



# Wilstead NEWSLETTER

*including Parish Council News*

April 2025

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

## Saying Goodbye to a Neighbour

On Friday 14th March, Wilstead, his family and Briar Bank Park said goodbye to our neighbour Peter Pool at a lovely and sensitive ceremony at Bedford Crematorium. There was a good turnout to pay tribute to Peter and those who didn't know his history were interested to hear about his past life both before Wilstead and after he had moved.

After the service friends and neighbours gathered at the Willow Tree Club on Briar Bank to raise a glass to Peter and to reminisce.

Peter was a long-standing member of the Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch Team and prior to Covid, when the meetings ceased, always attended the monthly meetings held in the village. His contribution, along with his devoted partner and wife June, was much appreciated. They co-ordinated the delivery on the Park and we are really pleased that June is happy to continue to do so.

I know you will join all the Newsletter Volunteers in wishing June the very best and of course if she needs any help, we are always there to give it.

**Jackie Lloyd**

For the Newsletter Volunteer Team

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**Wilstead NEWSLETTER**  
when replying to advertisers

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## Wilstead Village Hall Management Committee

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday 22nd May 2025  
7.30 in small hall**

The position of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should be nominated at least 10 days prior to the meeting to the Secretary.

**Secretary | Angela Fosbrook**  
[fosbrookangela@gmail.com](mailto:fosbrookangela@gmail.com)

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT YOUR  
LOCAL FACILITY AND CONSIDER BECOMING  
A COMMITTEE MEMBER. NEW MEMBERS ARE  
NEEDED WITH NEW IDEAS ABOUT HOW  
TO KEEP THE HALL RUNNING.**



Your Co-ordinator is:



**WILSTEAD & WIXAMS**

## April update

As many will already know, we lost another of our valued Cafe regulars this month, June Farminer. Her funeral is on April 4th and as a mark of respect we will not be opening the Cafe that afternoon as many will want to attend the funeral. We will miss June.

We held our Good Neighbours AGM on the 20th and I am pleased to say we had a good turnout and a good discussion on various issues, many of which we will incorporate into the smoother running of your group. The committee was unanimously re-elected after a resolution from the floor and we look forward to the following year.

Next Wilstead Cafe dates in the Village Hall are Friday 18th April (hot cross buns!) and Fridays May 2nd, 16th and 30th at the normal times 2:00pm to 3:30pm. And don't forget Wixams, Lakeview Village hall every Tuesday 10:30 to 12 Noon.

**ALL AGES WELCOME!**

**Rick Baxter** | Chairman | 01234 740854  
WWGNS Phone 07807 408928

## Message from your Police and Crime Commissioner

### Meet and Challenge your Police and Crime Commissioner

Residents, retailers, rural businesses - what are your biggest worries about POLICING AND CRIME where you live or work?

I'll be hosting a community event in Putnoe next month to talk about my plans to improve local policing, and repair and rebuild what is a broken criminal justice system and put victims at the heart of it.

### EVENT DETAILS:

**Wednesday 16th April**  
**Putnoe Heights Church**  
**and Church Centre**  
**6.30pm - 8.00pm**

### BOOK ON HERE:

<https://orlo.uk/rNkQ1>  
or pop down and ask me or the local police officers your questions!



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## Wilshamstead Parish Council Bedford Borough Council Local Plan Latest

At the time of writing there is no further update on Bedford Borough Council's Local Plan document. The Local Plan is the key strategic planning document for the local authority that sets out the allocations for development as well as the associated planning policies that will be applied in terms of supporting growth with suitable infrastructure. The granted extension from the Inspector remains in place with no further information from the local authority at present on the work being done and needed to be completed in just a few months on showing where development is to go.

### Update On Wilstead Planning Applications

There has been no change to any of the three large planning applications for new houses, to please remember that even though the consultation deadlines have passed please note the local authority can still accept planning comments from members of the public and will be able to take these into account. So there is still time to have your voice heard regarding:

**24/01566/MAO** an outline planning application for the erection of up to 149 dwellings and associated works at land to the South East of Duck End Lane.

