EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH MAGAZINE




Join us for

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8TH NOVEMBER 2026

We will gather at

Eastwick War Memorial

Our Act of Remembrance

Will start at 10.50am
led by Rosemary Davis

We will plant a Field of Remembrance.
Lay our poppy wreaths and observe the
national 2 mins silence at 11.00am
Followed by Coffee & Cake and a chat at
St Botolph's afterwards.




NOVEMBER 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 2nd 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.

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++





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 Hertforshire'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@eastwickandgilstonpalrish.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 9TH NOVEMBER – 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 INTERRESTED PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK OR ONE OF OUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
Parish Council meeting of Monday 14TH September 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). 4 members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. Residents expressed great strength of feeling, frustration and anger in the way that the impending C161 road closure and matters generally were handled at the 9 September Community Forum. A long discussion was held and comments noted:

- No confidence, do they really care about the impact on residents?
- We don't like having photos of residents attending events that are held to tick boxes.
- Lack of trust in what we are told
- Poor preparation for questions
- Lack of "on the ground" knowledge - the right people need to be present
- We don't want to keep wasting everyone's time hearing how wonderful it will all be.
- We are not listened to - we never get a meaningful response, and it all just happens anyway
- We do not believe all mitigations have been considered, and the final solutions are lowest cost to any alternatives that would be better for residents.
- What happens to all the questions taken away - there never seem to be answers or actions
- Why is everything last minute when there has been so much time to plan and anticipate potential problems?
- We still have no response to the survey, and the road closes next week.
- No more empty promises - we need follow through
- Who is accountable if emergency services are delayed/disrupted and someone dies?

It was agreed that Cllr Orson should write to the Officers from HCC & PfP setting out the concerns raised.

BUSINESS MEETING

31) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

a) None.

32) RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

a) None.

33) MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

a) Minutes of our Parish Council Business Meeting of 13th July were proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Harvey. Then signed by Cllr Orson as a true record.

34) 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. Cllr Marx as Treasurer of the PCC explained PCC expenditure and the volunteer work carried out. It was agreed to grant £600.00 which to cover planned churchyard maintenance costs and to review PC contribution for any exceptional costs during the year should they occur.

Proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Harvey.

35) 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. Planning permission has now been granted.

b) 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. Has been granted.

c) 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. Awaiting decision.

d) 2 Gilston Park House – 3/26/0646/LBC – Internal works at basement level: removal od internal; walls, creation of two new doorways, relocation of utility room, alterations to pipework and drainage and installation of extraction ventilation unit. Has been granted.

e) Terlings Lodge, 46 Burnt Mill Lane, Gilston – 3/26/0782/LBC. Replacement window frames and replacement double doors and threshold. Awaiting decision.

36) PARISH PATHS

a) Cllr Orson reported that:

i) Countryside and Rights of Way Projects Officer - Nicholas Maddex has now been replaced by Oliver Dawes who is Projects Officer - Access | Countryside and Rights of Way | Environmental Sustainability with Hertfordshire County Council. We are arranging an introductory meeting with Oliver.

ii) Annual Vegetation Cutting – Unfortunately, a combination of factors has contributed to the delays in delivering this year's mowing programme.

(1) Crews were required to take regular breaks during periods of extreme heat to ensure the health and safety of the workforce.

(2) The contract commenced later than originally planned, which contributed to delays in completing the scheduled works.

(3) The specification has been expanded to include increased clearance of widths and heights. This should make the mowing programme quicker and easier to deliver next summer.

iii) 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. Knight Frank assured us that mitigation measures were in hand however we were informed in mid-August that measures had been delayed due to the potential of further survey work needing to be carried out. We have since raised this issue again at the September Gilston Stakeholder Liaison meeting and written to PfP stating that the failure to maintain their land is becoming a blight on the community and asking for confirmation that the necessary maintenance measures are in place for 2027.

iv) Footpath Map - additional copies of the "Walking Round Eastwick & Gilston and Hunsdon Parishes" footpath map are being printed and partially funded from a grant organised by Hunsdon Parish Council. The new maps will be available in the next few weeks and will provide sufficient stock for the next four years or so.

