

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH MAGAZINE

**The Church Wardens and Parochial Church
Councils of the High Wych and Gilston with
Eastwick Benefice are pleased to invite you to**

**St James the Great, High Wych
On Sunday 14th June at 6.30 pm.**

**for the
Institution, Installation and Induction
by
The Venerable Trevor Jones
Archdeacon of Hertford**

Of

**The Reverend Anthony Giles
(currently Priest in Charge)**

as

**Rector of the Benefice of
High Wych and Gilston with Eastwick.**

JUNE 2015

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS

PARISH WEB SITE: eastwickandgilston.org.uk

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCILLORS



CHAIRMAN
MARK ORSON
01279 453257
marko@btinternet.com



AMANDA OLSEN
01279 452488
aolsen@crai.co.uk



TIM GEDDES
01279 437010
tggeddes@aol.com



SPIKE HUGHES
spmh@me.com



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



**EAST HERTS
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

**HERTFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCILLOR**
ROGER BEECHING
01279 722496
roger.beeching@virgin.net

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014/15

The purpose of this report is to give a summary of what the Parish Council has been doing during the last year and to comment on the major issues that we are facing as a parish. There is more information available on all these subjects on our website at www.eastwickandgilston.org.uk and also the STOP Harlow North website at www.stopharlownorth.com

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

Mark Orson – Chairman - Parish Paths, Parish Website and Planning Matters

Spike Hughes – Vice Chairman - STOP Harlow North representative

Tim Geddes – Parish Plan Steering Group representative

Keith Harvey – Highways Matters

Amanda Olsen

Paul Whiting

Christine Law – Parish Clerk

Paul Whiting resigned as Parish Councillor for Eastwick during the year as he has moved out of the area and Keith Harvey also Parish Councillor for Eastwick will not be standing at the May elections. I would like to take the opportunity to thank both Paul and Keith for their contribution and support.

Paul and Keith's departures have left two vacancies for Parish Councillor and we are now actively looking for people to take on this role. Parish Councillor's and the Parish Council have the responsibility of representing the views of local residents on matters such as planning applications, management of local services and the local environment. In addition to the routine, we also face a number of challenges with the continuing issue of Harlow North and the development of our Neighbourhood Plan. If you are interested in finding out about the role of Parish Councillor please contact Christine Law, Parish Clerk, on 411646 or email christine.law2@btinternet.com for an informal discussion.

Neighbourhood Plan

Now that the East Herts Council draft District Plan has been published and is going through consultation the Parish Council is starting the process of developing our Neighbourhood Plan.

As background, the Localism Act 2011 introduced statutory Neighbourhood Planning in England. It enables communities to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan for their area and is intended to give communities more of a say in the development of their local area - within certain limits and parameters. For example it must fit with the agreed District Plan and we were advised by East Herts Council to wait until the draft District Plan was published before doing any substantive work on our Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plans are concerned with the use and development of land within a specified area. They form part of the statutory development plan for an area and are subject to an independent examination to ensure that the plan is in line with national and local policy and that the process in creating the plan has been carried out correctly.

To address their common interests Hunsdon Parish Council and Eastwick & Gilston Parish Council have agreed to create a joint Neighbourhood Plan where:

- The designated area for the Neighbourhood Plan will encompass the parishes of Hunsdon and Eastwick & Gilston;
- A single Neighbourhood Plan Development Group and ways of working will be established to support development of the Neighbourhood Plan;

- Development of the Neighbourhood Plan will be divided into three sub areas – the villages of Hunsdon, Eastwick & Gilston and the area between.

This approach offers the benefits of representing local interests and draws in a wide range of stakeholders and resources.

At the time of writing the parish councils are approving terms of reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Development Group before appointment of a chairman and treasurer. If you are interested to find out more about this work and perhaps to become involved please contact me or Christine Law, Parish Clerk

Harlow North

As yet there has been no report or conclusions published on “areas identified as Broad Locations for Development” resulting from the draft District Plan Development Strategy 2011-2031 consultation.

