. Don't ignore niggling discomfort

Ignoring an injury will not make it go away – so deal with any issues at an early stage. Seeing a professional will help you identify the problem so that you can rectify it. Nipping issues in the bud will get you back on the road and across that finishing line.

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.

Hilton Feast Week



Calling all courageous champions and mischievous masterminds! This year's Feast Week promises to be an epic clash of good versus evil as Hilton Feast Week dives into the thrilling world of Heroes and Villains!

Make sure the dates are in your diary Sunday, 27th July – Saturday, 2nd August 2025, and get ready to unleash your inner superhero, or embrace your dastardly side, for a fantastic Feast Week themed around heroes and villains!

If you haven't got your ticket yet, don't miss out on Comedy Night at Hilton Village Hall on Saturday 8th February! We will be joined by some fabulous comedians from Jubado's. Last years event was a fantastic success and we are delighted to bring it back for another evening of laughter and fun. Tickets available on our website now, see QR code below.



Dates for our upcoming fundraisers;

- Quiz Night – Saturday, 22nd March 2025 – tickets are available on the website now
- Family Egg Hunt – Saturday, 19th April 2025
- Murder Mystery Evening with Strictly Murder – Saturday, 10th May 2025





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Do you know about the Community Car Scheme run by Huntingdon Volunteer Centre?

The Community Car Scheme is a volunteer-run service for people with mobility difficulties and those who need to make essential journeys (medical, shopping etc.) where there is no suitable public transport.

Huntingdon Volunteer Centre (HVC) is a local registered charity whose mission is to actively engage with Huntingdonshire communities by promoting and encouraging the involvement of volunteers in a variety of initiatives, including four Community Car Schemes. The charity also runs a Community Shop in Huntingdon (shop in person or online) which helps raise funds to maintain services.

Across Huntingdonshire the car schemes have an amazing 1,650 registered users. Volunteer drivers charge 45p per mile driven to cover their costs, plus there is a booking fee per journey of £2.00. While priority is given to medical appointments, HVC is happy to accommodate drives to social occasions too. All drivers are DBS checked, carry official identification and are fully insured.

One of the car schemes operates from the HVC office in St Ives Town Hall. Some facts: during financial year 2023-24 Fenstanton residents travelled a total of 2,590 miles over 129 journeys with the help of HVC volunteer drivers. There are presently 25 registered users of the scheme in Fenstanton and four of the registered drivers are Fenstanton residents. Hilton has one registered driver and 12 clients who travelled 994 miles over 27 journeys in the same period.

Book a drive by calling the St Ives office Monday to Thursday 12.30 – 3.00pm on 07582 211392 or 01480 301462, or online at stives@huntsvc.org.uk giving as much notice as possible, preferably 7 days' notice in advance. First time users need to fill in a



simple one-page form to register to comply with Data Protection regulations.

Fenstanton PC Welcome Space, working with HVC, currently offers free transport to and from the Church Centre for residents with mobility problems. For more information contact Roy roy.mcgee@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk, tel 07949 453767.

Could you be a volunteer driver? There is no minimum commitment and no obligation to accept any drive. Non compulsory training courses are available.

One of the Fenstanton drivers told The Journal *“Being a voluntary driver is a pleasure. I have met many lovely people and had some fascinating conversations. You can choose to commit as much or as little time to volunteer as you wish. Just committing to one short drive every week or two weeks would be a great help and it gives you such a buzz to think that you have really helped another person.”*

Drivers however are not the only volunteers sought in Huntingdonshire. HVC works to match personal skills and interests to the right local volunteer opportunities. It promotes the benefits that volunteering brings, both to individuals and to organisations in Huntingdonshire.

For more information about both the car schemes and other local volunteering opportunities see website www.huntsvc.org.uk



Why not join a community police meeting?

Dates have been set for the quarterly neighbourhood community police meetings for South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire residents.

During the hour-long online meeting you will get the opportunity to meet your neighbourhood policing team, hear what they have been working on over the past three months and help set the priorities for the coming quarter. The dates are as follows:

Huntingdonshire		South Cambs	
17 March	7pm	26 February	7pm
30 June	7pm	21 May	7pm
24 September	7pm	27 August	7pm
15 December	7pm	26 November	7pm



If you are interested in joining us, email either 'South Cambs' or 'Hunts' to communitymeeting@cambs.police.uk and you will be sent a Teams invite.

Fen Drayton village hall changes

Fen Drayton village hall is used by many different groups ranging from toddlers who act their age to seniors who refuse to act their age.

The activities include exercise (boot camp to yoga) and dance classes, indoor bowls, toddlers, a menagerie of cubs, beavers and squirrels and, most importantly, children's birthday parties and other celebratory events! All this activity and the age of the building means the hall needs to be updated constantly. This month two significant changes have taken place.

First, the village hall committee is changing. Roger Courtney (the chairman) and Hannah Dale have stepped down and we thank them for their help and support over the past years. Now, we are looking for new committee members. If you are interested in spending a few hours a month helping the community, please contact Jackie Parr (jparr813@gmail.com).

com) or Bridget Close (bridget.close52@gmail.com).

The second change is the committee room is being refurbished with a new floor and window blinds, thanks to a grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council Community Chest, plus funds from the affordable houses being built in the village.

In 2025 the hall has already started on new projects. One is to improve the computerised booking system and the second is a major project to make the hall more environmentally friendly. South Cambridgeshire District Council's Net Zero Villages grant aims to support rural communities to deliver capital projects that achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We are developing a proposal for a grant to install solar panels and other fossil fuel-saving measures. Let's hope the sun shines on our grant application!

Boxing Day at Fenstanton's clocktower

At 11.45am on Boxing Day the Clocktower was deserted, but by midday the good people of Fenstanton approached from all directions. Not only was there a warm and supportive crowd but several discarded their inhibitions and joined in for 'Shepherd's Hey'.

Fenstanton Morris Dancers will be back at The Clocktower at 5.30am on 1st May 2025. See you there!

Follow them on Facebook to find out when and where they are performing



Interested in becoming a parish councillor?



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

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

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

Please apply by:

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Categories announced

The Produce and Craft competition categories have been announced for Fenstanton's Big Village Fun Day on Saturday 05 July. So this year there is no excuse not to enter and the organising team are really hoping for a bumper entry. Judges for the competition will be announced nearer the time. So get making!

Produce

1. Home Grown Produce – Basket of Seasonal Produce
2. Wonkiest Fruit & Veg. Two categories – Heaviest and Wonkiest
3. Floral arrangement – best flower arrangement celebrating summer in a wine or beer glass.
4. Children's entry Growing a sunflower plant from seed. Biggest/Tallest on day of show. (Collect pots and seeds from Ron's Farm Shop, and/or School planting event.)

Adult class, 14 years and above

Child Class, under 14 years

Judges' award and People's choice

Craft

1. Crafts – Anything you have made personally e.g. painting, sewing, knitting, jewellery, pottery.
2. Photography – Animal theme
3. Lego creation – Celebrating the Great Outdoors theme
4. Savoury Baking – Your best air fryer creation.
5. Bread – Your favourite recipe for a loaf of bread.
6. Sweet Baking – Biscuits – Four biscuits on a plate.
7. Sweet Baking – Cupcakes – Four decorated cupcakes on a plate
8. Mini Scarecrow

Adult class, 14 years and above

Child Class, under 14 years

Judges' award and People's choice





Some **FUNDRAISING** achievements in Hilton

A huge “thank you” from Heather Woods to everyone who supported the Christmas fundraising events in Hilton. The Christmas season is a time for giving and receiving but it can be a difficult time for some people!

Carol singing around the village enabled us to send £575.00 to Hope International, supporting the Star School in Rwanda, thanks to the carol singers and collectors – and especially to those who gave to the cause.

Action for Children received £360.00 from the annual Toy Service and a great many sensory toys were also donated for Woodland Lodge in Huntingdon.

The Carol Service in the Methodist Church was well attended and the offering of £360.00 went to support Franciscan Aid in the UK.

The four Advent Lunches raised a total of £414.00 which was shared equally between Thrive Youth Work in Godmanchester and the Huntingdon Methodist Church After School Youth Club.

The collection for Jimmy’s in Cambridge raised £830.00 and the monthly Coffee Mornings for East Anglian Children’s Hospices raised £660.00.

None of this would be possible without the support of the community of Hilton.

Many thanks to everyone who supported these charity events.



Welcome



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and grab
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Coffee, Cake & Church

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Sunday 23 Mar

Sunday 27 Apr

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We'd love to see you there!

Forthcoming GPR Survey of Fenstanton Cemetery

As extensive searches over the last two years for a suitable plot of land for an additional burial ground in the parish of Fenstanton have so far proved fruitless, Fenstanton Burial Board has made the decision to carry out a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the present cemetery. As the graveyard around the Church is a closed graveyard, this area will not be included.

The cemetery is almost full and there are currently only about half a dozen known unused plots available and more plots are needed as a matter of urgency.

A GPR survey is to be carried out across the cemetery to attempt to establish the extent of unused plots. Historical records held by the Parish Council indicate the names of individuals who purchased plots, as well as those known to be buried in the cemetery. However, many individuals who purchased

burial plots in advance may move away and be buried elsewhere, leaving their plots in Fenstanton cemetery unused. The Burial Board needs to establish where the unused plots are located.

The Parish Council's Burial Board assures residents that GPR is a totally non-intrusive method of locating unused graves. There is no need to dig or probe the ground. GPR detects only where the ground has been disturbed in the past, it does not show images of what is under the ground.

