

March 2025

The Journal

Fen Drayton ▪ Fenstanton ▪ Hilton

Living on the Monach Isles

On page 31

Making a Mother's Day vase

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When a hobby takes over

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Choosing a new kitten

On page 29



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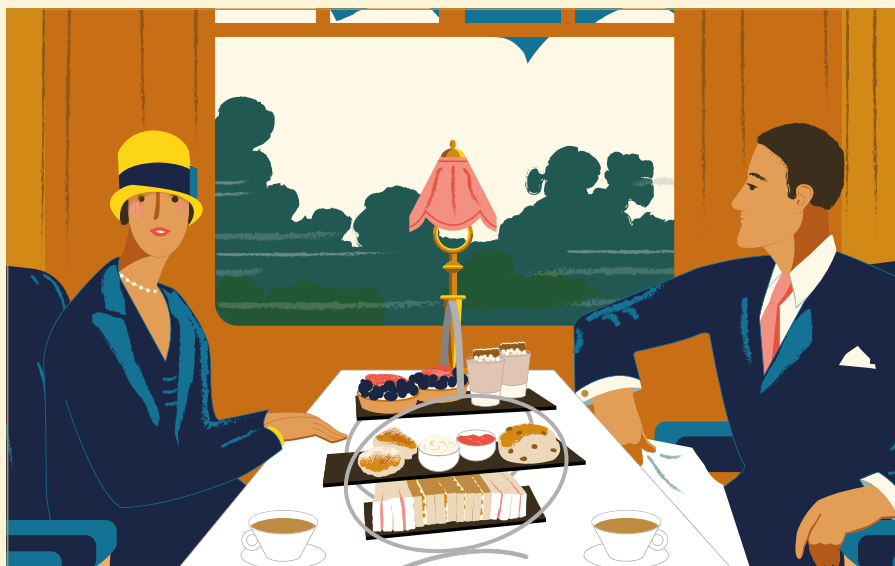
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Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

March 2025

- 01 Bowls Club Quiz Night, School Hall
- 08 Historical artifacts quiz, Community Café
- 17 Start of Hope Community Hub, Village Hall
- 22 Books & Jigsaws Sale, URC
- 22 Quiz Night, Village Hall

April 2025

- 05 Nestbox building, Community Garden
- 18 PTA Easter Egg Trail
- 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
- 10-11 Bowls Club Fun Days
- 17-18 Fenstanton Open Gardens
- 17-18 Art Exhibition, Parish Church

June 2025

- 19-21 Booze in Fenstanton Pews, Parish Church

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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Ides of March

March in the northern hemisphere is the first month of spring. And, after the weather of January and February, spring will be a very welcome addition to 2025. Within this issue of *The Journal* there is no need to “beware of the Ides of March” as it is packed once again with interesting articles. Don’t miss the helpful suggestions about choosing a new kitten or the piece on living on the remote Monach Isles in northern Scotland. We also have cooking, gardening and children’s activities to brighten your day.

As with every edition of *The Journal* your editorial team try to bring you local interest stories and report on the many clubs and activities taking place in our three villages. We try to cover everything that is going on, however it is not always possible within the pages we have available each month. As always if you feel we are missing something please make contact with your local editor. Their details are at the bottom of this page.

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

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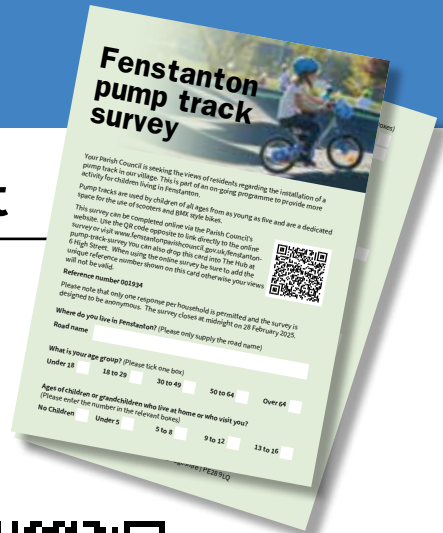
Please submit any copy by 10 March latest for the April edition.

Photograph provided by Malcolm Lynn.

Make your views count

Fenstanton Parish Council is keen to get the views of residents regarding the installation of a pump track within the village. The location of the track is yet to be determined and this will be decided if the majority of the village votes in favour of its installation. This initiative is part of an ongoing programme to improve facilities for children within the village. This next stage follows on from the recent upgrading of the Chequer Street play area.

Within this edition of the magazine is a survey card which you are encouraged to complete as everyone's vote counts. This can also be done online if it is more convenient. Please go to www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk/fenstanton-pump-track-survey or use the QR code here to link directly to the survey. Don't forget to use the unique code on your survey card when completing the survey online.



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Hilton Coffee Mornings

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(East Anglia's Children's Hospices)



are held in
the Hilton
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Schoolroom



on the first Saturday of each month.



1 March 10:00am to 12:00 noon
5 April 10:00am to 12:00 noon

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The Royal British Legion in Hilton



These photos were sent from Auschwitz-Birkenau by Sue and Paul Shelford during a visit to Poland in January, for which thank you both very much.

When they were planning their journey, Sue very kindly agreed to take the small wooden Royal British Legion cross on behalf of Hilton, hoping to find an appropriate spot at which to leave it and wonderful it is. They are moving photographs on several levels, especially following the recent ceremonies to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the notorious camps. We hugely appreciate this small tribute.

Members of the St Ives branch of the Royal British Legion hold a drop-in session every third Friday in the Ivy Leaf Club, Darlow Room, East Street from 11.30am to 1.30pm. Members and former members of the Armed Forces and their friends are welcome to visit for a chat, tea, coffee, biscuits and often CAKE! New friends are made and often 'old' ones re-found. Also, the women's section of the St Ives branch meet in the Ivy Leaf



every second Monday, again in the Darlow room from 11.30am to 1.30pm with the same refreshment offerings. Sometimes we have a speaker, quiz or simply a friendly natter. Everyone is made very welcome.

Membership of the Royal British Legion is open to all who support its aims and values. Yes, we raise funds but receive much kind and sociable friendship in return.



More Hilton Achievements

FUNDRAISING

Christmas began with a fun evening of seasonal songs on 07 December in aid of our Village Hall and the Samaritans charity.

As well as a 'good old sing' we raised £250 for the Village Hall and £110 specifically for the Cambridge branch of Samaritans.

We reserved the Samaritans cheque until the Christmas rush subsided and have received a letter of grateful acknowledgement from Henry Jabbour, its very new Branch Director.

Henry writes, 'All our activities are run through the support of our tireless volunteers...and your donation and fundraising efforts allow us to continue to respond to the needs of our callers locally and nationally'.

Thank you Hilton, for your support for this excellent charity.

The Samaritans is a 24 hour 7 days a week service. Telephone number (free) 116 123

Hilton Community Garden

The community garden is organising **FREE** events for **ALL** the family.
Do book your place by emailing 23heatherc@gmail.com



April 5th 12noon - 2pm

Build a bird box from bespoke kits. Under expert guidance construct and take home a nesting place for bluetits or robins.

May 10th 10 - noon

Planting seeds for you to grow and enjoy at home. Everything you need will be provided.

July (date to be confirmed)

Build a hedgehog house to encourage these heroes into your garden.

Reserve your place now as places are limited!



Hilton Feast Week



After the evening of hilarity at the comedy night on 8 February we are now looking forward to our next event, the spring quiz! Tickets are available on our website now, using the QR code below. Saturday 22 March, Hilton Village Hall. Tickets are selling fast already so make sure you get yours soon.

We are also busy planning our next two fundraisers, please make sure the dates are in your diary, we would love for you to join us;

Family Egg Hunt

Saturday, 19 April 2025

Murder Mystery Evening with Strictly Murder

Saturday, 10 May 2025

Most of all, save the date for Feast Week itself, Sunday, 27 July – Saturday, 02 August 2025, your support at our fundraising events throughout the year, and with the Feast Week lottery, mean we can plan for a fantastic Feast Week of hero and villain themed fun!

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 22ND MARCH

7.30pm Hilton Village Hall

TICKETS £5 EACH

Teams strictly max. 8 people

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Fen Drayton 10k Race and Fun Run



Sunday 4 May 2025

Bring the whole family along for a day of fun and fitness! We have activities planned for all ages, ensuring that everyone can be a part of this exciting event.

Enter now for either the 10k race (16 years +) or the Family Fun Run by visiting our website at www.fendrayton10k.org



We are committed and very proud to once again be raising much-needed funds for our local primary school, as well as local charities that support people in the local community and in the East Anglia area.

We are immensely grateful to everyone in the village for supporting our event over the

years and welcome anyone who would like to join us in various roles. From sponsorship opportunities, or being a part of our lovely committee, to holding an event stall on the day. Please do get in touch if you would like to support us more: info@fendrayton10k.org

AND don't forget to follow us on Facebook @fendrayton10krun too!



When a hobby takes over!

Sue Baggaley has lived in Fen Drayton with her husband and two dogs for nearly eight years and loves being involved in village life. Now fully retired, she has a small glass studio in her garden at Holystone Barn.

During the 1970s, Sue studied art in Cambridge and worked in the media, publishing boating and sailing magazines. Her stressful, deadline-driven day job led her to search for an all-consuming hobby.

