

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH MAGAZINE

Please join us at St Mary's Church, Gilston for our

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE



on

SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER

at 6pm



Everyone is welcome to join us for our
annual Harvest Service of readings and traditional hymns
as we give thanks for Nature's abundance,
for the hard work of the farming community
and the safe bringing in of crops

All contributions to the supper are welcome
Just let Christine know what you will be bringing
(christine.law2@btinternet.com)
Collection in aid of MIND Charity

SEPTEMBER 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: 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

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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 14TH 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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Parish Council meeting of Monday 13th July 2026 at 8.00pm, Village Hall, Pye Corner

PRESENT: Cllrs Beazley, Bryant, Harvey, Marx, Orson

In attendance: Christine Law (Parish Clerk), Eric Buckmaster (CC) John Dunlop (DC). 1 member of the public.

Public Participation

- a. A resident was concerned about the non-delivery of post for the last 3 weeks as our regular post-man has been on holiday and asked who should be contacted to make a complaint. It was suggested that residents should write to our local MP's on this matter - Josh.dean.mp@parliament.uk and Harlow's MP Chris.vince.mp@parliament.uk.
- b. A resident asked the purpose of the temporary road signs in Gilston Lane by St Mary's church. It is believed that these are for the large vehicles turning to use the new road for work being carried out on the pylons crossing the airfield.
- c. Footpaths – a resident raised concerns that Footpath E6 and Cock Robin Lane have become overgrown and difficult to pass. It is explained in Cllr Orson's July Parish Paths report that HCC Rights of Way have been re-procuring the annual vegetation cutting contract and in doing so ran into some minor delays. The contract is now up and running and it is expected that all works will be completed by mid-August. The late start and the logistics of start-up for cutting 650km of unconnected routes across the county, coupled with reductions from two cuts annually to one had slowed thing up.

15.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

- a. None

16.RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- a. Cllr Marx – Item 18.iii (b) and item19.f.

17.MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- a. Minutes of our Annual Council Meeting of 11th May . proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Marx (appendix 1)
- b. Minutes of our Parish Council Business Meeting of 11th May proposed by Cllr Marx and seconded by Cllr Bryant. (appendix 2)
Both were signed by Cllr Orson as a true record.

18.ACCOUNTS

- a. The Clerk presented the written report of the Council's Accounts summary. No queries raised.

- b. Grant of £600.00 for the maintenance of both our churchyards. This was discussed and Cllr Marx as Treasurer of the PCC was asked for a breakdown of expenses. This will be held over until our September meeting.

This was proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Harvey.

19. PLANNING AND ASSOCIATED APPLICATIONS

- a. Grassland, Pye Corner – 3/23/1110/FUL – Retrospective change of use of buildings. Amended plans – Awaiting Decision. This is a 2023 planning request with no outcome. The Clerk has written to planning about this application with no result.
- b. The Old Rectory, Gilston – 3/25/1522/FUL. This has been refused by Planning, and the applicant has taken this to appeal. **Planning Inspectorate has dismissed the appeal**
- c. 70 Eastwick Road, Eastwick – 3/26/0260/HH & 3/26/0261/LBC – Single storey rear extension, fenestration alteration, internal layout alterations, addition of partition walls, replacement door and removal of non-original doors, repair work to render, roof and timber work. **Awaiting decision.**
- d. 14 Turvin Crescent, Terlings, Park, Gilston – 3/26/0539/HH – Erection of rear balcony at first floor level; removal of a window and replacement with a new door to provide access to the balcony. **The application has been withdrawn by applicant.**
- e. Hodgson House, 3 Gilston Park, Gilston – 3/26/0593/HH – Single storey rear extension with green roof and alterations to fenestration. **Planning application granted.**
- f. 33 Pye Corner, Gilston – 3/26/0693/HH – Two storey rear extension. **This planning application has been withdrawn by applicant.**
- g. 2 Gilston Park House – 3/26/0646/LBC – Internal works at basement level: removal of internal walls, creation of two new doorways, relocation of utility room, alterations to pipework and drainage and installation of extraction ventilation unit. **Awaiting decision**
- h. Bus Stop – Village Hall, Pye Corner – The Parish Council have been contacted by the HCC Integrated Passenger Transport Unit regarding possible improvements to the bus infrastructure at the Village Hall. Next steps will be for a worked-up proposal / options including the stop opposite the village hall. Decisions on anything proposed for the village hall land are for the village hall management committee to decide and not the PC. There was recognition that improvements to the bus infrastructure are a first step toward improving overall service and a hub for sustainable travel.