If you have concerns about the GPR survey please contact Jo Perez, Clerk to the Parish Council Tel 01480 465300 / Email clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk



Hilton Community Garden

We are delighted that we have been awarded a grant from The National Highways Agency. The grant is to organise four FREE community activities during 2025 to encourage people to think about wild life and their own gardens.

The first of these events will take place at the Community garden in Hilton when we will be building nest boxes for people to take home. These flat pack kits have been produced by a local "Men's Shed" and everything will be provided for you to make and take away a beautiful new home for birds.

The second event is to give every participant the materials to grow vegetables. This will include seeds, pots, seed trays and compost as well as different types of seeds to grow at home.

The third event is to build a hedgehog house for your garden. Again a flat pack kit is being provided by The Men's shed and we will be assembling them at the garden.

The final event is a celebration party, again to be held at the garden.

The dates for the first two events are **Saturday 05 April from noon-2pm** and **Saturday 10 May from 10-noon.**

To book your place for these free events, please send an email to the chair of the community garden Heather Chambers: 23heatherc@gmail.com. Those who are under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

We will be running a waiting list and priority will be given to people who wish to attend every event.

In aid of Fenstanton Parish Church Restoration Fund

Sing for your Supper

Enjoy a hearty three course meal
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Saturday 15th February

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Making a Difference Locally

NOISY WOOD - QUIET DOG

I tread purposefully on the ground crushing long dead leaves that crumble to dust.

Moving cautiously through trees, side stepping ice pools, furrows and avoiding lichen covered logs.

Hear nothing except leafless trees - straining in the wintry wind. I watch for movement in the undergrowth;

In this half-light I see him now, moving silently: black, white and black again.

He steps fleetingly, glimpsing me. Moves swiftly again disappearing, his instinctive pursuit continues.

A shrill excited bark, a rustle, a momentary stirring. I call and he returns, but only briefly.

It is his wood for now, I am always the interloper, he has reverted, I am unable.

Scenting, marking, hearing. Sight imperfect; His monochromatic world is full of richness.



Don 1/2025

A history of Fenstanton Congregational Church

Today known as the United Reformed Church in Chequer Street

Historical records show that throughout the country many towns and villages, a company of Congregationalists and a company of Baptists would join together to form a church. Fenstanton was no exception to this.

Fenstanton's combined Congregational and Baptist Church met for worship in a building in Chequer Street, which later became known as the Sunday school. This big square



building still stands today next to the Blue Cow Air B&B. However, in 1874, following a strong clash of views and beliefs between the Congregationalist members and the Baptist minister, which was unable to be resolved; the Congregationalists, led by Thomas Coote (of Oaklands House), left the church in Chequer Street.

Thomas Coote was at that time a leader in the church life of the area; and at Fenstanton he was leader of the Congregationalists. Thomas Coote then went on to donate the ground on which the present building and the Manse

were erected. In addition he donated; some say, all of the costs; others say two thirds of the costs; of the building work.

The total cost of the building of the church and the manse is believed to have been £2,000. This sum in 1874 is equivalent in purchasing power to about £283,427 today. So, Thomas Coote, in giving the land, plus his contribution to the cost of the building work, was extremely generous. In September

1874 Thomas Coote's son Arthur Coote, laid the foundation stone of Fenstanton Congregational Church.

It was in May 1875, that the church was opened for worship. (No long delays for planning permission 150 years ago). It is said that the church was built to seat three hundred people (not quite sure how this was possible).

Nearly one hundred years later, in October 1972, Fenstanton Congregational Church became Fenstanton United Reformed Church, when the

Congregational Churches in England and Wales joined the Presbyterian Church of England to form the United Reformed Church.

Looking at photographs, little has changed in the appearance of the church from the outside, apart from the disappearance of what was described as the 'bell turret'. This was fifty feet high. Photographs of a wedding which took place in the mid-1940s show this bell turret, but people who joined the church in the late 1960s say it was not there then. So, at some point, but no one is quite sure when

or why, the bell turret was removed.

The manse was used to house the resident minister until Fenstanton started to share ministry with St. Ives Free Church in the 1980s. With no minister of its own, the Manse was no longer required as a home for the minister. The ground floor however, was used by the church for Sunday school, meetings and social events and with no running water in the church, the kitchen and toilet facilities in the manse were essential. The first floor of the manse was converted into a flat and let out. This continued until the late 1990s, when the manse was sold and became a private dwelling.

Whilst the outside looks virtually unchanged, the same cannot be said of the inside. In the late 1990s the inside of the church was, sadly, showing serious signs of wet rot. Something clearly needed to be done if Fenstanton United Reformed Church was to continue into the 21st century. Plans for refurbishment were drawn up and discussed and although there were some misgivings and unhappiness, it was agreed that the pews needed to be removed. The redevelopment is in evidence today. The church congregation met in the Parish Church hall for worship whilst the work took place under the watchful eye of Reverend Eileen Springbett.

In the year 2000 the church was reopened and what a transformation! The church now has running water – a kitchen and toilet facilities. The church is not only usable for Sunday worship but for a number of church events and is open for use by community groups throughout the week. Fenstanton United Reformed Church may have thought it was facing closure, but is now able to celebrate 150 years of worship.

In 2021 the overgrown grounds and unkempt rear of the church were given a



revamp during the lockdown. This created a pathway around the church for disabled access and also made a small memorial rose garden, using railway sleepers. Gravel was donated by Bannolds Aggregates for use as a soakaway next to the church walls. The area has matured into a garden of rose bushes bought by families of past members of our church.

Leonard Hurst in his 'A Historical Outline' written to celebrate 100 years, said, "Writing a brief history of the Fenstanton United Reformed Church is beset with difficulties because the available records are few and much is shrouded in mystery. But there are some things that stand out clearly: commitment, loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ. This was the rock upon which the Christian Church was first founded.

This was also the rock upon which the Fenstanton Congregational Church (later the Fenstanton United Reformed Church) was founded. And yes, this is the rock upon which Fenstanton United Reformed Church has stood the test of time for 150 years with the commitment, loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ of all the members and supporters, both past and present. And with God's help, the commitment, loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ of members and adherents present and in years to come, will ensure Fenstanton United Reformed Church will be here to celebrate 200 years in 2074.

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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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Fenstanton Headlands	10.10am – 10.45am



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How to choose a new puppy

Choosing a new puppy is one of the most exciting (and sometimes overwhelming) decisions you'll ever make. As a vet in practice, I've seen how those first few weeks can shape the long-term health, happiness, and relationship you'll have with your new furry friend. So, let me share some insider tips to help you pick the perfect pup while keeping their health and well-being in mind.

First things first: do your homework.

Different breeds come with very different needs. If you're dreaming of lazy evenings on the couch, a Border Collie might drive you crazy with its endless energy. On the flip side, if you're an active person who loves walking and adventures, a bulldog probably won't keep up. Every breed has its quirks—physical and behavioural—that might align with your lifestyle or clash with it. Also, don't underestimate the power of good genetics and responsible breeding. Look for breeders who prioritise health testing, like screening for hip dysplasia or genetic disorders specific to the breed. Puppy farms, unfortunately, still exist and many puppies from these places come with hidden health or behavioural problems that can break your heart and come with significant costs to treat.

Here's a tip from me: check out the puppy's parents if possible. Healthy, friendly parents are often good indicators of a puppy's future behaviour and well-being. When you visit, also take a close look at the whole litter. Puppies should be bright-eyed, curious, and not overly timid or aggressive. Avoid pups that seem overly tired, sneezy, or have any signs of runny noses, diarrhoea, or bloated bellies—they might already be battling health issues.

Now, if you're considering a rescue puppy or dog, big thumbs up to you! Rescues centres are full of amazing pups just waiting for their forever homes. When adopting, ask about the puppy's history (if known), their current health status, and any medical treatments they've had. Keep in mind that some rescue pups might need a bit more

patience and love to overcome rough starts in life, but the rewards are worth it. If you are working with a charity that has imported the rescue pup from abroad, make sure you ask for the testing that was done to rule out some nasty diseases that are not found in the UK currently, but can be carried by these dogs.

Next, consider your future puppy's lifestyle needs. Every dog requires regular exercise, training, and mental stimulation, but some demand much more. Be realistic about how much time and energy you can invest. Puppies are adorable little chaos machines—they chew, bark, have accidents, and demand constant attention. Be prepared for a few sleepless nights!

Health-wise, be ready for vet visits. Your puppy will need vaccinations, deworming, and parasite prevention early on. Budget for these costs and set aside funds for emergencies, because even the healthiest pups can surprise you with unexpected vet bills. Nutrition is another biggie. Feeding high-quality puppy food designed for their breed size is key to avoiding growth issues like joint problems in large breeds.

Finally, think long-term. Puppies don't stay little forever. Are you ready to commit to 10–15 years of care? Owning a dog is incredibly rewarding, but it's also a huge responsibility.

In short, choosing a new puppy isn't just about picking the cutest one (though that's definitely part of the fun). With a bit of preparation and a lot of love, you'll find a pup who's not just a pet but a cherished member of your family. And as your vet, I'm here to help every step of the way!

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The Black Cab Experience

by Paul Shelford

Frank Bruno, well that's the answer! But what's the question?

Well, it's the question that every London Taxi Driver gets asked at least once a day, whether in the cab or not. It goes something like this "so who was the best celebrity you've had in the back?" Well over the course of my 15 years as a London taxi driver I had numerous 'faces' in the back (listed at the end if you're interested) but without a doubt Big Frank was the nicest and the one who I had the best chat with.

The second question is normally "so do you still have to do the Knowledge to be a cabby in London, what with GPS?" and the answer to that one is "yes".

