



Wilstead

NEWSLETTER

April 2020
including Parish Council News

PUBLISHED BY WILSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, PART OF BEDFORD & DISTRICT NW ASSOCIATION

Coronavirus and Bedford Borough Council

Council Services

The Council's website has been updated with the latest information about Coronavirus. Information will be updated as the situation develops.

www.bedford.gov.uk/social-care-health-and-community/public-health/coronavirus/

Refuse Collection

Refuse Collection is a priority service and will be continued. If necessary green bins will be the first to go. Black bin collections would be maintained as not to collect them would create another major public health problem.

Supermarkets

Supermarkets are implementing nationwide policies to deal with their supply chain use. Restrictions are being put in place on key items such as hand gels, pharmaceuticals, and certain grocery products with some supermarkets choosing to implement an offer of early opening for over 70s.

Over 70s

The Borough Council are writing to all known individuals aged 70 and over advising them that we are establishing a community hub where residents can ask for help and be matched with a volunteer from an appropriate voluntary organisations.

This letter will contain a telephone contact number: **01234 718101** (which will be staffed 24/7) and an

Contents this month include

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Latest Crime Recorded for

Wilstead

Other Criminal Damage to a Dwelling

Wednesday 12th February at Midnight
Farrow Close

Harassment Without Violence

Saturday 9th February at 10am

Other Criminal Damage to a Vehicle

Thursday 19th December 2019
Between 7.20pm and 9.30pm
Dines Close

Crime Recorded for nearby villages

Cople 3, Shortstown 23, Wixams 15

The above 'Crime Recorded' are the latest available and cover the period 29th January to 29th February

email address for those seeking help
covid19help@bedford.gov.uk.

Volunteers

Volunteer groups and anyone able to offer help should e-mail: covid19@bedford.gov.uk. This might not just be for help with shopping, but could also be dog walking or collecting prescriptions.

Malicious Offers of Help

There have been reports of people knocking on doors, offering help and then asking for credit cards to do the shopping. Please advise the elderly not to part with credit cards and if necessary call the police.

continued on page 3

Your Co-ordinator is

Wilstead Village Hall is Now Closed

This will come as no surprise to you all but due to the Virus outbreak, Wilstead Village Hall is now closed until further notice. The Committee will be reviewing the situation and plan accordingly every week. The Committee is in close contact with hirers and will keep them informed of any changes.

Meanwhile The Hall is to undergo a thorough clean and be disinfected; therefore, The Hall is a no go area.

The Hall continues to be ready in case it needs to be used as an emergency centre.

If you have any queries, please contact the Chairman or Secretary:

Chairperson Paul Buckley
01234 740740
pkbuckley22@gmail.com

Secretary Angela Fosbrook
01234 294692
angela.fosbrook@ntlworld.com

From Wilstead Bowls Club Chairman

Wilstead Bowls Club would like to officially thank the following organisations for their generous support and funding enabling the club to carry out major renovation works to the bowls green.

This work consisted of new security fencing around the perimeter of the Club's property and the levelling of 300 square metres of bowling surface. The organisations that provided support and funding are:

Bedford Borough Council, The Harpur Trust, The Gale Family Trust, The Wixamtree Trust, Wilstead Parish Council and Councillor Coombes Ward Funding.

A special thank you must also go to The Harpur Trust for providing additional funding to allow the club to purchase some new ditch-fill around the green to complete the renovation.

On behalf of Wilstead Bowls Club we say **thank you**.

D.Pontefract
Chairman - Wilstead Bowls Club



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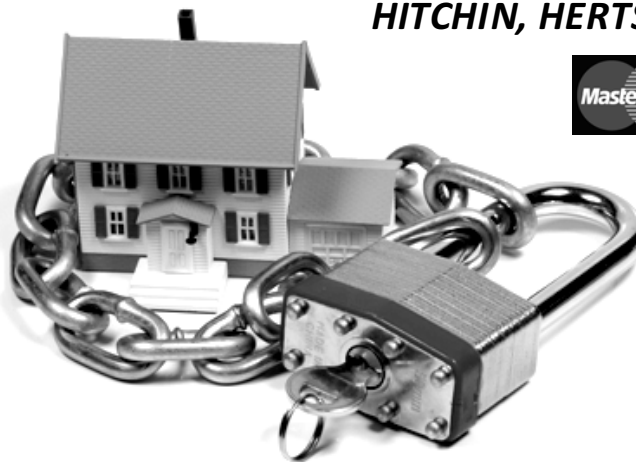