Post meeting notes:- "Cllr Beazley shared the results of a short survey of Terlings Park residents re the new bus service

No of responses 23

Before this survey, was your household aware of the 33 bus service between Hoddesdon and Bishops Stortford

- Yes 65.22%
- No 34.78%

Has anyone from your household used the 33 bus?

- Yes 30.43%
- No 69.57%

How often has your household used the 33 bus?

- Every Day 14.29%
- A Few Times a month 7.14%
- Once a Month 14.29%
- Less than once a Month 64.29%

If you have used the 33 bus, which direction have you travelled in?

- Towards Hoddesdon 0%
- Towards Bishops Stortford 100%

If you have used the 33 bus service, which bus stop have you used?

- Opposite Terlings Avenue 41.67%
- Village Hall 16.67%
- 97 – 98 Pye Corner 8.33%
- Plume of Feathers 8.33%
- Other 25%

There was a short discussion re what would be needed to improve use of the bus including dependability, permanent bus stops, and improved schedule."

20. PARISH PATHS

- a. Cllr Orson reported that:

Annual Vegetation Cutting – Nicholas Maddex who had been our HCC Rights of Way officer for many years has retired. HCC are currently trying to recruit a replacement Officer for what was Nicholas' area and consequently resources are short. With regards to annual vegetation cutting, they have been re-procuring the contract and in doing so run into some minor delays, The contract is now up and running and it is expected that all works will be complete by mid-August. The late start and the logistics of start-up for cutting 650km of unconnected routes across the county, coupled with reductions from two cuts annually to one has slowed things up.

Maintenance of non-tenanted and uncultivated land. There is a problem with uncultivated PFP land growing a good crop of thistles, ragwort and other vegetation together with being generally left to deteriorate. Clouds of thistledown being blown across Pye Corner / Gilston Lane (and no doubt other areas) from around early July to mid-August has become an annual event. This matter has been raised with PFP and Knight Frank their agents last year and again this year. We are already experiencing quantities of airborne thistledown – Knight Frank assures us that mitigation measures are in hand however we are waiting to be told what action will be taken and when.

Closure of FP22 from Eastwick Hall Lane to Eastwick Hall Farm. National Grid works are needed to facilitate planned overhead line rewiring works and will see the closure of Eastwick and Gilston Footpath 022, near Eastwick Hall Lane and Eastwick Hall Farm. The closure is scheduled for Monday 6 July to Friday 28 August 2026, between the What3Word locations of [///civic.tape.stale](#) and [///bland.filed.cubs](#).

21.COMMUNITY FORUM/NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Cllr Bryant reported:

Roadworks in and around Gilston C161

Significant excavation and haul road laying has been undertaken either side of the C161 between the Eastwick roundabout and the Dusty Miller.

NATTA, the road construction contractor, deployed traffic lights at various dates & times during the last 2 months; they endeavoured to only put traffic restrictions in place when necessary and were quick to remove them when not needed to minimise disruption for road users.

A414 lane closures between west entrance into / exit from Eastwick and the Eastwick roundabout

A414 lane closures have caused an increase in traffic holdups and made exiting from Eastwick more problematic for residents. Eastwick residents must now turn left when exiting the village and join the traffic to the Eastwick roundabout even when they wish to drive west towards Hertford. Hertfordshire Highways insist on this for safety reasons and to minimise disruption for other road users.

I have concern that the warning signage and speed restrictions approaching the lane closure from the west (Hertford direction) are not sufficient for safety.

NATTA, PFP and Hertfordshire Highways have been asked to review.

Proposed 24/7 road closure of C161 for 7 weeks (between Eastwick roundabout and The Dusty Miller)

NPG, on behalf of the Parish Council, has met several times with PFP, NATTA, EHC planners and Herts Highways to challenge the need for the approx. 7 week closure and get them to investigate whether it is absolutely necessary to close the C161 24/7 for approx. 7 weeks during the autumn. We asked them to explore whether it would be possible to undertake some of the work during the school summer holidays.

