

September 2024

The Journal

Fen Drayton ▪ Fenstanton ▪ Hilton

**For Macmillan
Coffee Mornings**

See pages 4 & 30

**Back in police
cells again!**

On page 16

Our own local hero

See page 11

**A personal vision
for local food**

On page 55



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Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

September 2024

- 08 Pimms & Pate Garden Lunch, Parish Church
- 08 & 21 Canoe Safari, RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes
- 14 Hobbies, Crafts & Collections, URC
- 21 Quiz in aid of Feast Week, Village Hall
- 22 Service of Thanksgiving, 150 years, URC
- 27 Macmillan Coffee Morning, URC

Oct 2024

- 02 Open evening, new Squirrels (Scouts), Village Hall All welcome
- 05 Collection for Tools for a Mission, URC
- 06 Harvest Praise, URC
- 08 Scouts Open evening for adults, Village Hall All welcome
- 13 Harvest Festival, Parish Church
- 13 Harvest Festival/lunch, Parish Church
- 24 Open Day, Atticus House, Hilton, Poppy Appeal

Nov 2024

- 30 Christmas Fayre, Parish Church

Dec 2024

- 06 Christmas Lights
- 07 Seasonal Sing-Along
- 26 Fenstanton Morris, Clock Tower

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited



Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Place: Fenstanton U R Church

Date: 27th September

Time: 10-00am -12 noon

Contact: Jean Ding
There will be a Raffle and Bring
and Buy

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



COSTA
COFFEE



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



MOVING INTO AUTUMN

September officially marks the end of summer and the beginning of autumn. Nature starts its preparation for the colder months ahead, although with the current changes in our climate it is difficult to know sometimes which period we are in. The significance of September's Harvest Moon has long gone with the majority if not all harvesting done before this celebrated moon reveals itself. Even celebrating Harvest Festival as a topical event now seems a month too late.

One thing that September does bring every year without fail is the return to school. Alice Cooper's School's Out is now a faded memory as parents prepare their children for the return to routine education.

Here at The Journal we have enjoyed a month's break, but we are back with a bumper issue with some amazing features from local contributors. This month don't miss Revd David Busk's personal insight on Japan or Jo Treeby's fascinating piece about being in the police cells again!

If you have a story to share please do get in touch we would love to hear it.

From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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Please submit any copy by 12 September 2024 latest for the October edition.

Cover image and the image on this page kindly supplied by Gill Parrish

Fenstanton United
Reformed Church

Harvest Festival



Songs of Praise
Sunday 06 October
3.00pm

Hilton Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings in aid of EACH
(East Anglia's Children's Hospices)



are held in
the Hilton
Methodist
Schoolroom



on the first Saturday of each month.



7 September 10:00am to 12:00 noon
5 October 10:00am to 12 noon

Hope you will be able to join us!

Hilton Community Hub



Hilton's wonderful Community Hub is on holiday but don't worry, Jan, Sue and their fantastic team of helpers will be back again every Wednesday from 04 September from 10am to 12.30pm and throughout the coming winter.

Typically for Hilton, all manner of fundraising has ensured enough funds to run this amazing way to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

For example, Mandy and Lorne made a five mile sponsored walk in which they raised £390 - well done and thank you both! And we can also take part in a Tesco fundraiser at the checkouts.

This all began last winter as a Warm Hub but has become a very special, regular meeting place with tea, coffee, biscuits, CAKE!, games or just chat, and ending with a light lunch.

So come and try it. The welcome for one and all is always very warm!

The gods were smiling

When you looked out of the window the morning of 06 July it was hard to believe the BIG Village Fun Day would take place. We were being subjected to a biblical thunderstorm with inches of rain falling. Despite the weather the volunteers continued through the morning preparing the event for its noon start.

And, as if by a miracle, as the Cambridge City Brass Band struck up and the first brave visitors arrived the rain stopped, the clouds parted and the sun shone. The change of weather brought more people out and by early afternoon the school field was buzzing.

The traditional races proved as popular as ever with the tug of war being the star of the show. Teams of all ages competed for a range of trophies. The archery provided by the Scouts gave people a taste of this traditional activity.



Families enjoyed the range of inflatables and games. The stocks were a hit amongst the school children who were offered a range of targets including the Headmaster. The bar once again proved popular especially as it screened England's Euro24 semi-final game, which they won!

Live music, which has returned as a feature of the event, was definitely enhanced with the Scouts' renderings of campfire songs.

Overall, there was lots of variety to entertain families, and far too many to list individually. This was the first time that the Village Sports Day had joined forces with the PTA Summer Fayre and been supported by Fenstanton Parish Council. Thanks go to all the other organisations and volunteers who made the day a success. **It will be back next year on Saturday 05 July rain or shine!**



Hedgehogs



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

Huntingdonshire Local Group



The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome Judith Large on Wednesday 11th September at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall.

Judith is a retired lecturer and long-standing volunteer at Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital.

Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital is a specialist setting where sick and injured hedgehogs are treated and then released back to the wild. It is open 365 days of the year and in the last 10 years they have rescued over 5,000 hedgehogs.

As well as information about the treatment at the hospital, Judith will include information about hedgehogs in general and practical things you can do in your garden and community to support them.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. Booking is not necessary. The charge is £3.50 and payment is by cash or card. We meet at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB. For more information please contact George (01480 450809 or georgecottam@virginmedia.com)

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NEWS FLASH

**Save the date, time
and place!**

Saturday 16 November
Prince of Wales, Hilton - 7.30 pm

Grand Launch of the Hilton
Calendar Girls' 2025 Calendar

All sales in aid of Hilton Community
Hub winter funds. Watch for more
information in October's Journal

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Sunday 22 Sept

Sunday 27 Oct

Sunday 24 Nov

and every 4th Sunday, (excluding Dec)

11.15am HILTON VILLAGE HALL

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crafts & activities, time to talk, music and prayer

For more information, call
Rev'd David Busk on 436400
or Rachel Wood on 830866

We'd love to see you there!

Royal British Legion Hilton



The present Poppy Appeal total raised by the St Ives branch (including our own contributions), stands at a fantastic £22,280.01, well up on previous years.

Among the several commemorations of major events 80 years ago in 1944 was the key Battle of Kohima Imphal near the Indian border which involved the allied armies of India and Great Britain and which prevented the Japanese forces from their aims. (Worth a visit to Google for more details!) The casualties on all sides were enormous and so members of the St Ives Branch proudly remembered that time with a short service at the Cross of Remembrance on July 18, supported by the Mayor of St Ives, Pascoe Hussain, and members of the Town Council.

Every Legion meeting ends with the words on the memorial in Kohima 'When you go home, think only of us and say, for your tomorrows we gave our today.'



L-R Grace McClaren, chair of St Ives branch women's section, Pascoe Hussain, Mayor of St Ives and Monica Thompson, secretary of the branch and women's section.

The St Ives Branch continues to offer a drop-in every third Friday in the Darlow room at the Ivy Leaf Club in the Broadway to welcome past and present members of the Armed Services, partners and friends for tea, coffee and a chat from 11am to 1pm.

Also, the Women's Section meets every second Monday morning from 11am for a chat, quiz or speaker so neither case needs us to be out on those dark winter evenings and we offer warm and friendly welcomes, often even cake!

In 2023 Margaret and Charles Andrew kindly held a very successful Open Day at the beginning of the Poppy Appeal. This year, Jan and Bruce Whatley have generously volunteered to host a similar fund-raising Open Day at their house. So come and make your Poppy Appeal donations, with cash or card, just as last year - someone will be manning a card reader, enjoy meeting your friends for tea, coffee, biscuits and cake - yes, and buy your raffle tickets!

Date: Sunday 27 October

Time: 10am to 4pm

Place: Atticus House, Church End, Hilton. PE28 9NJ

New members are very welcome to our meetings, just come along and meet us, you don't need a connection with the Services.

QUIZ NIGHT

TICKETS £5 EACH

TEAMS OF STRICTLY 8 PEOPLE MAX.

SAT. 21ST SEPTEMBER 7.30PM
HILTON VILLAGE HALL

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SCAN THIS QR CODE TO BUY TICKETS

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Local hero shortlisted for award



Well-known Fenstanton fundraiser Jean Ding has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Fundraiser category of BBC Radio Cambridgeshire's Make a Difference Awards 2024.

The Make a Difference awards celebrate local community heroes who go above and beyond to make a positive impact on others. The Fundraiser award is given to an individual or group who goes above and beyond to raise funds for a good cause.

Nominated by Fenstanton resident Roy McGee, over the years Jean has raised funds for many a good cause. Having started fundraising at the age of 16, Jean has been raising money for local and national charities for the last half century. She began by selling poppies and since then her fundraising activities have included rallies, tombolas,

raffles, jam making, book and jigsaw sales and exhibitions, to name but a few. She has sent dolls to Malawi, Beanie hats to Gambia and Fiddly Muffs to dementia patients. She collects tools for Tools with a Mission and sweet tubs for TUB2PUB. No one in Fenstanton will forget the stall she set up outside her cottage during lockdown, giving pleasure to many and raising £6,400 for 34 charities. Always willing to help, Jean is the first to react to every emergency, recently raising £200 for a struggling food bank.

When the finalists for the Fundraiser award were announced on live radio one Monday morning in mid-July, Jean was told she



had been shortlisted in an on-air visit to her home by a Radio Cambridgeshire reporter. A surprised Jean answered the ring at her door to tell the reporter that the news was "gobsmacking". The video clip was widely viewed on Facebook!

The winners of all the Make a Difference awards will be announced at a special ceremony in Saffron Walden in early September. We all wish you good luck, Jean! Photo shows Jean receiving a totally different award for growing peas at The BIG Fun Day in Fenstanton on 6 July.

