



# Wilstead NEWSLETTER

March 2020  
*including Parish Council News*

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

## Wizard OF Oz



**Friday 20th and Saturday 21st March**

At the time of writing tickets are selling fast, but you may still be in luck if you want to see this exuberant production. Contact the Box Office, **14 Armstrong Close (01234 740782)** to see if there are any tickets still available.

On **Wednesday 25th March** at 7.30pm in Wilstead Village Hall we are holding auditions for our *Evening of Comedy* planned for **Thursday 24th, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th September**.

Directors Dee Dillistone and Nic Hickson have lots of ideas for sketches etc, so if you fancy taking part do come along and see if there is anything for you. It promises to be a lot of fun.

**Jackie Tanswell (01234 740782)**

## Village Farm Development

Graeme Coombes has advised that in the light of the Borough now having a full 5 year land supply, it now intends to take the Village Farm application back to Planning Committee and recommend refusal.

The reason is that the passing of the Local Plan now means a material difference has occurred which allows it to do this. Planning Officers have been under pressure from Councillors to take legal advice on this which they have now done. There are only two that have progressed insufficiently for them to be able to do this and one of these is Village Farm.

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## Crime Recorded for Wilstead

At the time the Newsletter was compiled, the latest crime information covering the period from 29th January to the end of February was not available. Up-to-date details should be included in the April Newsletter.

## Volunteer Required to Deliver the Wilstead Newsletter

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

Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch is looking for a volunteer who would be able to deliver 29 newsletters: from Cotton End Farm to the A600 – both sides and to three properties along Elms Lane and three along the lane on the right just prior to Herrings Green Farm..

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

Distributing the Newsletter in this part of the village has been carried out for several years by John White who is reluctantly 'retiring' from this monthly activity.

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

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

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

*Your Co-ordinator is*

# Local Priorities for Community Police Team

The Community Police Team and Special Constabulary have been working hard last month on the local priorities following the Quarterly Priority Setting Meeting in February. The priority was 'High Visibility and Crime Reduction in relation to Burglary'.

A number of Community Surgeries took place in February when village residents were able to visit and speak to the Police about local concerns or issues and to discuss crime prevention advice.

It is likely that a Community Surgery for Wilstead will be planned for sometime in March.

In the meantime, don't forget to tell the Police, or the Parish Council, what should be an important priority for the next quarter so that the Police can work on what matters most in the local community.

**Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch.**

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

# Burglary Prevention Advice – A Reminder

Here are a few simple steps that could help secure your home and deter thieves

- Put your lights on a timer and consider keeping your radio playing
- Keep all valuables and keys safely out of sight from windows
- Make sure your door is double locked and
- Lock your garages and sheds
- Consider CCTV or a video doorbell device

## Bedfordshire Police

### Reminder

Our Newsletter publication is usually available to be distributed four days after the co-ordinators' meeting. (see inside back page for the date.)

Please take this into consideration when submitting articles.



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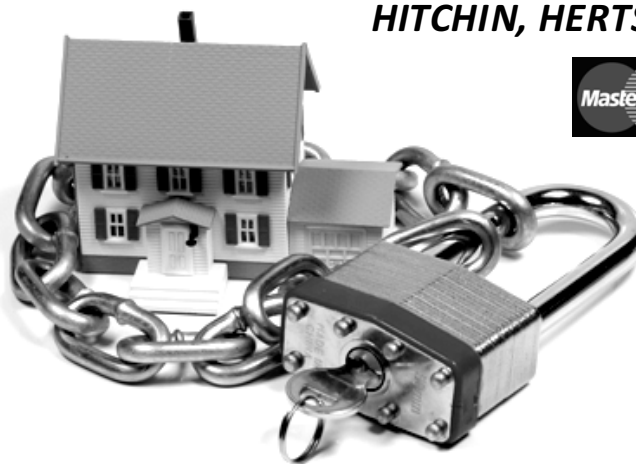
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# The Sunshine Club

We would like to remind everyone about our club – it's called The Sunshine Club. We meet in the village hall **every other Friday** for a cup of tea/coffee, a raffle, at times we have a quiz afternoon or a sing song time, a natter followed by a game of bingo.

We would just like to advise you of the activities etc we enjoyed during 2019. As January and February were very cold months we had delicious hot soup and rolls at our meetings which warmed us all up. This was quickly followed by a fish and chips lunch which always goes down well with our members.