The process of developing a District Plan is enormously complex and, unless it has been done thoroughly, professionally and objectively (in other words, every conclusion they reach is backed up by some evidence or other) then the chances are it will fail the test of ‘soundness’ and be sent back, incurring even more delay and risk of unwanted development. The East Herts team is currently going through each of the comments made during last year’s Public Consultation to assess whether some change to the draft policies should be made and also still awaiting more of the key Technical Studies. The expectation is that the next ‘Examination Ready’ draft of the District Plan will be ready later this year and that will, again, have to go out for Public Consultation – although since the changes and additions will be quite limited then the timescale for undertaking that should be markedly less than the last round. No-one on the team is prepared to give an assurance, but it is likely that the new plan will be in place by the middle of next year, if all goes well.

The current draft District Plan Development Strategy 2011-2031 that is the subject of the consultation states that “provision will be made to meet the projected housing need of at least 750 homes per annum, making a total minimum requirement of 15,000 homes in the period 2011-2031.”

It goes on to say “Land North and East of Ware, East of Welwyn Garden City and land in the Gilston Area, are identified as Broad Locations for Development, subject to testing and examination through a further Development Plan Document (DPD) or Documents in accordance with Policy DPS4 (Broad Locations for Development.”

And that “The feasibility of a strategic-scale development of between 5,000 and 10,000 new homes in the Gilston Area will be tested through the preparation of the DPD. 5,000 homes represents the minimum scale of development considered necessary to deliver on-site and off-site supporting infrastructure, and deliver the range of sustainability features which would be expected given the width of the Stort Valley and resultant requirement for a degree of self-containment. Subject to testing through master planning, assessing viability and infrastructure planning, 10,000 homes is considered to be the approximate maximum scale of development which could be satisfactorily accommodated in light of environmental and natural assets such as woodlands, the need to avoid coalescence with local settlements, other on-site constraints and transport impacts.

It is anticipated that development could commence on site towards the beginning of the 2021-26 period, continuing through the remainder of the plan period and beyond. Hence it is estimated that only 3,000 of the overall headline housing anticipated may be complete by 2031, with the site continuing to supply a pipeline of future housing to address local need going forward from 2031 onwards.”

In April 2014, the Parish Councils of High Wych & Allens Green and Eastwick & Gilston hosted a public meeting at High Wych Memorial Hall at which Mike Carver chairman of the district plan executive panel and East Herts Planning Officers Bryan Thomsett and Martin Paine presented their approach to development of the draft District Plan and identification of the preferred options.

The meeting focused on the Gilston area and Mike Carver suggested that the Gilston Area had to be included to ensure that the District Plan was robust and would stand up to scrutiny from an independent inspector – and inclusion of the scheme as a long-term prospect could stave off any early planning application. He further explained:

- There is a duty to cooperate with Harlow that is in favour of building in the Gilston area to support regeneration of Harlow. (Duty to cooperate is a legal duty on local planning authorities requiring them to work with neighbouring authorities on cross boundary planning issues.)
- The landowner, Places for People, has put forward development proposals and is enthusiastic to see these progressed.
- All the areas identified as broad locations have to be assessed as to whether they are sustainable, whether they are deliverable and whether they are viable.
- The Gilston Area has huge issues that have to be resolved to stay in the final plan.

Please see the STOP Harlow North Facebook pages at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/STOP-Harlow-North-Campaign/151589618240500> for full information on our campaign.

Terlings Park

Welcome to our new residents in Terlings Park. At the end of March there were 7 homes occupied with further completions in the pipeline for April. Both Bloor Homes and Miller Homes have show complex's open to the public and we are told that there is strong interest in the Terlings Park development. It is expected that approximately 75% of the site will be occupied by around Winter 2016 / Spring 2017.