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Bedfordshire Schools

Advice from Borough Health Services

- Handwashing with soap is better than gels, as the virus contains fatty parts, which don't like soap.
- Hospitals are being made ready to admit people in large numbers and as a result all non-urgent surgery will cease.
- The current pandemic will end eventually, either with a cure, or when everyone builds up immunity.

One other important point: Only take information from reliable sources, such as Public Health England – there are a lot of armchair experts putting misleading information into the public domain. Follow guidance from the national health authorities.

Cllr. Graeme S. Coombes
Wilshamstead Ward

Stop Press

From Graeme Coombes Borough Councillor

Village Farm Application Refused

This Application was officially refused at the Planning Committee on Monday 23rd March.

Important Notice Future Newsletter Publication

Every effort will be made to continue to publish the Wilstead Newsletter. It will be appreciated that circumstances beyond our control may require us to suspend publication, possibly without prior notification.

Please continue to send copy for publication to wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com.

We would like to hear of any news or information from readers at this very difficult time.

Deadline for copy for the May Edition is **Friday 17th April**. Publication date is **Friday 1st May**.

Without the help of the team of volunteers, the Newsletter could not be delivered to every house in the Village. It may be, at the current time, your normal volunteer may be unable or unwilling to carry out the monthly delivery. This is fully understood and we do have a small team of volunteers who could act as stand-ins. However, we would like to hear from anyone who would be able to deliver the Newsletter on a temporary basis to their local area.

Editorial Team: wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com
Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch: 749072 or 741931

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Wilshamstead Parish Council

Bedford Borough Council Services at Present

The Council's website has been updated with the latest information about Coronavirus; information will continue to be updated as the situation develops.

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/social-care-health-and-community/public-health/coronavirus/>

Refuse collection – as people are self-isolating at home it is reasonable that this will generate increased household refuse. Officers advise that Refuse Collection is a priority service and will be continued, if it is needed then the Council will adjust the collections, with orange and black bin collections as the priority.

Over 70s – the Borough Council will be writing to all known individuals aged 70 and over advising them that we are establishing a community hub where residents can ask for help and be matched with a volunteer from an appropriate voluntary organisations. This letter has started to be issued and does contain a telephone contact number: **01234 718101** (which will be staffed 24/7) and an email address for those seeking help:

covid19help@bedford.gov.uk.

Malicious offers of help – there have been reports of people knocking on doors, offering help and then asking for credit cards to do the shopping. As always during a crisis, there are some who seek to take advantage of the vulnerable. Please encourage any neighbours or family members who may be vulnerable to not part with credit cards or sensitive information, and if necessary call the Police.

Supporting the Community in Wilstead

The Parish Council are aware of volunteers in the village who are able to support those in the high risk groups or who are self isolating with a range of things that might be helpful, such as, collecting prescriptions and shopping etc.

There are also a number of local services who are offering help, and as this information is very fast changing it is very difficult to share before it then becomes out of date. It has been pleasing to see those in need of assistance or

reassurance being linked with volunteers successfully already.

In addition to the Wilstead Good Neighbours Group there are the Wilstead and Wixams Community Shopping Club who can be contacted on **shoppingclub@wixams.org**

or on **07929 656674** (9am - 9pm). There is also Andrea your Village Agent who can be contacted on **0800 039 1234** and she is happy to give you information over the telephone to help you with your needs.

Parish Council Office is Closed

Until further notice the Parish Office is closed, and therefore all communication to the Council can be done via **clerk@wilshamsteadparishcouncil.org**

or phone **01234 743152**, though please note you will need to leave a message. Orange recycling sack stocks are very low, however, if you are in need of some bags then the Councillors are able to respond to residents and during these exceptional circumstances deliver them to you, although we really only have a few rolls left, so please be mindful of others needs.

