



# *Wilstead* *September 2020* **NEWSLETTER** *including Parish Council News*

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

## Wilstead Village Hall

In our 'new normal' lifestyle and as Wilstead Village Hall has now been opened with Covid-19 procedures in place, the Management Committee are now calling everyone to a delayed AGM which should have taken place in May 2020.

Our Village Hall is the very heart of our community. It enables local organisations and clubs to meet and provides the space for parties and family gatherings. The Hall is used by a variety of clubs, organisations and individuals and it is gradually being used again.

It is managed by a team of local residents who volunteer a small amount of their time to ensure the Hall is kept available for local activities and private events. The team keeps the Hall in good order, makes sure bookings are well managed and agrees the fees charged.

New members with extra hands and new ideas are always needed. It's a friendly team, being made up of 3 elected officers, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer; 6 elected members; and representatives of local and regular user groups. Every regular user group is entitled to send a delegate to the Committee meetings. We meet about 5 – 6 times a year but in addition we are in communication with each other on a regular basis during this time, to deal with any issues that can't wait for the next meeting. Everyone has a role to play.

### *Contents this month include*

Parish Council News .....	pg 4
Footpath Group .....	pg 6
Greensand Surgery Flu Clinics .....	pg 8
Garden Club .....	pg 10
Oliver Street Surgery Flu Clinics .....	pg 14

### **Crime Recorded for Wilstead**

At the time this Newsletter was compiled, the latest crime information covering the period since 28th July was not available. Up-to-date details should be included in the October Newsletter.

Please consider joining the team and being part of the Village Hall community by coming to:

**The AGM on Monday 21st September at 7.30pm in the main hall**

New members are vital to keep the Hall operating for the future and meeting the changing needs of our community. If you are interested in learning more before the AGM please contact

**Paul Buckley:** Wilstead Village Hall Chairperson  
**01234 740740, [pkbuckley22@gmail.com](mailto:pkbuckley22@gmail.com)**  
or

**Angela Fosbrook:**  
Wilstead Village Hall Secretary.  
**01234 294692, [angela.fosbrook@ntlworld.com](mailto:angela.fosbrook@ntlworld.com)**

### **Another Alert - Theft of Pets**

In the Newsletter last month, residents were made aware there have been recent incidents of pets being stolen 'to order'. The theft of dogs has been highlighted 'in the news'.

Again, owners will need no reminding to be very vigilant at all times when someone acts suspiciously, near a pet. This is very important if you have a pedigree dog or one of an unusual breed.

*Your Co-ordinator is*

# All Saints Church News

We are pleased to be able to report that services have now been restarted at All Saints Church. We held our first service since March on Sunday 16th August and plan to hold a service each Sunday at 11.00am. Unfortunately we can't have any hymns as singing is still not allowed in Church but we can worship together practising suitable safe distancing and welcome all who would like to join us.

The work on the Church clock is progressing well and it should be working by the first week in September.

We are sure that it will look splendid with its new blue face and gilded numerals. Looking back in the records it was last repainted in June 1995.

It has cost quite a lot of money to have this done together with getting all the working parts cleaned and painted. We welcome any

donations towards the cost of the work. These can be given to either the Vicar, Mrs Janet Brooks or Mr Robert Heley.

On Saturday 15th August the Wilstead Branch of the British Legion held a **Remembrance Service for VJ day**. This service was streamed on **Facebook** and is available to watch on **You-Tube** channels.

As regards events at the Church in the next few months we are tied by Government Regulations as to having gatherings and meetings of any description. Our normal events such as coffee mornings, soup and pud lunches and the Advent Fair will have to be put on hold until the situation changes.

In the meantime keep safe.

With all our best wishes

**Robert Heley**  
**All Saints Church.**



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# Wilstead Bowls Club

We are continuing with roll-ups every day at 2pm, 4pm and 6pm for the Members who wish to participate. We have also had drawn pairs on Wednesday evenings, but unfortunately the weather has hampered this event on several occasions.