From PFP / NATTA "we are unfortunately unable to make this change [split the closure to 2 phases]. Due to the complexity of the works, the number of utility providers involved, and the timeframe the teams have been working under, there is no practical solution that would allow the works to be completed during the summer holidays without either extending the overall programme or causing greater disruption.

We appreciate this will be disappointing news for local residents

NPG have a further meeting scheduled Tuesday 14th to hear why the 7 week closure is the only option and what assistance / actions PFP will put in place to at least try to mitigate the significant disruption this will cause residents.

[Gilstonparkestate.com /get involved / construction](https://gilstonparkestate.com/get-involved/construction) for occasional updates on the roadworks

Or our community website [News Articles – Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council](#)

PFP have agreed to hold another public event (with presentations and opportunity for Questions & Answers - not simply a drop-in).

They, PFP & NATTA, are not currently able to confirm the exact timing of the Eastwick Road closure and say they remain committed to minimising disruption wherever possible and continue to explore opportunities to reduce the duration of the future road closure. As soon as the programme is finalised they will provide advance notice to residents and stakeholders and will hold a public information event to explain the works, the traffic management arrangements and the support measures that will be in place.

A414 Roadworks / Church Lane Hunsdon junction

Village 7 Amended details of access of the **A414/ Church Lane signalised junction, 3/26/0366/NMA**, has now been approved by EHC Planning team. Work is likely to commence some time Autumn 2026.

EHC Gilston Area Community Forum meeting 12th May 2026

Focussed on updates from the **Village 7 developer (Taylor Wimpey) in relation to their programme of development/highway impacts etc..**

Next Community Forum autumn 2026 - date has not been scheduled yet.

All past presentations can be found at

[Gilston Area Community Forum | East Herts District Council](#)

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

There is also an opportunity to “drop-in” between 6:30 and 7:00pm for informal discussion with EHC councillors, planning officers and developer representatives.

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

Neighbourhood Development –

Village 1 Infrastructure Delivery Plan, X/26/0216/CND, in 3 phases has been submitted to EHC for approval.

Villages 5 & 6 Master Planning - Places for People have held 3 workshops with “Stakeholders”. The design of Villages 5 & 6 is needed to position the Strategic Transport Corridor (STC) between Villages 1 & 7. The STC must be constructed, as part of the early development, to enable children from V7 to travel to the proposed new V1 Primary school – or vice versa. **It has not yet been decided whether the 1st new Primary school should be in V1 or V7.**

Submission of the Village 5 and 6 Masterplans to East Herts District Council is anticipated later in 2026.

Useful websites:

All planning documents are on the East Herts Planning website

<https://publicaccess.eastherts.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Villages 1 - 6 OPA 3/19/1045/OUT

Strategic Landscape Masterplan – amended – approved

Village 1 – 6 X/25/0215/CND Discharge condition 6 (Strategic Landscape Masterplan) attached to 3/19/1045/OUT, 15th December 2025

Village 7 - X/25/0225/CND Full Discharge of Condition 10 (Strategic Landscape Masterplan) and Full Discharge of Condition 11 (Strategic Landscape Design Code) Pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 3/19/2124/OUT (Gilston - Village 7), 15th December 2025

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

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

Eastwick & Gilston Community website

<https://eastwickandgilstonparish.gov.uk>

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 updates.

- For information on current and upcoming roadworks go to [Causeway one.network](https://one.network/uk/hertfordshire)
<https://one.network/uk/hertfordshire>
- Places for People gilstonparkestate website NEWS page
<https://www.gilstonparkestate.com/news/enabling-works-for-gilston-underway/>

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>

East Herts Community Forums

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

22.HIGHWAYS

a., Cllr Harvey reported:

1.It is well known to the parish council that there are difficult times ahead in regard to the closure of roads and lanes whilst the development of the new villages by PFP requires space to make the necessary adaptations to electricity and water supplies for the development .

Despite overtures to avoid closures nothing has been achieved as the contractors adhere to their requirements for the safety of workers and local traffic users.

