



Wilstead *August 2022* NEWSLETTER including Parish Council News

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

Wilstead Flower, Produce & Handicrafts Show

This year's show will be held on
Saturday 27th August
2.00pm - Village Hall



Pick up a show schedule from the Wilstead Post Office. The schedule includes an entry form and all instructions on how to put in an entry to the show.

The schedule is also available to download from the Village Website:
www.wilsteadvillage.org

The paper version of the show schedule can be obtained from Village Post Office from the middle of July.

Admission in the afternoon is only £1 but exhibitors and children are free.

Looking forward to seeing you there as a visitor or entrant.

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CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

Assault Without Injury

Monday 27th June (No time stated)
Cotton End Road

Public Fear or Alarm

Sunday 12th June
Between 8.45am and 9.00am
Cotton End Road

Stalking

Tuesday 15th March
Recorded Saturday 11th June

Crime Recorded for nearby Villages

Cardington 3, Cople 1, Cotton End 2,
Shortstown 13 and Wixams 10.

*The above 'Crime Recorded' covers the period
1st to 28th June and is the latest information available.*

All enclosed articles are subject to current Covid19 restrictions

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Your Co-ordinator is:

Electric Scooters The Current Law

It is currently against the law to ride an e-scooter on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land.

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEV's) so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements such as:

- **MOT**
- **Licensing**
- **Tax**
- **Insurance**

As e-scooters do not have number plates, signalling ability and do not always have visible rear lights, they cannot be used legally on the roads.

If you are stopped by the Police they will advise you of the current law, about how to use an e-scooter legally, and ask you to take it home. They may however still penalise you depending on the nature and gravity of the offence.

The UK Government is currently taking part in 'Future Transport Zone' trials for e-scooter hire, with a view to making them legal to use on the road.

Bedfordshire Police

Bowls Club News

Very well done to our ladies in the County Triples who have reached the finals at the end of the month. They are Kim Douglas, Margaret Dunlop and Barbara Carter.

Roger Hopkins with the help of Rick and Trish Baxter organised a trip to Newmarket Ladies Day which was enjoyed by everyone who went, and Chris Purcell of South East Security donated £100 to our club.

On **Sunday 7th August** it is President's Charity Day for Canine Partners.

Then on **Sunday 21st August** we are hosting a County game between Bedfordshire Vice Presidents versus Leicester County.

Club competitions are progressing well, and Club friendly games are being played every week for the men, ladies and the over 60's.

The bar at the Club is open most evenings during the summer, and every Friday evening plus Sunday lunchtime 12 noon until 2.00pm.

Jean Ward
Club Secretary



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Wilshamstead Parish Council Parish Council Latest

For the second month the main agenda item for the Parish Council meeting held on 25th July was the Borough proposal for 2100 houses within Wilstead Parish.

Thanks to everyone who came along to the drop-in session at the Village Hall on Sunday 10th July. A total of 125 residents came for more information and help with any response they would make.

The final date for responses was Friday 29th July so we hope that as many people from Wilstead as possible wrote in and registered their comments.

The Parish Council has written to express their objection to the Plan. Specifically it was felt that by following the Government formula for the calculation of additional housing Bedford Borough Council are obliged to plan for a growth rate far in excess of that which the Borough can sustainably accommodate.

The resulting huge number of new houses proposed for the area South of Bedford (2100 within Wilshamstead Parish alone and 1000 more nearby in Shortstown) would result in the urbanisation of this area and the removal of the rural nature of this part of the Borough.

In addition the Parish Council objected strongly to the wording of the Plan which shows two large developments as extensions to Wixams and does not mention that these are within Wilshamstead Parish.

Other reasons for objection were:

- The increase in traffic that will be caused, particularly on the A6 towards Bedford, into Wixams (for accessing shops and station) and along Cotton End Road to access the A600.
- The lack of any detailed plan on how to provide sufficient infrastructure for such a large influx of people (e.g. schools, GPs, bus services, cycle routes into Bedford town centre, and shops).
- The detrimental effect of such large developments on the existing close community and rural nature of the village, valued by so many residents and highlighted in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Continued on page 4 >>>

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>>> Continued from page 3

- The loss of views and unspoilt countryside.
- The danger of eventual coalescence between the communities of Wixams, Wilstead, Elstow and Shortstown – creating one 'urban sprawl'.

Average Speed Cameras Update

It is now expected that Average Speed Cameras will be installed in Cotton End Road in the Autumn of 2022.

Village Improvements

The Parish Council has been discussing various improvements that can be made in village amenities.