"While living on the Isle of Wight, I discovered fused glass - the art of heating glass to create patterns and shapes. Handling large sheets of glass, cutting them into different shapes and heating them to very high temperatures meant I was completely focused. I began to create seascapes and sculptures, drawing inspiration from my love of the ocean."

The earliest man-made glass dates back about 4,000 years to Mesopotamia, where artisans learned to mix sand, soda, and lime to create glass. During the Hellenistic period, craftsmen mastered the technique of slumping, which allowed molten glass to form unique shapes and designs.

"In my studio, I cut coloured glass into shapes and assemble them into a design that's then heated in a kiln to between 760C and 800C, depending on the effect required, for approximately 24 hours because the glass must be heated and cooled slowly to prevent thermal shock. I shape the fused glass by slumping it in a ceramic mould, which is again heated in a kiln for another 24 hours at about 640C."

Glass is characterised by its coefficient of expansion (COE), a measurement that indicates how much it expands or contracts in response to heat. When heated, glass transforms from a solid to a malleable state at different rates depending on its COE. Therefore, it is essential to use glass with the same COE in a single project. Sue



is fascinated by this whole process, which mixes art with science.

Most people find their hobbies soon get out of control and, because glass-making is expensive, Sue needed to sell the finished glass to feed her 'habit'. She started exhibiting at local fairs and online.

She has showcased her work in galleries in St Ives, Lincolnshire, and the Isle of Wight.



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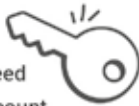
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The stage is set

The musical performers have been booked for the BIG Village Fun Day in Fenstanton. The fun will kick off in typical village fete style with the Somersham Town Band performing favourite brass band melodies.

After the races the Simply Wed band take to the stage to entertain us with a list of covers that will have you up and dancing or at least your feet tapping!

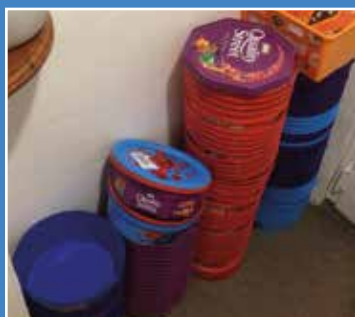
Don't miss this free event for all the family on 05 July from 13.00 on the school playing field in Fenstanton.



Tubs2Pubs

Thank you everyone who gave a tub or two!

The final total was 681, well done, all have been delivered to Greene King, who will sell them to a plastic firm, who will recycle them. The money will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.



Fen Drayton churchyard

A lot of hard work has gone into restoring the graves and surrounding areas, removing ivy from old graves and mowing the grass in Fen Drayton churchyard. It now feels like a cared for and tranquil place to visit.

Our thanks go to Gordon Day, Tony Wilderspin and Mick O'Neill.

Edie and Roger Robinson



Hilton Churches' Lent Lunches



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

Thursday, 13 March – 16, Scotts Close
by kind invitation of Rosemary Blake.

Thursday, 20 March – Atticus, Church End
by kind invitation of Janet and Bruce Whatley.

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

Thursday, 03 April – Tanglewood, The Green
by kind invitation of Jenny Broom.

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

Suggested donation - £5:00 **Proceeds in aid of MAGPAS**



Hilton Village Hall



Back in October, we hosted a Paint and Sip evening to raise funds for the Village Hall, and as you can see from the photo, it was a fantastic success! We're excited to announce that The Paint Club will be returning in April to again guide us, step by step, in creating another masterpiece.

Tickets for our next Paint and Sip evening, happening on Saturday, 26th April, are now available on our website, www.hiltonvillagehall.com. At £35 each, your ticket includes everything you need to create your very own piece of art to take home, plus a glass of prosecco upon arrival!

Whether you're coming with friends, flying solo, a seasoned painter, or a complete beginner, it's sure to be a fun, creative evening for all.



Welcome

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Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



In Focus: Huntingdonshire Housing Need Update January 2025

Thank you to all of those who commented on the Local Plan consultation. Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) received some 6,500 comments across all the consultations.

Tilted Balance

Prior to the Government's announcements of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Huntingdonshire had demonstrated it was exceeding targets of 5-year deliverable housing supply.

However, following the Government's housing target revisions, Huntingdonshire District Council as the Local Planning Authority, is now considered in 'tilted balance' in terms of planning - despite having previously been within the housing target for the Local Plan to 2036. The Government's changes to the NPPF, introduces a new standard method for calculating the minimum housing need required for each local planning authority in England. The changes to the standard method increased the national target from 305,223 homes a year to 370,408.

Paragraph 11 of the revised NPPF, sets out: where under the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development', this balancing exercise should be weighted towards granting permission. This is the case where there are no relevant policies in the Development Plan. These circumstances become a material consideration, which 'tilts' the balancing exercise from a neutral balance to one where there must be compelling reasons for permission to be withheld.

HDC's standard method target is now 1,213 homes a year equating to an increase of 51%, over Huntingdonshire's current Local Plan 2036 target of 804 homes a year. The NPPF revisions now mean HDC has a shortfall in the supply of housing and this then becomes a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, amending the approach to weight to be given to policies for the supply of housing, when balanced against the adverse impacts of development. Each application will continue to be considered on its own merits against the Development Plan as a whole, alongside the material change in national policy to boost housing supply.

Local Government Re-organisation

The Government's English Devolution White Paper, outlines plans for local government reorganisation and devolution in England. This is for all two-tier areas – a county council and city/borough/district councils. This includes Cambridgeshire.

The exact timeframe is yet to be confirmed, however the information that we currently have indicates, Councils will have to submit initial proposals in March 2025, with more detailed proposals for "wave one" being submitted in May 2025 and for "wave two" (which is likely to include Cambridgeshire) in Autumn 2025. Cambridgeshire County Council elections 2025 are set to go ahead.

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

Fen Drayton Speedwatch - volunteers needed!

Fen Drayton Parish Council is looking for more volunteers to join its Speedwatch group.

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where members of local communities, with support and supervision of their local police, record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices. Full training is given by the police.

If you are interested in joining our team and spending an hour or two a month to make our village safer for all road users and pedestrians, please email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com for more information.



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Quiz Night

Thursday 20th February & Thursday 20th March both at 8pm
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Chess Club

First Thursday of every month at 6pm!
Players of all levels welcome! Brush up on skills, put your experience to the test or learn techniques from others. Play in 2 games on the evening & make a 'Knight' of it!

Batemans Valuation Day

Unlock the value of your items on the Friday 21st February 10am - 2pm!
Join Stephen Drake of Batemans Auctioneers and Valuers, Stamford, for a FREE valuation.
No appointment required, just pop along with your items and meet Stephen for the next auction in March. We'll be holding another Valuation Day in March – See Pub for the date.
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Making a Difference Locally

The Highs and Lows

Weather Watch by Patrick Landucci

As I write this review for the period from early November 2024 to early February 2025, the winter so far for our area of the UK has produced relatively benign conditions compared to those experienced by other regions, i.e. no snow apart from a slushy fall during the early hours of the 5th January which rapidly melted. We also escaped the worst of the named storms, Darragh and Eowyn, in terms of wind and rain. A feature of the weather during the last 3 months has been the lack of sunshine with half of the 92 days completely sunless, exacerbating the effect of the short daylight hours during these months of the year.

The first air frost of the winter occurred on 20 November followed by a further 5 nights of frost during the rest of the month. By contrast there was just one air frost in December due to mainly cloudy nights and mild southwesterly winds predominating. Yet another “green” Christmas which was drizzly and mild. The warmest day was the 18th when 14.3C (57.6F) was recorded which was 7C (12.5F) above normal. January brought generally chillier conditions with a cold period with some hard frosts between the 2nd and the 12th. The lowest temperature I recorded was -5.3C (22.4F). As yet, for the 4th consecutive winter there has been no “easterly” spell. In fact, north-west Europe and western Russia have been having much milder conditions than usual with rain rather than snow falling on several days in cities such as Moscow, Helsinki, Stockholm and Warsaw during December and January.

Rainfall during the 3 months has been a little below average. The total for 2024 amounted to 28.63” making it a wetter than average year.

The impact of climate change globally means there has been no shortage of weather related headlines. Starting with storm Eowyn, named incidentally after a fictional woman in “The Lord of the Rings”, it caused widespread devastation and disruption across the whole of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the northern half of mainland UK. Winds gusting to 90mph occurred in a number of locations, the highest being 135mph at Cairnwell in Scotland.

Elsewhere:-

- During the last week of January severe floods occurred in northern Queensland, Australia following torrential rains delivering in some parts more than 39” (1metre) in 48 hours.
- In Saudi Arabia during the Hajj pilgrimage a deadly heatwave resulted in 1300 people dying.
- The wild fires in and around Los Angeles caused by the Santa Ana winds blowing at hurricane force over tinder dry land as a result of drought conditions resulted in 18,000 buildings being destroyed including many luxury homes.

In various parts of the world glaciers are disappearing. They are the largest freshwater reservoirs on our planet and are relied on by roughly 10% of the world’s population for their water supply. Those in the Andes, which also feed into tributaries of the Amazon, where the Amazon Basin have also been hit by drought for the last 2 years are especially at risk. Tree die-back combined with human induced forest fires means more carbon dioxide is escaping into the atmosphere.

A House Through Time – The Old Rectory, Hilton 1881-1939

By Gillian Sheail

The television series 'A House Through Time' focusses on those who have lived in city houses, but many village houses have interesting stories to tell. The Old Rectory (hereafter called 'our house'), a large house on The Green in Hilton, has been home to many families, and its name has changed over time. Official records including census forms, Kelly's Directory and material from the Hilton Digital Archive, have been used to trace the history of the occupants from the 1881 census until The Register of 1939 at the outbreak of war.

