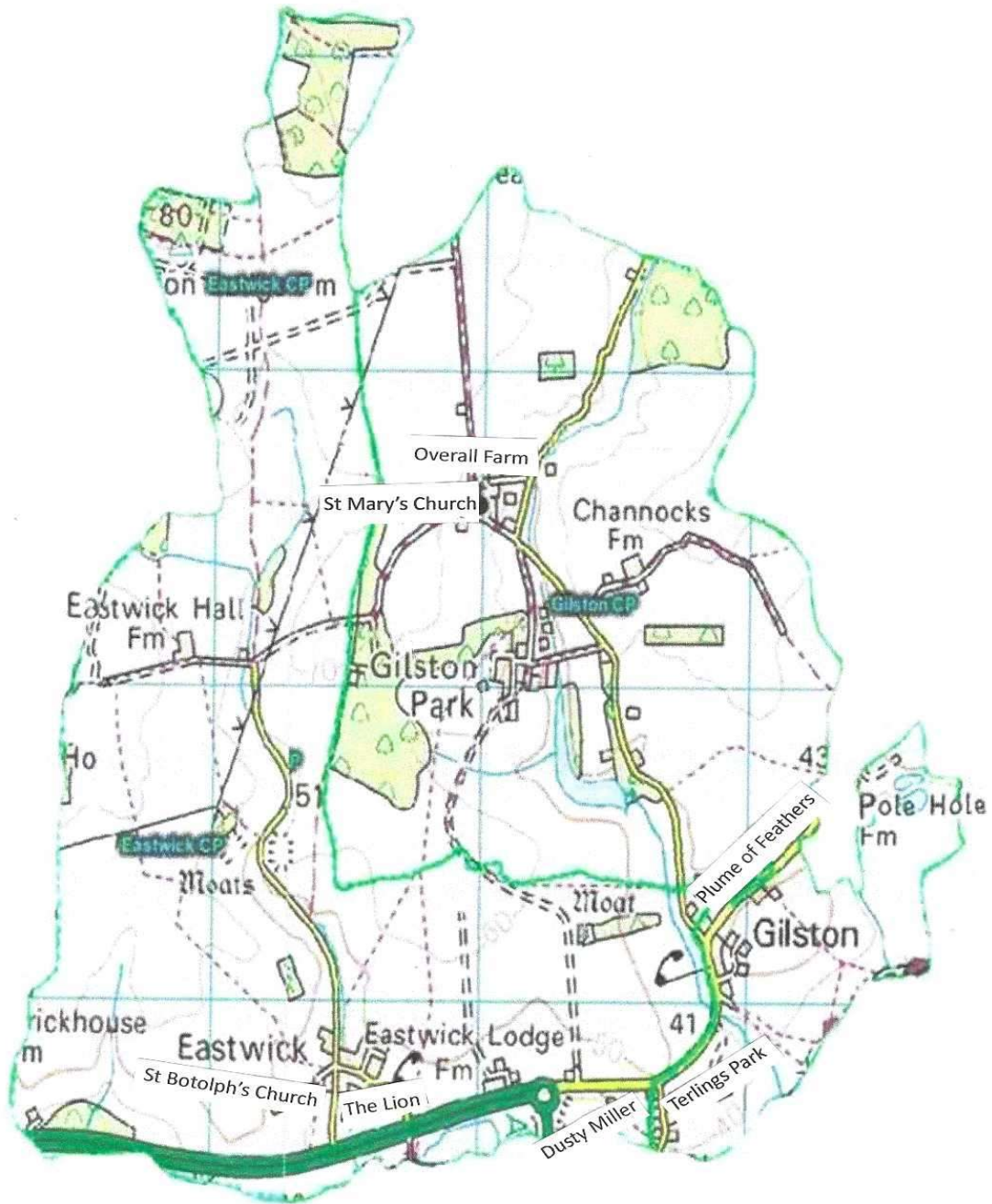


# EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH MAGAZINE



SEPTEMBER 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](http://www.eastwickgilston.org.uk)

|                  |                       |  |                  |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b>    |                       |  |                  |
|                  | <b>Parish Council</b> | Parish Clerk – Christine Law 01279 411646<br>Meet on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of January, March, May, July, September & November | 8.00pm – 10.00pm |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   |                       |  |                  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | <b>Phonics Fox</b>    | Amy Abblitt – <a href="mailto:amy@thePhonicsFox.com">amy@thePhonicsFox.com</a>   | 9.30am – 11.30am |
|                  |                       | Hall Cleaning  | 1.00pm – 3.00pm  |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | <b>Baby Massage</b>   | Elena Luck   | 9.30am – 2.30pm  |
|                  | <b>Irish Dancing</b>  | Amanda Hennigan – 07713974077<br>For More Information  | 6.30pm – 8.30pm  |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | <b>Chair Pilates</b>  | Sarah-Jane – <a href="mailto:sarahjane_786@hotmail.com">sarahjane_786@hotmail.com</a>  | 10.30am -11.30am |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>  |                       |  |                  |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    |                       |  |                  |

