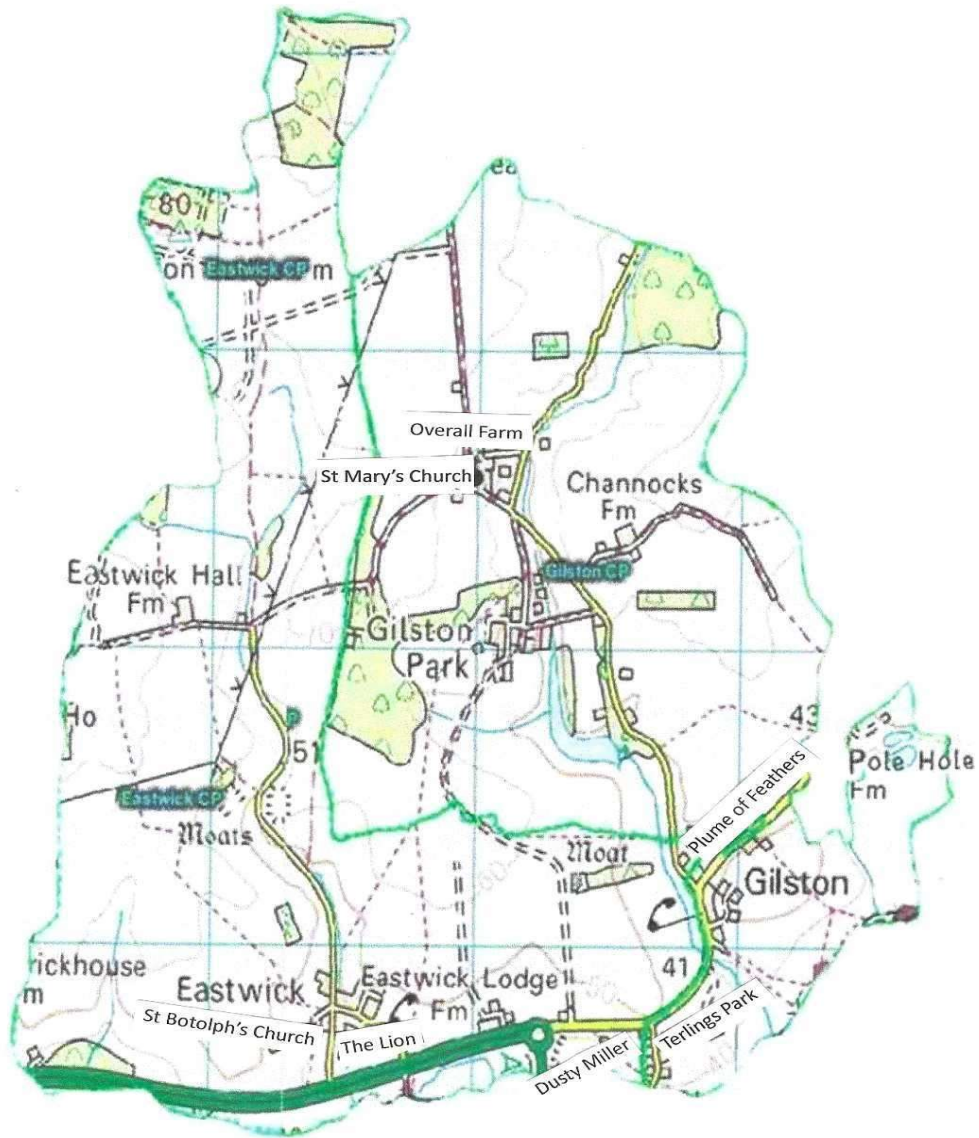


EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH MAGAZINE



AUGUST 2026

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	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	Puppy Classes	Sam@thedogcoach.co.uk	6.30pm – 7.30pm
WEDNESDAY			
	Pilates	Adam Benton – 07966683193	6.00pm – 7.00pm
		Hall Cleaning	1.00pm – 3.00pm
THURSDAY	Baby Massage	Elena Luck	9.30am – 2.30pm
	Irish Dancing	Amanda Hennigan – 07713974077	6.30pm – 8.30pm
FRIDAY	Chair Pilates	Sarah-Jane - 07971338980	11.00am – 12noon
SATURDAY			
SUNDAY			

Chair: Carolyn Laing

Vice Chair: Janine Bryant

Treasurer: Linda Harvey

Bookings Officer: Erin Reilly 07710271611

Holding Trustee: Keith Harvey & Mary Jackson

Booking enquiries: gevillagehall@gmail.com for all booking enquiries or go to the Village Hall new web site:

hallbookingonline.com/gilstoneastwick to see if the date you require is free and make a provisional booking.

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS for 2026: August 10th, October 12th, December 14th.

Residents are most welcome to join us to see what the Village Hall is doing for the community.

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ROADWORKS AND ROAD MAINTENANCE

Information about roadworks and road maintenance. The **Causeway one.network** website informs you of all current and upcoming planned roadworks.

To help us keep Hertfordshire's roads up to scratch we need **YOU** to let them know when things are not right!

So whether it's a pothole, pavement problem, faulty streetlight, icy road or any other Highway fault, report the issue at Hertfordshire County Council.

You can also email the Highways service (they will confirm when they receive your message) or phone 0300 123 4047 (line open from Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5.30pm).

KNOW YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL
Eastwickandgilstonparish.org.uk



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



JOHN DUNLOP
EAST HERTS DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR



ERIC BUCKMASTER
HERTFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCILLOR

CONTACT DETAILS - Email Addresses:

MARK ORSON	-	cllr.m.orson@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk
JANINE BRYANT	-	cllr.j.bryant@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk
LINDA HARVEY	-	cllr.l.harvey@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk
WERNER MARX	-	cllr.w.marx@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk
JAMES BEAZLEY	-	cllr.j.beazley@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk
ERIC BUCKMASTR	-	eric.buckmaster@hertfordshire.gov.uk
JOHN DUNLOP	-	john.dunlop@eastherts.gov.uk

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON
MONDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER – 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 STILL 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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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.

