



# Wilstead NEWSLETTER

including Parish Council News

December 2021

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

## Christmas Treecycling

**Get your Christmas tree collected and support your local hospice**

**Save the date in your shiny, new 2022 calendar for Sue Ryder's Christmas Treecycling service.**

There is no need to fret about what to do with your real Christmas tree after the festivities have ended, as Sue Ryder St John's Hospice in Moggerhanger, is offering a green scheme to recycle it.

The hospice will work in partnership with Just Helping, kindly supported by Brightman Brothers Tree Care and J & R Tree Services, to collect Christmas trees that are no longer needed from your home. They will then be chipped into mulch and recycled.

People who live in MK40, MK41, MK42, MK43, MK44, MK45, SG18 and SG19 postcodes will be able to have their Christmas trees collected from their homes between **Saturday 8th and Monday 10th January**.

A donation is welcomed in return for collecting the trees, so Sue Ryder can continue offering its compassionate palliative care and bereavement support - and help people make every moment count this and every Christmas.

Find out more about Christmas Treecycling and book a collection at [sueryder.org/stjohnstrees](https://sueryder.org/stjohnstrees) by **Wednesday 5th January**.

Contact the fundraising team at Sue Ryder St John's Hospice with any queries on: [stjohnsfundraising@sueryder.org](mailto:stjohnsfundraising@sueryder.org) or **01767 642412**.

*All enclosed articles are subject to current Covid19 restrictions*

### *Contents this month include:*

Parish Council .....	Page 3
Methodist Church .....	Page 8
MemoryHearts.....	Page 10
Garden Club .....	Page 13
Greensand Surgery .....	Page 14

## CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

### Harassment

Friday 29th October 5.35pm  
**No Further Information (NFI)**

### Malicious Communication

Tuesday 26th October 10.30am  
**Luton Road**

### Possession of Other Weapon

*(ie not an article with blade or point)*

Saturday 23rd October  
Between 8.05pm and 8.08pm  
**Wooding Way**

### Theft/Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicle

Friday 15th October 10.37pm  
**Dane Lane**

### Blackmail

Between 11.20am and  
1.20pm Thursday 14th October  
**(NFI)**

### Theft from Motor Vehicle

Between Sunday 10th October  
and Tuesday 12th October 8pm  
**Cotton End Road**

Continued on page 2 >>>

Your Co-ordinator is:

>>> Continued from page 1

### **Threat To Kill**

Friday 8th October 6.30am  
Cotton End Road

### **Assault Without Injury**

Between 10.30am and 11.00am  
Wednesday 29th September  
Luton Road

### **Crime Recorded for nearby Villages**

Cardington 3, Cople 9, Cotton End 4,  
Shortstown 29 and Wixams 30.

*The above 'Crime Recorded' cover the  
period 1st to 31st October.*

### **Remember:**

*To report non-emergency crimes,  
incidents or to give information to  
the police online go to  
[www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report)*

## **Keeping Children Safe**

Looped blind cords can be deadly if they get caught around the neck of a baby or toddler, and it can only take a minute for tragedy to strike.

@ROSPA has great advice for parents and carers about how to keep every child safe, whether at home, or visiting family or friends.

Visit <http://crowd.in/CCxTwS>

- Fix a tidy, tensioner or a cleat.
- These should be firmly fixed to an adjoining surface so that the cord or chain are permanently held tight.
- Move furniture away from windows.

Children love to climb, so keep furniture clear of window blinds. This includes cots, beds, highchairs and playpens.

**Bedfordshire Police**



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# Wilshamstead Parish Council

## Christmas Decorations Thank You

Hopefully, by the time this Newsletter is published, Village residents will have seen the display of Christmas lights, festive tree and children's decorations at the crossroads and attended the grand 'switch-on' event on 26th November. The Parish Council is extremely grateful for the ongoing support from the Wilstead community, including the dedicated team of Villager residents, school children and caterers who have all worked hard to make the occasion something to really celebrate. This year's Christmas decorations are even bigger and better.

In addition, the Parish Council would like to thank the following companies who have very kindly donated money to build on the success of last year's event, enabling there to be an extension of the scheme around the Village.