As yet there is no firm date for the 7 week closure of the Eastwick Road from the Harlow roundabout to Burnt Mill Lane- other than it is not going to be within the school holidays . Offers have been made in mitigation with regard to school buses.

Already there have been lane closures on the A414 as it approaches the Harlow roundabout past Eastwick. In the first event the access to the opposite carriageway was not blocked - this time it has been . I suspect because of an access requirement to Cat Lane.

Despite overtures the contractors remain adamant that this is because of safety issues. Given that it has been known for many years that this is a dangerous turning I wonder if we should now re approach Highways, with some support from PFP, to ask them what they can do to improve this .

I would suggest _

- 1- A yellow box on both sides of the carriageway.
- 2- Improved signage - it is currently not fit for purpose on either side .
- 3- An extension of the lighting which only goes as far as the farm turning - I have always wondered why ? This would be an ideal time to achieve it whilst the lanes are closed anyway!
4. Dramatic thinning of the hedges on the roadside near Eastwick as it is generally difficult to see on coming traffic even during the day - and impossible in gloom.
5. Could we be advised by the lawyers currently funded for HEGNPG ?
2. As far as I am aware there are no outstanding works due to pot holes either on Gilston Lane or Eastwick Hall Lane.
3. A report has gone in to Highways and PFP about the inappropriate signage onto Eastwick Hall Lane from the A414 which fails to address that there is a 30 mph speed limit and no through way

other than to the village.

23. NEW HOMES BONUS / INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Nothing to report.

24. VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Harvey reported:

1. As Treasurer I can confirm that we are in a positive balance of 20,432.88
2. The new booking system c/o the parish website continues to make monitoring of the halls users easier whilst allowing easier bookings.
3. As usual the lawyers are taking rather a long time to sort out the hall deeds.
4. We are continuing to promote the hall and the Facebook page has received an increasing number of followers.
5. We are unfortunately losing a long time booking for Phonic Fox. This is due to falling attendance numbers.
6. We are still pursuing a grant that will allow an upgrade to all three toilet facilities. Two quotes have been invited so far.
7. The hall lobby will be redecorated this month courtesy of PFP.
8. We are going to be approached regarding the site of a new bus stop outside the village hall and will consider when the details are outline

25. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP

- a. Appointment of Chief Operating Officer – Cllr Orson presented the document attached to these minutes. It was agreed that the Parish Council would endorse the proposal to appoint a Chief Operating Officer. Proposed by Cllr Harvey and seconded by Cllr Beazley.

26. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Eric Buckmaster – County Councillor report is with these minutes.
- b. District Councillor John Dunlop report is with these minutes.
- c. Cllr Beazley informed the meeting that he has received a communication from Tom Mullen of Mullens brewery about the opening of The Lion at Eastwick and The Dusty Miller in Gilston. He has said “We continue to review our options at these sites. Part of the reason for the delay has been that we have been awaiting the outcome of a much-delayed planning application elsewhere in the district which, we hoped, would give a positive direction for all parties interested in these pubs. Once the picture becomes clearer we will be back in touch.”

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

None.

2. ITEMS COUNCILLOR WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA

None.

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of our next meeting will be on Monday 14th September at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Meetings for 2026

9th November – Parish Council Business Meeting

Meetings for 2027

- a. 11th January – Parish Council meeting
- b. 8th March – Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council business meeting
- c. 10th May – Parish Council AGM followed by business meeting
- d. 12th July – Parish Council meeting
- e. 13th September – Parish Council meeting
- f. 8th November – Parish Council meeting



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.

SEPTEMBER SERVICES 2026

6 th September	14 th Sunday after Trinity	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		9.30am	Breakfast followed at 10.00am Family Service	St James, High Wych
13 th September	15 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		11.15am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Gilston
20 th September	16 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
25 th September	Friday	2.30pm	Rivers Service	
27 th September	17 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		11.15am	Family Service	St Botolph's, Eastwick

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 – revajacksonhwge@outlook.com or Miss Robyn Richards – robynrichards123@hotmail.com.

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

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

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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Apple Day – Rivers Orchard

This very popular family event will take place on Saturday 26th September 10am – 3pm in Rivers Orchard. Help the happy band of volunteers to pick apples for juicing and then pick some of the fantastic varieties to take home for yourself. There will be refreshments, history boards and fruit identification for which you need to bring 5 of your fruit with leaves. For further information www.rhso.co.uk



September Letter

Dear Friends

New things, old things – reimagined for this generation

There is something rather lovely about old things.