**On Friday evenings at 6pm** for those who want to go on the green, we make up pairs and triples depending how many come, before we go into the Club House for a drink or two.

The English Short Mat Bowling Association (ESMBA) has now produced clear guidelines to enable the indoor game to restart. Consequently we will be laying only two mats back down on **Tuesday 15th September** for a 2pm start. Sessions will continue each week as before, on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon at the present. Wednesday evening meetings will not be taking place at the moment. The mats and jacks are to be handled in the same way as we have been doing outside. There will be a maximum of 12 players at one time.

**The Thursday evening Herts/Beds League will commence in November.** More details at a later date.

So if you have not tried short mats for a while, come along and join us for a pleasant afternoon.

Our Club will also be open on **Sunday lunchtimes** for a drink and chat with friends **12 noon until 2pm.**

**Jean Ward**  
Club Secretary

## Wilstead Players

Well, the months have gone by and we are afraid to say that although we are still here, there is very little to report on the Drama front. The Village Hall is now available for hire with some restrictions, but we have no plans yet to resurrect rehearsals for our production of 'The Wizard of Oz' with its enormous cast, for obvious reasons.

Please rest assured that you will be notified in plenty of time if there is a change to our position.

Meanwhile stay safe and healthy and keep hoping for an effective vaccine soon!

**Jackie Tanswell 01234 740782**

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## Wilshamstead Parish Council

### New Safety Cameras in the Village

The Parish Council automatically receive a payment called a Community Infrastructure Levy when new housing development takes place in the Parish. Therefore the development behind Whitworth Way meant the Parish Council were in receipt of a sizeable payment to use for Parish infrastructure.

The Parish Council considered what different items the money could be used for being mindful of the statutory requirements on how this money can be used, and wanting to ensure the money was used to bring value to the community. There is only so much play equipment, bus shelters benches etc., the Village needs, and the money was not enough to pay for average speed cameras, so the Parish Council needed different items to be identified making sure the money was spent correctly.

During the initial consideration by the Parish Council, CCTV in the Village was identified as a project which would bring additional safety to all residents rather than other projects which might help only certain sections of the residents.

Following research into the associated costs of installing equipment, it would also leave funds for the Parish Council to pursue other project(s) of benefit to the parish.

The CCTV equipment recently installed at the Crossroads will also be able to record images from cameras at the entry to the village, so in the event of crimes or incidents the police will be able to access the recordings. The capability of the Crossroads equipment to capture images from the Jubilee Field, where there has been reports of drugs, anti social behaviour, and littering, is currently being considered by the Council and will be discussed at the next meeting on **Monday 7th September**.

### Fly Tipping in the Parish

The Parish Council are aware that there have been several recent fly tipping incidents at the recycling facility at the Bedford Road layby. This

*Continued on next page*



Continued from page 4

Is a Borough Council managed facility so please report issues via **(01234) 67422**.

### Longmeadow Drive Play Area and Muga

The Parish Council have been receiving communications recently from residents concerned over these areas not being fully accessible. This area and all the surrounding open space off the Longmeadow Drive development is in fact the responsibility of Persimmon.

The Parish Council do continue to communicate the concerns from local residents on to Persimmon, and would encourage residents to bring matters to their attention as they arise.

The Borough Council and Parish Council are working together to try and keep the improvement works going forwards so that the open space and recreational facilities can at a future point be adopted. However, this is a complicated and often lengthy process, which is not always fast moving as it is reliant on timely communication and progress of items raised.

### Inconsiderate Parking on Highway Verges

The Parish Council would like to kindly remind all residents to park considerately in the Village, being mindful of the highway verges. Parking vehicles on a grass verge can seem not to cause harm, however, it does do a lot of damage to the open spaces and landscaped areas which are to enhance the rural setting.