37) COMMUNITY FORUM/NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT

a) Cllr Bryant reported:

Community Forum 9th September2026

Summary (a more detailed report distributed to NPG & Parish Councillors)

No agenda published, website simply stated
"The next meeting of the Gilston Area Community Forum is being held on **Wednesday 9 September**, commencing at 6.30pm.
An update will be provided at the meeting of the latest programme and timescales for development by Places for People, the landowner for Gilston Villages 1 – 6".

Residents therefore, reasonably, assumed the meeting would start at 6:30. More residents attended than previous, EHC had to open up the adjoining room and find more chairs.
EHC had different ideas about the format of the event and Ben Crystall did not start the meeting until 7:00, surprising residents by saying they had had the opportunity to meet officers and developers between 6:30 & 7:00

EHC attendees: Ben Crystall, Maura Connolly, Jenny Pearce, Kevin Steptoe (HGGT)
HCC attendees: Paul Zukowskyj, Councillor, Phil Bradbury, Highways Officer
PfP attendees: Helen Puddle, Tim Jones, Charlie Ward

JP, EHC, presented the usual planning applications progress updates (PPT on the EHC Gilston Area CF webpages)
HP, PfP, (PPT also on the EHC Gilston Area CF webpages) presented:

- how wonderful PfP is,
- construction of timeline (see summary below),
- mentioned the survey and the influx of responses in the final few days so they are still reviewing. Said there had been several comments regarding extra costs due to the road closure, anyone struggling can contact PfP whose Financial Hardship team may be able to give financial advice.

This was the ONLY potential mitigation mentioned. They have to ensure, if they do anything, it is fair and equitable. Suspect they have only just realised it will affect lots of families trying to get to different schools (travelling both east and west).

- PfP will produce a residents Newsletter w/c 14th Sept

Finally (not until 7:43) the map of the C161 Closure diversion was shown, triggering a rush of questions and angry voices. BC stepped in - 'respect each other '. Following which lots of concerns and questions until approx 8:30
HP agreed to take away but not necessarily do anything:

- need for traffic lights at High Wych junction onto A1184 (EHC comment "It was looked at, but it was felt that it would cause further congestion by disrupting the heavily used north-south traffic flow. This carries more traffic than the number of vehicles expected to turn right from High Wych or Terlings Park.) This shows a shocking lack of consideration for the residents of Gilston.
- problems being caused for Eastwick residents (entry & exit and drivers using it as a rat run with excessive speed). Anyone moving cones is committing an illegal act. Actually easier to cross A414 whilst single lane.
- road closure between Allens /Green and Green Tye until January 2027. This removes another route residents could use to avoid the C161 closure. Why is this happening at same time? HP and TJ appeared unaware until EB informed them!

Phil Bradbury is "talking" to HCC Network Management.

- significant concern Emergency Services would be delayed. Why can't the bridge down Burnt Mill Lane be opened, at least for Emergency vehicles? PZ claims £20M and several years
- hopefully the A414 / Church Lane interchange (for Village 7) will not start until C161 reopens

Interesting question raised - if the Eastern Stort Crossing does not need to be opened until 3,250 homes, which could 2033 or later, how do the new residents of villages 1, 2 and 7 get to Bishop's Stortford, etc?
Answer - numbers will be manageable due to 60% modal shift. Not sure Pye Corner residents realise traffic could get significantly worse before it becomes a cul de sac.
The residents of Pye Corner will no doubt see an increase in traffic heading to the north as the houses get occupied.

Construction Timeline
Following construction dates, etc are estimates
Central Stort Crossing (CSC) North works commenced Summer 2026 - 2029 approx
Central Stort Crossing (CSC) South work commences 2029 - ???
Eastern Stort Crossing (ESC) – starts Spring 2031 - 2033 ??? ambitious
Link from Village 7 to school(s) in Village 1
- temporary cycle and footpath by 1st occupation in V7
- approved link road has to be completed before 450 units in V7

Village 1 enabling work begins 2026, house building starts 2029 Q4, 1st occupation 203??
Village 2 construction begins 2029 Q4, 1st occupation 2033
Village 3 construction works due Autumn 2035, 1st occupation 2036
Village 4 construction begins 2039 Q4, 1st occupation 2040
Village 5 construction begins 2043 Q4, 1st occupation 20??
Village 6 construction begins 2046, 1st occupation 2047

Gilstonparkestate.com /get involved / construction for occasional updates on the roadworks
Or our community website News Articles – Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council

All past Community Forum 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 –

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
The 1st new Primary school will be in V1.