TOOLS WITH A MISSION

If you are sorting out your shed and have spare tools, please donate them to **Tools with a Mission.**

If you google Tools with a Mission there is a list of tools they want and don't want.

On Saturday 05 October there will be a collection of tools at Fenstanton United Reformed Church 10.00am – 1.00pm for

Tools with a Mission.



Cambridgeshire Crafters

Want to learn a new craft? Always fancied having a go, but didn't know where to start?

Our group has been meeting each month for the last 12 years, offering advice to beginners and honing and broadening our skills!

Or are you an experienced crafter, who would like some friendly company in a relaxed setting?

Then this could be the group for you.

Crafters welcome to the Monday Mob...

Where: United Reformed Church URC, Chequer Street, Fenstanton

When: 3rd Monday of the month

Time: 10am to 3pm

Price: £5 per session (includes tea and coffee – just bring your own lunch) ...first month free to see if you would like to join

Next meeting: 16 September

For queries, please contact jackie.evans51@hotmail.com

Some examples of our work...



Confidence with computers

If you are one of our many older residents who are not sure about using a computer, help is at hand. Maybe a younger relative or friend has set you up on a laptop but you're "scared" to use it on your own?

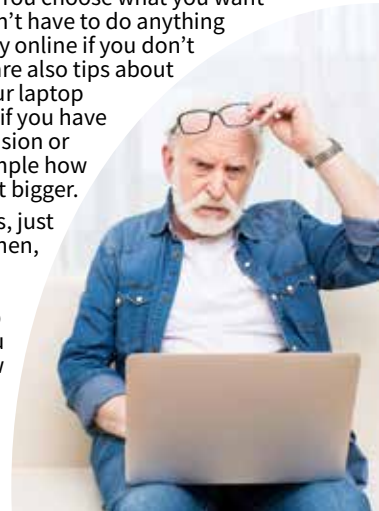
Try one of the following:

Ask at the library in either St Ives or Huntingdon to be put on the list for one-to-one help with computers. You may have to wait your turn, but a friendly and sympathetic volunteer will help you find out exactly what you need to know, using your own laptop. All you have to do then is keep practising! This service is free.

Or if you prefer to help yourself at home, try the Age UK website, www.ageuk.org.uk Ask someone you know to show you how to find the website if necessary. Go to the

website, click on Information and Advice, then on Making the most of the Internet. You will find easy, step-by-step information to help you feel more confident while using the internet and stay safe while doing so. Learn how to: send emails, use Facebook or What's App, do video calls, or do shopping or banking online. You choose what you want to learn. You don't have to do anything to do with money online if you don't want to! There are also tips about how to make your laptop more accessible if you have problems with vision or hearing, for example how to make the print bigger.

The main thing is, just don't give up! Then, when you have learnt how to do something, keep practising so you won't forget how to do it!



A married man's date with Hermione in Cambridge

(not as risqué as title might suggest!)

Cambridge is blessed with many fine museums, some of international renown such as the Fitz (Fitzwilliam) and some smaller ones that in days gone by were hardly known about or visited by anyone outside Cambridge University.

One such is the fabulous Whipple Museum of The History of Science. It only used to open on a Thursday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm, if someone was available, and was accessed through a small doorway in Free School Lane. Luckily, things are different nowadays.

However, there are also college-based collections, of which my favourite is the Girton College collection in The Lawrence



Room. There we find one of the most enigmatic faces in Cambridge. It belongs to a first-century Greek/Roman young lady named Hermione. Her superbly plaited mummy wrappings are a work of art in themselves and her beautifully painted face stares out to us from over 2000 years ago. Nearby, her family tell us she is Hermione Grammatike, which means she was probably a teacher of classics and clearly from a well-to-do family. Aged about 18 to 22, we do not know how she, sadly, died so young.

Hermione was discovered in 1911 by Flinders Petrie near Cairo, Egypt. As Girton was the UK's first residential college offering university-level education for women, it successfully petitioned Petrie that it was the ideal place for her to rest. Coincidentally, the Lawrence Rooms are open on Thursdays between 2 and 4 pm, by very welcoming staff.

Along its corridors and stairwells, Girton College also houses the People's Portraits, dozens of fine paintings of ordinary people doing ordinary jobs, donated by members of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

There is also a social hub cafe and, outside, a fine wild flower meadow. First-time visitors can get directions at the porter's lodge. The car park is off the Girton Road.

Richard Close

Image reproduced with the kind permission of Girton College

Fenstanton United Reformed Church,
formerly known as the
Fenstanton Congregational Church is 150 years old this year.



The Church members would like to invite anyone with a previous connection to the Church to join us in a service of thanksgiving on

Sunday 22 September 2024
at 9.30am. All welcome

Hilton Feast Week



What a week! Feast week 2024 was filled to the brim with Medieval Merrymaking! The sun shone, the marquee was busy and we all had a fab time. The festivities kicked off with a sunny sports day on Sunday and concluded with a fabulous produce show and village tea the following Saturday.



The week between was jam-packed with activities, including a spectacular art show, songs of praise in the marquee, family yoga, a closely contended cricket match, guys and gals dancing, a toddler group parafunalia session, farm tours and pony rides at Monach Farm, a games evening, canasta and board games, activities at the community garden, Friday Feast, medieval activities from Those History People, a visit from the Raptor Centre, circus skills, and so much more!



Evenings in the marquee were a blast, featuring bands, discos, BBQs, food vans, barn dancing, and even a modern twist on jousting! Wednesday night was particularly memorable with stand-up sit-down bingo filling every chair and table in the marquee.

A huge thank

you goes out to everyone who contributed to making Feast Week a triumph. It was truly a community effort! Special thanks go to the produce show and art show committees and to all of the local groups that



ran sessions. We are also incredibly grateful to all the willing volunteers who helped with a multitude of things, including setup and cleanup, stage construction, manning the kids' bar, and even sleeping in the marquee!

Thank you to the local schools for supporting with coats of arms artwork that decorated the stage so beautifully. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and supported the events, and for all the kind comments and words of appreciation throughout the week.

But the fun doesn't stop there, we are already planning our fundraisers ahead of next year's Feast Week! Do join us on Saturday 21st September for a quiz at Hilton Village Hall. Tickets are available online at feastweek.co.uk.



The Hilton Produce Show The Medieval Look

Our Feast Week Committee presented us with a challenge this year in shaping the schedule to fit the theme. (Ye very olde medieval cakes centuries beyond their sell-by dates??)

Thankfully knights, castles, shields and dragons stimulated our highly creative entrants. The water melon dragon was much admired and there were several beautiful knot gardens, in contrast with some grotesque gargoyles.

Baking was outstanding with two show cakes befitting a Royal Tournament and several mouth-watering fortified castle cakes made for the Jacob Colten Cup.

We were delighted to see princesses and knights bearing their creations and adult participants bringing stunning flower arrangements, baked goods, impressive flowers, fruit and vegetables all fit for the King's table.

At the end of the day we had two unexpected visitors: our newly elected Member of Parliament who graciously presented the prizes and obliged with photo opportunities; and an eye-catching Privet Hawkmoth who had settled on the gingerbread exhibit.



Thank you to everyone who entered or helped. It was a happy day to be a Hiltonian.
Claire Sarkies



Back in police cells again

by Jo Treeby

Although I spend most of my time at home in Fen Drayton I was recently inside the police cells in Parkside police station in Cambridge. I'm there quite often, and sometimes I am in the cells in Thorpe Wood Peterborough, or occasionally (when its open) in Huntingdon.

I'm not an especially suspicious character and don't have a criminal record. I am an independent custody visitor, or ICV. I work as a volunteer on behalf of the OPCC (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) and am part of a nationwide team of volunteers who visit police cells every week to check the welfare of detainees. People in police cells are not prisoners, they have been arrested and are under investigation. Some will go on to be charged, and after due process may be found guilty of a crime and possibly remanded in custody. Others, found to be innocent by the courts, will be released without charge and some may be transferred to a different agency such as Border Force.

Custody visiting was first introduced in the UK after outbreaks of unrest in various major cities, most significantly in Brixton in April 1981. The government ordered an enquiry and Lord Scarman was appointed to investigate events. The Scarman report included several recommendations about reforming the law, community relations and police practices to help tackle the problems that caused such widespread civil disorder. As part of its recommendations the report advocated a system for members of the public from local communities to inspect the way the police treated and looked after people detained in custody. Originally referred to as lay visiting, independent custody visiting was developed to meet this recommendation. ICVs are the "eyes and ears of the community", but the vast majority of

the community is unaware of our existence! ICVs come from a wide range of backgrounds and ages (currently from around 20 to 80). Serving police officers and solicitors are ineligible, as are magistrates and court officials. We also have to live or work within the area of the police cells we are visiting.

So what do we actually do? Custody visitors have to be interviewed, undergo basic security checks, and be trained. We visit in pairs, never singly. We arrive at police stations unannounced and are guaranteed entry and, unless there are safety concerns, the police have to admit us, no matter how busy they are or how inconvenient our visit is. Occasionally, this is frustrating for all



concerned, but in we go. We are never told a detainee's name, address, or why they have been arrested. If we recognise someone in the cells, we are utterly forbidden from disclosing to anyone that we have seen someone we know in custody. To do so would put ourselves at the risk of arrest.

ICVs are entitled to speak to every person in custody without exception, although

custody staff will sometimes recommend that we don't talk to someone. It could be that the person is violent, distressed or has just settled down, or on medical grounds. We ask detainees how they feel they've been treated while in custody, and we check that their rights are being met, such as access to a solicitor and medical help if needed, or if they have anyone at home (child, elderly relative, etc) who is dependent on them. If so, we request staff to alert the appropriate authority to ensure that no one is put at risk because the detainee is in custody. We make quite a number of checks, always with the consent of the person being detained; no one is forced to talk to us if they don't want to.