**24/02231/MAO** outline application demolition of existing buildings and erection of up to 95 residential dwellings at land at Village Farm, 85 Cotton End Road.

**24/02463/MAO** 375 houses proposed by Wates development for land south of Wixams which is within the parish boundary of Wilstead.

To view the supporting documents for the proposed 375 houses, plus the other two, head to the Borough Council website and the planning portal, please enter 24/02463/MAO in the search bar for south of Wixams, 24/01566/MAO in the search bar for the South East of Duck End Lane, and enter 24/02231/MAO for 85 Cotton End Road.

Please send your comments to [planning@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bedford.gov.uk).

### Parish Council Update Regarding East West Rail

The Parish Council recently received an East West Rail communication regarding community engagement. The Local Representatives Groups have been restructuring they have detailed to better reflect the section areas presented at the most recent consultation.

Continued on page 4 >>>

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early years alliance

>>> Continued from page 3

As such, there are now Enhanced LRGs and LRG Communities.

The Enhanced LRGs are made up of those wards and parishes which have land that would need to be permanently acquired, and land that would be used temporarily for construction. The LRG Communities are those that were a part of the previous LRG structure but now fall outside of having land directly impacted but allows members to remain informed on the project and part of the conversation. Renhold has been advised they are now part of the LRG Communities Group. The first of two expected webinars this year for this group is scheduled to take place in late 26th March and feedback will be shared in a future article.

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## Highways Improvement Works Update

The Parish Council were pleased to see the work is underway for the footway works for Hampton Close, Phipps Close and Morgan Close carried out by the local authority as part of their capitals work programme improvement scheme. There have been some snagging items noticed that have been followed up with Bedford Borough Council.

There has been continual engagement between the Parish Council, senior Highways Officer and Borough Councillors on the range of highways safety improvements within the village, looking to implemented. There has been a further site meeting to keep the dialogue progressing whilst refinements are made to ensure the works have maximum benefit.. These include greater double yellow line coverage and a 20mph zone for the village centre as some of the items looking to be implemented.



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## Parish Council Vacancies

There remain vacancies on the Parish Council.

Do you have administration, IT, financial, planning, or communication skills?

Do you like getting things done?

Can you spare a couple of hours a week (or more if you have the time)?

If so, we could do with your help. Please get in touch as shown below or speak to any of the current Parish Councillors.

## Bin Emptying And Dog Fouling

It has been noticed that some bins in the village have been overflowing recently. The bin emptying is managed by the local authority who arrange the schedule.

So if you spot an overflowing bin please do kindly report in, into the Borough Council so they can follow it up, at [www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/keeping-bedford-borough-clean/littering-and-bins](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/keeping-bedford-borough-clean/littering-and-bins)

If you see an irresponsible dog owner then please also do remember there are ways to report into the local authority this information so follow up action can be taken, there is lots of helpful information on the Borough Council website here: [www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/dog-control-and-welfare/other-dog-issues](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/dog-control-and-welfare/other-dog-issues)

## 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 (at the rear of the Village Hall) is open most Mondays, 9am to midday. It is worth ringing in advance to ensure it is open.

*It is always more interesting to attend a Parish Council meeting in person to see what goes on and understand the range of items covered in trying to move improvements for the Wilstead community forwards. Dates and the agenda are advertised on the village noticeboards, with meetings usually on a Monday starting at 7pm in the small hall at Wilstead Village Hall. (Head to the left-hand side of the main hall building and you will see the door open which is where the Parish Council will be). Everyone is most welcome to join us.*

## A Bedtime Checklist from Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

- Close inside doors
- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances not being used
- Is the cooker turned off
- Are the heaters turned off and fire guards if needed are put up
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## Wilstead & Wixams



**COMMUNITY  
ART GROUP**

We are pleased to have welcomed several new members since January and hope that they will persevere and become budding artists. As an Art Group we meet just to enjoy painting or drawing together with others.