**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](mailto:gevillagehall@gmail.com) For any bookings and queries about the Village Hall please contact: [gevillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:gevillagehall@gmail.com). Or go to [www.eastwickgilston.org.uk](http://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](http://eastwickandgilston.org.uk)

[www.gilston.info](http://www.gilston.info)  
[gilston@meeting-place.uk](mailto:gilston@meeting-place.uk)

**HUNSDON EASTWICK & GILSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP WEBSITE:** [hegnp.org.uk](http://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](mailto:enquiries@eastherts.gov.uk), [eastherts.gov.uk/flytipping](http://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 PARISH COUNCILLORS

## EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL



**CHAIRMAN**  
MARK ORSON  
Neighbourhood Planning Group  
Footpaths Officer



**VICE CHAIR**  
JANINE BRYANT  
Neighbourhood Planning Group



LINDA HARVEY  
Highways  
Village Hall Committee



WERNER MARX



JAMES BEAZLEY



**PARISH CLERK**  
CHRISTINE LAW  
01279 411646  
[clerk@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk)



JOHN DUNLOP  
EAST HERTS DISTRICT  
COUNCILLOR



ERIC BUCKMASTER  
HERTFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCILLOR

### CONTACT DETAILS - Email Addresses:

|                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| MARK ORSON     | - | <a href="mailto:cllr.m.orson@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk">cllr.m.orson@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk</a>     |
| JANINE BRYANT  | - | <a href="mailto:cllr.j.bryant@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk">cllr.j.bryant@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk</a>   |
| LINDA HARVEY   | - | <a href="mailto:cllr.l.harvey@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk">cllr.l.harvey@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk</a>   |
| WERNER MARX    | - | <a href="mailto:cllr.w.marx@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk">cllr.w.marx@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk</a>       |
| JAMES BEAZLEY  | - | <a href="mailto:cllr.j.beazley@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk">cllr.j.beazley@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk</a> |
| ERIC BUCKMASTR | - | <a href="mailto:eric.buckmaster@hertfordshire.gov.uk">eric.buckmaster@hertfordshire.gov.uk</a>                     |
| JOHN DUNLOP    | - | <a href="mailto:john.dunlop@eastherts.gov.uk">john.dunlop@eastherts.gov.uk</a>                                     |

# EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON  
MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025– 8.00PM

VILLAGE HALL, PYE CORNER

All residents are most welcome to attend our council meetings.

CHRISTINE LAW - PARISH CLERK  
01279 411646                      clerk@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk

**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 Parish Council Business Meeting of Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Village Hall, Pye Corner, Gilston 8.00pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr’s Beazley, Bryant, Harvey, Marx, Orson, Cllr Eric Buckmaster (CC), 1 member of the public. Christine Law (Clerk) in attendance.

Cllr Buckmaster and Cllr Dunlop’s reports are attached to these minutes and can also be found on the web site.

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To follow the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Item 3 Election of Chairman** in which Cllr Orson was not present but in his absence was elected as Chairman.

**Item 4 Declaration of Acceptance Office** – Cllr Orson accepted the office and duly signed the acceptance form with the clerk as witness. Form will now be kept as a record.

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### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Concern was raised that the gates to the Hunsdon Airfield from Acorn Street, Hunsdon had been locked preventing access for maintaining the Hunsdon War Memorial. Post meeting PFP advised that Knight Frank should be contacted to arrange access.
2. Concern was raised about speeding motorbikes in Gilston Lane. The Lane has a 60mph speed limit and any enforcement issues should be referred to the Police.

### **BUSINESS MEETING STARTED AT 8.15PM**

#### **16) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- a) John Dunlop (EHDC).

#### **17) RECEIVE COUNCILLOR’S DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- a) Cllr Marx – item 19.c.

## **18) MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

- a) The minutes of 10th March 2025 were proposed by Cllr Harvey and seconded by Cllr Beazley  
b) The minutes of 1st April 2025 were proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Marx

Both signed by Cllr Bryant (Vice Chair) as a true record.

## **19) ACCOUNTS**

- a) Clerks report to the Council of accounts summary (appendix 1).  
b) CCLA Investment Account –it was agreed to transfer £20,000.00 of the CCLA investment interest earned from the Parish Council’s Deposit Bank Account to the CCLA Investment Account.  
c) Gilston Village Entrance Sign, Bakers Lane – Cllr Bryant informed the meeting that she was still waiting for information from HCC Highways, Cllr Buckmaster agreed to help progress matters.  
d) Zurich Insurance Annual Premium - £302.40 was agreed.  
e) The annual donation for churchyard maintenance of £600.00 was agreed.  
f) Cllr Beazley queried the lack of a debit for £850 in respect of the funding of 2 benches for Terlings Park, agreed at the last meeting, and described as 'complete' in the TPMC Directors' Update. The Parish Clerk explained that no invoice had been received and undertook to contact the TP project manager for an update. Update since our meeting an invoice has been received from the contractor and has been paid.

a-f proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Harvey agreed by all council.