The new Milton police station (artist's impression)

The work we do is varied: sometimes routine, rarely boring. Nationwide, our visits do make a difference. It is now a requirement for all police stations to have sanitary products which must be offered to all female detainees – this was brought about by the intervention of ICVs. Custody suites now frequently have a supply of reading glasses (the sort you can buy on the high street) to loan to people in

detention. All detainees are offered a written copy of their rights and entitlements – not a lot of use if you can't read them because your glasses are at home! Some (including those in Cambridgeshire) have coloured filters which people with dyslexia may find helpful when reading.

We also check on the condition of the cells where people are being held. On one infamous occasion during an especially hot spell the aircon was failing – the ICVs were seriously concerned about the heat, spoke to the duty Inspector who investigated and he subsequently made the decision to close the custody suite and transfer detainees to another police station. Staff had become used to it, the ICVs weren't and took action.

We also ensure food stocks are in date (everyone is offered food and drink if they are in for any length of time) and that various dietary needs are being met. All custody suites provide religious books and prayer mats and all cells have an arrow pointing to Mecca.

Occasionally we are useful in myth busting. It is NOT an absolute right that every detainee can make a phone call. Sometimes that isn't allowed for operational reasons while an investigation is taking place. Strangely, detainees don't always believe this to be true when told so by the police, but may believe us.

No two visits are the same. It can be tedious writing the report forms we submit to OPCC after every visit, but they are an essential part of the job. Since starting this role, I've learned a great deal more about the workings of the police, and have come to respect the job they do. Is the system perfect? No, of course it is not, but staff do their best to make detention as stress free as it can be, in sometimes challenging circumstances. I'm looking forward to seeing the completion of new police premises beside the park and ride site at Milton, which will house the new, modern custody suite, with, I sincerely hope, improved facilities.

We will continue to visit weekly to ensure that all rules and procedures are followed to ensure people in police custody are treated in a fair and humane way.



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Making a Difference Locally



Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



In Focus:

Welcoming our new MPs to represent Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire now has seven Members of Parliament (MPs) representing our constituencies, five of whom are newly elected for the first time. The five new MPs include:

- St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire - Ian Sollom MP (Liberal Democrat)
- Huntingdon - Ben Obese-Jecty MP (Conservative)
- South Cambridgeshire - Pippa Heylings MP (Liberal Democrat)
- Ely and East Cambridgeshire - Charlotte Cane MP (Liberal Democrat)
- North West Cambridgeshire - Sam Carling MP (Labour)

Ian Sollom MP (Lib Dem) for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire is Fenstanton and Hilton's new MP. You can contact him here: ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk

Find out more here: <https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/iansollom>

Council Leader, Cllr Conboy delivers State of the District address, Summer 2024 –

Key points Cllr Conboy raised:

“2024 marks a significant milestone as we celebrate the council’s 50th anniversary. Last March, we agreed on a new Corporate Plan for the District Council, working with staff, residents, partners, communities and businesses to lead Huntingdonshire into the future with confidence. The Corporate Plan outlines our three key priorities: 1. Improving the quality of life for local people. 2. Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations. 3. Doing our core work well.”

“Over the last year, we have grown positive and productive relationships with local town and parish councils, other public bodies, business partners, and the third sector. We will continue investing in these critical relationships to stay as close to our communities as possible.

“Our financial stability is vital to all we have achieved over the last year. As more councils across the country face financial difficulty, I am proud that we are delivering on our promise of long-term financial sustainability. While the decisions that have been made may not always be universally popular, they have been prudent to ensure that we continue to be here for our residents and provide the services they need. We have set a budget that is balanced and protects frontline services. We can build a future based on outcomes and the protection of services for our most vulnerable people, so individuals or families avoid falling into crisis.”

See the full State of the District Address here: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/cllr-conboy-address-state-of-the-district/>

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

Fenstanton United Reformed Church

Hobbies, Crafts and Collections

**On Saturday 14 September
10.00 am – 4.00 pm**

**Vintage/Classic Cars/Tractors
On show outside**

In the church will be

Books and jigsaws

Handmade crafts

Handmade jewellery

Homemade jams

Cards and paper craft

Investigate family/local history

Refreshments on sale

And lots more

Entrance fee is just £1.00 Children free



The Duchess
Freehouse & Restaurant

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SUNDAY 25TH AUG
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Step into the Past

What did the Domesday Book tell us about Fenstanton in 1086? By Gillian Sheail

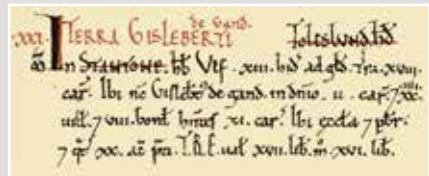
The Domesday Book records the results of a survey of England which was commissioned by William the Conqueror at Christmas in 1085. At that time the lord of the manor was Gilbert of Ghent; he had fought with Duke William at Hastings and had received the bulk of estates that had formally belonged to the Saxon lords that fell at Hastings. In total he was awarded 174 manors and lordships, his awards including, Fenstanton, Fen Drayton, Papworth Swavesey, Conington and Boxworth.

Translation of an extract from the Domesday Book of 1086: Place: Fenstanton (Stanton): Hundred: Toseland, total population: 33 households (quite large), the value to lord in 1086 £16. Households: 24 villagers, 8 smallholders, 1 priest. Ploughland: 18 ploughlands (land for 2 lord's plough teams. 11 men's plough teams). Other resources: Meadow 80 acres and 1 church.

According to the Domesday survey, Fenstanton in 1086 was a fairly large community of around 30 homes probably circling a village green and would have been centred around the church and the Honey Hill area. The manor hall was situated to the east of the church where today there is a new housing estate. Only the male population was recorded so we can safely assume that there would have been an equal number of females and probably three or four times as many children. There were most likely no more than 130 people living in the village.

In the year 1086 Fenstanton would have been an empty world. It would have been the quietness of life in an early medieval English village that would strike a visitor from today. The village homes were wooden structures, based on a wooden framework stuck into the ground and fastened together with wooden pegs. Roofs would have been thatched with straw or reeds whilst windows were small gaps cut into the walls and covered with a wattle shutter. Usually there was only one room shared by everybody. Poor people shared their huts with animals divided from them by a screen. During the winter the animal's body heat helped keep the hut warm. Fenstanton toilets would have been placed immediately outside the house and they were

just pits dug in the ground surrounded by walls of wattle. The seat was a piece of wood with a hole in it. With all the human and animal waste so close to the houses the smell would have been terrible and made a perfect home for all types of flying insects. In fact in summer there were so many of them that August was then known as the 'fly month'.



Translation of an extract from the Domesday Book of 1086: Place: Fenstanton (Stanton): Hundred: Toseland, total population: 33 households (quite large), the value to lord in 1086 £16. Households: 24 villagers, 8 smallholders, 1 priest. Ploughland: 18 ploughlands (land for 2 lord's plough teams. 11 men's plough teams). Other resources: Meadow 80 acres and 1 church.

Life was more dangerous in Anglo-Saxon Fenstanton than in modern times. In addition to the hazards of war, feud, and capital punishment, villagers were often at risk from famine and epidemics, as well as from a range of endemic diseases including degenerative arthritis, leprosy and tuberculosis. Life expectancy appears, from archaeological evidence, to have been in the thirties (although there are many instances

of people living much longer), and infant mortality was high.

The figures in the Domesday Book giving the actual number of ploughs are the best guide to the agricultural capacity of the Fenstanton manor. A plough team consisted of eight oxen and either belonged to the lord who had peasants working for him or they belonged to the peasants themselves. The arable land was used to grow wheat, barley, oats and beans. They also grew peas, cabbages, parsnips, carrots and celery. They would also have eaten fruit such as apples, blackberries, raspberries and sloes. Although none were recorded there must have been watermill close by to cope with the heavy work of grinding the grain. They raised herds of goats, cattle and pigs and large flocks of sheep. The 80 acres of meadow that are mentioned in the Domesday Book was land where animals grazed all year round. Meadows were much more valuable where the land bordered streams and rivers, which was used both to produce hay and for grazing. Sheep were of great economic importance.

The vast majority of Fenstanton villagers would have made their living from farming. However farming in Anglo Saxon Fenstanton would have been very primitive. Farmers could not grow enough food to keep many of their animals alive through the winter so as winter approached most of the livestock had to be slaughtered and the meat salted. The villagers were subsistence farmers, farmers who grew enough to feed themselves and their families and very little else.

The village women would have ground grain, baked bread and brewed beer. Another Saxon drink was mead, made from

fermented honey. Honey was very important to the Saxons as there was no sugar for sweetening food. Although not mentioned in the Domesday Book, bees would have been kept in the village hence Honey Hill. The women cooked in iron cauldrons over open fires or in pottery vessels. They also made butter and cheese. Villagers would have eaten from wooden bowls with wooden spoons; there were no forks only knives. Cups were made from cow horn. The Anglo Saxon villager was fond of meat and fish. However meat was a luxury and only the rich could eat it frequently. The ordinary people usually ate a dreary diet of bread, cheese and eggs. They ate not just chickens eggs but eggs from ducks, geese and wild birds.

The village church which would originally have been built of wood was most probably rebuilt in stone in the first half of the 11th century. There were teams of masons who travelled from community to community offering package deal by which they erected parish churches to virtually Identikit plans. This building would have shimmered 'light and beauty' in the green early medieval fen countryside and no doubt would have been the heart of everyday village life.

