

May 2026

# The Journal

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Fen Drayton • Fenstanton • Hilton

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## **A little light reading**

See page 36

## **Rediscovering friendships**

See page 6

## **Places of interest**

On page 17

## **Let's do coffee**

On page 27 and 28

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# The bridge between spring and summer

May is traditionally an important month of the year and has over the years been celebrated as the beginning of summer. Nature looks really fresh at this time of year with the trees displaying the vibrancy of their new leaves. They will never look this good again until next spring. It is no wonder the Greeks named this month after the goddess of fertility and growth - Maia.

Understanding where things originate is the theme of our history article this month, which we are sure you will find both fascinating and amusing. Travel sees us in India and in our new feature 'Let's do coffee' we visit The Muddy Trowel in Godmanchester.

Whatever you are doing in May - enjoy!

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

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Please submit any copy by 8 May latest for the June edition.  
Cover photograph by Malcolm Lynn

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## Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

### May 2026

- 01 Dancing up the Dawn, Clock Tower
- 02 Walking in Faith round Fen Drayton Nature Reserve, (meet in Over, see ad)
- 02-03 Bowls Club Open Days
- 16 Books, Jigsaws and Plants Sale, URC
- 16-17 'Church Full of Art', St Mary's Church
- 16-17 Open Gardens
- 23 Comedy Night, Village Hall
- 23 Plants and Cakes stall for Community Hub

### June 2026

- 10 Talk, History of Papworth Hospital, Three Tuns
- 18-20 Booze in Fenstanton Pews, Parish Church
- 28 Fen Drayton Summer Fete, Village Hall
- 27 June-04 July Scarecrow Competition

### July 2026

- 04 BIG Village Fun Day, School Field
- 10 Sip and Paint, Village Hall
- 19-25 Hilton Feast Week

### September 2026

- 12 Hobbies and Collectibles Day, URC

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](mailto:fenstanton@thejournal.life)

## Village News

### Hilton Community Garden

Our visitors come from near and far afield and these are just some of the many comments made in the Visitors' book. A rainbow of comments!

At the back of the visitors' book is a photographic record of how this looked five years ago, as well as a plan for 2026.

"A beautiful rest for Mothers' day."



"What a wonderful space - peaceful and beautifully organised."

"A delightful walk with my grandson. So well cared for."

"Came to make a bird box and learn about wild life."

"We visit most days. It is a welcome rest, and a pleasure to see it changing through the seasons."

"Fantastic community facility."

"It has changed so much since I last visited."

"I like planting potatoes and seeing the bees."

"An inspiration to do this ourselves!"

We are here every Saturday between 10am and noon. Coffee and cake at 11.00am. Do come and join us, have a chat and see what changes are being planned... and if you haven't guessed, these are comments from the Hilton Community Garden visitors book.

Everyone is welcome to visit during the week- this area is never locked. We can be found behind Monach Farm at [crescendo.served.waters](http://crescendo.served.waters)

"Absolutely marvellous!"

## Rediscovering freedom, fun and friendships

Research shows Cambs over-60s are “rediscovering freedom, fun and friendships”

People over-60 are frequently stereotyped by society as an ‘ageing generation’. However, new research shows this couldn’t be further from the truth – revealing that, in Cambridgeshire, this generation is, in fact, embracing a ‘second adolescence’.

Darren Roe, Managing Director of Stagecoach East, said: “Our research shows that today’s over-60s are the punk-loving, legwarmer-adoring, 1980’s-rooted rebels at heart, who are now starting to rediscover old hobbies and reconnect with loved ones – all while leaving the car at home.”

The findings from Stagecoach, parent of local operator Stagecoach East, show that free bus travel is giving over-60s the freedom, affordability and flexibility to make the most of their free time.

According to the research, today’s over-60s have more time and energy than ever – and they’re channelling it into spending time with friends and family (28%), discovering new hobbies (22%) and reigniting passions from their youth (19%).

Free bus travel isn’t just about leisure, it’s also about strengthening communities and reducing isolation. The research reveals the societal impact free bus travel has on



this generation – with 42% saying it gives them the opportunity to visit family and friends more often, over a third (36%) feeling more connected to their local community and more than one in five (22%) saying it’s helping them to discover new interests.

Nearly half (48%) of over-60s say free bus travel allows them to leave the car at home more often and ditch the taxis altogether (25%). However, 5% are unaware they’re eligible for free travel.

Stagecoach is now encouraging all over-60s to check their eligibility and claim their free bus pass to embrace their ‘second adolescence’.

**To find out more about local bus routes and services, to buy before you board, and to track your local bus, you can download the Stagecoach Bus App from <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/national/stagecoachbusapp>.**

## Let’s do coffee

In the coming months The Journal will be reviewing local places to go for a coffee. In the area we have a number of coffee shops or places you can meet for a coffee. Where are they and what are they like? We will be spilling the beans! If you have a favourite place that you would like included in the magazine, let us know. Send your suggestions to [info@thejournal.life](mailto:info@thejournal.life)



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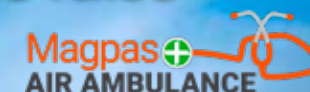
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## Hilton’s Lent Lunches raise £750.00 for Magpas



A sincere “Thank You” to the lunch hostesses who held the events in aid of Magpas Air Ambulance.

Another £750-00 was raised for this amazing charity. It would not have been possible without the support of those attending and also for the donations received from those who could not attend. The charity sends their grateful thanks and I also add mine.

Heather Woods – Treasurer, Hilton Methodist Church



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## The Royal British Legion in Hilton

Fund raising activities continue throughout every year, as does the support we give to veterans and present members of the Armed services.

We also remember various anniversaries at meetings or by simply flying flags above public buildings. For instance, this year the Legion will be raising flags nationally from Tuesday 23 June until Armed Forces Day on 27 June.

Ceremonies may not take place but we will not let it pass that 2026 marks 35 years since the first Gulf War as recently as 1991 to liberate Kuwait and 15 years since the Iraq War with veterans and families continuing to be affected.

Now, in the present day the world is poised yet again.




In Hilton we currently have 22 ladies knitting poppies which will decorate the wooden bridge beside the Lychgate during the Poppy Appeal period and they are piling up! We do not have a number in mind because the more we have, the greater the display but at least 1,000 looks possible! Thank you so very much everyone.

A dictionary defines the word Pride as "pleasure or satisfaction felt if you or people near you have done something well".

This applies so much here in Hilton in so many ways; we are a kind, generous and loving community, just look elsewhere in The Journal as well as here!

## Find a defibrillator near you

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

Fen Drayton Village Hall on Cootes Lane  
moons.grumbles.admires

Fenstanton Ash's Store (NISA) on the High Street  
pouting.cabinet.washroom

Fenstanton Church Centre on School Lane  
reclusive.creeps.deleting

Fenstanton Zaza barbers on Headlands  
thing.pylon.relatives

Hilton Prince of Wales Pub on Potton Road  
mindset.skip.pulps

Hilton Cricket Pavilion  
clerk.farmland.unroll



## Calling all proud Fenstanton dog owners!

On Saturday 4 July Fenstanton BIG Village Fun Day will be holding a dog show again this year. This fun event will give your beloved pooch a chance to strut their stuff in the parade ring.

The categories will be as follows:

- ◆ Most handsome male dog
- ◆ Dog with most waggy tail
- ◆ Best groomed dog
- ◆ Best rescue dog
- ◆ Best puppy (under twelve months)
- ◆ Best pedigree dog
- ◆ Most attractive female dog
- ◆ Dog with the best trick
- ◆ Dog you would most like to take home
- ◆ Best veteran dog (over eight years old)
- ◆ Best child dog handler
- ◆ Best in show

Rosettes will be awarded to the first three in each category, with trophies for the Best in Show and First Reserve. With an overall prize of a grooming voucher for the Best in Show. Entries will be £2.50 per category, and you can enter your dog for as many categories as you like. All monies collected will be donated to the Biggies League Romanian Rescue Charity. The competition will kick off at 14.00 on the day and entries will be accepted from 13.00.

All dogs must remain on leads whilst in the show ring and on the school playing field before and after the dog show.



## Tell us about your travels

At The Journal we are always looking for travel articles. Why not send in an article with photographs as we would love to hear from you. Email us at [info@thejournal.life](mailto:info@thejournal.life)

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SAVE THE DATE!

Fen Drayton

# Community Cafe

Saturday May 9th

1030 - 1230



Plant Sale and Swap



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Coffee Mornings at Hilton

Methodist Hall, Potton Road

Saturday 2 May 10:00 - 12:00

Saturday 6 June 10:00 - 12:00

Come and Join Us for a Coffee and a Chat!

Everyone Welcome

Hilton: Christian Aid Week 10 -16 May

## What is Christian Aid Week?

Christian Aid Week is a powerful moment to come together and raise funds that fight global poverty and injustice.



### Who is Christian Aid?

Christian Aid is an international charity determined to fight poverty and respond to humanitarian emergencies, no matter how tough it gets. We're rooted in the Christian faith and supported by churches, but our work supports all people in need regardless of belief. United by hope, we work with organisations and people of all faiths and none, and our partners reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.

By turning hope into action, we're helping to build a fairer, more peaceful world. Look out for the gift envelopes which will be delivered to your home. No matter how small your donation it can make a difference.

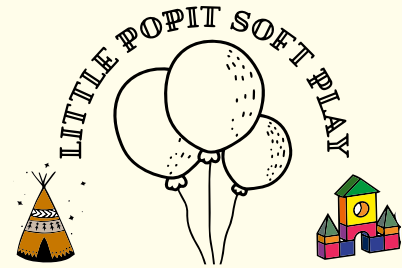
Your drop-off points are listed below and also on the back of the envelopes.  
Hilton Post Office | Atticus House, Church End | 23, Scotts Crescent | 7, Chequers Croft

## Knit every day in March, a sponsored event for Alzheimer's Research UK

I took up the challenge and asked people to sponsor me. I would like to thank everybody who sponsored me. People were very generous and the total sent to Alzheimer's Research UK was £966. The photos show items that I knitted. Thank you all very much.