## **20) PLANNING AND ASSOCIATED APPLICATIONS**

- a) 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.  
b) 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. Granted.  
c) 2-7 Kirkpatrick Place, Gilston – 3/25/0705/FUL – New application – replacing 6 juliet balconies with new cantilever balconies (to measurer 3.0metres wide, 1200mm deep, 1200mm high). Balconies to be grey aluminium frame and glazes to the front and sides. Granted.  
d) Plume of Feathers P.H. – 3/25/0545/LBC & 3/25/0546/FUL – Proposed external hot food hut positioned in garden seating area. Parish council discussed this at our meeting and response has been sent to Planning – Application withdrawn.  
e) Hodgson House, Gilston – 3/25/0543/HH – Demolition of outbuilding. Erection of a single-storey rear extension with green roof and roof lights and alterations to fenestrations. Erection of a single-storey outbuilding with green roof. Granted.  
f) X/25/0215/CND – Discharge condition 6 (Strategic Landscape Masterplan) attached to 3/19/1045/OUT – Land North of the Stort Valley and the A414 Gilston, Herts. Awaiting decision.  
g) 2 Vine Grove, Pye Corner, Gilston – 3/25/0831/HH – Proposed single storey rear extension. Awaiting decision.

- h) 4 Vine Grove, Pye Corner, Gilston – 3/25/0855/HH – Proposed part single, part double storey rear extension, insertion of a new first floor side window. Awaiting decision.

## **21) DOCUMENTS TO BE AGREED AND APPROVED**

- a) Parish Council Financial Regulations updates were adopted by the Council. Now published on the web site.
- b) Parish Council Public Participation document was discussed and adopted by the Council. Now published on the web site.

## **22) PARISH PATHS**

Cllr Orson reported:

- a) FP 22 - It has been confirmed that FP22 remains open while National Power sponsored work is carried out by their contractors Morrisons, it had been reported that on at least two occasions walkers had been stopped from using the path. Morrisons investigated and advised that an over-enthusiastic security guard has admitted that walkers have been refused access to this path. They have sent their apologies and say that they have again fully briefed this guard and everyone else concerned with the site that walkers should not be prevented from using the path but be guided through when it is safe to do so.
- b) FP 9 and FP 16 - The kissing gates on footpath 16 do not appear to be needed any more, as there are no longer any livestock to be retained in that field. The remains of the gates could be removed and the vegetation cleared. The gates on FP 9 could be upgraded to larger gates. Work to be coordinated with HCC Volunteer Team.
- c) Mowing - all the paths in Eastwick and Gilston, except FP16 have been mowed by HCC Contractors and a fallen tree cleared from FP3, 9, 22 and 27. Vegetation has been well cleared around all the benches.

## **23) COMMUNITY FORUM/ NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

- a) Cllr Bryant's report is attached as appendix 2

## **24) HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Harvey reported:

- a) Works have been carried out to improve the road surface and signage around Pye Corner.
- b) The works to Eastwick Hall Lane have yet to be announced. It remains important for locals to report potholes and road problems via the Herts County Council Website - [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk). Their website states timescales for road repairs-
- i) Emergency Road repair dealt within 2-4 hours
- ii) Permanent pothole repair- within 1-4 weeks if the pothole meets intervention levels.
- iii) Street lighting defects- repaired within 4 weeks if the fault is not on an A , B, or C road.
- iv) Non -emergency works- logged and assessed to be included in regular maintenance works, if possible. We try to group these together to be efficient as possible. If there is severe weather, there may be a delay in these time scales.

## **25) NEW HOMES BONUS/ INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**



## Appendix 2 – Community Forum and Neighbourhood Development

### Item 23 EHC Community Forum and Neighbourhood Development

**EHC Gilston Area Community Forum held** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Places for People and Taylor Wimpey gave a useful presentation on the draft **Programme and Phasing** for the development, providing outline of forthcoming actions.

The presentation is available 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 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 tab.

There are no further Forums currently scheduled, however, the next one is expected late September / October. 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](mailto: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

**Judicial Review** for the two Gilston outline applications was dismissed and East Herts have been awarded costs. It is anticipated that the claimant may seek a hearing.

**Strategic Landscape Master Plan, SLMP**, for the whole Gilston Area (Villages 1-6 and Village 7) is with East Herts Planning Department for review / approval. X/25/0215/CND

#### **Villages 1 – 6**, Places for People

A short summary of process and timeline can be found in our District Councillor's July 2025 report. Village 1 Master Plan expected shortly after SLMP is approved.

#### **Stewardship,**

The **Shadow Advisory Group, SAG**, (membership published in the May 2025 minutes)

Several meetings have been held resulting in a draft Interim Outline Business Plan which was submitted to EHC by the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 deadline.