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

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
- 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

38) HIGHWAYS

a) Cllr Harvey had nothing to add to Cllr Bryants report.

39) NEW HOMES BONUS / INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

a) Nothing to report.

40) VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

a) Cllr Harvey reported:

i) I am pleased to say that currently there has only been one cancellation due to the road closure plans. I suspect it should only impact bookings around the rush hour . We will have to wait and see. Meanwhile I have made a claim to a highway's initiative for grants to properties/businesses affected by the highways works. I sent this on Sept 1st and await the result.

ii) The hall accounts continue to hover around £20, 000. A grant has also been given of £15,000 towards air condition and toilet improvements. We remain in pursuit of quotes. It is astonishing how slow these quotes are to come through. If anyone can make recommendations, please let me/or Janine know.

41) STANSTED AIRPORT PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

a) Cllr Beazley reported that he Cllr Brant and Cllr Harvey attend the online meeting in April. It's a forum for Stansted Airport and its local parish councils to discuss issues re the expansion of the airport and its operations. The Role of the Forum is:

i) Oversee the development and delivery of the Sustainable Development Plan (SDP)

ii) Responsibility for the delivery of SDP transport related targets

iii) Working with transport providers to develop new and enhanced transport services including approving the investment from Stansted Airport into bus and coach services and local access

iv) Oversee plans for the continued development of transport related infrastructure both at the airport and at outside of the airport boundary

v) Develop the end -to- end journey for both air passengers and airport staff.

b) The Much Hadham PC Rep wrote to all the other PC Reps with a view to working collaboratively on a few mutually agreed areas.

c) It was agreed at this meeting to suggest flight paths / noise / volume, and public transport links to the airport. This information will be passed on and Cllr Beazley would keep us informed.

42) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Eric Buckmaster – County Councillor report is with these minutes.

b) District Councillor John Dunlop report is with these minutes.

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

a) C161 road closure impact on bus routes.

i) HCC advise that the 33A from High Wych to Harlow will be diverted via Redricks Lane and will not serve bus stops in Gilston. It will serve bus stops on either side of Gilston either Harlow Edinburgh Way or High Wych Rising Sun PH being the closest.

ii) The 33 will terminate in Gilston and run from Gilston to Bishops Stortford.

iii) An additional free 33H service will run from Gilston to Harlow via Redricks (running non-stop to Harlow Centre), connections to/from the 25 for those in Hoddesdon will be advertised.

iv) Central Connect have put together a handy timetable showing the 33H along with the connecting services: Please see a link to this timetable here: Route_25_and_33_-_TT_(V3).pdf

44) ITEM COUNCILLORS WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA

a) None.

45) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

a) The date of our next meeting will be on Monday 9th November at 8.00pm in the Village Hall
b) Meetings for 2027

11th January – Parish Council meeting
8th March - Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council business meeting
10th May - Parish Council AGM followed by business meeting
12th July - Parish Council meeting
13th September – Parish Council meeting
8th November – Parish Council meeting

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50PM
County Councillor and District Councillor reports can be found on the Parish web site.

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF CONCULUSION OF AUDIT

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2026
Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
Section 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

1. The audit of accounts for **Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council** for the year ended 31 March 2026 has been completed and the accounts have been published.

2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return including the auditor's certificate and opinion is available for inspection and copying by any local government elector of the area of **Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council** on application to:

   (a) Mrs Christine Law
   Parish Clerk
   9 Church Cottages
   Gilston
   Nr Harlow, Herts CM20 2RH

   (b) Please telephone 01279 411646 to make an appointment to inspect the audited accounts.