An awful disease, which my mother had. Heartbreaking for the family to watch their loved ones with this disease. Let's hope they find a cure. Thank you.

Jean Ding, Fenstanton



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## Hilton Town Trust

Hilton Town Trust is a small charitable trust which exists to provide support to the village and villagers of Hilton. Grants are available to village organisations or to individuals.

If you would like to know more or think we can help please contact us on

**Hiltontowntrust@gmail.com** or  
by phone on 01480 830866

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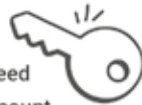
[www.fendraytonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.fendraytonvillagehall.org.uk)

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## EAST ANGLIA PILGRIMS

*Walking in Faith*

**2 May:** An 8 mile pilgrimage around Fen Drayton Nature Reserve focussing on caring for the environment. Starting with bacon butties at Over Methodist Church, Cambs. CB24 5NQ. (10am start)

All are welcome to enjoy a time of fellowship, chat, quiet and companionship. Dogs welcome.

For more details email:  
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# Village News

## Some places of interest - Part 7

This month we are heading a little further afield and for that reason the places in our list are all places that would justify at least two hours of your time when you get there. The next list will be the last in the series so we would be very interested to hear from readers if there are places that you think we should include. Just e-mail [hilton@thejournal.life](mailto:hilton@thejournal.life) with your suggestions.

### Boughton House NN14 1BJ

One of Britain's grandest and best-preserved stately homes, with park and gardens. Open on specific dates only for pre-booked tours of the house. Special events throughout the year. Café. Full details are on the Historic Houses website [www.historichouses.org](http://www.historichouses.org) The finest example of an Eleanor Cross is in the centre of the nearby village of Geddington.



### Wrest Park MK45 4HR

A 19th century mansion in the style of a French chateau which is also the home of the only known portrait of Lady Jane Grey. But the 90 acres of grand gardens are its real glory. It has also served as a filming location for a number of films and TV productions. Owned by English Heritage.



### Kirby Hall NN17 3EN

One of England's greatest Elizabethan and 17th Century houses. Although its finest state rooms survive impressively complete, much of this vast mansion is now a dramatic roofless shell. King James 1 visited Kirby Hall nine times. Fine gardens. Owned by the Earl of Winchelsea and managed by English Heritage.



### Deene Park NN17 3EG

A large historic house developed over six centuries. A minimum of ten rooms are open to the public, each with its unique style. Deene Park has a mixture of furnishings and family possessions full of sentimental value collected over many years. Open on specific dates during the year. Full details are on the Historic Houses website [www.historichouses.org](http://www.historichouses.org)



### Kelmarsh Hall NN6 9LY

Built in 1732, successive owners and influences have left their imprint on this elegant Palladian style home. The Grade II listed gardens boast a distinctive Walled Garden, Sunken Garden, topiary and rose gardens, woodlands, lake and herbaceous borders. Full details are on the Historic Houses website [www.historichouses.org](http://www.historichouses.org)





Do join us from September to June at 2.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month for stimulating lectures on the Arts from top-class lecturers. £6.00 on the door or join for a year. Our Society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts.

Our events provide welcoming places to hear expert lecturers share their specialist knowledge about the arts. Our members contribute to and preserve our artistic heritage through volunteering and grants. Our work creates a better, healthier and more connected society.

**Forthcoming lectures:-**

**13 May 2026 Danish Modernism:** The Skagen Painters from Jutland whose work is famed for its unusual light and the influence of French Impressionism.

**10 June 2026 The Bayeux Tapestry,** a Wisbech Replica

The 2026-7 programme includes lectures on Art Deco, Mughal Architecture, W. Heath-Robinson, Renoir, Samuel Palmer, Joesph Wright of Derby, Matisse, Picasso and Gilbert and Sullivan.



*Welcome Space*

“There are no strangers here, only friends that haven’t yet met”

The Church Centre, School Lane Fenstanton

**Monday 10:00am to 10:45am**

🪑 Chair & Standing Exercise 💪

**Monday 10:45am to 11:30am**

☕ Tea, Toast & Chat 🗨️

**Tuesday 9:15am to 11:45am**

👶 Baby & Toddler Group 🧸

**Tuesday 2:00pm to 4:00pm**

☕ Coffee & Cake 🍰💬



Everyone enjoyed our Easter High Tea

Free events and refreshments. Donations Accepted.

**Norwich Cathedral NR1 4DH**

Norwich Cathedral is one of England’s finest Cathedrals. It has the second tallest spire and is one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture in Europe. If you fancy a trip by train, there are regular services from Cambridge North station, which served by the Guided Bus Route (service B). The cathedral is a 10-minute walk from Norwich Station.



**Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens IP22 2AA**

There is something for everyone at Bressingham. Take a trip on one of the four railways, ride on the magnificent and historic gallopers, wander through the main street of Walmington-on-Sea, or enjoy the unique 17-acre Bressingham Gardens. See website <https://www.thebressinghamgardens.com/visit-us/> for full details.



**Flatford Mill CO7 6UL**

Flatford lies in the heart of the beautiful Dedham Vale. This charming hamlet was the inspiration for some of John Constable’s most famous pictures, for example:- the Hay Wain and Boatbuilding near Flatford Mill among many others. Constable exhibition. Tea room. Riverside walks See the National Trust website for details of special events. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)



**Kentwell Hall CO10 9BA**

One of England’s finest and most beautiful Tudor Houses, surrounded by a broad fish-filled moat, surrounded by over 25 acres of its own gardens and parkland, with numerous historic buildings. It has featured in numerous TV productions. More details at:- <https://www.kentwell.co.uk/>



**Melford Hall CO10 9AA**

A stately home in Long Melford, close to Kentwell Hall, it was mostly constructed in the 16th century. It is still lived in by the Hyde Parker family but is now owned by the National Trust, which organises talks on the seafaring adventures of the Hyde Parker family and the Hall’s links with Beatrix Potter. See the National Trust website for more details. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)



**Oxburgh Estate PE33 9PS**

A moated country house built for Sir Edmund Bedingfeld in 1482, who obtained a special licence in order to build it of brick. The house boasts a priest’s hole. The house is Grade I listed and the formal gardens are Grade II listed. See the National Trust website for more details. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)



**Castle Rising PE31 6AH**

Castle Rising Castle is one of the most famous 12th Century castles in England. The stone keep is one of the finest examples of its kind anywhere in the country and it is surrounded by massive earthworks. Open Wed-Sun 10:00am – 4:00pm. There are tea rooms and a gastropub in the village. See [www.castlerising.co.uk](http://www.castlerising.co.uk) for more details.





If you have seen the various programmes on television showing the pleasure people get from singing you may remember how people with no formal singing training pull off some amazing performances after just a few weeks of learning some parts.

Could you be like them?

We are looking for singers, and particularly for men in the higher ranges, to join St Ives Choral Society. If you can read music it helps but it is not essential, you will pick up the basics as you go along.

We are a friendly group of 60+ people. If you would like to know more about us check out our website at [www.stives-choral.org.uk](http://www.stives-choral.org.uk), or simply come along Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm at The Methodist Church, The Waits, St Ives and give us a try. All we ask is a couple of hours a week. Once you've experienced taking part in a concert you'll be hooked: there is nothing more satisfying than hearing the applause at the end! *Why not come along for a couple of sessions, free of charge, and see if it's for you?*

If you are a singer, and particularly a tenor and would like to join this very active Choral Society just e-mail: [md@stives-choral.org.uk](mailto:md@stives-choral.org.uk)  
 We would love to hear from you. Further information about the Society can be found on our website at [stives-choral.org.uk](http://stives-choral.org.uk)

# Village News

## Hilton Feast Week



### Lights, camera... Feast Week!

Make sure Feast Week 2026 is in your calendar, Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th July, with this year's theme: "Hilton Does Hollywood." Get ready for a week full of star-studded fun, community spirit, and plenty of blockbuster moments as our village transforms into a celebration worthy of the big screen.

Feast Week wouldn't be possible without the fantastic support from our community, and a big part of that is the year-round fundraising that keeps it going.

One of the easiest ways to support is through the Feast Week Lottery. For just £5 a month, you'll be helping to fund the festivities - and you'll also be entered into a monthly draw to win a cash prize! It's a simple way to give



back while having a chance to win. It's quick and easy to join online at [feastweek.co.uk](http://feastweek.co.uk).

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Feast Week is what it is because of this incredible community - and we can't wait to celebrate with you again in July.





## Ian Sollom MP

### Local mobile coverage survey- your views matter

While speaking to residents on the doorstep, I have often had conversations about the poor quality of mobile signal in different areas across the constituency. Sometimes while travelling in the area, sometimes even in their own homes, I know that people are frustrated with the patchiness of connectivity and it is having a real impact on their ability to work, communicate, and even contact emergency services.

To build a better picture of the situation more widely across St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire, I have launched a survey which asks about particularly troubling areas and which providers are failing to deal with issues. I will then use this information to press providers to improve their service and make sure it is fit for purpose. You can find the survey at [www.iansollom.org/mobilesignal](http://www.iansollom.org/mobilesignal)

### Mitigating flood risk in Fen Drayton, Fenstanton, Hilton and surrounding parishes

This winter, we were lucky that despite flood warnings being issued, there were



no major incidents in our area. However, I know that with developments proposed and ongoing in surrounding areas, flood risk in the future is still a very real worry for many people. I have written in my newsletter and spoken in Parliament a number of times about how development in our area must come alongside investment in education, healthcare and water infrastructure.