**Special thanks to:** 123floor- Marc and Lorraine Frost; Burrs Garage; DGM Vehicle Services - Darren McKenna; Driveway Rejuvenation - Raf and Max Contessa; Nigel and Julia Drummond; Liftright Access - Gary Fleckney; Jerry and Karen Parker; Phil Woskett Landscapes - Phil Woskett; R Maskell Plant Hire - Richard Maskell; South East Security - Chris and Jan Purcell; Stonegates Estate Agents - James and Becky Beard; Wilstead Haulage - Darryl Tutt; Whites Construction - Howard and Marlene White; The Red Lion; The Woolpack; Wilstead Post Office - Suki Thiarra.

## Village Improvements Update

The Parish Council is pleased to report that planting of spring bulbs has recently taken place along Bedford Road and Luton Road. It will be great to see the verges in full bloom in the Spring with the Narcissus 'Dutch Master' flowers coming up.

The Council approved expenditure at their November meeting for a replacement bus shelter on the western side of Luton Road by Briar Bank. A new wooden structure is to be ordered for installation.

The Parish Council has funded both of these items.

Continued on page 4 >>>

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>>> Continued from page 3

You will also hopefully have started to spot the new Village noticeboards that have been recently installed throughout various locations in the Village. These new boards were funded by both the Parish Council and Borough Councillor Ward Fund.

In addition, now the nesting season is over, the Parish Council is using this time to ensure that a number of hedges and nearby areas in need of maintenance across the Parish are being cut back thoroughly.

## Community Woodland Latest

For many years the Council has been pursuing, with the Wixams developer, the generation and improvement of the Community Woodland off Duck End Lane, promised as part of the developers contribution and commitment when Wixams was very first being planned.

Thankfully, more recently, things have moved forwards, not only with the planting of the woodland, but also with the discussions on the future management of the woodland site. It has for some time been the intention of the Parish Council to adopt this area, taking on the responsibility to ensure it is safeguarded for many future Village generations to enjoy. This is now a step further forwards and the Parish Council have formally agreed to take this land on, with the corresponding legal process under way. Updates on how this progresses will be published in future Newsletters and on the Parish Council website.

## Bedford Borough Local Plan 2040 And Wilstead Neighbourhood Plan

The Borough Council has advised that they have received hundreds of comments with reference to their draft Local Plan. They are still working on how to incorporate these into the Plan and do not expect to be able to issue a revised draft until the Spring of 2022. At this time we also expect to receive an indication of whether Wilstead will be required to accommodate additional housing development between 2023 and 2040. If this were the case, the Neighbourhood Plan Team and Parish Council would work together on determining the recommended location for any development.

At the moment the draft Neighbourhood Plan contains no additional development recommendations before 2030 – in line with the existing Borough Local Plan 2030. The Neighbourhood Plan Team are currently working on incorporating all comments received following the consultation with Villagers, land owners

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and businesses over the course of 2021. The revised Plan will then go to Referendum in the Village early in the New Year.

## Contacting The Parish Council

The best way to contact the Parish Council is to email Lizzie, the Parish Clerk at: [office@wilsteadparishcouncil.org](mailto:office@wilsteadparishcouncil.org).

Alternatively you can call 01234 743152 or write to PO Box 1548, Bedford, MK44 5AX.

Please note the Parish Office is open on a Monday 9.00am to midday. It is politely asked if you are feeling unwell, kindly please do not visit the Parish Office. You are welcome to ring or email Lizzie, in addition to raising any items with a Parish Councillor, if that is easier.

The office will be closed over the festive season, on Monday 27th December and Monday 3rd January.

Please note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 10th January at 7pm in the small hall of the Village Hall.

## WANTED

### Wilstead Village Hall Assistant Caretaker

To start as soon as possible, Wilstead Village Hall Management Committee is looking for an Assistant Caretaker to work closely alongside the main Caretaker. This is for a minimum of 6 hours a week, worked flexibly across 2 days, one of which is to be a Monday.

The job also is to cover the main Caretaker's holidays and sick days. The pay is at the current minimum wage and paid by the hour.

Duties would include good time keeping to unlock and lock the hall for hirers; preparing the hall and cleaning after a hire; and stepping into the Caretaker's full role when needed.