The small hamlet of Fenstanton grew to become a village. It was not a bad place to live as standards went in those days; good transport with roads, tracks, droves and the river which also provided plenty of fish. It was surrounded by forest, the habitat of plentiful game and also a place the local inhabitants could run away to during times of unrest. The peaty soil was just the thing for growing crops as it still is. So on the whole, if you had to be a peasant, then Fenstanton was not a bad place to be. John.deeks@ntlworld.com

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Nagasaki – a window to Japan, Japan’s window to the world

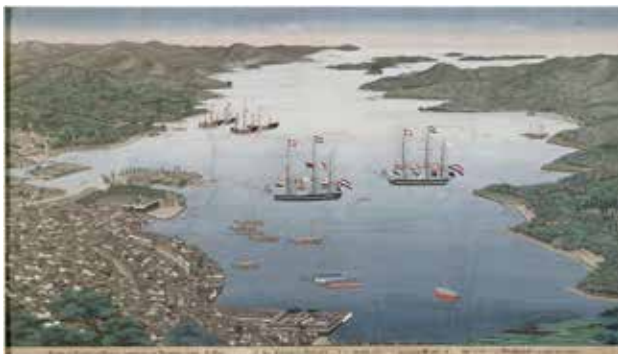
By David Busk

I have been asked to write a piece for *The Journal on Japan*, but that is such a big topic that I am concentrating on the part of the country I know best. For ten years, between 1996 and 2006, I had the immense privilege of being the priest of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Nagasaki, the oldest Anglican church in Japan. I have left a big piece of my heart there. In the West, when we hear the name of Nagasaki we probably think first of the atom bomb dropped on the city on 09 August 1945. But there is another, older story connected with this astonishing and still beautiful city, a Christian story, one which like the almost unrelieved tragedy of the atom bomb has more than enough sorrow in it, but a story that also contains faith and inspiration. It should be better known than it is. And the modern city and surrounding area are fascinating in their own right, and on a less overwhelming scale than other Japanese giant metropolises.

The first direct contact between the West and Japan was made by Portuguese merchants in 1543. A trading route was quickly established between Portuguese Goa and Nagasaki, in the south of Japan. St Francis Xavier and other missionaries soon followed, and the so-called ‘Christian Century’ of Japan

had begun. This was a period of extraordinary growth – there are of course no exact figures, but the number of converts to the Christian faith over the next few decades was certainly in the hundreds of thousands. The Jesuits were given control of Nagasaki, where they established a printing press and a seminary and built several churches, and it became predominantly Christian. Nagasaki became – and to some extent remains – the cradle of Japanese Christianity.

However, this happy state of affairs did not last. Quarrels between different Christian groups, and the Japanese government’s fear of being colonised by foreign powers, led to Christianity being seen as an undesirable foreign influence. Persecution of Christianity began in 1597 when 26 Christians, both Japanese converts and foreign missionaries, were crucified in Nagasaki on a hill overlooking the harbour. In 1614 the expulsion of all foreign missionaries was ordered, and the persecution of Japanese Christians intensified; in this period, there were thousands of martyrs, and an edict was passed banning Christianity outright. Finally, an uprising in 1638 by Christian communities near Nagasaki resulted in the massacre by government forces of about 30,000 people, men, women and children. As far as both the Japanese government and the outside world knew, Christianity had been extinguished in Japan, following one of the most intense



Dutch ships in Nagasaki harbour in the 1820s.

persecutions in Christian history. Japan now entered the era of sakoku or 'closed country', a rigorously enforced policy of isolation from all foreign contact. In Nagasaki, once a year every citizen had to stand before the magistrate and trample on a bronze image of the crucified Christ to demonstrate that they renounced the Christian faith. To refuse meant death.

Nagasaki remained the one place in Japan where a very limited contact with the outside world was maintained. Dutch merchants were allowed to bring in a couple of ships a year, and to stay for a few months each time on a tiny artificial island in the harbour. They were not allowed off, and only authorised Japanese could cross to the island, to trade and also to study the Dutch language so they could learn from textbooks what was happening in Western science, technology and exploration. Through this tiny window, Japan kept an eye on the rest of the world.

In the 1850s, under pressure from Western powers, Japan began to open up to foreign trade. A number of treaty ports were established, of which Nagasaki was one, where foreigners could live and engage in commerce. Nagasaki was the place where Japan first introduced railways, the telegraph, iron ship-building, deep mining, and much more. The story of Madam



Nagasaki harbour.

Butterfly, in which a Japanese woman has a tragic affair with an American naval officer, is set in the Nagasaki of those times, and although it is fiction it probably reflects some truth about the kind of encounters taking place then. In the foreign settlement in Nagasaki an Anglican church was established in 1873, and in 1875 a Catholic church was built, the first in Japan since the closure of the country. Both churches were for the use of foreign Christians only. Not long after the Catholic church was opened, a group of Japanese women approached the priest, Fr Bernard Petitjean, and one said, 'Our heart is one with yours. Where is the statue of the Virgin Mary?' To his amazement, Fr Petitjean discovered that these were representatives of tens of thousands of 'hidden Christians', who had preserved a form of the faith in complete secrecy for one and a half centuries. Pope Pius IX called it the 'miracle of the Orient'. Without clergy, Bibles, prayer books or any outside support, Christians had met in secret and prayed for the return of the Church since the 17th century. When restrictions were lifted in 1878, most of these hidden Christians returned to the Catholic fold, and many Catholics in Nagasaki today trace their roots back to these astonishingly faithful believers. There has been no other story like this in Christian history.



A rural Catholic Church outside Nagasaki.

Trains, Boats and Planes



The centre of the atom bomb blast. The grey column marks the exact spot and the black object in front of it is a stone chest containing the names of all the victims.

A final, hideous irony in the tale of the West's encounter with Japan through the gateway of Nagasaki is that when the atom bomb was dropped, it detonated almost directly above the Catholic cathedral, then the largest church building in the east, where Mass was being celebrated. It was the Christian quarter that was especially devastated. The cathedral has been rebuilt, and was visited by Pope John Paul II in 1981. Today, fewer than one percent of Japanese – about a million

all told – describe themselves as Christian, of whom about half are Catholic and the remainder divided between various Protestant denominations. But in Nagasaki, and especially in the surrounding hills and on the outlying islands where many fled to escape persecution, the faith brought by St Francis Xavier has, uniquely in modern Japan, struck roots into Japanese society and culture and still flourishes.



A dragon dance, originally from China, in the annual kunchi festival.

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If you cannot make a date or feel that you would prefer not to attend, but would like to make a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support, just pop a cheque or cash through our door. The money goes to Macmillan locally.

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A take-away from a garden visit

It's pleasure for a gardener to visit great gardens and be inspired to change their own humble plot. Over many years I amassed a long bucket list of gardens I have wanted to visit! Bodnant Gardens in North Wales was always near the top of my list until we visited last April. Bodnant Gardens is so good we visited again this year.

Nestled in the sheltered valley south of Conway, not far from Snowdonia, Bodnant is a lush paradise. It is famous for its Laburnum tunnel, rhododendrons, azaleas and streams tumbling over rocks into a valley. This year I came away thinking 'how do we create a garden in our parched eastern soils that looks and feels as verdant as Bodnant?' My key thoughts are – 1. Shelter from wind. 2. Light shade from a pergola or small trees that do not cast dense shade. 3. A water feature/irrigation system to increase humidity. 4. Plants with large foliage. 5. Improved soil water retentiveness i.e. adding organic matter and mulching. 6. Regular feeding. 7. Avoid killer plants that stop other plants from growing i.e. conifers and dense evergreens.

These measures would be good for the environment by absorbing carbon and supporting wildlife. I would add that trees and shrubs with purple foliage cast dark shade?

Tasks for September

September is a time to enjoy the last of the summer sun, plan for any changes you want to make and preparing for the autumn and winter ahead.

Check fences and paving for wobbly posts and slabs.

Trim hedges and remove any unsightly stems from herbaceous perennials.

If the soil is moist enough plant potted trees, shrubs, perennials and spring flowering bulbs.

Edge Lawns, apply autumn treatments and raise the mower blades to help shade out moss.



Cut back, lift and divide perennials that have finished flowering.

Take semi-ripe cuttings from plants like lavender, hebe, salvia, rosemary and penstemon.

Direct Sow seeds of half-hardy annuals like calendula, cornflower, flax, larkspur, love-in-a-mist and poppies.

September Top Tips

- Plant potted trees and shrubs
- Lift and divide herbaceous
- Trim hedges
- Sow half-hardy annuals
- Take semi-ripe cuttings

raypuddefoot@gmail.com

News from the Pews



St Mary's

Fen Drayton

St Peter and St Paul

Fenstanton

We look forward to welcoming you!



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

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

SEPTEMBER 2024 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday 1	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion
Thursday 5	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer For Zoom details, please contact Rev Rosie
Sunday 8	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton 1.00 pm	Holy Communion Worship For All Pimms and Pate lunch please contact ikhuck@virginmedia.com for more information
Thursday 12	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Saturday 14		Ride and Stride for Churches event, helping to raise funds, split 50/50 between Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust and our churches.
Sunday 15	10.30am Fenstanton 6.00pm Fenstanton	Holy Communion Sung Evensong
Thursday 19	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 22	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Morning Praise Family Communion
Thursday 26	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 29	10.30am Fen Drayton	Parish Service, Holy Communion, St Mary's

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallowin: 01480 467393 email: rosie.tallowin@btinternet.com

Curate: Rev Claire Brockelsby email: brockelsbyclaire@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Philip Blunt 07855 481697 and Ian Hucklesby 01480 4652111



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.