### Current Bedford Borough Local Plan Options and Issues Consultation

The Parish Council would like to thank local residents who recently engaged in the Borough Council Local Plan consultation. The Parish Council responded outlining that an approach using a combination of the proposals would best support growth in the Borough.

Also within the response it was again highlighted that it is vital that Wilstead does not become

Continued on page 6

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*continued from page 5*

coalescence with neighbouring parishes such as Wixams, Elstow and Eastcotts. The rural identity of Wilstead must be retained. The Parish Council also reiterated that the village must no longer be classified as a Key Rural Service Centre and Parish Council representatives met with a number of Senior Planning Policy Officers to explicitly explain why.

### How Do I Contact the Parish Council?

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

**[clerk@wilsteadparishcouncil.org](mailto: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 with 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](http://www.wilsteadparishcouncil.org)**

### 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@wilsteadparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@wilsteadparishcouncil.org)**

## Village P3 Footpath Group

### Meetings

The next meeting is now planned for **Saturday 12th September** in the Village Hall at 10.00am. The virus and the availability of the additional space the larger hall offers means that a change of date was necessary. If you are interested in the footpaths around the village and would like to help keep an eye on them for any problems, you are very welcome to come along. There is plenty of room to social distance but please bring a mask.

*continued on next page*

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## Footpath Work

The warm weather and the increasing number of people walking the paths around the village has meant that most of the paths have been easy to use. A small amount of mowing and work to increase the visibility of the route of the paths has been undertaken. To increase this visibility a number of yellow tops have been added to way mark posts and numerous faded way mark discs have been replaced. These plastic yellow caps should also help preserve the posts.

The recent weather has meant that brambles and other vegetation have quickly grown across some paths in places so please, if you can, take secateurs with you on your walks and snip these off.

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.

## A6

The filling in of the existing underpass / cattle creep beneath the A6 finally removed the possibility to create a safer crossing of the A6 from the two public footpaths, Wilstead FP3 and FP4, which go

to Houghton Conquest by diverting them through this underpass.

The existing crossings are currently safer as all the vegetation in the verge of the A6 has been cleared giving better visibility for both drivers and walkers. Overtime this vegetation will grow back and so the group will continue to request for the wording 'Pedestrians Crossing' to be added to the new signs either side of where these footpaths cross.

## Walks

The August walk was cancelled because of the virus. Hopefully the walk on **Sunday 27th September** will be possible though it will mean car sharing is doubtful. The walk will probably be around Woburn or somewhere similar with a large car park. Meet at Whitworth Way car park at 2.00pm.

Being outside and socially distancing should provide a safe environment.

Please keep an eye on the village noticeboards for updates on this.

**Nigel Jacobs**

**P3 contact 01234 400733**

# Age UK Bedfordshire is the largest older peoples' charity in the County

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# Greensand Surgery Flu Clinics 2020

We are now booking for our flu clinics for those patients in the at risk groups (all patients who are over 65 or under 65 and have asthma, diabetes, heart problems, breathing problems, renal disease or a BMI 40 or above or any other chronic illness, or are a carer for an elderly or disabled person or are currently pregnant).

We would like to reassure our patients that we put your safety first. This is why our clinics will be different than previous years as we are following government guidelines.

- Extremely vulnerable (previous shielding) patients will be offered early morning slots.
- One way system into and out of the surgery will be in place.
- Abiding by the 2 metre rule.
- Markers will be on the floor for patients to stand and queue and move forward when called. You may be required to queue outside for a short period.
- Patients not to attend earlier than their appointment time to avoid unnecessary long queues and crowding.
- We ask patients not to attend the practice if they or a member of their family has any COVID symptoms such as fever, cough, loss of sense of taste or smell.
- Facing coverings to be worn please.
- Please wear short sleeved easy to remove clothing to facilitate easy vaccination.

Appointments are now available to book via our online system (if you have a *system one* password), or call **01525 631390**.