Built around 1815, 'our house' is an early 19th century two-storey building of Gault Clay bricks with a hipped slate roof of low pitch. It was designated a Grade II listed building in 1986. Initially it was not associated with the Church. Hilton became an independent

parish in 1873; before then it was a chapelry of Fenstanton, with a small 'vicarage house' where the priest lived. Situated near the Maze, and described as 'a poor thatched cottage of wood and clay', it was destroyed by fire on Feast Day 1928.

When the first Vicar of Hilton was appointed in 1873 he considered the 'vicarage house' unsuitable for a family man with a large number of children and servants. He was living in 'our house' called The Butts in the 1881 census. The inhabitants were Thomas Carroll (age 39), born in Cork, Ireland, and described as the Vicar of Hilton M.A., his Norfolk-born wife (39), and five children under the age of 10. There was also a governess (24), groom (19), cook (22) and nurse (20), making a total of 11 persons.

This was the beginning of a link between the church and 'our house'. It is difficult to establish who owned and occupied it before 1873.

Ten years later the 1891 census records the next Vicar of Hilton, Charles John Coar (60) living in 'our house', which was not given a name but was described as being 'Near Green'. His wife, Ellen (58) and two of their daughters (aged 27 and 26) were there, and they had two servants, Mary and Ellen See (16 and 15 respectively), both Hilton-born girls. Rev Coar, a graduate of Balliol College Oxford, was ordained in 1856, and from 1861 until 1889 served as Chaplain to the Forces in China, the Zulu War and Egypt. On leaving Hilton in 1896, he became the Vicar of St Ives, Liskeard, in Cornwall.



The Old Rectory, November 2024



Rev and Mrs Coar at their Diamond Wedding

He and his wife were very long-lived, and celebrated their 60th (diamond) wedding anniversary in 1916. He died in February 1917, sadly falling out of his chair onto the fire in his Liskeard study.

In the 1901 census the next Vicar, Rev Francis Abraham Souper, was living in 'our house', named The Vicarage. Eleven persons dwelt there: Francis (57), his wife, Henrietta (48), son Noel (23), a Cambridge Undergraduate, a daughter (22) and three more sons (20, 18 and 13). There were two servants, (a cook, and a housemaid), and Louisa Tripp (21), a visitor, who was a Training College student. There was a family gathering at Hilton Church in July 1901 when Francis' eldest daughter, Oriana, married Edward Adrian Wilson. Dr Wilson had a Natural Science degree, and had just completed his medical training in Cambridge. He was shortly to set sail for Antarctica as a surgeon zoologist on the Discovery Expedition with



"Our House" in 1897 showing the cedar tree

Scott and Shackleton. Ten years later Scott chose Wilson as a key member of his ill-fated expedition to the South Pole, and Wilson was one of the four members who died on the return journey. The family suffered another terrible blow when Noel Souper was killed in action in the First World War. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, and on the Hilton Lych Gate War Memorial.

'Our house', called The Parsonage in the 1911 census, was occupied by the next Vicar, Philip Dalby (36), a cook(25) and a domestic servant(16).

The last Vicar, Joseph James Wilson, probably also lived in 'our house' from 1911-1914 but evidence for this is lacking. When he left the village all links between our house and the church were severed. Hilton became part of Papworth Everard Parish and from 1938 it was linked with the Parish of Fenstanton.

Kelly's Directory for 1914 lists Henry Tyler as living in The Cedars Hilton. This new name for 'our house' reflected the presence of a large cedar tree dominating its frontage.

There was another change of occupancy by the 1921 census. A widow, Louisa Annie Perrond (65), was listed as head of house, while other occupants were a married couple Walter (44) and Katherine (42) Atter (described as boarders) and a domestic servant (28). The house had 10 rooms.

Louisa was the wife of a Swiss-born licensed victualler, who ran the Black Horse public house in Marylebone, London. He had died in May 1920, and was described as a retired hotel proprietor living at The Cedars, Hilton.

Kelly's Directory for 1924 lists Walter Atter as living at The Cedars. He was an Area Manager for Simplex Fire Extinguishers, visiting farms and businesses demonstrating his product and obtaining orders. His wife kept Angora rabbits, housed in hutches around the garages, and she



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Step into the Past



Rev Philip Dalby

harvested the wool. There were two grass fields behind the house, each an acre in size, where chickens and cows were kept. As 'our house' had a 'common right', the cows would also graze on The Green during the summer. Mr Atter kept a pack of about eight otter hounds (much like foxhounds but smaller). Hunting the river banks at St Ives, he would wade in the water with his dogs. In later life he suffered with severe rheumatism and walked with the aid of two sticks. The villagers thought his condition was caused by wading in the cold water!

In the 1939 Register 'our house' was called The Pastures which suggests that the cedar tree had been felled. It is likely that Mr Atter changed its name to reflect his use of the pasture land behind the house. In September 1939 William Parker Dyson, known as Bill (32), his wife Judith, known as Iris (31), and Mabel Lovell (56) a domestic servant/housekeeper, lived in 'our house'. There were three other

occupants, but because of their young age, their names are not presently disclosed. They were probably domestic servants or evacuees. Bill was a well-known architect, and Lecturer in Architecture at Cambridge University. He had already designed a large modern house in the village called Wheatfield House (now Kingswillow) for Hugh Leicester the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. Then he designed another house on The Green, with a splendid Palladian front. This he called Punch's Grove, and it became the home of his growing family, who lived there until 1969.

During this 60 year period 'our house' saw many interesting occupants, and was given different names. So why is it called The Old Rectory today? It was still The Pastures in 1974, when purchased by Peter and Valerie Riches. They sold it four years later with its present name. Did they think the new name more likely to attract a buyer?

Thanks to Rachel Lawton for her assistance



Bill and Iris Dyson (1950s)



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How to chose a new kitten

Choosing the right kitten for your family

As a follow-up to my previous article on selecting the perfect puppy, I'm now focusing on how to choose the right kitten for your family. Bringing a kitten into your home can be a truly joyful experience, but it's essential to think carefully before making a decision. Here are some important points to consider when picking a new feline companion.

Consider your lifestyle

Kittens can vary greatly in temperament and energy levels, so it's important to choose one that fits well with your family's lifestyle. If you have a busy household, a more independent kitten might be a better choice. However, if you have the time to devote to a playful and affectionate cat, then a kitten that loves attention might suit you best. Some cats are naturally more sociable, while others enjoy a bit more alone time. Make sure you spend some time with them at the breeder's so you begin to get a taste of their personality.

Age and development

When considering the age of the kitten, pick one that's at least eight weeks old. At this age, kittens are weaned off their mother's milk and are ready for a new home. They are also more social, having had more interaction with their littermates. If adopting from a shelter or breeder, make sure that the kitten is in good health and has received proper vaccinations and treatments. All our local shelters do a great job of checking them over before rehoming and will provide you with all the information about those checks.

Health and vet check

Before bringing your kitten home, try to ensure it has been checked by a vet. A responsible breeder or shelter will provide a full health record, including any vaccinations, deworming, and flea treatments that have been given. Make sure your new kitten has been microchipped or is scheduled for it, as it is now a legal requirement to have all cats microchipped by 20 weeks of age. If adopting

from a shelter, ask about the kitten's temperament and health history to ensure they're a good fit for your home.

Preparation at home

Before bringing your new kitten home, ensure your space is ready. Prepare a safe and quiet area where they can settle in, and have essential supplies such as food, water, a litter box, and a comfortable bed. Pheromone diffusers can really help to make your new kitten relaxed and become acclimatised to their new environment and can be particularly effective when they are young. Cats are territorial creatures, so having a space where they can feel secure is vital in helping them adjust. We would always advise speaking to your vet if you already have other cats in the household, as introducing a kitten can be a tricky experience for your other cats.

Adopting a kitten is a delightful addition to your home, and by considering these factors, you'll be well on your way to ensuring a happy and healthy life for your new feline friend.

Happy kitten hunting!

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Living on the Monach Isles (Heisker) – 1969

By Dreda and Roland Randall,
Monach Farm, Hilton.

Many people have asked us if the sign at our gate has been misspelt – surely there should be an ‘r’ in Monarch! Well, here is the reason why not!

The Monach Isles are situated in the North Atlantic, about five miles due west of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland. They were the field site for Roland’s PhD study of the ‘machair’ vegetation (grassland on shell-rich soils). We had driven up north in April 1969 and were hoping to get out to the islands as soon as we could, to survey the spring vegetation.

We had arranged with John Stewart, one of the lobster fishermen from Grimsey (a little island between North and South Uist) to take us out to the islands.

Five days after our arrival in the Hebrides we heard from John (the lobsterman) that he would be dropping pots around Heisker and could take us and our gear and food for several months.

We knew that the old schoolhouse on Ceann Ear (the largest island) was just about

habitable in that it still had a roof, four walls and a door to keep out the cattle and sheep – these and rabbits being the only island inhabitants. Luckily, the weather was calm, so sailing up Grimsey Sound to The Bar in the lobster boat, The Golden Harvest, was very pleasant. Sailing over the bar, where waves and currents came from all directions at once to create a boiling cauldron, caused the boat to pitch and toss, but once through, all was peaceful again and we eagerly looked out for signs of land on the horizon.