Through this edition of The Journal we would like to thank everyone who has supported any of our events shared with the local community in the early summer months. Our first ever Art exhibition saw nearly 30 local artists' work in church and it was lovely to welcome villagers to come and see the different styles and subjects on display. Quite a few people liked what they saw and purchased artwork, cards or ceramics etc. We have such talented people right on our doorstep!

Then just a couple of weekends later it was time for our 2nd 'Booze in Fenstanton Pews' beer festival. With rain showers and low temperatures all week we were ready with gazebos and to host indoors but the weather was kind, enabling almost everyone to sit outdoors and stay a while whilst enjoying different beers, drinks and the BBQ food. Although very quiet on Thursday evening with an England game of football on the TV, we made up for it on Friday and Saturday with some of the most popular beers selling out.

We packed away the BBQ for just a few days and retrieved it to run the BBQ stall at the Big Village Fun Day held on the school field at the start of July. Although we set up through rain and wind it did improve and once again we cooked and served hundreds of burgers, sausages etc for lots of lovely people.

It is much appreciated to have your support in all these endeavours.

Why do we host these events? Our parish church has over the last 4 or 5 years developed subsidence in the north-west



corner - cracking has occurred from above window height to ground level and one of the windows subsequently dropped. The church is over 700 years old and through the years has not only been used by villagers for regular services on a Sunday but also many generations have used it for family events like weddings, funerals and baptisms. So many people have shared its life. We want to maintain and repair the building so not only can it be enjoyed and used now but also in the future. Caring for it is expensive, it always involves consultation and advice from many professional bodies and it costs to employ the skilled tradespeople to carry out

the works, not to mention the legal requirements met before anything starts. We expect the work will cost many thousands of pounds but don't have an exact figure. We will apply for grants when we have a schedule of works but we will have to raise the rest ourselves. All the events above raised funds for this restoration.

THANK YOU ALL.



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Hilton Methodist Church



Space available for a community venture in Hilton

Back in May, giving parents and carers no notice at all, Family First closed their nursery located in the Methodist Church's school room on Potton Road in Hilton. Fortunately, alternative childcare has been found for most of the children and Trustees of the building are now considering how best we can serve the local community going forward – be this letting the space to another nursery or finding an alternative use that benefits residents in Hilton.



Various ideas were put forward at a consultation meeting held with the local community and further feedback was received via the questionnaires we sent out. Amongst the ideas to meet local needs people suggested: -

- Community space perhaps for workspace/IT resources, a fair-trade shop, a coffee shop, place to sell fresh veg, toddler groups and activities that needed more than a single session etc.
- A commercial letting such as another private nursery or other small business given that relatively small spaces are rare.
- Primary care support outpost of some kind.

Trustees are restricted in regard to our capacity to manage a variety of events across a week which otherwise might be helpful for the village particularly given the lack of public transport which affects many. So, we favour a letting for use of the building across the whole week but which retains our access to the kitchen and toilets on some evenings and at weekends. We would be particularly keen to hear from groups interested in using the space in this way especially where the provision will benefit local people in Hilton.



Please let us know (by September 30th) if you are interested in hiring the space and especially if it would provide a service for Hilton residents. Please contact Ian Woods on 07703524506 or e-mail him at ianwoods1992@btinternet.com

Services in September

01 September	10:00am	Ms. V. Almond
08 September	11:15am	United Service at the Parish Church
15 September	10:00am	Rev. P. Siddall
22 September	10:00am	Ms. N. Pellatt
29 September	10:00am	Local Arrangement

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



Hilton Parish Church



Services in September

Sunday 01 September	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 08 September	11:15am United Communion Service at the Parish Church
Sunday 15 September	9:30am Joint service in Godmanchester (lifts available)
Sunday 22 September	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall
Sunday 29 September	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Christmas Fayre

Hilton Parish Church

Saturday 30th November

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2024 Services

September

- 01 Led by Pauline Zahner
- 08 Revd Christine Davies - Holy Communion
- 15 Led by Keith Cakebread
- 22 Revd Christine Davies – Special Service to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Church, All Are Welcome
- 29 Revd Christine Davies

October

- 06 Led by Chris Baker
- 13 Led by Keith Cakebread
- 20 Led by Alison Jiggins
- 27 Revd Christine Davies

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

- Tuesday 10 September 2.30 - 4pm
- Tuesday 08 October 2.30 - 4pm

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary

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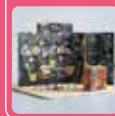
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Hilton Parish Council



A Civility & Respect
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Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 08 July

Football on the Green

The Council discussed a proposal from Hemingfords United Football Club to use the Green for matches, over the cricket outfield. There was a robust discussion, including representations from parishioners, related to the previous issues with parking, language and footballs in the road. The Council also discussed the potential conflicts with the cricket club use and the potential lease and ongoing maintenance costs. The Council resolved to agree with the outline proposal to create a football pitch on the existing cricket pitch, subject to a more detailed proposal, including parking, consultation with the Cricket Club and common rights holders, understanding liability and behaviour, considering financial obligations and ongoing maintenance.

Oak outside Monach Farm

A large bough has fallen, showing a reappearance of the “chicken in the wood” fungus. The Open Spaces Officer will discuss this with the Council’s tree surgeons and a volunteer party will remove the debris. The Council resolved to cordon off the tree with orange fencing and inform parishioners via the website and Facebook. Parishioners are requested to stay out of this area until we have confirmed whether this tree is safe.

Trees affecting Oak Tree Farm

The Council has received a report showing that two trees on the Green are causing subsidence at Oak Tree Farm and it has resolved to remove these trees at a cost of £750.

Works to the Maze wall

The work to repair the maze wall has been approved by the Council at a cost of £3,480.

Bus Shelter Roof

The Council considered the options for the repair or replacement of the bus shelter roof. The Council approved the replacement of the roof with plywood and bonded felt and requested that the Clerk obtains additional quotes for this work.

Streetlighting Lanterns

The Councillors will survey the current streetlights after dark to establish how many of the current streetlights are still sodium to discuss at a future meeting.

The Journal

The Council has resolved to agree to the requested donation of £1,000 and will ask the Town Trust to contribute £500 again.

Post meeting note: the Town Trust has kindly agreed to contribute £500 for the Journal.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 2nd September 2024 in Hilton Village Hall. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the Council’s website www.hiltonparishcouncil.com. Parishioners are welcome to speak at council meetings on agenda items.

Mobile Library service

Route H9 – 2nd Tuesday In The Month

Fen Drayton
Primary School 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Fen Drayton
War Memorial 3.40pm – 4.10pm

.....

Route H11 – 2nd Tuesday In The Month

Hilton Village Hall 2.00pm – 2.40pm

Fenstanton Headlands 2.50pm – 3.40pm

Fenstanton Chapel Green 3.50pm – 4.20pm

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Route H25 – 4th Thursday In The Month

Fenstanton Chapel Green 9.30am – 10.00am

Fenstanton Headlands 10.10am – 10.45am




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Fen Drayton Village Hall on Cootes Lane
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Fenstanton Ash's Store (NISA) on the High Street
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Church Centre on School Lane
[reclusive.creeps.deleting](#)
Zaza barbers on Headlands
[thing.pylon.relatives](#)

Hilton Prince of Wales Pub on Potton Road
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Separation and Divorce is hard for everyone

Splitting up can be done inexpensively, but if you rush and make bad decisions, the costs can be high, both financially and emotionally.

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

Mediation:

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

Collaborative law:

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

How to reduce the cost? - Avoid these mistakes

Unrealistic expectations. One household is about to be split into two. Unless you’re a rock star, expect money to be a little tight.

Getting into an endless battle. Turning the negotiations into a battleground will drain your

emotions and your finances. Pick your battles wisely.

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

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

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Welcome your new Parish Councillor

Cllr Michael Collison :- Mike has spent most of his life living in Fenstanton, he went to Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School, then St Ivo Comprehensive School. After graduating from the University of Nottingham he co-founded Litecast Limited, which is now one of the largest beam and block suppliers in the country and has developed many products and processes to improve manufacturing.

Mike lives with his wife, two children and a dog, with whom he can often be seen walking around the village. He has assisted with training at Fenstanton Football Club. He has many relatives who live in and around Fenstanton and therefore he has a good understanding of the history and needs of this growing village. He is particularly interested in the development of active travel and recreation for all of the village, which will be sustainable and pro-social.

Cemetery – tidy up

Your Parish Council is committed to enhancing the graveyard to facilitate easier maintenance of loved ones' graves by parishioners and visitors alike. The Council wants to inform family members and plot holders about the upcoming work. In the next few months your Parish Council will be organising the removal of overgrowth and ivy from the cemetery grounds, including from the Memorial Headstones. Additionally, we will seek professional advice for hedge and tree trimming and arrange for the pollarding of the lime trees located along the pathway and at the front of the churchyard.



Councillor Surgeries resume in September

Councillor surgeries are now held once a month on a Saturday morning between 10am – 12pm at The Hub, 6 High Street, Fenstanton. Surgeries give Parishioners an opportunity to pop in to discuss any issues they wish to bring to the attention of your Parish Council. Please pop in.

28.09.2024	Roy McGee	Paul Kent
26.10.2024	Peter Hayes	Mike Collison
30.11.2024	Tina Yates	Martin Hewitt
25.01.2025	Anne Mustill	Matt Tandy

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

Chequer Street play park gets the go-ahead

The play park on Chequer Street, affectionally known as the 'wooden park', will be revamped in the next few months. The redesign is a result of a survey carried out amongst parents with children at the Primary School. You told us that this was the park that needed most work in the village and you also proposed equipment to improve the play experience for children.

