



# Wilstead NEWSLETTER

June 2021  
*including Parish Council News*

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

## An Update from Greensand Surgery

You may have seen on the news that from Monday 17th May, doors at GP Practices were 're-opening'. As you will know, our GP practice has been open throughout the pandemic, offering patients telephone and online appointments, with face to face consultations available to those who need them. This was in line with national requirements to keep patients safe, whilst COVID infection rates were high and before the vaccination was widespread.

GP practices are being encouraged to offer patients a choice of whether they would like a remote or face to face consultation. However, before we have more people coming into the surgery to see us in person, we need a bit of time to put in place measures to keep everyone safe. As we wait for further national guidance on doing that, we ask that patients continue to contact us by phone or online as you have been doing. We are facing unprecedented demands to our services and will need to continue to adjust how we use our clinicians' time to best support our patients - particularly those who need us the most.

We will keep you updated as soon as we are clear about how we can re-open our reception areas safely. Thank you for your support.

**Dawn Moore**  
Practice Manager - Greensand Surgery

*All enclosed articles are subject to current Covid19 restrictions*

### *Contents this month include:*

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## CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

### **Public Fear, Alarm or Distress**

Sunday 18th April Between 10.30am  
and 10.45am  
**Cotton End Road**

### **Malicious Communication**

Saturday 17th April at 9.18pm  
**No further details**

### **Criminal Damage to a Vehicle**

Between Sunday 11th April 8pm  
and Monday 12th April 10.15am  
**Bedford Road**

### **Harassment**

Saturday 5th April at Midnight  
**No further details.**

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## **Crime Recorded for nearby Villages**

Cotton End 1, Shortstown 15, Wixams 16.

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The above Recorded Crimes,  
the latest available, cover the period  
31st March to 28th April.

Your Co-ordinator is:

## All Saints Church

We are now up and running with a regular service on Sundays at 11.00am. We have had a few new worshippers join us, having just moved into the village.

Stephen Toze as you know is retiring and his last service will be on **Sunday 20th June**. It would be nice to have a larger than normal congregation to wish him well in the future. Thanks to all who have made a contribution to his retirement.

It is hoped that we will be able to continue with a regular service on a Sunday morning helped by retired clergy and offers from the deanery to do this.

With lock down regulations hopefully being relaxed on **Monday 21st June** we anticipate having fund raising events once again. To this end we have planned to have a coffee morning in the Chapter House and Church on **Wednesday 30th June** at 10.30am until noon. We are planning to have a raffle, cake stall, produce stall as well as teas and coffee. If the weather is decent then people can socialise outdoors.

Look out for posters advertising this event.

With thanks and every blessing

**Robert Heley**

## Houghton Wilstead Golf Cup 2021

After the disappointment of missing our 15th anniversary due to the unprecedented times we found ourselves to be in, we are delighted to announce the Houghton Wilstead Golf Cup on **Friday 30th July**.

It's all to play for this year, as it's tied at 7 apiece.

2021, the competition has a new home at Cainhoe Wood Golf Club, but still carries the same spirit and local friendly rivalry.

Raising funds for Sue Ryder St John's Hospice is at the centre of our day, to support the amazing work they do to aid the local community, so if you want to get involved, let us know. All are welcome, of any golfing ability.

There are also lots of other ways to get involved. We need help with raffle prizes and auction donations that can be handed in or discussed at Wilstead or Houghton Conquest Post Office. We also have opportunities for hole sponsors and always welcome volunteers to get involved with the running of the event so please get in touch.

All enquiries to **Rani 07590375172**  
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## June Update

We are still open for business, not only for Doctors and Hospital requests and the Covid Jab! While we are not yet near being back to whatever normal was, we are steadily working towards it. Same rules apply as per last Newsletter insert but ask us if you need help.

I hope you have noticed the revised Logo above, created to recognise the Wixams input to our group and to show we are trying not to get into a rut but to evolve as life goes on. Thank you to all the members who contributed some input to the design.

I am still getting repeated requests as to when we can open up the Coffee Shop again, but I cannot give any definitive answer to that one. The main issue is the Methodist Hall and whether it will be able to be opened up again. Like many organisations they have been hit hard by COVID and suffered by lack of income.