At the time of writing the planned access across the site from the main entrance to the bottom of Burnt Mill Lane is not open to the public. We are told this will be opened as soon as the developers judge it safe to do so while construction work continues. This will allow pedestrians and cyclists to cross Terlings Park and avoid using the C161 from Terlings Park entrance to the Dusty Miller and the hill section of Burnt Mill Lane from the Dusty Miller down to Fiddlers Brook. The pathway will be lit and should be a safer and more pleasant route than we currently have available.

We will keep residents informed of progress through the Parish Magazine and our website www.eastwickandgilston.org.uk.

Village Hall

As part of the s.106 contribution by the developer for Terlings Park, money will be allocated for improvements to the Village Hall. This money will be made available once 51% of the new homes have been sold. In the meantime, the Village Hall Management Committee has carried out a number of improvements including painting inside and out and installation of a suspended ceiling in the main hall to improve the efficiency of the heating system. Other plans are still under discussion and include possible refurbishment of the kitchen area.

The car park has been improved by Bloor Homes: overgrown vegetation has been cut back around the perimeter, lighting has been installed together with parking bay markers and the gravel surface has been topped up. This is in addition to the s.106 payment.

The Village Hall is owned by the community and is managed on our behalf by the Trustees and the Village Hall Management Committee chaired by David Jackson.

If you have any ideas about improvements or new uses for the Village Hall please contact David Jackson or Christine Law, Parish Clerk.

Website

The website has been up and running since 2012 and with Terlings Park residents starting to arrive it is time to review our website content and use of website facilities to make sure that we are getting

maximum value. For example in addition to providing static information and photographs we can also include Discussion Forums, Blogs, Community Pages and Consultations. If you have any views or suggestions for how the website could be used and/or types of information that should be published to support our community please let us know.

This is a community website and we are also looking for local groups who would like to use the facilities available to support their activities. No costs or charges will apply for use of the site.

For more information and to discuss your ideas please contact Christine Law, Parish Clerk, on 411646 or email christine.law2@btinternet.com.

Pole Hole Quarry Restoration

Herts County Council approved a three year plan that required complete restoration of the site by November 2014 and that all operations at the processing plant should be ceased by January 2014 and the land restored. The full decision notice can be found at the Herts County Council Planning Portal at <https://cloud1.atriumsoft.com/HCCePlanningOPS/tabPage3.jsp?apllId=20805>.

The parish council has from the start persistently pressed Herts County Council to monitor progress of the restoration work against plan and to insist that where the required progress was not achieved by the operator that steps were taken to get plans back on track.

The disappointing reality is that work was not completed by November 2014 and it seems that Herts County Council accepts the current estimate that work will not be completed until “the end of the summer”.

In addition to the remaining work on site a substantial volume of topsoil still has to be imported to complete the restoration. We have already experienced serious problems resulting from soil importation since the New Year - lorries coming off site have been tracking mud onto the roads through Gilston and the road, verges, pavement areas and buildings alongside the road have been covered in mud and mud film which has only recently starting to clear. We know that the operator has wheel spinners in use to clean the truck wheels and that they periodically use a road sweeper but this has not been effective and a solution to stop the mud getting onto the road needs to be put in place before the next period of wet weather. Residents have also observed trucks queuing at Eastwick Lodge before 7.00am and where drivers have parked off road the verge has been ripped up by the truck wheels. As the trucks have been queuing residents are experiencing ground shaking early morning convoys of vehicles, loads are regularly unsheeted and there are incidents of lorries speeding which is dangerous and intimidating for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. The condition of the highway has also deteriorated significantly.

The parish council has raised these issues in writing to Herts County Council a number of times.

It is understood that we have to have lorry movements to import materials to allow completion of the restoration work and we have asked that the operator treats the residents of Gilston with consideration and completes the remaining work while adhering to agreed standards of operation and road speed limits.

At the time of writing these matters are ongoing and we are waiting for a site meeting to be organised as offered by Herts County Council.

We will keep residents informed of progress through the Parish Magazine and our website www.eastwickandgilston.org.uk.

Planning

We have had a number of planning applications to comment on during the year and most have been reasonably straightforward and non contentious changes to existing properties. The major planning

issues affecting our area are addressed by Pole Hole Quarry Restoration, our Neighbourhood Plan and the STOP Harlow North campaign.