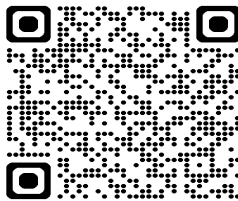
In the Photo Gallery you will see that there are different galleries for different areas of the parish.

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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USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

EASTWICK & GILSTON PARISH COMMUNITY WEB SITE:



eastwickandgilstonparish.org.uk
www.gilston.info
gilston@meeting-place.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/fly-tipping. 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.



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.

AUGUST SERVICES 2026

2 nd August	9 th Sunday after Trinity	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
9 th August	10 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		11.15am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Gilston
16 th August	11 th Sunday after Trinity	3.30pm	Pet Service	St James, High Wych
23 rd August	12 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		11.15am	Family Service	St Botolph's, Eastwick
30 th August	13 th Sunday after Trinity	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

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

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA)

01279 600996

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

Miss Robyn Richards

robynrichards123@hotmail.com

LAY LEADER OF WORSHIP / MISSION ENABLER:

Rosemary Davis

01279 419763

PCC SECRETARY:

Mrs Christine Law

01279 411646

PCC TREASURER:

Werner Marx

gilston.eastwick.pcc@gmail.com

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Summer Months

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer

In the lengthening days of yore,
July and August danced with grace.
But now, too swiftly they pass by,
Leaving so little of their embrace.

Sunlit hours, like fleeting dreams,
Fade before our searching eyes.
O fleeting months! Too short to sip
The sweetness of summer's vibrant skies.



August Letter

Welcome for All

Dear Friends

Over the past 3 years we have been working on who we are as a group of churches and how we will be in our communities.....

Our Benefice Mission Statement is:

"As a Benefice we are dedicated to 'being with' our communities to bring faith, hope and love, showing that God's places belong to all."

Everything we do grows from that vision, and we express it through four simple values:

- **Openness** – connecting with those we haven't reached before.
- **Commitment** – nurturing people of all ages with imagination and courage.
- **Kindness** – embracing everyone on their journey of life and faith.
- **Fun** – creating opportunities for people to come together with generosity and joy.

In June I wrote about our value of *Fun* and how sharing life together helps build stronger communities. This month I'd like to reflect on another of our values: **Openness**.

One of the questions we have been asking ourselves is this: *What does it really mean to be a church where everyone knows they are welcome?*

Jesus constantly welcomed people who felt overlooked, excluded or uncertain. He met them with compassion, listened to their stories and invited them to walk with him. As St Paul reminds us:

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)
That is the kind of Benefice we are seeking to become.

Our Joint PCCs have recently agreed an Inclusion Statement that reflects this desire. In simple terms, we want our churches to be places where everyone can encounter God's love, where every person is treated with dignity and respect, and where we continue learning how to remove barriers that might prevent people from feeling they belong. We recognise that people hold different views and experiences, but we are committed to walking together with grace, kindness and mutual respect as we seek to follow Christ. This is not something that happens overnight. Becoming a more welcoming, inclusive and accessible church is a journey, and there is still much to do.

Already we have made some encouraging steps. Both St Mary's, Gilston and St James, High Wych are open every day, for you to pop in for private prayer, to dwell in the stillness and silence – a true tonic for the soul. After many years of planning, St James now has step-free access, making it easier for more people to enter and enjoy the church building. We have completed the first phase of installing under-pew heating, helping to make the church warmer and more comfortable for everyone, and we are now planning the next stages. We are also looking at improvements to our Wi-Fi and technology to support worship and community events.

From September we will also be introducing a new monthly evening service called **Sunday@7** at St James. We hope this will provide a relaxed and informal opportunity for those who cannot attend a morning service, or who are simply looking for a different way to worship, pray and explore faith together. We would love to welcome you.

When we fix our eyes on St Mary's, Gilston and St Botolph's, Eastwick we have a different set of circumstances to consider, the principles are the same but how we achieve them may be different. Both these buildings are Grade 1 listed and filled with hundreds of years of heritage. Our hope is to, over the next 10 years, prepare them for all the new people that will be living among us in the new Harlow and Gilston Garden Town. We are starting that journey over the next few weeks as we consider what we need to do.

As we continue this journey, we have also appointed an Inclusivity Lead who will help us think carefully about how we can continue growing as churches that reflect God's love for everyone.

The Bible tells us:

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one on Christ Jesus".
(Galatians 3:28)

That doesn't mean we are all the same. Rather, it reminds us that every person is valued by God and has a place in his family.

So wherever you are on your own journey of faith—whether you've been coming to church for years, haven't been for a long time, or are simply curious—you are always welcome.

Jesus' invitation was wonderfully simple:

"Come and see." (John 1:39)

That invitation still stands today. We would be delighted to welcome you.

Every blessing

Your Priest

Alison

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

Saturday, 11 August 2012

Honeysuckle, buddleias and fuschias

We planted several fuschias recently at the same time as the buddleias, hoping to give the garden an insect lift. I'm pleased to report it has worked as butterflies are visiting the buddleias, bees are paying court to the fuschias and I was delighted this morning to see a large grasshopper, mainly green but with some brown areas resting on a fuschia.

The smell as we walk down the garden is wonderful, firstly you are aware of the powerful scent of the honeysuckle which draws so many moths in the evening, then suddenly another smell takes its place, it is a honeyed, moreish perfume and comes from the many new buddleias recently planted.