**An interesting dilemma – to establish a name** for the Gilston Development Area that is relevant to the whole area that can be seen to be inclusive of existing villages and the new.

**Ideas welcomed.**

**Village 7**, Taylor Wimpey submitted their Village 7 Master Plan, found by searching the EHC Planning website, **X/25/0089/CND**. This will not be assessed until the SLMP has been approved.

SLMP can be found by searching **X/25/0225/CND**

A programme of archaeology surveys has commenced, involving some limited excavation work on the site, primarily to the east of Church Lane with only some work to the west.

#### **Gilston Stakeholder Liaison Group**

No meetings since 30<sup>th</sup> April, which was reported to the May 2025 Parish Council meeting.

These meetings are between the parish councils of Eastwick & Gilston and Hunsdon, Places for People, PFP, and East Herts Council.

Meeting scheduled 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025. We have requested presentations from PFP and TW on their Design Codes for Village 1 (PFP) and Village 7 (TW). Unfortunately, this meeting has been moved to online which does not provide the same opportunity for discussion as face to face.

#### **Estate Management – Reminder**

Places for People's **gilston.info** website demonstrated at the February Community Forum

The website has 3 headings:

Current Works – a map of current and planned works in the Gilston Area.

Report an Issue – a map where any issues, eg tree fallen across a RoW, fly tipping, etc., can be reported

News – construction works and developments for the Gilston Area.

### **Roadworks update.**

Places for People gilstonparkestate website NEWS page

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

Nothing new on roads since 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### **Useful websites:**

Village 1 and Strategic Landscape Master Plan

<https://www.gilstonparkestate.com/get-involved/>

Section 106 docs Villages 1 - 6

<https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=PRSRKCGL00V00>

Village 7

<https://www.village7.co.uk>

Section 106 docs Villages 7

<https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=PZKRYCGL05I00>

East Herts Community Forums

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-forums/gilston-area-community-forum>

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## **Appendix 3**

### **PfP Gilston V1-6 update - March 2025**

#### **Update on V1MP**

- Following the V1MP CWG4 workshop and public information event at the end of January/early February, we have been progressing with the final design work. Thank you to those who have submitted comments after reviewing the draft design code. The V1MP is due to be submitted to East Herts District Council shortly.

#### **Estate management**

- Loose fence railing along the A414 has been secured/removed.
- Rubbish from behind the vets has been cleared, with concrete barriers repositioned at the entrance.
- Smaller reports of fallen trees, rubbish, overgrown hedgerows etc. have been dealt with after being reported through the gilston.info website.
- The team remain in conversation with Herts County Council about the flooding at Gilston Lane and Eastwick Hall Lane. We are awaiting an update on their proposals to improve the situation, and we will ensure that they update residents as soon as there is a plan in place.
- The fence and bench at the top of the wood near Eastwick were vandalised and reported to the team (photos attached). Both have now been repaired, with the bench relocated on the field side, whilst retaining the view. The HCC Rights of Way Officer has been informed.

#### **Tree guard removal volunteering day**

- In early June, a team of 20 individuals from Places for People, Knight Frank and Meeting Place helped remove outdated tree guards that were originally installed by the site's previous landowners over 20 years ago - photos attached.
- Some of the plastic guards, which will now be taken away for recycling, had become dislodged and scattered across the landscape, particularly near public rights of way. In total, the volunteers collected enough guards to fill four tonne bags.

# 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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## Councils Launch Stakeholder Engagement on the Future of Local Government in

### Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire's 11 councils have today (Friday 4 July) launched the first phase of engagement as part of a joint programme to shape proposals for the future of local government in the county.

In a co-ordinated approach, all councils will engage with key strategic partners - including the NHS, police, education leaders, major employers, town and parish councils and voluntary and community sector groups – at both countywide and district and borough level.

The engagement is underpinned by four core principles: transparency, consistency, inclusion, and accessibility. All 11 councils in Hertfordshire are committed to working collaboratively and listening to a broad range of voices as they consider how local government in Hertfordshire could evolve. It aims to explore how future local government arrangements could better support shared priorities and improve services for residents.

This initial phase will focus on the principles and opportunities behind potential reorganisation options. It aims to build understanding of the process underway following the publication of the Government's Devolution White Paper and invitation for all two-tier areas to submit proposals for creating a single tier of unitary councils. It will also explain the shared objectives of council leaders and gather input from strategic partners on how any future changes could support better local services and stronger accountability to ensure they are considered from the outset. Engagement is also being undertaken with representative partners from Town, Parish, and Community Councils in Hertfordshire to research and formulate options for enhanced working with the new unitary councils when they are formed.

Helen Standen, Interim Chief Executive of East Herts Council, said: "Across Hertfordshire, we are committed to a collaborative approach, engaging with a wide range of voices as we explore the future of local government in the county. Our shared goal is to deliver the best possible services for our residents, and that's why it's so important to hear from strategic partners early in this process. Their insights will help guide our thinking as we work together to shape a local government structure that's fit for the future."