Highways

We continue to work closely with Highways to ensure that Highways maintenance activities are carried out effectively and meet our local needs. As with all local services Highways work is governed by budget and availability of resources and getting work carried out in a timely manner can sometimes be a frustrating struggle. However we have an agreed schedule of outstanding work and take every opportunity to push for priority treatment.

Current issues that the parish council has raised and is escalating include the poor state of Eastwick Hall Lane, Gilston Lane and the C161 through Pye Corner.

It now seems to be commonplace for fast food packaging, coffee cups and cans to be thrown out of cars onto the roadside. We have requested a litter pick and will make future requests as needed. In advance, one of our residents took the initiative and picked 2 black sacks full of rubbish from Gilston Lane in March!

Bloor Homes is sponsoring installation of planters at the village entrances and has provided funding to cover initial setup and the first 3 years planting and maintenance costs. Watering and maintenance will be carried out by Sawbridgeworth Town Council at the marginal cost to them.

The planters will be mounted on the 4 wooden “gates” at the entrances to Gilston on the C161 with 1 floor standing planter at the entrance to Eastwick.

The parish council is very pleased to accept this sponsorship firstly as it demonstrates that we take pride in our area and secondly it has been shown that village entrance planters have a traffic management impact by reducing average speed.

Parish Paths

You will find a number of display maps of the footpath network located around the parishes including both the Eastwick and Gilston War Memorial sites.

The parish footpath network is a real asset and I would again encourage anyone who hasn't walked them to try and find the time as it will give you another perspective on our local area. Our footpaths are well maintained and we have continued to keep them so during the last year with grants and practical help from the Rights of Way department and Countryside Management Service.

We have been in contact with Knight Frank, Places for People's estate management agents, who have agreed to the installation of 3 additional footpath benches and Barn Owl nesting boxes from the recent Barn Owl Project. We will be arranging to carry out the work during the coming weeks.

Parish Precept

You will have recently received the booklet from East Herts Council outlining your rates for 2015/2016. Part of the rates is made up of the Parish Precept which is set by the Parish Council to cover small running costs and a number of initiatives we undertake. The amount attaching to your rates for the parish is a function of what we spend and the number of properties and their valuation bands in the area.

This year we deliberately maintained our precept at the same level for the eighth year running.

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

Conclusion

Overall, we have again made good progress and are fortunate to have a dedicated and hard working team of Councillors. They devote a lot of their time for the benefit of the community which is unpaid and they claim no expenses. Thanks to Mike Newman and Roger Beeching who are our District and County Councillors respectively they give valued support to the Parish Council.

Thanks also to Christine Law, our Parish Clerk.

Mark Orson

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY 13TH JULY 2015

(ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL)

FOLLOWED BY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

8.00PM

**VILLAGE HALL, PYE CORNER
GILSTON**

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

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

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

AGENDA FOR ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS CAN BE FOUND ON ONE OF OUR VILLAGE NOTICE BOARDS OR ON THE PARISH WEB SITE – IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE REPORTS THAT ARE NOT WITH THE AGENDAS (DUE TO LACK OF SPACE) PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK.

+++++

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr David Jackson 419404 V Chairman: Mr Pat Wood 419838
Treasurer: Mr Trevor Brown 423676
Bookings Officer: Mr Pat Wood 419838 Trustee: Mr Keith Harvey 410435

+++++

**THE MAGAZINE MONTHLY DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE 16TH OF EACH MONTH
– TO BE SENT TO: Christine.law2@btinternet.com**



FAULTY ROAD SURFACE?



To help us keep Hertfordshire's roads up to scratch we need YOU to let us know when things are not right! So whether it's a pothole, pavement problem, faulty streetlight, icy road or any other highway fault, go to: www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults or call: 0300 123 4047 Customer Call Centre – Hertfordshire Highways Fault line.