The Knowledge - what's that all about? Well, The Knowledge is a unique test undertaken by Licensed London Taxi drivers to ensure that the driver of that taxi you're sitting in knows London like the proverbial 'back of his or her hand'. Nowhere else in the world are taxi drivers required to undertake such rigorous training before being allowed to carry fare paying passengers.

The Knowledge has been portrayed in a number of films and documentaries - but what exactly is it? Well taking Nelson's Column as the 'centre', a six mile radius is drawn. Within that six mile radius are approximately 25,000 streets, roads, avenues, lanes, etc. and 21,000 'points'; points being pubs, theatres, restaurants, stations, statues, blue plaques, hospitals, etc., etc. Basically anywhere a passenger could conceivably ask

to be taken to - a 'Knowledge Boy' or 'Girl' has to learn and commit to memory the lot!

So you master that lot and you'd think that would be enough but, oh no, you then have to learn all the major routes out of London, in a 12 mile radius, but they make that part a bit easier as you don't need to learn any points and only the road 'number' such as A1 or A12, etc. Well apart from Heathrow Airport, where you have to learn all the major hotels. So quite easy then!

So there it is, the famous Knowledge, well nearly! I should also mention it's a test of character. But more of that later.

But why does The Knowledge even exist? Well the reasons seem to have been lost in the mists of time. However, there is some sort of consensus that in 1851, when London hosted the Great Exhibition, it was reported that people from all over the world complained about the ineptitude of the cab men, not knowing their way around London.



Continued overleaf

Trains, Boats and Planes

The authorities decided to do something about it and in 1865, the first incarnation of The Knowledge started.

On a personal level I was a civil servant for the first 25 years of my working life. Working my way up to have significant responsibilities in Whitehall. However, for a number of reasons I needed a change.

I thought I know what I'll do, I'll give up all my free time and most weekends to learn 25,000 streets and 21,000 points of London. Now just to convince my wife (and by the way we had two young kids at the time). For some reason she agreed - probably glad to get rid of me! Although we do celebrate 40 years marriage next year, so maybe I'm not that bad!



I need to point out at this point that no one is paid to do The Knowledge and there is no time limit on how long a candidate takes. I once met a bloke who took nine years! No one actually fails The Knowledge, people just give up. They just can't take it anymore. As a Knowledge boy or girl your whole life is taken over, either driving the streets on your moped, staring at a massive map of London (in my old bedroom at my mum's house) or revising points. I even signed up to a Knowledge School where once a week I'd drive to East London after work to share hints and tips with others.

Without a doubt the worst part was getting up on a mid-winter Saturday or Sunday,

after working all week, donning lots of layers to drive into London from our home in Hertfordshire. My wife even has a picture of me on a family holiday in Florida, sitting under a palm tree, revising points. How sad is that?

So how long did it take a civil servant, who really, really didn't know London like the back of his hand to pass The Knowledge? From start to finish, 5 years 6 months.

I also mentioned it's a test of character. Being tested on The Knowledge involves a one-to-one interview with an examiner (many were ex City of London coppers). You apply for your first assessment when you think you are ready and when you think you've crammed all the information into the brain. In my case two years after starting.

Imagine how nervous you are? Stories of how strict, pedantic and rude the examiners are, were regularly shared at The Knowledge School. This is the day you've been working for, to finally start to move forward, fingers crossed! You must wear a suit and tie, have your shoes nicely shined and a good haircut. Examiners must be called 'sir' or 'ma'am'. You have a five minute window before your allotted time to enter the

building. Cafes around the area were always crammed with nervous candidates doing last minute revision.

This is how my very first assessment went - so your name is called, 'morning sir', says I. Total silence. Ok, I think perhaps he didn't hear me. I follow him into the office and sit down. "Did I tell you to take a seat"? So I stand until told to sit. "Right, take me from the Serpentine Gallery to Claridges". The examiner has a map on a lectern to follow the route that I now recite. He's looking to make sure all the roads are named correctly and I don't make any illegal moves. I close my eyes to visualise the map and off I go, when suddenly he picks up his ballpoint pen



and starts clicking the end and saying, “this is rubbish, you sure you’re going the right way?” and then just as I was approaching Claridges he announced “oh sorry forgot to mention Stanhope Gate is closed today”. I opened my eyes briefly to see a little smile appear on his face. Needless to say it didn’t go well. “Well that was rubbish, come back in 56 days”. I was gutted.

What you don’t realise at the time, because you’re so focussed on the map and list of points in your head is the examiners are seeing if you’ll explode in a rage and tell him or her where to shove their ballpoint. Fortunately I’m really laid back, but I often wondered if the bloke who took nine years did actually tell an examiner where to shove his pen! The whole point being you do get people in the taxi who do wind you up, who question the route or how much it’s costing and you just have to remain calm. That’s what’s being tested.

Finally on The Knowledge - if you ever get a London Taxi, don’t be afraid to ask the driver how long they took to do The Knowledge as we wear it as a badge of honour.

Finally I’m out after 5 years 6 months, oh and an additional DVLA Taxi driving test, to make sure you can actually safely drive a taxi. As you might imagine there are a number of traditions to a trade that dates back to 1662. Number one being the first fare, in your life as a ‘cabby’, is always given free. I’ll never forget my first fare - Kings Cross Station to Victoria Street Westminster or the look on the lady’s face when I told her it was free. Another tradition is anyone going to or from Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital doesn’t pay. Anyone in military uniform or going to or from barracks doesn’t pay. The best tradition though is on Remembrance Sunday when taxis line up at all the major stations to ferry veterans to the cenotaph, then line up on Westminster Bridge after the parade to ferry them to their destinations - free of course.

I loved my time as a London Taxi driver (well apart from January and February in Lock Down when there was zero work). I had so many interesting people in the cab and had brilliant conversations with people from all

walks of life from all over the world. The sights and events that I saw on a daily basis were amazing. Most days I’d come home to my wife and start our conversation with “guess what I saw today” or “guess who I had in the back”. The only event I still try to erase from my mind though is the London Naked Cycle ride (which still takes place, every June or July, if anyone fancies taking part!). That one can still bring me out in a cold sweat! ‘Faces’ I recognised (I wouldn’t recognise anyone off Love Island or Emmerdale for example) in the back.



Amy Winehouse, Paul Merton, Alexander Armstrong, Ricky Gervais, Richard Osman, Derren Brown, Zoe Wanamaker, Ann Widdecombe, Sir Geoff Hurst, John Barnes, Terry McDermott, Rowan Atkinson, Damian Lewis, Jarvis Cocker, Peter Stringfellow, Alan Cumming, Simon Callow, Alex Jones, Jemima Khan, Danny Dyer, Devon Malcolm, David Lammy, Joe Wylie, Gem Archer, Frank Turner, Earl Spencer, George Alagiah, Peter Bowles, Sylvester McCoy, Keith Allen, Mathieu Flamini, Edwina Currie and probably lots more I didn’t recognise!



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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>

FEBRUARY 2025 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday 2	10.30am Fenstanton	Candlemas service with Holy Communion <i>with Sunday Club for children</i>
Thursday 6	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 9	9.15am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion, St Mary's
	10.30am Fenstanton	Worship For All
Thursday 13	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Friday 14	6pm-8.30pm	Fen Youth Group, Fenstanton Church Centre
Saturday 15	7pm	Sing-a-long & Supper, Fenstanton Church Centre
Sunday 16	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion <i>with Sunday Club for children</i>
	5pm Fenstanton	Sung Evensong
Thursday 20	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23	9.15am Fen Drayton	Morning Prayer, St Mary's
	10.30am Fenstanton	Family Communion
Thursday 27	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer

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.



By the time you read this, Christmas 2024 might seem a distant memory, but this is the first chance we have had to catch up with you, our readers. Well over 80 angels were discovered in Fen Drayton with quite a few of them joining us for our nativity, crib and carol service on 22 December at St Mary's. Our grateful thanks to all who helped to get the church ready and to make the service very special, in particular, Jeremy Thurlow, organist, and our lovely singers, Ben and Philippa. Christmas morning was well attended at St Mary's too and we look forward to seeing many of you at any of our services during 2025. There are two services a month, at 9.15am, 2nd and 4th Sundays.

It was busy too, in the parish church, Fenstanton, and our thanks go to everyone who helped to make those services happen, including the unsung heroes who do all the cleaning, getting things ready for each service, setting out and clearing up afterwards. All very much appreciated. Our thanks too, to everyone who displayed an advent star. We know there were a few elusive stars but the wonderful community in Fenstanton rallied to help those still star

hunting. Apparently quite a few star hunters were spotted in the days after Christmas, so I am glad we left the stars up for a few days more. What are you going to do next Advent? we were asked.....watch this space.

P.S. Just in case you are still wondering, or is that wandering, the star locations were posted on our Facebook page, and there is also a list on the parish church noticeboard.

So to February. As it is a late Easter (20 April), Ash Wednesday isn't until 5 March. I don't know about you, but I nearly always think of Shrove Tuesday and pancakes as a February thing!! But if you are looking to sing for your supper, why not come along on Saturday 15 February for a Supper and Sing-a-long. See separate poster for more details, including tickets.

What might you be looking at doing for Lent, this year? Do see our social media platforms, or the parish church noticeboard, for ideas and suggestions during February. We are planning to run a course but the details are yet to be finalised.

Take care, God bless, until next time.

Fenstanton Parish Church – Open Gardens Weekend 17 And 18 May 2025

Running alongside our 'Church Full of Art' exhibition in the church itself we are also organising an OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May 2025 in aid of Fenstanton Parish Church Restoration Fund.