At Easter we had a special tea with hot cross buns and each member was presented with an Easter Egg, some members even wore Easter bonnets/hats. Iris's hat was wonderful and she was presented with a small prize. As one of our members had a special birthday we had cakes and she was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

We had afternoon tea at the Garden Centre which we all enjoyed. The waitress was extremely kind and pushed two tables together, brought us the menu and served us with our tea/coffee and cakes.

In the summer we had a trip to Clacton-on-Sea. Each member received a £10 subsidy towards this trip. We were fortunate as we had a wonderful sunny day and a couple of members had a paddle in the sea. Everyone enjoyed the day.

During September our usual bring-and-buy went very well and we raised £34 which we donated to MacMillan Cancer Support. Unfortunately we were unable to book a trip on the John Bunyan Boat this year; we will try again for 2020. We had a wonderful cold buffet tea for Harvest together with French bread.

Our annual Christmas lunch was at the Woolpack where we all enjoyed a 2 course lunch served by a very friendly waitress. Every member was given a £10 subsidy towards this lunch. We also had a Christmas tea at our last meeting where we enjoyed mince pies, Christmas cake, sausage rolls, cheese and biscuits, nibbles, orange and apple juice and of course Christmas crackers. Tea and coffee was also available for anyone who wanted it. Each member was given a Christmas gift at our last meeting paid from Club funds.

We would love you to come and join us at any of our meetings just pop in anytime from 2pm onwards we would be delighted to meet you.

**For more information please ring Jan on 740563 or Susan on 741805**

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## Wilshamstead Parish Council

### Reporting Highways Issues

As the poor weather is continuing and this often coincides with more damage being noticed to the highways, footways and verges, it is very helpful if you spot any problems that these are reported to the Local Authority who are able to inspect the item and carry out any necessary repairs.

The best way to report issues to the Borough Council Highways Helpdesk is by emailing them on **highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk**.

The more detail the better, including location and if possible a photo of the issue. You can also phone them on **01234 718003** this is a 24 hour a day service.

You will be given a customer report number which you can quote and keep up-to-date on the progress of the item. The Borough Council do not have the resources to keep you updated, so if you want to know what is happening you will need to contact them.

To track your item online go to  
**<https://highwaysreporting.bedford.gov.uk/>**.

As a guideline, here are the timescales they advise for highways repairs.

**Pot holes** – these are normally repaired within 2 days, smaller potholes are normally repaired within 6 weeks.

**Street lights** – emergency street lighting faults where there is a serious risk of injury (e.g. exposed wiring) are normally repaired within 24 hours. Non emergency faults (including operational street lights) are normally repaired within 10 days.

For non emergency other highways issues they aim to update the report within 7 working days.

It is always worth copying the Parish Council into the email you send to the Borough Council so we can spot any trends emerging and support with escalating the matter where needed. Also some of the street lights in the Parish are currently Parish Council lights, so it may be that our contractor needs to review the light and not the local authority.

### East West Rail Update

The Parish Council were invited to a telephone conference to hear the announcement by Network Rail on the preferred East West Rail route for the Bedford to Cambridge section.

Shortly afterwards the information was made public with the preferred route of the line going north of Bedford. There are a number of public consultation events being held and it is important that residents engage in the consultation so your views are taken into account.

The most useful way to stay up to date is through the East West Rail website, which is

**<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/the-project/central-section>**

## Parish Council Vacancy Reminder

Please remember the Council has one vacancy at present so if you would like to find out more, or put yourself forward, then please contact one of the Councillors or the Clerk Lizzie.

## Wilstead Woodland (Duck End)

A big thanks to all those who braved the weather and came along to the second tranche of planting on 9th February. 175 people planted over 1500 trees.

Progress is slowly being made over the transfer of the land to the Parish Council. The initial Section 106 payment has recently been made by the Wixams developer (Gallagher) and this has been transferred to the Forest of Marston Vale.

This covers the costs associated with organising and undertaking the planting to date and should now allow tracks and paths within the woodland to be constructed.

The Parish Council has received a draft of the actual transfer document and together with the Forest of Marston Vale, who will manage the woodland for 25 years, will review and respond to it, with the help of the legal department of Bedford Borough Council.

Once the land transfer is completed and a pedestrian gate is installed it is intended to allow public access to the site.

## Coming Soon .....

A new Parish Council website is currently being developed so that there is a specific site for members of the public to access all Parish Council information. This useful resource will contain a plethora of items from how to contact individual Councillors, the Burial Ground rules, allotment information as well as more information on Parish Council meetings and what the Council's latest work is.