The islands (there are five in total) are low, gneiss rock humps with a covering of shell-sand and a topping of species-rich machair meadows and marram grass dunes. There is a huge seabird population, and some 10,000 seals come ashore in autumn to mate and have their pups. The islands have been uninhabited since 1942 but they were populated by up to 100 people for centuries. The old village on the north shore of Loch nam Buadh is in ruins, but the schoolhouse has stood the test of time and that is where we planned to live.

As the islands came closer into sight, John searched for the best landing spot according to tide-level, as there is no quay but just a few sets of rocks that he could edge the boat near without risking too much damage. We managed to get all our gear ashore and stretched along the beach and John quickly went off to go potting, in order to get back to Grimsey with a good tide over the bar.

We were on our own. Mobile phones did not exist, and our only emergency help was a yacht distress flare. The chances of that being seen were minimal, especially as Heisker is frequently clothed in a heavy, low mist even on a summer’s day.

The schoolhouse was a solid, four-roomed granite building, with an outside ‘privy’, somewhat lacking in cladding, and rich in woodworm. The house was still occasionally used as an overnight stop-over if the lobster boats ran out of time, or fit weather, or both.



Continued overleaf

Trains, Boats and Planes

Our intended stay was for the summer (the lobster fishermen start potting when the barnacle geese leave for Iceland in spring and stop when they return to Scotland in autumn) and though we had a small camping stove, there was no comfort, just two huge Victorian fireplaces full of gull-egg shells and rubbish left by previous visitors. There were a couple of wooden-framed beds with rope-lattice 'springs' and a few old chairs. Having lugged most of the essential gear to the schoolhouse and stashed the rest in an old 'bothy' down by the shore, we went to look for some driftwood for a fire. The only fresh water on the islands was in Loch nam Buadh, used by all the birds, animals and us! Boiling and sterilisation was a 'must'.

At this time there were 13 cattle on the islands: 12 old steers and one cow left behind when the Morrison family tried and failed to restart residence for a year after the war. There were also a lot of sheep owned by a grazing tenant. Occasionally the fishermen would drop by if the weather or tides were unfriendly and join us in the house, bringing a large bucket of crab-claws (they used the bodies as lobster bait), which made a splendid supper after a great deal of tinned food.



On good days, when Roland was checking his sample sites or collecting soil samples, we would walk the islands (the three central islands, Ceann Ear, Shivinish and Ceann Iar are connected at low tide) where eider ducks called to their errant chicks just offshore, who were at risk to thousands of predatory herring and black-backed gulls hanging around. We always wore hats as we walked because of the undisturbed nest sites of Arctic terns, that can be very vicious to potential 'predators', dive-bombing with their razor-sharp beaks and unflinching accuracy. We would regularly come across beautiful eider nests filled with the softest of feathers plucked from the mother's breast (much favoured for human bedding and for sleeping bags at the time).

There is only one high point on Ceann Ear, which faces due south. This is a favourite nest site for fulmar petrels and several gull species. Perched high on a cliff ledge close by is a huge harbour buoy from Halifax, Nova Scotia! It makes one realise and respect the power of the sea.

Some days were bright and sunny, but there was always a breeze, and even in summer it could often be quite cold. However, the northerly latitude gave long days and short nights, and sometimes we worked till midnight. On low cloud days, the mist came down and we could hear the mournful tones of the seals calling to their pups in the marram dunes. They were quite unperturbed



There was a good rock just outside the door and we made good use of our trusty claw hammer on cooked claws on many occasions.



by our presence, though we always gave them a wide berth so that they did not feel threatened.

In those days a lighthouse was still in operation on Shillay (the most westerly isolated island) and on foggy occasions we could hear the regular sound of the warning horn. The three central islands were joined by sand bars at low tide, but the sea could run in very fast, and it is very cold despite being clear and Mediterranean blue.

We soon learned the run of the tides, and the cattle always seemed to judge it right. The sand was pristine shell sand with no litter or plastic.

Rabbits were abundant, and abandoned burrows were often inhabited by fulmars who spat foul fishy oil freely at you if you accidentally invaded their space. There were no rats, thanks to one old feral cat. Our greatest issue was with the wet weather, as clothing was not as light or storm-proof as today, and with only the temperamental smoky fire, getting clothes dry was quite a challenge.

During our time on the islands, the tenant turned up with a group of fishermen to catch up some old sheep – those destined for the meat market. The round-up process was accomplished by the fishermen's dogs. Most people had their own crofts on the Uists and the dogs were used to working sheep. The sheep were corralled into a pen by the shore near where the Golden Harvest docked and those selected to go were driven onto the rocks and into the sea by the dogs and then manually hauled on board over the side of the boat until it was packed solid. The dogs worked their hearts out all day and survived on the island on a diet of gull eggs. They were often in the icy water and herded the sheep by jumping on their backs, barking and nipping to move them forward to the boat.

The machair grassland was spectacularly vibrant with colour, a 'fairyland' carpet of wildflowers, none more than a few centimetres high and unique to the western

isles of Scotland and a few sites in western Ireland. Because of the absence of predators,



other than greater black-backed and herring gulls and the occasional skua, these grasslands are alive with nests and scrapes holding terns, smaller gull species, skylarks, pipits, wheatear and many other ground-nesting species.

On calm, sunny days, with clear blue sky and azure sea, we could make out the hills of the Uists to the east and St Kilda to the west; no one could wish for more beautiful surroundings. On bad days, with a howling gale, low cloud and lashing rain, it was disgusting!

Today the schoolhouse has been restored to its former glory by a charity on Grimsey, and one of the cottages has been repaired for bird-watching visitors. The islands still remain inhabited only by the sheep and seals, resident and migrant birds and the large flock of barnacle geese, who come south in winter from Myvatn in Iceland to graze the machair and spread a fair quantity of fertilizer at the same time!





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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 in both churches!



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

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

MARCH 2025 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday 2	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion <i>with Sunday Club for children</i> followed by our annual pancake party in the Church Centre – a free event where all are welcome
Wednesday 5	7.30pm Fenstanton	Ash Wednesday service of Holy Communion with ashing
Thursday 6	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 9	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion, St Mary's Worship For All
Tuesday 11	7.30-8.30pm on Zoom	Lent Course Session 1
Thursday 13	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Friday 14	6pm-8.30pm	Fen Youth Group, Fenstanton Church Centre
Sunday 16	10.30am Fenstanton 5pm Fenstanton	Holy Communion <i>with Sunday Club for children</i> Choral Evensong
Tuesday 18	7.30-8.30pm on Zoom	Lent Course Session 2
Thursday 20	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Morning Prayer, St Mary's Family Communion (with charity speaker) followed by Lent Lunch in Church Centre – our first fundraiser for our charity of the year (Arthur Rank Hospice)
Tuesday 25	7.30-8.30pm on Zoom	Lent Course Session 3
Thursday 27	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 30	10.30am Fenstanton	Mothering Sunday Service with Holy Communion

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

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

Churchwardens: Philip Blunt 07855 481697 and Ian Hucklesby 01480 465211



Rev. Claire, our Curate, and her dog (Mango) continue to enjoy daily walks in Fen Drayton and Fenstanton and are thankful for the milder weather and the lighter nights, spring is on its way! If you spot them out and about, do give a wave or say hello.

As a church, we are busy preparing for Lent – the 40 days of preparation for Easter. Traditionally pancakes are eaten just before we enter into this season. A **Parish Pancake Lunch** is to be held on **Sunday 2nd March in Fenstanton Church Centre**, where there will be plenty of pancakes for all. Everyone is very welcome and it is a free event, but do let us know if you are coming along by emailing ikhuck@virginmedia.com or calling 01480 465211).



As we spiritually prepare for Easter, some Christians give something up (sweet treats is a favourite) whilst others favour taking something on, such as committing to acts of kindness, or to a new spiritual discipline, such as reading the Bible more frequently or trying a new style of prayer. This Lent, we are offering a Lent Course which is split into four stand-alone sessions. If you would like to try something new this Lent, and are interested in exploring your faith further, why not join us? Whilst it is preferable you to come to each session, you could dip in as your diary allows, and the first three sessions in March are all on Zoom, so you don't even have to leave your home! The final session is in April and we plan to meet in the parish church, Fenstanton on **Sunday 6th April between 4-5pm**. Do drop us an email if you are interested and we can give you more details, along with the Zoom link.

During our service on **Sunday 23rd March (St. Peter and St. Paul's, Fenstanton starting at 10.30am)** a guest speaker will share with us the work of the Arthur Rank Hospice, which we have chosen to be our Charity of the Year for 2025. Arthur Rank Hospice is a charity that is special to us, supporting our friend Ray Whitby and his family during Ray's illness last year. After the service (12.45 for 1pm), we have our first fundraiser for the hospice, our **Lent Lunch**. Come along for homemade soup, bread and cheese, tea, coffee and biscuits. This is open to everyone and tickets are just £6 for adults, £3 for under 12's. Please contact Katie on 01480 465211 or email ikhuck@virginmedia.com

Each year, on the fourth Sunday of Lent, we celebrate Mothering Sunday. In centuries past, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. This Sunday also allowed for those working in the fields on local farms and estates to have a day off in Lent to visit their mothers, and even nowadays this tradition is often continued with families making time to visit their mothers on this day. Mothering Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate all women who have nurtured us in our lives, and we give out flowers to mark this, our service this year is on **Sunday 30th March at 10.30am in Fenstanton**.