We would like to include gardens of all shapes, styles and sizes, new or established and would like to offer more gardens to view.

Would you like to share your garden with others?

Please do get in touch with: Carole Crocker 07709 032671 or Julia Mitchell 07703 582694 leaving your name and contact number so that we can get back to you and share further details.

As well as the gardens, the weekend will include the art exhibition in church, refreshments and a plant stall (donations welcome). More details to follow next month.

We look forward to hearing from you soon, Thank you, from the Open Gardens Planning Team.



Rector: Rev Rosie Tallwin: 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

Hilton Methodist Church



We recently visited our family in Ireland. Flying on this occasion, finding the ferry prices beyond our budget, we delegated the task of online booking to our daughter, not trusting ourselves with ‘the app’ and fearing booking tickets to goodness knows where!

On the return flight Ryan Air proved very unforgiving. Insisting it was entirely our responsibility to read the small print (apparently on said app), our arrival at the boarding gate was greeted with a non-negotiable extra charge because daughter had booked check-in bags. Ours were with us at the gate!

Despite costing the same, Ryan Air profited an extra £120 for moving two small wheelies from the gate to the airplane – about 100 metres. Thanks guys.

Our daughter apologised. No trying to deny the error, no wailing or gnashing of teeth – just a straightforward, honest ‘I’m sorry’. Instantly my worries and regrets about the additional expense evaporated. Not glad to have to pay so much more of course, but the space to be able to genuinely say ‘mistakes happen’ and move on, opened up, just like a well-oiled door. The contrast with my feelings towards Ryan Air was stark – human error not permitted.

Fortunately, God works on a different set of algorithms. ‘I am sorry’ for my oh-so-very human foibles is enough. And there is no charge. Of course, serious hurts cannot be mended by just three small words – some are

just too deep. We are not God.

But Charlotte’s ‘sorry’ made me think about my agency in creating space for God to move in my life. My acknowledgement of my misuse of God-given gifts of life, health and resources, and my many faults – no wailing or gnashing of teeth required, just a straightforward turning towards God, an honest ‘I’m sorry’ andopen sesame. Grace.

As 2025 rolls out, in the face of increasing uncertainty and instability in the world, I feel we will be needing a good helping. God has done his/her God part. The rest is in our hands.

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 February

2 February	10:00am	Rev. Sue Baker-Maher
9 February	11:15am	United Service at the Parish Church
16 February	10:00am	Rev. Heather Walker
23 February	10:00am	Rev. Sue Baker-Maher

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



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Hilton Parish Church



Dear Friends,

'February fill-dyke': an old nickname for the second month of the year. I've always assumed that the name was given more or less in gratitude, because of the blessing that full ditches and dykes and a wet end to winter would bring to the growing seasons of spring and summer. However, after prolonged heavy rain people often find themselves facing an excess of water that proves anything but a blessing – a flood, in other words.

For many of us in the west, much of the time, the stability of our habitat seems something we can take for granted. But it is an illusion. No-one who has experienced a really harmful flood, or any other natural disaster, is likely to give thanks for the suffering it brings, but if we learn from such events to think of our lives as transient, and to live in thankfulness for each moment of well-being, we shall have taken from them perhaps the only benefit we can. As we pray for those who suffer from an excess – or lack – of water, we can thank God for all the times and places where people have enough but not too much.

We come from water. All land creatures are descended from some unimaginable ancestors aeons ago who first left the oceans to try their luck on terra firma. The human embryo as it grows floats in the amniotic fluid of its mother's womb, and the developing lungs breathe no air but practice on the waters of this miniature ocean. Christians pass through the waters of baptism in a symbolic death and resurrection, and so receive the promise of God that life is not, ultimately, something that awaits the whim of arbitrary and uncontrollable forces but is drawn back to Him who first brought life out of the depths. "Never again shall the waters become a flood to destroy all living creatures," God said to Noah. Floods do still claim lives and always will, but the voice of God to all ages declares that His purposes for us and for the whole of creation are indeed, as He said at the beginning, very good.

With love,

David

Rev'd David Busk (01480 436400)

Services in February

Sunday 2 February	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 9 February	11:15am United Service in the Parish Church
Sunday 16 February	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 23 February	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall
Sunday 2 March	8:00am Holy Communion
Friday 14 February	5:30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church)

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.

2025 Services

February

- 02 Revd Christine Davies
- 09 Led by Alison Jiggins – Holy Communion
- 16 Revd Christine Davies
- 23 Led by Richard Lewney

March

- 02 Revd Christine Davies
- 09 Revd Christine Davies – Holy Communion - Lent
- 16 Led by the Elders
- 23 Revd Christine Davies
- 30 Revd Christine Davies – Mothering Sunday

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

- Tuesday 11 February 2.30 - 4pm – Led by John Williams
- Tuesday 11 March 2.30 - 4pm – Led by John Williams

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

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19 Needingworth Rd.

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Sunday 09.00 and 11.00**

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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:
Mrs T Dellar
terridellar@btinternet.com

The Joseph Ellis
Foundation Trust



All applications are dealt with in privacy
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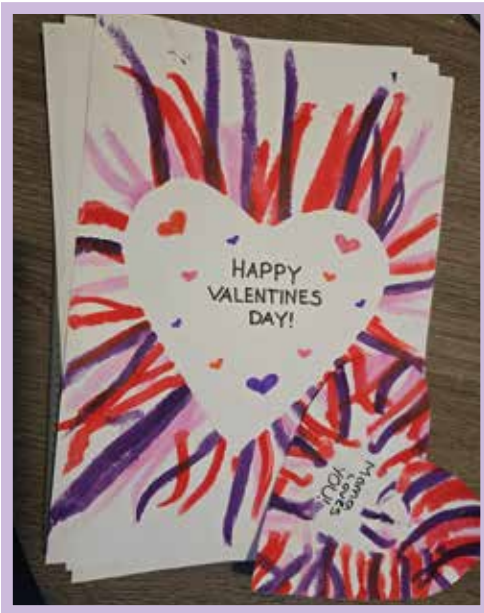
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Mama Jo's Mischief

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!

Valentines Heart Art

January is finally over! With funds being a little tight still from the holidays and surviving what feels like a 8 week month, this craft is cheap and cheerful but lots of fun. This can be done with crayons, pencils, pens or paint on either paper, card or canvas, so hopefully you'll be able to get stuck in without the need to purchase any new items.



What you will need:

- Paint/Pens/Crayons/Pencils
- Paper/Card/Canvas
- Scissors

Method:

- Cut out a heart silhouette and tape it or hold it in place on the middle of the page
- Let your child paint or colour around and over the heart using whatever colour(s) they choose.
- When done, remove the silhouette to reveal their lovely heart picture.

Add a message in the middle, or their hand print to make a lovely keepsake. The heart cut out can also be kept and hung up by piercing a small hold in the top and threading some string through.



Our next craft session will be:

February 18th

9.30 - 11.30

Fenstanton Church Centre



@mamajosmischief



FEN DRAYTON TOTS

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Lots of space indoors and out
Warm and welcoming group

Mondays Fen Drayton Village Hall, 10am - 12pm during term time
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fendraytontots@gmail.com



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Spring makes an entrance

The transformation of our gardens from winter browns and greys gathers a pace in February. The promise of warming sunny days grows and grows until the day we all notice the world is green and lush again. A promise that starts with the snowdrops, crocus, winter aconites, dwarf narcissus, primroses, hellebores and friends.

Tasks for February include the spring tidy, winter pruning and seed sowing of half-hardy annuals and perennials. You can also spray roses, soft fruit and smaller fruit trees with a winter wash and horticultural disinfectant to help control pests and diseases. Bare patches in lawns can be repaired by lightly forking the soil and sowing fresh lawn seed (I always mix grass seed with John Innes seed compost). Lawn treatments can be applied once the soil temperature starts to rise, it should be at least 6C. Mild February days are also a great opportunity to give the garden a spring tidy, lawns edged and borders fed.

It's a rewarding time to plant as the moist soils and warming weather helps plants to establish quickly. Many 'summer impact' bulbs and corms can be planted from February onwards. These include lillies (I love the giants), gladioli, sparaxis, nerine and crocosmia.



A quick note about arches in gardens. It is tempting, especially in small narrow gardens to think a small narrow arch would work best. But in reality, it frames a garden as a portrait picture while wider arches create a landscape view and always make a garden look wider. I once had a client (Prof) who was quite adamant we replace a rotting narrow arch 'like for like'. Mrs (also Prof) won the day and we installed a wide arch. He rang the following day to say we had not only managed to make the garden look larger but the house as well!

February *Top Tips*

- Prune and tidy
- Planting
- Sowing
- Mulching borders
- Service lawnmowers



raypuddefoot@gmail.com

Hilton Baby & Toddler Play Group

RANGE OF TOYS

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CRAFTS

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Tuesdays (term time only)
10 - 11.30 am
£2.50/family
Hilton Village Hall

Find us on Facebook:
Hilton Baby and Toddler Play Group

HILTON BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

JAN 28 GIANT DRAWING

FEB PLAYDOUGH 06

FEB 11 VALENTINES DAY

HALF TERM

FEB 25 BIRD FEEDERS

MAR 6 BOOK WEEK: PANCAKES PANCAKES!

SPRING FLOWERS

MAR 18 PAINTING WITH CARS

Help required

The Hilton Baby and Toddler Play Group holds sessions every Tuesday morning in term-time from 10am in the Village Hall. The group has been running for well over 30 years and we would love it to keep running for many more.

This is where we need more help - if you look after a child age 0-5 on a Tuesday morning do come along and join in!

Not sure what it's like?