## Contacting The Parish Council

It has been pleasing to see residents on a Monday morning at the Parish Office collecting orange recycling sacks. The Parish Clerk is available in the Parish Office, at the side of the Village Hall, on a Monday from 9am to 12 midday. As always it is advisable to ring 743152 in advance to check orange recycling sack availability.

The Clerk can also be contacted via email on [clerk@wilshamsteadparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@wilshamsteadparishcouncil.org).

The meeting minutes are available on the village website, along with the full Council contact list.

Council meeting agendas will also be available on the website the week prior to each meeting.

Also if you wish to discuss an issue then please contact the Clerk to make an appointment with a Councillor who will be more than happy to meet you at a convenient time to talk through the matter.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on **Monday 16th March** at 7.30pm in the small Village Hall.

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# All Saints Church

With all the Christmas services well behind us now we look forward to Lent and the Easter celebrations.

By the time you read this we shall be well into the Lent period and the first important date is Mothering Sunday.

This year it is on **Sunday 22nd March**. The 11am service will be a Family Service and we encourage all families to come along on that special day. There will be flowers for the children to give to their mums.

Our next Coffee Morning will be on **Wednesday 18th March** in the Chapter House from 10.30am onwards.

Thanks to those who supported the February Coffee Morning and helped raise **£82.50**.

Looking further forward into April, we have our **Easter Fair** on **Saturday 4th April** from 12noon onwards with our usual delicious refreshments and stalls with an Easter Theme. We hopefully will have a four legged visitor for the children to see.

**Sunday 5th April** is Palm Sunday when we have our traditional Palm Crosses to give to the congregation followed by our **Easter Day** services on the following **Sunday April 12th**. Come and join in our Easter Egg Hunt.

Please come and support us in all our activities.

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## What Happens when A Burglary is Reported?

**When a call comes in**, Police call handlers go through a specially designed series of questions, so they can assess the incident and how it should be actioned in the most efficient and effective way.

**All victims of burglary will be visited by a Scenes Of Crime Officer** to thoroughly assess any forensic opportunities.

**If a burglary occurs in a frequently targeted area, or involves vulnerable victims**, or there were witnesses to be followed up, it will be classed as a priority and an officer may attend to speak to the victim to gather more information.

**If you spot someone behaving suspiciously, contact the police via 101 immediately.** In an emergency or if a crime is in progress always call 999.

**Bedfordshire Police**



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## Wildlife Walks & Talks for March

**Monday 16th March 7.45 pm**  
**Maulden Church Hall**

**Amphill's Secret Nature Reserve:** an insight into the funding and management of a little-known wildlife site in Amphill. A talk by Nigel Pollard.

Many will know Nigel from his long-time involvement with the Flit Vale Wildlife Watch Groups. This talk is not about the Wildlife Watch Groups, but about a thriving and hidden area of nature in Amphill that many may not be aware of. Join Nigel as he guides us through Amphill's Secret Nature Reserve.

**£3 per adult**

### Open to all

For additional information please email:

**flitvale.info@gmail.com** or ring Ann on **075801 78889** between 6 and 8 pm or at weekends.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

**www.wildlifebcn.org**

Flit Vale Local Group - **www.flitvale.org.uk**

## Wilstead Flower Produce & Handicrafts Show

**Saturday 29th August**



Last year the Wilstead Flower, Produce and Handicrafts Show was well supported by visitors but the number of entries were down noticeably from previous years. In particular the Handicrafts and Cookery sections have become fairly predictable, we feel, and in need of some changes. As far as fruit and vegetables are concerned we are dependent on the weather but there may also be some scope for changes with the flower section.

We hope to publish the new schedule by the end of March on the village website and the printed version by the first week in August, but for advanced information keep an eye on the village website:

**www.wilsteadvillage.org.uk**

We hope you will like the changes.

The classes for the photographic section this year are (1) Mist, (2) Silhouette in black & white, (3) A flowering shrub, (4) A thatched building, (5) Junior class – A bench.

The show is a friendly community event and all entries stand a chance of a prize so why not have a go!

**Linda and Ken Cook**

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- Community Support Workers who will work long term with clients who have more complex needs.

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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**

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**Samantha Skelton BSc MCFHP MAFHP**

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Home: 01525 840116

Email: Samantha@yourfoothealth.co.uk

Website: www.yourfoothealth.co.uk



## Village P3 Footpath Group

### Meetings

The next meeting will be on **Saturday 7th March** at 10.00am in the Village Hall (small hall).