We will be removing the concrete pipes to make way for a new basket swing and a 16-meter trim trail. We will also be upgrading the wooden climbing structure to make it appeal to a wider age group.

Work should get underway late Autumn and during that time the park will be closed. Watch this space for an improved park and surrounding area..



Supporting Glebe Allotments



Parish Council staff recently enjoyed a delightful hour exploring the Glebe Allotments on a sunny day. We were impressed by the stunning array of flowers and vegetables cultivated by Fenstanton parishioners. The allotments truly embody a strong sense of community, with people of all ages and backgrounds working together, sharing expertise, and offering mutual support. While there is currently a waiting list for allotments, plots do occasionally become available for those interested in joining this thriving village asset. Please contact Jan Stone at janstone4@btinternet.com

Environment Agency - St Ives & Brownshill Sluices public event 12 August 2024

Representatives from your Parish Council, along with representatives from Hemingford Grey, Hemingford Abbots, Fen Drayton and Hilton, attended a drop-in event held in St Ives on 12 August. They requested immediate repairs to the St Ives and Brownshill Sluices. Currently, four out of the seven sluices are out of action at St Ives and two out of three at Brownshill. It is believed that this situation has led to an increase in local flooding. Your Parish Council will keep you informed of any developments.

Next Parish Council meetings

Your Parish Council meets next on **Thursday 12 September** and **Thursday 10 October** at 7pm in the Church Centre.



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Fenstanton Parish Council

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Village Clean-up

Join our Fabulous Litter Teams on
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September 15**
Keeping our village clean

Meet at the Clock Tower
10am

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Parish Councillor Vacancies

Make a difference!

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



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

To contact your Parish Council Clerk

Telephone: 01480 465 300

Email: clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

Website: www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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- ✿ To find out more, call Rachel on 830866

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



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Neighbourhood policing community meeting

- Meet your Neighbourhood Policing Team
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Ingredients:

8oz. Self raising flour

3oz. Margarine

2oz. Caster sugar

1½tsp. Baking powder

Pinch of salt

Approximately half a pot of natural yogurt
(the cheapest is fine)



1st prize at Hilton Produce Show

Method:

Mix together all ingredients, (except the yogurt), until it resembles breadcrumbs.

Combine with enough yogurt to make a stiff dough.

Turn onto a floured surface, knead to ensure a smooth surface under the dough. Turn to your smooth side.

Pat your scone dough with your hand until it is about an inch and a half in depth.

Each time you cut out a scone, flour the cutter, this ensures an even rise.

Brush with milk.

Bake at 180 degrees for approximately 15 minutes. Enjoy.

Scones made to this recipe and method really did get first prize in the Hilton Produce Show 2024!

Everything Rich Tomato Sauce

Ingredients:

1 medium sized Onion

1 red capsicum pepper

150gm. Mushrooms

1 carton Tomato Passata

Garlic to taste

Basil /Oregano to taste

Salt

Black pepper

Sunflower oil for frying

Method:

Chop onion finely, chop mushrooms and pepper.

Heat the sunflower oil.

Gently fry the onion, add the mushrooms (on a highish heat or they will sweat), add the pepper.

When these ingredients are thoroughly heated through, add the tomato passata, garlic to taste, basil or oregano, salt, pepper, (it takes quite a bit of salt as there is a lot of vegetable).

Cook for approximately 20 minutes until the flavours are well blended and vegetables are tender.

Uses:

Use it with your favourite pasta, for a tasty vegetarian dish.

It makes a very good Italian chicken.

Add beef mince for a bolognese.

Even makes a quick pizza (add a bit of cornflour to thicken).

Freezing:

This freezes very well, so is a really handy addition to make a quick, delicious, meal.





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Building a community around food

Anthony Davison has always had a passion for food provenance. He was brought up on a farm although he studied finance in Cambridge and his first employment took him to the City a long way from his roots.

Anthony's first venture into improving the way food is bought was his Big Barn web platform. Users are able to search and source locally produced food. His new venture Frank's Farm is based on land purchased by his great grandfather, Frank. Anthony, along with his business partner Paul Sanderson, has impressive plans for 20 acres of the farm skirting the edge of Elsworth village.

Anthony, as a 4th generation family farmer, has already converted old farm buildings into shops and enterprises run by a growing number of passionate artisan foodies.

"Frank's Farm is a Food Park," Anthony explains, "where local residents, schools, farmers and food retailers produce, interact and trade real local food to help build their food security and the local economy. I believe food should be fresh, seasonal and grown for its flavour instead of its shelf-life. It should be picked when ripe instead of being ripened in the bag. And, by cutting out the middle men and the food miles, it's normally cheaper, healthier, tastier and better than the supermarket."

Frank's Farm already boasts a cafe, bistro, butcher, sourdough bakery, ice cream producer, cake-maker, chocolatier and a pasta-maker. Very soon these will be joined by a mushroom farm, an artisan cheesemaker and a bespoke wine shop.

"When my great grandfather bought the



farm in 1920 from the Papworth Estate, it was when farms were an asset to their community by providing fresh food, jobs and seasonal celebrations. I want the Food Park to take us back to that 'better way' of food production. However, to use modern regenerative farming and new technology such as automatic milking machines, cow-cam, chicken tractors and off-grid heated poly tunnels for seasonal fruit and veg, avocados and citrus."



Paul (left) and Anthony holding a picture of Frank (seated)

Frank's Farm also encourages customers to join in with courses, events, 'Tasty Saturday' tastings in the deli and 'Crop for the Shop' where anyone, especially children, can grow food at home to sell in the deli.

Anthony works closely with local schools and has already engaged children from Cambourne STEM to help solve some of his technical challenges. He is also hoping to house the growth of the St Ives based Farm Club that help excluded children regain their confidence through working with animals and food.

"We hope that customers will discover something different every time they visit and perhaps get involved. Or simply become a regular to enjoy the amazing produce and encourage more food production to help build and improve the Food Park for the whole community", Anthony concludes.

**Frank's Farm is currently open
Wednesday - Saturday: 9 - 4, Sunday and bank holidays 10 - 4
Brockley Road, Elsworth CB23 4EY**



update



From the chair

Litter A request was made at the village meeting for a litter picking event to be organised in the village. Chris Burns, our handyman, litter picks in the village every week. Thankfully, most of the time there isn't too much to collect and most of that is rubbish thrown from vehicles travelling through the village. Unfortunately, the litter hot spot between the old A1307 and the vicarage and College Farm, isn't safe to work in. Fortunately, most residents pick up any litter outside their homes, which is incredibly helpful as it keeps our village looking good and frees up Chris for other tasks, so thank you all for that!

Speedwatch We'd been congratulating ourselves that fewer drivers were now speeding through the village. However, on the last hour-long Speedwatch session, six drivers broke the 40 mph speed limit along Mill Road and will have received letters from the police.

Post boxes The poles left behind following the theft of two village post boxes last year have been removed. Royal Mail has recently put a new post box at the village hall entrance.

Community warden There are several community wardens working across Cambridgeshire. Our scheme, which encompasses Fen Drayton, Lolworth and Fenstanton, is overseen by AgeUK. We are very lucky to have Rachael Mortimer as our community warden.

Rachael is an experienced professional, helping clients remain as independent as possible in their local community. Some have simple needs, such as a regular phone call from a familiar voice to check all's well, while others may require help with reading post, collecting prescriptions or shopping, making phone calls and arranging hospital appointments. Rachael's extensive local knowledge enables her to advise clients about local services and benefits and tailor her support to an individual's needs.

If you think Rachael could help you or someone you know, whether for a short period of time (such as recovery after an operation) or a longer period, or for carer respite, call her on 07971 951412.

For more information go to: www.ageuk.org.uk/cambridgeshireandpeterborough/our-services/

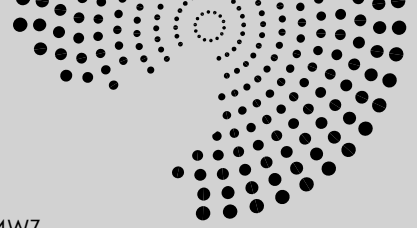


Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

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



Grants In June we reported the success of local fundraising for the new pavilion. With contributions from the beer festival, Fen Drayton residents, local businesses, the football club and the parish council, the total had reached £24,000.

So we were very disappointed to hear that our grant application to FCC Communities Fund for the balance of the project cost was rejected. Fortunately, there are other sources of grant funding available and we are now preparing two more applications. We should know the outcome by the end of the year.

Flooding We continue to engage with all agencies looking at projects that could help to alleviate flooding in the village. Cambridgeshire County Council has been extremely helpful and agreed to fund non-return drain covers on Oxholme Brook along the High Street. We hope the work will take place after the banks have been cut in September.

Along with neighbouring parish councils, we sent a letter to the chair of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee in June, requesting, in the strongest possible terms, that the St Ives and Brownhill sluices are repaired.

The Environment Agency (EA) held an information event in August, after we went to press. We will update you in the October issue of The Journal.

Photos on previous page, left to right: new postbox; Rachael Mortimer; Community Cafe cakes.

Sue Ellington - South Cambridgeshire

District councillor The change in government following the 4 July elections is highlighting issues affecting SCDC. Increased focus on housing development has resulted in permission for 1300 houses being granted for the Bourn village development. This had been held up because the EA had concerns about the water supply, but there are now plans for a new reservoir. Other developments on the biomedical site and Northstowe are also being brought forward.

The other important development concerns renewable energy, including solar farms and wind turbines, which may be appropriate for our flat countryside.

As always, if I can help with any issues in relation to SCDC contact me via phone 07774146331 or email cllr.Ellington@scamsb.gov.uk

Community Cafe

On 14 September the cafe will be raising funds for **Macmillan Cancer Support**.
Doors open at 10.30.

