

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH MAGAZINE



MARCH 2025

GILSTON AND EASTWICK VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



See below a calendar of all clubs and classes that take place at our hall.
For more information about booking the hall go to www.eastwickgilston.org.uk

MONDAY	Sculpt Fit with Sam	Sam Tucker – samtucker76@gmail.com (trampoline based exercise class)	9.15am – 1.15am
	Parish Council	Parish Clerk – Christine Law 01279 411646 Meet on the 2 nd Monday of January, March, May, July, September & November	8.00pm – 10.00pm
TUESDAY	Zumba Gold	Sarah-Jane – sarahjane_786@hotmail.com	10.30am – 11.30am
WEDNESDAY			
THURSDAY	Baby Massage	Elena Luck	9.30am – 2.30pm
	Irish Dancing	Amanda Hennigan – 07713974077 For More Information	6.30pm – 8.30pm
FRIDAY	Chair Pilates	Sarah-Jane – sarahjane_786@hotmail.com	10.30am -11.30am
SATURDAY			
SUNDAY			

Chair: Janine Bryant

Vice Chair: Trevor Brown

Treasurer: Linda Harvey

Bookings Officer: Erin Reilly 07710271611

Holding Trustee: Keith Harvey & Mary Jackson

Booking enquiries: gevillagehall@gmail.com For any bookings and queries about the Village Hall please contact: gevillagehall@gmail.com. Or go to www.eastwickgilston.org.uk, then village hall to use the calendar to view when the hall is available to book and use the booking form facility to book your event and to read the terms and conditions required.

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USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

EASTWICK & GILSTON PARISH COMMUNITY WEB SITE: eastwickandgilston.org.uk

HUNSDON EASTWICK & GILSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP WEBSITE: hegnp.org.uk - For all regular updates and information from the group you can subscribe to the mailing list at this link: <https://tinyletter.com/gilston>.

EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL: <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk>. Telephone 01279 655261

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk>. Telephone 030012234040

FLY TIPPING

Report all Fly Tipping to East Herts Council on 01279 655261 or enquiries@eastherts.gov.uk, eastherts.gov.uk/flytipping. In an emergency situation contact the Police on 999.

HIGH WYCH POST OFFICE

Located at the rear of High Wych Memorial Hall. Open **Mondays** 9.30am – 12.30pm .
Wednesdays 1.00pm – 3.15pm. **Thursdays** 9.30am – 12.30pm.

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCILLORS



CHAIRMAN
MARK ORSON
01279 453257
Mark.orson@outlook.com
Neighbourhood Planning Group
Footpaths Officer



VICE CHAIR
JANINE BRYANT
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Neighbourhood Planning Group



LINDA HARVEY
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PARISH CLERK
CHRISTINE LAW
01279 411646
Christine.law2@btinternet.com
Write to: 9 Church Cottages,
Gilston, Herts CM20 2RH



JOHN DUNLOP
**EAST HERTS DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR**
john.dunlop@eastherts.gov.uk



ERIC BUCKMASTER
07578 170303
**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCILLOR**
eric.buckmaster@hertfordshire.gov.uk

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

THIS IS THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This meeting gives the registered electors of the parish an opportunity to come and discuss any matters of importance within the community.

FOLLOWED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON
MONDAY 10th March 2025– 8.00PM

VILLAGE HALL, PYE CORNER

All residents are most welcome to attend our council meetings.

CHRISTINE LAW - PARISH CLERK
01279 411646 christine.law2@btinternet.com

WE HAVE TWO VACANCIES TO BE FILLED FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS IF YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK OR ONE OF OUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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The **DRAFT** Parish Council business meeting of Monday 13th January 2025. Village Hall , Pye Corner, Gilston 8.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr's Beazley, Bryant, Harvey, Marx, Cllr Eric Buckmaster (CC), Cllr John Dunlop (DC), 2 members of the public. Christine Law (Clerk) in attendance.

Cllr Buckmaster and Cllr Dunlop's reports are attached to these minutes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPANTION

- a. Fly tipping – Gilston Park – Residents of Gilston Park and Gilston Lane were thanked for all their help in the clearing of the fly tipping that occurred.
- b. Flooding – Gilston Lane – Thanks were raised for the help that has been given in the clearing of the flooding in the lane.
- c. Salt Bins – Gilston Lane – Cllr Buckmaster requested, on behalf of the Parish Council, 2 salt bins for the lane. One has been placed by the exist out drive from Gilston Park House but on inspection it has been decided would be better placed near Church Cottages. Clerk to request it be moved. (*post meeting note – this has now been moved to near Church Cottages*). One was also requested to be placed down by the Plume/Gilston Lane - not sure if this request was successful.

BUSINESS MEETING STARTED AT 8.00PM

67) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a) Cllr Orson

68) RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- a) None.

69) CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR.

- a) we were very pleased to co-opt James Beazley, resident of Terlings Park, onto the Parish Council.

70) MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- a. Minutes of the Parish Council Business Meeting of 11th November 2024 proposed by Cllr Marx and seconded by Cllr Harvey. They were then signed as a true record by acting chairman Cllr Bryant.

71)ACCOUNTS

- a. Clerks report to the Council of accounts summary (attached).
- b. Council Precept for 2025-2026 had been agreed at our previous meeting to reduce to £9,750.00. Precept form was duly signed by councillor and counted signed by the Clerk who will now send to East Herts.
- c. SLCC Membership renewal for £110.00 was agreed by the whole council.

Items a-c were proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Harvey.