Please do not call the practice before 11:00 and please avoid Monday mornings, due to the high volume of phone calls.

If you have an online password, we would like to encourage you to book online. No other problem can be dealt with at this appointment time.

**Saturday 19th September** at Greensand Surgery.  
(Over 65s only)

**Saturday 3rd October** at Greensand Surgery  
(Under 65s at risk) plus Children 2 and 3 years old, and at risk children over 12 years.

**Saturday 31st October** at Greensand Surgery  
(Catch up Clinic for those unable to attend the above).

*Continued on next page*



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Continued from page 8

If you are housebound where possible can you please organise for a family member or friend to bring you to the surgery in their car for a pre-booked Practice Nurse appointment. This can be arranged during the week at a time suitable for you. The Nurse can vaccinate you in the car. If this is not possible then a sometime home visit will be organised later. Please call **01525 631390, Option 2.**

On the 24th July the Government announced new eligible groups entitled to the flu jab, including 50-64 year olds. Greensand Surgery would like to advise our patients that 50-64 year olds will not be eligible for a flu vaccination until November/December subject to vaccine supply, as stated in the National flu letter dated 4th August 2020. This extension is being phased to allow us to prioritise those in at risk groups first.

**Dawn Moore, Practice Manager  
Greensand Surgery**

Oliver Street  
Amptill  
Beds  
MK45 2SB  
**01525 631390**

## A Bedtime Checklist from Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

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- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances not being used
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- Are the heaters turned off and fireguards if needed are put up
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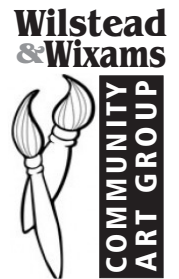
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[www.wilstead.org](http://www.wilstead.org)

# Art News



Hi Everyone,  
After having several meetings since the lockdown, we received notification from the Village Hall Committee informing us that users of the hall must wear face masks.

As expected many of our members were reluctant to sit painting for 2 hours wearing a face mask. Then face shields were suggested - which was more acceptable to most of our members. However the BRCC (Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity) who have supported Village Halls with the legalities of Covid-19 said that it had to be face masks not visors or shields!

After yet again contacting all of our members, less than half the group are happy wearing face masks to our meetings and of those not all of them attend all of the meetings. So we hope to continue our meetings but might have to close until the Covid restrictions are relaxed if we don't have enough attending to pay for the hire of the hall.

If you don't mind wearing a face mask and would like to come and join us please phone or email us before coming to one of our meetings so we can explain the Village Hall 'Covid Do's and Don't's'.

We meet on Mondays (except for public holidays) throughout the year in Wilstead Village Hall from 2pm - 4pm. The first session is Free.

Keep safe and well everyone.

**Linda Marlton**  
**Mobile 07792 680654**

**Michael Bradley**  
**07526 939164**

[villagehallart@gmail.com](mailto:villagehallart@gmail.com)

## We'll Meet Again...

**Tuesday 15th September, 2.30pm**  
**Village Hall**

We will be making our first baby steps towards some kind of normality by meeting again in September. There will be a change to our original plan as we will be meeting in the larger hall of the Village Hall and in the afternoon. We have had to change the time as only 10 people are allowed to meet in the small hall and the larger hall is booked for the evening. We felt it was better to keep the same day and we hope that the afternoon time will be more convenient for members during the winter months. We apologise to members

*continued on next page*

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for whom the afternoon is difficult. We will review meeting times when the pandemic situation has been resolved.

We have a few different rules to comply with when using the hall. We will send members more details at the beginning of September and put a notice on the Village Hall notice board. At the present time, there is a possibility that masks will need to be worn during the meeting. For the first meeting we are asking you to bring your own drink, have the correct money (£1.50) and we will not be holding a raffle. You are allowed to take your mask off to eat and drink.