+++++

LOCAL POLICE: HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Emergency no: 999 Non emergency call: 101 or 01707 354000
Police Constable working out of Bishops Stortford is T PC Nicola Hunt 334
Telephone no: 01707 354192
E-mail: Nicola.hunt@herts.pnn.police.uk or : www.herts.police.uk

=====

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF DATE FOR THE EXERCISE OF ELECTOR'S RIGHTS

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015
AUDIT COMMISSION ACT 1998, SECTIONS 15 AND 16
ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2011 (SI 2011/817)

This notice will be displayed from **8 June 2015** to **21 June 2015**

Each year **EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL'S** annual return is audited by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission and any person interested has the opportunity to inspect and make copies of the annual return and all books, deed, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating to them.

These documents for **Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council** are to be made available between the hours of 5.00pm and 9.00pm on Mondays and Fridays (excluding public holidays).

Commencing on **22 June 2015**
And ending on **17 July 2015**

If you wish to view them then please contact the named Council representative:

**Mrs Christine Law, Parish Clerk, 9 Church Cottages, Gilston, Nr Harlow
Herts CM20 2RH - Telephone 01279 411646**

Local Government Electors and their representative also have the opportunity to question the auditor about the accounts and the right to make objections to the accounts or any item in them. Written notice of an objection must first be given to the auditor and a copy sent to the council/meeting. The auditor can be contacted at the address below for this purpose from the **20 July 2015** until the audit has been completed.

The council's/meeting's audit is being conducted under the provisions of the Audit Commission Act 1998, the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice.

The audit of **Eastwick and Gilston Parish Council** is being carried out by:

BDO Stoy Hayward LLP, Arcadia House, Maritime Walk, Ocean Village, Southampton
Hampshire, SO14 3TL - 023 8088 1941

Benefice of High Wych and Gilston with Eastwick SERVICES FOR JUNE 2015

2 nd June	Tuesday	7.30pm	The Rectory	House Group	
7 th June	Trinity 1	8.00am	St James, High Wych	Parish Eucharist (BCP)	Readings – Genesis 3: 8-15, 2 Corinthians 4: 13-5:1, Mark 3: 20-35
		9.30am	St James, High Wych	Family Service	
		3.00pm	Gilston Village Hall	Family Service	
9 th June	Tuesday	10.00am	6 Falcon Close	House Group	
14 th June	Trinity 2	9.30am	St James, High Wych	Easter Eucharist	Readings – Ezekiel 17:22-24, 2 Corinthians 5: 6-17, Mark 4: 26-34
		11.15am	St Mary's, Gilston	Easter Eucharist	Readings – Ezekiel 17:22-24, 2 Corinthians 5: 6-17, Mark 4: 26-34
		3.00pm	Gilston Village Hall	Family Service	
21 st June	Trinity 3	9.30am	St James, High Wych	Parish Eucharist	Readings – Job 38: 1-11, 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13, Mark 4: 35-41
		3.00pm	Gilston Village Hall	Family Service	
28 th June	Trinity 4	9.30am	St James, High Wych	Parish Eucharist	Readings – Lamentations 3: 22-33, 2 Corinthians 8:7-15, Mark 5: 21-43
		11.15am	St Botolph, Eastwick	Parish Eucharist	Readings – Lamentations 3: 22-33, 2 Corinthians 8:7-15, Mark 5: 21-43
		3.00pm	Gilston Village Hall	Family Service	
Each Tuesday	9.00am	St Botolph, Eastwick	Morning Prayer	Not 23rd	
Each Wednesday	9.00am	St James, High Wych	Morning Prayer	Not 24th	
Each Thursday	9.00am	St Mary's, Gilston	Morning Prayer	Not 25th	
Each Friday	9.00am	St James, High Wych	Morning Prayer	Not 26th	

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: Rev Anthony Giles, The Rectory, 1 Dovedale, High Wych,
Sawbridgeworth CM21 0DT (anthonyj.giles@ntlworld.com)
01279 726476

READERS: Joy Galliers-Burridge, Readers, 41 Hart Road, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0HL
01279 444870
Roger Burridge, Readers, 41 Hart Road, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0HL 01279 444870
Judith Denton, Path Cottage, High Wych Lane, CM21 0JP 01279 723714

CHURCH WARDENS: Mr Rick George 01279 721875
Sarah Bagnall 01279 441644
SECRETARY: Mrs Lois Smith 01279 431123
TREASURER: Mrs Hazel Scora

PRIEST IN CHARGE JUNE LETTER

A New Bishop and a New Rector.