The second phase of engagement, which will be launched in the coming months, will provide residents and wider stakeholders with the opportunity to learn more about the potential options for the future of local government in Hertfordshire, ask questions, and share their views directly. Details of these engagement opportunities will be shared closer to the time.

Councils will also be organising significant engagement with their workforce during this period.

All 11 councils are working together to assess what local government structures would best serve Hertfordshire's communities, services, and places. This is an opportunity to build a responsive and resilient system of local government - one that reflects local identity while unlocking long-term benefits for residents and communities. Final proposals must be submitted to the government on 28 November 2025.

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

### SEPTEMBER SERVICES 2025

|                            |                                       |                   |   |                        |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> September  | 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity | 8.00am            | BCP Holy Communion,                             | St James, High Wych    |
|                            |                                       | 9.30am<br>10.00am | Breakfast followed<br>Family Service            | St James, High Wych    |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> September | Holy Cross Day                        | 9.30am            | Holy Communion                                  | St James, High Wych    |
|                            |                                       | 11.15am           | Holy Communion                                  | St Mary's, Gilston     |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> September | Saturday                              | 2.00pm            | Wedding of<br>Henry Jackson &<br>Sarah Slatford | St James, High Wych    |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> September | Matthew, Apostle &<br>Evangelist      | 9.30am            | Holy Communion                                  | St James, High Wych    |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> September | 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity | 9.30am            | Holy Communion                                  | St James, High Wych    |
|                            |                                       | 11.15am           | Family Service                                  | St Botolph's, Eastwick |
|                            |                                       | 2.30pm            | Baptism of Theodore<br>James Quigg (Teddy)      | St James, High Wych    |



### SCARECROW FESTIVAL

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am to 5.00pm**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 11.00am to 5.00pm**

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**

[revajacksonhwge@outlook.com](mailto:revajacksonhwge@outlook.com)

1 Dovedale, High Wych, Sawbridgeworth CM21 0DT

**01279 790145**

**07833 667707**

**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](mailto:marxwerner2@gmail.com)



## September Letter

I seem to be spending quite a bit of time in churchyards for one reason or another at the moment, just today I have been in two out of the three in our Benefice.

Today I met a lovely couple of ladies in St James churchyard who were there to visit a relatives grave – imagine my surprise when they told me they had been knitting for weeks for the Sea World exhibition that will be in St James, High Wych during the Scarecrow Festival. A big bag of dolphins, mermaids and sharks, (beautifully knitted), have been delivered, to mention just a few things that were in that bag!! So thank you ladies, and thank you to everyone else who has taken up their knitting needles or sewing machines to make this exhibition once again spectacular.

This reminds me of all that we do as church in the wider sense. Meaning the Church as an integral part of our villages, whether we live in Eastwick, Gilston or High Wych. When we come together for Quiz Nights, art exhibitions, murder mystery evenings, musical evenings, or Sunday worship. Our aim is to love our neighbour, have fun together and serve our community with any needs they have.

At the moment all eyes are fixed on the Scarecrow Festival as this is an important part of our community calendar in High Wych and the money we raise also funds things that we do in Gilston and Eastwick too.

The Bible verses that spring to mind are:-

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

This is truly what it means to ‘love our neighbours’. This can include family, neighbours, community members, and fellow travellers.

So whether you knit sea creatures, put up marquees, tidy up churchyards, make endless cups of tea, bake cakes, run the toddler group, help at Wednesday Welcome, help at Jim’s café, or Messy Church, serve willingly on Village Hall committees, Parish Councils, pick up litter to keep our villages tidy or plant flowers to keep our villages looking beautiful, you are showing love and it is well received. Thank you for all that you are and all that you do. Thank you. You are all part of this great, big beautiful thing we call community. God calls each of us to be in community with each other and with himself.

If you would like to explore what being part of the community of God is – then get in touch. I will be starting another Alpha course after Christmas (a simple introduction to the Christian faith) and I would love to journey on it with you, finding out about the call that God has on your life.

We are all on a journey, growing in faith, growing in hope and growing in love.

Let’s journey together.

Your Priest

Alison

+++++

### Jim’s Café - The Coffee Lounge - High Wych

Calling all Year 7’s in our villages.

Last year as a church group Charlie in the café allowed us to take over her café on a Monday after school (termtime) to welcome the new Year 7’s as they began secondary school. We continued until the weather improved (After Easter).

We met every week with those Year 7’s who wanted to hang out with us, of course they got great milkshakes and snacks made by Charlie but we also played games, had fun together and got to know each other too. We created a place of friendship, a place to go and meet up with your old friends from primary school and make new friends too.

By Easter time, we had a great group of young people who want to stay with us as we move into this year. So we may have a few Year 8's who want to help mentor you in school and help you find your feet if you decide to come along.