It has a strong social element and those who come usually go away happier than when they came!

If you're interested in art and would love to try out your talent, why not join 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 usually meet in the Village Hall on Mondays from 2pm-4pm. We don't meet on Bank Holidays.

Our group has members of all abilities, using a variety of mediums. You might like sketching in pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, whatever. You can also paint in watercolour, acrylic or even oil or a mixed media.



Norfolk country scene *by Michael*

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**Summer Walks** Please note change of start time for afternoon walks – Summer start 13:30. Or try our “Ramble” on first Saturday morning each month – slightly shorter, slower pace.

## APRIL WALKS

**SATURDAY 5th > AM** Flitwick “Ramble” | 5.5 miles  
or **PM** Ampthill | 6.5 miles

**SATURDAY 12th > AM** London – Unlock Church walk | 7.5 miles  
or **PM** Wilstead | 6 miles

**SATURDAY 19th > PM** Willen, Milton Keynes | 7.5 miles

**SATURDAY 26th > AM** Thrapston | 12 miles  
or **PM** Stoke Hammon | 6.8 miles

For our latest walks program visit [www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/ramblers-groups/north-bedfordshire-group](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/ramblers-groups/north-bedfordshire-group).

Please bring a drink, snack or lunch as we always have a break.

For more information on our walks telephone:

**Margaret Sawyer** | 07780 933729 Facebook: **North Beds Ramblers**  
[www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire)

## Have you tested your smoke alarm!

**Did you know that you are four times more likely to die in a house fire if there is no working smoke alarm?**

So why not test your smoke alarm at the beginning of every month and tick it off your ‘to do’ list?

It takes seconds to give you and your family a better chance of surviving a fire. Ideally, you should be testing this life saving equipment once a week. Doing it on the first of the month is a great start.

## 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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## Spring Lamb Day Thank you

On behalf of all the children, staff and parents at Cotton End Forest School, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to David and Barbara Seamark, for your incredible generosity in opening your farm and home on our Spring Lamb Day.

Your warm welcome to everyone and your hospitality, provided a truly memorable experience for everyone involved. The day provided a wonderful opportunity for the children and parents to connect with nature, and we truly appreciate all the time and effort you put in to making the day so special.

We would also like to thank the following companies for their kind donations to support our event: **Empire Cars, Wilstead - Gordon and Alison Redman - Frank Redman and Sons - Friendly Nettle Café, Shortstown - Bedford Town Football Club - Hair by Vincenzo, Bedford - Tesco Cardington Road, Bedford - Tick Education - ASG Roofing Specialists - HCL Catering - The parents of Cotton End Forest School.**

Additional thanks goes to the volunteers who gave up their time for free, Mike and Amy Catchpole, to complete the preparations in order for the event to go ahead.



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## Wilstead Women's Institute

Our February meeting was held in the afternoon at the Bowls Club with a speaker Alex Prior who talked about all the items he collected, with Rocks from Mars to 1st edition books. He was very interesting and we were amazed at the amount of items he has collected over the years.

We were back in the Village Hall for our March meeting where we had a speaker Kay Goddard who talked to us about the meaning of quilting and how it started way back. A most interesting history lesson.

We had three new members join us and most welcome they are too. Anyone can join the WI and come to the meetings to learn about a variety of subjects or just come along and meet friends for a cuppa and biscuits.

Visitors are welcome for a fee of £3.00 if we have no speaker or £5.00, if we do have a speaker however this concession ceases after the 3rd visit whereupon membership is available.

We will be holding our AGM next month in the Village Hall and participating in some Hot Cross Buns with our tea.

Our speaker will be Mark Harris who is the Chief Officer for Adult Operational Services for older people, this could be very interesting.

Our trip to Stratford upon Avon is now fully booked, fingers crossed for good weather.