72)PLANNING AND ASSOCIATED APPLICATIONS

- b. Grassland, Pye Corner, Gilston – 3/23/1110/FUL – Retrospective change of use of buildings A (Class e), B (class B8), c (Class B8), D (Class B8), E (Class B8) and F (Class E). Awaiting decision.
- c. The Old Rectory, Gilston – 3/24/0068/FUL – Installation of 100 ground mounted PV Cell Solar Panels on the paddocks to the north of the Old Rectory. Awaiting decision.
- d. 2-7 Kirkpatrick Place, Gilston – 3/24/2151/FUL – New application – Replacement of 6 number Juliet balcony's with new cantilever balcony's new balcony's to measurer 3.0m wide, 120mm deep, 1200mm high. Awaiting decision.
- e. 95 Pye Corner, Gilston – 3/23/2463/HH – Has been refused by planning but applicant has gone to appeal. Awaiting decision.
- f. Land Adj. to 66 Eastwick Road, Eastwick 24/00065/Refuse. The applicant has taken this to appeal, and we are still awaiting decision.
- g. 3/19/1045/OUT – Outline planning for 8,500 resident homes in six separate villages etc. Was approved on 9th January 2025.
- h. 3/24/2332/NMA – Non-material amendment to 3/19/1046/FUL – Amendment to the wording of conditions 6,7,8,12,14,15,16,18,20,21,22,24,29,34,35 and 41 – Land adjacent to Fifth Avenue Existing Eastwick Crossing, Hertfordshire/Harlow. We were informed of this by Cllr Dunlop. For information, this amendment refers to application X/24/0511/CND, Construction Environment Management Plan related to the new Central Stort Crossing.

73)COMMUNITY FORUM/ NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Cllr Bryant reported the following:

EHC Gilston Area Community Forum was held 27th November 2024.

The number of residents affected by the Gilston Area development attending these forums keeps dropping, despite promoting the forum on the various village WhatsApp groups. Resident feedback suggests a perception that little new or useful information is given at the meetings.

However, the November forum was more informative, offering an opportunity to ask questions and, following several requests by the Parish Council & NPG, included a lengthy presentation by a representative of Thames Water. His presentation addressed questions submitted by the Parish Council & NPG and attempted to assuage the concerns that Thames Water would not be able to meet the demands of substantial increased sewage which will be produced by the new development in the Gilston Area plus the other developments around Harlow.

As usual, the presentation can be found at the East Herts Gilston Area Community Forum webpage <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-forums/gilston-area-community-forum> under the 27th November 2024 tab.

Dates for the next 2 forum are:

Thursday 27th February 2025

Tuesday 13th May 2025

As usual, the venue is Manor of Groves, High Wych.

We urge residents to attend these forums and, if possible, submit questions, via email, at least 10 days before to community.forum@eastherts.gov.uk

You can also ask for specific topics you want to learn more about to be included in future meetings.

Neighbourhood Development

Section 106 was **signed** and published Friday 10th January 2025.

The Decision Notice (37 pages), Delegated Decision Report (172 pages) and Committee Report (268 pages) can be found at

<https://publiaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&key-Val=PRSRKCGLO0V00>

The easiest way to access the documents is from the hegnp.org.uk web site, via Planning Applications and then Villages 1 – 6, click on The Outline Application tab

Members of the Parish Council & NPG met our **new MP**, Josh Dean, during December in an endeavour to “get to know each other”. Josh was given a brief outline of our understanding of progress on the planning applications and our ambition is for a high quality development. We urged Josh to apply pressure for the approval of funding for a new hospital in the Harlow area.

Roadworks update.

Places for People have updated their [gilstonparkestate](http://gilstonparkestate.com) website NEWS page

<https://www.gilstonparkestate.com/news/enabling-works-for-gilston-underway/>

Places for People is undertaking limited tree, scrub and vegetation clearance in accordance with the approved planning permissions for the [Eastern] Stort Crossing improvements, with work commencing in early January and concluding after six to eight weeks.

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For safety precautions, this activity will result in temporary road closures, with limited disruption to the local environment beyond the noise of moving plant and machinery.

“Although there will be limited temporary lane closures during this time, the enhancements will enable the delivery of an additional two lanes north and south, a six-lane interchange and new junctions, helping to significantly improve traffic flow through Harlow and the surrounding areas. The works will also bring forward new sustainable transport routes, comprising new cycle paths, a bridge over the River Stort and improved footpaths.

2nd January 2025, members of your Parish Council and Neighbourhood Planning Group, NPG, were invited to meet (remotely) with representatives of Places for People, PfP, and their consultants Quod along with Taylor Wimpey.

This was an encouraging meeting suggesting communication from the developers (particularly PfP) to the Parish Council, NPG and residents will improve during 2025. We were assured that events will be scheduled once the Section 106 has been signed off.

PfP / Quod are still unwilling to offer even a rough guide to proposed phasing of the development (including Central Stort Crossing, Eastern Stort Crossing and Villages 1 – 6) before the Section 106 is signed.

They tell us lots of work has been undertaken in the background on Phasing and their Construction Management Plan (which looks at how they can mitigate the impact of construction on existing residents). Approximately £1million is ring fenced to resource monitoring the development as it progresses.

Reminder that a **Village 7 webinar** was delivered by Taylor Wimpey, TW, 2nd October 2024.

This was very informative, hearing from TW

- how they had responded to residents feedback at the various consultations,

- ask questions of their design team and

-hear about their proposed next steps (phasing of Village 7 development)

The webinar slides can be found at <https://village7.co.uk/consultations/>

10th January 2025, Taylor Wimpey invited Parish Councillors and NPG members to a Village 7 Update meeting (held on-line) to discuss:

The Design Code for Village 7
Residential Reserved Matters Application 1
Infrastructure Reserved Matters Application 1

TW's consultants delivered a lengthy talk through of their draft design code , all 375 pages, with ample opportunity for questions. The document holds a considerable amount of detail with the final chapters containing housing design codes, with the aim of building a quality village .

Whilst the Design Code is nearing completion, ready for submission to East Herts Planning, they appeared willing to receive and, more importantly, consider comments and suggestions for improvement.

TW are preparing a community event for end January, actual date not yet known.