The cafe will also be hosting a **ceramics demonstration**, with the opportunity for people to have a go too.

The Gardening Club will be meeting at 10.45 as well (it's a busy morning!).

Freshly made hot drinks and home-baked cakes will be available as usual. So come along to our amazing cafe where you will receive a warm welcome, while helping to raise vital funds for charity.

News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



Summer time! A chance to reflect on the school year that has passed and look ahead to the one that will soon start. We hope you have enjoyed a peaceful summer, whatever it has involved for you and your families.

We were sad to say farewell to our departing Year 6 pupils at the end of the summer term. We are certain, though, that they will make a successful start to their secondary school education. The Year 6 children wowed us all

The end of term also provided the opportunity to welcome our new Reception Class to school during our transition sessions. Most of these children have already been a part of our preschool, but we are looking forward to re-welcoming them in September for their first day of school.



Our Sports Day on 4 July was a great success. We have included some action shots of the children with this article. The day was a good warm-up for The Big Village Fun Day on 6 July when, once the rainclouds cleared, we enjoyed a fabulous afternoon on the school field and plenty of money was raised for local good causes. Our own PTA team worked hard to support the event and we are thrilled with the money raised. We will be using some of the funds to provide a 'scooter day' for the children in October, when we will welcome World and European Champion Terry Price to school for two

with their performance of I'm an 11-year-old, get me out of here! at the end of term, then celebrated further with their usual barbecue and games afternoon provided by our PTA.

days of workshops.

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



Fen Drayton Primary School



In May, we had our Section 5 Ofsted inspection. We were pleased to achieve Good in all areas with the inspectors praising our culture of support and kindness. Our pupils' politeness and good behaviour was also praised and they noted how the children enjoy learning. The inspectors recognised how we have high expectations for all our pupils, including those with special educational needs. I am incredibly proud of our school and how all staff share the same vision and ambition for all our pupils and it was great to see this identified by the inspectors.



With Ofsted out the way, it was business as usual during our last half term. We took Reception and KS1 to the Sealife Centre. The children enjoyed seeing all the different creatures they'd been learning about in their topics.

No summer term would be complete without sports day. We enjoyed beautiful weather and welcomed lots of families into school to watch the children take part in a variety of sporting activities and finished off with the traditional running races. As always, our Y6s supported the younger pupils with their sports days.

Our school council takes its role very



seriously. Last term, they wrote to the PTA, asking them to purchase litter pickers



to help keep the school grounds clean. They also enjoyed organising our Water for Africa day after several of them had read a book in guided reading about a child in Africa, who had to walk miles each day to fetch clean water. Children in Y5/6 organised a fun day of activities to raise money for UNICEF's WASH project.

We work very closely with our cluster schools and this year saw us all take part in a cross-school writing competition. A presentation evening at Swavesey Village College saw



several of our children attending, with Iris winning in the Early Years category.

If you would like to find out more about us, take a look at our website www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk. We have spaces in most year groups but it's always worth giving us a call to discuss further. Please email office@fendrayton.cambs.sch.uk or call 01954 273346 to arrange a visit.

Nina McQueen, Headteacher

What you're Missing

News from the Scouts



Seeking bright eyed and bushy tailed new recruits!

We're very excited to announce that we are hoping to bring Squirrels to 1st Fenstanton & Hilton Scouts!

Wednesday 2 October, 5.30pm, at Fen Drayton Village Hall – if your child is age 3, 4 or 5, bring them along to see what an adventure in Squirrels could be like!

We will also be holding an information evening (for adults only) on Tuesday 8



Squirrels is the newest branch of the Scouts family tree, where 4-6 year olds can join in too!

This is an age when minds are fizzing, when energy and curiosity levels are sky high, when little lives are full of wow and wonder. Every week, Squirrels will gather to grow and learn their way through lots of different games and activities. They'll tell stories and play games, get active and explore the outdoors. Squirrels can achieve anything they set their minds to – and will have lots of fun along the way.

To get Squirrels started, we're in need of some new recruits to join the adventure – both young people to get involved and new adults to join our growing volunteer team.

We're holding an Open Evening for potential Squirrels and their parents/carers on

October, 7.15pm, at Fen Drayton Village Hall. Come along to find out how you can help make Squirrels happen for children in Fenstanton, Hilton and Fen Drayton.

To RSVP and register your child's interest to join Squirrels, please visit fenstantonhiltonscouts.co.uk/squirrels and follow the links.

Any questions? Please get in touch via our website, Facebook ([/fenhilscouts](https://www.facebook.com/fenhilscouts)), or drop a text to 07936 751905.

Squirrels

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What you're Missing

You look like a role model!

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

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

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

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



Hilton Art Club



The visit to the Norris Museum, a little gem of a museum was very interesting and while some chose to spend most of the morning there, aided by the friendly and helpful staff, others drifted into the garden and sought shelter under the bandstand and had an enjoyable morning. Kathy M and I stopped for coffee and a cake at a nearby café – couldn't resist!

The 'Exotic East' yielded some colourful dragons (year of the wood dragon, which denotes diligence and perseverance, very useful for an artist), pagodas, a junk, etc. – see our Facebook page – Hilton Art Club (Cams).

We have been working hard to get ready for the art club exhibition within the Feast Week Art Show and had a great number of paintings to show this year, including a table showing 'A Parliament of Barn Owls' from the last workshop, which looked most impressive. Well done, everyone. Thanks to Chrissie Ball and her husband for their help setting up the tables and for the info beforehand.



6 September 10.00am – 12.30pm

Outside visit – en plein air painting, market end, St Ives. Meet at Ivo Lounge.

20 September 9.30am – 12.30 pm

Bonnie Scotland: Fauna and Flora, using sketchbook / paper. Bring your own photo.

Hilton Women's Institute



It is with genuine sorrow that we are thinking of Gill Walsh and her husband David who have both very sadly and recently passed away and especially of her family at this time.

Gill's membership was very precious to us, we loved her cheerful smile even when her going was very tough. She was also was a brilliant seamstress - how we loved all her beautiful projects at her time at Craft Club with us and here we must add her wonderful support of the Royal British Legion Women's Section in St Ives. Gill packed so much enthusiasm into her life, now we must now try to follow in her special footsteps.

Our June meeting was special in welcoming Lucy Lewis back to talk to us. During her military life, Lucy had paved new paths in being the only female member of the bomb squad with daring stories to tell and having to be stronger than men in a man's world and she is still paving new paths in a man's world as the Cambridge University Marshall. This is an 800 year-old post and our Lucy is the first woman ever to have been appointed. What an example she is to womanhood!

The Marshall is responsible for behaviour in the ancient university, not just of the students and yet she also has to adhere to 800 centuries of traditions. Only the Chancellor and the Marshall wear strict gowns of office, for example, specific short socks in the summer, longer ones in winter she has a top hat and a carries a ceremonial mace dated 1628.

Lucy is in charge of a team of a police force of 26

constables within a 5 mile radius which predates the national force. Then

Lucy leads the Proctors, academics who settle disputes ruled by ancient statutes in books dated 1785. Even today they must be 'fleet of foot,' control the streets and ensure that students are back in college by 9 pm. Finally, Lucy greets and has escorted to lunch such famous recipients of honorary degrees as the Dali Lama, Mother Teresa and Bianca Jagger. Lucy is a wonderful character for such a prodigious post, she is never fazed and above all possesses a wonderfully witty sense of humour.

Finally, some good news! We are delighted to learn of Julie and Mike's recent engagement, we eagerly await news of their wedding and of course wish them great happiness and contentment together.

New members always made very welcome:-



Lucy Lewis (second from left) with Pam Bowker, Wendy Webb and Mel Webb

What you're Missing

Fenstanton Friendship Club

I hope everyone has had a good July/August.

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.

19 June We had a wonderful afternoon with Andrew who taught us a lot about instruments and the playing of them. He brought along four instruments, B flat and E flat cornets, and made beautiful music with each of them. There were many questions and John Abram tried on Andrew's Olympic jacket from the opening ceremony 2012. Super time was had by all of us.

3 July Our strawberry tea. A good afternoon sharing little known facts about each of us. We each wrote a fact on a piece of paper which went into a container, each of us chose a paper and read out the information. All of us then had to guess who had written on it. Some very interesting and surprising facts were revealed. You will have to come along and find out what they were!! The strawberries from the farm in Hilton were delicious 🍓🍓🍓 as was all the food.

17 July Jason Middleton came and talked to us about the history of Pearl Diving and the formation of pearls. It was a really interesting afternoon. He also designs pieces of jewellery, which were beautiful.

31 July A visit to Madingley Hall. It was a beautiful sunny day and we all enjoyed the



visit. Some of us walked around the grounds whilst others stayed in the shade. The cafe staff were very welcoming and made sure we were looked after well.

Upcoming Meetings

14 August An afternoon of music from the shows with Caroline Foster.

28 August A trip to Burghley House with a guided tour.

11 September A return visit from Martin John. A great afternoon of piano and guitar music.

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





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What you're Missing

Hilton Flower Club

Our June outing to Beth Chatto's garden was a great success, the weather was just right for walking through the garden, which is about 6 acres with a wonderful assortment of trees and shrubs.

There were different areas of gardens, gravel gardens with drought resistant plants, such as deep coloured poppies and silver leaved plants that looked stunning together.

Shade-loving collection, flowers for bees, bugs and butterflies and the Alpine garden. There were also wonderful relaxing woodland walks, lakes and ponds with moisture-loving plants. There is so much more to explore, so this garden is well worth a visit.

Our next meetings are:-

September 2 Workshop, don't forget your scissors. If anyone would like to join us please ring Beverley 830571 or June 830306.