Continued on page 6 >>>

## Baby's First Christmas

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>>> Continued from page 5

This requires working closely with the  
Caretaker, especially when covering  
his fuller duties

If you require further information  
and/or are interested in taking up  
this post, please contact either of the  
names listed below.

Chairperson | **Sandra Spinks**  
sanschambers@hotmail.com  
07853395939

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

## All Saints Church

All our events and services for December were  
published in the November Newsletter but  
here is a reminder of what we have planned:

Christmas Tree Festival weekend Friday 3rd,  
Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th December.

A Village History evening on Friday 3rd December  
and Cheese and Wine evening. Tea and Coffee  
available. Tickets £5. Please let Alaine Cockings  
know if you have anything interesting to share  
about the village.

Tel; 01234 741071

email [alaine.cockings741@icloud.com](mailto:alaine.cockings741@icloud.com)

Advent Fair Saturday 4th December from midday  
onwards. Lunches and the usual Christmas  
Hamper raffle plus interesting stalls.

Sunday 5th December, a service of readings and  
carols at 6.30pm. Usual Sunday morning services  
on 12th and 19th December.

Friday 24th December 3pm Christingle and  
11.30pm Midnight Communion with the Bishop  
of Bedford.

No service on Christmas Day but Family Worship  
with Carols on **Sunday 26th December**.

We wish you all a Happy  
and Blessed Christmas.

**Robert Heley** | All Saints Church

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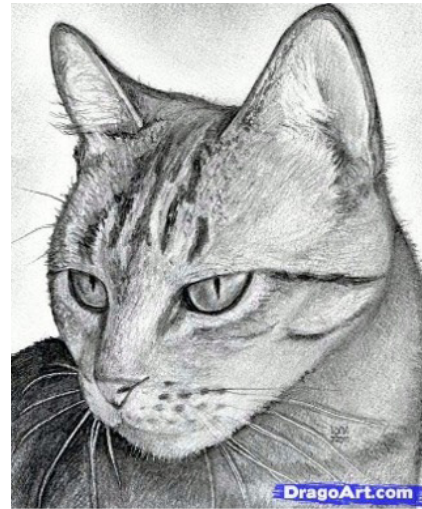
Our numbers are very slowly recovering and we are already seeing more of our existing members, including some new people.

We are very grateful to those members who were able to come regularly in 2020/21 despite Covid as it enabled us to survive.

May I remind members and new people that we do have a small variety of art resources for your use so, if there is anything you haven't got or would like to experiment with, we may be able to help. If you need it, several of our members will help and encourage you in whatever your artistic endeavours happen to be.

Maggie, one of our members enjoys creating animals of all kinds and the cat picture is an example of the work she does in pastels but it's not her work on this occasion.

If you're interested in joining us your first session is free and, if you decide to continue and become a member, it will be £3 a session when you're able to come. We meet every Monday from 2pm until 4pm in Wilstead Village Hall.



We wish all Newsletter readers a very Happy Christmas.

Figure 1: *How to draw a cat*

Enquiries: **Michael Bradley**

Mobile: **07526 939164.**

Email: **revmichael14@outlook.com**

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

We have been helping older people for over 30 years with confidential advice and support. We work with Bedfordshire residents over the age of 50, their families, friends and carers, focusing on the individual client to ensuring their needs and wishes are prioritised.

### We can provide:

- Practical assistance around the home and garden through our home help and gardening service.
- Information and Advice on Benefit Entitlement, Health and Housing issues, Personal Budgets, Legal Matters and virtually any other matter relating to older people.
- Home visits to help complete benefit application forms for people who are unable to visit our office.
- Community Support Workers who will work long term with clients who have more complex needs.

- In depth advice and support for vulnerable older people who otherwise would suffer from living in cold homes.

- Telephone Befriending Network supported by the Harpur Trust in Bedford Borough.

●

Our services are delivered in a caring, friendly and professional manner, through our team of fully trained, dedicated staff and volunteers.