Each week we have a range of toys for ages 0-5 including a baby corner, a soft-play area with slide and see-saw and plenty of space for some ride-on toys.

From 10:00 - 10:50 there is a craft activity available following a different theme each week. Around 10:50 we sit down together for snack and drinks time (a chance for a hot cup of tea or coffee for the adults too!)

There is then more time for free play until we have a story or song at 11.20 and then all help tidy up the toys ready for next week.

The main aim is to keep it pretty flexible so you can come and go within the session as needed - we want to keep an open and welcome space for everyone to use!

Please contact Beki Morris on 07527 394945 if you can help.



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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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Local Highways Improvement Funding Application 2025/26

Hilton Parish Council is taking proactive steps to enhance road safety and traffic flow at the crossroads by applying to the Local Highways Improvement (LHI) funding round for 2025/26.

The council has authorised the Clerk to submit the application, with a Parish Council contribution of up to £2,500 allocated to the project. The proposal includes two key elements aimed at addressing longstanding issues at the junction:

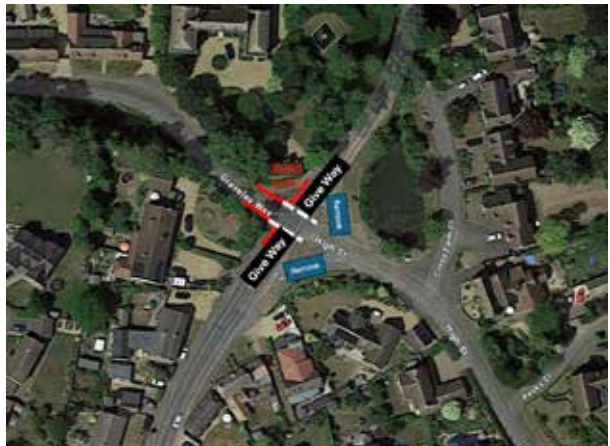
1. Realigning the Carriageway

The carriageway will be relocated towards the High Street to improve visibility for drivers approaching from St Ives Road. This adjustment is designed to enhance sightlines and reduce the risk of accidents at the junction.



2. Changing Priority Routes

The project will modify the current priorities at the crossroads. Under the proposed changes, traffic on St Ives Road and Potton Road will be required to give way to vehicles on the High Street and Graveley Way. This adjustment aims to reduce speeds and therefore improve safety at this junction, ensuring a safer and more manageable flow of traffic for all road users.



The council recognises the importance of these changes for local residents and commuters alike. By addressing visibility and revising priorities, the project seeks to make the crossroads safer and easier to navigate. We will keep the community updated as the funding application progresses and will share further details about the timeline and next steps should the bid be successful.

Budget and Precept

The Council approved the budget and the precept as £39,826, which is an increase of £2,846 or 7.7%.

Churchyard Wall

Hilton Parish Council is working with Hilton Parochial Council to consider the renovation of the damaged sections of the church wall.

Pavilion Refurbishment

The Clerk is authorised to reapply for the funding for this project, to both the A428 fund and the CIL fund.

Highways Capital Maintenance

Cambridgeshire County Council has asked for suggestions for larger capital highways maintenance projects and the Parish Council has put forward the following suggestions:

- Resurfacing Scotts Crescent and Scotts Close
- Installing larger culverts under Kidmans, Tithe and Kidmans Farm Cottage
- Replacing collapsed drainage gulleys in the High Street
- Resurfacing the road to the Rectory

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 3rd February 2025 in Hilton Village Hall. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the Council's website www.hiltonparishcouncil.com. Parishioners are welcome to speak at council meetings on agenda items.

Jigsaw Exchange Hilton Parish Church

Do you like doing jigsaws? Do you know we run a jigsaw exchange in the parish church in Hilton? It's free and easy to get involved...

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

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



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St Neots – Xenus House, Sandpiper Court, St Neots PE19 8EP T: 01480 474661

New Year, new beginning

The first Monday of the New Year in the family law world is often referred to as “Divorce day”. This is when there is a sharp increase in new divorces. Family law help at this time of year also encompasses the wider aspects of a separation including financial and child arrangements. The stress of Christmas often brings to a head issues previously brewing. Splitting up can be done inexpensively, but if you rush and make bad decisions, the costs can be high, financially and emotionally.

When seeking advice on ending your marriage and reaching agreement with your spouse over future arrangements, there are alternatives to traditional “lawyer to lawyer” negotiation and/or formal court proceedings:

Mediation: Trained in conflict resolution and family law, a mediator facilitates discussions between you and your spouse and can inform you about potential financial and childcare arrangements, helping to reopen the discussion if things break down. This reduces your legal costs because you and your spouse shoulder the burden of gathering/sharing information yourselves, and while your mediator’s hourly rate may not be any cheaper than those of your solicitor, you’ll spend far less time together with the mediator.

Collaborative law: You and your spouse instruct solicitors and conduct discussions round the table with a commitment to resolving your differences without resorting to court proceedings. There will be the short term cost of instructing solicitors to help you reach agreement together, but if agreement is reached, you avoid the long term cost of drawn out litigation. Most of all, you keep control of the process, something that is lost the moment a court is asked to determine your future.

How to reduce the cost?

- Avoid these mistakes

Unrealistic expectations. One household is about to be split into two. Unless you are very wealthy, expect money to be a little tight.

Getting into an endless battle. Turning the negotiations into a battleground will drain your emotions and your finances. Pick your battles wisely.

Getting hung up on the numbers. A fair split is not necessarily an even split. Two households will be needed. Priority will be given to housing any children.

Not listening to professional advice. If you are paying for legal advice, listen to it. The mediator, solicitor or collaborative practitioner will know more than your friends or family!

What can Leeds Day offer?

The use of a solicitor does not have to be an expensive exercise. We at Leeds Day offer a comprehensive family law service embracing divorce, financial and children cases. If we are engaged to act for you our costs can be paid over the period of the case and you will always be aware of both what legal costs have been expended and what the likely future costs will be.

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. Simon Thomas is a trained Collaborative Lawyer.



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.

Fenstanton Parish Council

Making Fenstanton an even better place to live

Fenstanton Community Award

Roy and Heather McGee received their Community Hero award on Tuesday 26 November at the FPC Welcome Space, they are pictured here with some of the wonderful volunteers who make it all possible.



Fenstanton Community Grants

In November 2024, your Parish Council awarded two Community Grants. One grant, amounting to £300, was given to the Friendship Club. This funding will help cover the increasing costs of speakers and entertainers who provide entertainment, education and socialisation for the residents of Fenstanton. The other grant was for £1,500, awarded to the Bowls Club to assist in purchasing a reconditioned lawn mower.

The club operates on a not-for-profit basis and has approximately 60 members, ranging in age from 10 to 94. They field teams in six leagues, ladies, men, and mixed, along with friendly matches. While the primary focus is on bowling and the club performs well in league play, it is also well known for its social activities and for fostering friendships, which is particularly valuable for many of its elderly members.

Cemetery clearance and hedge trimming

The Parish Council has recently taken steps to improve and enhance the appearance of the Cemetery. This work involved removing overgrown ivy, pollarding the lime trees, and trimming excessive hedges. More work is planned for the future to further improve the Cemetery's appearance. Additionally, the Parish Council has engaged Ray Puddefoot to design a plan for the neglected memorial garden.



Next Parish Council meetings

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

Your Parish Council meets next on **Thursday 13 February** and **Thursday 13 March** at 7pm in the Church Centre.

Councillor Surgeries

Councillor Surgeries have been held once a month on a Saturday morning between 10am – 12pm at The Hub, 6 High Street, Fenstanton. These Councillor Surgeries were intended to give Parishioners an opportunity to pop in to discuss any issues they wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council. We have observed that in recent months there have been very few visitors to our Councillor Surgeries. Therefore, your Parish Council will discuss at the January meeting whether these surgeries are still necessary or if they should be held less frequently. We will keep you updated on our decision through our website and Facebook page.

Land needed for a New Burial Ground – Can you help?

The Parish Council has been actively seeking additional land for use as a burial ground, but no suitable options have emerged thus far. If you possess knowledge of any potentially available land, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Your Parish Council will carry out a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the present cemetery, for further information on this survey, please see a detailed article in this edition of the Journal.



Christmas Tree Festival

We hope everyone had the opportunity to visit the Christmas Tree Festival held at the United Reformed Church in December to see the wonderful display of trees on offer. Your Parish Council showcased a tree representing your Parish Council, featuring all the Councillors and highlighting some of the responsibilities of the Parish Council.

Hunts Volunteer Service

The Parish Council recently donated £600.00 to the Hunts Volunteer Service. This organisation operates a Community Car Scheme, managed by volunteers from the St Ives office, and it currently assists many residents of Fenstanton with transportation to medical appointments, hairdressers and shopping. Please see separate article about the Community Car Scheme.

If you would like to benefit from this service, please register on their website www.huntsvc.org.uk as a new client. Alternatively, you can call 07582 211392 or 01480 301462 between Monday and Thursday from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM.

Honey Hill – Tree carving and new tree planting

Your Parish Council is excited to announce plans to carve the tree stump on Honey Hill Green. We are discussing several design options with a local carver who is eager to make this project a community event.

We hope to give parishioners and schoolchildren the chance to witness the carving process in person. Once we finalise the details, we will share them on our website, Facebook page, and, if timing permits, in the Journal.



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Fenstanton Parish Council

Making Fenstanton an even better place to live

Improved bus service to routes 5a and 66 – Use it or Lose it!