Old buildings, old stories, old traditions – they connect us with the generations who have gone before us. And churches are particularly good at holding on to things that have been part of our lives for a very long time!

But there is also something exciting about trying something new.

As a Benefice, we are discovering that there are lots of different ways of being together, and that people of different ages and stages of life are looking for different things.

Take **Jimmy's**, our baby and toddler group. I love meeting parents, grandparents and carers with their little ones and being able to say, "Come in – there's a place here for you." It is a place to make friends, share a coffee and discover that you are definitely not the only person who has survived a night with very little sleep!

Then there is **Messy Church** – and the clue really is in the name! We have created a space where children and families can be adventurous, creative, a little bit messy, and explore the stories of Jesus together. And for those of us who are a little further along in life, there is **Wednesday Welcome** – coffee, cake, companionship, interesting life stories and, most importantly, plenty of opportunity for a good chat. Now we are trying something else.

On the **final Sunday of each month at 7pm**, we are launching **Sunday @ 7** – a new contemporary worship service with music, prayer, teaching and time to simply be in the presence of God. Perhaps Sunday mornings don't work for you. Perhaps you work shifts, have family commitments, or simply prefer a later and more relaxed start to your day. Or perhaps you haven't been to church for a long time and would like to explore faith in a setting that feels a little different. Whatever your reason, you would be very welcome.

Our first **Sunday @ 7** will be on **27th September at 7pm at St James Church, High Wych**, and the band has been busy rehearsing. We are hoping for some beautiful music, some good worship and, above all, a chance to discover what happens when we make space for God in our busy lives. So why do we keep trying new things?

Quite simply, because **people matter**.

We want as many people as possible to have the opportunity to discover the good news of Jesus – his love, his hope, his forgiveness and the difference he can make to our lives.

The Apostle Paul understood this. He wrote:

"I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some."

1 Corinthians 9:22

Paul was willing to adapt the way he shared his faith so that more people could hear and understand the message of Jesus.

And perhaps that is something worth remembering. **The message doesn't change, but the way we share it can.**

So, whether it is coffee and cake, paint and glitter, a toddler group, a conversation over a cup of tea, a traditional Sunday service or singing along with a band on a Sunday evening – we are simply trying to find different ways of opening the door and saying:

"Come in. There's a place for you here."

Because ultimately, that is what we hope all these different things will help us to do: create places where people can meet one another, discover something of God's love and grow together.

Growing in faith.

Growing in hope.

Growing in love.

And perhaps, this September, there might be room for you too.

Sunday @ 7 – 27th September, 7pm.

St James, High Wych

Come and see.

Your Priest

Alison

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

Monday, 9 September 2013

Muntjac Deer

I felt privileged to watch the muntjac deer on the bank this afternoon, he was very busy cropping the lower branches of an apple tree and munching on the plants.

Many people find these creatures a nuisance, but I enjoy every moment while watching them in the garden. They are sturdy little deer just fifteen to eighteen inches at the shoulder when fully grown. they are also known as barking deer because of the noise they make --- a little like a small dog!

During summer they are a reddish brown in colour and in winter a greyish brown, with darker markings on their face, a vee shape in the male and a diamond shape in the female. The males have short straight horns on top of their pedicules. They have no set breeding time but like us are able to reproduce all year round. The fawns are very pretty and very tiny, they are born after a seven month gestation and have rows of white spots along their back for their first two months.

Muntjac are not native to this country having been introduced to our parks in the early twentieth century, they originate from south-east China and Taiwan. Many escaped from these parks and set up wild populations in our countryside, they are now frequently seen in our gardens.

Saturday, 14 September 2013

The Spider Living in the Mallow.

Directly outside the patio window a mallow has self seeded and grown, we have left it there because it has beautiful purple flowers and attracts many bees and other insects, it now has an added interest because a spider has made this plant its home, and over the last few weeks it has feasted well, catching many and varied flies and other insects in its web. The only creatures to escape are wasps and bees, who are much stronger than the others, they are often caught but able to free themselves by just struggling, however I have noticed they always tear the web in leaving. This presents no problem to the spider who always has it repaired in a very short time.