As I write this I am getting ready to go to St Albans to a service in the cathedral where we will be welcoming the new Bishop of Hertford. The Right Reverend Michael Beasley was consecrated as bishop at Westminster Abbey on May 14th and the service I am going to will mark him taking up his responsibilities in the diocese. The bishop of Hertford is Suffragan Bishop who works for the Bishop of St Albans and assists him in overseeing the diocese. His particular responsibility is for the eastern half of Hertfordshire. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Michael to the diocese and in time to High Wych and Gilston with Eastwick.

What about this New Rector business? Well, when I was appointed in September 2011 I was made Priest in Charge of the benefice. The job of rector was suspended in 2000 so that the bishop would have freedom to make any boundary or other changes if and when the Harlow North Extension project took off. In early 2011 the way in which parish clergy are appointed changed so that new vicars and rectors do not have the same powers as before. The bishop can therefore make any changes necessary. When the suspension of the post lapsed in March this year the bishop decided not to renew it so he now has to appoint a new rector. I will be installed as the rector of the benefice by the Archdeacon of Hertford on Sunday June 14th at a special service at 6.30 pm at St James Church. I hope many of you will be able to attend and be part of a new phase in the life of our community.

Anthony Giles.

From the Registers.

Funerals

Date	Service	Location	Name
6 th May	Funeral	Parndon Wood	Donald Drmmond
6 th May	Funeral	High Wych & Parndon	Willian Stuart Bury
22 nd May	Interment of Ashes	High Wych	Alan Albert Charles French

St Elizabeth's Summer Events 2015

Much Hadham Open Gardens

Sunday 14th June 2015

12 noon – 5pm

The Forge Museum

Much Hadham

SG10 6BS

Raising funds for St Elizabeth's - Opened by celebrity gardener Christine Walkden

St Elizabeth's Summer Fayre

Saturday 27th June 2015

12 – 4pm

Perry Green

SG10 6EW

A great family day out - Free Entry



FRAUD PREVENTION UPDATE May 2015

Fraud, or “scams”, has become a common way for criminals to attempt to steal your money. To help you recognise and tackle fraud, Hertfordshire Constabulary’s Crime Reduction and Community Safety Department produces this regular update, informing you of common and emerging frauds that are affecting people both nationally and locally, together with tips to help you stay safe and protect your money.

BOOKING A HOLIDAY? REPORT REVEALS FRAUDSTERS STILL CONNING TRAVELLERS OUT OF MILLIONS EACH YEAR

ABTA, The City of London Police and Get Safe Online have re-joined forces to warn the public about the dangers posed by holiday booking fraud. A report compiled by the City of London Police reveals the scale of the crime nationally and exposes common tactics used by fraudsters who stole an estimated £2.2million from holidaymakers and other travellers in 2014. We received many such reports from Herts residents last year.

There are spikes of reported fraud in the summer and in December which paints a clear picture of disappointed holidaymakers and dashed trips to visit loved ones for Christmas. The age group most commonly targeted are those aged 30-49, many of whom will be families. The majority of those who had been defrauded paid by methods such as bank transfer or cash, with no means of getting their money back. Only a small proportion paid by credit or debit card where some form of redress is available to get your money back.