October 7 Ann Purt flower demonstrator

November 4 Elizabeth Robertson flower demonstrator

December 2 June / Beverley flower demonstrators and our Christmas Party

Look forward to seeing you all after our summer holidays.

Hilton Village Hall 2pm-4pm

Entrance £6.00 (includes tea/biscuits) No membership just pay on the door.

Beverley and June



Fenstanton Bowls Club

The weather has been kind to us over the last few weeks and we have enjoyed much success in our league matches. As we head towards the end of the season our Huntingdon District Men's and Ladies' Leagues are sitting near the top of their divisions and so are the Cambridge and District League first team. All three could see promotion by the end of the season and we wish them much luck in their last few matches.

We are now in the midst of our club competitions. The Hetheron trophy was played a few weeks ago with Linda Brodie and Mike Driver winning through to the final, which will be played on finals day at the end of August. The Clive Barrow competition saw over 20 members taking part and was great fun. Ben Turner was the winner on the day and will be presented with his trophy at our annual dinner in November. Ben has just returned to our club this season so a great start for him – welcome back Ben! In the next few weeks we will be playing the Bertha Pitfield trophy – a drawn triples competition

which all members can join in.

Our Sunday morning social bowls continues to be popular, so if you want to pop down to see us and find out more about the club, please do! We are there between 10am and 12pm every Sunday.



Ben Turner, winner of the Clive Barrow competition



Our team for the Clive Barrow competition

Fen Drayton Tennis Club

The club summer tournament took place on 30 June. This is competitive, but also a social, event with players of all levels taking part.

A round-robin stage ensures that all entrants play several matches before the knock-out stage. In the final Will Norton and Russ Martin defeated Geoff Mudge and Willie Wilson in a match that was enjoyable for the rest of us to watch.

As part of offering more than just a pair of courts, the current year has seen a men's team competing in the Cambridgeshire Men's Open League, with some very creditable performances. Members taking part come, variously, from Fen Drayton, Fenstanton and Swavesey and reflect the current membership, which is around 120 and drawn from the various villages in the area.

Also, this year, we have run a 'ladder' system, which is a form of league table for club members who wish to arrange competitive matches against each other. This has made a very good start and is now gathering pace.

The club has run another successful coaching programme this season, for both juniors and adults. The principal coach is Diane Cobb, who is excellent at improving all levels and ages of player.

There will be a further short programme beginning in September. Please see our website for details: www.fendraytontc.co.uk

Finally, if all you want to do is have the occasional game without joining a club then we encourage you to use the Pay and Play system which, again, is operated via the website.



The finalists



All the entrants

What you're Missing



Hilton Rainbows and Brownies

We are looking forward to a busy autumn term with lots of fun activities to take part in and badges to earn. Our Brownie unit is full but we have spaces for Rainbows - from 4½ to 6 year olds, please contact us if you would more information or would like to put your daughter's name down or search www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus to register. We are also keen to recruit adult helpers for Rainbows and welcome 14 - 18 year olds as Young Leaders.

We love to introduce our girls to new and interesting activities, so if you have a hobby or job or experience in anything you think may be of interest to us or have somewhere we could visit, please do let us know.

Karen Baker - Rainbow and Brownie leader



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The Highs and Lows

Weather Watch by Patrick Landucci



Contrary to popular perceptions of May 2024, an often cloudy month with few notable warm days and above average rainfall, the statistics recorded it was, by quite some distance the warmest May since at least 1884, being 2.5C above the 1991-2020 long term average. So how could this be? The answer lies in the persistently high night time minima when 22 nights remained above 10C (50F) due in part to cloudy skies. The lowest temperature during the month was 7C (44.6F), an exceptionally high figure. There were no frosts, indeed this year frost was a rarity throughout the spring. On one of the few clear nights another rarity occurred, at least for our part of the UK, on the 11th and 12th the “Northern Lights” were visible over Hilton, as well as other local areas. The wettest day in May was on the 21st/22nd when 1.5” (38mm) of rain fell.

For people hoping for a warm start to the summer the first three weeks of June were generally chilly. The first warm spell occurred from the 20th to the 29th during which a temperature of 27.5C (81.5F) was recorded. The month as a whole was drier than average with 0.75” (19mm) rainfall in total. June was the first month in the last year in Hilton to experience drier than average conditions. The cumulative rainfall total during those 12 months was just over 32” (815mm) which is around 9” (230mm) more than this area receives in an average year.

As July commenced the weather reverted to type, chilly, cloudy and wet. By the end

of the first fortnight, more than the average July rainfall total had already been exceeded. The second half of July brought a welcome improvement with most days exceeding 23C (73.4F) and two notably warm spells and generally drier conditions. The highest temperature occurred during the last days of the month when during the first heatwave of the Summer 29C (84.2F) was reached.

Worldwide extreme weather events continue to occur, two of which affected North America:-

1. Canada. The famous tourist town of Jasper “Jewel of the Rockies” was hit by a 100 metre high (32.8 feet) fire wall in late July which totally destroyed more than one third of its buildings. The fire is believed to have been started by a lightning strike. At the time of writing, there were 48 wildfires burning “out of control” in Alberta province.
2. USA, mid-west states. 11 states were hit by 80 tornados in July ahead of which 28 million people (equivalent to the total population of Australia) were subject to tornado watches. Little Rock in Arkansas was particularly badly hit.

Finally, the El Nino Cycle which began in 2020 appears to have now ended, having brought chaos to global weather systems, contributing in part to higher temperatures. Worldwide the last 12 months, month by month have been the warmest ever recorded.

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An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

As a nature reserve, Fen Drayton Lakes is managed with specific species in mind. These target species are determined in conversation with our ecologists and are based on the habitats present on site, the UK Red-list of endangered birds, and by the RSPB's list of priority species.

The mosaic of diverse habitats that make up our reserve, including lakes, reedbed, and woodland means that we have a wide range of animals, plants and fungi on site. Each habitat has different target species that we aim to attract, whilst also drawing in many other species that make their homes in similar environs.

As we've mentioned in previous articles, our year is split between the breeding and non-breeding seasons. During the autumn and winter when many of our breeding birds are down in Africa and other creatures are hibernating or just overwintering, we carry out large-scale work to maintain and improve our habitats. Much of this work is carried out rotationally around the site and following specific methods known to achieve the required results.

The culmination of this work is when spring comes around and we carry out our breeding bird surveys. The hope is that numbers of each species have remained stable, maybe even increased, and that areas where work was carried out in the preceding months are being used.

Surveys often start early in the morning, none more so than for Bittern. These specialist reedbed herons are territorial with the males calling from pre-dawn and gradually quietening down as the morning progresses. We have had two calling this year, keeping the number stable over the past few years.

Other species we survey include a variety of songbirds in the hedgerows and scrubby areas around the site; waders and waterfowl out on the lakes and wetland margins; and gulls and terns on the islands and man-made rafts.

As we enter autumn, we will be reviewing our breeding figures for the year and planning our work for the next few months to keep Fen Drayton Lakes in the best possible condition for our target, and other species.

Upcoming events at Fen Drayton Lakes

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

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

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

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



The Yellow Pages

Venues for hire

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

Councils

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

Community Groups and Clubs

Books and Jigsaws at FURC	01480 498221
Fen Drayton Bowls Club	01480 385297
Fen Drayton Lions FC	07718 900880
Fen Drayton Parent and Toddlers	07549 630124
Fen Drayton Tennis Club	01954 231752
Fen Shanty Folk	07841 599492
Fenstanton Baby and Toddler Group	07742 259653
Fenstanton Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	07531 863368
Fenstanton Bowls Club	07541 968125
Fenstanton Community Hub	07949 453767
Fenstanton Football Club	07968 081874
Fenstanton Friendship Club	01480 350119
Fenstanton Glebe Allotments	07817 786298
Fenstanton Town Trust	01480 464753
Fenstanton Indoor Bowls	01480 497202
Fenstanton Knitter and Natters	01480 498221
Fenstanton Litter Picking	07949 453767
Fenstanton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides	07730 369565
Fenstanton Speed Watch	07949 453767
Hilton Art Club	01480 830696
Hilton Baby and Toddler Group	07527 394945
Hilton British Legion	01480 831186
Hilton Community Garden	01480 830707
Hilton Flower Club	01480 830571
Hilton HGV Watch	07768 294878
Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	01480 831658
Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	07970 404569

Community Groups and Clubs

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

Community events

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

Education

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

Churches

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

Emergency numbers

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

Emergency numbers

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

Buses

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

Pubs and eating places

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

Retail

Alan's Carpets	07790 681317
Ash's Store	01480 466225
Denise Jackson Interiors	07910 507541
Eye Specs	01480 499606
Frank's Farm	07831 777766
Norwich Sunblinds	01223 904129
Ponders Travel	01954 232802
Post Office and OMA Store	07533 240954
Respiratory Nutrition	07907 560107
Ron's Farm Shop	01480 495127
Rosegate Farm Shop	07922 588171

Garden services

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

Decorators

D Moody	01480 465400
Jason Kirby	01954 211775

Design, printing and copying

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Household services

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Christopher the Locksmith	07772 111222
Easton & Cook Funerals	01480 310400
Fairy Dog Mother	01480 461959
Hamptons Pest Control	01480 274848
Hilton Private Hire	07521 293434
J L Wright Chimney Sweep	01954 253315
L&R Removals	07526 070877
More Space Storage	01480 830130
Television Mobile Repair Service	07887 887319
W&H Peacock Auctioneers	01480 474550
Z Cars Taxis	01480 462046

Electricians

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

Plumbing and Heating Engineers

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MDS	01480 800810
RDS	01954 770309

Building services and supplies

Bannold	01954 231666
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