I noticed on the plant, one of the leaves was pulled down and the edges drawn slightly together, watching I realised that the spider sits and waits underneath this leaf, and it is from here that he is able to rush out and quickly deal with any disturbance of his web.

Saturday, 21 September 2013

Badgers and Plums

A trip down the garden resulted in finding the plums both ripe and over ripe on the tree, glancing down to the border beneath, I saw it was totally flattened and there were no windfall plums, I also became aware of a very strong smell. I think the flattening of the area and the lack of windfalls together with the strong smell, leads me to think of a badger. It pleases me to think the badger must be having a feast nightly. The reason I think it is a badger not a fox is because the strong smell is definitely not fox and therefore must be badger.

Monday, 23 September 2013

Fox, Great Tits and an Angry Robin

The garden has become very overgrown during the last few months. The fox continues to call for food every evening, but sadly there will be no youngsters this autumn. A few months ago the fox den was discovered by some

youngsters, who tried to dig it out, despite my catching them, they returned on two further occasions. This was enough to make the fox leave her den. It is September now and although she does still turn up for food sadly there is no sign of any young.

This morning I spent a very happy half an hour watching a small flock of great tits in and around the pond area. They searched all over nearby plants and shrubs for food and both drank and bathed in the pond. One area of the pond is quite overgrown and I noticed any tits venturing into that area soon came out. I couldn't understand this until the quick exit of a great tit was followed even more quickly by a robin shooting out. The robin took up position on a nearby plant and thereafter defied any great tits to come near that area. I think he/she must have a home there.

Friday, 27 September 2013

A Warm Autumn Day Bringing Changes

An important time in my life coming up. A lung operation which will hopefully prolong my life.

During the past two months I seem to have spent much time gazing out of the windows. From my seat in the lounge I have watched both foxes and badgers feed at night.

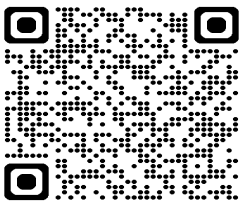
This morning the warmth of the sun has brought many beautiful butterflies and dragonflies to the garden, with dozens of ladybirds, both British and European, climbing up or resting on the sun warmed surface of the bungalow outer walls.

A small green caterpillar slowly making its way down the patio window, became lunch for a tit. Dozens of bees and wasps have banged into the patio windows. The hornets have left the garage, the bees have moved on from their nest in the bedroom wall, (the noise they made at night keeping the nest at the right temperature was amazing, of course it was the same during the day, but much less noticeable).

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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.

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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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

*www.hundredparishes.org.uk



We always encourage people to visit parish churches; they are usually the oldest building in any community and their interiors have great variety. Here, I will discuss one particular feature – the screen which forms a partition, both physically and symbolically, between the laity or congregation in the nave, the main part of the church, and the clergy in the chancel.

The screen, sometimes referred to as a chancel screen, often has a lattice design to allow people worshipping in the nave to see through into the chancel. Chancel comes from a Latin word meaning lattice.

Several of our churches have finely-carved 15th-century wooden screens including Albury, Finchingfield, Henham, Manuden and Wendens Ambo.

Some screens are called rood screens. Above these screens is a “rood” - a representation of Christ’s crucifixion, usually flanked by two saints, most often Mary and St John. Rood is a Saxon word meaning cross.

The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples of rood screens. They are usually carved in wood but in Stebbing and Great Bardfield parish churches (both dedicated to St. Mary) the 14th-century screens are carved in stone. This is a really rare feature.

Little Canfield’s wooden rood screen is believed to date from the 14th-century.

A carved 15th-century wooden screen can be found in Sawbridgeworth’s Church of Great St Mary with a depiction above it of the risen Christ installed as recently as 2000 AD.

The Church of Holy Trinity at Takeley has a relatively modern rood screen, installed around 1910 and featuring a wooden carving of Christ on the cross with a saint on each side.

