



Wilstead *July 2020* NEWSLETTER *including Parish Council News*

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

The Woolpack *says* *'Welcome Back!'*

The Woolpack would like to say *'Welcome Back'* to all our loyal customers, and thank you for all your support in the last few months.

We are taking booking slots of **2 hours for a table** at the moment, and we ask that you call in advance to reserve a place at this present time, although this is subject to change as we move forward.

On Saturday 4th July we are taking **bookings for drinks only**, to ease into how this new way of life will work.

As we're sure you can appreciate we have worked hard to implement the Government's guidelines on socially distancing but are sure we can count on all our locals to assist us with this.

To book in advance please call **01234 742318**

We look forward to seeing you all!

Janice, Peter and all the Staff

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Latest Crime Recorded for **Wilstead**

Assault Without Injury – Common Assault
Wednesday 27th May between 11am and 11.45pm
Furrow Close

Theft by Employee
Wednesday 29th April, 8am

Attempted Theft – Not Classified Elsewhere
Friday 17th April, 8am
Vicarage Lane

Crime Recorded for nearby villages

Cardington 3, Cople 1, Cotton End 1,
Shortstown 14 and Wixams 6

The above 'Crime Recorded' are the latest available and are up to 26th May.

Some Additional Crime Information for Wilstead

We have reissued **Burglary Advice During Hot Weather** and **Theft from Motor Vehicles** in this Newsletter.

Although currently Wilstead has a low rate of 'recorded crimes' residents are urged to be very vigilant. There were a spate of burglaries and attempted burglaries last month in an adjoining area. PCSO James Dancer has just reported incidents of Theft from Motor Vehicles offences in Shortstown and two burglaries in Wilstead/Cotton End. Please see page 9 for his report.

Report All Suspicious Incidents.

Your Co-ordinator is

Bowls Club News

Our green is now open for all playing members to have rollups at two metre social distances, playing on every other rink at 2pm, 4pm and 6pm every day if they wish by appointment. The rinks are set up, they just have to collect a mat and jack from the green room which has to be sanitized after use.

It is enjoyed by the members who have come to meet up once again.

The Green Keeper and his helpers are working hard cutting the green three times a week, so that we are able to play on it, and enjoy another activity during this time.

Hope everyone is keeping well and safe.

Jean Ward - Secretary

COVID19 Money Scams

Criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to try and get their hands on your money and personal information. To date, Action Fraud has received reports from 2,378 victims of Coronavirus-related scams, with the total losses reaching over £7 million.

How you can protect yourself from Coronavirus-related scams:

There are some simple steps you can take that will protect you from the most common Coronavirus-related scams. Here's what need to do:

- **Watch out for scam messages.** Your bank, or other official organisations, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you receive an email you're not quite sure about, forward it to the **Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS):** report@phishing.gov.uk
- **Shopping online.** If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, for example, by checking to see if others have used the site and what their experience was. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, other payment providers may not provide the same protection.
- **Unsolicited calls and browser pop-ups offering tech support.** Never install any software, or grant remote access to your computer, as a result of a cold call. **Remember,** legitimate organisations would never contact you out of the blue to ask for financial details such as your PIN or full banking password.

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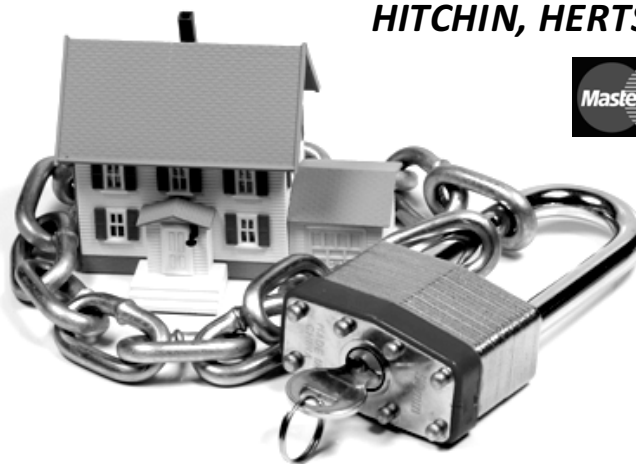
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Wilshamstead Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting – Members of the Public Welcome to Attend