Although these plants were put in for the benefit of wildlife, we also benefit from the bonus of the wonderful perfume they bring to the end of the garden.

Sunday, 12 August 2012

New Squirrel with a long, thin, stripey tail

Today I saw a new squirrel in the garden, he is very thin and has the longest, thinnest tail of any squirrel I have ever seen.

His tail is fascinating, because it is very definitely striped, bands of black, grey and white encircle it. I tried to photograph it, but before I could he was gone.

He didn't stay and eat, but hopefully he will find a settled home here and I shall see more of him.

Monday, 13 August 2012

Heron a little boy and other wildlife

I was pleased to see a pair of herons flying over today, daily we see a lone heron fly over, but to see two is very unusual.

We have lived here for almost twenty-five years, an elderly gentleman whom we met in our early days here, told us wildlife in this area many years before had been much greater than at present. He spoke of myriad frogs and toads, grass snakes, slow worms and many, many herons flying to and fro over where we lived. (He had lived in the same dwelling more than sixty years ago.) We have a river nearby and he told us if as a boy he walked left along the river, he would come to an enormous heronry, which sadly has long since disappeared.

A couple of years later I told my then five year old mad about nature, grandson this, immediately he said, "Can we go for a walk by the river?" "Why?" I queried. "To look for their beaks and feet." was his quick reply! "Beaks and feet?" I queried. "Yes" he responded, "that's the only part left now".

As a child my grandson collected many creatures; beetles of all shapes, colours and sizes were to be found in his pockets and scurrying around my kitchen where they were often released to be watched. Worms carried around sometimes in his pockets, more often in his hands, ants were kept in a glass tank and hours spent watching and tending them. Spiders were bred in a huge glass bottle garden jar in the bathroom, the webs built inside were fascinating and dense, and for more than a year Ric found food for them, released the young when too many built up ---occasionally forgetting to put the cover back on their home causing us sometimes to be overrun with spiders! In other containers he kept different types of stick insects, in the conservatory he had salamanders, he grew up with both cats and dogs, if he found an injured creature it was brought back to be nursed and carefully tended until it could be released. Dead creatures were brought back to be dissected, I well remember the excitement of the little boy, dashing indoors to tell me how far down the lawn the intestines of a dissected rabbit stretched, and insisting I watch while he measured them.

I thought when Ric grew up he would be something to do with wildlife, but although he has retained his love for and interest in nature it has not been his work.

Saturday, 18 August 2012

Greedy Sparrowhawk

Watched the breathtaking flight and swoop of a sparrowhawk in the garden today, as he went after a black-bird.

Seeing the sparrowhawk answered the question of where are all the blue tits, great tits, long tailed tits and coal tits that used to congregate on the nuts, fats, and seed holders, over the last few days they have all disappeared.

We walked along the river to the nature reserve today.

The yarrow was flowering in profusion, both pink and white.

Sunday, 19 August 2012

Slow worms

To my great dismay I found a dead slow worm in the lane today, squashed flat by traffic.

I have searched this area many times over the last twenty five years, in the hope of finding slow worms and have always been disappointed.

It was sad to see a dead one this morning, but it gives me hope that there may be others in the area.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

*www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Over the last four years, the Society has been able to make financial contributions towards a number of worthwhile local initiatives. This has been possible because of the gradual increase in the number of Society members and their generosity. The Society is a registered charity and is able to recover Gift Aid in respect of subscriptions and donations received from people who are taxpayers. The Society incurs only modest costs so is left with funds that can be usefully employed, making a difference to local communities.

It has become our practice once a year to invite applications for grants. The invitation has been sent to all organisations who have been members of the Society for at least three years; most of these are parish councils. The latest round of applications was recently assessed by the Society's trustees and they awarded four grants with a total value of £7,000. In assessing each application, we seek to ensure that it satisfies our charitable objectives, gives public benefit, has been thoroughly considered, is realistic and represents value for money.

Often, our grant enables a worthwhile project that would otherwise simply not happen. On other occasions, our grant triggers some matching funding. Sometimes, the project is not straightforward and we don't see the outcome for some time; the Society retains sufficient funds to ensure the grants can be paid when appropriate. Where possible, we ask the beneficiary to acknowledge the Society's financial assistance.

Projects that have already been completed with our financial help include new and refurbished village signs and information panels, churchyard improvements, community gardens with seating, refurbishment of a war memorial, an instructive video on paretting, and digitization of a photo archive. We look forward to adding to this list as other approved projects are completed.

Ken McDonald, Secretary



On a very warm evening in June we were able to be in the cool and calm of Gt.St.Mary's Church where Di Kitson gave us a very interesting and informative tour and history. The main part of the Church dates from the 13th century with additions in the years following. There are many monuments, one of the Leventhorpe family depicting their twelve children, a huge wooden box for clergy vestments which is the largest in the country and the longest altar table at over 12 feet. There is still more history to learn about, so another visit could well be arranged.

Entries to be received by 31st August, so there is still time to enter our competition for young people of primary and secondary school age. "What does Local History mean to me" which can be in any medium, with a prize for the best in each age group. Entries to Hazel Mead, hazelmead404@btinternet.com or Sawbridgeworth Community Library.

Our next meeting is on 24th September when Tim Turner will tell us all about the magnificent Audley End House.

Our website has a selection of our published books, so have a look and why not join while you are there so as not to miss any interesting information www.sbwhistory.com

Published: 4/5/23

Need to CONTACT THE POLICE?

Which one IS BEST FOR YOU?