3. Copies will be provided to any local government elector of the area on payment of £1.00 for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.

Announcement made by: Christine Law (Parish Clerk)

Date of the announcement: Monday 5th October 2026

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.

NOVEMBER SERVICES 2026

1st November	All Saints Day	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		9.30am	Family Service	St James, High Wych
		1.00pm	Baptism	St Mary's, Gilston
		4.00pm	All Souls Service	St James, High Wych
8th November	3rd Sunday before Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	10.45am	Wreath Laying	St James, High Wych
		10.50am	Act of Remembrance Service followed by refreshments	Eastwick War Memorial – St Botolph's, Eastwick
15th November	2nd Sunday before Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
	Safeguarding Sunday	11.15am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Gilston
		3.00-5.00pm	Messy Church	High Wych Memorial Hall
22nd November	Sunday next before Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		11.15am	Family Service	St Botolph's, Eastwick
29th November	First Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych
		7.00pm	Sunday @7	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 – revajacksonhwge@outlook.com or Miss Robyn Richards – robynrichards123@hotmail.com.

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

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

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Cath Sharples 01279 600996
Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) 01727 818107

HIGH WYCH PARISH
LAY LEADER OF WORSHIP: Jan Bellingham 01279 724247
CHURCH WARDENS:
Janet Bellingham 01279 724247
Sam Clark 07717542524

GILSTON WITH EASTWICK PARISH
CHURCH WARDENS:
Michael Shaw 01279 726792
Miss Robyn Richards robynrichards123@hotmail.com
LAY LEADER OF WORSHIP / MISSION ENABLBER:
Rosemary Davis 01279 419763
PCC SECRETARY:
Mrs Christine Law 01279 411646

PCC TREASURER: Werner Marx gilston.eastwick.pcc@gmail.com



November Letter

Dear Friends

The Climate Crisis – What Can We Do?
As many of you know, our Scarecrow Festival involves the whole Benefice of St James, High Wych, St Mary's, Gilston and St Botolph's, Eastwick. (And people keep telling me how much you all love it!) What you may not know is that many of the things we make for you to enjoy are created from recycled materials, this year the unwanted wooden pallets came from a variety of building projects and the Moses baskets to make the boats from the ECCO recycling store. The plastic to make the fish and Mr. Men came from a kitchen firm skip in Harlow.

We do our very best to ensure that nothing goes to waste and that as little as possible ends up in landfill. I believe our rather large octopus this year even went off to be used as animal feed! And if you visit Ecco, you may spot one of our elephants welcoming you into the store. Nothing wasted!

With your help, we are discovering what can be achieved when we think creatively about reusing materials. Yet the climate and nature crisis continues to pose serious challenges, affecting everything from food supplies to the natural world around us. There are things we can do, both as individuals and as communities, but first we need to understand what is happening and what it means for our future.

A couple of weeks ago, John Dunlop, our Green Councillor, and I went to Hertford to see the People's Emergency Briefing. We were so encouraged by what we saw that we would like to bring a screening to St James, High Wych, making it easier for people in our villages to come along.

The National Emergency Briefing has been commissioned to present the latest evidence about the climate and nature crisis and to build support for a televised national emergency briefing. The aim is to encourage a more informed and urgent response to the challenges ahead.

As part of the Church of England, we are called to follow the *Five Marks of Mission*. One of these is:
"To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth."
This is sometimes summed up in one word: *Treasure*. It is about caring for the environment, protecting the natural world and recognising that we have a responsibility to look after the wonderful planet we call home. Over the summer, through our Messy Adventures, we have been exploring the natural world and thinking about what the Bible has to say about our environment. We have looked at plants, seeds, trees and water, discovering more about this wild and beautiful world that God has entrusted to us.
But how do we turn that sense of wonder and responsibility into everyday action?

We have already become accustomed to recycling our household rubbish, and we have seen what a difference that can make. There are, however, other things we can learn about and changes we can consider making in our homes, workplaces and daily lives. The People's Emergency Briefing offers an opportunity to find out more, to ask questions and to think together about how we respond.