I suspect that the earliest date will be around September, when I hope we will all know a lot more as to how we have mastered the epidemic and can plan for the changes that it will have brought to our everyday lives. COVID is not going to get back into its box but we may by then have found a way to keep it on a tight lead! Lets hope so.

'Till next time, keep warm in the cold but enjoy the sunshine!

Look after yourselves and keep well.

Regards to all.

**Rick Baxter | Chairman WGNS**  
**01234 740854**  
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## Wilshamstead Parish Council

### Attending Parish Council Meetings Update

The Parish Council had its first face to face meeting on Monday 17th May after over twelve months of online remote meetings. As the government legislation no longer allows online meetings, it is expected that the next meeting, the Annual Parish Electors Meeting will go ahead at the Village Hall on **Monday 21st June at 7pm**, everyone as always is welcome.

### New Parish Council Appointments

At the May meeting, Eric Benton was elected as Chair to the Parish Council, and Mark Brooks as Vice Chair, along with Marc Frost as Responsible Financial Officer. The Parish Council wish to thank Nigel Jacobs enormously for his hard work and meticulous attention to detail during the twelve years he was Chair. Thankfully, Nigel remains as a Councillor so his extensive knowledge and skills will be retained within his role of Spokesperson for the Planning Working Group.

### Parish Council Noticeboards

The Parish Council agreed to fund some new noticeboards for the village, to enable better communication to residents. The new boards will be crafted locally, and are significantly more fit-for-purpose than the previous style. They will be located outside the Village Hall, and at The Crossroads in the first instance and will also be more user friendly.

### Parish Council Vacancies Reminder

Do not forget the Council have vacancies for two councillors at present. If you wish to find out more, please contact Lizzie, the Parish Clerk, as shown at the end of these notes.

### East West Rail Consultation....Do Not Forget To Respond

This consultation closes on Wednesday 9th June and whilst the proposed route alignment is not local to the village, there are a number of items which East West Rail are consulting on in the Bedford area that may impact and effect you or your households travel journeys. Further information is available at: <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation> including how to respond.



## Look Out For The Bedford Borough Council Local Plan Next Steps

Do remember that towards the end of June the Borough Council are going to be launching the next stage of the new Local Plan, so it is really important residents engage and have their say in shaping where you would like to see development to go.

## Proposed Changes To The Borough Council Ward Areas

You may recall that over recent months there have been several consultations on this. There is now one final consultation with some significant changes proposed for the Ward that Wilshamstead currently is in. It is planned that Wilshamstead and Wixams will join with Stewartby and a large part of Elstow to form a Ward with three elected Borough Council members representing electors. The closing date for comments is Monday 5th July and it is important residents make their views known on this proposal. More information can be found at: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/bedfordshire/bedford>

## Neighbourhood Plan Responses Thank You

It has been great to see so many residents taking the time to respond to this important consultation. The data will now be reviewed and watch out for further updates on the next steps with the Plan.

## 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

## Check Your Security

This is a timely reminder to check your own security. Here's a few tips:

- Make your house look lived-in - burglars won't be as tempted if they think someone is home. Keep your lights on a timer and your radio playing so it seems like someone is home.
- Keep valuables out of sight - Keep them out of view of windows or hidden in a safe place.
- Lock up when you leave - make sure all and windows on your house, vehicle and garages or sheds are securely locked at all times.

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## 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.

### Door to Door Transport in Bedford Borough

- Do you struggle to get on a bus? Did you know that the Door2Door minibus service will collect you from home, and has facilities to take wheelchairs and mobility scooters using a tail lift?
- A subscription costs £30 for the first year and £20 annually thereafter (Minimum charge per journey £3.00).
- The minibuses operate between 9:15am to 4:15pm, weekdays only. You need to book your journey two days ahead - or earlier for health-related appointments.
- Did you know that you can sign up for Door2Door without giving up your bus pass?
- Call the Door2Door admin number on 01234 834933 for more details.

### Would a helpful gadget make your life easier?

Do you need a carbon monoxide alarm, 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! Contactless Covid safe delivery.

**Jigsaw Loan Scheme** - We have a large number of jigsaws to lend, most with 500 or 1000 pieces. We also have wordsearch and puzzle books to give away. If you are interested, call Andrea for more details.

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**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 outdoor visits, or we can provide telephone support and advice.