According to the report, the most common type of crime involved fraudsters hacking into the accounts of owners on well-known accommodation sites such as airbnb.com and Homeaway.com or “spoofing” these websites with convincing bogus imitations. Disappointed holidaymakers found the villas and apartments they thought they had booked and paid for were non-existent or had never been booked. UK caravan stays were also targeted with adverts posted on Facebook, Gumtree and Craigslist. Other common types included:

- Airline tickets** – where a customer believes they are booking a flight and receives a fake ticket or pays for a ticket that never turns up. Flights to West Africa are a particular target.

- Sports and religious trips**– In 2014 the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and World Cup in Brazil were targeted with numerous people having paid for non-existent accommodation or tickets. Religious trips to the Hajj in Saudi Arabia were once again targeted with high losses for pilgrims.

Advice on how to avoid becoming a victim of holiday booking fraud:

- Stay safe online:** Check the web address is legitimate and has not been altered by slight changes to a domain name – such as going from .co.uk to .org. For more advice, visit www.getsafeonline.org
- Do your research:** Don’t just rely on one review, do a thorough online search. If a company is fraudulent there is a good chance that people will post details or warnings about the company.
- Look for the logo:** Check whether the company is a member of a recognised trade body such as ABTA. You can verify membership of ABTA online, at www.abta.com
- Pay safe:** Never pay directly into an owner's bank account, it is like paying by cash – the money cannot be traced and is not refundable. If possible, pay by credit card, (or a debit card that offers protection).
- Check paperwork:** You should study receipts, invoices and terms and conditions, and be very wary of any companies that don’t provide any at all.
- Use your instincts:** If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Report it:** Victims should contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via www.actionfraud.police.uk

ALERT – BANK ACCOUNT SECURITY

Six Hertfordshire residents have recently lost thousands of pounds worth of savings to fraudsters over the telephone. The callers, posing as police detectives, convinced the residents that their bank account

had been compromised and persuaded them to **transfer the entire contents of their accounts** into another “secure” account, which was held by the fraudsters. Please alert your family and neighbours and advise them that the police and banks would:

- NEVER** ask for your bank account details or PIN number over the phone.
- NEVER** ask you to withdraw money and send it to them via a courier, taxi or by any other means.
- NEVER** call to ask you to transfer your money into another account “for safekeeping” or any other reason.

If you are suspicious about a phone call then please end the call and contact police via the non-emergency number, **101**. Remember, when reporting a suspicious call to police, wait at least five minutes before calling, use another phone or phone someone you know first, to ensure you’re not still connected to the offender.

ONLINE AUCTIONS: ADVICE

Hertfordshire’s most reported fraud type relates to online purchasing, particularly from auction sites. Online auctions are a popular way to buy and sell new and second hand goods, but you should take care about what you buy and from whom, who you are selling to, and how you make or receive payments.

Advice includes:

- Use a login name for the auction site that is different from your email address.
- Understand what the auction company can do (and won’t do) if something goes wrong.
- Be clear about shipping and delivery costs (eg. if they are included and if not, if they are clearly stated).
- When selling, check payment has been received before you despatch goods (beware fake Paypal emails)
- Visit www.getsafeonline.org for comprehensive advice about using online auction sites.

LOTT

LOTTERY ALERT

Hertfordshire Trading Standards is receiving reports from Hertfordshire residents about letters arriving out of the blue stating that they have won £725,000 in the ‘EuroMillions FIFA World Cup Super Lottery’. These letters say that in order to claim the cash prize the recipient must telephone the number on the letter. On doing that they are then told that they must first pay a 1% processing fee and provide their bank details.

These types of letters are a scam. You cannot win a prize in a lottery that you have not entered and genuine lottery operators will not ask you to send them money before releasing winnings.

A Hertfordshire couple recently lost over £9000 as a result of this scam. They were asked to pay £7250 initially as a processing fee and then a further £2000 to pay a solicitor to transfer the winnings. Other people from around the country have lost over £40,000 as a result of paying yet more fees on top of these original fees.

- It is not possible to win a lottery or competition you have not entered:** To win a EuroMillions prize, you **MUST** have purchased a ticket for the correct draw date and your numbers **MUST** match the balls drawn.
- EuroMillions or other reputable lotteries will not ask you to pay any type of ‘fee’ to receive your prize, nor will they ask you to pay ‘tax’ due on the win in advance of receiving your prize.