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.

Hilton Methodist Church



Did you know that USA retailers are in frantic pursuit of explanations for radically changing food purchasing trends? Individual stores are finding standard foodstuffs stuck on shelves and aggregating data, it's clear that something significant is going on across the country. Huge profit margins are at risk. The explanation? New weight-reducing drugs, widely available in America.

Processed food and alcohol suppliers are taking a massive hit as people using these drugs consume substantially less and are becoming very choosy about what they are willing to put into their bodies. US retailers are already thinking about new lines and ingredients as demand shifts to high quality, low processed food.

Here at home, we are in Lent, when Christians traditionally give up certain foods for the 40 days before Easter as we reflect on the impact one person had on the whole world - Christ; what he did and said, still today radically changing the way people live their lives.

I have often tried very hard to give up my use of plastic. It's not easy. Next time you are out shopping just notice how little you can buy that doesn't come in plastic wrapping or containers. We all know that recycling alone will not stop the sickening damage caused by plastic waste on the lives of both animals and people. The world needs to produce substantially less; now. But so far I have felt defeated in respect of making a difference;

overwhelmed about the size of the problem, bringing impotence. As a Christian, I shouldn't need news from across the pond to remind me that individuals can actually make a real impact; and fast.

Christ did, changing seemingly impossible situations. Like Jesus, what one person does, really does count. I won't be advocating these new drugs being fearful of their need of careful handling. But I am grateful for proof that it possible to bring about major change in our world. And at pace. This Lent, and beyond, I am resuming my quest to use less plastic. Clearly what one person does, does count.

Join me and let's see how fast we can do what governments fail to achieve - a safer place to live for all.



Revd. Sue Baker-Maher

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

Services in March

2 March	10:00am	Local Arrangements
9 March	11:15am	United Service at the Methodist Church
16 March	10:00am	Mrs. P. Zähler
23 March	10:00am	Dr. B. Spencer
30 March	10:00am	Revd. Sue Baker-Maher

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



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Hilton Parish Church



Dear Friends,

Have you ever seen a mad March hare? Hares famously engage in boxing bouts with each other at the start of the breeding season – it is said you can walk up to them while they are doing this and they will ignore you, though I’ve never had the chance to put this to the test. (According to Prof. Wikipedia, it’s not males fighting each other for supremacy, but females fighting off over-eager males!)

The March Hare was a companion of the equally loopy Mad Hatter in Alice in Wonderland, and as we approach March I can’t be the only person who feels we are living in a kind of political wonderland – the world we are in at the moment feels surreal and out of joint, with behaviour by some that seems to belong to a work of bizarre fiction. When the President of the United States declares he will buy or otherwise take over the Panama Canal, Greenland and Gaza, displacing the population in the latter case, you think somebody is inhabiting a fantastic (in the true sense of the word) parallel universe.

It’s easy to laugh, or despair, or turn away, or do all three at the same time. There is a better option, however. The writer of Psalm 46, almost three millennia ago, knew this very well. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. . . The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. . . He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. ‘Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.’ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” It is not an escape from responsibility, but the best wisdom, to trust in the good purposes of God despite all appearances, and to be still in that knowledge. That is a more profound truth than all the trumperies of the present age.

With love,

David

Revd David Busk (01480 436400)

Services in March

Sunday	2 March	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	9 March	11:15am United Service in the Methodist Church
Sunday	16 March	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday	23 March	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall
Sunday	30 March	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Friday	14 March	5:30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church)
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Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

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



Fenstanton United Reformed Church

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

2025 Services

March

- 02 Revd Christine Davies
- 09 Revd Christine Davies – **Holy Communion** - Lent
- 16 Vacant
- 23 Revd Christine Davies
- 30 Revd Christine Davies – Mothering Sunday

April

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

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

- Tuesday 11 March 2.30 - 4pm – Led by John Williams
- Tuesday 15 April 2.30 - 4pm – Led by John Williams

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

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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!

Mother's Day Vase

Mother's Day? Got it covered! These cute, tiny hand flowers are the perfect craft to do with your little one. Whether it's for yourself, a Grandmother, Mother, Carer or just someone you are close with, I'm sure this will brighten anyone's day.

What you will need:

- Coloured card
- Glue
- Scissors

Method:

- Trace around your child's hand and cut it out - these will be the flowers.
- Cut out some long strips of green card for the stems.
- Outline the shape of a vase and cut that out.
- Glue the stems to the vase and then glue the vase to the blank piece of card, with the stems facing down.
- Glue the cut out hand prints to the top of the stems.
- Decorate however you like, with glitter, stickers, stamps or drawing/colouring.



Join us at our next craft session to make these lovely vases.

Fenstanton Church Centre

Tuesday 18 March

9.30 - 11.30



@mamajosmischief

Interested in becoming a parish councillor?



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

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

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

Please apply by:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: fendrayton.org

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



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Cat poo

Dad was a funny man with a number of high class jokes and tricks???

He once told a lady that he had seen a cat dig a hole and – you now the rest – her reply was ‘My cat does that every day’ he asked ‘what with a shovel’ oh groan you wont be alone.

On Monday the 5th I became a new staff member of at a garden centre in Koln (Cologne) Not escape from so much a march as a stutter from sun to rain and back. When the sun shines nature’s hidden gems reveal themselves. One hidden gem whose seductive fragrance you might smell is sweet box. It is well named and could replace caterpillar ravished box hedging. Evergreen and trimmable *sarcococca confusa* is most like box, *hookeriana* and *humilis* varieties have some burnishing while *ruscifolia* is quite vigorous. They are unlikely to thrive in full sun on light soils but are mostly good doers.

I hope you are fit as March should be your busiest month. It’s the most rewarding time with results of your labours seen quickly which make it an ideal time for instant gardeners. Good soil preparation is crucial when planting in March. Incorporate copious amounts of organic material, feed, firm, water and mulch for new plants to get the best possible start. The same advice applies when lifting and dividing perennials. Keep an eye open and avoid damaging emerging bulbs and re-plant if disturbed.

Don’t be too pernickety tiding dead foliage of perennials to leave plenty of nest material for our feathered friends. Pruning and feeding roses now shouldn’t affect when they flower. Gently forking in fertilizer and mulching your borders will improve your gardens flower power over the summer ahead.

Spread lawn Moss+Weed+Feed to give your lawn a good start to the year now. Carefully follow the instructions on the products to avoid damaging the grass.



To add colour to your garden in the summer you can sow half-hardy annuals in March. Among my favourites are antirrhinum, calendula, clarkia, cornflower, godetia, larkspur, malva, nigella, phlox, poppies (Iceland and Californian) and sweet peas. Perennial seed to sow now include aquilegia, foxgloves, lavenders, lupins and scabious.

Eat your heart out Mr. Cleeses! Once a week Kolnerin



March Top Tips

- Plant trees and shrubs.
- Divide perennials.
- Feed and mulch.
- Treat lawns.
- Sow hardy annuals.

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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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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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Hilton Parish Council



A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 03 February

Hedge along Potton Road

At the request of a resident, Hilton Parish Council has resolved to write to Cambridgeshire County Council and request that they mow the verge across its entire width to the base of the hedge to reduce the amount of bramble growing up and through the hedge.

Ditch Contamination

Hilton Parish Council is aware of the diesel contamination of the ditch to the north of the wilderness. The Environment Agency are investigating this and have placed foam barriers to attempt to contain the contamination.

Churchyard Wall

The Clerk is authorised to advertise the tender for contracts for the refurbishment of the church wall, using the specification provided by the Parochial Church Council.

Streetlighting Maintenance

The Council has renewed its streetlighting

maintenance contract with K&M Lighting Services Ltd for a further three years.

Streetlighting Survey

Cllr Dulstone has volunteered to survey all of the parish council owned streetlights to confirm whether they are sodium or LED.

Standards Consultation


Councillors are encouraged to respond to this consultation as individuals.

VE Day

Hilton Parish Council will be lighting a beacon for the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May at 9:30pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 3rd March 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.

Find a defibrillator near you

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

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

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Understanding your options when seeking a divorce

Divorce is a significant life change, and often a first interaction with family law in England and Wales. While the legal process may seem daunting, understanding the process and your rights can make a meaningful difference.

The no-fault divorce

Landmark changes to divorce law in 2022 introduced the no-fault divorce making the process less blame driven and simpler.

Irretrievable breakdown

The only requirement for divorce is the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage. A simple statement confirming this, made by one or both spouses, is enough to initiate divorce proceedings. By eliminating the need to give reasons like adultery or unreasonable behaviour, couples can focus on resolving practical matters like child arrangements and finances, instead of airing grievances in court.

Joint divorce applications

This allows both parties to apply together, emphasising cooperation and reducing the unavoidably adversarial nature of the old process. Joint applications are particularly useful for couples seeking a more amicable separation.

Removing the right to contest a divorce

Respondents can no longer contest a divorce application in most cases. This ensures that one spouse cannot block the divorce, offering protection where there are power imbalances or abuse in a marriage and introducing a pathway to legal separation.

Financial arrangements

Financial settlements are often one of the most challenging aspects of divorce. Both parties are required to provide disclosure of their financial circumstances, including income, assets, debts, and pensions. This transparency ensures that any agreement support the wellbeing of any children involved, is fair and reflects the needs of both individuals.