The June Parish Council meeting was again held online. The next Parish Council meeting is on **Monday 20th July at 7pm**. Members of the public are welcome to attend and it would be great to see some more residents. If you wish to be sent the log-in details please contact Lizzie, the Clerk, or any Parish Councillor.

Any resident who wishes to join a Parish Council on-line meeting should be assured that this is straight forward, and we can offer assistance with this if you need it.

If you have a matter that requires the attention of the Parish Council then you do not need to wait for a Parish Council meeting, you can get in touch so we can look at how best to resolve the matter as promptly as possible.

How Do I Contact the Parish Council?

The best way to do is this via email by sending a communication to

clerk@wilsteadparishcouncil.org

This is a new email address so please save it to your contact list, as it is part of moving the Parish Council communications all over to one cloud-based system. Part of the work done to move the Parish Council forwards also includes document storage and information handling to make the Parish Council more efficient; one of the items linked to this being the new stand-alone website. This continues to be updated and it is worth taking a look at the site as we would welcome input and feedback. The site can be found at

www.wilsteadparishcouncil.org

Do You Use the Bottle Bank on Bedford Road?

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to ask residents not to leave bottles beside the bottle bank in Bedford Road. If the container is full and you are unable to put the bottles inside the container please take them to an alternative bottle bank or take them home again and phone **01234 718060** to inform the Borough Council that the bottle bank is full. They will then arrange for it to be emptied.

If you leave bottles on the ground there is a possibility that you could be fined for fly tipping. There is no certainty that bottles on the ground will be recycled.

Having a great number of bottles next to the container makes it difficult for the lorries to pick it up, there is also a greater danger that bottles will be broken and there will be glass on the ground. It may be a bit inconvenient

but please don't expect other people to have to pick up and dispose of your empty bottles.

The nearest alternative bottle banks are in Wixams next to Lakeview School and at the Park and Ride.

There is a danger that continued misuse of the bottle bank will result in this very useful service being withdrawn from the Village. Thanks for your understanding and helping ensure the facility is retained in the village.

Bedford Borough Local Plan

The Local Plan is the overall development framework strategy for the Borough Council. It was not too long ago since the last Plan document was reviewed and approved by the Secretary of State.

As this type of planning policy document takes so long to collate with the many different lengthy processes it has to go through, it is time for the Local Authority to commence the process again.

One of the very first parts of that process is for the Borough Council to ask landowners to submit sites forward which they feel have the potential to be developed, this could be for housing, business or leisure facilities.

Haynes Park/Carriage Drive

There has been a Planning Application from Science of the Soul at Haynes Park for a permanent structure to replace the very big tent previously used for their large gatherings. Whilst there was no mention of access via the Carriage Drive in the Traffic Management Plan, which was part of the application to Central Beds Council, the Parish Council have expressed their concerns about this possible use and are establishing what permissions would be needed from both Central Beds and Bedford Borough.

Parish Office Remains Closed

Please kindly understand the Parish Office will remain closed. As and when this changes, the Parish Council will alert residents. However, in the meantime the Parish Council wish to thank residents for their understanding during this time and to remind everyone to stay safe and follow the Government guidelines.

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

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Village P3 Footpath Group

Meetings

The next meeting was planned for **Saturday 18th July** however this appears to be in doubt unless Coronavirus restrictions are relaxed. Perhaps we will try a virtual meeting.

Coronavirus and Exercise

It is good to see so many people making use of the eleven miles of Public Rights of Way we have in the Parish. If you would like a copy of the walks leaflets that the Group have produced which show where you can walk, cycle and ride then there should be some in the Post Office and there are details of where you can get the leaflets on the noticeboard outside the Village Hall, or ring the number at the bottom of this article.