I would therefore like to invite you to join us at St James, High Wych, for a screening. It will be an opportunity to see, hear and reflect on what is happening now, what the future may hold, and what we can do about it — for ourselves, but perhaps even more importantly, for our children and grandchildren.
We have all noticed how unpredictable the weather can feel, and this year has brought its share of unusual weather and worrying reports from around the world. It can be tempting to think that the climate and nature crisis is happening somewhere else, far away from our own villages. But the changes taking place in our natural world affect us all, including the food we eat, the places we love and the world we will leave to future generations.

We may not be able to solve everything on our own, but we can begin by learning more, talking to one another and considering what changes we can make together.

So, why not come along? This is an opportunity to find out more, to share in a conversation about our future and to discover how, as individuals and as a community, we can play our part in caring for the world we all call home, and so you are invited…..

INVITATION
People's Emergency Briefing
St James, High Wych
Thursday 26th November 2026
At 7.30 pm – the presentation and discussion will last for 1hr 30 mins.

Your Priest
Alison



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

*www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Whilst walking, cycling or driving in our beautiful and mainly rural area you will come across a variety of crops at various stages of their life cycle. One of these is sugar beet, a plant that is harvested during the colder months, from September to March.

When my wife and I were checking out one of The Hundred Parishes quiet lane walks last winter, we came across great mounds of root vegetables. The farmer explained that they were recently-harvested sugar beets that were about to be transported to the local sugar beet factory in Bury St Edmunds, around 35 miles away.

Bury St Edmunds is one of just four UK processing plants, all in the East of England and run by British Sugar. In total, they produce over a million tonnes of sugar each year, around half of the UK's consumption (the rest is imported).

Sugar beet is sown in spring and harvested in autumn and winter. Sugar in the form of sucrose is produced by photosynthesis in the leaves and is stored in the root. An average mature root weighs about a kilogram or 2 pounds. About 20% of this is turned into sugar.

The sugar content of the beet deteriorates if it freezes so the farmer must judge when best to harvest and then get the beet to the factory as quickly as possible. The harvesting process first removes the leaves and then lifts the beets from the ground into a truck driving beside the harvester. The truck deposits the beets into giant heaps.

On the day we watched the operation, the already-harvested beet was being loaded onto a fleet of large lorries for transport to Bury. Once in the factory, the beet is washed and processed to extract the sugar. The residue pulp is turned into animal feed.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

++

Sawbridgeworth Local History Society

A busy month as on Saturday 7th November 11.30am – 2pm we will be at Nostalgia Day in the Memorial Hall where our new book "Sawbridgeworth Then and Now" will be on sale and the winners will be announced of the history competition "What does local history mean to me"

Our next meeting is on Thursday 26th November in Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall when Mike Barbakoff will tell us all about the fascinating history of the Women of Bletchley Park. Tickets are £7.50 from www.sbwhistory.com

On 10th October we laid a wreath to remember those who were killed when a bomb fell on houses in Cambridge Road in 1940. Sadly we have since heard that John Liddell who was a survivor of this bombing has recently passed away and although he moved away a few years ago, many local people will remember him.

At our meeting in October the historian and guide Lindsay Siviter gave us a unique and rare opportunity to look behind the scenes of the filming of this award winning television series "Inspector Morse"

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

Planning for next year's programme has started so if you know of any interesting speakers or subjects please let us know.

Nostalgia Day

This very popular joint annual event will be happening in Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall on Saturday 7th November. Vehicles will be leaving the Memorial Hall at 10.30am for a service at the Airfield Memorial, where anyone is welcome to lay a wreath or poppy. On returning to the Hall there will be a short dedication. Representatives from No.2 Squadron RAF Marham and Town Mayor will be joining us on this occasion. Refreshments will be available and a pay bar open. The stars of the afternoon will be young people from Diverse Performing Arts, together with Lisa Hammond, with the theme of "Strictly 50s". Free entry with donations to Help for Heroes, who will have information on their organisation. Sawbridgeworth Local History Society will be announcing the winners of the competition "What does Local History mean to me" and will also have a display with their latest book for sale (cash or card) "Sawbridgeworth Then and Now". For further information please contact Hazel Mead, hazelmead404@btinternet.com where you can also say how you can help at this event and what cakes you like and will be able to donate.