If you or anyone you know would like more information, please contact us on the number below or visit our website [www.ageukbedfordshire.org.uk](http://www.ageukbedfordshire.org.uk)

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## Wilstead Methodist Church

As many of you are aware, Wilstead Methodist Church was initially closed in the first lock down in March 2020 when all churches were asked to remain closed. Although there have been a number of changes that have allowed for churches to consider being open, to do this has continued to present challenges.

Work to maintain and manage the premises has fallen to an increasingly small group of older volunteers meaning that, even with help with practical tasks, being open in the current circumstances did not feel realistic.

This has meant we have had to have some very difficult conversations as a church about how practical reopening really is for us both now and into the future. It is therefore with great sadness that I now share we have taken the very difficult decision to say we cannot continue. This is not a decision we have taken lightly and it causes us great pain to say it. We are grateful for all the community support we have had and ask that you think of us at this time just as we continue to think and pray for the wider Wilstead community.

In practical terms, it will take time to look at what happens next and that will need to involve the local Circuit that Wilstead Methodist is part of. We will need to be guided in all matters by charity law and the requirements of the Charity Commission.

My prayer is that you all continue to stay safe and well in these difficult times.

Every blessing

**Rev'd Lorna** | Minister at Wilstead Methodist  
01462 813284

## Test your smoke alarm!

**When was the last time you tested your smoke alarm?**

Just to remind you that you should test your smoke alarm weekly, by pressing the test button to ensure it sounds. If you can't reach it then use a broom handle or similar object. If your smoke alarm is not working, please contact us on **0800 843 5042** for advice. If you meet our criteria we are able to install safety equipment free of charge.

**Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue  
Service Prevention Team**

## Update from Wilstead Village Agent

Village Agents provide a free, confidential service and are here to help people over 65 with a variety of issues - large or small. We are funded by Bedford Borough Council. We are all DBS checked and operate in the strictest confidence. Andrea is the Village Agent for Wilstead.

**Prevent scam bank phone calls** - if you are concerned about a call alleging to be from your bank a new phone service is available to put you straight through to your bank. Call 159 and listen to the list of participating banks. Most major banks are taking part in the scheme. Remember, never give your account details to anyone you don't know or are not expecting to call you, it's probably a scam.

**Would a helpful gadget make your life easier?** - do you need a disabled toilet key, personal safety alarm, a handy grabber for picking up items or a 'good grip' potato peeler suitable for arthritic hands? Andrea has a few useful items to give away free, but be quick before they all go!

**Struggling to feed yourself this winter?** - Andrea can issue Foodbank vouchers for those who are in genuine need due to benefits delays/sanctions. Any age group applies. Please call in confidence

**Help with form filling** - many older people aren't claiming the benefits they are entitled to. Andrea can help identify which benefits you can claim by doing a confidential benefits check. We can also help you fill in those complicated forms such as Blue Badge and Attendance Allowance forms. We are now able to carry out face to face indoor visits, or we can provide telephone support and advice.

Please call Andrea, your **Village Agent** on **Freephone 0800 039 1234**

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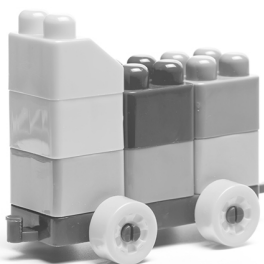
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# stay & play



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**Info:** Hannah 07552 223764

**Web:** wilstead.org

**Facebook:** Wilstead Stay and Play



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## Memory Hearts

As many of you know, we lost our beloved Sue Huckle to cancer in March 2019. We miss her every minute of every day.

Once again I will be making memory hearts for the memorial tree in Wilstead Burial Ground, in memory of Sue and all our lost loved ones.

Last year's display was amazing with over 200 hearts, so many people joined us in dedicating a heart to our angels in heaven.

The hearts and stars will be supplied and decorated free of charge again but so many people asked us last year if we would accept a donation towards the cost.

St John's Hospice at Moggerhanger looked after Sue during her final days and the care and attention that they gave was second to none. Last year together we raised over £1000 for St Johns Hospice.

As a thank you for the outstanding work that St John's Hospice does perhaps you would like to send a donation to them via this page to help raise much needed funds, particularly in these difficult times.