Please don't use tracks you see around the village which don't have any waymarking on them. Look for yellow topped posts with yellow discs with arrows indicating where you can walk (Public Footpaths) and yellow topped posts with blue discs with arrows showing where you can walk, cycle and ride (Public Bridleways).

There are no byways in the Parish so there are no paths which allow motorised vehicles.

In addition there is permissive access for walkers only to Wilstead Woods and its paths via the Carriage Drive which meets Cotton End Road between Whitworth Way and Chapel Lane, (go through the gap at the side of the big gates).

Seasonal Vegetation Cut

Those couple of paths which were inadvertently missed out of the first Seasonal Vegetation Cut (SVC) have now been cut. This SVC was undertaken by the Borough Council and there will be a second cut later in the year.

Each Parish is allocated a certain length of paths that is cut i.e. not all paths are cut.

Footpath Work

A few more broken way mark posts have been replaced in addition to those reported in last month's Newsletter. Also a couple of the old



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posts have been re-used to make the correct line of the path more obvious.

The Group has also started to mow/clear some of the paths which were not included in the SVC. The path from Ivy Lane to the Stables has been mown and hopefully by the time this Newsletter is issued the paths from Cotton End Road to the Stables and Littleworth to Cotton End will also have been mown.

With the warm and recent wet weather all the paths will need attention shortly.

If you spot any problems with the path surface or overgrowth then please contact the number below and the group will try and address it. If it is a major problem then the involvement of the Local Authority may be needed.

Footpaths across the A6

The Group have been advised that the installation of signs warning of pedestrians crossing the A6 to Houghton Conquest on Footpath 3 (from Bedford Road) and Footpath 4 (from Longmeadow Drive) is due to commence around **Wednesday 22nd July**.

Walks

The June walk was cancelled because of the virus. It is uncertain as to when we will be able to walk as a group again.

Please keep an eye on the village noticeboards and the Newsletter for the dates of future walks.

Nigel Jacobs

P3 contact 01234 400733

Passing a Horse On The Road

Horse riders are asking drivers to pass horses safely.

So, if you encounter a horse and rider on our roads:

Think Horse And Pass Wide And Slow

You may be helping to prevent horses and riders losing their lives in road accidents.

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Flit Vale - Wildlife Trust Local Group

It was with sadness that our group had to cancel our programme of talks and walks planned so far this year. Running events and maintaining social distancing rules has just made it too difficult. We will of course keep you informed if the situation changes.

Our committee has been keeping in touch with one another and most of us have been out and about, noting the wildlife on our local patches. I expect many of you have been doing the same.

Personally, I have been following the progression of flowers in the hedgerows and verges when I go out running and cycling from Pulloxhill.

The dominant colour for the last two months has been white mainly due to the umbelliferous species filling the ditches. These include frothy cow parsley, the more stately umbels of hog weed and towering above 'forests' of the infamously poisonous hemlock (look for reddish-purple blotches on the tall hollow stems).

There are splashes of colour such as the scarlet of poppies, purple of wild geranium and common mallow, red campion, blue of speedwells and green alkanet and yellows of buttercups, dandelion-like species and spring cinquefoil. Great swathes of ox-eye daisy along verges.

Scented elderflower came early in the hedgerow at the end of May so my annual cordial is already bottled. If you can get out on the local chalk down lands, there are large numbers of orchid species around at the moment.

Last month we started sending out an e-newsletter to those who are on our emailing list.

Foot Health Professional

Samantha Skelton BSc MCFHP MAFHP

Registered Member of The British Association of Foot Health Professionals

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If you would like to receive a monthly copy, then let us know (flitvale.info@gmail.com). We are very happy to receive comments and photos about local sightings to include in future issues.