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

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## Doorstep Crime

### Not sure? Don't open the door

- Keep your front and back doors locked, even when you are at home.
- Install a 'spy hole' or electronic viewer in the front door so that you can see who the caller is before opening the door.
- Use a door chain or door bar so that you don't have to open the door fully to talk to the person on your door step.
- Even if the person calling has an appointment, carefully check their identity card.
- If the caller claims to be from a particular company, you can check by calling the company in question using a number from a phone book. Don't use a card or number given to you by the caller. Close and lock the door while you check. A genuine caller won't mind waiting.
- Don't leave any doorstep caller alone with your door open.

# 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.

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- 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.

•

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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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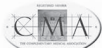


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## Wilstead Bowls Club News

We have started to play bowls on our green under the government restrictions, even though the weather has been very wet.

Men's Monday League, Ladies Tuesday League and the Men's Wednesday County League, are all played in the evenings. Then there is the Over 60's on a Wednesday afternoon, plus friendly games of Ladies and Gents, also some mixed games.

On Sunday 6th June the County Men are using our venue for one of their Two Wood's competition.

All County competitions have started. Unfortunately at present we do not have any of our men or women through to the semi-finals.

Our ladies have entered the Top Club competition and we are playing at home against Bedford Priory on Saturday 12th June, during the morning. While the men have entered the men's Two Fours and will be playing away against Shefford Bowls Club at an agreed date by the 4th July

On Monday 21st June Barbara Carter our Lady County President is holding a County Charity Day at Wilstead, because unfortunately her County Tour had to be cancelled.

There are going to be many events; also you can play a game of bowls in the morning and the afternoon. An advert about what is happening will be on the County and Wilstead Websites.

**Jean Ward - Club Secretary**

## Common Types Of Email Scams

**419 Emails:** You are offered a share in a large sum of money in return for helping to transfer it out of the country. Once you have given the criminals your bank account details, they empty your accounts.

**Phishing:** An email that purports to be from companies such as banks designed to trick you into revealing your personal information and passwords.

**Pharming:** Pharming is a term used when you are directed from a link in an email to a website that spoofs a legitimate website in order to access your personal details.

Continued on Page 13 >>>

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## Wilstead Village Hall

As the Hall has moved into the next step of the 'Road Map Out Of Lockdown', it is so lovely that it is being used again by many of the regular hirers and others. All are however still having to follow the Covid-19 procedures that the Committee have put in place, under the Government guidelines. We all hope that the present situation does not become more serious and that the Government does not have to make any changes to the present plan.

From Monday 21st June, there should be a lifting of the restrictions on social contact and type of events. However, we must follow any guidance given nearer the time before all parties, big meetings and everything may be able to take place as they used to!

If you wish to enquire about making a booking, please see the hall advert in this newsletter or look at the Wilstead Community website and click on Village Hall for any information on rates of hire, conditions of hire, covid-19 procedures etc.

### Wilstead Village Hall AGM June 23rd 2021 at 7.30pm

A date for your diaries is the Hall's AGM on Wednesday 23rd June in the main hall. Please come along for 7.30pm, even if you only want to find out a bit more information about the hall and how it is run by a merry band of volunteers. Even better would be that you wish to put your name forward to come on the Committee, especially as people with new ideas and IT skills are needed.

Unfortunately, at least 3 people will be retiring from the Committee and we thank them for their dedication to supporting the Hall over the years. It would be such a tragedy if there are not enough people to put forward suggestions and make decisions about the Hall or even to have a quorum at the meetings (about 6 a year).

**I'm sure nobody wants to see the Hall closed!**

### Wilstead Village Hall Needs You

If you have any queries about this, or anything to do with the hall, please contact me.

**Angela Fosbrook** | Wilstead Village Hall Secretary.  
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## Wilstead & Wixams



COMMUNITY ART GROUP

Now that we have moved to Stage 3 of the Government Road Map and despite some alarming outbreaks of the Indian variant, we are delighted that the Village Hall now permits us to meet after a lengthy break.

On Monday 17th May we had around 14 people attending including prospective new members. This meant the main hall was filled, all socially distanced, wearing masks and with plenty of fresh air. It was a delight to see each other in person once again and to get some painting and drawing done.

May I remind members and new people that we do have a variety of art resources for your use so, if there is anything you haven't got, 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.