With multiple proposals submitted for development along the A14, each will affect different local parishes in different ways. I have attended consultations for each development and will continue to urge developers to ensure that any proposals not only mitigate flood risk but actively bring forward measures to reduce risk in future.

### Surgeries and Further Information

Each week I have been holding both in-person and online surgeries to speak directly to constituents about their issues. If you feel you have a problem I could help with, or you have a campaign matter you would like to discuss with me, please don't hesitate to contact me at [ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk) to request a surgery appointment.

I regularly update constituents on my work in Parliament and across St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire through an email newsletter. If you would like to sign up, please do so at [www.iansollom.org/emails](http://www.iansollom.org/emails).



# Coffee And Chats

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## Local History Society

Fen Drayton

## Fen Drayton talks schedule - 2026

6.30pm start at the Three Tuns Pub

**Papworth Hospital – local history - 10 June**

Speaker: Steve Bridge (CEO 1988 to 2016)

**St Mary's, Fen Drayton - tour + talk - 12 August**

Led by: Revd Geoff Dodgson

**Sport in Fen Drayton - come and share your memories - 14 October**

Led by: Nigel Fenner

Cost: £3 / talk - PLEASE email [nigel.fenner@ntlworld.com](mailto:nigel.fenner@ntlworld.com) for more info.

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Cambridgeshire and surrounding areas

## Let's do coffee

### The Muddy Trowel café

Possibly not the most obvious place to go for coffee, but The Muddy Trowel has a lot to offer. Based at Godmanchester's Community Plant Nursery, this 4.5-acre green space is cared for by a team of over 50 passionate volunteers. Together, they have created a place that brings people, plants and wildlife and coffee lovers together.

The café which is open Thursday to Saturday, is well-loved for its famous sausage rolls, alongside homemade cakes, freshly brewed drinks and weekly specials using produce grown right on the doorstep at the nursery. It's the perfect spot to relax and soak up the surroundings. There is seating inside and out and they are both dog and child friendly.

In addition, across the site, you'll find a heritage orchard, colourful gardens, wildflower meadows, a peaceful woodland walk and even their own apiary. Every area is tended with care by volunteers, whose hard work makes the nursery such a vibrant and welcoming space.

But the nursery is about more than plants. It's also a place for learning, wellbeing and connection. They host workshops for schools, provide guided tours for community



groups and welcome visitors of all ages to explore the site. For many, volunteering here is a chance to learn new skills, make friends and enjoy the benefits of being outdoors in nature.

Whether you come to buy plants, enjoy a walk in the gardens, join a workshop or simply share coffee with friends, Godmanchester Community Plant Nursery is there to be discovered, enjoyed and cherished by everyone.

You will find the nursery behind bungalows on Park Lane, Godmanchester PE29 2AG. Turn at the Black Bull and we're on the left. The nursery is open 10.00 until 15.00, Tuesday to Saturday and the Muddy Trowel café in open 10.00 until 14.00 Thursday to Saturday.

Follow the nursery on Facebook - Godmanchester Community Plant Nursery and Cafe



# A short guide to the world's greatest drink

Tucked into The Courtyard in Papworth, you'll find us — a coffee shop roasting its own beans in a barn in Elsworth. We've been roasting beans for over a decade and we're still on our own journey of discovery — we want to share a little of what we've learned with you.



Coffee starts life as a cherry on a tree. Inside the cherry is the seed — what we know as the coffee bean. Legend has it that it was first discovered in Ethiopia by a goat herder named Kaldi, who noticed his goats becoming unusually energetic after eating the cherries. Whether or not that's entirely true, it's a good origin story — any maybe this explains why the GOAT drink is coffee after all.

The two main species are Arabica and Robusta. Arabica is the one we tend to obsess over — smoother, more complex, often with notes of fruit or florals. Robusta is tougher, higher in caffeine, and delivers that punchy, bitter hit many people associate with “strong” coffee. Increasingly, farmers are experimenting with hybrids — plants that can survive disease and warmer climates while still tasting good.

Coffee grows in a belt of around 70 countries near the equator. Where it's grown has a huge impact on flavour. Ethiopian coffees can be bright and citrusy; Brazilian coffees are often more chocolatey and nuttier. Much of this traces back to coffee's journey: from Ethiopia to Yemen, then out through European trade routes and colonial planting.

Varieties like Typica and Bourbon — the “heirloom varieties” — were carried across continents and still form the backbone of what we drink today.

Farming varies wildly. In Brazil, you'll find vast, mechanised farms. Elsewhere, it's smallholders — families picking cherries by hand on steep hillsides, passing knowledge down through generations.

After picking comes processing (broadly how much of the fruit is left on the bean as it dries), which shapes flavour as much as origin. Washed coffees tend to be clean and crisp, naturals are fruitier and heavier, and honey-processed coffees sit somewhere in between.

Then comes the journey to the UK. Importers who handle sourcing and logistics. Once it reaches us, we “cup” it (a structured tasting involving a lot of noisy slurping) to decide what makes the cut. Some coffees are sold as single origins; others are blended to balance flavour.

Roasting is where it all comes together. A lighter roast highlights fruit; a darker roast brings body and bitterness. We adjust depending on how you'll drink it — espresso, filter, or cafetière.

If you're curious about better coffee, start simple. Try a different origin or process. Ask questions. Grind fresh if you can. You're unlikely to find what you need in a supermarket — so a trip to a speciality coffee shop is really the only way forward.

Because good coffee doesn't need to be complicated — just a bit more considered.

David and Stephane, The Courtyard (Papworth)









Scan here to see our opening times or join our mailing list to be kept up to date with our latest news.

### ABOUT US:

Tucked away in the Elsworth countryside, Frank's Farm is all about real, local and authentic food. Once a working farm, the old piggery, grain store, and workshop, have been lovingly restored and are now home to a collection of unique shops, each run by passionate producers:

- Frank's Farm Shop
- The Old Workshop Bistro
- Remi's Craft Butchery
- Webbsour Bakery
- Burnt Ends BBQ shop
- Sundae Service
- Flourish Bakes
- Natures Posy Flower Field
- Ant's P.Y.O veg polytunnel

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**May 10<sup>th</sup> - VASE FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP**  
Run by our resident flower farmer, Debbie. For more information visit [naturesposy.co.uk](http://naturesposy.co.uk) or email [info@naturesposy.co.uk](mailto:info@naturesposy.co.uk).

**May 16<sup>th</sup> - REMI'S CRAFT BUTCHERS AT ST IVE'S MARKET 8:30-2PM**

**May 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> - P.Y.O AT THE FLOWER FIELD**  
No booking required for a morning visit to the flower field. Debbie has a wide variety of flowers for picking, all sustainably grown on site.

**May 16<sup>th</sup> - BRITISH CHEESE TASTINGS IN THE FARM SHOP**  
Pop in and try some of our fantastic local cheeses, including a fresh creamy sheeps cheese from St Ives and a delicious goats cheese from Hilton.

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> - EVENING TASTING MENU AT THE WORKSHOP CAFE**  
Come and enjoy a relaxed evening celebrating our new seasonal menu, featuring Crab Linguine, Local Lamb Rump and much more. Please call us on 07943 797077 or email [tables@franks.farm](mailto:tables@franks.farm) to book.

**May 25<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> - NATIONAL BBQ WEEK**  
We will be celebrating national BBQ week this year with the launch of our **Cooking with Fire** courses. Available to book through our website or email [cookeryschool@franks.farm](mailto:cookeryschool@franks.farm) for more information.

Visit us at: Frank's Farm, Brockley Road, Elsworth, Cambridge, CB23 4EY  
Or give us a call on: 07943 797077

## To Vellore and back again...

By Revd James Bamber

I've known about the link between Churches Together in Cambridgeshire and the Diocese of Vellore for some time, particularly having hosted a visiting minister in 2022. At that time Revd Jared suggested that I might one day visit India but I never thought it would actually become a reality.

However, having navigated the various administrative hurdles and been generously subsidised by The Methodist Church, I found myself on board an Air India flight in January bound for Mumbai airport!! Was I ready? I wasn't sure what to expect and so answering the question of my being ready or not is a tricky one to answer.

Having had my tastebuds enlivened by the on-board meals, landing at Mumbai airport provided my first lesson in India. In spite of their being generous, open-hearted, welcoming people, polite queuing is not something they do whether in an airport or in church. It is very much a case of everyone for themselves, which was a bit of a shock to 'hold-back' person like myself. I simply had



Message on the board of the School of Midwifery

to overcome my natural tendency, hold my position and push forward.

Stepping out of Chennai airport into the high temperatures of India was a pleasant change from winter in Cambridgeshire! From that moment I realised the people of India are its greatest treasure. Time and again in various contexts – school, hospital, community, home and church, I discovered people who though materially deprived were rich in hospitality, generosity, appreciation, spirit and joy.

The landscapes around me were vibrant in colour, diverse in fragrance, relentless in noise and awash with contrast between wealth and poverty. On our first trip, we encountered cows wandering at leisure in all sorts of contexts, dogs too as well as



Village School



Working in partnership to talk of God's message at the opening of a new church

monkeys, and one elephant. As a runner I'd taken my running kit just in case but the absence of pavements combined with multiple laned roads on which pedestrians, people on scooters (without helmets), cars, tuk-tuks, buses and lorries all hurtled along, indicating by using their horns, I knew my running shoes weren't going to leave my suitcase!

Everywhere I went I was humbled by the welcome of the people. Never before have I been received in a way similar to a celebrity, frequently being 'shawled' which was a visible way of our hosts saying – 'you are noticed, valued, respected and embraced.'