Follow the 5 STEPS

1. RIGHT SERVICE?
Is it a police issue or is another service better suited?

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

HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY
Prevention First



Run by the churches of High Wych & Gilston with Eastwick

On the first Wednesday of every month

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Wednesday

Welcome

Every 1st Wednesday of the month



Over 55's Welcome for tea, coffee, and cake.

With a variety of optional activities

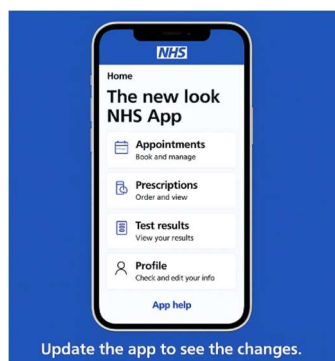
2-32 Mabey's walk, High Wych
CM21 0HN

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



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EXTRACTS FROM THE SAWBRIDGEWORTH NEWSLETTER FROM PATIENTS GROUP



New look NHS App: What has changed: The NHS has listened to feedback about the NHS App and has made some changes. This is what they say: Find out what changes we've made to the layout of the NHS App and why we made them.

What has changed? We've listened to feedback from staff and patients, and made significant improvements to the NHS App.

This is part of the drive to improve, and increase usage, of the NHS App as set out in the 10-year Health Plan for England. We're making the NHS App simpler and easier to use so people can find health information and services quickly building an NHS fit for the future.

You can see what the new look NHS App looks like in our [latest video](#) (Ctrl & Click to follow link) or log into your own app. It may have automatically updated, or you may have to update it yourself.

- **GP health record and consultation notes:** Information that was in the 'GP Health Record', such as test results, have been moved onto the home page within core health categories to make them easier to find.
- **'Consultation and events':** can now be found under 'Appointment notes and other updates' in the 'Appointments' section of the home page.
- **Under 'Book an appointment':** patients can select to 'Ask about a health problem' to contact their GP about a health issue by filling out an online consultation.
- **Your profile:** Patients will now be able to view and manage their personal details, App settings and health choices within the new profile area. From here they will also be able to manage health services for others.
- **Care plans:** can now be found under 'Personal details' in your 'Profile'.

The changes only affect what a patient sees in their App, nothing will change on the GP clinical system settings for staff.

Help with the NHS App: the 'App help' button at the top of each screen takes users to support information

You can find more information about changes to the NHS App by clicking on the following link:



Testers wanted for a New App that Summarises Medical Conditions:

On average patients don't remember up to 80% of what is said in a medical consultation and when family members rely on a relative's account, details can shift with each retelling.

Ditto is a smartphone App that records consultations and produces a plain-language summary that patients can save and share with a partner, adult, child, family member or carer. It runs under UK GDPR, supports multiple languages and is free to use.

Ditto is looking for patients, carers and healthcare professionals to try out the App., tell it what works, what doesn't and what would make it more useful. Your feedback will directly shape how the App develops to better serve patients in the UK.

To take part, download Ditto from the App Store or Google Play and share your experience directly with the Ditto team in the App or by email to oli@ditto.care



X-Ray Forms: Please Note: There is a 6 week timescale on all X-Ray forms from the time that they are issued. Please ensure that you attend for your X-Ray within the 6 week timescale.



Hydration: Following the recent record hot weather spells, please remember to keep hydrated at all times. It is recommended that adults should aim to drink 6 to 8 cups or glasses (2l) of fluid a day. Water, lower-fat milk and sugar-free drinks, including tea and coffee, all count. Children under the age of 5 should drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration.

Always carry water with you when you are on holiday. Carrying a water bottle with you may seem cumbersome, but it's the best way to stay hydrated while travelling. There are plenty of lightweight and insulated water bottles or hydration bladders on the market to make it easy.



World Breastfeeding Week: World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is a global campaign to raise awareness and galvanise action on themes related to breastfeeding. WBW is celebrated every 1-7 August in commemoration of the 1990 Innocenti Declaration. WBW started in 1992, with annual themes including healthcare systems, women and work, the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, community support, ecology, economy, science, education and human rights. Since 2016, WBW is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2018, a World Health Assembly resolution endorsed WBW as an

important breastfeeding promotion strategy.

You can find more information at <https://waba.org.my/>

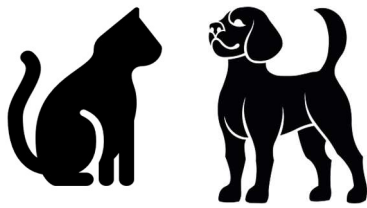
THE PLUME OF FEATHERS
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to arrange for a free visit to meet you and your pets.

I am fully insured and Pet First Aid Trained.



MESSY ADVENTURES

TWELVE OUTDOOR SESSIONS FOR MESSY CHURCHES

SUNDAY 19TH JULY 2026

3.00 – 5.00PM

AT ST JAMES, HIGH WYCH

This is 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.

Weather permitting all activities will be outside, you may want to wear older clothes and trainers.

And we will have a giant picnic outside.

For more information contact Rev Alison Jackson
Email: revajacksonhwge@outlook.com
Tel: 0783 366 7707 or 01279 790145

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.



CAN WE ALSO ASK THAT WHEN USING THE PUBLIC RIGHTS AWAY THROUGH FARMERS CROPS THAT YOU STAY TO THE FOOTPATHS AND KEEP YOUR DOGS ON LEADS. THANK YOU.