Parish Council Meetings

The Council did meet in March and were able to put some steps in place to ensure that the Parish Council can continue to function, albeit in a different way.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council need to report that with the current situation, it is expected that changes will need to be made to the previously published meeting schedule.

At the time of writing, it is highly unlikely the April Parish Council will take place, so please check in advance. The Parish Council do have statutory obligations and at present it is looking like May will be the next time the Council meet. As you can understand this brings many challenges so the advice from the National Association of Local Council is being monitored closely.

Highways in the Parish

It has been pleasing to see the A6 open and the roads of the village return to being quiet. There are still remedial repairs to be carried out to the diversion route through the village. The Parish Council continue to monitor this closely and are regularly liaising with Borough Officers to ensure these works are carried out in a timely manner and to a high standard.

continued on page 6

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continued from page 5

If you have noticed workman in the village making changes to some street lights this is the work being done in order for those Parish owned street lights along the main roads to be transferred to and adopted by the local authority.

Road Verges

Now that traffic through the village has eased it would be appreciated if residents and their visitors would not drive or park on the road verges. These have in some cases become very rutted and unsightly. In addition, some residents have planted bulbs which enhance the look of the verges considerably. These are in danger of being crushed or destroyed by inconsiderate parking.

Longmeadow Drive Play Areas

The Play Areas along Longmeadow Drive are being upgraded to bring them up to an adoptable standard. Some of the play equipment is now not up to this standard and some areas were never completed.

This work was due to start late March and should be completed in 4 weeks. There will be a container on the grass at the junction of Longmeadow Drive and Church Farm Avenue whilst this work is being done.

The area containing the large play equipment and the large area of tarmac will, for safety reasons, be fenced off during this work because vehicles need access and machinery will be used in this work.

There will also be work on the smaller Local Area of Play (LAP) and a circular seat and tree will be installed where the missing LAP was originally planned.

General Parish Council Work

Even during this exceptionally busy time, a number of Parish matters are continuing to be worked on and progressed. The Council are involved in the East West Rail and Local Boundary Review Public Consultations, in addition to development of a new Parish Council website which will be ready shortly.

Contacting the Parish Council

As previously advised, the Parish Council office is not open at present, so the best way to contact the Clerk is via email on

clerk@wilshamsteadparishcouncil.org

Newsletter Volunteer Retires *Can You Help to Deliver?*

Are you able to spare time once a month to deliver the Wilstead Newsletter?

Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch is looking for a volunteer who would be able to deliver 16 newsletters along **Bedford Road north of the A6 from 78 to 143.**

It would be ideal if someone living in this area of the village could be available to make the delivery.

Distributing the Newsletter in this part of the village has been carried out for several years by Barry Huckle who now feels it is the right time for him to take a step back from this activity.

Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch wish to thank Barry for his vital help in delivering the Newsletter and, in that way, keeping the extended arm of the village informed during changing times.

If you would like further information regarding the above delivery and would like to help please contact:

Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch: 749072 or 741931
wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com

Art News

Like so many other groups in the village we have sadly had to close our Monday afternoon meetings due to the Corona Virus.

Many of our members have decided to set up a social media group to stay in touch so that we can swap pictures and exchange messages until we can resume our meetings.

While we have all been advised to stay indoors, being creative is a positive way to spend some of our extra time at home. Should you find yourself running low on art supplies most of the suppliers have online facilities for ordering and delivering them to you.

Spring is a colourful time of year for painting or sketching the lovely coloured bulbs and primroses. A word of caution if deciding to dig up from the garden or paint from a shop bought pot of bulbs. Once in our lovely warm homes the flowers open up very quickly so when not painting them put them in a cold porch or in some cases the fridge!!

Keep safe and well everyone.

Linda & Michael,
villagehallart@gmail.com



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Village P3 Footpath Group

Meetings

The next meeting was planned for the 23rd May but that must be doubtful now. See May's Newsletter for update.

At the March meeting the recurring theme in the reports on the 17 Rights of Way around the village was wet, muddy and standing water though all were passable with wellies or walking boots.

Quite a few of the way mark posts along the various paths seem to be rotten/leaning or broken and will be tackled/replaced as soon as the weather and Coronavirus allows.