29th January 2025, TW are planning a Village 7 public exhibition at the Hunsdon Village Hall

30th January 2025, Places for People (PfP) have scheduled Village 1 Master Plan Community Working Group 4th session

To find out more about the earlier Village 1 and Strategic Landscape Master Plan Workshops go to the website <https://www.gilstonparkestate.com/get-involved/masterplan/>

Worryingly, it appears the Strategic Landscape Master Plan, SLMP, (which must be completed and approved before Village Master Plans can be submitted) is considered nearly ready for submission. This is disappointing as the Interim Report for the 4th Workshop, held July 2024, states

A full report is being compiled by Grants Associates which builds on this interim report, but also sets out the ways in which feedback has been considered in design

We have not yet seen a "full report".

nor have we been offered the opportunity to explore and discuss proposals for all areas of the SLMP, in particular the corridors between the villages including:

Fiddlers Brook Corridor
Golden Brook Corridor
Eastwick Brook Corridor

and how the Strategic Transport Corridor, STC, interfaces with existing public roads which are critical access for a significant number of existing residents.

A report of each of the 4 sessions can be found at <https://www.gilstonparkestate.com/get-involved/masterplan/>

We understand Places for People will hold various community events during 2025.

Following East Herts Council decision to approve the Planning Application for 10,000 houses in the Gilston Area a notification is being prepared for publication.

74) PARISH PATHS

a) Cllr Orson away. Nothing to report.

75) HIGHWAYS

a) Cllr Harvey reported:

1. Remaining issues on Gilston Lane and left towards High Wych were reported in April - still no action .
2. Despite considerable disruption to village in December very little has been achieved to improve drainage to Eastwick Hall Lane. Possibly 2 drains were uncovered. The drain under the lane by old stable block remains blocked with no effort made to clear it. The workers have left rubbish behind in the form of outdated notice of works still tied to posts and tyres and other articles dug out of ditches remain in view. Beware notices prop up the banks. Mud which is clearly visible on the road and creating blockages remains. The drains managed by Clarion are yet to be cleared. The trees alongside these roads up to Rosely cottages have not been pollarded for some time/ever and are becoming both too wide and tall. This has been reported to them by the parish clerk and the District Councillor.
3. I have not been given any information on Terlings Park.

4. Current works in Harlow and numerous diversions to A414 have contributed to regular congestion at the A414 roundabout by Eastwick Lodge Farm. This affects everyone in Eastwick and Gilston Parish and continue- PFP have informed us of works to trees to be completed at and near the Harlow roundabout.
5. It remains difficult to track completion of reported works through the highways portal
6. Cllr Bryant informed the meeting that she has been speaking to Peter May about the Gilston Lane and it is understood that when we have icy conditions in the lane Peter has offered to grit this for us. Clerk to write to him and thank him for all his help.

76) KNIGHT FRANK

Communication received from Joel Fayers – Meeting Places about tree clearance works that will be happening at Eastwick Lodge roundabout and Eastwick Road and Burnt Mill Lane in the next few weeks.

77) NEW HOMES BONUS / INVESTMENT INTEREST

- a) Aerial Photographs – Cllr Marx said that there was nothing more to report as if you go to the parish website it gives you information of how to obtain the aerial photos. This information will also be placed into the Parish Magazine again.

78) VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. Cllr Harvey reported:
 - b) I am pleased to say that the hall has continued with a variety of regular bookings and use by the local community. The accounts remain in excess of £20, 000. The hall continues to make use of a grant from East Herts for the supply of Golden Zumba and chair Pilates until March. A grant is also promised to improve the management of heating .
 - c) Meanwhile it is clear there have been cost benefits from the solar panels provided by money from East Herts.
 - d) The hall was sad to lose the long standing booking from the Church of God on Sundays. We wish them well in their new home.

79) GILSTON LANE SIGN – NR CHURCH COTTAGES

Cllr Bryant is looking into this matter.

80) SAFETY BARRIER, PYE CORNER

Nothing to report.

81) CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Communication has been received from Epping Forest District Council about funding for the 347 bus that coming through Gilston. This is a Essex County Council scheme where funding is available but not in Hertfordshire. The Clerk has asked for more details on this matter.

82) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

- a. None.

83) ITEMS COUNCILLORS WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA.

None.

84) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

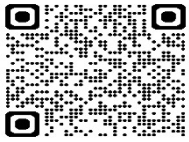
- a. Date of next meeting –
 - 10th March – Annual Parish Meeting – followed by Parish Council business meeting.
 - 12th May – Annual Meeting of the Council followed by business meeting
 - 14th July – Council Meeting
 - 15th September – Council Meeting
 - 10th November – Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 10.00pm

Cllr Buckmaster and Cllr Dunlop's reports can be found on the website attached to the Parish Council minutes – eastwickgilston.org.uk - parish council – meetings & minutes.

2023 Aerial Photographs

In 2023 Aerial Photographs were taken of our lovely parish. These photographs can be viewed in the Photo Gallery on the website.



You can access the Photo Gallery by going to <http://www.eastwickandgilston.org.uk/gallery.php?id=24> or by scanning the QR code below.

In the Photo Gallery you will see that there are different galleries for different areas of the parish.

We are working on a way to enable people to easily download the photographs for personal use and will hopefully have more information to share on this soon.

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FAULTY ROAD SURFACE?



To help us keep Hertfordshire's roads up to scratch we need YOU to let us know when things are not right! So whether it's a pothole, pavement problem, faulty streetlight, icy road or any other highway fault, go to: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highwayfault or call: 01432 261800 or General Enquiries 0300 123 4040 – Hertfordshire Highways Fault line.

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



One of the main crops of the rich agricultural area covered by The Hundred Parishes is barley, the main ingredient of traditional ales and beer. In the past, much of the barley was malted locally before being taken to a nearby brewery to be combined with water, hops and yeast for fermenting into beer.