++

EXTRACTS FROM THE SAWBRIDGEWORTH NEWSLETTER FROM PATIENTS GROUP



Covid/'Flu Vaccinations: Many of you will already have received a text message inviting you to book your Covid/'Flu Vaccination. The campaign in the UK began on **October 1, 2026**, and bookings are open now. This autumn/winter program runs through **January 31, 2027**.

Those who are eligible are:

- 'Flu: Adults aged 65 years and older. Covid: Adults aged 75 years and older
- Residents in a care home for older adults
- Individuals aged 6 months and over who have a weakened immune system

How to book

- Schedule an appointment online via the NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Information page or through your NHS App.
- Call 119 for free if you cannot get online.

Covid and 'Flu Vaccinations are available at **Bell** and **Village Pharmacies.**



Are You a New Mum? Being a new Mum can be a challenging time but getting out and meeting other Mums will make such a difference and will often go on to making lifelong friendships.

We are incredibly lucky here that **Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall** hosts a range of baby and toddler classes every weekday, giving local families plenty of opportunities to learn, play and connect.

Mondays start with Phonics with Robot Reg, bringing early literacy to life through fun and interactive sessions.

On **Tuesdays**, little ones can enjoy the sensory and musical experience of Hartbeeps.

Wednesdays bring the much-loved Monkey Music, encouraging creativity and confidence through music and movement.

Thursdays are all about numbers and learning with Counting Kids, helping children to develop early Maths skills through engaging activities.
Then on Fridays, we host our own friendly and welcoming Saplings Playgroup, offering a relaxed stay-and-play environment for children and parents/carers to enjoy together.
Whether you're looking for music, learning, sensory play or a chance to meet other local families, there's something for everyone.

For more information about any of these classes, please visit: www.smht.org.uk or email: manager@smht.org.uk

Sawbridgeworth Library also offers **Baby Rhyme Time** every **Thursday at 10.30** - stay and chat afterwards with tea and coffee

Trainee GPs: In response to some patient concerns when they are told that they will be seeing a Trainee GP, we would like to reassure them that they will be engaging with a fully trained and qualified Doctor. The word 'Trainee' is used when a qualified Doctor has decided not to pursue a career in Hospital Medicine, but that his/her vocation lies in General Practice. Their time as a trainee is in order to familiarise him/herself with the various protocols, forms and responsibilities that may be encountered in General Practice. During this time the Trainee will be monitored and assessed each day by a Partner in the experienced General /Practitioner Team.
We are very lucky that Central Surgery is an established 'Training Practice' and that we have the opportunity to see these newly qualified, fully up to date GPs.

A Message from Central Surgery:
Questions we sometimes hear are: **"If there are so few people in the waiting room, why is it still so difficult to get a GP appointment?"** or **"What are the GPs doing all day?"**
It's a fair question. The face-to-face consultation is really just the visible tip of a much larger iceberg. Our priority is always the health, wellbeing and safety of our patients. Alongside seeing patients, we are reviewing blood tests and scans, reading hospital letters, processing referrals and prescriptions, managing long-term conditions, responding to telephone and online consultations, visiting patients at home and liaising with other healthcare professionals.
On some days, we receive over 200 online consultations, each of which needs to be read and clinically assessed. Behind every online consultation is a patient relying on us to make a safe and appropriate decision about their care.
Many patients now actively request telephone or online appointments because they are more convenient around work, childcare and other commitments. Where it is safe and appropriate, these consultations can provide quicker access to advice and treatment, while allowing face-to-face appointments to be prioritised for patients who need an examination or in-person assessment.
How can we work together to make the best use of your GP team?
We want everyone to receive the right care, from the right person, at the right time. There are some simple ways we can help each other achieve this and make sure our team has time to focus on those who need us most.
Pharmacy First: For many common conditions, such as minor skin problems, earache, sore throats and uncomplicated urinary tract infections, your local pharmacist can assess you and, where appropriate, prescribe medication through the Pharmacy First scheme.
Self-Help Resources: For minor, self-limiting illnesses, reliable sources such as the NHS website can provide helpful advice on managing symptoms at home and when to seek further help.
Hospital Tests & Appointments: We understand that waiting for hospital test results or follow-up appointments can be frustrating. These are managed by hospital specialist teams, so please contact the consultant's team or hospital secretary directly. GP practices cannot expedite or track hospital-led tests and appointments.
We know accessing GP care can sometimes feel frustrating, and we really appreciate your patience and understanding. Our team is stretched and often works long hours. Much of what we do is unseen, but it is essential to keeping our patients safe and well. By using the most appropriate service for your needs, you can help us make the best use of the time available to care for everyone. When you do need us, we want you to feel confident that we have the time and information needed to provide the best possible care.
So, although the waiting room may look quiet, the practice certainly isn't. Even when you don't see us, we are working hard behind the scenes to keep you safe, support your health and care for you.