There weren't too many other problems reported.

Coronavirus and Exercise

With the Coronavirus curtailing most social activities now is a good time to exercise, get some fresh air and explore the surrounding countryside using the 11 miles of footpaths and bridleways which surround the village.

If you would like a copy of the leaflet that shows where these paths are or a copy of the circular walk from Whitworth Way to the edge of Haynes and back the call the number below or pop into the Post Office where some leaflets will be left.

The paths have been wet but are mostly drying out quickly.

Footpath Work

The state of the paths at the moment still means that any work of the paths, bar snipping off bits of overhanging vegetation, has been difficult. The paths are improving and the group will be undertaking tasks, identified at the meeting in March, in the next few weeks.

In the meantime if you use the footpaths around the village please take secateurs with you and snip the odd overhanging vegetation as you go along. Vegetation is starting to grow and soon will be trying to invade the paths!

Footpaths across the A6

These footpaths across the A6 have now re-opened. At the time of writing the promised 'Pedestrians Crossing' signs have yet to be installed either side of each of these crossings. The verges have been cleared so visibility has improved but take care when crossing the

road as the new improved smooth surface may well mean that traffic will just go faster!

The 'hoped for' use of the old cattle creep to divert these paths under the A6 is no longer a possibility as it is now filled in as part of the A6 roadworks.

Walks

The March walk was due to be along the footpaths and bridleways around Broom but rain intervened. The group had previously done most of this walk in 2006. There were going to be a few changes as some of the paths used back then are now under metres of water because of the recent sand and gravel extraction. But at least we would have had some new bits to walk along. We will try the walk again when the weather and coronavirus allow.

The next planned walks are **Sunday 26th April** and **Friday 29th May** but again these are in some doubt. Keep an eye on the village noticeboards and Newsletter.

Nigel Jacobs, P3 contact, 01234 400733

Wilstead Players

Along with everyone else we have become 'victims' of the Coronavirus outbreak, even if we haven't actually caught it.

Of course, by now, you will be aware that our fantastic production of 'The Wizard of Oz' had to be pulled the day before the Dress Rehearsal.

We are hopeful that we shall be able to perform it at a later stage and ask those of you who bought tickets to bear with us until things become clearer.

We are sad to let down our capacity audiences but there was no alternative course of action. Keep well, everyone!

Jackie Tanswell

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Jackie's Gardening Blog



One of the direct results of this viral outbreak is that of giving us older people plenty of time to spend in the garden and home, and not use the excuse of being too busy to get outside and do something.

The weather had been kind to us during the middle of March which enabled plenty of work to be done, albeit in a cold and bracing breeze.

Those of you who are members of the Garden Club will remember I did a talk in January about 'No Dig Gardening' and I felt this was a good opportunity to report on how my garden is responding.

At the beginning of February I got a call from a Garden Club member, offering a large quantity of cardboard, to get my 'No Dig' adventure started. This was duly collected and spread out over one of the four raised beds in my front garden.

Encouraged by this, David and I scoured the house and loft for any spare cardboard we had laying around. It's amazing how many redundant cardboard boxes we had in the loft. Often for appliances that had long been sent to the tip! These were all utilised and I was able to cover another raised bed.

There was one bed that had been mulched in grass clippings, which I left, and another (the fruit cage) where it would be difficult to spread cardboard.

The next step was to place an order with Bradshaws of Haynes (01234 740383 if you wish to contact them) for a tonne of compost.

Check out the May newsletter, to get the next instalment of this blog. If you walk past my garden, have a look at how tidy it looks. Hopefully in a few months it will also be full of tasty healthy vegetables.

Jackie Lloyd

Bowls Club News

Unfortunately due to the Covid 19 virus we have had to close our club for the time being, which means cancelling our Easter Coffee morning, and postponing the Quiz Evening, hopefully re-scheduling at a later date. All games and competitions have had to be cancelled on advice from Bowls England. Hopefully we will have better news in a months time.

Jean Ward, Club Secretary

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Wilstead Village Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 12th May 7.30pm in small hall

The position of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should be nominated at least 10 days prior to the meeting to the Chairperson or Secretary.