I have named just some examples around The Hundred Parishes. Please explore our local churches, perhaps while following one of the walk descriptions that can be downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Ken McDonald, Secretary

The age of steam, which had taken over from underground trains was our talk in July. In 1856 there were 50 trains a day between London and Loughton with a further 22 continuing to Epping. During the 1950s electrification took place. In 1994 a -private company purchased Epping to Ongar section of the line but did not run any trains. In early 2000 Epping and Ongar Railway Volunteer Society was formed and in 2004 the first train service left Ongar. This was all possible by the enthusiasm of volunteers and today they have many events – www.eorailway.co.uk

We have a good selection of books for sale to have a look on our website – these are ideal as presents. www.sbwhistory.com

We are very pleased to welcome Tim Turner who will be giving us a talk on Audley End House at our September meeting on Thursday 24th at the Hailey Centre – doors open 7pm and talk starts at 7.30pm. Members £2, non members £5.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE SAWBRIDGEWORTH NEWSLETTER FROM PATIENTS GROUP

Protect Yourself against Meningitis B Before Term Starts: Free Meningitis B (MenB) Vaccines Now Available at Local Pharmacies:

With the new academic year fast approaching, the NHS is launching a new service to help protect young people against Meningitis B (MenB). Since 20 July 2026, eligible young people and students have been able to get their free MenB vaccination directly at participating local pharmacies.

Meningitis and septicaemia can develop suddenly and progress rapidly, making vaccination the best form of protection—especially for students mixing in crowded environments like university halls or colleges.

Here is everything you need to know about the new service and how to get your vaccine:

Who is eligible for the free vaccine?

- You can get your free MenB vaccine at a participating pharmacy if you meet either of these criteria:
- You are a new university or residential college student: You were born on or after 21 July 2001 and are starting university or starting at a further education college as a residential student, for the first time this autumn. (Note: This includes international students and students from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man).
- You fall within the eligible age bracket: You were born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008.

How the vaccine is given:

- The MenB vaccine requires two doses to provide full protection. Your second dose must be given at least 4 weeks after your first dose. Because of this timeline, the NHS strongly advises getting your first dose as soon as possible, so you are fully protected before the busy academic year begins.

How to get your vaccine: Getting your vaccine is simple: Find a participating pharmacy: You can search for pharmacies offering this service through the NHS MenB Pharmacy Finder. Arrange a time: Simply phone or visit your chosen pharmacy to arrange a day and time for your vaccination. Book online (for specific ages): If you were born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008, you also have the option to book your appointment online. The booking system is open now for appointments starting 20 July.

Don't wait until freshers' week to think about your health. Check your eligibility today and take a few minutes to arrange your vaccination.

Use the following link to find an MenB participating Pharmacy near you: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-and-booking-services/find-a-pharmacy-that-offers-walkin-menb-vaccinations-for-young-people/>

For more information on the MenB vaccine and how it protects against meningitis and septicaemia, read: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningococcal-disease-outbreak-resources/a-guide-to-the-meningococcal-b-vaccine-that-protects-against-meningitis-and-septicaemia>

Covid/Flu Vaccinations – Autumn 2026: As we approach the autumn and winter months, Central Surgery would like to remind patients that the seasonal Flu and COVID-19 booster vaccinations will soon be available for eligible groups. These vaccines are the best way to help protect yourself, your loved ones, and the wider community from serious illness during the colder months. CS strongly encourages all eligible patients to take up the offer when invited.

At present, Central Surgery is planning for clinics to commence from end of September through October. They will be confirming the exact dates for both weekday and weekend vaccination clinics over the coming month and will share further details as soon as they are finalised.

The NHS autumn/winter 2026 COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccination programmes will run from October 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027, with pregnant women able to receive the flu vaccine starting September 1, 2026. Co-administration of both vaccines will be offered where possible.

Programme Timelines:

- **September 1, 2026:** Flu vaccinations begin for pregnant women.
- **October 1, 2026:** Main autumn/winter COVID-19 and seasonal flu programmes commence for all other eligible adult cohorts; runs through January 31, 2027.

Eligible Groups:

- **COVID-19 Vaccine:** Adults aged 75 years and over, residents in care homes for older adults, and individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed.
- **Seasonal Flu Vaccine:** Standard NHS clinical risk groups, pregnant women, older adults, and young children in line with traditional seasonal guidelines.