Christopher

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- **Tel. 07884 491436**
- **Email. rhlongman@google.com**

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

Community Dog Walks 2026

Sunday 16th August – The Queens Head, Allen Green – refreshments afterwards

Sunday 6th September – St Mary, Gilston – refreshments afterwards

Sunday 11th October – Terlings Park, Gilston – refreshments afterwards

Sunday 1st November – St James, High Wych – refreshments afterwards

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



£12⁵⁰ PER BAG

LOGS & KINDLING WOOD

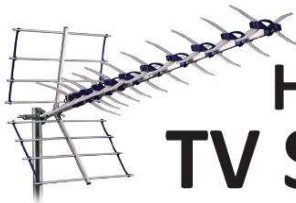
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Gilston & Eastwick Village Hall, Pye Corner – CM20 2RB

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.

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+++++

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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

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EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26



CONSISTS OF:

Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council's Chairman's Report 2025/2026
Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council Accounts for year end 2025/2026
HEGNP Annual Report to Parish Councils 2025/2026

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

ARE HELD ON THE SECOND (2ND) MONDAY IN JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR.

MARCH'S MEETING IS THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
(THIS IS A MEETING OF THE ELECTORATE AND NOT A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING).

FOLLOWED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MAY'S MEETING IS THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOLLOWED BY THE NORMAL BUSINESS MEETING.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE MOST WELCOME TO JOIN US
AT THESE MEETINGS.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BUSINESS MEETING WE HAVE A 10-15 MINUTE SLOT WHERE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE PARISH COUNCIL ON COUNCIL MATTERS.

AFTER THIS, THE PUBLIC ARE ASKED TO PLEASE BE SILENT SO
THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL CAN HOLD THEIR MEETING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ALLOWED TO BE PRESENT DURING OUR MEETINGS BUT ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.

VENUE:

THE VILLAGE HALL, PYE CORNER, GILSTON.
MEETINGS START AT 8.00PM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED IN THE PARISH MAGAZINE OR ON THE NOTICE BOARDS OR WEB SITE.

In the year of Local Government Elections, the Annual Meeting of the Council will be held between the fourth and fourteenth day after the election (inclusive).

The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of the Electorate and is not a meeting of the Council. The Annual Parish Meeting is held between 1 March and 1 June (both inclusive)

KNOW YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Eastwickandgilstonparish.org.uk



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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



JOHN DUNLOP

EAST HERTS DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR



ERIC BUCKMASTER

HERTFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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JOHN DUNLOP	-	john.dunlop@eastherts.gov.uk

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025/26

The purpose of this report is to give a summary of what the Parish Council has been doing during the last year and to comment on the major issues that we are facing as a parish. There is more information available on our community website at <https://eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk/> and our Neighbourhood Plan website at www.hegnp.org.uk.

During the year, the Parish Council has held six Parish Council meetings and an Annual Parish meeting. Individual Parish Councillors took the following responsibilities.

Mark Orson – Chairman - Neighbourhood Plan Group representative and Parish Paths

Janine Bryant – Vice Chair - Neighbourhood Plan Group representative

Linda Harvey – Highways and Village Hall Management Committee representative

Werner Marx

James Beazley

Christine Law – Parish Clerk

We have two parish councillor vacancies and if you are interested in joining the parish council or at this stage would just like to find out more, please contact Christine Law our Parish Clerk or come along to the Parish Council meetings to see and meet your councillors.

Parish Website

Our Parish Council and Community website has been relaunched at a new location <https://eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk/>

We have aimed to provide current local information and act as a hub with links to the services that residents will find useful together with, amongst others, our Parish Magazine, a link to the Village Hall online booking system where you can check availability and enter a provisional booking for yourself, Aerial Photos of our parishes to view and download, these include 360-degree images taken in the following locations across the parish:

- Terlings Park
- Pye Corner
- Eastwick
- Gilston Park Estate
- Gilston (St Mary's Church)

Links to services include:

- Planning Applications
- Recycling & Waste Collection – check your next collection day
- East Herts Report an Issue - submit issues to the relevant local authority, such as potholes, missed bin collections and more
- Roadworks and Road Maintenance - The Causeway one.network website informs you of all current and upcoming planned roadwork
- Gilston Area Information Hub - A hub for residents and businesses to see what construction works are due to be undertaken in the development of the Gilston Area as well as providing a means to report any estates management issues.
- Harlow and Gilston Garden Town
- The Gilston Estate – Places for People's website detailing the development planning stages
- Location of the 4 defibrillators supplied by your Parish Council

If you have an activity or event you would like to offer to Eastwick and Gilston residents you can email your text to clerk@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk to have it published on the News page

Have a look at our new website and let Christine Law our Parish Clerk know if you have any suggestions for additional information links or other improvements at clerk@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk

Estate Communications Website

Places for People [PfP] has established a website to provide updates to residents about work being undertaken across the estate. At the same time, it makes reporting an issue or asking a question much easier through the pin-drop system. This generates an accurate What3Words reference which will speed up the

time taken to identify the location of the issue. The new estate and construction comms website can be found at www.gilston.info.

How to report an issue:

- You can drop a pin on the location of the issue and provide a description of what you would like to report. Villages 1-6 are transparent in colour, whilst Village 7 (Taylor Wimpey) has been shaded yellow to differentiate the two sites. This will be your opportunity to flag issues without worrying if the land belongs to PfP or Taylor Wimpey [TW].
- New pins will be marked as red and will be passed onto the corresponding team.
- Issues that are in progress and are being investigated by the team will be marked in orange.
- Once the team has resolved the issue, this will be marked as green.

The website functions will evolve over time. If you have any suggested improvements or features you would like to see added, please email gilston@meeting-place.uk.

PfP has established a liaison group that meet periodically to discuss progress on the project as well as estate management and enabling works. The invitation for attendees includes Places for People, East Herts District Council ward member, Hertfordshire County Council division member, Eastwick & Gilston Parish Council, Hunsdon Parish Council, Harlow Council, Member of Parliament for Hertford & Stortford, Member of Parliament for Harlow. In practice there have been 2 meetings during the last year

Community Forums

East Herts Council [EHC] organises quarterly Community Forums as a channel of communication for residents and the Parish Councils that represent them with EHC and the Gilston Area developers PfP / TW.