If both parties can reach an agreement on financial matters, this can be formalised in a Consent Order, which makes the agreement

legally binding. However, if disputes arise, the court may need to step in and make a decision. When determining financial settlements, the court considers various factors, including the length of the marriage, the contributions of each spouse, and the financial needs of any dependents.

It's essential to seek professional advice during this stage. A solicitor can help you understand your rights, assess the fairness of any proposed settlement, and ensure your financial future is protected.

Child arrangements

For couples with children, making arrangements for their care and well-being is the top priority. Above all, the welfare of the children is the family court's primary concern and the law encourages parents to work together to agree on living and contact arrangements without court involvement, emphasising that both parents retain equal responsibility for their children after divorce.

If parents cannot reach an agreement, they can apply for a Child Arrangements Order to determine where the children will live and how they will spend time with each parent.

Alternatives to Court

Resolving disputes through the court can be costly, time-consuming, and emotionally draining for divorcing couples and their family. In recent years, greater emphasis has been placed on Non-Court Dispute Resolution (NCDR) methods, offering couples a more cooperative approach. Court alternatives are often quicker and less adversarial than court proceedings, helping to preserve relationships and reduce stress during an already challenging time.

To find out more, visit: www.leedsday.co.uk/family, speak to a member of the family team at Leeds Day LLP on 0333 577 2250 or email lisa.leader@leedsday.co.uk. 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.

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.

Chequer Street Playpark

The Chequer Street Playpark improvements are progressing, albeit with some unforeseen delays. It has now become clear following the work that new safety surfacing is required, meaning the park will remain closed a little longer than anticipated. This necessary upgrade will be discussed and decided upon at the upcoming Parish Council meeting, with completion prioritised as soon as possible.



Cemetery clearance

Your Parish Council will continue to improve the cemetery, following our ongoing winter maintenance work across the village. We are also pleased to announce that we will be asking a professional to create a design for the improvement of our Memorial Garden. This project aims to enhance the beauty of this important space for our community.

Big tree giveaway

In a commendable initiative to promote greener environments and enhance local biodiversity, your Parish Council has generously distributed more than 40 trees to residents for planting in their own gardens. This initiative aims to encourage residents to contribute to the ecological health of their community, providing them with the opportunity to enrich their gardens with beautiful and beneficial trees. The selection of trees was meticulously overseen by Ray Puddefoot, who ensured that the chosen species were particularly suitable for garden environments. Among the trees selected were Crab Apple and Amelanchier, both known for their ornamental value and environmental benefits.

The Parish Council's initiative reflects a broader commitment to fostering a sustainable and green community. By providing residents with these trees, the Council not only enhances the visual appeal of local gardens but also contributes to the overall health and wellbeing of the environment. This tree giveaway event is a testament to the Council's dedication to ecological stewardship and community involvement.

Residents are encouraged to plant and care for their new trees, contributing to a shared effort to create a more verdant and sustainable future. As these trees grow and flourish, they will provide lasting benefits, enhancing the beauty and ecological richness of the area for generations to come.

We would love to see photos of your tree in its new home! Please send them to assistantclerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk and we'll share them in next month's Journal.



Parish Councillor Saturday Surgeries continue!

Your Parish Council is pleased to announce that Saturday surgeries will continue to be held monthly at The Hub, 6 High Street, Fenstanton, from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

We encourage all Parishioners to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with their Councillors and discuss any local issues or concerns.

22.02.2025	Simon King	Peter Hayes
29.03.2025	Paul Kent	Roy McGee
26.04.2025	Tina Yates	Martin Hewitt
31.05.2025	Nigel Ferrier	Matt Tandy

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

Speeding on Headlands

Your Parish Council has received concerns from residents regarding speeding vehicles on the Headlands estate. We kindly request that all drivers adhere to the 20mph speed limit. To assist in monitoring speeds, your Parish Council will be returning the Movable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) to the estate. We urge residents to report any instances of speeding directly to the police by dialing 111. To address this issue further, the Parish Council has scheduled a meeting to discuss the implementation of speed watch operations. In addition, we are currently investigating the possibility of number plate recognition MVAS cameras.



Dangerous and inconsiderate parking

A friendly reminder to residents to please park considerately and legally. We have received reports of dangerous and illegal parking, particularly too close to, and even over the junction, at the United Reformed Church. This is a known accident hotspot, which is why the white lines were recently repainted. Your cooperation in parking responsibly will help ensure everyone's safety.

We have also had reports of cars parked on the verges on Bell Lane, churning them up and making them look unsightly.

Please avoid parking on any verges around the village.

Finally, parking at the top of Swan Road is becoming a concern, with up to eight cars

reported parked very close to the junction on a single day. This creates a dangerous situation, as cars turning into Swan Road often overhang onto the High Street or are tucked around the corner, making it impossible for drivers turning into the junction to see. This type of parking is likely to cause an accident, so please find a safer place to park.



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 March** and **Thursday 10 April** at 7pm in the Church Centre.



What can I put in my bins?

HDC take items listed below in your black bins

- household rubbish that cannot be recycled, composted or reused
- polystyrene
- cigarette ends
- cat or dog waste
- nappies/sanitary waste/wet wipes/tissues/face masks.

They don't take:

- hot ashes
- heavy materials
- electrical and electronic equipment (recycle at dedicated recycling points household recycling centres and some retailers stores, visit Recycle Your Electricals for more information)
- batteries (recycle at household recycling centres and some supermarkets, visit Take Charge for more information)
- fluorescent tubes/light bulbs (recycle at household recycling centres)
- liquids
- oil (recycle at household recycling centres)
- paint (recycle at St Neots household recycling centre)
- building/DIY waste.

Any excess waste outside the bin will not be collected.

Bins for small electricals

In the coming weeks Huntingdon District Council will be installing a bin at the Church Car Park, this will not occupy a parking space. this will be for residents to dispose of any of their unwanted small electricals.



RECYCLING

We collect dry recyclable waste within your wheeled bin, green box or clear sacks.

Glass bottles & jars	Milk & Juice Cartons	Pots, tubs and trays	Clean foil
Newspapers	Cardboard	All plastic bottles	Aerosols
Cars & tins	Fabric, rugpoths & envelopes	Plastic packaging including carrier bags	

NO Black sacks

NO Clothes and shoes - take to charity shops or clothing banks

NO Paint tins

NO Enamel trays or house wares

NO Polystyrene

NO Batteries - Recycle at the household recycling centres

NO Shredded paper - place in to your garden. Use for composting

NO Nappies

Top Tip Wash out any of your recycling which contained food, this will help to keep your bin clean and stop other materials becoming contaminated with food waste.

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. There are currently two vacancies for co-option, and the Parish Council welcomes your interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

If you would like to learn more about the role of a Parish Councillor or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk for further information.

To contact your Parish Council Clerk

Telephone: 01480 465300

Email:

clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

Website:

www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk



An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

With winter coming to an end and spring just around the corner, we can look back at a very wet few months here at Fen Drayton Lakes.

September through to the end of February is when we become busy with our habitat management tasks, going around the reserve carrying out work to maintain or enhance areas for our key breeding species. Most of this work is guided by the reserve species targets in our management plan. These targets detail the species, avian or otherwise, that we want to attract to the reserve to breed or overwinter. During this time the small islands on the lakes are cleared of vegetation, willow trees are removed from reedbeds and other wet areas, patches of scrub are coppiced, and many other tasks are carried out to provide the ideal habitats for our target species across the reserve.

This past autumn/winter period has not quite gone to plan with serious and prolonged periods of flooding starting in late September. Despite all the low-lying wetland areas of the reserve being inaccessible, we have still been able to get out with our dedicated volunteer group to carry out various habitat jobs around the reserve, as well as doing infrastructure repair work on livestock fencing and trails.

We now look forward to the breeding season throughout the spring and the arrival of many migrant species returning to nest. Many of these will have been in sub-Saharan Africa or Southern Europe during the winter months, coming back to the same patch of reed or hawthorn as they did last year to set up territory and nest.

The coming months are undoubtedly one of the best times to visit the reserve with April, May and June among the very best. To plan your visit, go to: rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fen-drayton-lakes where you'll find everything you need to know.

Other upcoming events at Fen Drayton Lakes

Wednesday Wander Guided Walk - Ever thought you'd like to know more about the reserve and its wildlife? Volunteer-led guided walks take place once a month, usually on the second Wednesday.

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

Email: fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk



The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654. Photograph: A sign of Spring, Cuckoos usually return around late April, and their distinctive call can be heard all around the site. Photo by Edwin Parish

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Date and Walnut Cake



Ingredients:

- 8oz. / 225g dates
- 2oz. / 60g margarine or butter
- ½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 7 fluid ounces / 200ml boiling water
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 6oz. / 175g golden caster sugar
- 1 tablespoon golden syrup
- 1 egg
- 2oz. / 60 grams walnuts

Method:

1. Chop the dates, put into a basin with the bicarbonate of soda and cover with the boiling water. Leave to go completely cold. Overnight is good.
2. Cream sugar, margarine, syrup and egg.
3. Add date mixture with all the residual water.
4. Add flour, baking powder and walnuts.
5. Place mixture either in one 2 pound or two 1 pound loaf tins.
6. Bake at 140C fan oven for approx 1¼ hours for a large cake or ¾ hour for two small cakes. Check carefully as ovens vary.
7. Can be eaten with or without butter.