To help you plan your own wildlife outings, the following websites are helpful for giving news about opening of properties, reserves, footpaths, parking etc. Also up-to-date statements on Covid-19.

www.wildlifebcn.org/
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/
www.greensandtrust.org/
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/

Julia Burkett,
Chairman of Flit Vale Local Wildlife Group

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire
Registered charity number: 1000412
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Local Crimes

Over the night between 22nd and 23rd June, there were three **Theft from Motor Vehicle** offences in Shortstown. The offenders gained entry by smashing a window and then have taken property out of the vehicles. There was a further offence where an offender gained entry, but nothing was taken. So, please ensure that you do not leave anything on show.

In the morning of 23rd June, there were two burglaries in the Wilstead/Cotton End area, where offenders were seen to break into garden sheds and outbuildings and then remove power tools and various other items.

If you have any information regarding these offences, please contact us on 101.

PCSO 6753 James Dancer

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Art News

Wilstead & Wixams



Yet another month of 'lockdown' has passed by, and although along with all other groups, we haven't been able to have our weekly meetings, we have been using our time creatively!

Here's a few examples of our 'Lockdown Artwork'.



Keep safe and well everyone.

Linda & Michael,
villagehallart@gmail.com

Hot, Sunny and Very Dry Days

Hello Gardeners,

or should I say frantically waterers!! What an amazing Spring this year, let's hope it wasn't Summer and we still have more to come during the rest of the year. It would be lovely to have some rain though. Can anyone remember all those weeks earlier in the year when it rained every day and everywhere was waterlogged? On the positive, socially distancing in the garden is allowed, and so visitors can see what we have all been up to.

Our thanks go to three members for putting plants out for the plant swap last month. It was a different experience from other years when we usually have the Village Hall filled with plants, but were pleased that so many people made it part of their exercise and were able to take plants. We hope they are all flourishing. We are considering a further plant swap in Autumn when we split up our perennials.

The open gardens and garden visits seem to be impossible this year for a large group. However we are testing an idea for August Bank Holiday weekend. We are considering the idea of having a large number of gardens open in the village where access is not through the house. Gardens could be

just front gardens seen from the path and/or rear gardens with easy access.

At the moment we have a few offers around Whitworth Way, Cotton End Road and Luton Road. Obviously we would expect to abide by any distancing rules, but the more gardens the easier it should be.

Please give us your views. If any residents would like to open their garden and show off their efforts, please let us know. This is a casual friendly event and doesn't require pristine beds and lawns, in fact sharing difficulties is probably more useful.

History of the Garden Club Continued

From the first meetings in 2007 when members shared their own experiences and expertise, the club started to find speakers who could extend the group's knowledge not only of gardening but other aspects of the living world. We had bee keeping, hedge layering, garden birds to give a few examples. The Committee continue to seek speakers with expertise linked to members interests or opportunities.

Maralyn, Lynda, Mary and Viv
wilsteadgardenclub@hotmail.com



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Warning on NHS Test and Trace Scams

Members of the public are urged to be vigilant following reports of fraudsters posing as people from the NHS Test And Trace Service.

The Test And Trace Service is part of the Government's efforts to stop the spread of coronavirus, with contact tracers getting in touch with those who have had recent close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.

However, a number of fraudsters are using this to their advantage and are posing as contact tracers to trick people into parting with their personal or financial information.

The following information has been provided so you know if you are genuinely being contacted by the NHS test and trace service.

If the NHS test and trace service contacts you, the service will use text messages, email or phone.

All texts or emails will ask you to sign into the NHS Test and Trace contact tracing website.

If NHS test and trace calls you by phone, the service will be using a single phone number: 0300 013 5000.

All information you provide to the NHS test and trace service is held in strict confidence and will only be kept and used in line with the Data Protection Act 2018.