All welcome to come along and see what we do. Perhaps you might like to report on the state of one of the Parishes 17 Rights of Way once every two months and possibly help undertake a variety of tasks to keep these paths easy to use and follow. These tasks can range from cutting back overhanging vegetation, mowing the path surface, putting up way mark discs, installing way mark posts and occasionally installing kissing gates or culverts.

Currently the other meeting dates for 2020 are **Saturdays 23rd May, 18th July, 19th September and 14th November.**

### Footpath Work

The state of the paths at the moment has meant that any work on the paths, bar snipping off bits of overhanging vegetation, still has had to be postponed. Hopefully this will soon change and each path can be addressed to ensure they are all easily walkable.

If you discover any problems when walking these village paths please contact the number below and the group will try and sort them out.

In the meantime if you use the footpaths around the village please take secateurs with you and snip the odd overhanging vegetation as you go along.

### Footpaths across the A6

The filling in of the 'cattle creep' under the A6 by the Borough, as part of the A6 road reconstruction, has meant that the potential for diverting Footpath 3 (Bedford Road to Houghton Conquest via the edge of Wixams), and Footpath 4 (Longmeadow Drive to Houghton Conquest), through this underpass and avoiding crossings the A6 on the level, has now gone.

It is anticipated that these footpaths will re-open at the same time as the A6. The Borough has informed the Group that there will be improved visibility at both of these crossings and each will also have 'Pedestrians Crossing' signs installed in the A6 verge nearby. Also there will be some new steps on Footpath 4 as you descend from the noise bund to the A6 and the finger post and waymark post will be re-instated.



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## Walks

The February walk was along the footpaths and bridleways between and around the villages of Ickwell and Northill. The weather was nice and sunny and the route was mainly dry underfoot with only the odd muddy bits (it had been chosen as the least muddy of the various paths that were the options). The group are repeating a walk done a while ago. This one we had mainly done in 2006.

The next walk will be on **Sunday 15th March** and will probably be around Broom. It will be 4-5 miles long and flat. Meet in Whitworth Way car park at 2.00pm.

Provisional dates for the remaining walks in 2020 are as follows **Sunday 26th April, Fridays 29th May, 26th June, 24th July, 21st August, Sundays 27th September, 25th October and 22nd November.** These will be confirmed in the Newsletter nearer the time of each walk.

So if you fancy joining a group of villagers for a sociable wander through the Bedfordshire countryside, come along. Don't worry if you don't have transport as lifts are always available.

Keep an eye out for details of all the walks on the village noticeboards nearer the time.

If you would like a map of all the footpaths and bridleways in the parish please contact the number below.

**Nigel Jacobs P3 contact, 01234 400733**

## To All Newsletter Co-ordinators & Distributors

If you need to contact the Editorial or Distribution team because of a problem with delivery, please could you contact **wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com** in the first instance. All members of the team have access to this and you will get a speedier reply.

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or [katrina@ccchimps.com](mailto:katrina@ccchimps.com)

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**Hannah Cooke**

**01234 930662**

**07940 738107**

**and by email at**

**[elitefeetfoothealth@gmail.com](mailto:elitefeetfoothealth@gmail.com)**



## MNS

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Block Paving  
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### MNS Property Maintenance

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## Bowls Club News

The February coffee morning was very well attended and enjoyed by all who came. We also hope everyone can attend the coffee morning on **Wednesday 4th March**. The following one on **Wednesday 8th April** will be the Easter Coffee morning.

Short mats has been very well supported on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons at 2pm and Wednesday evenings at 7pm, and the competitions are now in the final stages. Also the Thursday evening league is very competitive with the Wilstead Cavaliers still top at present.

The awards evening will be on **Thursday 16th April**.

We are holding another famous Quiz Night on **Saturday 28th March**, 7 for 7.30pm start.

It will be £8 per person including a ploughman's supper with the bar open. Teams of up to 8 people, with a maximum of 14 teams.

For entry forms please contact Wendy on **01234 740355**.

As the outside season is approaching we will be having work mornings, for outside and inside the clubhouse.

County Ladies President Barbara Carter will be starting her duties in April with a Church Service at Wilstead Parish Church followed by tea at our Bowls Club. More details in the April Newsletter.