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.

++++++++++++++++++++++++++

ALL SOULS DAY

November 2 is by tradition the Day of All Souls, and it was long believed that the unhappy souls of the dead would return to their former homes. On the eve of All Souls it was customary to keep kitchens warm and leave food on the table overnight for the visiting spirits. Until 1850 the following 'Shropshire Soul Cakes' were distributed on All Soul's Day, and there is a similar 'soul cake' tradition in Belguim, Bavaria and the Tyrol.

Shropshire Soul Cakes

3lbs plain flour
8oz sugar
2 eggs
milk
8oz softened butter
1oz yeast
1 teaspoon allspice

Sift the flour and work in the slightly softened butter. Cream the yeast with a teaspoon of the sugar. Mix flour with the eggs, yeast and enough milk to make a light dough. Leave to rise, covered, in a warm place for about thirty minutes. Then work in the sugar and spice and form into flat bun shapes. Let rise for fifteen minutes, then bake at 425F (Reg 7) for fifteen minutes.

Cakes were given to visitors, and distributed in particular to the poor, which meant that the latter by rights could ask for them. Hence, the origin of the custom of going 'souling' at the end of October or first day of November, still practised by children in parts of Cheshire and Shropshire. They go from house to house singing and collecting bits of food or money. This is no doubt also the origin of the American "trick'n treat'n" tradition, now associated more with Halloween.

THE PLUME OF FEATHERS

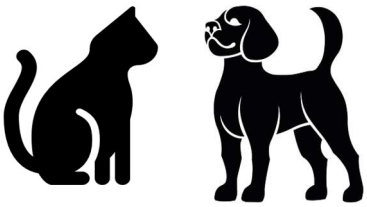
FISH FRY-YAY!

ENJOY OUR FAMOUS FISH & CHIPS FOR JUST £12 EVERY FRIDAY 12PM - 9PM

AVAILABLE AS 'DINE IN' OR TAKEAWAY



Jane's Small Pet Sitting



Pets are always happier staying at home while you are away.
So, I will be able to stay with them if that is the service you require.
Be assured that your home as well as you pet/s is being looked after.

I also offer dog walking and dog sitting services.

Call me on **07779 587076** or e mail me at jgalp@yahoo.co.uk

to arrange for a free visit to meet you and your pets.
I am fully insured and Pet First Aid Trained.



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.



his 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



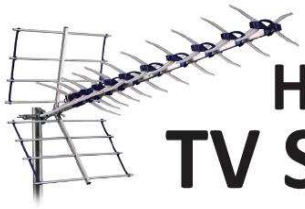
Hamlet Builders

'Small enough to Care,
Large enough to Cope'

Tel: 01279 792472
Mob: 07946 617060
Web site:
www.hamletbuilders.co.uk

*New Builds
*Extensions
*Loft Conversions
*Refurbishments
*Conservatories
*Brickwork
*Driveways/Patios
*Garage Conversions
*Groundworks