Brewing was initially a domestic activity in the home for family consumption, on farms and estates for the landowner's family and workers, and in various institutions such as religious communities for those who lived in and visited them. As the demand for beer grew (safer to drink than 'fresh' water at the time) so did the brewing industry: public houses having their own brewhouses, commercial brewers working out of stand-alone breweries, and then the development of industrial scale brewery complexes.

Evidence of all these different types of breweries is to be found within the Hundred Parishes in the form of place names such as Brewery Lane in Stansted, Brewery House in Little Hadham; Little Brewers, a cottage in Matching Green; Brewery Cottage in Swards End; and Brewers House in Dunmow.

There are also surviving examples of the breweries from each of the various phases of the development of the industry. At Audley End House the estate's brewhouse survives although the internal features have been lost. An example of a public house brewery survives as The Old Brewery in Radwinter, now a private house. In Hatfield Heath the former stand-alone brewhouse was converted to a corn mill before becoming commercial offices.

Three examples of brewhouses which were a part of industrial brewery complexes survive in Furneux Pelham, Wethersfield and Hartford End in Felsted. All three have been renovated and converted to private residential use.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Hertfordshire County Council Elections to go ahead in May 2025 as planned.

Like all councils in two-tier areas, Hertfordshire County Council has received a [statutory invitation from the Government](#) to submit proposals for the reorganisation of local government structures in the county.

The letter sets out the criteria to be considered and the timescale, including for initial plans to be submitted in March and full proposals in November.

This follows the publication of the English Devolution White Paper in December last year which set out the Government's intention for all areas of the country to be covered by an elected Mayor and all two-tier areas like Hertfordshire, to be reorganised into single tier unitary authorities.

Cllr Richard Roberts, Leader of Hertfordshire County Council, said:

“As the Leader of Hertfordshire County Council I am ambitious for our county and our country.

“Hertfordshire is England's county of opportunity and I am determined to make sure it continues to be a great place to live, work and invest.

“My priority remains to ensure that any changes benefit Hertfordshire's residents and businesses, maintains our excellent local government services, and enables strong democratic accountability to our communities.

“The Government's plans represent the biggest transformation of local government and public services for half a century. The impact will be felt for generations to come and the timescales they have set present a significant demand on all councils in Hertfordshire.

“With financial and staffing pressures on every council in the county I am concerned about the need to now balance continuing to provide high-quality services with the significant work required to prepare proposals for new council structures.

“I also recognise there are currently differing views on the future model for local government in Hertfordshire. I am committed to working together with district and borough councils to find the best way to protect and enhance services to our residents, support our businesses to grow, and provide value for money.

“All 11 councils in Hertfordshire, with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, are already collaborating to develop a shared evidence base to inform the options available to our county. We will now carefully consider the Government's request and jointly develop our response.

“This work is at an early stage and the views of residents, businesses, local government partners, our colleagues, and other stakeholders across the public and private sectors will be essential as it develops. We are also committed to providing updates at every step.

“I have not been actively seeking changes to the structure of local government in Hertfordshire, but the Government is now clear that keeping the status quo is not an option.

“Unlike some areas, Hertfordshire County Council did not ask Government to delay this year's elections nor apply for the fast-track devolution priority programme. This was to allow as much time as possible to gather and analyse the necessary information to develop proposals and build consensus where possible. It was also to ensure that the local democratic cycle was not interrupted at this vital and historic moment for our County. The negotiation of this significant change with the government requires a depth of understanding, engagement and delivery based on an honest electoral mandate and we will uphold that with elections on May 1st.”

Benefice of High Wych and Gilston with Eastwick
Church website: stjameshighwych.org.uk
Facebook: Gilston & Eastwick church's
For all recorded church services go to the Facebook page above.

MARCH SERVICES 2025

2nd March	Sunday next before Lent	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		9.30am 10.00am	For breakfast and Family Service	St James, High Wych
5 th March	Ash Wednesday	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service	St James, High Wych
9 th March	1 st Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		11.15am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Gilston
16 th March	2 nd Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		4.00- 6.00pm	Messy Church	St James, High Wych
23 rd March	3 rd Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		11.15am	Family Service	St Botolph's, Eastwick
28 th March	Friday	2.30pm	Rivers Service	Rivers Hospital
30 th March	4 th Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych

Benefice churches will be open for private prayer. St James, open every day 9.00am to 4.00pm. An information notice is displayed outside the church. St Mary's open every day 8.00am to 4.00pm and for advice on opening of St. Botolph's for private prayer, please contact Rev. Alison Jackson.

PRIEST IN CHARGE: Rev'd Alison Jackson **01279 790145**
revajacksonhwge@outlook.com **07833 667707**
1 Dovedale, High Wych, Sawbridgeworth CM21 0DT

READER: Judith Denton, Path Cottage, High Wych Lane, CM21 0JP 01279 723714

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Cath Sharples 01279 600996

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) 01727 818107

HIGH WYCH PARISH

LAY LEADER OF WORSHIP: Jan Bellingham 01279 724247

CHURCH WARDENS:

Janet Bellingham 01279 724247

Sam Clark 07717542524

GILSTON WITH EASTWICK PARISH

CHURCH WARDENS:

Michael Shaw 01279 726792

We have a vacancy for a Church Warden

LAY LEADER OF WORSHIP / MISSION ENABLER:

Rosemary Davis 01279 419763

PCC SECRETARY:

Mrs Christine Law 01279 411646

PCC TREASURER: Werner Marx marxwerner2@gmail.com

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Psalm 139 (extract) verses 13-16

For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful,

I know that full well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you

when I was made in the secret place,

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;

all the days ordained for me were written in your book

before one of them came to be.

MARCH Letter



How we say Goodbye

As many of you may know my Mum now lives with us and has done for over a year. She is 95 and loves watching a bit of ITV3. The other evening I did not have any meetings and I sat and watched something with her and noticed all the advertisements. Many were for sick animals, over 50's life insurance and for direct cremations. I don't know if this is striking a cord with many of you?