We have a great team, Rachael (who this year will come with Asher, new baby), Gemma with Jack, Cath and myself, we look forward to welcoming you to the café and creating a space where you feel you can belong.

Alison

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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](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highwayfault) or call: 01432 261800 or General Enquiries 0300 123 4040 – Hertfordshire Highways Fault line.

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

Tuesday, 11 September 2012. Our 51st Wedding Anniversary.

Broken fence, ?badgers

Along one side of the garden, the boundary is formed from perennials and shrubs foxes and deer come and go through this boundary at leisure. The end of the garden has a wooden post and rail fencing, covered by fine wire mesh. A few days ago I noticed a hole had been made low down in two places in the wire mesh, checking the next day one of the holes had been made considerably larger and plants nearby had been broken.

Having had the pleasure of watching foxes in the garden for many years, I knew it wasn't them who had made the holes, the only creature I thought could be responsible, was a badger. Something I have long wanted to do is to watch badgers, now I have a feeling this might at last happen.

Wednesday, 19 September 2012

Badger footprints

Went down the garden to check the fencing and in doing so found what can only be badger footprints.

My excitement is growing!

Thursday, 20 September 2012

Badger latrine and yellow daisies

This morning on checking the end of the garden I found a hole dug and faeces in it, I am convinced this is a badger latrine.

Excitement is great, but tomorrow I am off to Yorkshire to spend eight days with my daughter and granddaughters, so I shall have to be patient on the badger front until my return.

In the garden we have glorious yellow daisies which are are perennial, they are very free flowering over a long period. Many years ago a friend gave us a small clump, over the years they have multiplied and we too have spread them among other friends. They are much loved by bees while they are flowering and by goldfinches when they are in seed.

Tuesday, 25 September 2012

Loss of a squirrel

Sad telephone call from Mike to say he found one of the squirrels dead on the lane, obviously hit by a passing vehicle.

At my insistence he went out and collected the body and left it in the garden for the foxes, it seemed such a waste for it to be left on the lane and be repeatedly run over, when it could nourish another animal.

Thursday, 27 September 2012

Sparrows, starlings and a barn owl

Home again after an enjoyable week in Yorkshire with our little family whose home is there. Sadly the journey up was marred by the number of dead badgers on the roadside.

I wish we had as many sparrows and starlings where we live as I saw in my daughter's garden. One evening I was surprised and startled to see a barn owl flying alongside the car as we travelled back to my daughter's as daylight was fading and dusk settling in.

Friday, 28 September 2012

A second badger latrine

Arrived home today, Mike said to me, "Let's go and have a look at the lawn. While you were away something has been digging holes all over it". I went excitedly outside, I could hardly wait to see if there was any further evidence of badgers, could this be it? Although we hadn't seen one yet I was convinced there was one about.

Near the compost corner I found another hole had been dug, larger and deeper than the first --- a second latrine. The first one had also been used again.

Saturday, 29 September 2012

Foxes and a badger

Down the garden again to check on the latrines, found the first one had been used again. On to the fence to check the wire netting, if this is the entry or exit point then there may be badger hairs caught on the fencing. There was just one, definitely a badger hair, this was the proof I needed.

At 6:00 p.m. I put out the fox food, and realised that the broccoli put out last night had gone, knowing the foxes have never eaten broccoli I guess it was the badger.

The light faded and no animals had yet appeared, we gave up watching so closely. Suddenly at 7:30 pm we heard the high pitched screaming of foxes, not once but several times, we went to the kitchen window and looked out, from the light shining through the lounge windows we saw two foxes and the unmistakable black and white striped head of a badger. At last! the badger who looked surprisingly small beside the foxes, was hoovering up the food and at the same time keeping the foxes at bay.

The foxes obviously hungry and expecting to eat, were trying to close in on the food, but unsuccessfully. Each time they neared the badger he ferociously dashed at them, warding them off and causing them to scream.

The badger stayed for twenty-eight minutes and then trundled off across the lawn, toward the greenhouse. Tomorrow we will spread the food further across the lawn, so both badger and foxes can enjoy it.

I was on the telephone at the time to our son in America, and he was able to share in our pleasure and excitement, which was a bonus for all three of us.

Having watched the badger hoovering up the food Mike suggested we call the badger Edgar after Edgar Hoover the boss of the American FBI!

# THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

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



Since the launch of the Society in 2014, its website has continued to evolve and expand as a resource for the local area. It is hoped that this article may help people make the most of [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk). You are encouraged to step through the menu to get a feel for what is available. If you want to look something up, you might try either Parishes, What's On, Articles or Walks.

**Parishes** holds the key to lots of things. From either the map or the alphabetical listing, select an individual parish to find out a little about its history, the nearest walks or details for a pub or tea room. Introductions include ideas for further reading and links to useful websites.

**What's On** lists future events in chronological order. Many entries have a link to further information. We are pleased to give publicity to any event that promotes local knowledge or culture, exploration or conservation.