For example:

Some of the equipment in the Whitworth Way playground is in urgent need of replacement and, in addition, it is felt that there is insufficient equipment for the very young age group.

Quotations and professional advice are currently being obtained and various options are under consideration. If you would like an input into what would be best, you are welcome to contact Lizzie, the Parish Clerk, who will put you in touch with the Councillors concerned.

The bus shelters are faded and dirty and can do with sprucing up. This work is to be undertaken in the near future.

The grassed area at the Crossroads is to be landscaped and planted,

The bridge, benches, paving and greenery between the end of Pollards Close and Luton Road are to be tidied up, cleaned, coated or replaced.

Contacting The Parish Council

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

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

Please note the Parish Office is open Monday 9.00am to midday and that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 12th September** at 7pm in the small hall of the Village Hall.

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Why would cyber criminals target me?

Your device may contain a lot of personal data that is highly valuable if it fell into the hands of a fraudster. It may contain your full name, date of birth, address, bank details, passwords, as well as many other forms of personal data such as private photos or videos.

Improve your online security by using automatic software updates

Enable automatic updates wherever available. That means you don't have to manually install updates every time they're released.

For more of the Government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, go to:

www.cyberaware.gov.uk

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When was the last time you tested your smoke alarm?

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

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Wilstead & Wixams



**COMMUNITY
ART GROUP**

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 meet in the Village Hall on Mondays from 2.00pm-4.00pm. 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. Meeting in the large hall makes it a safe space to work in and we are well spaced out.

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



Elstow Abbey Church in oils by Richard

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Houghton Wilstead Golf Cup 2022

Editorial deadlines make it impossible to publish the results of the Houghton Wilstead Golf Cup. A full report will be published in the September issue.

Protect Your Password

If strengthening your passwords is something you keep putting off, or if you feel overwhelmed by the sea of online security information, you're not alone.

You can protect your password in 3 easy steps:

1. Create a separate password for your email account
2. Use 3 random words
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From **Neighbourhood Watch Our News**

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A small charge may be made for artwork when setting up new adverts. A small change to an existing advert sometimes requires a considerable adjustment before publication, in which case a small charge may be made.

Items are always welcome from local organisations and are normally published at NO CHARGE unless there are specific requirements.

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Wilstead Village Hall

At the recent Committee meeting, we placed an order for new curtains throughout, including new stage curtains. We hope that everyone will approve of the design we chose!

Unfortunately, we have been let down by two builders who promised to make a small repair to the roof and so if you know anyone who could help, please contact the numbers below.

The Committee continue to work towards an online booking system and make other improvements but recently it has been noted that the main hall floor is in need of some repair in places. This will have to take priority over other maintenance.

Due to being unable to attract anyone for the position of Assistant Caretaker, we have altered the hours to suit 2 people to job share if required and also have increased the pay to £10 per hour.

If you are at all interested, please see the separate advert and/or contact either of the names below.

Chairperson | Sandra Spinks
sanschambers@hotmail.com 07853 395939

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

Would you like a small part-time job?

Wanted - one, or two people to share, the role of Assistant Caretaker at Wilstead Village Hall

To start as soon as possible, Wilstead Village Hall Management Committee is looking to fill the vacancy of an assistant caretaker by either one person or two people sharing the role.

This is for a minimum of 3 hours of work (as it depends on the amount of bookings) on one day of a weekend and for a minimum of 3 hours worked on a Monday.

There is the possibility of earning extra money to help cover the main Caretaker's holidays and sick days.

The pay is £10.00 per hour as worked.

Duties would include good time keeping to unlock and lock the hall for hirers, and preparing the hall and cleaning after a hire. Other duties might include gardening, deep cleaning and general maintenance.

Full support and training will be given.

If you are at all interested, even just for one of the days or require further information, please contact either of the names listed below.

Brian, our main caretaker is very willing to show you around the Hall.

Chairperson | Sandra Spinks
sanschambers@hotmail.com 07853 395939

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

Footpath Group

Meetings

At the meeting on the 16th July there were reports on all the seventeen footpaths and bridleways which surround the village. These reports identified where cutting back and mowing was required and also identified where work was needed on the path furniture, from mending stiles, replacing broken waymark posts down to replacing faded waymark discs.

The next meeting is on the **Saturday 10th September** in the Village Hall at 10.00am.

If you are interested in these paths and would like to help keep an eye on them, so they remain easy to access, come along to the meeting on the 10th and see what it is all about. Maps and survey forms are provided. All are welcome.