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 just £3 a session at the moment when you're able to come.

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# Elstow Cricket Club Newsletter

(Local cricket club for Wilstead, Wixams, Elstow & other surrounding areas)

The cricket season is now in full swing and in line with the current Government guidance, matches are going ahead for Elstow CC at The Warren. The Saturday 1st and 2nd XI have both kicked off their campaigns in the Four Counties League with the 1st XI led by Rani Thiarra, defending their title from 2019.

On Sundays, the 1st XI are looking for their third promotion in three seasons and the newly formed 2nd XI, made up predominantly of Elstow's s up and coming young stars, is a great platform for them to transition from age group cricket to the longer adult game.

We also play in the Bedford Mid-week League. The Elstow Rabbits usually play on a Wednesday and the team is made up of some senior and junior players of varying abilities. Unfortunately our planned friendly with the Bedfordshire Farmers was rained off however we hope to re-arrange some time in June/July. Keep an eye out on social media for this cracking annual fixture.

Age group cricket continues to thrive at Elstow under the watchful eye of our Youth Development Manager Geoff Couling. We have an U9's and two U11 teams, both of which train on a Friday evening and play their matches on a Sunday morning. The U13's & U15's train on a Monday and play on Tuesdays and Thursdays respectively.

The Elstow Belles (ladies/girls) team have also started their season. Whilst they don't have competitive matches, they train with just as much enthusiasm as the boys on a Tuesday evening.

The All Stars Cricket Programme has started for boys and girls aged 5 to 8 years. Adam Ross and Fiona Tanswell lead the coaching with help from some of Elstow's finest young cricketers. All Stars Cricket is also on a Friday evening from 6pm.

Spectators are now allowed at The Warren and the refreshment bar (The Pigeon Toe Inn) is open on match days and Friday evenings. Serving beer, wine, cider, tea, coffee, sweets, crisps and soft drinks, it's a great place to come and have a drink whilst taking in the cricket (all within Government guidelines and using NHS track and trace).

Continued on Page 12 >>>


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All are welcome to pop along for a beer or a cuppa. The weather in May hasn't been great so please bring a brolly and a coat as all refreshments are currently being served outside. We are keeping a close eye on the Government and ECB guidance as to any changes when we may be able to allow people indoors. We are also looking for volunteers to help with running the bar particularly on a Sunday afternoon. If you can help at all please get in touch. Thanks.

Finally our Vice Presidents' Day is planned for **Saturday 31st July** when our 1st XI play Great Horwood at The Warren. We hope to get a good crowd down to watch the game and there will be all sorts of refreshments available and the BBQ will be fired up.

Please visit our new website [elstowcricketclub.co.uk](http://elstowcricketclub.co.uk) for all our news, fixtures and results or see us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Fixture cards are now available from the cricket club and can also be downloaded from the website.

**Fiona Tanswell**  
Elstow CC - Treasurer

- Never leave keys under a doormat or in a flowerpot – it's the first place a would-be offender would look.
- Property mark any valuable items, you are more likely to get them returned to you in the unfortunate event that they are stolen.
- Look out for neighbours - Stay alert to suspicious activity on your street. Report any suspicions immediately.

Consider joining Neighbourhood Watch via the website [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) or join your local group by emailing [wilsteadnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wilsteadnewsletter@gmail.com).

If a crime is actually happening or you think it's just about to happen, ring 999.

**Colleen Atkins** | Neighbourhood Watch Bedfordshire

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## How To Spot A Scam Email

**Impersonation of UK official websites:** For example HMRC with an email message claiming you are due a refund and requesting your bank account details or directing you to a website link.

**Impersonation of UK officials:** Criminals impersonate a UK official to obtain personal information and steal money, often claiming that you are due a refund or must make an urgent payment. Examples of this scam include TV License, the HMRC Tax Rebate and the Council Tax Scam.

**Investment scams and pension scams:** Emailed offers of worthless, overpriced or non-existent shares, or a time-limited opportunity to convert some or all of your pension pot into cash.

**The sender's email address looks suspicious:** Roll your mouse pointer over the sender's name to check it. If it doesn't match the website address of the organisation it says it's from it could be a sign of a scam.