**Articles** offers local insight into a wide range of topics.

**Walks** has general guidance and then three options: Station walks, Quiet Lane walks and Other walks. Scroll down the list to find one that suits your need in terms of location and distance. Then click on the walk number to call it up. The first few paragraphs will describe distance, terrain and opportunities for refreshment. When you find a walk you like, print it to take with you. [Control, P] is a useful shortcut to start printing.

**Feedback** is a way of telling us of changes or something we have missed – perhaps a pub closure, bus route change, additional activity for What's On, or website links or phone numbers that no longer work.

I hope these notes have been useful and may make your visits to the website more rewarding.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

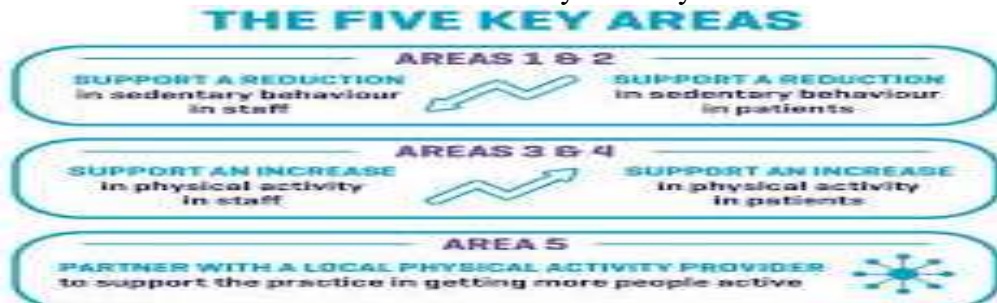
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**Newsletter from Patients Group – September 2025**

**Email: [patientgroup4sawbosurgery@gmail.com](mailto:patientgroup4sawbosurgery@gmail.com)**

## All the staff at Central Surgery have committed to Active Practices:

The **Active Practices Charter** is an initiative by The Royal College of GPs and Sport England to inspire GP practices to commit to increasing activity and reducing sedentary behaviour in both staff and patients. Approximately 34% of men and 42% of women in the UK are not active enough for good health and according to Public Health England (PHE), physical inactivity is understood to be responsible for 1 in every 6 UK deaths (equal to smoking) Research shows that regular physical activity can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke by as much as 35% and decrease the risk of early death by as much as 30%.



## Promoting Physical Activity – Our Commitment to the Royal College of GPs Active Practice Charter

The Active Practice Charter has been set up to inspire and celebrate GP practices that are taking steps to increase activity in their patients and staff. At our surgery, we believe that small, positive changes in daily habits can lead to big improvements in health and wellbeing—for both staff and patients. As part of our commitment to the RCGP Active Practice Charter, we've taken several steps to encourage a more active environment. For our staff, we've introduced standing desks for those who prefer them, installed a bike shed to support cycling to work, and recently launched a steps challenge. This friendly competition has not only boosted physical activity but has also had a noticeable positive impact on staff morale—something we hope

translates into even better care for our patients.

For patients, we've organised chair yoga sessions at the Hailey centre, specifically aimed at individuals who may benefit from gentle, accessible exercise. In our waiting room, you'll also find health promotion messages on our TV screens, including demonstrations of simple seated exercises that can be done while waiting for your appointment.

Our key message is simple: whatever your age or ability, small steps to move more can lead to big improvements in both physical and mental health. We're here to support you on that journey.

**Could YOU be a Community First Responder?:** Community First Responders (CFRs) are volunteers who are trained by **The East of England Ambulance Service** to attend certain types of emergency calls in the area where they live or work.

Their aim is to reach a potential life-threatening emergency in the first vital minutes before the ambulance crew arrives.

Their role is to help stabilise the patient and provide the appropriate care until the more highly skilled ambulance crew arrives on scene to take over the treatment. It is a Voluntary Role

**Length of training:** There will be a nationally recognised, intensive six-day training course. We offer two options for the course depending on which suits you best: three weekdays per week over two weeks **OR** two weekend days per week over three weekends. This is delivered through a blend of online e-learning and face to face learning with assessments at the end of the course. There will also be ongoing learning and assessments throughout your time as a community first responder, some of this is face to face, and some of this is e-learning workbooks. The locations of the training courses are spread across the region, and on successful recruitment you will be offered the dates of courses for you to attend.

Anyone can become a Community First Responder, but you must:

- be physically fit
- be aged over 18
- agree to a disclosure and barring service check (DBS). This was previously known as criminal records bureau disclosure or CRB.
- have a sympathetic, caring nature
- agree to undertake training, which we provide
- have a full driving licence and access to a road worthy car.

If you live or work in any community where there is already a community first responder group and would like to train and volunteer as a community first responder with us, we would love to hear from you.

#### **Want to join the team?**

If you would like to join our community first responder team please complete our online application form <https://www.eastamb.nhs.uk/form/interest-form-community-first-responder> .