Visits to schools and other places was often accompanied by food. On more than one occasion I thought of the story, 'The magic porridge pot' though in context it became the magic biryani pot – the food never ran out.


One visit stands out in my mind. It was to a small village community,

Kala Kinda Pali. When we arrived the community had gathered and led us up the hill to their outdoor church. Drums and firecrackers when ahead of us! At the end of our time it all happened in reverse with dancing added. People wanted to hold our hands perhaps to make sure we were real. Many of them had not seen any person of a different colour before. The young boys were keen to know if I played cricket (though initially I thought they were asking if I played KitKat!). Smiles and hands held reminded me that there are things that can be understood in any culture without the need for words.

In spite of growing persecution, the Church in South India is growing. I had the privilege of being at church services where there were 50 young people confirmed in their faith and on another occasion 50 people were baptised! People attended church enthusiastically and expectantly. Some services did last quite some time – the longest being 4.5 hours! Gatherings involved people of all ages and the vibrancy I saw in the culture around me infused worship too so that dancing, music, sharing, participation, all featured with joy, and no sense of duty. I was also privileged to attend a number of new church dedications and on those occasions was left wondering if



Kala Kinda Pali Church gathering



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# Trains, Boats and Planes



and am comfortable with. On the other, my heart was full of the new friends I had made through full days of relating, inhabiting the landscape of God's love that transcends human barriers.

I'm grateful for the opportunity I've had, and the lasting

any more people could be squeezed into the buildings.

On the trip we often referred to IST - Indian Stretchable Time. This took some getting used to for someone who likes to operate to a schedule but it showed me there is a different way of living that isn't governed by watches, clocks, phones and other devices.

Sometimes just being with people is enough - a truth that meant a lot to me as I wondered what difference our being there made given the restrictions of language. Time and again we were told that our presence encouraged and energised others.

It was good to visit a factory where unique wedding saris are created on looms involving 4,800 needles that all needed to be threaded by hand. After 30 days of planning it takes 5-6 days to create the beautiful garment. However, such projects are dying arts as the emerging generation are choosing alternative careers.

Two weeks later sitting on a flight in Delhi airport I had an equally unanswerable question as to the one at the beginning - Are you ready to leave? On one hand it was good to be returning to loved ones and a way of life I knew

gifts - a commitment to living a little more courageously, letting go of being controlled by the clock, celebrating the contributions of everyone, being more content to go with the flow and keeping space in my heart for others to be added to it. A quote attributed to St Augustine states, 'The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.' I'm thankful for those who encouraged me, supported me and travelled with me in spirit to Vellore and back thus helping me to broaden my horizons and expand my love.



Word picture combining some of the words describing the days of my trip



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Telephone: 01223 620962

#### National Dementia Support Line:

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# Step into the Past

## A little light reading

By John Deeks

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about life in the 16th and 17th century:

Most people got married in June because if they were able to, they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide her body odors. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big wooden tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the sons, then the women, finally the children and last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, don't throw the baby out with the bath water.



Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to keep warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs etc) lived in the roof space. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying it's raining cats and dogs.



There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem as bugs and other droppings could land on your bed space. For this reason, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence. This was not true for the labouring classes who mostly slept on rags on a bare earthen floor.

Most floors were bare earth and dirt, only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying, dirt poor. The wealthy had slate or stone floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more straw until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway, hence the saying a thresh hold.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen area with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. From time-to-time stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while.

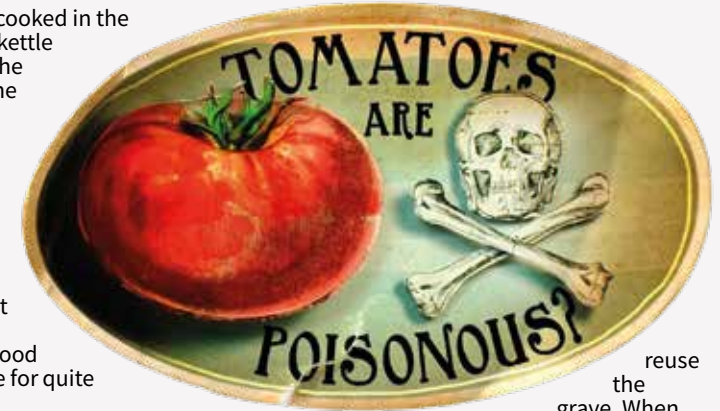
Sometimes the poor people would obtain some pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Although most poor people eat off wooden plates those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. That's why the custom of holding a wake.

England is a small country and the local churchyards started running out of places to bury people. So, they would dig up coffins and take the bones to a bone-house, and



reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So, they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift), to listen for the bell. Thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.

And that's the truth. Now, whoever said history was boring!!!



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## Afoot in the Garden

### May! Time for Chelsea

The greatest flower show on earth. When I was young when I helped build the NFU display in the marquee. Later I grew plants specifically for Chelsea and assisted with plant displays. But my biggest task, with a colleague, was buying specimen plants for a Chelsea Garden. Flowering Rhododendrons were deemed ideal and via a contact of a contact we were given the name (long and eastern European) of a gentleman, his telephone number and address in Kensington! By phone a 'Rhodo' viewing was arranged at his nursery in the Surrey Weald. As we drove up a long gravel drive, through a stand of eucalyptus trees, we were met with what could easily been a scene from the Hobbit. In the middle of the drive was a brightly dressed dwarf with a long, pointed beard consulting hidden forces with a dangling spinning crystal. Even when we stood he was not very tall. But the real magic was in the nursery which was high up on a sandstone ridge with magnificent views over the Weald and a hundred or more 6ft plus tall specimen 'Rhodos' growing in 6in 150c of compost which turned out to be silver gilt treasure.

Prune back early flowering shrubs like forsythia, ribes and Japanese quince. Remove seed heads from hellebores, stake



perennials and tie in climbers as required. Apply liquid feed around spring bulbs and top dress your borders and roses with granular fertiliser.

One of gardening's best jobs is planting up summer bedding plants. The shopping trip to a nursery or garden centre and the feel of friable compost in your hands when you plant. Always water your plants well in advance of planting and again once planted. necessary.

Other tasks for May include - weeding feeding and mulching borders, deadheading daffodils and hellebores, tying in climbing plants and setting supports for tall and heavy headed perennials.

Flowers to look out for in May - Lilacs, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Wisterias, Iris and early roses like Canary Bird and Geranium x cantabrigiense

### April Top Tips

- Prune spring flowering shrubs
- Tie in climbers
- Weed feed and mulch
- Plant summer pots
- Replace hose washers



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## 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 Thursday In The Month

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

### Route H25 - 4th Thursday In The Month

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



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## Have your say – Vote on 7 May

Local elections for Parish Councillors will take place on Thursday 7 May, and residents are encouraged to take this opportunity to have their say.

Parish Councils play an important role in local life, representing the community, maintaining local facilities, and helping shape decisions that affect the village. By voting, you can help choose the people who will represent your views and work on your behalf.

**Polling will take place at Fenstanton Church Centre, open from 7:00am to 10:00pm.**

If you are registered to vote, please do make the effort to take part—every vote really does count at this level.

You may vote for more than one candidate, depending on the number of seats available in the parish. This will be shown on your ballot paper at the polling station. You can vote for up to that number of candidates, but you do not have to use all your votes.

Let's show strong community spirit and support our local democracy by turning out to vote.



## Clock Tower restoration completed

Your Parish Council is pleased to report the completion of sympathetic renovation works to the village Clock Tower by a local builder.

Repairs were carried out to timber cladding, the clock surround, window, and doors, all of which were carefully prepared and repainted. Damaged slate tiles were replaced, leadwork cleaned and treated, and gutters cleared to improve drainage. The metal crosses and compass were also refurbished.

Significant attention was given to the doors, including timber repairs and the installation of a new hardwood sill with a damp-proof course to the bell entrance, addressing previous rot and moisture issues.

These works have preserved the character of this valued local landmark, while ensuring it is protected for the future.



## STATEMENT OF PERSONS NOMINATED

Huntingdonshire District Council

### Election of Parish Councillors

The following is a statement of the persons nominated for election as a Parish Councillor for Fenstanton (South)

Name of Candidate	Home Address	Description (if any)	Reason why no longer nominated*
COLLISON Mike	(address in Huntingdonshire)		
HEWITT Martin Paul	(address in Huntingdonshire)		
HOWATT Hayley Elizabeth	(address in Huntingdonshire)		
JANOCKA Adam John	(address in Huntingdonshire)	Previously Chair of Governors Northstowe Primary	
KING Sally Michaela	(address in Huntingdonshire)		
KING Simon James	(address in Huntingdonshire)		
McGEE Roy	(address in Huntingdonshire)		
MITCHELL Kev	(address in Huntingdonshire)	Fenstanton Resident previous Parish Councillor	
MUSTILL Anne Marilyn	(address in Huntingdonshire)		
PUNTAMBEKAR Amit	(address in Huntingdonshire)		
PURKISS Jade	(address in Huntingdonshire)	Wanting to Represent Young Mums	
TANDY Matt	(address in Huntingdonshire)		
YATES Tina	(address in Huntingdonshire)		

\*Decision of the Returning Officer that the nomination is invalid or other reason why a person nominated no longer stands nominated.

The persons above against whose name no entry is made in the last column have been and stand validly nominated.

Dated Friday 10 April 2026

Michelle Sacks  
Returning Officer

Printed and published by the Returning Officer, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN

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**Family Court changes in 2026:  
why early advice matters**

**Families facing court proceedings involving children may soon notice important changes in the way cases are handled.**

From 5 May 2026, new Family Court guidance on allocation and gatekeeping in children proceedings is expected to come into force. Issued by the President of the Family Division on 31 March 2026, the guidance is intended to help the court deal with cases more efficiently and ensure that matters are heard at the right level from the outset.