Mary will lead the meeting with the theme of 'Highs and Lows of Gardening in 2020'. If you have contributions please let Mary know, or be prepared to speak at this informal meeting.

Thinking about the trials and tribulations of 2020 and the way garden centres had to close just as we needed seeds and compost, perhaps we need to make plans now. Obviously seed collection is a must, so save what you can. Those old peas and beans can be your crop next year. Store in paper not plastic bags though. As well as traditional

seeds I have heard about a slice of 'gone soft' tomato being planted and growing fruiting plants, dried peas being soaked for 48 hours and planted and growing peas to harvest. These were dried marrowfat peas!

The NGS gardens are opening. Not as the brochure so you need to check the website. The bonus is that fewer visitors are allowed so you can really see and appreciate the gardens. The Committee have booked and visited three gardens and so far they have allowed pay on the door access as well. Last weekend I was in the garden on my own! The week before there were amazing cakes. A good time to garner ideas for our own gardens. The NGS is an important charity, so as well as giving you pleasure you will be supporting important fundraising.

Looking forward to seeing you very soon.

Best wishes

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

*Please mention the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter when replying to advertisements.*



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# Outbuilding and Garage Security

As the county eased out of lockdown, many people returned to work or left the house for longer periods leaving their homes and gardens unattended. In the first few weeks, Bedfordshire Police saw an upturn of theft from garages and outbuildings with power tools and lawnmowers often being the target.

During lockdown, there has been a reported increase in householders tackling home and garden improvement jobs and possibly new equipment was what is attracting thieves.

Shed and garage security is all important and it is worthwhile giving your outbuildings and garden boundaries a 'health check':

**Check your locks and bolts** – replace any rusty items, ensure all padlocks and hasps bear the British Standard kite mark and are made of hardened steel.

**Don't forget the hinges on your doors** – if a burglar can't breach the lock, they may attempt to unscrew the hinges. Use coach bolts, non-return screws or simply damage the screw head; you don't need to do every screw, just a couple on the hanging plate and a couple on the door plate.

**Remember to secure outbuilding windows** – even the ones that don't open can be vulnerable. Consider obscuring the window with an opaque window film (the type used to obscure bathroom windows) as this will reduce the temptation. Alternatively, fit a grille or a couple of bars across the inside of the window to reduce the window aperture.

**Consider using a battery-operated siren alarm in your outbuildings** - they often cost less than £20 and are simple to install and use.

**Get into the good habit of putting everything away when you have finished with it.** Your own tools can be used to break into your storage.

**Repair any damage to fencing and gates.**

**Have you thought about security marking your tools?** Whilst property marking cannot prevent your goods from being stolen by itself, it is a very good deterrent as it is difficult to sell on stolen property that has been marked. It also allows the Police to return recovered stolen goods to their rightful owner and secure a charge. You can also use an approved online asset register such as [www.immbolise.com](http://www.immbolise.com) or [www.equipmentregister.co.uk](http://www.equipmentregister.co.uk)

*Continued on next page*



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continued from page 12

Items such as garden furniture, power tools and heaters can be marked by etching or scratching your postcode on to them, or with a permanent marker pen. As a lot of tools end up in the second-hand trade, you may wish to write 'Offered For Sale? Call (phone number)' on the item instead. Alternatively, there are chemical DNA-based marking products such as SelectaDNA and SmartWater.

**2484 Lara Curtayne**  
**Force Crime Reduction Officer**

## Macmillan Coffee Morning September 2020

With great regret we are unable to run our usual fundraising Coffee Morning due to Covid 19.

Macmillan need our support even more this year, so we are asking for donations from our loyal supporters. In previous years the village of Wilstead has been extremely generous, raising thousands of pounds for what is a very worthwhile cause.

**We are arranging for collection boxes to be left in prime locations throughout the village,** the Post Office, Wilstead Pre-school, Village Pubs as well as at social groups during the month of September.