Chairperson

Paul Buckley, 740740
pkbuckley22@gmail.com

Secretary

Angela Fosbrook, 294692
angela.fosbrook@ntlworld.com

Please come along and support your local facility and consider becoming a committee member. New members are needed with new ideas about how to keep the hall running smoothly.

Notice to Contributors

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All Saints Church

Sadly all our plans for the future have been put on hold due to the Corona Virus sweeping the country.

In the last 24 hours we have received notification from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York sent to all Dioceses that it is necessary to suspend all public worship on Sundays with immediate effect. All social gatherings must not take place.

Consequently our Easter Fair has had to be cancelled as well as Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day services which will not be taking place. We don't know for how long this situation will remain.

The Vicar, Revd Stephen Toze will ensure that the Church is open on a Sunday for people to go in for private prayer.

If you wish to use this time please contact him on **740927** for more details.

I am afraid that is all I can tell you at present.

Robert Heley



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Be Vigilant to Covid-19 Door to Door Scams

Opportunist thieves may see this period as a time to carry out distraction burglaries, as vulnerable adults and elderly people are spending more time at home following isolation guidance.

Bedfordshire Police has been made aware of people knocking on doors **claiming to be selling vaccines and supplies for COVID-19**. Do not fall victim to these scams as **such items do not exist**. For COVID-19 information, for medical advice and what you can do, refer to the NHS website.

We would like everyone to remind elderly and vulnerable relatives, friends and neighbours to take extra care when answering the door to people they do not know.

Remind them, where possible, only answer the door when it is known that a family, friend, carer or prearranged trades person is visiting. Consider installing a door chain and always keep it on.

If unsure of the visitor's identity, they should ask for ID first and telephone the company they are

purporting to be from using the local directory or a telephone number provided independently by the service provider. If someone is offering a service make sure they discuss any work that needs to be carried with a relative or friend.

Any suspicious behaviour can be reported by calling 101, visiting the Police online reporting system or by contacting Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch for advice.

Sue Ryder, St. John's Hospice

Due to the Coronavirus we have decided to cancel our annual fund-raising 'Coffee Morning' arranged for Saturday 25th April 2020.

However we have a new date for you to put in your diaries - **Saturday 3rd October**.

Ray Terry & Colin Close



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Wilstead WI

Such a lot has happened in the past month that I barely know where to start.

As you can imagine, the WI has had to cancel all its meetings, events and trips for the foreseeable future and certainly for all of March, April and May. We have no idea when we will be able to resume normal activities, but we'll keep you informed via the Newsletter. Anyone who has booked any of our events or trips should be notified within the next week and receive a refund.

We took this decision to protect our members even before the closure of the Village Hall made it inevitable. Many of us will be staying at home most of the time and only venturing out for essential shopping or to get some fresh air. But the way the people in Wilstead have been rallying round to help each other through this crisis has been inspiring. Long may it continue.

Good luck and good health to you all.

Leah Batham



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Strange Times but Golden Linings

What strange times we are living in at the moment. We hope that you are all taking care of yourselves and keeping safe.

Sadly we had to cancel our meeting in March with the entertaining bird man Peter Holden. The good news is that he is booked for next February. We are not yet sure whether our April meeting will be able to go ahead, we will let you know by email or personal contact if you are a regular visitor to the club.

Now the good news. We can be in the garden if we are lucky enough to have one. We expect to see amazing gardens this year. In May we have our annual plant swop. We see no reason why this cannot take place even if we have to hold it in the open air, so gardeners, use this enforced loss of going out to get sowing, separating, propagating and any other 'inging' to make loads of plants to swap and make our gardens more beautiful and productive.

We also think Open Gardens will be possible, so we are all busy weeding, chopping, planting and getting them ready for your visits.

Clouds with golden linings, keep busy and keep safe and most importantly look after each other. See you all very soon.

Maralyn, Lynda, Mary and Viv.