In simple terms, this means the court will place greater emphasis on making sure each case is dealt with by the most appropriate judge. More straightforward cases are likely to be heard by Magistrates, while more complex or serious matters may be allocated to District Judges or Circuit Judges. If a case becomes more complicated as it progresses, it can still be transferred.

Although this may sound like a technical change, it is one that could have a real effect on families. Proceedings concerning children are often stressful, emotional and time sensitive. Any step aimed at reducing delay and improving the use of court resources is likely to be welcomed by parents and carers already dealing with difficult circumstances.

Another notable change is the move to a single, unified framework for both public and private law children cases, replacing the older separate approaches. The overall aim is to create a system that is more consistent, better able to respond to pressure on the courts and more proportionate in the way cases are managed.

For families, one message is clear: early advice matters. The issues raised at the beginning of

a case, the evidence available, and the way concerns are presented can all influence how proceedings develop. Good preparation at an early stage can help families understand their position, focus on the key issues and avoid unnecessary delay.

Leeds Day LLP's family law team advises clients on a wide range of matters, including arrangements for children, divorce and financial issues. The team understands that, behind every case, there is a family trying to find clarity at a difficult time. Clear, practical advice at the outset can make an important difference when court proceedings are being considered or have already begun.

For further information, please contact Leeds Day Solicitors on 0333 577 2250 or send an email to [family@leedsday.co.uk](mailto:family@leedsday.co.uk) or visit our website at [www.leedsday.co.uk/family](http://www.leedsday.co.uk/family).



Lisa Leader - Senior Associate Solicitor

## New laws for dog owners

The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025 has now received Royal Assent, giving police stronger powers to tackle livestock worrying.

### What is livestock worrying?

A dog does not have to bite or injure livestock for an offence to occur. Chasing, attacking, or even being loose among animals can cause serious stress, injury, abortion in pregnant animals, and in some cases, death.

### What's changing?

The new law introduces tougher measures to protect livestock, including increasing the maximum penalty from £1,000 to an unlimited fine. It also extends offences to cover incidents on roads and public paths, not just in fields, and broadens the definition of livestock to include animals such as llamas and alpacas.

Police will now have the power to seize and detain dogs where there is a risk of further incidents, as well as take forensic samples from dogs or livestock to support investigations. In addition, courts may order offenders to pay the costs associated with seizing and keeping a dog.

### A reminder to dog walkers

Please keep dogs on a lead when walking near livestock and ensure they are always under close control. Even well-behaved dogs can act unpredictably around farm animals. Being mindful helps protect livestock, supports local farmers, and avoids serious consequences for both dog owners and their pets.



## Next Parish Council meetings

Parish Council meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of each month (except in August and December unless required) at the Church Centre, School Lane, Fenstanton, PE28 9JR. Please note that dates may occasionally change due to unforeseen circumstances, and extraordinary meetings may also be called if urgent business needs to be discussed.

### In addition to our regular meetings, we also hold:

- Planning Committee meetings (when applications are submitted)
- Finance & Constitution Committee meetings
- General Purposes Committee meetings
- Burial Board meetings

Details of all upcoming meetings, along with agendas and minutes from previous meetings, can be found on the Parish Council website - [www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Date	Meeting	Time and Location
Thursday 14 May	PC Ordinary	7.00 pm Church Centre
Thursday 28 May	General Purposes Committee	7.00 pm Church Centre

To contact your Parish Council Clerk Telephone: 01480 465300

Email: [clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk) Website: [www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Pond looking its best for Spring

Many of you will have noticed how smart the village pond is looking lately. Our new maintenance contractor has carried out a thorough tidy-up, restoring it just in time for spring.

Reeds, bullrushes, and overgrown grass have been cut back, with weeds, brambles and saplings cleared. Litter was removed, trees pruned, and overhanging vegetation from nearby properties cut back. The duck house was cleaned, debris raked from the pond, and central growth reduced, to maintain open water.

Drainage channels have been cleared, though one blockage remains and has been flagged for further investigation. Additional improvements include mowing, installing a bird box, creating a small log pile for wildlife, and laying a woodchip path to help control weeds.

Wildlife is already thriving, with birds including moorhen, wren, robin, blue tit, great tit, and blackbird seen around the pond. Spring flowers—daffodils, bluebells, hyacinths, primroses, and comfrey—are in bloom, alongside pond plants such as bullrush and Equisetum japonicum (horsetail).

We've also had lovely feedback from residents, with one neighbour commenting that it's the best the pond has looked in years.



## Busway crossing at Moore Brook

Representatives from Fenstanton, Fen Drayton and Swavesey met up on 8 April 2026 to discuss the best way forward to protect the busway crossing at Moore Brook, adjacent to Paddy's Pond on the RSPB reserve

It was agreed that pursuing a Definitive Map Modification Order (DDMO) with the County Council was the best way forward, based on extensive research.

If you have used this crossing on a regular basis for several years and are willing to complete a User Evidence Statement document to that effect, please email the Parish Clerk at [clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk). Alternatively, hard copies of the form are available from The Hub, 6 High Street, Fenstanton or by phoning the Clerk on 01480 465300.

## Parish Councillor Saturday Surgeries

The last Saturday of the month 10.00 – 12.00pm  
The Hub, 6 High street, Fenstanton.

Pop in for a chat with Councillors. Whether you have concerns to raise or ideas to improve our village, we'd love to hear from you!

Let's work together to make Fenstanton even better.

Councillors attending the May Surgery will be confirmed on social media following the local elections

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# Jigsaw Exchange Hilton Parish Church

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

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

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

# News from the Pews



## Hilton Parish Church



### Services in May

3 May	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10 May	11:15am United Service in the Methodist Church
17 May	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
24 May	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall
31 May	8:00am Holy Communion

Friday 8 May 5:30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church)

### Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

Holy Communion Wednesdays (2:00pm) Bible Study Fridays (10:00am)  
Please contact Revd David Busk (01480 436400) for Zoom access details

# FEN DRAYTON TOTS

A relaxed and welcoming group for little ones aged 0 - 5 years held at Fen Drayton Village Hall!

## JOIN US FOR

- Arts and crafts
- Themed activities
- Messy play
- Toys and games
- Snacks and drinks

## THE DETAILS

Monday mornings (10am - 12pm) - £4 per family  
Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming sessions!  
[facebook.com/fendraytontoddlers](https://facebook.com/fendraytontoddlers)



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## News from the Benefice of Fen Drayton with Fenstanton



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

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

### May 2026 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday 03 May	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion and Sunday Club
Wednesday 06	2.30pm Fenstanton Church Centre	Holy Communion followed by Afternoon Tea
Thursday 07	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 10	9.15am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion
	10.30am Fenstanton	Worship For All – Launch of Christian Aid Week
Monday 11	7.30pm venue to be confirmed	A Pause in the Month
Ascension Day Thursday 14	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm Fenstanton	Holy Communion
Saturday 16 Sunday 17	1.00-5.30pm Fen Drayton	Fen Drayton Open Gardens ( <i>Tickets from church</i> ) St Mary’s Church Full of Art ( <i>Free entry</i> )
Sunday 17	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion and Sunday Club
	6pm Fenstanton	Sung Evensong
Pentecost Sunday 24	9.15am Fen Drayton	Morning Praise for Pentecost
	10.30am Fenstanton	Family Communion for Pentecost
Thursday 28	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Trinity Sunday Sunday 31	10.30am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion at St Mary’s
	10.30am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion at St Mary’s <i>No service in Fenstanton</i>

**Accessibility in our churches:** The Parish Church (Fenstanton) has a ramp which can be deployed upon request. There is a toilet, with wheelchair access. St Mary’s (Fen Drayton) has a small threshold that may be possible to navigate with a wheelchair. There are no toilet facilities. Although we have fixed pews in both churches there are plenty of spaces available for wheelchairs, prams and buggies.

St Mary’s Church Fen Drayton is now open daily, please feel free to pop in anytime and a warm welcome awaits you at any of our services (see table on previous page)

Plans for Fen Drayton Open Gardens and St Mary’s Church Full of Art weekend on 16 & 17 May are well underway but more gardens to look around would be very welcome. Is that something you might be interested in? If you would like to share your garden or artwork or be involved in the weekend in any way, please contact Ian Hucklesby 07850 470085 or email; [churchwardens@fenchurches.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@fenchurches.org.uk) Thank you.



This year for Christian Aid week (10-16 May) we have two village events planned, and we would love your support. All monies raised will go straight to help some of the poorest people in the world regardless of faith or of no faith. Do get in touch if you would like to help at either event, thank you. Katie Hucklesby. [ikhuck@virginmedia.com](mailto:ikhuck@virginmedia.com)

### Fenstanton Parish Church

#### Sunday 10 May serving between 8-10am

Big Brekkie - Croissants, bacon rolls, orange juice, tea/coffee



### Fenstanton United Reformed Church

#### Friday 15 May, 10-12noon

Coffee/tea and cake afternoon  
Bring and Buy Raffle



Can’t make the events? Do please consider giving to our online page. Scan the QR code or visit the page below, thank you.

<http://www.justgiving.com/page/parish-of-fen-drayton-with-fenstanton-caw26>

More information about Christian Aid and their work is available at; [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallowin: 01480 467393 Email: [vicar@fenchurches.org.uk](mailto:vicar@fenchurches.org.uk)  
Churchwarden: Ian Hucklesby 07850 470085 Email: [ikhuck@virginmedia.com](mailto:ikhuck@virginmedia.com)

## Fenstanton United Reformed Church



After Easter, the Church continues to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the new life in Christ that God offers to all.