The next meeting will be Thursday 1st May in the Village Hall where we will be having a members evening.

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## Readers Letter

On the evening of 14th March 2025 around 19.00hrs our front door was pounded on several times and then someone roared through the letterbox box. The voice sounded juvenile.

Obviously it was quite alarming. There was no sight of anyone outside. We put this down to a very childish prank. However at 21.45hrs that same evening it happened again.

We can think of no reason why we should be targeted other than a clear getaway is possible from our property.

The perpetrator of this stupid prank should understand that it is very alarming for the house occupants be startled like this late at night. It is not remotely funny to startle people and could lead to serious consequences both for the startled persons (especially elderly) and the perpetrator of these stupid pranks.

**Name and address supplied**

***Editor's note: This is not the only report we have received of this type of behaviour, and please note the police have been informed.***

## Car Drivers and Horses

Be particularly careful of horse riders, especially when approaching, overtaking, passing or moving away. Always pass wide and slowly. When you see a horse on a road, you should slow down to a maximum of 10 mph.

Be patient, do not sound your horn or rev your engine. When safe to so, pass wide and slow, allowing at least 2 metres of space.

Horse riders are often children, so take extra care and remember riders may ride in double file when escorting a young or inexperienced horse or rider. Look out for horse riders' signals and heed a request to slow down or stop.

There was a recent incident at the Stables in Wilstead, and it was only thanks to the skill of the horse riders that a serious accident was avoided. Please be thoughtful when you see horse riders on the road.

**Thank you.**



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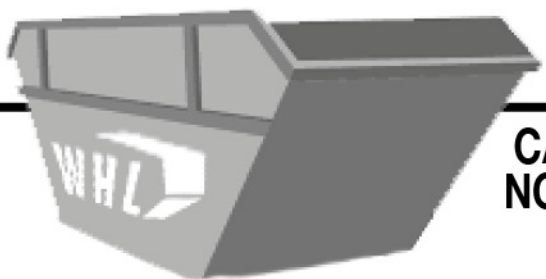
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## Wilstead Bowls Club

We start to play on the green at the end of the month, the exact date depending on the weather. Matches against other clubs begin **Sunday 27th April** with the first game away to Woburn Sands. Our first home game is on **Tuesday evening 29th April** against Amptill.

In preparation for the start of the season, we will have a series of working parties commencing 24th March to ensure that the green and the surrounding area are ready. There is a lot of mowing, bench painting and gardening to do!

If there is anyone in the village who has some spare time and would like to help, the club would be very grateful. Please get in touch.

This year we are inviting anyone who would like to try bowling to come along for free on Friday evenings from 6pm onwards. You only need flat soled shoes; bowls will be provided and you can join us afterwards in the bar.

### UP AND COMING EVENTS:

#### Easter themed Coffee Morning

Wednesday 16th April 10.30am - 12 noon  
£3. All welcome.

#### Fish & Chip Spoon Drive

Friday 16th May. 5.30pm start.  
£7 non-players & £10 players (including spider).

#### Afternoon tea

Friday 23rd May 2.30pm. £10 per person.  
Need to book in advance.

#### Open Day/Bowls Big Weekend

Sunday 25th May. 2pm - 5pm.  
All ages and abilities welcome.

Please keep a look out on the Wilstead Community Facebook page for more club news and activities or join us on Facebook - WILSTEAD BOWLS CLUB or visit our website [www.wilsteadbowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.wilsteadbowlsclub.co.uk).

If you need any club information you can contact:

**Sue Marchant**  
Club Secretary 07716 676383  
[sue@marchantonline.com](mailto:sue@marchantonline.com)  
[www.wilsteadbowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.wilsteadbowlsclub.co.uk)



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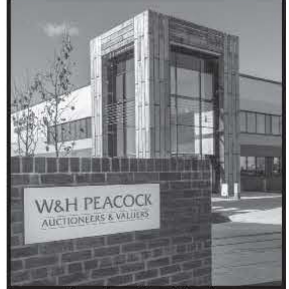
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## P3 Footpath Group

### Meetings

The next bi-monthly meetings are on **Saturday 5th April** and **Saturday 14th June** in the Village Hall (small hall).