We are open every Friday evening from 8pm to socialize and play dominoes and also Sunday lunchtimes 12 noon until 2pm

**Jean Ward**  
Club Secretary

## Mobile Library Service in Wilstead



The Library stops at the following locations and times:-

### Wednesday afternoons

Black Hat Close	14.15 to 14.30
Vicarage Close/layby	14.35 to 14.55
Methodist Church/school	15.00 to 15.40
76 Cotton End Road	15.45 to 16.00

The vehicle is fitted with a lift for customers unable to manage the steps.

If you have difficulty getting to the mobile library you can contact Kempston Library (tel. 01234 27653) to ask about the Library Link Service which can bring the library to your door.

# Amazon Prime Scam

First reported in October 2019 this has cost victims more than £1 million.

Victims receive an automated phone message saying they have been charged for an Amazon Prime subscription.

They are instructed to 'press 1' to cancel the transaction. When they do this, they are directed to a fraudster posing as an Amazon customer service representative.

The victim is told that their subscription was purchased fraudulently and remote access to their computer is required in order to fix a security flaw to prevent it from reoccurring.

The unsuspecting victim then downloads software which grants the scammers remote access to their computer, including personal and financial information.

Other variants of the crime involve fraudsters stating that the recipient is eligible for a refund for an unauthorised transaction on their Amazon account.

Bedfordshire Police would like to advise all residents to stay alert to this sophisticated scam and follow Action Fraud advice to stay safe.

**Personal information** - always question uninvited approaches. Instead, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number.

**Stay in control** - have the confidence to refuse unusual requests for personal or financial information.

**Remote access** - never install any software or visit a website as a result of a cold call.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, report it to  
**Action Fraud online or by calling 0300 123 2040.**

## Bedfordshire Police

## Greensand Surgery Phlebotomy Service at Wilstead Pharmacy to be Terminated

We have decided due to the reduction in patient need that we are terminating the phlebotomy service at Wilstead pharmacy (run Thursday mornings) from **1st March 2020**.

Patients will be offered the service at Ampthill, Bedford Hospital or the Domiciliary Phlebotomy service for housebound patients.

**Dawn Moore Practice Manager, Greensand Surgery**



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# A6 Reconstruction Works

The Borough Council have advised it is now expected the A6 will be open at the end of the first week of March.

From **Friday 6th March until Monday 9th March** there will be a full road closure between the Bedford Road and Chapel End Road junction, including the Luton Road junction.

From **Monday 9th March until Friday 27th March** Luton Road and the junction will be closed up to Longmeadow Drive to allow the road to be levelled with the new A6. For those travelling south diversions will be necessary - north through the village and joining the A6 at that point before turning south on the new A6.

## Important Notice

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

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

# Art News

It's March, traditionally the start of spring and new life!

Since last month we have replenished our group's art supplies enabling members to try out different mediums during our meetings before purchasing their own equipment. We've also seen new faces which we also welcome and have been asked to put on an Art Exhibition in Elstow Abbey as part of their Annual May Festival on **Saturday 2nd May**. More details to follow nearer the date.

We are a very friendly group with members of all abilities, each individually creating pictures with a wide variety of mediums. We welcome new members and visitors - the first session is free.

Our meetings are on Mondays (*except for public holidays*) throughout the year in Wilstead Village Hall from 2pm - 4pm.

**For further information please contact Linda or Michael**  
**villagehallart@gmail.com**

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## Wilstead Pre-School is Celebrating 20 Years of Wilstead Lambing Day

**Sunday 15th March between 11am and 3pm**  
at Manor Farm, Elms Lane, Wilstead MK45 3D

Meet the **New-born Lambs, Games, Face-painting, Cake Stall, BBQ and Refreshments**, plus much more.

Adults £2, Children £2 – cash only please.

## Return Visit of our Entertaining Birdman

In February the Garden Club welcomed Alec White. We are sure that he loves each and every peony of his tens of thousand plants collection. Whilst his talk was entitled '*Planting, Growing and Propagating Peonies*' it was much more, starting with a huge peony three tiered cake for the 50th anniversary of Gardeners' World through the entries and mishaps of exhibiting at the Chelsea Flower Show and a preview of this year's entry complete with a swing that he hopes to entice Carol Klein to swing on. As well as all this he gave us very useful tips for choosing and growing these wonderful plants.

March sees us welcoming the return of Peter Holden. What he doesn't know about birds is probably very little. You may remember he instigated the Big Bird Count, originally for children to do. This time he will be looking at other garden visitors as well as birds.

We hope to see you at the small hall of the Village Hall on **Tuesday 17th March** at 8pm, entry £1.50p plus the option of the raffle.