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If you would like a heart, please email me at [jobampton@googlemail.com](mailto:jobampton@googlemail.com) with the message you would like on the heart and I will make one for you. If you'd like more than one heart this is absolutely fine, just let me know what message you would like on each heart. I plan to display the hearts on the dedicated tree from first week in December.

**Much love to all, Jo x**

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# Village P3 Footpath Group

## Meetings

The Group met on 13th November and reports were made on each of the seventeen Rights of Way around the Village. All the paths were walkable though some reports identified that work was needed on particular paths. This included replacing way mark posts and some faded way mark discs.

The next meeting will be on **Saturday 15th January** in the Village Hall at 10.00am.

New paths will be allocated to group members after the January meeting and Group members will then report on their new paths at the following two meetings.

If you are interested in helping to look after the paths around the Village by doing two monthly surveys of a path and/or help maintain them then come along and meet the Group. All are welcome.

## Footpath Work

The path reports at the November meeting highlighted work for the Group to do and these tasks will be carried out in the next month or so.

Now the queues at the petrol stations have gone we can now also get the fuel we need for the Group's mower, strimmer and brushcutter which will allow us to tackle any undergrowth and overgrowth issues.

If you do spot any problems with any footpath/bridleway path surface or overgrowth or stiles/way mark posts etc then please contact the number below and the Group will try and address it.

Continued on page 12 >>>

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## Walks

The October walk started in Shillington and made its way to Pirton via Apsley End before returning to Shillington via field edge footpaths and bridleways. The weather was kind (i.e. dry) and the optional post walk refreshments were sought in the Crown, Shillington.

The November walk between Gt Barford and Blunham was planned to take place just after the editorial deadline for this edition of the Newsletter, so hopefully it was dry.

The next walk will be the **New Year's Day** walk along the footpaths and bridleway which surround the Village. Meet in the Whitworth Way car park at 11.00am. Keep an eye out for a poster at the Crossroads.

Because of Covid it is a bit uncertain as to whether we will be having post walk mulled wine and mince pies this time. We will take a view a bit nearer the time when circumstances may be clearer

**Nigel Jacobs** | P3 contact 01234 400733

## Bowls Club News

Our Presentation Lunch went very well, with nearly all the winners present to receive their trophies.

The short mats are very popular every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, and now on Friday evenings at 7pm until 9pm. The singles and pairs competitions have now been drawn, so the members who have entered will be playing as and when they are able during the season to complete by April next year. The Thursday evening Herts/Beds league is progressing well.

Dominoes are enjoyed every Friday evening which starts at 9pm. A list goes on the board in the foyer every week, telling us where we stand in the league.

Our Christmas coffee morning is on **Wednesday 15th December**, starting at 10.30am until 12 noon, and you will be able purchase mince pies.

During the winter we are open every Friday evening and also Sunday lunchtime 12 noon until 2pm. When you are welcome to come and visit and have a drink.

The Bowls Club wishes everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

**Jean Ward** | Secretary



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# We Wish All Our Gardeners a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Arrangements for our Garden Club Christmas meal will be well underway when you receive this Newsletter. We are having a gathering in the Village Hall this year in early December at lunchtime as we are still aware of possible restrictions. Fingers crossed we don't have a repeat of last year and the disappointment.

In November we had a very chatty and sociable turnout for our annual quiz. Viv did sterling work persuading the cooker to finally warm up the mulled wine and mince pies. Mary organised her usual fiendish gardening themed quiz which provoked much discussion and excitement, we all knew alliums were related to onions so got 2 questions right before the third was replaced with another question. Table groups worked together and it was amazing that all scores were very close and showed we actually knew a lot of gardening knowledge. Well done everyone.

We hope to have our 2022 programme finalised very soon. We will continue meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 2.30 pm until after the May meeting when we will review arrangements. The next meeting will be in January about 'Willow Weaving'.

Wishing everyone our very best wishes.

**Maralyn, Lynda, Viv and Mary**

---

## Season's Greetings From A Local Tech Service

My name is Sanj and I am the owner of SRS Tech IT Services. I have been in the IT industry for over 15 years. We are based in Wixams, so just a stone's throw away.

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This newsletter is published by Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch, part of Bedford & District NW Association, in close co-operation with Bedfordshire Police.