Mel's Sausage Pie



Ingredients:

- 1lb. / 450gr Sausage meat
- 1 large Cooking Apple
- Dessert spoon Sugar
- 1½lb., 675g. Potatoes
- Knob of butter
- 4 large Tomatoes
- 1pkt. Sage and onion stuffing mix

Method:

1. Peel and slice the apple.
2. Spread the apple at the bottom of a large casserole dish.
3. Sprinkle sugar on the apple.
4. Lay the sausage meat on top of the apple.
5. Cover and bake in a hot (170C – 180C) oven for 20 minutes.
6. Meanwhile, boil and mash the potatoes, mash with the butter.
7. Slice the tomatoes.
8. Bring the casserole out of the oven and top the sausage meat with the tomatoes.
9. Prepare the sage and onion stuffing mix according to the instructions and cover the tomatoes with the prepared mix.
10. Top your dish with the mashed potatoes.
11. Return to the oven until golden brown.
12. Serve with baked beans - delicious.



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Green blood

As you might have seen some of Ray's garden landscaping work around locally, we thought we would get the story of how he started and what gets him out of bed in the morning. Born in Kent into a horticultural family it was no surprise that Ray followed in his parents footsteps and left school to study at Hadlow College.

His first job on leaving college was working for the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia on a large landscaping project in Kent. So the seed was set for a landscaping career, although not immediately.

Ray explains, "On finishing that project I went to work for Rochfords a large nursery now in Hertfordshire where I found myself responsible for 640,000 poinsettia cuttings!" The nursery was founded by Joseph Rochford who reputedly coined the phrase 'houseplants' and started a whole new industry.

"Whilst I was at Rochfords I met employees from all parts of the globe and I caught the travel bug. For my next employment I found myself in Germany where I worked for a couple of large nurseries. When I say large, the glasshouses were of a scale that two large lorries could pass in the centre aisle. Cuttings arrived by plane from the Canaries, sometimes 1.5 million plants over a weekend. It was a nursery business on a scale I had never seen before."

On returning to the UK, Ray worked for Anglian Group of Nurseries who in its heyday was one of the countries largest producer of plants. It grew over 20 million strawberries and held what is known as a nuclear stock. This is a stock that allows any disease to be traced back, thus protecting the mother cuttings.

"I had always wanted to have my own business so I set up a small nursery in Cottenham supplying roses amongst other plants to garden centres. I had to balance



the growing of the business with working in consultancy and sales until it was established. At one point we were growing 35,000 roses and had a regular stall on Cambridge market. I remember selling £1000 worth of mistletoe on a single Sunday morning before Christmas!"

Whilst Ray had the nursery he started to diversify into landscaping. Just one project at a time building the business by word of mouth. And, now although based in Fenstanton he works all around Cambridge even though he is meant to be retired. "I am in a fortunate position to be able to pick and choose my projects. You have to keep your brain active so I am unlikely to really stop working entirely."

Over the years Ray has met all kinds of customers but one he recalls beats them all. "I was working on a big project in Cambridge and the client was a complete control freak. We needed some bulbs and instead of ordering them from a wholesaler she insisted on picking them herself. So off we trotted to Scotts and cleared them out of bulbs. Five trolley loads and nearly £5,000 later!"

If you have a landscaping project that might interest Ray he can be contacted by either emailing raypuddfoot@gmail.com or calling 07501 684935.



update



Message from the chair

At last, there's a feeling that winter's in retreat – longer days and snowdrops, aconites and hellebores in bloom – a sure sign spring is on its way and warmer days are coming.

Pump track

It's good to see so many children of all ages using the track and having fun. We always hoped that it would help children stay active outdoors and encourage safe, confident cycling.

We have had many positive comments from both parents and parishioners, although in January one parent was heard saying, "Can't we go home now, I'm frozen!"

The contractor is expected back to re-seed the area leading to the track and its surrounds and also repaint some signage on it. We could not have had worse conditions when it was being built but with better weather to come it should soon improve.

Many thanks go to our parish councillor, Paul Goodwin, for leading the project and turning out daily in all weathers to keep it on track.

Flooding

Fingers crossed for no more flood events this year. The good news is that the Environment Agency (EA) has sourced funding to repair the St Ives sluice. Our focus is now on Brownhill sluice, as there is no plan or funding in place for it. We will continue to press for a solution with the EA and through our MPs.

New pavilion

The parish council has been successful in its application for a grant of £10,000 from the national lottery fund. We are also in the process of applying for a grant from another source. If successful, we should be in a position to move the project forward.

Community warden

Sadly, our community warden, Rachael Mortimer, has left her post for pastures new. Rachael provided a "gold star" service enabling vulnerable residents to remain in their preferred community environment. We are very grateful to Rachael for all her hard work and wish her all the best for the future.

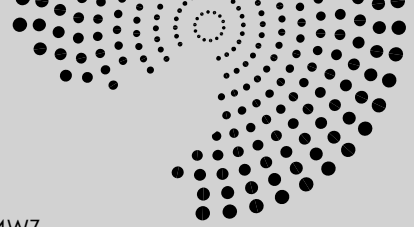
In turn, we welcome Nanci DelaMare-Lyon who is providing cover for our

Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

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



scheme members while a long-term plan is put into place. Nanci is a very experienced community warden, who will continue Rachael's good work.

If you could benefit from some support in your home, or know someone who might, you can find details about the community warden scheme on the Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough website: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/cambridgeshireandpeterborough/>, email: wardens@ageukcap.org.uk or phone 07812 496004.

District councillor's report

South Cambridgeshire District Council management team has at last decided to give the public it serves, the opportunity to comment on the effect the four-day week for five days pay experiment has had on the service they receive. You can complete the survey on the SCDC website or ring for a hard copy. The opportunity will close at the end of March.

Some of you will have heard that the government has asked county and district authorities to prepare plans to join forces to form a unitary authority. Because we have a mayor, we don't have to do this until next year. But I am very concerned

that the district authority provides a great deal of local knowledge which could be lost in a unitary authority. You will certainly hear more as the year goes by.

If you have an issue that I can help resolve, ring me on 07774 146331, or email: Cllr.Ellington@scambs.gov.uk

Community Cafe

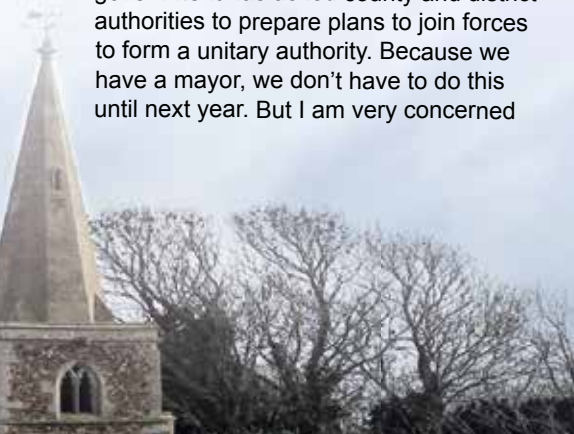
Want to guess the name and use of an historical artefact? Come to the March cafe to test your memory and imagination!

The cafe is keen to support local foodbanks and will be accepting donations during cafe sessions. We especially need household cleaning and personal hygiene items (toothpaste, shower gel, etc).

Many of you enjoyed homemade soup at the winter cafes and donated to the cafe's chosen charity, EACH, the local network of children's hospices. Unlike hospitals, hospices are heavily reliant on donations and anything that we raise will help the children and their families

The **Fen Drayton Gardening Club** is holding its annual Seed Swap at the March cafe. It will be a great opportunity for aspiring gardeners to get together and discuss plans for the forthcoming growing season - and perhaps take home some interesting seed varieties.

As ever, a warm welcome and coffee, tea and cake awaits all!



News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



As the spring days approach, we have been pleased to see some more light in the sky and some slightly milder temperatures. The field is beginning to be a little drier and this has meant an expansion of the children's play spaces after the restrictions of winter.

In the spring term we have enjoyed some really positive whole-school activities. Our Book Week, including World Book Day, was a series of really positive events, including reading breakfasts with families; reading in 'different' spaces; experiencing new books; and, of course, some dressing up thrown in too! We have also enjoyed a week of performance poetry, which culminated in a fantastic assembly, and we have hosted an art exhibition, showcasing work from every year group across our school.

We are looking forward to our Science Fair in the middle of March, which will give children the chance to share projects they have been working on at home with our community.

Our school activity, alongside the discos and other events led by our PTA, ensures that life at FHPS remains busy and exciting! We have also been working on the development of our new sensory space, which we aim to have up and running this summer term.

Our library area has been transformed, thanks to the amazing work of Pablo Renaud, a member of our parent community. Pablo spent many days in school creating the artwork in the pictures included with this article. This has provided a boundary and security

to our library area, whilst also providing an inspirational and eye-catching addition to the space. We are very grateful to Pablo for his skills, hard work and commitment to our community.

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





Cambridge Open Studios in Hilton

Cambridgeshire is one of the oldest artist-run studio initiatives in the country with a total of 500 members. About two thirds of these will exhibit each year. It runs over the four weekends in July every year and is a free event, where the public can visit the artists in their own studios. A paper guide is distributed a month before and can be picked up in local shops, libraries and galleries. Information is also available in The Journal for artists in these villages. Last year was Cambridge Open Studios 50th anniversary.

The first Open Studios in Hilton was in 2014 with Lynn Norton (mixed media painting) and Nina Sage (fine art printmaking). In 2015 and 2016 they were joined by Kieron Dunk (oil painting). In 2017 Nina and Lynn were joined by Pauline Lee and two others (ceramics). 2018 was an amazing year, when Willie Wilson joined as well (oil painting), giving Hilton six different artists to visit. The only time since 2014 that Hilton artists couldn't open their studios was during the Covid lockdown.