There will be a report on each of the 17 public footpaths and bridleways around the village including their current ease of use. If problems are identified then plans to address these will be discussed. If any of these problems are too large for the Group to address then Bedford Borough will be advised of the problem(s)

Come along if you are interested in helping to keep the paths around the village usable and see what this entails. This could be doing a visual survey every couple of months to identify any problems and / or help resolve the problem with other members of the group. All are welcome.

Future meetings are planned for **Saturday 2nd August** and **Saturday 4th October 10.00am**.

### Working Parties

Working Parties to address issues raised at the meetings that the Group can tackle will be arranged. Any material needed to resolve these problems,

e.g. new waymark posts, will be requested from the Borough Council or purchased by the Group.

If you find any problems when going along the paths and bridleways around the village please contact me, see contact details below.

### Walks

The March walk was along paths around Chicksands, both through the woods and through where the 'Birdcage' was. This was a large (100+ metres across) aerial for listening to foreign communications.

The weather was fine and the walk was over firm ground (i.e. no avoiding large puddles). The optional post walk refreshment was found in the Greyhound in Haynes.

Keep an eye on the posters on the village noticeboards for details of future walks.

The next walks will be on **Sunday 13th April 2.00pm** and **Friday 9th May 6.30pm**. Meet in the village car park off Whitworth Way.

Come along if you fancy a wander (4-5 miles) through nearby Bedfordshire countryside

**Nigel Jacobs**

Wilstead Footpath Group | 01234 400733



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## Coffee, Tea, Cola, Sugar, Rice, Baking Soda, Fizzy Water, Aspirin!

No, not a shopping list for the supermarket but suggestions for curing house plants that are not looking their best? Before you finally kill your plant with a double espresso, why don't you visit the Wilstead Garden Club on **Tuesday 15th April** at 2.30pm.

We will be welcoming our house plant expert Susie Lickman who has saved many orchids since her orchid masterclass last year. This year she will be talking about the hacks for reviving ailing other plants. We are sure to be surprised with the ideas. Susie usually brings reasonably priced plants for sale. Entry is £3 as usual with an optional raffle at £1 per ticket.

In March we welcomed our horticultural vicar, Mike Stewart, who gave us a comprehensive and entertaining talk about making new and free plants in a variety of ways.

He started with an amusing blessing for the compost heap. Although we might not be trying to create new species by pretending to be bees and collect pollen, experimenting with grafting looks fun but splitting up large perennials and revitalising our flower beds could be our limit. Very useful, given the current prices of plants to buy.

May is our Plant Swap meeting. If anyone is splitting up plants and has extras they can't use, please take care of them and bring them to the meeting.

Plants can be in pots, other suitable containers or even wrapped well in waterproof coverings. Labelling would be handy too.

We hope to see you at our meetings.

Happy gardening.

**Wilstead Garden Club Committee**  
[wilsteadgardenclub@hotmail.com](mailto:wilsteadgardenclub@hotmail.com)

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## Please note:

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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**

## All Saints Church

**United in Faith. Welcoming All**

The services have been planned for **APRIL** as follows:

**Sunday 6th April - 11.00am**

**Morning Praise** | Robert Heley

**Sunday 13th April - 11.00am**

**Holy Communion** | Fr Steve Marsh

**Tuesday 15th April - 6.30pm**

**Holy Week Communion** | Fr P Messam

### GOOD FRIDAY

**18th April - 2.00pm**

**Music and Meditation** | Helen H Applegarth

### EASTER DAY

**Sunday 20th April - 11.00am**

**Holy Communion** | Fr Steve Marsh

**Sunday 27th April - 11.00am**

**Holy Communion** | Rev Mike Stephens

Easter is coming and our services reflect that fact. Please try to attend the extra services.