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Wilstead Website
can be found at
www.wilsteadvillage.org.uk

Borough Councillor Report

1. A6 Wilstead Bypass

By the time you read this report the A6 will have re-opened, after months of repair work. Luton Road Wilstead was closed for a number of weeks, in order to bring that road into line with the new A6. The A6 seems to be missing a lot of greenery, shrubs and trees along the sides of the road. I have asked the Borough whether these are going to be replanted

2. G-Park Planning Application

There is no news yet regarding any decision on the warehousing application. I am continuing to press for a rerouting of all HGVs into Wixams, via a new road beyond the bus-gate and both the Director of Highways and the Borough Chief Executive had agreed to look at the possibility, though it will undoubtedly be an expensive project.

3. Elstow Park & Ride

A number of people have been in touch regarding the Elstow Park & Ride facility. I've therefore spoken to Borough Council officers and asked for an update on what is happening. The details that I currently have are as follows:

- There has been an application made by Enterprise (the car rental company) to convert part of the building/pavilion at the Park and Ride and use some of the parking spaces. This proposal has not yet been agreed by the Borough Council.
- Under the proposal, Enterprise would convert the waiting room and use 60 of the available parking spaces.
- There will still be a sheltered area remaining for people to wait for the bus.
- The toilets will still be available for the public to use.
- Most people currently don't use the pavilion and prefer to sit in their cars when waiting for the bus (Apparently this is normal at most Park and Ride schemes).
- There will be a loss of 60 parking spaces from the current 330, taking it down to 270.
- The Park and Ride is rarely used at its maximum capacity other than on a big event day, such as the River Festival
- This proposal does not affect the bus timetable, which is an entirely separate matter and the responsibility of Stagecoach, who run the Park and Ride facility on behalf of the Borough Council

Residents seem concerned that, whilst the two issues are not connected, this proposal may be the

lead in to a reduction in bus services. I don't have a date for when this application will be decided or by whom, but it is a planning matter.

4. Verges – Green Lane

I have chased up the Environment Department regarding the damaged verges in Green Lane. These have now been repaired and re-seeded. There are other damaged verges around Bedford Road and I will continue to press for these to be repaired too.

5. Licensing Application – Herrings Green Farm

An application has been made for a licence at Herrings Green Farm for a stable to be converted to a function room. Comment back from Wilstead seems to suggest that residents are broadly supportive.

6. Coronavirus

I am due to have briefings with senior Borough Council officers (16/3) to ensure local services are resilient and continue. In addition, I am chairing a meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee (also 16/3) and will be putting questions to the Director of Public health for the Borough. My advice to all Wixams residents is to follow the guidance of Public Health England and other health experts and to look out for friends, neighbours and the elderly.

7. PCC Elections

The Government has postponed the election for Police & Crime Commissioners, which were due to have taken place on 7th May. These have been rescheduled for 2021.

8. Borough Ward Boundary Review

A review of the Borough Council ward boundaries is currently being undertaken as a result of growing population making the wards uneven in terms of electors. Anyone may submit a proposal to the Local Government Boundary Commission. Deadline for responses is Monday 4th May.

Cllr. Graeme Coombes

Important Notice

The Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter accepts advertisements in good faith and without prejudice or favour. We are not agents for the advertiser and any contractual dispute is between an advertiser and the buyer. We do, however, welcome feedback, whether positive or negative, regarding your experiences.

If you require any advice about goods or services either you have bought or you are thinking of buying contact **Consumer Direct on 08454 040506, or go to www.consumerdirect.gov.uk**

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for any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

Friday 17th April

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Please Note that requests for NEW ADVERTS and Advert Changes should now be sent to **Maxine Hendry**, as should Payments.

Next Co-ordinators' Meeting

Date and venue to be advised of the next co-ordinators' meeting.

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"Who's Who" Neighbourhood Watch, Wilstead

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Wilstead Jubilee Centre

In line with Government and NHS advice, the committee have taken the decision to close the Jubilee Centre until advised it is safe to re-open.

All sports and clubs have ceased and anyone who is a member of one of these will have been contacted by their organiser.

The open space is still available for people to walk, although we would reinforce the information that this is a **Dog Exclusion Zone** and ask you to respect this please.

Responding to the requests for reduced social contact, if you do use the space to walk, please ensure you keep well away from other walkers, to avoid this virus from being spread.

Thank you for your support of the Jubilee Centre and we all look forward to this situation being resolved.

The Jubilee Centre Management Committee

Notice to Contributors

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