Contact tracers will:

- call you from **0300 013 5000**
- send you text messages from 'NHS Tracing'
- ask you to sign into the **NHS test and trace contact tracing website**
- **ask for your full name and date of birth** to confirm your identity, and postcode to offer support while self-isolating
- **ask about the coronavirus symptoms you have been experiencing**
- **ask you to provide the name, telephone number and/or email address of anyone you have had close contact with in the two days** prior to your symptoms starting
- **ask if anyone you have been in contact with is under 18 or lives outside of England**

Contact tracers will never:

- **ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to us** (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- **ask you to make any form of payment** or purchase a product or any kind
- **ask for any details about your bank account**
- **ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts**

Continued on next page



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- ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- disclose any of your personal or medical information to your contacts
- provide medical advice on the treatment of any potential coronavirus symptoms
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- ask you to access any website that does not belong to the Government or NHS.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, please report it to **Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk** or to Police by calling **101** or using the online reporting tool.

Julie Allen, Police Communications Officer

Burglary Advice During Hot Weather

Residents are urged to consider home security during hot weather. Burglars may take advantage of unlocked doors or open windows.

Don't leave ground floor windows or doors open or unlocked, and ensure they are closed and locked when you go to bed at night.

- Always close and lock windows and doors when leaving the property.
- Keep car and house keys out of sight and away from windows and doors.
- If you're in the garden, make sure windows and doors at the front of the property are secure.
- Do not leave valuables on display through windows.
- Ensure that any side entrance is secure, locked and not easy to climb over, even when someone is at home.
- Consider installing a visible security light or alarm to deter criminals.

Urgent Late Crime News

Bedfordshire Police has advised that there were four attempted burglaries in Wixams at approximately 2am on Friday 26th June. These follow reports of two offenders trying door handles on the 25th / 26th June.

Although burglary levels are very low in Wilstead, residents are urged to spend a few minutes checking home security in view of the amount of criminal activity in the surrounding areas.



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This newsletter is published by **Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch**, part of **Bedford & District NW Association**

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

Raising Awareness of Elder Abuse

Whilst getting older often brings challenges such as health issues or financial concerns in later years, elder abuse is a problem that exists the world over, and yet, is one of the least reported crimes.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Week seeks to raise awareness of abuse towards this sector of the community and to encourage anyone with concerns to make a report if they think an older family member, friend or neighbour is living with domestic abuse, or is being targeted by fraudsters or other criminals.

The recent limitations on movement to combat Covid-19 will have left many older people isolated and fearful, and unable to speak out about their situation.

Many older people find it hard to open up about what is happening to them, or where to find help if they are not confident, or are prevented from using tools such as online search, so it's important that they are given a platform and a chance to find support.

Elder abuse is predicted to increase and it is important that we all do our bit to help prevent this happening.

If you are a victim of elder abuse or if you have concerns about a person's behaviour towards you, or you fear for someone's safety, please call the Police in confidence on 101, and remember, always call 999 in an emergency.

Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Bedfordshire Police

Thefts from Motor Vehicles

Residents are advised to be vigilant and ensure nothing is left inside a vehicle, no matter how insignificant it might be, that could attract an offender. Sat Navs, Sat Nav/Mobile Phone holders, loose change, sunglasses, bags and laptop bags are often seen by the Police in vehicles.

A thief only needs 60 seconds to enter and drive away your keyless ignition car, van or truck using an item of widely available technology and only has to be within metres of the key fob which doesn't even need to be visible on a window ledge or through a letterbox of your house.

If anything suspicious is seen or if there is any information about who may be responsible for committing these offences contact **Bedfordshire Police on 101** or via **Crimestoppers**.

Keep your Shed and Allotment Safe from Theft

At this time of the year there is often an upturn of theft from gardens and allotments. Tools and lawnmowers are often the target but, even if nothing is stolen, damage is caused and is inconvenient and expensive for the victim.

Do not leave your tools and equipment unattended for long periods of time as the gap between the crime and its discovery can be anything between a day and a fortnight.