Direct cremations or unattended funerals used to be filled with such pathos, the funerals of people so utterly alone in this world that not one person was alive to come and say Goodbye.

However today we have a growing number, of direct cremations. The shiny ads on tv which trumpet this type of service are trying to persuade us to believe we will be doing our family a favour if we go down that road. In my opinion they appear to be preying on the elderly asking them to consider making the lives of their loved ones easier and cheaper. This service is quite literally, the last word in convenience. I can't blame the funeral industry for this new undertaking; it's a logical extension for a consumer-driven operation. We live in the mobile ordering – 'Just Eat' for food, drive-thru and pavement pick-up and now - 'Just die' for direct cremations!!!

What do we think about the indignity of having your loved one's body shipped off somewhere from a chilled warehouse to a crematorium when they have a spare slot with the ashes being conveyed directly to you without any unnecessary detour to a chapel of rest, or church, no way to say 'Goodbye'. This way you don't even have to take a day off work! Let alone sit with the idea of what the loss of your loved one may mean to you and your family.

Believe it or not (and admittedly I understand that many of you may not believe) it remains a tenet of the Christian faith that human beings are more than a flesh and blood biological machine that has stopped working. Christians believe that we are all created in the image of God. It tells us in Palm 139 that God knows us even before we are born. Our lives are written on the palm of God's hand. Our bodies, says the Bible, are given to us in sacred trust – jars of clay honoured for the treasure of the soul they carry.

'Ashes to ashes – dust to dust'. Those words were never meant to sound as an after thought, the last gleanings of our lives swept up and boxed up for home delivery at the moment of their extinction. And I don't think that many people want that for themselves either. Yes, Granny may have said something about 'just chuck me over the garden hedge' when she dies. However, I'd be very surprised if you were ever expected to truly take her at her word. What she probably meant to say is that attending funerals is hard and she doesn't want to be a bother. Whichever way you spin it, funeral services mean death and grief and dirty great bills, emotional cost as well as financial cost – and we might want to avoid that because of the pain it may cause us.

We can't avoid it really. The end of life, if we believe a life has meaning, is, or can be, a painful event. The end of life, is hard for us to face, at any funeral we come face to face with our own mortality and how this loss affects us. But if we pluck up courage to stand in person and look on death at a funeral service, to feel the enormity of this life lost, then we stand as a witness to the value of all lives. Saying a proper 'Goodbye' is your opportunity to thank God for the person you have lost, to remember them, this is your final act of love and service for them. It can also be a celebration of all that this person has meant to you over the years. There is little doubt in my mind that the way we commemorate the dead in this country is changing. Very few of us will now remove a hat for a passing hearse, or as a driver not be frustrated by having to give way to a funeral cortege on its solemn journey. I've noticed that people no longer seem to stop or bow their head in respect, and keeping silence when asked to remember those who gave their lives for us on Remembrance Day feels difficult, and for the poor bereaved person, they are supposed to get on with it, get over it, move on.....

We are all loved by God, valued by God and this act of saying 'Goodbye' is such an important part of the bereavement process. God shows us how to love and we in turn are called to love each other.

I am not suggesting that everyone should have a Christian funeral but I am suggesting that every person needs a time of remembering, of celebrating the life they had, remembering the joys and the sadnesses, and also the impact they had on our lives.

If you really want to do your family a favour, write down what you would like to happen, any music you would want, or poems, or prose or bible readings or whether you would want to be buried or cremated and where. This would be so helpful for those left behind.

May God bless you

Your Priest Alison

The Elephant in the Room

As you may have read over the past few months the Church of England is having to put it's house in order after some serious safeguarding issues have come to light. These are being addressed, measures which include appointing a new Archbishop of Canterbury, who has stepped down as these issues have come to light. I want to reassure everyone that your local parish church is here for you and it takes safeguarding very seriously. We have our own safeguarding Officer, Ms Cath Sharples and all the necessary safety requirements are being taken whenever we meet with your children. Most of our activities include you, as parents, so there are very few opportunities for your children to be without you unsupervised. If you have any concerns at all please can you talk to me or get in contact with our safeguarding officer.

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2025 The Lent Challenge

During Lent we are called to give things up that may harm us, like alcohol, smoking, maybe to fast from chocolate or too much social media, or TV – the idea being that the time this frees up you can give more attention to God, in prayer and reading the Bible.

We are also called during Lent to remember those worse off than ourselves and there are so many ways we can do this. We can give our money to charity, maybe sending help to children in Gaza who are struggling without food and basic necessities:-

[Donate to Gaza Appeal for Children in Crisis - UNICEF UK](#) – (follow this link to financially give).

Or maybe you would like to organise a Lent Lunch or Lent Brekkie and invite people to join you, eat yummy food and donate to Christian Aid and their action against Poverty.

[Lent Lunches | Christian Aid](#) – (follow this link to find out how to go about it and see all the resources they provide to help you with this).

Or you may want to look closer to home and take up the **Lent Challenge for our own area**. We are committing to give generously to the Pop-Up shop during Lent, focussing on a particular area of food/household products each week as follows:-

Week 1 - we focus on bringing soft drinks for that week.

Week 2 – cans of food.

Week 3 – dried goods

Week 4 - Household cleaning products.

Week 5 – chocolate (small Easter eggs)

Week 6 – Special Easter food

This will call us to sacrifice some of our wealth but it will benefit others who are struggling. The church at St James, High Wych is open every day from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm for you to bring food and place in the green box provided, and we will make sure this food gets to the Pop-Up Shop.