These have become useful sessions for residents to be briefed on key aspects of the development progress and to ask questions. The Community Forums should be supported, not least as residents of Eastwick and Gilston will be living in the middle of construction work for the next 15-20 years plus with the associated risk of disruption to our daily lives and these meetings provide the opportunity for residents to directly raise any concerns and to better understand the developers plans and timing of changes. Anyone wishing to discuss an item of interest or concern with an individual member of EHC or the Developers has the opportunity in the 30 minutes before the forum start time.

For those who have unable to attend, the presentations and other useful information including the planned programme of highway and other works can be found here <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/community-forums/gilston-area-community-forum>

Gilston Area Development

The Parish Council has channelled our engagement with EHC, PfP the primary landowner for Villages 1-6 and TW who are the landowners of Village 7, through the Hunsdon and Eastwick & Gilston Neighbourhood Plan Group [HEGNP] chaired by Anthony Bickmore. Anthony makes an annual report to the Parish Council that provides an update and comment on all the issues and is published in the Parish Magazine, the community website www.eastwickandgilston.org.uk and the HEGNP website www.hegnp.org.uk.

The role of the HEGNPG is to jointly represent Hunsdon and Eastwick & Gilston Parish Councils, and;

- Is a voice for residents, holding developers accountable for promises to deliver a sustainable, high-quality development.
- Aims to oversee and shape the Gilston Area development to ensure it aligns with community hopes, values and future needs.
- Seeks to coordinate engagement between the developers and local authorities, especially East Herts Council.
- Is involved in reviewing planning applications for the proposed villages.
- Advocates for high standards in urban design, proper and timely infrastructure, environmental responsibility and community-focused planning.
- Continues to press for better interface with the existing communities, sustainable transport solutions, and “village master planning” principles.
- Actively monitors the agreements related to infrastructure, affordable housing, and the long-term governance of community assets.

The Parish Council is very keen for residents to be involved in HEGNPG activities - if you are interested or just want to find out more, please contact Christine Law, Parish Clerk in the first instance - clerk@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Anthony and the HEGNP team for their hard work and diligence. They are all unpaid and contribute massive amounts of time. Please see Anthony's annual report to

the Parish Council which is published in the Parish Magazine, the community website www.eastwickandgilston.org.uk and the HEGNP website www.hegnp.org.uk.

Spring Bulbs

You may have noticed that the verges around our villages have new displays of spring bulbs? At the end of November, the PC funded the purchase of some 5,000 mixed daffodil bulbs and a big thanks to all those residents who volunteered their time to plant them – it makes a difference!

Planning

We have had several planning applications to comment on during the year; most have been reasonably straightforward and non-contentious changes to existing properties. The major planning issues affecting our area are addressed by our Neighbourhood Plan Group that is mandated and sponsored by this Parish Council. Please see the HEGNP website www.hegnp.org.uk and Anthony Bickmore's Chairman's Report for a full update on the status and issues.

The planning applications are all available on the East Herts District Planning pages. Those you may be particularly interested in are:

Villages 1 -6 Outline Planning Application Ref 3/19/1045/OUT

Village 1 Master Plan Design Code Ref X/26/0135/CND

[The Eastern Crossing \(3/19/1051/FUL\)](#)

[Central Stort Crossing \(3/19/1046/FUL\)](#)

[The Outline Application – Village 7 \(3/19/2124/OUT\)](#)

Now that the Strategic Landscape Masterplan and the Outline Planning Application for Village 1 have been approved Places for People have recently submitted their Village 1 Master Plan Design Code for approval.

Works on the necessary supporting infrastructure, including roads, is scheduled to start early Summer 2026. Unfortunately, communication and dialogue regarding the likely and very significant impact this will cause to existing residents has been sadly lacking so far and we are pushing hard to achieve an improvement in this important area.

Highways

We continue to work closely with Highways to ensure that Highway's maintenance activities are carried out effectively and meet our local needs. As with all local services Highways work is governed by budget and availability of resources and getting work carried out in a timely manner can sometimes be a struggle. A status report on all current Highways issues is made at each parish council meeting and published in our parish magazine and community website.

It is important that potholes and other damage to our local roads are reported as soon as possible. There is an easy-to-use pro-forma at hertfordshire.gov.uk [Report a street light or pothole | Hertfordshire County Council](#). Please also inform Christine Law so that the Parish Council can include this information in the Highways issue status report that we use for overall monitoring and review with Highways.

Parish Paths

The parish footpath network is a real asset. Copies of the parish paths brochure/map are available from St Mary's Church porch or Christine Law, our Parish Clerk. You will also find several display maps of the footpath network located around the parishes including both the Eastwick and Gilston War Memorial sites.

If you are aware of any parts of our footpath network that need maintenance including overgrown vegetation or fallen trees, please inform Christine Law our parish clerk and we will follow up with HCC Countryside & Rights of Way. Issues should also be recorded on PFP's estate and construction comms website at www.gilston.info.

New Homes Bonus

In previous years, the parish has received what amounts to windfall payments from the New Homes Bonus scheme. The New Homes Bonus is a government scheme which is aimed at encouraging local authorities to grant planning permissions for the building of new homes in return for additional revenue. Under the scheme, the Government matches the council tax raised on each new home built for a period of 6 years. The parish council has received a proportion of this funding totalling around £240,000 which is invested through Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) Investment Management Limited, see www.ccla.co.uk. EHC has since changed arrangements for distributing the New Homes Bonus monies which are now held by

them in a central pot and Parish Councils can apply for funding for specific projects that are individually assessed before funding is granted.