Your Parish Council is pleased to announce the improved 5a and 66 Bus Service is now operating. You can find the timetables here <https://bustimes.org/services/5a-longstanton-swavsey> & here <https://www.whippetbus.co.uk/times/66/>

Listed below are places of interest worth a visit in the villages along the 5a bus route.

St Ives	Cafés	Restaurants	Shops	Takeaways				
Greenfields	Jones Boat Yard							
Fenstanton	Little Piggy	The Duchess	Post Office	Barry's Plaice	Butchers	Zaza	Ash's	Pharmacy
Fen Drayton	The Three Tuns	Carriages of Cambridge	Bannold					
Swavesey	The White Horse	The Nook	Sam's Kebab					
Over	Over Village Market	The Admiral Vernon	Over community Centre					
Willingham	Porterhouse PH	Lot 25 Café, Willingham Auctions Cambridge Home and Garden	Royal Bengal Indian restaurant	Highgate country store	Café at Highgate	Solbys gift shop	Bushel Farm shop	Belta Pizza and grill
Northstowe	Northstowe Tap & Social	Amnutham						
Longstanton	The Black Bull	Faroz Kitchen						
Bar Hill	Tesco	Churchill's Fish & Chips	The Fox Bar Hill					

FPC Welcome Space

Become a Parish Councillor – we currently have two vacancies.

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

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

To contact your Parish Council Clerk
Telephone: 01480 465300

Email:
clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

Website:
www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Fenstanton Parish Council

– Budget and Precept 2025/26

Your Parish Council has reviewed the budget for the 2025/26 financial year to ensure we maintain the high level of service you have come to expect. In our budget considerations, we have accounted for anticipated increases in costs. Additionally, we will be taking on new responsibilities for maintenance, such as grass cutting, which was previously managed by the County and District Councils, as well as maintaining the underpass, which is currently under the jurisdiction of Cambridgeshire County Council. We have also included an increase in salary costs, a rise in employer National Insurance contributions and the clearance and improvement of the Old Orchard.

To address these additional expenses and avoid submitting a deficit budget, an increase of 15% from last year's precept is necessary. Therefore, your Parish Council is requesting a precept figure of £204,930 for the 2025/26 financial year. This will result in an increase of approximately £0.39 per week for households compared to last year.

A more detailed Budget breakdown can be found on your Parish Council website – www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk

	Actual at 30/09/2024	Expected Year End	Expenditure 25/26
02 STAFF COSTS			
TOTAL	€ 30,500.77	€ 67,305.36	€ 75,382.80
03 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION			
TOTAL	€ 13,719.69	€ 35,767.28	€ 37,197.97
04 GENERAL PURPOSES			
TOTAL	€ 29,209.51	€ 62,321.17	€ 65,892.42
05 CEMETERY			
TOTAL	€ 1,189.00	€ 9,429.00	€ 9,796.80
06 PC GRANTS			
TOTAL	€ -	€ 2,756.00	€ 2,756.80
07 COMMUNITY WARDEN			
TOTAL	€ 4,419.00	€ 4,419.00	€ 4,586.40
08 PARISH PATHS			
TOTAL	€ -	€ -	
09 FEN MAINTENANCE			
TOTAL	€ -	€ 1,969.00	€ 1,182.40
10 EVENTS			
TOTAL	€ 6,574.13	€ 8,000.00	€ 8,000.80
12 PITFIELD TRUST (Clock Tower)			
TOTAL	€ -	€ -	€ 0
13 FVHT			
TOTAL	€ -	€ -	€ 0
14 CIL AND GRANTS			
TOTAL	€ 8,049.30	€ 27,949.04	€ 1,199.83
Summary			
NET TOTAL	€ 99,634.00	€ 218,998.95	€ 205,913.82
CIL REMOVED	€ 22,584.70	€ 191,048.81	€ 284,713.99
V.A.T.	€ 7,431.42		
GROSS TOTAL	€ 99,665.42		
PRECEPT 15% INCREASE ON 24/25 FIGURE			€ 204,930

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- ✿ Informal gathering
- ✿ Churches of Hilton together
- ✿ For all faiths, and none
- ✿ 14 Feb, 14 Mar & 9 May
- ✿ To find out more, call Rachel on 830866

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



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Sticky, Dark Ginger Cake



Ingredients:

225g 8oz. Self-Raising Flour
¾ Tablespoon ground ginger
Pinch of salt
100g. 4oz., Soft brown sugar
100g. 4oz., Margarine
100g. 4oz., Black Treacle
175g. 6oz., Golden Syrup
1 Egg
150ml. (5fl.oz.,) Milk

Method:

Line a 900g., / 2lb., loaf tin.
Warm the margarine, black treacle, golden syrup and sugar either in the microwave or a pan. Leave to cool.
In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, ginger and salt.
Beat the egg into the milk.
Mix all the ingredients together.
Pour into the prepared tin.
Bake at 160°C fan, 180°C. for 45 minutes.

Notes: Do not be tempted to add any bicarbonate of soda or baking powder to this recipe. This recipe gives a well risen cake. Keep for a day or two for an even stickier cake (if it lasts that long).

Cheesies



Ingredients:

1 Packet Ready rolled puff pastry
1 Egg
1 300gram packet grated mature cheddar
4 medium sized potatoes
A small amount of milk

Method:

Cook potatoes in salted water until soft and mash then leave to cool.
When cold, gradually add the egg beating the potatoes to combine.
Add the grated cheese, reserving a little to garnish
Unwrap the pastry and cut down the middle lengthwise.
Moisten the pastry with a little cold water and make a roll of the potato mix down the middle of each length of pastry.
Roll tightly and seal the edge of the pastry.
Dip the potato rolls into the milk / or brush with milk.
Secure a small amount of cheese to the top of each 'cheesy'.
Bake at 190 in a fan oven until golden - 15-20 minutes.

Notes: Serve warm. Makes a very good alternative to sausage rolls for vegetarians. If there is mixture left when you have filled the puff pastry add a little flour to the potato mix, coat in a little flour (to prevent them sticking), before cooking and make cheesy potato cakes either in the oven or frying pan.



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25 years and still sewing!

One of the first things you realise about Denise of Denise Jackson Interiors is her passion for the local community. *“I have lived here now for 23 years and I love the village and and I love my home. I openly admit I am a village girl at heart. Since moving to Cambridgeshire from Luton, via a short spell in Swavesey, I been involved in various fund raising activities and for this year I intend to volunteer at the local food bank.”*

Denise was brought up in Oxfordshire and when she stopped full time work in banking to look after her daughters, she wanted find an occupation that allowed her to mind the children and work. Having been always ‘crafty’ she started making children’s clothes. This quickly developed into the whole gambit of soft furnishing. Her move from Bedfordshire was driven by education for her girls and her house in Over was selected because it had the potential for a workshop adjoining the house.

“I have best of both world’s now, a great home and a workshop that I can walk through the house too. When I expanded the business one of my daughters joined me and now between the two of us we manage the workload. I am a real workaholic, but you know when you enjoy something it is not really work. People think that everything is machine produced, but in reality the majority of the work is still hand stitched.”

As Denise’s service relies on home visits for consultations, measuring and installation lock down curtailed a lot of her activities. She was fortunate to have a small backlog of orders that she delivered to her clients’ doorsteps. After that dried up she turned her hand to making bespoke face masks selling them online or at her gate. From the



proceeds of selling masks she donated £2500 to the local Over Day Centre.

When she is not working Denise enjoys walking and her go to place is the Peak District. *“I used to live in Sheffield and fell in love with the area then. There are some lovely villages and moorland to visit. I enjoyed walking my dog who I lost recently. I am thinking about another dog but really I want my old one back! They leave such a hole in your life.”*

Over the years Denise’s business has tracked the latest interior fashions. Creams and beige from the past are being replaced with brighter colours. Windows have got larger with full height glass that create the outside inside experience are becoming ever popular. *“Climate change has also impacted on the specification of curtains with clients not only wanting interlining but now thermal lining as well.”* Denise continues.

“I am very lucky that through my business I have made a lot of very good friends. The local area has provided me with a good living and that is why I am very happy to do my bit in the community. I was on the PTA when the girls were at school, and I was Clerk to the governors at the same time. I did 13 years in the Girl Guides running the local Rainbow group. The local community is very important to me.”

Denise’s bespoke interiors business can be contacted via email denise@denisejacksoninteriors.com or by phoning 01954 200070 or 07910 507514



update



The PC in 2024 - a retrospective

Looking back at 2024, I'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to all our parish councillors. They give their time voluntarily, each taking responsibility for one aspect of our work to make our village a good place to live in.

In 2024 your parish council:

Worked with many outside agencies to look at solutions for flooding in the village

Sourced grants for and built a pump track on the village hall recreation ground

Continued working towards funding a new pavilion

Helped parishioners struggling with the cost of living crisis

Supported the community warden scheme

Successfully bid for a Highways grant for safety improvements at the narrow bridge on Cambridge Road

Provided the village Christmas tree and lights with the help of local volunteers.

Made a significant donation to the primary school to replace equipment lost in the fire.

These were all on top of the day-to-day activities, such as grass cutting, litter picking, playground maintenance and looking after the PC's finances.

If you might be interested in being on the parish council, please speak to one of us, or contact the parish clerk, through our website: www.fendrayton.org

Jackie Isden, chair

Pump track now open

The pump track, as pictured below, opened in early January. It was made possible by funding from the housing association bpha, who are building the affordable houses, and the Rural England Prosperity Fund, managed by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

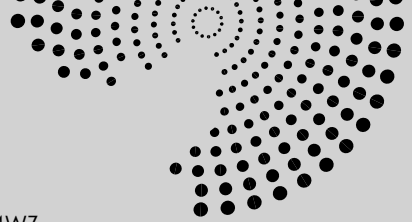


Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

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



Sue Ellington's 2024 overview

The four-day week: at the start, the Conservative government threatened the council with financial sanctions as it continued to pay staff for five days but allowed them to do all their work in four. However, the new Labour government took a more favourable attitude. I believe that in 2025 the four-day week will be confirmed for the future.