LENT BIBLE STUDY GROUP IS ON 12th, 19th, 26th March and 2nd, 9th & 16th April. The Rectory, 1 Dovedale, High Wych CM21 0D. Further information contact Rev Alison Jackson on 07833 667707

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Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is a Christian religious holiday that is observed every year 46 days before [Easter](#). It is the first day of the Lenten season (see [Lent](#)), a time of fasting and abstinence, penitence and prayer for observant Christians. It falls on a different date each year because it is determined by the date of [Easter Sunday](#). It can occur **as early as February 4** or **as late as March 10**. It derives its name from the practice of ceremonially making an ashen cross on the foreheads or placing ashes on the heads of adherents as a symbol of mourning and repentance to God. The words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" or similar are said during the ceremony. Special church services are held for this, often in the evening of Ash Wednesday. The ashes used are typically gathered after the blessed palm fronds (which are a symbol of victory, triumph, peace and eternal life) from the previous year's [Palm Sunday](#) service have been burned on [Shrove Tuesday](#). Ash Wednesday falls on the day after Shrove Tuesday (also known as [Fat Tuesday](#) and [Pancake Day](#)), the last day of feasting and indulging in rich foods that one might give up as a sacrifice for the upcoming 40 days of the Lenten season. It occurs just after the excesses of two days of Carnival, which are celebrated in regions of Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Northern Europe. Some observant Christians conduct a full fast (complete fast or bread and water fast) during daytime on Ash Wednesday (and also on [Good Friday](#)) and only break the fast at sunset. A few continue fasting all through Lent. It is a national public holiday in some countries (eg. Jamaica, Cayman Islands), a holiday for bank and/or government workers and some businesses in others (eg. Guadeloupe, Panama), and not a public holiday in the United States, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and other European countries (though some local observances may be held).



Nature Notes by the late Cynthia Howe, long-time nature lover and resident of Gilston

Saturday, 5 March 2011

Spring Time

My biggest pheasant the Emperor is here with his mate every day. I wish she wasn't so nervous as it makes it difficult to take a good photograph of her -- she is usually running for cover and mostly I just end up with a blurred back end of her. I shall keep trying!

The garden is looking so pretty, there are so many flowers out now.

Monday, 7 March 2011

Horse Chestnut

On the edge of Hertingfordbury are several footpaths -- we explored one that led to Hertford. It wasn't an inspiring one, but the birdsong was wonderful. Just before the footpath, I spied a conker, not as richly bur-nished as last autumn but still a little shiny. I don't know how but it was still intact and lay on the middle of the path, from its side I saw a fat healthy shoot growing down and into the layer of last autumn's now rotting leaves. Obviously it would never be successful, I felt it was lucky to have lived this long given the situation it was trying to grow in, hard man made path under the layer of leaves that cushioned it and I marvelled that it hadn't been stepped upon or collected by some inquisitive child, who may never have seen a conker with its shoot extended before.

We collected it and took it with us until a more suitable growing place was found, and here we planted it. Hopefully it will settle down, grow strongly and one day children will play around it and gather its own conkers.

We enjoyed overhanging shrubs such as forsythia, and found a larch cone dropped onto the bare branches of a shrub, although alone, it looked so pretty.

The most eye catching of all was a shrub on a nearby roadside -- it was covered in bright yellow flowers and such a picture. It was a winter flowering shrub called Cornus mas, a dogwood, and I thought how every gar-den should have one, it was so bright and cheerful.

Tuesday, 8 March 2011

Birds and Butterflies

Redwings and fieldfares in the garden this morning, flying between trees -- I was pleased to see them, al-though a little surprised because there are no berries left on any bushes or trees and they never use the feed-ing station.

Followed with delight the erratic flight of two butterflies, a brimstone and a red admiral.

Wednesday, 9 March 2011

Clouds

This evening brought with it some really moody looking skies.

Thursday, 10 March 2011

Barney

Visited relatives in Reading today who are also great friends. They have an excellent feeding station very close to the house and bird watching there is a great joy. They have all of the usual birds plus great spotted woodpeckers, pied wagtails and a pair of black caps. The garden is very long and at dusk and dawn they are visited by foxes, who at present have cubs.

They have a little dog a Westie (West Highland White), he is a cute little fellow and causes much merriment with his antics. He is an excellent companion and house dog but the thing I like best about Barney is the way he stands at the back door watching the garden, and immediately a pigeon or squirrel appears he de-mands to be let out. As soon as the door is opened he is off faster than the wind tearing across the patio, down the steps and across the lawn and beware any pigeons and squirrels, he doesn't ever catch them, but the fun for Barney is in the chase.

Amazingly, the birds take no notice of him and just continue feeding.

P.S. The foxes at night, of course, unsettle Barney.



MOTHERING SUNDAY

*It is the day of all the year
Of all the year the one day,
And here come I, my Mother dear,
To bring you cheer,
A – mothering on Sunday*

In a past age of few holidays the middle Sunday in Lent was one when young people working away from home were given the day off to visit their mothers. From the 16th Century on, girls “in service” would bake to show their mothers their new skills in the form of a gift. This traditional gift was a Simnel Cake, which is a rich fruit cake with a layer of marzipan in the middle and another on top.

SIMNEL CAKE

8oz plain flour	pinch of salt	2oz rice flour	large pinch of baking powder
8oz sultanas	4oz currants	4oz glacé cherries (chopped & washed)	
8oz butter	1oz candied peel (finley chopped)	grated rind of 2 lemons	
8oz caster sugar	4 eggs (separated)		

ALMOND PASTE

8oz ground almonds	10oz caster sugar	6oz icing sugar (sifted)
2 egg yolks, or 1 whole egg	juice of ½ lemon	1-2 teaspoon orange flower water

Prepare the cake tin and set the oven at 350F (Reg4).

To make the almond paste, place the almonds caster sugar and sifted icing sugar in a bowl and mix them together. Whisk egg yolks (or whole egg) with the lemon juice and flavourings and add this to the mixture of ground almonds and sugar. Pound paste lightly to release a little of the oil from the almonds. Knead paste with the hands until smooth. Store in cool place until needed.