The investment income from the received New Homes Bonus capital is being used to pay for additional items that are not included in our parish precept funding. For example, regular maintenance of the 4 defibrillators located strategically around the Parishes.

We welcome suggestions and ideas for how this money could be spent for the benefit of the community but are excluding any items that should be paid from District or County Council budgets. We will provide updates as matters progress via the parish magazine and website but if you have any ideas and suggestions for how this money should best be spent, please contact Christine Law, Parish Clerk, on 411646 or email clerk@eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk.

Parish Precept

You will have recently received the booklet from East Herts Council outlining your Council Tax payments for 2025/26. Part of the Council Tax is made up of the Parish Precept which is set by the Parish Council to cover small running costs and several initiatives we undertake. The amount attaching to your Council Tax for the parish is a function of what we spend and the number of properties and their valuation bands in the area.

If you have views on how we should spend our money and if we should spend more or less, then let one of the Parish Councillors know or attend a Parish Council meeting. We are always keen to hear views and enjoy the interaction with members of the public at the meetings – all are welcome.

Conclusion

Overall, planning matters and engagement with the Gilston Area developers, PfP the landowners for villages 1-6, TW, the landowner of village 7 and EHC our planning authority have been the parish council's majority activities this year, other parish council matters have been relatively quiet.

As noted, we now have two parish councillor vacancies and if you are interested in joining the parish council or at this stage would just like to find out more, please contact Christine Law our Parish Clerk

I would like to thank our District Councillor John Dunlop and Eric Buckmaster, our County Councillor, for their continued help and support.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and hardworking team of Parish Councillors. They devote a lot of their time for the benefit of the community which is unpaid, and they claim no expenses. Thanks also to Christine Law, our Parish Clerk.

Mark Orson

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	
1. Balances brought forward	232620	244618	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	12750	9750	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	15476	17794	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	3674	3793	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	12554	38458	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	244618	229911	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	244618	229911	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March - To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	26907	26827	The value of all the property the authority owns - it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0		The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	
11 Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?		0	For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities - a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval.


Date 11/05/2026

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

11/05/2026

as recorded in minute reference:

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved



our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026, that:

	Agreed		"Yes" means that this authority:
	Yes	No	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	☒	☐	prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	☒	☐	made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We have assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	☒	☐	has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	☒	☐	during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	☒	☐	considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	☒	☐	arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	☒	☐	responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	☒	☐	disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable, in our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
	☐	☐	☒
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.	☒	☐	has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
	☒	☐	has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

11/05/2026

and recorded as minute reference:

4. Accounts b.

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair

Clerk

eastwickandgilstonparish.org.uk



HEGNPG

Supporting our Community

Hunsdon Eastwick and Gilston Neighbourhood Plan Group

% Channoeks Farm

Gilston

Nr Harlow

CM202RL

<https://hegnp.org.uk/>

Annual report to Sponsor Parish Councils

1 Introduction

We are pleased to present our annual report and in doing so to thank you, as our sponsors, for your support for our work, especially your positive approach to ongoing collaborative working.

It's been a year of significant decisions on the development, the scheme's outline planning consent was formally issued in January 2025. In September the Courts refused permission for a Judicial Review into the granting of the outline Planning consent by East Herts Council. The developers have, subsequently, made many reserve matter applications, see section 3 below.

We have continued to work with all stakeholders, including local authorities and the media, to best represent and protect the interests of the local communities and Parish Councils. We commissioned professional support, where necessary, to help achieve this goal.

We continue to work to ensure that proper regard is given to our Neighbourhood Plan at all key phases of development, including the creation of a strategic landscape master plan and village masterplanning, and the creation of bodies and processes for the long term stewardship of the Gilston Area.

It's been a crucial year with regards to the future of our community, and I am grateful for the staggering amounts of time committed by the members of the NPG, including many who also hold Parish Council or other posts in our community, so are putting in lots of volunteer time to support local residents. There are, and will continue to be, many issues to be addressed as the scheme evolves so representing the interests of residents we believe is important.

2 Financial

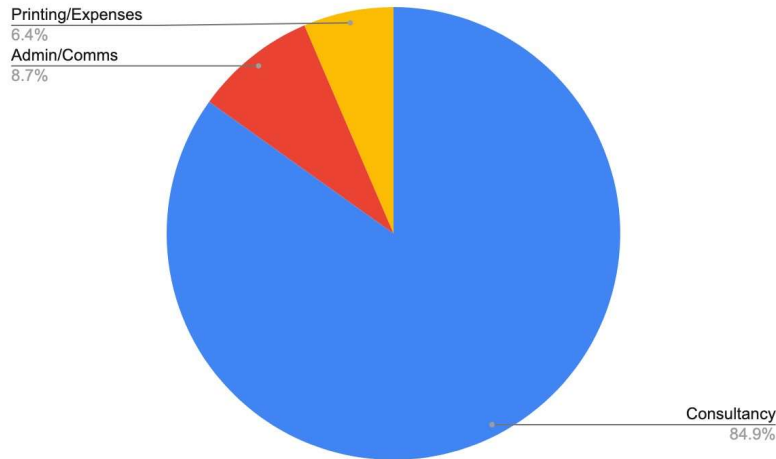
We opened the financial year with a cash balance of **£48,828.41** and closed the year with a balance of: **£41,801.87. With a significant closing balance we did not seek further income in the year from you, our principal sponsors., We received £740, being the residual funds of the former Stop Harlow North group, which was graciously received.**

Our expenditure for the year was £7,775 with **£6,600** spent on consultancy, with the following key work done:

- Comprehensive review of Strategic Landscape Master Plan documents

- Reviewing the outstanding reserved matter planning applications, and responding where we believe there are matters of concern to residents and or conflicts between what's proposed and the Communities adopted Neighbourhood Plan.
- Attendance and assistance at both internal and external meetings and workshops • Assistance in our dealings with local authorities

£675 was spent on administration and communications costs. **£500** was for printing, postage, webspace and other similar expenses.