If you have any further questions, you can email the team: [volunteer@eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:volunteer@eastamb.nhs.uk)

**Central Surgery will be having a combined Covid/Flu clinic at the Surgery Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October. If you are eligible and have not had an invitation for vaccination, please contact the Surgery on 01279 603180.**

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#### Apple Day to celebrate 300 years of Rivers Nursery

The wonderful annual Apple Day in our historic Rivers Orchard will once again be happening on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am -2pm organised by the happy band of volunteers who tend the orchard. This is your opportunity to enjoy picking apples of so many varieties for the volunteers to take for juicing and also sample and take home those of your own choice, with something for everyone. This is a very popular day for the whole family in our famous enchanting orchard. Apple ID will be available if you bring five of your apples plus leaves. You will also be able to learn about the history of the orchard and purchase refreshments. It's only once a year so don't miss it. Further information [www.rhso.co.uk](http://www.rhso.co.uk)

## SAWBRIDGEWORTH ALLOTMENTS AND GARDEN SHOW



An opportunity for you to enter the ever popular Sawbridgeworth Autumn Show on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September in Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall. There are a variety of sections to enter – vegetables, fruit, floral, preserves, handicraft plus many more; a section for Novices and a special section for children which is in age categories. If this will be your first time of entering there is a “How to” list so please request a copy of this. This year’s theme for the floral arrangement and photography section is Shapes.

This year celebrates 300 years since Rivers Nursery was founded and there is a recipe for an Apple Cake for which a £25 voucher will be awarded to the winner. There will also be scrumptious refreshments, an art exhibition plus much more to enjoy. Send for your Show Schedule now - please email Hazel Mead [hazelmead404@btinternet.com](mailto:hazelmead404@btinternet.com) or Irene Barnard [ihbarnard37@gmail.com](mailto:ihbarnard37@gmail.com)



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For more information contact:  
 revajacksonhwge@outlook.com  
 07833667707  
 or: 01279 790145

Published: 4/5/23

**Need to CONTACT THE POLICE?**

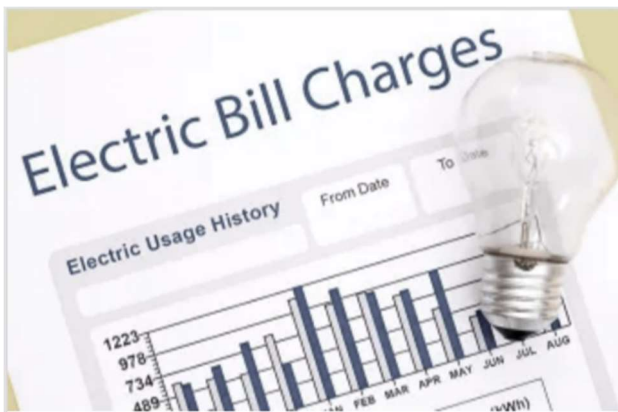
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- 1. RIGHT SERVICE?**  
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- 2. CHECK ONLINE?**  
 Is the information already on our website?  
 Check online: [www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk)
- 3. REPORT ONLINE?**  
 Has a crime already happened and you want to report it?  
 Report online: [www.herts.police.uk](http://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



## 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](mailto:diana.kitson@btinternet.com)



## WHEN USING OUR PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY PLEASE BE AWARE

Please make sure your dogs are always 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 always take it home and use your own bin.



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## The Sawbridgeworth Trust Registered Charity 237946

The Sawbridgeworth Trust exists for those who are often finding themselves in financial difficulties by way of perhaps not meeting all bills that come in on a regular basis.

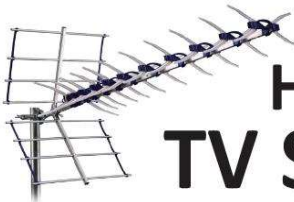
We are often called upon to help with school uniforms or perhaps a small bonus at Christmas.

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  
11 The Forbury, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9BD  
Or telephone 01279 7232123



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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  
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111 is the NHS non-emergency number. It's fast, easy and free. Call 111 and speak to a highly trained adviser, supported by healthcare professionals. They will ask you a series of questions to assess your symptoms and immediately direct you to the best medical care for you.

**NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobiles.**

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# The Meaning of Music

Organ Recital by Debbie McGowan

**St James Church, High Wych**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September

7:30 pm



Debbie is an excellent Organist who has been playing since the age of 11 and used to play the organ for St Andrew's, Good Easter.

From 2010 – 2017 she accompanied the St John's Cathedral Children's Choir in Hong Kong.

She is now one of our organists at St James, her playing is exquisite and not to be kept just for Sunday worship.

We hope you will enjoy her gift.

£10.00 per ticket to include a free drink.  
Under 16's free.

The link for tickets is found below:

<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QOPTK7G6>

Or Scan the QR Code on your phone.



All proceeds from this concert will be evenly split between Debbie's charity work in Myanmar and to St James.

For further information please contact:

revajacksonhwge@outlook.com

Or leave a message on 0783 366 7707 or 01279 790145