This new life may seem abstract and intangible but help and evidence is available. The burst into life and growth of trees and flowers, and newborn lambs gambolling in fields remind us of new life, renewal and God's love for creation. I am amazed at how forgiving nature is. Despite our abuse of the natural world, we continually see signs of renewal and new life.

These visible signs of new life and God's love are vital in our uncertain and volatile times

when the world is a violent and unforgiving place. Our world hasn't always been like that, and I found the recent photographs from the Artemis 2 rocket of planet Earth a throwback to calmer times.

During this post-Easter period, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, his promise to be with us always, and these signs of new life in God's wonderful creation, can support and enable us to face the uncertainty with hope.

Revd Alison Davis

## Hilton Methodist Church



### Services in May

3 May	10:00am	Local Arrangement
10 May	11:15am	United Service in the Methodist Church
17 May	10:00am	Rev. James Bamber
24 May	10:00am	Mr. Colin Webber
31 May	10:00am	Rev. Pam Siddall

Minister: Rev. James Bamber 01480 453857 jjamesbamber@gmail.com

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or call

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Find us on

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Date: Saturday 9 May 2026

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Place: Fen Drayton Village Hall Community Cafe



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**10AM - 11.30AM**

EVERY TUESDAY IN TERM TIME

FROM 10:00 - FREE PLAY AND CRAFT/ACTIVITY TABLE

10:50 - SNACK TIME

11:00 - FREE PLAY

11:15 - TOY TIDY UP

11:20 - STORY TIME AND MATS AWAY

11:30 - GOOD BYE UNTIL NEXT WEEK!

HILTON VILLAGE HALL  
PE28 9PF

### HILTON BABY AND TODDLER PLAY GROUP

**TUESDAY 10 - 11.30**

- 28 APRIL** PERCY THE PARKKEEPER - GIANT DRAWING
- 05 MAY** PLAYDOUGH FUN
- 12 MAY** MONACH FARM TRIP (PRE BOOKING REQUIRED)
- 17 MAY** WORLD BEE DAY

FOR MORE INFO SEARCH HILTON BABY AND TODDLER PLAY GROUP ON FACEBOOK



**Fenstanton United Reformed Church**  
Chequer Street, Fenstanton  
**Minister**  
Revd Alison Davis

Sunday morning services are at 09.30. All are welcome.

### 2026 Services

#### May

- 03 Revd Christine Davies - **Holy Communion**
- 10 Led by Pauline Zahner
- 17 Revd Alison Davis
- 24 Revd Alison Davis
- 31 Revd Christine Davies

#### June

- 07 Revd Christine Davies
- 14 Revd Alison Davis - **Holy Communion**
- 21 Revd Christine Davies
- 28 Revd Christine Davies

#### Meditation - Led by the Free Church St. Ives

- Tuesday 12 May 2.30 - 4pm - Led by John Williams
- Tuesday 09 June 2.30 - 4pm - Led by John Williams

**Geoff Hawkins** Fenstanton URC Secretary  
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

JOIN US FOR **FRIDAY FEAST**

- Free All Age event
- Get creative
- Food & Fun
- Informal gathering
- Churches of Hilton together
- For all faiths, and none
- 8 May, 12 Jun & 24 Jul (in FW)
- To find out more, call Rachel on 830866

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

**Messy Church**

**BRING A BOTTLE!**

### Church of the Sacred Heart



19 Needingworth Rd. St Ives  
**Priest in charge: FR. T. J. Monteiro**  
Tel 01480 462192,  
www.sacredheart-stives.org  
email: office@sacredheart-stives.org

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

We also have a large hall available for hire.  
Please contact the parish office for details.

**The Particular Baptist Chapel**  
Church Lane, Fenstanton,  
PE28 9JW

There has been a witness to the worship of God here over the years since 1643

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

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



**SAVE THE DATES!**



**5 Pubs Challenge**  
**Sunday 10 May**

**The Bike Rides**  
**Sunday 28 June**



**Annual Quiz Night**  
**Friday 9 October**

Check [www.overdaycentre.co.uk/fundraising/](http://www.overdaycentre.co.uk/fundraising/) for updates...

The Over Day Centre, 1 Drings Close, Over, Cambs, CB24 5NZ  
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**FEN DRAYTON VILLAGE  
HALL PRESENTS**

**COMEDY**

*Night*



**SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY**

**TICKETS £10 EACH**

Bar opens at 7pm Show starts at 8pm

Tickets must be booked by email:  
[info@fendraytonvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:info@fendraytonvillagehall.org.uk) or  
mobile:07523457723

**Welcome Space**

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**Baby & Toddler  
Group**

**Every Tuesday**  
**9:00 - 11:30 AM**

**Free Refreshments!**

**Fun • Play • Chat**

**All Welcome!**

**The Church Centre, School Lane, Fenstanton**

## Life on a Plate

### Banana Cake

#### Ingredients:

- 5oz./140gm. Self-Raising Flour
- ¼ tsp. Bicarbonate of Soda
- 1 Over-ripe banana
- 2oz./55gm. Soft margarine
- 1 Egg
- 5oz./140gm. Sugar (Golden Caster sugar  
or half and half Caster and Soft Brown Sugar)
- 4oz./115gm. Sultanas
- Pinch of salt

#### Requirements

- A stick blender and large jug or a liquidiser
- Large mixing bowl.
- 1 x 2lb., loaf tin lined with a parchment greaseproof paper liner.

#### Method

1. Place margarine, banana, sugar and egg into your jug to blend or liquidiser and blend until smooth.
2. Weigh the flour into a large mixing bowl.
3. Add bicarbonate of soda and salt to the flour and stir to mix.
4. Add the blended banana and sultanas.
5. Mix well.
6. Bake at 140°C in a fan oven or 375°F., for 40/45 minutes.

Enjoy



### Note from the publisher

For advertising opportunities please email [info@thejournal.life](mailto:info@thejournal.life). Space is booked on a yearly subscription basis and runs from September 25 until August 26. Priority will always be given to local businesses. The Journal takes no responsibility for the standard of goods or services provided and accepts no liability on any loss or damage from acceptance of any advertisers.



# update



## Contact:

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website: [www.fendrayton.org](http://www.fendrayton.org)

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

## Village meeting

A big thank you from the PC to all residents who attended the annual village meeting (aka the annual parish meeting) on 13 April. These meetings are an ideal opportunity for the PC to update residents about developments, past and planned, in our village.

Refreshments were available after the slide presentation, and our district and county councillors joined our parish councillors in chatting with residents and discussing any concerns.

## Busway crossings

The PC chair and clerk, and a village resident, met with colleagues from Fenstanton and Swavesey PCs in early April to discuss protecting the well-used busway crossing at Moore Brook on the RSPB reserve, which is due to be fenced off by the county council later this year.

All agreed that pursuing a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) was the best way forward, based on the resident's extensive research.



If you have used this crossing on a regular basis for several years (20 or more is ideal) and are willing to complete a User Evidence Statement to that effect, please email the parish clerk at: [clerk@fendrayton.org](mailto:clerk@fendrayton.org). Copies of the form will also be available at the Community Cafe on 9 May.

## Cambridge Road improvements

Those of you who use Cambridge Road when joining or leaving the A1307 may have already noticed new signage advising drivers of priorities over the narrow bridge. This was funded by a grant from the Northstowe S106 and the parish council.

## Community Cafe

At the cafe in March, Magpas community trainers demonstrated CPR and defibrillator techniques in the case of cardiac arrest (see photo on left). In recognition of their work and the importance of the training that they deliver, the cafe committee donated £200 to their cause.

Advance notice – Chris Lockwood will again run a watercolour workshop at the cafe on 13 June, from 11.00–12.00. Booking is essential for this very popular event. To secure a place email [fendraytoncommunitycafe@gmail.com](mailto:fendraytoncommunitycafe@gmail.com)

## Fen Drayton's Greenways proposal

Fen Drayton residents will soon be invited to complete a questionnaire asking them to consider a new proposal as part of the wider Greenways project. The project aims to improve cycling, walking and horse-riding routes between Cambridge and surrounding villages.

Plans for the Fen Drayton link of the St Ives branch have been discussed for over 10 years, with earlier options ruled out due to issues such as flooding and lighting. The Greenways team is now putting forward a proposal involving the installation of four one-metre-high bollards across Holywell Ferry Road, with additional signage to limit general vehicle access.

The aim is to make the route to the guided busway safer and more pleasant for non-motorised users, while still allowing access for farm vehicles, emergency services

and the RSPB. The scheme also includes regrading the gravel section of the road and creating a bike storage area near the guided bus stop.

Further information is available on the PC website at [www.fendrayton.org](http://www.fendrayton.org)

## Playground

A few minor repairs to play equipment are in now hand, following the annual playground inspection. Contractors will also be on site working on the swings and servicing the zipwire.

## Middleton Way

Middleton Way is a private road, solely maintained by the Fen Drayton Road Management Committee and funded by its residents. It is a narrow, single-track road with no footpaths and a 20mph speed limit. Residents have reported speeding vehicles resulting in several near misses, including a child waiting for school transport.

Please would non-residents keep to the Highways-maintained roads (Cootes Lane and Mill Road) for their journeys and not use Middleton Way as a rat run.

## Next Community Cafe

The next Community Cafe is Saturday 9 May at 10.30 am in the village hall. We will be hosting the Garden Club's annual plant swap and sale. So, if you have spare plants, vegetables or flowers, bring them along for swapping or selling.





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# Hilton Parish Council



Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 13 April

### The 2026 Bonfire and Fireworks event

The Council received a verbal update from the Working Group on plans for the 2026 event in November, including proposals about the provision of suitable parking for the occasion. Other details - including pricing and access arrangements - will be published nearer the time.