What to expect when visiting a studio?

Firstly, it is free – just walk in! You'll get a friendly welcome and an artist happy to tell you how they created their work. There is also an opportunity to purchase both the works of art and also smaller items such as cards of their designs.

The artists in neighbouring villages try, where possible, to open on the same weekends. The villages nearby that generally open their studios are Hemingford, Fenstanton, Fen Drayton and Elsworth. This means there is a fantastic artist trail that one can take, visiting a large number of studios over a particular weekend.

The Hilton studios plan to open again for 2025 for two weekends in July. Look out for a guide in the month before and start planning your artistic weekends!



What you're Missing

Hilton Art Club

For the first session of the year, 'A Bird in The Hand' was the topic and many varieties of our feathered friends were painted/drawn. It was a very good turn-out and three prospective members joined us for the morning.

Thanks to those who brought cake and homemade biscuits – much appreciated! It was lovely to see everyone again.

21 March 10.00 am to 12.30 pm
Beautiful Bugs: Real or imaginary.

Please bring your own reference pictures/props.



You look like a role model!

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

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

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

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



Hilton Women's Institute



When Andrew Relf came to talk about contraception at our January meeting there was an air of excited apprehension - here we have a gentleman in a room full of ladies on a definitely delicate subject! Well, what you have been thinking?

But fear not, Andrew gave us the fullest and most interesting hour on contraception from the earliest Egyptian times until the present day practically, delicately and politically. How the Egyptians did not grow in such numbers could be puzzling when their precautions involved pessaries made from elephant or crocodile 'poo'; while the Chinese believed in drinking mercury (but how to obtain it we wonder?). The Romans advocated rags soaked in honey for centuries, early New Zealanders made a broth from the poroporo plant which is actually a form of steroid.

Opinions of well-known names and words came to our ears as the centuries went by - Enoch Powell, Marie Stopes, Casanova, Suffragettes, Catholicism, laws. It proved to be a most interesting and informative evening with considerable complimentary comments then and now.

Thank you Mel for finding Andrew! What else do you have for us in that big black book?

With the February meeting approaching, we look forward to a visit by Anthony Davison on building his Frank's Farm in nearby Elsworth. Some of us have already been to this exciting new project and are looking forward to hearing his plans for its progress in future years.

Our clubs stay as regular as ever, Canasta ever gaining new members and practicing together at home, also Craft Club, Art for Fun and Book Reading. Some of us are monitoring local films of possible interest either in Cineworld or St Ives.

March means our AGM with the required business procedures as short as possible then some light relief, but not quite a party!

Oh please don't think that Hilton is a sleepy place because looking ahead there are possible outings to Harlaxton Hall near Grantham, a boat trip and an exploration of little known spots in London.

An important date for diaries:-

Saturday 6th September a member of St John's Ambulance is booked to offer a First Aid Workshop in Hilton Village Hall. This will be fully open to all at a small cost and could be of immense help in a crisis. More details will follow.

New members are always very welcome, come along once or twice to see what great ladies we are then join us! Or message hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com



Anthony Davison of Frank's Farm (right)

What you're Missing

Fenstanton Flames

Fenstanton's first female fifties+ netball team!

Match report: October 2024 vs Godmanchester

The Fenstanton Flames (FF) were feeling apprehensive, but quietly confident, before this match. Apprehensive because this was their fourth match since forming in Spring 2022, and at their first match they had been soundly beaten – score not needed here! Let's just say it was such a whitewash that when the FFs did eventually score there was cheering from everyone including the opposition!

Confident because this match was against Godmanchester who we had played before, and with the score getting closer each time, could this be our first win? Well, not quite but it was a hard played match by all – with a final score of 16-12 to Godmanchester. We were conscious that most of them had to play all four quarters, whereas we alternated, but then most of them were half our age! And one quarter, it must be pointed out, we won!

So moving forward, I think despite a few injuries we are all as keen as we were when we started out and are looking forward to the next match which we must surely win?!

Recruitment drive

So a bit about the Fenstanton Flames. We are a group of about 20 ladies from Fenstanton and surrounding villages, all in the age bracket of 50+. Most of us haven't played netball since school and whilst we have the occasional match we are primarily about having fun. We train Wednesday evenings at Swavesey Village College in the autumn/winter and at the Fenstanton MUGA in the spring/summer. We have the most amazing coach who makes the sessions energetic but fun as she works on our netball skills and general fitness.

If you are interested in joining us and would like a taster session then please contact

either Nicky Duncan on 07894 537142 or
Connie McCulloch on 07531 043417.



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HILTON VILLAGE HALL, CAMBS



Hilton Community Hub

We have invented an adaptation of the long forgotten phrase 'chain smoking', it is called 'chain brewing' and it is tea/coffee! Yes, your drink appears as soon as you arrive but the mugs stand in line in the kitchen so that tea and coffee addicts can be satisfied throughout the morning on Hub days.

On the tables there are those small plates of tempting plain and choccie bikkies and all before you begin to wonder what you would like to do today?

Maybe the jigsaw, Scrabble, cards, the craft offering, the quiz, a natter about local and current happenings world-wide or simply - who IS the anonymous person who sets these challenging quizzes?

Then the answers are given (how little we thought we knew and should remember) and we have 'hands up who would like lunch today?'

Jan and her team provide wonderful freshly-made light lunches, which might be a jacket potato with cheese or baked beans, soup, tasty pasta and often with 'seconds', then CAKE or even apple pie or crumble.

These Wednesday Weekly Hubs are immensely successful and free to all, so how are they financed, you might ask?

The latest source is from the production, sales, sponsorships and donations of the 2025 Hilton Calendar Girls calendar; final results of which will appear elsewhere and in the April edition of The Journal.

Everyone involved in this fantastic Community Hub project says a humble and grateful thanks that its future is therefore assured for many weeks, even months. Conversely, it will not last for ever so a time will come when fundraising ideas must lie on the table - any safe and sensible suggestions gratefully received! A parachute jump, perhaps?

Hilton doesn't do 'I'm lonely' or 'I'm bored' so as ever, to make new friends or renew 'old' ones; ALL ARE WELCOME, every Wednesday in Hilton Village Hall from 10.30 - 12.30.



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.



What you're Missing

Hilton Flower Club

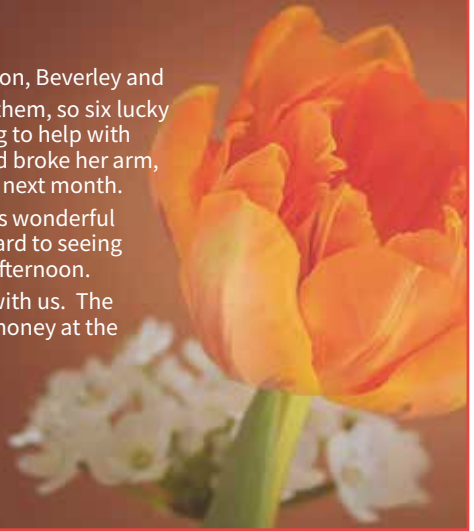
3 February we had a very enjoyable afternoon, Beverley and Carol did six flower arrangements between them, so six lucky ladies took one home. Sadly June was going to help with arrangements, but unfortunately she fell and broke her arm, we all send her our love and hope to see her next month.

3 March Tim Meakin will be coming to do his wonderful creations with flowers, we always look forward to seeing Tim, we know it will be a very entertaining afternoon.

7 April Lesley Beeton is doing a work shop with us. The cost is £7.50, we will need your names and money at the March meeting please.

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

Look forward to seeing you all
Beverley



SAVE THE DATE!

Fen Drayton

Community Cafe

Saturday March 8th

1030 - 1230

QUIZ

Name that artefact?

Gardening Club: Seed Swap



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.

8 January Twenty members had a great evening attending the pantomime “Beauty and the Beast” at Burgess Hall in St Ives. The general opinion was that this was the best show yet, well worth watching and joining in and looking forward to next year 2026. Oh yes we are!!

15 January This was a general meeting where events in the upcoming year were discussed. There were many suggestions, even a “bring and buy stall”. This would be good to raise funds for charity. A quiz was enjoyed, much fun was had, hopefully some knowledge absorbed, great afternoon.

29 January Our local historian, John Deeks, entertained and informed us with a fascinating account of the character responsible for much of the post war 1960s development of the village of Fenstanton. Serendipity or misfortune? The jury, it seems, is divided. This was a popular talk and attended by 38 people.

Upcoming Meetings

26 February If you would like to learn about our local “witches”, come along to listen to a talk from a representative of “The Norris Museum”. This will be on “The Witches of Warboys”.

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

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

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



John Deeks

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	07902 259953
Ron's Farm Shop	01480 495127
Rosegate Farm Shop	07922 588171

Garden services

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

Decorators

Jason Kirby	01954 211775
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Design, printing and copying

St Ives Quickprint Ltd	01480 465215
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Household services

Cambridge Light Removals	01480 352220
Christopher the Locksmith	07772 111222
Easton & Cook Funerals	01480 310400
Expert Financial	01480 718719
Fairy Dog Mother	01480 461959
Fenstanton Dental	01480 381129
Hamptons Pest Control	01480 274848
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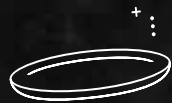
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