It is worthwhile giving your shed allotment a 'health check':

- **Check your locks and bolts**
- Use coach bolts, non-return screws or simply damage the screw head on doors
- **Secure outbuilding windows** - obscure the window with an opaque window film. Alternatively, fit a grille or a couple of bars across the inside of the window to reduce the window aperture
- **Use a battery-operated siren alarm in your outbuildings** - these are not so appropriate for allotments that are in remote areas
- Put everything away when you have finished with it. Your own tools can be used to break into your storage.
- **Security mark your tools** - it is difficult to sell on stolen property that has been marked
- Garden furniture, power tools and heaters can be marked by etching or scratching your postcode on to them, or with a permanent marker pen
- **Display signs around the allotment site that all property is marked and traceable**

And finally, add security onto the agenda at your allotment committee meetings. Encourage members to report any breaches in the boundaries

Allotment crime is relatively low but Bedfordshire Police would still like to see less of it.

Avoid Lighting Bonfires

The May edition of the Newsletter contained two articles about the need to avoid, as well as the danger of, lighting a bonfire. With the continuing dry weather and humid conditions at night, residents are urged not to light a bonfire which can cause considerable distress to neighbours especially those with health issues.

It appears that advice concerning bonfires is being ignored – mainly, in an area to the rear of Cotton End Road, Northwood and Hooked Lane.

For anyone who has a heart condition or breathing difficulty, the burning of any type of building waste which constitutes a nuisance, could have serious consequences.

Please do not light bonfires.

Newsletter DEADLINE

for any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

Friday 24th July

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 7th August

Please send items and articles for inclusion in the Wilstead Newsletter to our dedicated e-mail address:

wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com

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.

Telephone Number List

to cut out and keep by your telephone

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CRIME IN PROGRESS	999
Non Emergency Police	101
Police Headquarters	01234 841212
PC5324 Kerry Jones	101 ext 2865/2864/2862
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Abandoned Vehicles	01234 221768
Borough Councillor, Graeme Coombes	07815 302318
Neighbourhood Watch Central Office	01234 842043
Wilstead Good Neighbours	07807 408928

"Who's Who" Neighbourhood Watch, Wilstead

Advertisements & Accounts

MAXINE HENDRY, 17 Hampton Close, Wilstead MK45 3DA
wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com Telephone 407998

Editors

Crime Prevention News/Information

BRIAN JONES, 16 Hooked Lane, Wilstead MK45 3DL
wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com Telephone 741931

Local Village News & Information

JACKIE LLOYD, 41A Luton Road, Wilstead MK45 3ER
wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com Telephone 742757

Art Editor

LINDA MARLTON, 157 Cotton End Road, Wilstead MK45 3DD
wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com Telephone 403829

NW Area Co-ordinator

GERALD GALE, 149A Cotton End Road, Wilstead MK45 3DD
wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com Telephone 740972

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Swimming Warning July 2020

Beds Fire and Rescue Service is concerned that lockdown boredom and the very warm weather may encourage some people to go swimming or diving into lakes, rivers and quarries. It is of the utmost importance that they do not.

There are very few locations of water that are lifeguarded in Bedfordshire and the danger to an individual who dives or even ventures into a body of water is significant. Even the strongest swimmers can get into danger.

If you are near a body of water, do not jump into the water from a height. The depth of the water changes and will be particularly low during periods of warm and dry weather. The depth of water can be difficult to judge and may contain hidden rubbish and debris which can cause injuries and drowning.

Cold water shock is another danger associated with jumping into water. **Cold water shock can kill.** The temperatures of open water, such as rivers and lakes, can be much colder than anticipated, especially in fast flowing sections. **Cold water removes heat from the body 32 times faster than cold air causing cold shock – gasping, cramps, and inhalation of water, heart attack, stroke and rapid drowning.**

Please do not swim in open waters unless it is part of an organised event for your own safety.

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

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