**The Easter Coffee Morning** is on **Wednesday 16th April** with a visit from an Easter Lamb, an Easter Egg Hunt and raffle with an Easter Theme. Children are invited.

If anyone still has a Children's Society collecting box from when Jane Wooding used to organise them, please can you pass it on to Janet Brooks who will send any monies to the Children's Society thank you.

**Robert Heley**



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# Wilstead Pre School News

## Well spring has made a very welcome arrival!

It's so lovely to see the children running around outside enjoying the warmer weather.

This half term we have been very busy learning all about springtime and we have had some lovely walks to our allotment to do some planting and watering the fruit and vegetables we have growing there.

A huge thanks to Richard and Matt who have put in all the hard work so our children can enjoy this experience. The children really love learning all about how we grow our food. We picked some purple sprouting broccoli, took it back to pre school, cooked it and the children tried it. It was very smelly they said!

They have also enjoyed seeing all the daffodil's and crocus's growing around the village whilst out on our walks too.

On our way to the allotment we stood outside the church talking to the children about the building and counting the church clock bells.

A lovely gentleman must have seen us and came to ask if we would like to have a look inside.

I would like to say a big thank you to Ernest for opening up the church and letting the children, respectfully, explore the building. They thoroughly enjoyed this experience and gave the children lots to talk about when we returned to pre school. Thank you.

At pre school we have been learning about Ramadan what it involves and why it's celebrated.

Naz brought some Dates in for the children to try and also her prayer mat.

Let's just say the dates went down better than the broccoli.

We've been learning about pancake day, what it represents and how lent is celebrated. The children enjoyed the pancakes for their snack.

Continued on page 16 >>>

## Newsletter

### DEADLINE

For any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

**Friday 18th April**

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

**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.

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Abandoned Vehicles .....	01234 221768
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Borough Councillor, Marc Frost .....	07825 304080
Neighbourhood Watch Central Office .....	01234 842043
Wilstead Good Neighbours .....	07807 408928

## Who's Who:

Neighbourhood Watch, Wilstead.

### Advertisements & Accounts

MAXINE HENDRY, 17 Hampton Close, Wilstead MK45 3DA

✉ wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com ☎ 407998

### Editor

**Crime Prevention News/Information**

**Local Village News & Information**

JACKIE LLOYD, 41A Luton Road, Wilstead MK45 3ER

✉ wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com ☎ 742757

**Artwork by** SIMONE MILLIGAN ✉ wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com

**Printed by** WHITE HART PRESS, 58A York Street, Bedford

## RECENT CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

### Attempted Burglary

28th February

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>>> Continued from page 15

We held our Mother's Day celebration where we invited our lovely mums for a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

We also had our annual sponsored Easter egg hunt which always goes down a storm with the children. If you have any sponsor money please send it into pre school.

### Fundraising events coming up:

On Sunday 18th May 2.00-3.30pm we are hosting a family disco. To be held at Wilstead village hall, this is open to all, not just those who attend the pre school.

Parents must stay with their children and it will suit children up to 7 years. Entertainment, face painting, snacks and refreshments will be available. Children can dress in their party wear/fancy dress, if they wish.

This is a ticket only event. £5 per child. Adults free. Order your tickets by contacting [committee@wilstead-preschool.co.uk](mailto:committee@wilstead-preschool.co.uk).

Please order your tickets promptly so not to be disappointed!

Friday 27th June our fabulously fun quiz is back. Our lovely quiz master Sam is planning a fun evening. Tables of up to 8. £5 per person. Raffle and bar available.

Contact 07948 565992 or the above email address to book a table.

We are also in the process of organising a family fun run. More details in the next edition. Dust off those trainers and get limbering up. The children are going to love it!

Once again can I thank all those who support our pre school. These are challenging times for the pre school sector so your support is more vital than ever.

We really do appreciate all the support the village and beyond gives us.

Thank you

Julia