Community warden scheme: In 2024 Age UK Cambridge found their financial situation was frail and threatened to cease the service. SCDC quickly provided £100K to retain the district's 18 schemes, whilst undertaking an independent review. The review report showed every pound the service cost provides £3.79 worth of outcomes. The council proposed a 10-year reducing scale of investment to ensure the schemes' sustainability but which needs to include other sources of funding.

Housing: The new government plans to increase housing, particularly social housing, and is changing the planning system to accommodate this. However, we need new sources of water and infrastructure before building more houses. The government must also ensure that developers do not land bank their planning permissions to keep house prices from decreasing.

If you have an issue that I can help resolve, ring me on 07774146331, or email Cllr.Ellington@scambs.gov.uk

Community Cafe in 2024

2024 was another busy year for the Community Cafe, starting with a MAGPAS volunteer teaching CPR to a group of 19. The cafe committee made a donation to MAGPAS and plans to hold another CPR training event soon.

Fen Drayton Gardening Club met in the committee room throughout the year during the cafe sessions and held a plant swap and sale in May.

The Macmillan Coffee Morning in September was well supported and the cafe raised £200 for Macmillan.

In November the cafe's annual Christmas Fair proved as popular as ever. New stalls included locally-made fused glass artefacts, fruit growers selling bottled juice, and Carriages.

December's cafe again welcomed the Swavesey Community Choir, who performed a mix of seasonal songs and well-known carols.

The next cafe is 8 February.



News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



The spring term is now well under way, and we have made a flying start to 2025! We have been pleased to welcome several new children to our thriving Preschool, along with a new staff member to support the demand for places. We have also seen new children join other year groups across the school. It has been a pleasure to welcome all of the new faces, and to welcome new families to our community. We hope 2025 has started positively for all of you, too!

The autumn term ended with all the excitement of Christmas, of course, but for six of our children there was the added bonus of taking part in a ten-pin bowling competition in Cambridge. This event was successfully delivered by the South Cambs Schools Sports Partnership and the children had a fantastic time. They were all very proud to leave the event with certificates and medals!

This half term, our Reception Class children (4-5 years old) will be taking part

in 'Bikeability Balance' sessions as we support their progress towards being able to ride bikes safely and successfully. Some children can already do this before starting school, of course, but it is great to be able to offer this learning to all of our children.

We held a very successful Winter Fair back in mid-December, organised and delivered by our fantastic Parent Teacher Association. We have already spent some of the money on new headphones to support children with access to audio books and listening back to their typed English work. Our PTA will also be funding a visit from Monach Memories and their farm animals, which will take place before Easter.

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

New bus service linking Hilton with St.Ives and St Neots

Hilton now has a regular bus service making it possible to now reach St. Ives, Papworth and St Neots. Running seven days a week it will provide much needed connectivity for the village. Let's hope it is a success and remains a regular transport link.



67 SUMMARY TIMETABLE

St Ives > Hilton > Papworth Everard > St Neots

MONDAY TO SUNDAY

*These journeys run on weekdays only. All other journeys run seven days a week.

Buses towards St Neots	67*	67	67	67	67	67B
St Ives, Bus Station Bay 2	07:15	09:15	11:15	13:15	15:15	16:25
Hilton, Scotts Crescent	07:24	09:23	11:23	13:23	15:23	16:34
Papworth Everard, Elm Way	07:28	09:27	11:27	13:27	15:27	16:38
St Neots, Loves Way	07:41	09:39	11:39	13:39	15:39	-
St Neots, Market Square, Stop C	07:49	09:46	11:46	13:46	15:46	-

Buses towards St Ives	67	67	67	67	67*
St Neots, Market Square, Stop E	09:50	11:50	13:50	15:50	17:15
St Neots, Loves Way	09:55	11:55	13:55	15:55	17:20
Papworth Everard, Elm Way	10:07	12:07	14:07	16:07	17:33
Hilton, Scotts Crescent	10:11	12:11	14:11	16:11	17:37
St Ives, Bus Station Bay 2	10:21	12:21	14:21	16:21	17:48

Fen Drayton Primary School



We love a school trip here at Fen Drayton Primary School. This year, we wanted to have a lovely experience for all our children, so our fabulous PTA paid for the whole school to go to Audley End Miniature Railway to experience their Christmas event and meet Father Christmas! The children made reindeer food, walked the Christmas trail, watched the Christmas show and wrote and posted letters to Father Christmas. They then enjoyed a train ride to meet Father Christmas, who gave them all a present. All staff and pupils had a fantastic day and it was lovely to hear members of the public say how polite and well behaved our children were.

Y5 and Y6 went on their residential to Norfolk Lake and had a fun-packed three days staying away from home. They took part in lots of fun activities including axe throwing, paddle boarding, fencing as well as completing a blind trail.

Normally, Reception and KS1 would put on a nativity for their parents but as we don't currently have access to the school hall we decided to put on a performance of the children's favourite Christmas songs. B&Q and Dobbies kindly donated some Christmas lights to make our playground look Christmassy. The children returned to school after dark to sing to their parents, which was followed by hot chocolate and mince pies in the warmth of the school.

If your child is due to start school in September 2025, then please go to Fen Drayton Primary School, Admissions on our website 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 to our fire appeal, please go to:
<https://gofund.me/4e6ccab>

What you're Missing

Hilton Art Club – A History



Jackie Tevlin and Lynn Norton started the club in 2000 as Chairperson/Treasurer and Secretary respectively, as Lynn remembers “It all started after the Hilton Artisan exhibition in the village hall. Talking to a rather talented group of exhibitors, all from the village, we found out that this was a one-off ... and they didn't meet regularly. There was obviously a gap in the market there!”

They soon acquired members from the village and before long expanded the membership to include surrounding villages, meeting fortnightly during the school terms. We also had our first exhibitions. Jackie was a great mentor and enthusiast for the club and often organized ‘competitions’, with a small prize for the winner, of art materials, etc.

In the early years, a few volunteers would bring in still life sets and Jackie put on restful music as a background while we painted. We would also invite local artists to give tutorials occasionally, have outside painting and drawing visits locally and DVD tutorial art mornings in each other's houses. After receiving donations of art books, a library was created for members, which continues to this day. Jackie was a great mentor to us all and spent most of her time encouraging us.

By 2010, we met once a month. After celebrating 10 great years of the club, when Jackie and Lynn sadly stepped down, the committee kept it going for a short while, until Joanne Wells joined the Art Club. Joanne brought in new members and chaired it for 12 successful years, bringing her expertise and exuberance to modernise and introduce things like visits to Patchings Art Festival in Calverton, Nottingham and expanding our exhibition within Hilton Art Show, part of Feast Week.



In 2023, when Joanne had to leave us, Kathy Bateman became Chair and the club continues to grow and provide a place like-minded people locally can spend mornings (or sometimes longer, at our day workshops) enjoying painting and drawing together at any level, in whatever media they prefer.

The club meets in Hilton Village Hall on the third Friday of the month.

October – March 10:00 – 12:30

April – September 09:30 – 12:30

In December, we gathered together at The Windmill in Somersham. We had a lovely meal and enjoyed the afternoon. Thank you to Kathy B for arranging everything.

**Our next meeting:- 21 February 10.00am to 12.30pm. Poles Apart: Arctic and Antarctic.
Please bring your sketchbook/paper, reference wintry photos.**



Hilton Women's Institute



Well, the feasts and fun are all behind us now and the weather is doing its best to challenge our daily routine. It really doesn't help when we know of one of our members who has chosen to spend the entire winter in the southern hemisphere with temperatures of 29°C 30°C! BUT when this February issue hits your doormat, the daylight hours will be longer so it's not all bad, is it?

Way back in December we enjoyed our annual Christmas party with wine and tasty nibbles, and were entertained by Stuart Green in his lively style and that started the party season really well. We also met for an excellent Christmas lunch at the White Swan in Conington.

We are now back in the routine of the usual events that we enjoy; Canasta on alternate Monday afternoons, book club, Craft club and Art for all. There are plans for the previously postponed boat trip on the river and later to London to enjoy Starlight Express.

Federation in Huntingdon has plenty of choices - one of interest is a coffee morning organised by the Mayor of Huntingdon,

councillor Karl Brockett, with his fascinating talk on the town's history.

Looking ahead to our February event, Anthony Davidson will be telling us of the new ideas and work at Frank's Farm in Elsworth.

In January, we had a fascinating talk by Andrew Rief entitled 'Contraception and its Politics from Ancient Egypt until today'. Now that is some title!

As you know, membership of Hilton WI is never boring!

We are a very friendly group of ladies able to enjoy some organised activities and often spontaneous gatherings when we want to see something interesting so why not visit one of our meetings once or twice to see how warm we are, then you might decide to become a member?

Monthly Meetings are on every 2nd Monday at the village hall from 7 pm. Or contact hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com



What you're Missing

Girlguiding Hilton Rainbows and Brownies

At the end of last term we said goodbye to several of our brownies who had each gained their GOLD award, the highest award in brownies. Well done to them; their final challenge was to run a session for Rainbows based upon a Wildlife in Winter challenge badge with various crafts, games and activities. They did extremely well and did themselves proud.