CAKE MIX

Sift the flour with the salt, baking powder and rice flour into a large basin. Mix together the sultanas, currants, cherries and peel. Cream the butter with the lemon rind until soft, add the sugar and continue creaming until mixture is light and fluffy, then beat in the egg yolks. Whip egg whites until stiff. Fold one-thirds of the flour into the mixture, then fold in the egg whites alternately with remaining flour and fruit. Put half the mixture into prepared tin spreading it a little up the sides. Take just over one-thirds of the almond paste, roll it into a smooth round, place it in the tin and cover with the remaining cake mixture. Bake in the pre-set oven for 2 hours, then reduce heat to 300F (Reg2), cover cake with a double thickness of greased paper and continue cooking for 30 mins, or until a skewer inserted in the cake comes out clean. Allow to cool a little, then remove it from the tin and slide it onto a baking sheet.

DECORATION

Divide the remaining almond paste in two, shape one portion into a number of even –sized balls and arrange them round the top edge of the cake. Brush the paste with a little beaten egg, put the cake under the grill for a few minutes to brown. When the cake is cold, pour a little warm glacé icing on the centre of the cake. Arrange a group of marzipan fruits, made from the last portion of almond paste on the icing and tie a ribbon round the cake.

If you are unable to see this Newsletter, or the attachments within it, clearly on your phone or tablet, you can also find it on the Surgery's website, halfway down the Home Page.



Using the NHS App

For those patients who do not yet use the NHS App, please consider installing it on your phone. It is very user friendly and will give you access to your Health Record, Letters and Messages, Ordering Prescriptions and viewing your Hospital Appointments at all times.



What is the NHS App?

The NHS App is owned and run by the NHS. It can be accessed by anyone aged 13 and over registered with an NHS GP surgery in England or Isle of Man.

Once you have verified your identity in the app, you will have easy, 24/7 access to a growing range of health services and information.

It doesn't replace existing services. You can still contact your GP surgery in the usual ways.

What does the NHS App do?

Your health

- **view your GP health record**
view your medical history, test results, allergies, and medicines
- **register your organ donation decision**
choose to donate some or all of your organs and check your registered decision
- **take part in health research**
register with Be Part of Research to help us provide better care and treatment

Prescriptions

- **order repeat prescriptions**
request repeat prescriptions without having to contact your GP surgery
- **nominate a pharmacy**
choose a pharmacy where your prescriptions will be sent to

Appointments

- **book appointments with your GP Surgery**
book, view and cancel appointments
- **book and manage hospital appointments in one place**
you can choose your treatment provider from a list provided by your GP/referrer, and see information on most of them, including who to contact, waiting times, distance and booking details
- **manage vaccination appointments**
book, amend or cancel vaccination appointments

Send and receive messages

- **contact your GP surgery**
request care from your GP surgery using an online form
- **receive messages and notifications**
view messages from your GP surgery and get notifications through your phone or tablet

Help someone else

- **linked profiles**
access the health records, appointments and prescriptions of people you care for (including children) – or get help from someone you trust

Advice and information

- **search symptoms, conditions, and treatments**
use the health A-Z to check symptoms and treatments, and get advice on what to do next
- **get health advice through 111 online**
check if you need urgent help and find out what to do next
- **find NHS services**
search for services near you
- **check your NHS number**
check your NHS number and manage your contact details within the NHS App

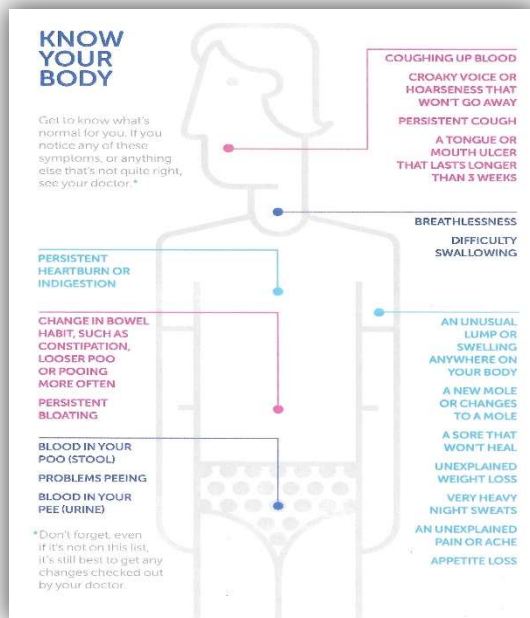


The 2025 Patient Questionnaire: Last month you should have received the 2025 version by text from the surgery. If you are unable to find your text, please look out for posters around the town with a QR code which will give you access to the Questionnaire. We would be very grateful if as many patients as possible could let us have their views so we can track improvement over time. Please make sure that you have completed the Questionnaire by

31st March 2025.

Winter Pressures on the NHS: Over the past 2 months, there have been unusually high pressures on the NHS with 'Flu, Pneumonia and Norovirus. Thank you for helping by using the right NHS service for your needs during this time. This has meant that they have been able to keep hospitals and emergency departments available for treating those with life threatening or very serious conditions.

- Please continue to use our Pharmacists to help with minor symptoms. There is also a service that allows you to walk into a pharmacy and get advice and medicine, if needed, for these minor illnesses and health concerns. Where the pharmacist is unable to help or if your symptoms need further investigation, they will direct you to your GP surgery or another health care professional:
 - Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
 - Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
 - Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
 - Sore throats (aged 5 years and over)
 - Shingles (aged 18 years and over)
 - Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
 - Urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)
- And please continue to use online consultations where possible and avoid calling at the 8am rush, even though your GP practice is open from 8am to 6.30pm every weekday. Visit your practice website for information on how to access their services if you need help with an ongoing health concern.