Free Estimates - All work Guaranteed



HERTFORD
TV SERVICE

Please call: 01992 552955

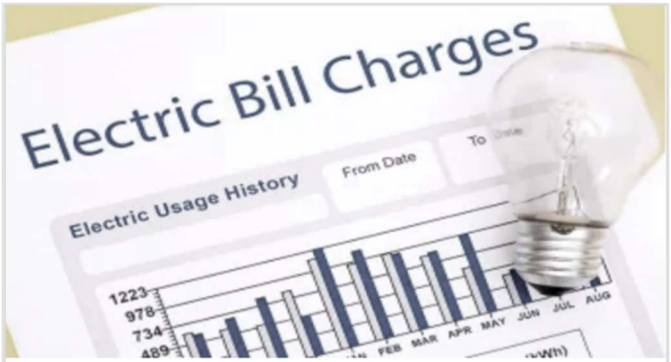
- AERIALS & SATELLITE INSTALLATIONS/REPAIRS
- TV REPAIRS (OLED, LCD, LED)
- TV WALL MOUNTING & SOUNDBARS
- WIFI SYSTEMS & DATA NETWORKING
- CCTV & WIRELESS BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS
- STARLINK INSTALLATIONS

www.hertfordtvservice.co.uk
Unit 1B, Foxholes Avenue, Hertford SG13 7JG
LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS EST 1979
ALL WORK FULLY GUARANTEED

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 above.
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.



Are you struggling with your energy bills?

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

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



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





ADVERTISING

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS IN
'THE EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH MAGAZINE'?
YOUR ADVERT WILL REACH 370 LOCAL HOMES EVERY MONTH.
CHECK OUT OUR HIGHLY COMPETITIVE RATES BELOW AND CONTACT US TODAY.

ALL EDITIONS OF THE MAGAZINE ARE PRINTED IN A4 AND IN BLACK AND WHITE.
¼ page £90.00 per year - per month £30.00
½ page £110.00 per year – per month £40.00
Full page £220.00 per year – per month £50.00
DO YOU HAVE A SMALL ITEM THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SALE?
DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE YOU THINK MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE READERS

AN ACTIVITY THAT HAPPENS WITHIN OUR TWO VILLAGES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE ADVERTISED OR SOME INFORMATION THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO ONTO THE EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COMMUNITY WEB SITE?
CALL OR E-MAIL THE EDITOR:
CHRISTINE LAW
01279 411646

Dogs take the lead

Dog Walking In Eastwick + Gilston
Group Walks, 1-2-1 Walks, Home Holiday Visits, Small Animal Care, Cat Visits
First Aid Trained, Fully Insured

Tel: 07747606818

Find us on Facebook

DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

Independent
Family Funeral Directors
Monumental Masons
Est. 1892
A personal caring service, day or night
Fully trained & qualified staff
Purpose built premises & Chapels of Rest
Pre-paid Funeral Planning

Arrangements may be made in the comfort of your own home

3 Bullfields
Sawbridgeworth
Tel: (01279) 722476

Wych Elm
Harlow
Tel: (01279) 426990

Station Road
Old Harlow
(01279) 626238

IPS Ask us about... Funeral Plans

www.drobinson.co.uk

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

NHS South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

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.

++

CLOTHES BANK
VILLAGE HALL, PYE CORNER, GILSTON

TO ALL RESIDENTS



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

WE NOW HAVE A CLOTHES BANK FOR YOU TO USE.
IT TAKES ONLY OLD CLOTHES, HANDBAGS, BELTS AND SHOES (PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL ITEMS ARE IN BAGS).

IT WILLNOT TAKE – SOILED RAGS, CARPET, RUGS, BLANKETS, TOWELS, SHEETS, GLASS, METAL, PAPER OR RUBBISH.
THIS WILL BE EMPTIED ONCE A WEEK FOR US.

++

THE EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH MAGAZINE MONTHLY DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE 16TH OF EACH MONTH – TO BE SENT TO IN A WORD DOCUMENT:
christine.law2@btinternet.com

The Parish Magazine is printed for us by: Shogun Print, Shogun House, Unit 2 Wilems Works, Forest Road, Hainault, Essex IG6 3HJ 07956 301 169 –
e.mail: neale@shogunprint.com – web site www.shogun-print.com