THEFT FROM LETTERBOXES

Please be aware that we have had some instances recently of residents having mail stolen from their letterboxes and subsequently finding that financial products have been applied for in their name

Have your say on rural policing

The largest ever survey into crime and anti-social Behaviour (ASB) in rural areas has been launched in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to find out how the police can better serve rural communities.

The survey, launched by the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN), is calling for people who work or live in rural areas to come forward and give their views on policing in their community, the impact crime and ASB has on them and their neighbours and to ultimately help shape the future of crime prevention and rural policing.

Anyone living or working in rural areas is being encouraged to take part in the survey to help build a picture of what is a widespread but often misunderstood issue. You don't need to have been a victim of crime to have a view on how the police work. You may be concerned about police visibility or response, see incidents that go unreported, or you may have a local officer who is engaged and proactive.

The survey will be open until Wednesday 24 June. To complete the survey, visit <http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/survey?member=Hertfordshire>

AT YOUR SERVICE

Beauty at Homewood

All aspects of Beauty treatments in a relaxing environment
15 years experience

New to the area

Treatments on offer

CACI Ultra (Non surgical face lift)

Crystal Clear (Microdermabrasion)

Cleansing facials

Waxing

Pedicures

Bio Sculpture gel

Eye brow and Lash tint

For an appointment please contact Lisa on
MB 0779 6447136

Supreme Chauffeurs

Corporate and private clients



Theatre Restaurants Sport Events
Plus Airport and Train Stations
Pre-booking only

www.supremechauffeurs.com

Email: - info@supremechauffeurs.com

Mobile: 07951068117

Tel: 01279 301361

NEED A PLUMBER?

GIVE US A CALL

FURNACE HEATING COMPANY

EASTWICK

**SPECIALIST DOMESTIC OIL & GAS
INSTALLATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
DOMESTIC PLUMBING & RAINWATER
SYSTEMS**

LOCAL – FRIENDLY

MICHAEL 01279 415628 07905116958



All your pet & animal needs!

Dog & cat food, sundries & accessories.
Horse, poultry & farm animal feed & bedding. Bird, fish & small animal food & accessories. Many other animal products available.

Salt (25Kg) for Dishwashers/Water Softeners

Also on site: Veterinary Surgery, Tack Shop, Florist & Dog Grooming

01279 442388

www.eastwickanimalfeeds.co.uk

info@eastwick.co

Memorials

From

J. Day & Sons

Layout of inscription
And design with order
For brochure & prices

Freephone 0800 7837521
Fax 01279 503637

Station Road,
Bishop's Stortford,
Herts

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE OR KNOW SOMEONE THAT WOULD, THE RATES ARE VERY REASONABLE.

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 VILLAGES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE ADVERTISED OR SOME INFORMATION THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO ONTO THE PARISH COMMUNITY WEB SITE?

THE EDITOR: CHRISTINE LAW

**TELEPHONE NO: 01279 411646 OR E-MAIL:
Christine.law2@btinternet.com**

W C T BAYFORD

SOLID FUEL MERCHANTS
COAL AND SMOKELESS FUELS
LOGS AND KINDLING WOOD
GAS BOTTLE SUPPLIED

TELEPHONE; 01279 723217

Dogs Take The Lead...

Dog Walking...
...In Eastwick & Gilston

Safe, Reliable exercise...
...for your best friend

Fully Insured Free Collection & Drop Off

Tel: 01279 426895 or 07747 606818

www.DogsTakeTheLead.co.uk



**Comprehensive medical
& surgical care for small animals**

Emergency service provided by our
own vets.
24 hour in-patient nursing care at the
Epping surgery.

**Laparoscopic Spay (Keyhole Surgery)
for your dog
now available at the Epping Hospital.
HARLOW
01279 437 433
EASTWICK LODGE, HARLOW**