**The email doesn't use your name:** It says something like 'Dear customer' instead.

**There's a sense of urgency,** asking you to act immediately.

**There's a prominent website link** that may look at first glance like the proper address but has one letter missing or is spelt wrong.

**There's a request for personal information.**

**Poor grammar and spelling mistakes.**

**The entire text** of the email is contained within an image rather than the usual text format, and the image contains an embedded hyperlink to a bogus site. Again, roll your mouse pointer over the link to reveal its true destination. But don't click it!

**From Neighbourhood Watch Our News March 21**

## To All Newsletter Co-ordinators & Distributors

If you need to contact the Editorial team because of a problem with delivery, please would you contact [wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com). All members of the Editorial Team have access to this and you will get a speedy reply.

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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)**

## Looking forward to Summer Garden Visits

The Wilstead Garden Club met for the first face to face meeting of 2021 in May. We are very grateful for the Village Hall committee and Caretaker for making this possible. We must also thank everyone for helping with chairs and bringing so many plants to swap.

We were overwhelmed with the number of members and new members as less than an hour before there had been a thunderstorm. We had visions of the plants floating away down the road. Mary gave a comprehensive talk about keeping your plants flowing all summer, the knack is cut them down before they flower for a later show of single flowering plants, and to keep dead heading multiple flowering ones. Sounds a good ways to get rid of any stress with a bonus of joy to come!

The main event was the plant swap. The committee were worried that this would only have a few plants as so many people had said they had had difficulty this year. On the day we definitely had at least as many as usual, if not the same selection. All plants were very healthy and there was a good selection of perennials, annuals and vegetables as well as a lovely selection of cacti and succulents. We were perhaps down on tomatoes. It seemed everyone took home something. The few remaining flowering plants went to a community garden, others are being looked after for the future.

Now we are going out and about. First visit is to Whitwell, the childhood home of the late Queen Mother in June. In July we are going to a garden the other side of Bedford and in August we have open gardens in a road in Wilstead. These visits are self driven so if you feel like joining us, contact a committee member or on the email for more details.

We wish everyone happy planting and abundant flowers. The next meeting in the Village Hall is in September.

Maralyn, Viv, Mary and Lynda  
[wilsteadgardenclub@hotmail.com](mailto:wilsteadgardenclub@hotmail.com)

## Village P3 Footpath Group Meetings

Whilst the virtual meeting of the Group didn't take place in May, the bi-monthly survey by Group members of all the 11 miles of Rights of Way (Footpaths and Bridleways) in the Parish did take place. As usual a summary of their reports was sent to the Borough Rights of Way highlighting any problems and identifying whether the Group would like assistance from RoW in tackling these.

The next meeting is on **Saturday 10th July** and it is planned to have a face to face meeting in the Village Hall at 10.00am.

Come along if you are interested in joining the Group and helping to look after the paths in the parish. All are welcome.

### Footpath Work

The work highlighted by the surveys undertaken in late April/early May included the re-instatement of way-mark posts (that were loose or had fallen down), addition of yellow caps on way-mark posts, replacement of faded way-mark discs and yellow plates, vegetation cut back – overgrowth and undergrowth and the replacement of stakes on the steps on Footpath 10 at Elms Lane.

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

### Walks

We should be able to resume our monthly walks soon. Our next walk is currently planned for **Friday 25th June** around Broom, leaving Wilstead at 6.30pm.

Keep an eye out for posters on the noticeboards.

If you would like to be put on the Group's emailing list regarding these walks then please contact the number below.

**Friday 16th July** and **Friday 6th August** are the provisional dates for the subsequent two walks.

Continued on Page 16 >>>

## Newsletter DEADLINE

For any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

### Friday 18 June

The next newsletter will be published on **Friday 2nd July**.

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

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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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### Editors

#### Crime Prevention News/Information

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

#### Local Village News & Information

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

#### NW Area Co-ordinator

GERALD GALE, 149A Cotton End Road, Wilstead MK45 3DD  
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>>> Continued from Page 15

## Borough Paths

It is still hoped that some of the Group will again be able to assist the Borough in undertaking surveys of Rights of Way in other parishes. Of the nearly 1000 miles of Rights of Way in the Borough around 160 miles are surveyed each year. So, any help the Group can give will be useful and will allow officers to concentrate on sorting out any problems on the Rights of Way network in the Borough.

## Nigel Jacobs

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