- In November, your Patients' Group hosted a Cancel out Cancer evening in the Memorial Hall. We had hoped for more attendees but so that you don't miss out on the very useful information given on the evening we are reproducing this important poster to help you to 'KNOW YOUR BODY'.
- Please don't be someone who says, "I wish that I had gone to the GP earlier."
- Take notice of your body and book an appointment to see a GP if you think that something isn't right.

4 in 10 cancer cases in England can be prevented...



JIMMY'S
Baby & Toddler Group

Every Thursday morning
From 9.30am to 11.30am
at High Wych Memorial Hall
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Healthy snacks will be provided

£2 per session, per family
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- 2. CHECK ONLINE?**
Is the information already on our website?
Check online: www.herts.police.uk
- 3. REPORT ONLINE?**
Has a crime already happened and you want to report it?
Report online: www.herts.police.uk
- 4. LIVE CHAT / CALL 101**
Do you want to share some information with us or speak to someone specific? Use live chat, otherwise call 101.
- 5. CALL 999**
Is it an emergency? Is a crime happening right now, or is a life or property at risk? Call 999.

HELP US TO HELP YOU
SCAN THIS CODE TO GET ONLINE QUICKLY


WHEN USING OUR PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY PLEASE BE AWARE

Please make sure your dogs are under control and if not on leads in your sight.

Always clean up your dog's poo because it can cause illness in people, livestock and wildlife

Never leave bags of dog poo around, even if you intend to pick them up later.

Deodorised bags and containers can make bags of dog poo easier to carry. If you cannot find a public waste bin, you should take it home and use your own bin.



PLEASE clean up after your dog



Run by the churches of High Wych & Gilston with Eastwick
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07833667707
or: 01279 790145

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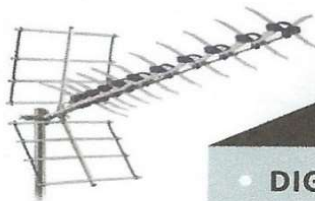


Are you struggling with your energy bills?

If you live in Sawbridgeworth, High Wych, Gilston, Eastwick or Spellbrook and your financial situation meets the criteria, you may be eligible for assistance from **The Sawbridgeworth Charitable Trust**.

For more information, please contact our clerk:
Di Kitson on 01279 723212 or email: diana.kitson@btinternet.com





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We are often called upon to help with school uniforms or perhaps a small bonus at Christmas.

We are not allowed to pay rents or council Tax.

The charity covers those living in Sawbridgeworth, High wych, Gilston, Eastwick and Allens Green.

You will be required to fill in an application form and total confidentiality is adhered to at all times.

In the first instance please apply to the Clerk.
Mrs Di Kitson
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DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE YOU THINK MAY
BE OF INTEREST TO THE
READERS

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ADVERTISED OR SOME INFORMATION THAT
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NEXT SESSION

Sunday 16th March
St James Church, High Wych
(4pm – 6pm)

This is a free all age, family Friendly event focused on having Fun and creating time for us to Come together and hear the Stories of Jesus, plus other bible Stories and growing as a Community.

We will do crafting, singing, listen To a story and then eat some Yummy food together, what could Be better!

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VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

We have four defibrillators within our two villages and they can be found at:

Gilston & Eastwick Village Hall, Pye Corner – CM20 2RB

Can be found on the outside at the front of the building by the notice board.



The Lion Public House, Eastwick – CM20 2QP

Can be found in the covered area to the right of the pub courtyard.

St Mary's Church, Gilston Lane, Gilston – CM20 2RJ

Can be found in the porch as you enter the church on the right-hand side.

Terlings Park, Kirkpatrick Place – CM20 2FX

Can be found outside of the entrance gates beside the intercom.

The defibrillator is designed to be very easy to use and talks you through what you need to do step by step.

If you are in the unfortunate position of needing to use it you simply

Phone 999

You will be given the code to open the cabinet and then supported by the Emergency Services.

CLOTHES BANK VILLAGE HALL, PYE CORNER, GILSTON

TO ALL RESIDENTS



THE CLOTHES BANK CAN BE FOUND AT THE BACK OF THE VILLAGE HALL IN ITS CAR PARK.

WE NOW HAVE A CLOTHES BANK FOR YOU TO USE.

IT TAKES ONLY OLD CLOTHES, HANDBAGS, BELTS AND SHOES (PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL ITEMS ARE IN BAGS).

IT WILL NOT TAKE – SOILED RAGS, CARPET, RUGS, BLANKETS, TOWELS, SHEETS, GLASS, METAL, PAPER OR RUBBISH. THIS WILL BE EMPTIED ONCE A WEEK FOR US.

+++++

THE EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH MAGAZINE MONTHLY DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE 16TH OF EACH MONTH – TO BE SENT TO IN A WORD DOCUMENT:

christine.law2@btinternet.com

The Parish Magazine is printed for us by: Shogun Print, Shogun House, Unit 2 Wilems Works, Forest Road, Hainault, Essex IG6 3HJ 07956 301 169 –

[e.mail: neale@shogunprint.com](mailto:neale@shogunprint.com) – [web site www.shogun-print.com](http://www.shogun-print.com)

Terlings Park History Talk



Saturday 1st March

10.30am – arrive for coffee

11.00am – talk starts

**12.00pm – opportunity to share information/stories/
memories**

Have you ever wondered what Terlings Park was like before the houses were built? What it looked like or who lived here perhaps? Come along to a talk at Gilston Village Hall to find out a bit more. The talk will share historic maps and photos as well as stories of the residents including the 19th century operatic diva Madame Caradori and the fantastic Mrs Calverley OBE and her motor launch!

Address: Gilston Village Hall, CM20 2RB

With support from Gilston & Eastwick Parish Council and Village Hall Committee

Register to attend at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/terlings-park-history-talk-2025-tickets-1128656083729?aff=oddtctcr>

Join us for our annual

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SATURDAY 1ST MARCH 4.00PM – 6.00PM

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