We hope your gardens are drying out and growing with not too much storm damage.

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

## Using the Police Website to Report Crime

You can use the site:

**[www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report)**

to report not only crime but also a concern, road traffic collision, business crime, fraud or anti-social driving. There is a total of 23 categories to choose from when reporting non-emergency crimes, incidents or giving information using the online forms.

**In case of emergency always dial 999**

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

# Speak to your Close Ones about 'Courier Fraud'

Bedfordshire Police is supporting a national campaign co-ordinated by the City of London Police targeting courier fraud and is encouraging residents to speak to their elderly friends and family about spotting the signs of impersonation fraud.

Courier fraud often starts with a cold call where the fraudster claims to be a Police Officer or a bank official. The ultimate aim of this call is to trick the victim into handing over money or bank details.

Courier fraud is typically committed by organised crime groups and targets the elderly and vulnerable, so the Police is encouraging people to speak to their relatives and ensure they're aware of the following advice:

Neither Police nor bank officials will ever ask you to withdraw money from your account, purchase anything or hand over your personal details or passwords

If you believe you are being targeted by a scammer hang up the phone and use a different phone line to call Action Fraud or the Police, as scammers have a way to stay on the line and will pretend to be the Police when you call back.

If you don't have access to a different phone line, wait for a period of time and try calling your family member or friend first to make sure the scammer is no longer on the line.

Just because someone knows basic details about you like address or date of birth, it doesn't mean they are genuine bank or police employees.

Always question suspicious phone calls and report them to Action Fraud or the police.

If you think you or someone you know has been defrauded, you can report it to Action Fraud online or by calling **0300 123 2040**.

## Notice to Contributors

Please send items and articles for inclusion in the Wilstead Newsletter to  
**[wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com)**

# Wilstead WI

Brrrr, what a horrible February we've had! After being battered by wind and rain, it's good to have something to look forward to as Spring beckons. At the WI we've been beaver away and can finally reveal some exciting trips for the coming year.



On **Monday 8th June** we'll be going to Wroxham in Norfolk. First we stop at Wroxham Barns with its craft studios and shops. After lunch we head for the water to board a boat for a comfortable tour around the Broads. The cost is £30 per person and lunch can be pre-booked (at an additional cost).

On **Wednesday 23rd September**, we plan to travel to Bakewell in Derbyshire. Famous for its pudding (you might call it a tart), it has been a market town since the Middle Ages and has a charming old centre. Later we'll stop off at the Denby Pottery. This should cost £20 per person.

In December we're hoping to book a trip called 'Cruising into Christmas', which starts with a coach trip to Greenwich, followed by a boat trip up the Thames, and then a tour of London's Christmas lights and a stop at Covent Garden before travelling home. The expected price is £39.

There are also some events planned. On **Wednesday 29th April** we'll be hosting an Afternoon Tea at the Village Hall with an interesting display of vintage clothes. And for the many fans of the Bedford Town Concert Brass band, there will be another Proms Night concert on **Saturday 3rd October**.

More details for all trips and events will follow.

Finally, we've had to change our plans for the May meeting, so the details given last month are now incorrect. The meeting will now take place on **Thursday 14th May** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, and the speaker will be David Longman telling us about the history of Bedfordshire's parish churches.

## Delivery of the Newsletter to Wilstead Residents

Households should receive the Newsletter a few days after the publication date which is usually the first Friday of the month.

If you don't receive a copy or know someone who is not receiving it please contact us - Editorial Team

## Newsletter DEADLINE

for any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

## Friday 20th March

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 3rd April

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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Non Emergency Police .....	101
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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

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## Bedford Borough Councillor Report

### ● Wixams Station/East West Rail

The route for East West Rail was announced on 30th January, with the option selected which will go through the town centre. Wixams station remains a standalone project and I am advised that we are still currently on target for delivery in 2024.

### ● Cycle Track along the A6

Since the last report, I have now had a reply from the Borough Highways team. They state that there has been very little change since this issue was discussed at Environment Committee. I will keep you updated.

### ● Damage Bedford Road, The Causeway and the roundabout

The Borough have patched up the holes around the roundabout. It is totally inadequate and requires a more serious bit of resurfacing work. I will raise with them.

### ● Community Woodland

I attended the tree planting organised by Forest of Marston Vale on 9th February. Despite the awful weather, there was a good turnout from volunteers.

Cllr. Graeme Coombes

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