**Please donate what you can to help at this difficult time!**

**Mary, Alison, Heather, Di and Viv**

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**We have already had a great response from the village and really appreciate your support.**



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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](http://www.wilsteadvillage.org.uk)**

# Oliver Street Surgery Flu Vaccination Clinics from September 2020

We are currently offering flu vaccination appointments for all our patients within the '*at risk*' group.

To ease the booking of flu vaccinations for patients and staff, we are offering patients *who are eligible for a flu vaccine* (please see criteria below), to book their appointment online where possible.

We will be running two **Saturday clinics, 26th September and 10th October.** These are now available to book online.

Thank you for your continued help and support.

**Dr Donaldson**  
**Senior Partner**

## Am I at increased risk from the effects of flu?

Flu can affect anyone but if you have a long-term health condition the effects of flu can make it worse even if the condition is well managed and you normally feel well. You should have the free flu vaccine if you are:

- pregnant
- or have a long term condition such as:
- a heart problem
- a chest complaint or breathing difficulties, including bronchitis, emphysema or severe asthma
- a kidney disease
- lowered immunity due to disease or treatment (such as steroid medication or cancer treatment)
- liver disease
- had a stroke or a transient ischaemic attack (TIA)
- diabetes a neurological condition, eg multiple sclerosis (MS), cerebral palsy
- a learning disability
- a problem with your spleen, eg sickle cell disease, or you have had your spleen removed
- are seriously overweight (BMI of 40 and above)

People on the NHS Shielded Patient List for COVID-19 are all eligible for a free flu vaccine and it is really important this year that they receive it.

This list of conditions isn't definitive. It's always an issue of clinical judgement. Your GP can assess you to take into account the risk of flu making any underlying illness you may have worse, as well as your risk of serious illness from flu itself.

*Please note that **both the Clinics above will be at the Oliver Street Surgery.** The Practice is unable to offer a site at Wilstead due to the current infection controls in place for Covid.*

# Steps You Can Take to Protect Your Motorcycle

Use two or more security measures and reduce your risk of becoming a victim

## Remove the keys

Always use the steering lock and remove the ignition keys.

## Lock your bike

Use a **chain lock** through the back wheel, to an immovable object such as a ground anchor, railings or lamp post. Or **thread the chain through your bike frame and back wheel** if the design allows it. Use a **disc lock** to secure the **front brake disc** to stop it from being wheeled away. Use a **grip lock** to secure the brake and throttle controls.

## Use a cover

Using a bike cover means thieves can't see if it's a model they are interested in

## Fit an alarm

A Thatcham-rated 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors can help protect and trace your vehicle and could reduce your insurance premiums.

## Property mark the parts

Mark as much of your bike as possible to make more difficult for criminals to sell parts. It will also help police identify parts and return recovered stolen bikes.

## Keep Your Vehicle In Your Garage Or Shed

Fit a garage door defender and upgrade garage door locks. An alarm as well as dusk to dawn lighting will enhance security.

## No Shed or Garage? Park in the Safest Place you can

Park it in an area where it's overlooked with good lighting.

## Help to Reduce Further Crime

If your bike is stolen, never put yourself at risk. Call police immediately on 999 if you see it being stolen or 101 if you discover it has gone.

## Lara Curtayne

(Crime Reduction Officer,  
Community Safety, Bedfordshire Police)



## Award Winning Interactive Musical Fun Show for Pre-School Children

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## Newsletter DEADLINE

for any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

# Friday 18th Sept

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 2nd Oct

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

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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"

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## BikeRegister

BikeRegister is the national, Police approved online asset register for bicycles. Not only does it assist the Police with identifying the rightful owners of lost, stolen and recovered cycles but, by joining the scheme, members of the public can access products such as marking kits and the BikeRegister app.

Registration is free at:  
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**2484 Lara Curtayne  
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## Passing a Horse on the Road

As lockdown restrictions are eased, more horses and riders are using local roads and bridleways.

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