How to Book: Eligible individuals will be able to arrange appointments via GP surgeries, local community pharmacies, or by checking the [NHS Vaccination Services](#) portal **once booking opens**.

Home Comfort, Temperature & Air Quality

Are you aged 65 or over?

Would you like to share your experience of staying comfortable at home in both warm and cold weather?

This research looks at everyday ways people manage comfort at home. It includes how windows, doors, blinds and curtains are used, how different areas of the home feel (for example, floors), whether there are drafts, and how these factors vary across weather conditions and affect indoor air quality:

Duration: 2 weeks

What's involved: monitoring indoor temperature and air quality, completing simple forms, keeping a daily diary (optional), and a short interview.

Thank you vouchers: £20–£40 (depending on participation)

Taking part may help you better understand your home environment, including temperature and air quality. Your experience will also make an important contribution to improving living conditions for older people.

Sign up details available at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/view/field-study-home-comfort-tempe/home>

Awareness Days: The following Awareness Days occur during September. If you are affected by any of these conditions, there are useful links for each one if you want to find out more information:

- **EveryWoman Day 2026:** Date: 13-14 September, 2026.
Comments: EveryWoman Day is an annual awareness day in the UK that draws attention to women's health issues often overlooked or misunderstood.
Link: <https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/everywoman-day/>
- **Male Cancer Awareness Week**
Date: September 14 to 20, 2026.
Comments: Key Campaign Goals: Highlight early warning signs of male-specific cancers. Encourage timely medical advice and GP visits. Break down social stigmas surrounding men's health
Link: <https://orchid-cancer.org.uk/awareness-and-education/male-cancer-awareness-week/>
- **Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Week**
Date: September 14 to 20, 2026.
Comments: Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Week is an annual event led by the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society to educate the public, dispel myths, and highlight early symptoms.
Link: <https://nras.org.uk/campaigning/ra-awareness-week/>

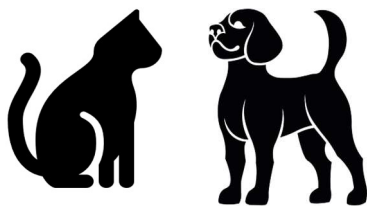
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3.00 – 5.00PM
AT ST JAMES, HIGH WYCH

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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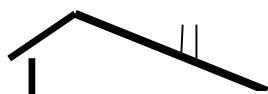
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The Sawbridgeworth Trust Registered Charity 237946

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

We are not allowed to pay rents or council Tax.

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

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

In the first instance please apply to the Clerk.
Mrs Di Kitson
11 The Forbury, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9BD
Or telephone 01279 7232123

Community Dog Walks 2026

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

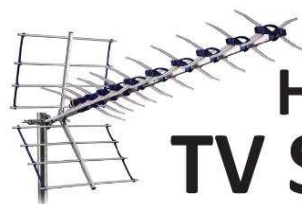
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For more information, please contact our clerk:
Di Kitson on 01279 723212 or email: diana.kitson@btinternet.com





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VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

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

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

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



The Lion Public House, Eastwick – CM20 2QP

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

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

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

Terlings Park, Kirkpatrick Place – CM20 2FX

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

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

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

Phone 999

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



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 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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Where: St James Church, High Wych, CM21 0JB

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Expect energising warm-ups, supportive guidance, and the thrill of singing these iconic works together in the beautiful setting of St James Church.



No audition. No pressure. Just singing.

What's included • Vocal warm-ups and coaching • Rehearsals led by our MD **James Potter** • Breaks with tea, coffee and cake • Informal sing-through at the end of the day

Cost: £15, plus booking fee through ticketsource, includes music hire tea/coffee and cake.

£10 for Harlow Chorus members

Booking: ticketsource.co.uk/harlowchorus

Enquiries: comeandsing@harlowchorus.org.uk

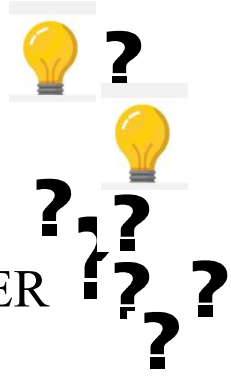
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GILSTON & EASTWICK
VILLAGE HALL

St Mary's Church is holding its annual

QUIZ NIGHT



SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER

7pm for 7.30pm start



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