The Wilstead Village Website can be found at  
**[www.wilsteadvillage.org.uk](http://www.wilsteadvillage.org.uk)**

## Greensand Surgery

### Christmas and New Year Surgery Opening

**Friday 17th December** - The surgery will be closing at 5.30pm. Between 5.30pm and 6.30pm the Practice Duty Doctor will be available. Please phone 01525 631390 if you need to speak to a GP between these times.

**Tuesday 21st December** - last day to order your repeat medication to receive it before Christmas closure.

**Thursday 23rd December** - Normal opening hours

**Friday 24th December** - Earlier afternoon surgeries but normal opening hours

**Monday 27th December** and **Tuesday 28th December** - Closed

**Wednesday 29th December** - Normal opening hours - last day to order your repeat medication to receive it before the New Year.

**Thursday 30th December** and **Friday 31st December** - Normal opening hours

**Monday 3rd January** - Closed

**Tuesday 4th January to Friday 7th January** - Normal opening hours

**Dawn Moore, Practice Manager**

Greensand Surgery | Oliver Street, Ampthill 01525 631390

## Wilstead Village Hall

Firstly, a huge thank you to those of you who have donated plants to the Village Hall garden and especially if you planted them for us too! Thank you very much.

As now is the quiet time for most plants, we are all looking forward to the spring to see the new growth and colour. The Committee hope to organise another garden working party in the spring, which is open to any willing helpers. Please let us know if you would like to join us.

The Committee are endeavouring to keep up with the times and are seriously looking at using an on-line booking system. This would make life much easier as a booking secretary would be replaced by 2 or 3 administrators who would share the overseeing of the bookings done on line, as well as be at the end of a dedicated phone for those who do not book this way. Also the Treasurer's job would be made easier as the invoicing of single bookings and regular users and the returning of the deposits would all be

done via this system. Therefore, watch this space as they say!!

Using this system will introduce an additional demand on the Caretaker and more hours. Therefore, it has been decided to balance this by employing an Assistant Caretaker who would work for a minimum of 6 hours a week, flexibly across 2 days, one of which is to be a Monday. Please see the new advert for this position on page 5.

## Top Tips For Being Better Gas Safe Than Sorry

1. Learn the six main symptoms of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning – **headaches, nausea, dizziness, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness** and teach them to others, including your neighbours. Unsafe gas appliances can put you at risk of CO poisoning, gas leaks, fires and explosions.
2. **Check your and your neighbours' gas appliances for warning signs** that they are not working properly e.g. lazy yellow flames instead of crisp blue ones, black sooty marks or stains on or around the appliance and high levels of condensation in the room.
3. Fit an **audible carbon monoxide alarm**. This will alert you if there is carbon monoxide in your home.
4. Have all your gas appliances safety **checked every year** by a Gas Safe registered engineer – sign up for a free reminder.
5. Only use a **Gas Safe registered engineer** to fit, fix and service your gas appliances. You can find and check an engineer at GasSafeRegister.co.uk or call 0800 408 5500. Check their Gas Safe Register ID card – look for the yellow triangle.
6. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get some fresh air and **leave the house as quickly as possible**. See a doctor and if you are very unwell call 999 for an ambulance. The National Gas Emergency Helpline is also available 24/7 on 0800 111 999.

Neighbourhood Watch Our News September

## Newsletter DEADLINE

For any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

**Friday 17th December**

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 7th January.

Please send items and articles for inclusion in the Wilstead Newsletter to our dedicated email 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.

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## Who's Who:

Neighbourhood Watch, Wilstead.

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## A Big Thank You

To all Newsletter volunteers a big thank you from the Editorial Team and the Village in general.

Wilstead Newsletter is very useful for everyone in the Village, to keep us all up-to-date with what is happening with our clubs and local organisations.

The delivery team go out in all weathers, to ensure every house in Wilstead gets a copy of the Newsletter.

If you would like to be involved, or are interested in becoming a part of the Neighbourhood Watch team, then please get in touch with us at:

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A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all from Wilstead Newsletter.

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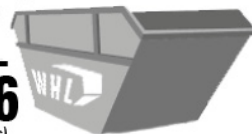


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