### Green Open Spaces update

The Council agreed: repairs need to be made to the damaged ground around the goalposts and an action plan on how to achieve this in the next few months; also, to seek quotations for cutting back overgrowing and overhanging foliage to facilitate agricultural machinery using the track along the southern boundary of the Wilderness.

### Flood Action Working Group

The newly formed Hilton Flood Action Working Group will meet on Tuesday 2nd June. Membership comprises elected Councillors and interested parishioners.

### From our County and District Councillors

County Councillor Keane had come to Hilton straight from another meeting. On highways issues he is closely monitoring the A141 / St Ives Improvement Scheme, where changes have already been made following resident feedback. At County Council, he attended (during March): Adults and Health, Assets and Procurement, Full Council and Pension Fund committees. Key decisions included additional funding for drug and alcohol Treatment services and approval of a £58 million highways maintenance programme for 2026/27.

Locally, he attended multiple parish council meetings (including Hilton), community litter picks and civic events, and responded to the

government consultation on Local Government Re-organisation proposals supporting option E, sharing that response with parishes and partners. He remains available to follow up on any local issues raised. District Councillor Tevlin had sent her apologies.

### 20mph speed restrictions

The Council noted comments made by parishioners about the new arrangements and felt the 20mph speed limit is already making a positive impact.

### The Jubilee Playground

The Council received the latest formal safety inspection report on the area and noted where action needed to be taken in the interests and well-being of children using the equipment.

### Cricket Courses for young people

It is hoped these will run for up to 7 weeks following the May half-term week. Full details will be published and disseminated as soon as they are finalised.

This was the final meeting before the local elections on May 7th. Seven existing Councillors were nominated and duly elected leaving 2 unfilled places. Councillors Capes and Sarkies had decided not to seek re-election and were thanked for their contribution to the work of Hilton Parish Council over a number of years.

*The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 11th May 2026 in Hilton Methodist Church Hall. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the Council's website [www.hiltonparishcouncil.com](http://www.hiltonparishcouncil.com). Parishioners are welcome to speak on agenda items at council meetings.*

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# OPEN DAYS

Sat/Sun 2-3 May  
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FREE ENTRY

## Fenstanton Bowls Club

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All ages are welcome.

All you need on the day is to wear flat shoes or trainers.

Free  
Prize  
Draw

Everything else will be provided  
including refreshments and cake.

One lucky person or couple can  
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For membership details and any other information or queries  
regarding the club please email [fenstantonbowlsclub@outlook.com](mailto:fenstantonbowlsclub@outlook.com)

or call David on 07876343900.

May 2026 UK						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Put the date in your diary  
We look forward to seeing you soon

<https://fenstantonbowlsclub.co.uk/find-us/>

## Fen Drayton Primary School



### Mayor's Day Out - Ramsey Heights

This term, our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils enjoyed a wonderful trip to Ramsey Heights as part of the Mayor's Day Out initiative. We are very grateful to the mayor for funding the visit, which meant the trip was completely free for families.

The children had a fantastic day exploring the outdoors, building dens and pond dipping. Staff at Ramsey Heights commented on how delightful the children were, and even the bus driver praised their excellent manners and behaviour. We are very proud of them all!



### Fen Drayton Tennis Club

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were also delighted to welcome two coaches from Fen Drayton Tennis Club into school. The children had great fun learning new tennis skills and many are now keen to take part in the club's holiday and after-school sessions.



### Gymnastics and musical theatre

We always enjoy welcoming visitors to Fen Drayton, especially when they lead inspiring assemblies and lessons. Last term, we were pleased to host Emily from Gymfinity, who delivered a whole-school assembly followed by a session with Foxes Class (Years 3 and 4). The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and made great progress by listening carefully and following instructions. Gymfinity runs classes at Swavesey Village College for a wide range of ages and abilities.



We also welcomed Hannah and Pippa from OnStage Performing Arts, who introduced themselves in a whole-school assembly ahead of launching their new after-school club this term.

### Friends of Fen Drayton Primary School

Our PTA has recently rebranded as the Friends of Fen Drayton Primary School, and we are always keen to welcome new supporters. You don't have to be a parent or member of staff to get involved — grandparents, neighbours and anyone in the local community are very welcome to help with fundraising for the school.

If you would like to find out more, please email the school office and we will put you in touch.

You can also follow their activities on Facebook: [facebook.com/FenDraytonPrimaryPta](https://www.facebook.com/FenDraytonPrimaryPta)

### Join our school family

We currently have places available in all year groups. If you are looking for a warm and welcoming school community, we would be delighted to hear from you. Come and see what makes Fen Drayton Primary School such a special place to learn and grow. See the Admissions page on our website for how to apply, or contact us for a tour.

Nina McQueen  
Headteacher

### School contact details

Email: [office@fendrayton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@fendrayton.cambs.sch.uk)  
Phone: 01954 273346  
Website: [www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk](http://www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk)  
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For details please contact.

Church Treasurer - Mrs Jenny Stimpson  
[Jennystimpson13@gmail.com](mailto:Jennystimpson13@gmail.com)

Or

Church Secretary - Mr Geoffrey Hawkins  
[geoffrey.hawkins@virgin.net](mailto:geoffrey.hawkins@virgin.net)

## Hilton Community Hub

After a short break during Easter we are back enjoying the company of our new Wednesday friends.

We were delighted to learn that Kara, a new friend and recent speaker from Fairy Dogmother had competed in the grooming classes at Crufts 2026 and won! Huge congratulations!



As a teenager, Kara began her career at the Cozy Pets Hotel in Caldecote and has developed towards her business over some years with a considerable amount of training. She employs 15 groomers and qualified Pet First Aiders. She is also about to establish a Grooming Academy in St Ives for potential students to qualify in grooming skills and animal care.

Another good friend, Andy Caruana from our Neighbourhood Police Team based in St Ives, has paid us another visit with some interesting challenges when he gradually offered snippets of genuine 'crimes' with which to discuss a potential action. They were certainly very thought provoking.

Andy also gave us some general safety advice, such as to watch out for pickpockets



especially in charity shops. We need to bear in mind that whilst security cameras are a useful aid, they are expensive for small businesses to buy and run so we need to be aware of risks ourselves - keep a strict eye on that purse or phone, does it have to be so evidently in your hand? Andy also recommended the use of a Faraday pouch to protect thieves from accessing car keys, etc. They are not expensive, at under £10. Also on the safety issue, Andy's colleague Rachel Hall from the newly revived Neighbourhood Watch scheme will soon be advising us on coping with scams.

So we are now looking forward to the events that Jan and the team have arranged during the summer such as National Banana Day, Apple Day, planting potatoes ready for the Summer Fair challenge, National Chip Day, taste tests, some craft days and information on Deaf Awareness. There will be lunchtime treats like the final one before Easter - fish fingers chips and mushy peas, or home-made soups.

Maybe we will meet outdoors but there is always the jigsaw, a card group, quiz challenge or just a good old fashioned chat.

**Whether you are new to Hilton or a longer resident come to see us any Wednesday morning from 10.30 and be sure of a great welcome. And unlike most things these days, IT IS ALL FREE!**

## Girlguiding Hilton Rainbows and Brownies

**Hilton Rainbows and Brownies are looking forward to a fun filled summer term with lots of outdoor adventures!**

Several new Rainbows have been welcomed this term and we have visits planned to Hilton Community Garden and Meadow Lodge Farm to do nature and wildlife activities.

Brownies are visiting Johnsons of Oldhurst and the Community Garden and both units are taking part in a Guiding takeover of Wicksteed Park at the end of April.

We do have spaces in our units so if your daughter is aged between 4 and 7 for Rainbows and 7 - 10 for Brownies, please do get in touch if they would like to join us or to find out more information. If you would be interested in volunteering with us please also let us know.

You can also register your interest for all these roles on [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) and following the links or simply search Girlguiding join us and we will contact you.

**Karen Baker Brownie and Rainbow Leader**  
[girlguidinghilton@gmail.com](mailto:girlguidinghilton@gmail.com)  
07970 404569

## Fen Drayton Bowls Club news

**With the better weather starting (hope I haven't jinxed it!) the outdoor bowls season has begun on our new look bowls green. Roll up nights on the green behind the village hall are usually on Tuesdays from 6 to 8pm. This year we are holding a Saturday Open Day event as part of the village Summer Fete on 28 June, so it would be great to see you there!**

We also have a Monday afternoon group that meets at 2pm throughout the year for indoor short mat bowls sessions. If you'd like to come and join us at any of the above events, please contact the Club Secretary, Stephen George on 07876 407 219, email at [stephengeorge79@gmail.com](mailto:stephengeorge79@gmail.com) or via our website: [fendraytonbowls.co.uk](http://fendraytonbowls.co.uk)





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## Fenstanton Friendship Club

### Looking forward to longer days and warmer weather.

We were founded in 1949 by a dedicated group of villagers and we still meet every other Wednesday at 2.00 pm 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.

We welcome new members and look forward to seeing you. Come along with your ideas for the club's future.

**11 March** We were entertained by Martin John singing and accompanying himself on the piano and guitar. Members joined in the music with drums, tambourine, triangle and maracas supplied by Martin. It was great fun.



**25 March** Twenty-two members enjoyed lunch at the Hartford Mill. The food is always good and the company even better.



### Upcoming meetings

**6 May** Our yearly trip on the "Ladybird Boat".

**20 May** An afternoon of music from Caroline Foster.

Any questions or problems please contact me. Marie Newns [bubblenews@gmail.com](mailto:bubblenews@gmail.com) 01480 350119

## Hilton Flower Club

**13 April:** Our demonstrator was Lucy Hill, I will report about the afternoon in the June Journal. As it was Easter, we had our meeting later.