3 Our Report - We summarise below our work last year and are happy to attend a Council meeting to elaborate on this report and answer questions.

3.0 Summary of Key issues, activities and progress over the last year include:

- + A request for a **Judicial Review** of EHC's planning decision by a resident, a review to which the NPG was not a party, was rejected, with leave to appeal also denied.
- + During the year, we have attended the **Community Forums** hosted by East Herts Council these forums represent opportunities to better understand some of the strategic issues, like the construction programme/where the water supply will come from etc, and will continue, possibly for the next 30 or so years. Clearly a construction project of this scale will have its challenges for residents. The forums also create opportunities to shape the development through making the views of residents known to East Herts and the Developers. We have found the opportunity to meet East Herts' Planning team and the developers before the Forums formally starts helpful.
- + The Strategic Landscape Master Plan for the whole development site, which includes land outside of the 'Village Development areas' in PFP's ownership and is due to become an asset in community ownership.

We are grateful to our District and County Councillors for the time and energy they both have put into championing the Community's views and concerns on a regular basis with their respective Officers.

We have also maintained contact with The Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Executive team where a new Chief Executive was appointed during the year. While Gilston planning matters are the responsibility of East Herts Council, keeping aware of other developments across the Garden Town is helpful. The highway works between the Harlow station roundabout and the town centre created significant traffic delays so is an example of an impact of the development on residents' day to day lives over extended periods.

There are many important issues for both parish councils that need review/resolution and making sure the Community's voice is heard as we try to ensure that a high quality of development is achieved and that the construction over a possibly 20/30 years is managed with sensitivity so as to minimise any adverse impacts on existing residents.

The following key activities/workstreams we anticipate will require our attention and will make an impact on existing residents and our communities:

- The **S106 agreement** is a complex and long legal agreement between the Developers and Councils and developed the conditions agreed to by EHC's Development Management Committee into legal commitments by the Developers. The NPG was not involved in the preparation of this agreement. Both parish councils have experience of developments being approved subject to such S106 agreements where the commitments were not delivered or significantly delayed. The Gilston S106 agreement provides funds for a monitoring Officer at EHC who will produce an annual report on how the Developer obligations are being met/delivered and so, we hope, are not diluted. These Developer obligations and commitments to new schools, health facilities, better public spaces, play areas etc. will deliver improvements for residents who will have to put up with decades of building works.
- **Reserved Matter Applications** (RMA's) are planning applications that develop the principles consented to within the Outline Planning Consent, as endorsed by EHC. The first of these to be endorsed is the Strategic Landscape Master Plan (SLMP) , an important document, which sets out the principles of how the whole site, rather than the 7 Villages, will be developed. For this reason they have a very direct impact on existing residents, especially for delivering the commitment to the open areas which will eventually become community owned assets. They also identify community facilities (such as schools/health/sports facilities) which will be delivered and, while supporting the 7 villages, will also support current residents. The process for agreeing these applications is by delegation Officers rather than decisions by elected Councillors. At the turn of the year there were some 30 RMA's awaiting decision. Many of the applications contain 100's of pages of supporting text and technical information. As a community organisation we are simply not resourced to evaluate such applications and, without advisors, have to rely on EHC to review these details and make sure that decisions are made in line with the Outline Planning consent, the S106 and align with our adopted Neighbourhood Plan which is embodied within EHC's Local Plan.
- **Stewardship** the S106 agreement also sets a timetable for agreeing a draft business plan for the proposed Stewardship body. We have been involved with the early stages of work in preparing the business plan for this new body, it will cover the long term management of not only the 7 villages, but also the spaces between the villages and undeveloped land destined to be passed to the community. The interface between the two Parish Councils and the Stewardship body will have a number of sensitivities as will the funding of community assets alongside the existing work of the Parish Councils.
- **Infrastructure works - Highways** – the major proposals for the two new Stort Crossings are detailed in the consents already granted and will cause significant disruption over the next two years between Eastwick, Pye Corner and Harlow's station roundabout. We are encouraging the Developers to improve the flow of information to residents. Many residents will have experience of the traffic delays arising from the recently completed initial road works on the sustainable transport corridor in Harlow. Substantial infrastructure needs

to be delivered before the housing and other important things need to be delivered by ‘trigger dates’ set out in the S106 agreement (like taking through traffic out of Pye Corner).

- **Key interfaces** – the NPG aims to keep in contact with key influencers and interested parties to ensure that they are aware of the pressures and challenges that might arise from the development. We plan to continue to maintain these contacts.
- **Local Developer interfaces** – We are delighted that the Places for People have, after many requests, reinstated periodic meetings with us to discuss matters of common interest (for example flooding at Hunsdon and in Eastwick and Gilston). We also have championed and continue to champion early works where they might benefit both residents and the Developers to reduce the adverse impacts caused by the deterioration of the land about to be developed.,
- **Ways of working** – We hope to continue our work, as representing both Parish Councils. This has the advantage of pooling expertise and sharing the costs of responding to this development. While one of the Developers initially gave us some funding that has long since been spent. We continue to seek further members of the community to join us to help us with our work, there are many issues which will directly affect residents and the facilities you enjoy, or should have provided by this development.

**Anthony Bickmore, Chairman, HEGNPG 11th
April 2026**