In December the Brownies visited The Chase Care home in Huntingdon with their Mugs of Kindness gifts and sang and performed some carols with the residents joining in the ones they knew. Thank you to the staff for making us so welcome and providing hot chocolate drinks for all!

Looking forwards to the Spring Term, some of the Brownies hope to join Papworth Brownies on a trip to Paris and Disneyland in February half term. They have been planning and fund raising for over the past year and we look forward to hearing all about it when they return.

In the year 2000, Hilton Brownies filled a Time Capsule with mementos from the time and sealed it to be opened in 2025. Well unbelievably, here we are and we hope to have a grand opening in February with some of the original brownies joining us. If you were one of them and have not contacted us, please do so as we would welcome you to come along. We have various plans for exciting activities for this term but will leave them to tell you about in due course!

Rainbows, as mentioned previously, enjoyed their session with the older Brownies and it was great to see them all working together and how the Brownies interacted with and helped the younger girls, some budding leaders amongst them!



We currently have quite a small Rainbow unit and have spaces for 4½ year olds upwards ideally having done one term at school. If you would like to find out more, please contact us and we will be pleased to arrange a visit to a session prior to joining. We have plenty of fun activities planned for this term for the girls.

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

Free!

Beginners Course!

LETS RUN GIRLS FENDRAYTON

Starts Monday 6th January 2025,
6:45pm at Fen Drayton Village Hall

An initial 10week programme suitable for women running for the first time or returning from a break.

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)



Hilton Community Hub

For our final gathering before Christmas took over we partied!

Our wonderful organising group provided mulled wine with a really tasty buffet and the Hilton Ukulele group entertained us with those lovely seasonal songs that must be sung at that time of the year.

It all underlined the value of this weekly morning for all of us who come along to make or renew friendships, not just in the depths of winter but through the year.

If you are not sure, or lonely, or new to Hilton, just come to the Village Hall at any time after 10:30 on a Wednesday morning. You will be greeted with a smile and a 'welcome, and what would you like to drink, tea or coffee?'

There are games, an ongoing fiendish jigsaw or a do-it-yourself or do-it-together quiz (variably easy) or just sit and chat. Chocolate and biscuits hover on the tables to tempt you, then there will be a tasty light lunch before we have to leave at 12:30 - ish!

We can share your happy times and those grim days if you need us and many kind folk have raised funds in order to that this wonderful weekly event is FREE so come and see us!



Hilton Flower Club

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our Flower Club ladies, we hope you had a great Christmas.

3 February: We start the new year off with a flower demonstration by some of our flower club ladies. Look forward to seeing you all.

3 March: Tim Meakin will be with us again and will be doing wonderful creations with flowers, not to be missed.

We meet at Hilton Village Hall 2pm - 4pm

Entrance £6.00 (includes tea/biscuits)

No Membership, just pay on the door.

**Look Forward To Seeing You All
Beverley / June**



What you're Missing

Fenstanton Football Club

As we step into the new year, there's a fresh and exciting chapter ahead for the club. Lots of things to look forward to and new teams starting out on their journeys.

We would like to thank everyone who donated and bought tickets for our 'barrow of booze'. It was hugely successful, and not only did we have an overflowing wheelbarrow, we were able to offer a 'basket of booze' as second prize and a bottle of booze and chocolates as third prize.

This year the club reaches its 20th birthday: the fundraising team are working tirelessly behind the scenes to put together a big summer event for the whole village.

Our new U6's have started training on a Saturday morning. If you have any children in School Year 1 who are budding Bellinghams, please get in touch with us at Fenstantonfootball@outlook.com

The recently formed U10's, after months of training, have been getting some great experience ahead of the league, with some friendly matches. They've had some great results in some testing games. But we look forward to watching them flourish and see what they're capable of.

Our U8's were the lucky winners of the Hunts League social media competition, winning tickets to watch Cambridge United v Bristol Rovers. The boys had a great afternoon out with the managers and although Cambridge didn't win it didn't dampen their smiles.



New signings for the Lions

Well, we've not had the best season so far at Fen Drayton football club - we have really struggled as a team to get any momentum. There have been some signs that we are starting to play like we know we can, but the results don't seem to go our way at the moment.

We've had three new signings in Aaron Biggs, Bray Cobb and Joseph Harris. These lads have come in and made a huge impact already and really strengthened our squad. We go into 2025 to finish the second half of the season to try and find our first win. I'm confident the lads will step it up and start to get the results they deserve. The effort levels never change – it's always 100% every game, just sometimes it seems we just don't have any luck.

We played the annual over 35s vs the under 35s match over Christmas with a real good turn out not, just on the pitch but the supporters too. This game always provides some good laughs and this time round the

youngsters showed us how it should be done. We won't mention the score!

A huge thank you as always to my amazing family who do so much for us as a club: marking out the pitch, washing both kits and providing everyone with free tea, coffee and cake at half time, and at the end, to warm everyone up from the cold. It's really appreciated by everyone, thank you!

Simon O'Neill, Manager





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

28 November 2024 “The Merrymakers” entertained us with their music, humour and poetry. It was a lovely afternoon, the second half being very Christmassy.

4 December 2024 Our Christmas tea started with Christmas carols, aided by friends from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was lovely with everyone joining in. We then played games and had a seasonal quiz before tucking into the beautiful food.



Upcoming Meetings

29 January John Deeks will be speaking with us, sharing his super knowledge of the area.

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

Any questions please contact me. Marie News bubblenews@gmail.com
01480 350119



What you're Missing

Fen Drayton Bowls Club

Now that Christmas is over and winter lingers on, have you thought about some evening exercise and a sociable atmosphere in the warmth of Fen Drayton village hall playing short mat bowls?

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




You might be wondering what short mat bowls is – well, it's similar to lawn bowls but played indoors in a warm environment on a carpet 22 yards long. You don't need to have played before, just come along. There are plenty of members willing to provide help and assistance.

We have practice sessions on Friday evenings from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm each week between September and April. The club has a team entered in the Cambridgeshire Short Mat Bowls League and these fixtures are usually played on Sunday afternoons.

On completion of the indoor season and with spring upon us, we turn our attention to Lawn Bowls. If you would like to continue with some outdoor exercise during the summer evenings, this might be for you. Practice sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from 6.00 pm. We are entered in the Cambridgeshire and District Bowls League, and matches are usually played on weekday evenings.

If you would like to give it a go, just come along to any of the club practice sessions.

Find a defibrillator near you

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

Fen Drayton
Village Hall on Cootes Lane
[moons.grumbles.admires](#)

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

Hilton
Prince of Wales Pub on Potton Road
[mindset.skip.pulps](#)
Hilton Cricket Pavilion
[clerk.farmland.unroll](#)

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The Yellow Pages

Venues for hire

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

Councils

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

Community Groups and Clubs

Books and Jigsaws at FURC	01480 498221
Fen Drayton Bowls Club	01480 385297
Fen Drayton Lions FC	07718 900880
Fen Drayton Parent and Toddlers	07549 630124
Fen Drayton Tennis Club	01954 231752
Fen Shanty Folk	07841 599492
Fenstanton Baby and Toddler Group	07742 259653
Fenstanton Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	07531 863368
Fenstanton Bowls Club	07541 968125
Fenstanton Community Hub	07949 453767
Fenstanton Football Club	07968 081874
Fenstanton Friendship Club	01480 350119
Fenstanton Glebe Allotments	07817 786298
Fenstanton Town Trust	01480 464753
Fenstanton Indoor Bowls	01480 497202
Fenstanton Knitter and Natters	01480 498221
Fenstanton Litter Picking	07949 453767
Fenstanton Speed Watch	07949 453767
Hilton Art Club	01480 830696
Hilton Baby and Toddler Group	07527 394945
Hilton British Legion	01480 831186
Hilton Community Garden	07488 351128
Hilton Flower Club	01480 830571
Hilton HGV Watch	07768 294878
Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	01480 831658
Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	07970 404569
Hilton Speed Watch	07540 811115

Community Groups and Clubs

Hilton Town Trust	01480 830866
Hilton WI	01480 831186
RSPB	01954 233260
Slimming World	07568 444140

Community events

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

Education

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

Churches

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

Emergency numbers

A&E Addenbrooks Hospital	01233 217118
A&E Hinchinbrooke Hospital	01480 416416
Environment Agency (Flood Line)	0845 9881188
Fenstanton pharmacy	01480 495159
Fenstanton surgery	01480 461873
Fly Tipping	0345 0450500
Gas leak	0800 111 999
Non emergency medical	111
Non emergency Police	101
Papworth pharmacy	01480 831415
Papworth surgery	01480 830888

Emergency numbers

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

Buses

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

Pubs and eating places

Carriage's of Cambridge	01954 233279
Little Piggy Cafe	07764 336911
The Duchess, Fenstanton	01480 350859
The Three Tuns, Fen Drayton	01954 230242
The White Swan, Conington	01954 267251

Retail

Alan's Carpets	07790 681317
Ash's Store	01480 466225
Denise Jackson Interiors	07910 507541
Eye Specs	01480 499606
Frank's Farm	07831 777766
Norwich Sunblinds	01223 904129
Ponders Travel	01954 232802
Post Office and 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
Fenstanton Dental	01480 381129
Hamptons Pest Control	01480 274848
Hilton Private Hire	07521 293434
J L Wight Chimney Sweep	01954 253315
More Space Storage	01480 830130
Television Mobile Repair Service	07887 887319
Vets for Pets	01223 243535
W&H Peacock Auctioneers	01480 474550
Z Cars Taxis	01480 462046

Electricians

DSS Electrical	0800 019 7992
TW Electrical	07810 710826
Twin Electrical 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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Editorial - Fenstanton	07952 838121
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