**11 May** is our workshop, the cost is £7.50 + £6.00 entrance. We always have great fun and everyone goes home with a wonderful creation. If you would like to join us we need your names and money by the end of April; please ring June 830306 or Beverley 830571.

**10 June** is our outing. We are going to Hidcote Manor and Kiftsgate Gardens.

We have a break for the summer so we meet again on 7 September. It will be a talk and slide show on gardens.

Hilton Village Hall 2pm - 4pm

Entrance £6.00 (includes tea/biscuits)

No Membership - Just pay on the door.

Beverley.

## Hilton Art Club

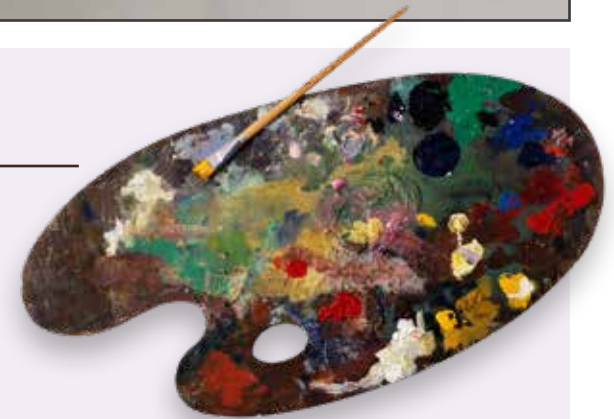
The last session in the village hall was 'La Dolce Vita' (the good life), inspired by Italy and it was a full house, we even had extra tables on the left-hand side of the room.

It was lovely to see so many at one of our sessions, although Kathy B wasn't with us. It was nice to meet Cathy, who we hope to see again soon. We had landscapes of Italy, pictures of food and drink, lemons on the tree, etc. A lovely morning in all!

Many thanks for those who brought cakes.

**15 May 10.00am - 12.30pm Pasta Printing Workshop with Chris Dommett**

Booking essential



# What you're Missing

## Fenstanton Bowls Club

The season for Fenstanton Bowls Club has begun! The winter was kind to us this year with very little flooding, so our green is looking superb due to the dedicated care and maintenance by our green keeping team who work tirelessly over the winter months to maintain the rink and surrounding green.

Our Open Days this year will be on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 May. If you would like to find out more about our club and have a go at bowling, please pop down between 11am and 3pm on either day and you will receive a warm welcome (flat shoes or trainers required). We will have coffee, tea and cake on offer, so what's not to like!

If you are not able to come down over the open weekend, this season we are offering the opportunity for anyone to come down on the first Sunday of each month (7 June, 5 July and 2 August) during our Social Bowls session between 10am and 12pm, when an experienced player will be there to welcome you and show you the ropes on a dedicated rink. No need to bring anything with you – just wear flat shoes or trainers.

Over the last few months we have been working hard to secure sponsorship for the club by offering local companies the opportunity to have a display board at our ground, which is visited by 1200 people during the summer, including visiting teams from all over Cambridgeshire. We are delighted to have three companies who have come on board – Wilderspins Garage, Eyespecs and St.Ives Photo.



If you would be interested in having a display board or finding out more about sponsorship opportunities, please call David on 07876343900.

Our league matches start at the end of April and we have a busy season ahead, with Men's and Ladies' Teams in the Huntingdon & District League, two teams who compete in the Cambridge & District League and two teams who play on a Wednesday afternoon in the over 60's League. We have our fingers crossed for a very successful season for all of them! As well as this, we also have our club competitions days and a singles competition which runs throughout the season, so lots to look forward to. Now all we need is for the sun to shine and some long balmy evenings!

If you would like to find out more, please visit our website at [fenstantonbowlsclub.co.uk](http://fenstantonbowlsclub.co.uk)

Fenstanton Bowls Club is proudly sponsored by the following local businesses




## Our 2026/7 Membership Year has just started!

### Here are the advantages of becoming a Member:

- Unlimited access to the courts
- Adults Club Sessions 2 times a week (novice players welcome!)
- Coaching sessions for Adults & Juniors (fee payable - Juniors subsidised)
- Private coaching sessions available (fee payable)
- Members Tournament Day
- Option to join the Club Ladder competition

### Why not attend our Open Day on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May before deciding whether to join

Find more information about our Club & details of the membership costs on our website – [fendraytontc.co.uk](http://fendraytontc.co.uk) or 



# Fen Drayton Open Gardens

Saturday & Sunday  
16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
1pm to 5:30pm

## Garden Tickets £5

Tickets with maps and  
Information from  
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What3words - beauty.finer.somebody

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## What you're Missing

### Hilton WI

In the April issue you may have been puzzled that the photograph referred to a shipwreck crew that seemed not to refer to the written item. Well spotted!

The March meeting involved the official Annual General Meeting at which members were delighted unanimously to re-elect Pam Bowker as our president and the committee remained unchanged from the previous year. It's a serious part of our year but as ever it was helped along the way with a small helping of cheese and biscuits and a raised glass.

We are proud that our membership of 60 is particularly high, comprised of young and older, with attendances often of around 30 or more. Anyone interested in joining us is always welcome to visit a meeting.

Then - a game of Shipwreck - when Sue and Margaret grouped members into teams with a list supplied by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency of 12 items necessary to rescue to the lifeboat (remember that photo!). The order of importance before a rescue was discussed, aiming to achieve the closest from the list. Intensive debate followed then the official list was announced, top of which is surprising and frankly controversial. If you are curious, maybe make your own list, talk about it and then ask a WI member for the topmost item of the Agency and its supporting reason.

Jane Kennedy is our next speaker on British Sign Language and again, thank you to Mel for providing us with such varieties of speakers with most months now booked well into 2027 and beyond

Our Clubs are flourishing. The Cinema Club recently saw Lee, based on the famous WW2 lady photographer - grim but thought provoking, and Mothers' Provide, such fun and entertaining. We are fortunate to have two venue choices, either Cineworld in Huntingdon or a monthly film at St Ives Corn Exchange where it only costs the public £7.00. That really is an inexpensive evening. The Book Club, Craft Club, Rummikub, Art for Fun Club and fortnightly Canasta continue to flourish.

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN



This year we have two planned coach trips; firstly in June to Woodbridge and two nearby rivers, then to Windsor in November. Coaches are costly now so we pack other times of the year with visits by cars to places not far away.

Finally, the name of every flower is known to have a meaning and whoever selected the Sunflower as the symbol of the WI was appropriately inspired for women throughout our history. So Google tells us that its meaning is a mix of adoration, loyalty and longevity all of which represent warmth, positivity and strength. Significantly and poignantly we share the Sunflower with the national flower of the Ukraine where it is upheld as a symbol of peace and hope.

Anyone wishing to visit a meeting is very welcome to Hilton WI. Contact:- [hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com)

## 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	07876 407219
Fen Drayton Lions FC	07718 900880
Fen Drayton Parent and Toddlers	07549 630124
Fen Drayton Tai Chi	07799 444993
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	07876 343900
Fenstanton Community Hub	07949 453767
Fenstanton Football Club	07968 081874
Fenstanton Friendship Club	01480 350119
Fenstanton Glebe Allotments	07817 786298
Fenstanton Morris	07890 863369
Fenstanton Town Trust	01480 464753
Fenstanton Knitter and Natters	01480 498221
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Hilton Baby and Toddler Group	07527 394945
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Hilton Community Garden	07488 351128
Hilton Flower Club	01480 830571
Hilton HGV Watch	07768 294878

## Community Groups and Clubs

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Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	07970 404569
Hilton Speed Watch	07540 811115
Hilton Town Trust	01480 830866
Hilton WI	01480 831186
RSPB	01954 233260
Slimming World	07568 444140

## Community events

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

## Education

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

## Churches

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

## Emergency numbers

A&E Addenbrooks Hospital	01233 217118
A&E Hinchinbrooke Hospital	01480 416416
Environment Agency (Flood Line)	0845 9881188
Fenstanton pharmacy	01480 495159
Fenstanton surgery	01480 461873
Fly Tipping	0345 0450500

## Emergency numbers

Gas leak	0800 111 999
Non emergency medical	111
Non emergency Police	101
Papworth pharmacy	01480 831415
Papworth surgery	01480 830888
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

Barry's Plaiçe	01480 462382
Little Piggy Cafe	07764 336911
The Duchess, Fenstanton	01480 350859
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
Ron's Farm Shop	01480 495127

## Garden services

Hamptons Groundcare	01480 274848
Hemingford Arboriculture	01480 463674

## Decorators

Jason Kirby	01954 211775
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## Design, printing and copying

St Ives Quickprint Ltd	01480 465215
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## Household services

Cambridge Light Removals	01480 352220
Christopher the Locksmith	07772 111222
Easton & Cook Funerals	01480 310400
Fairy Dog Mother	01480 461959
Fenstanton Dental	01480 381129
Hamptons Pest Control	01480 274848
Hilton Private Hire	07521 293434
J L Wight Chimney Sweep	01954 253315
More Space Storage	01480 830130
Sureclean	07870 338074
Television Mobile Repair Service	07887 887319
W&H Peacock Auctioneers	01480 474550
Z Cars Taxis	01480 462046

## Electricians

Bowling Electrical Services	07903 756915
TW Electrical	07810 710826
Twin Electrical Services	07796 492953

## Plumbing and Heating Engineers

Cosy Gas	07411 805067
J Halstead	01480 830329
MDS P&H Ltd	07860 829591
RDS	01954 770309
T. N Walsh	07887 561525

## Building services and supplies

GCE Groundworks	07737 884643
Graham Malkan	07799 850237
R D B Flooring	07970 256237
Stormguard Building Services	01480 270744

## Car servicing and repairs

Wilderspin Garage	01954 230273
Richard's Mobile Mechanic	07368 356105

## The Journal

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



# HAMPTONS

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