Work

The July meeting survey reports showed that the main tasks facing the Group is clearing the surface of many of the paths, which have become a bit overgrown. Hopefully the Group can use its brush-cutter, strimmer and mower on these paths and ensure once again that the eleven miles of footpaths and bridleways in the Parish are easy to go along. The re-instatement of waymark posts and replacement of faded discs should also help people keep to the correct line of these Public Rights of Way.

Working Parties will be arranged to tackle these tasks. If you are interested in helping with this work get in touch through the number at the end of this article and you will be added to the notification list of each Working Party. You can then come along if you are free.

Continued on page 10 >>>

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>>> Continued from page 9

Walks

The July walk was due to be in and around the countryside near Stagsden so hopefully a sudden wet end to the recent dry period didn't put a stop to this.

The next walk will be on **Friday 26th August**. Meet in Whitworth Way car park at 6.15pm. It will probably be a fairly local walk as the evenings will be getting shorter by then. Keep an eye on the Village noticeboards at the Village Hall and Crossroads for details of this walk.

Don't worry if you don't have transport as lifts will be available. If possible please let me know beforehand then I make sure that there are spare seats.

Walking shoes/boots are recommended as bits of paths can be uneven or even muddy! Especially after rain!

The remaining walks will be on **Sunday 18th September** afternoon, **Sunday 30th October** morning and **Sunday 27th November** morning.

Calendar

If you would like a calendar listing the dates and times of the meetings and walks please contact the number below.

Footpath Leaflets

The Group has lots of copies of the leaflet showing where all the Public Rights of Way are, where they go to and how they join up with the roads. If you would like a free copy please contact the number below.

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August update

Our group celebrated the Jubilee with a tea party where all our volunteers and coffee shop crew had an enjoyable time in good weather! My thanks to those who organised and provided the drinks and cakes. What would we do without our volunteers?

I hope other groups and organisations also had successful celebration events.

Wixams has opened its 'Community Cafe' and seems to be getting settled into it's surroundings and developing a regular set of visitors.

Let's hope it continues to gather more visitors as time goes on. It's on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am if you fancy a change of scenery!

With the establishment of their 'Community Cafe' our Committee decided that our 'Coffee Shop' should rename itself as Wilstead Community Cafe to confirm our brand across the two communities.

We will be looking into having a new banner created to advertise our new identity and we would welcome more of you coming along to try us out. Why not call in as you are passing by?

We are meeting on Friday 12th August, Friday 26th August, Friday 2nd September and Friday 23rd September.

'Till next time, look after yourselves and keep well.

Regards to all.

Rick Baxter
Chairman WGNS
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Summer and Hot Weather Gardening

Record breaking temperatures and the driest Spring have made gardening interesting this year. Our planned outing to Lake End House is currently on hold because of the forecast temperatures. An alternative date will be made. Doubtless by the time you read this it will be cool and wet. We can dream.

The garden will survive with a bit of thought. Established trees and shrubs will have deep roots and may shed leaves but will survive. It is natural for fruit trees, such as apples, to shed excess fruit this time of year, so don't be alarmed. When your strawberries have finished fruiting, if you cut them back to new leaves, they will probably fruit again in Autumn.

Similarly dead heading both perennials and bedding flowers will encourage more blooms and cutting back plants that have gone 'leggy' will encourage sturdier, bushier growth that are less prone to wind damage later in the season. Perennials are more sturdy than annuals as established plants have bigger roots so more likely to be fine.

Plants in tubs, pots or raised beds are more at risk as is anything in a greenhouse. Generous watering every few days is better than little and often. Small amounts of water encourages roots to head for the surface of the soil and therefore quicker to dry out. This is especially true for lawns, don't waste water on established lawns, they do recover. Water for the garden can be 'saved' by washing without or very diluted detergent, or when preparing vegetables. Don't forget the water you run waiting for the hot water in your taps. Worth keeping a jug handy.

Some things love this weather so enjoy looking at the amazing geraniums, lavenders and roses and enjoy eating your courgettes, tomatoes, lettuce, plums, berries and everything you have nurtured.

Looking forward to seeing everyone either for the bat walk in August or back in the hall in September.

Maralyn, Viv, Mary, Lynda and Julie
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(Preferred form of contact)

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(Please leave a message)

WILSTEAD 

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Our local village store stocks fresh grocery and bakery products daily, along with providing a wide range of products including newspapers, magazines, National Lottery, photocopying and much, much more!

STORE OPENING HOURS:
Monday to Saturday 7.00am-7.00pm
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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

WhatsApp Scam Costs Victims 1.5 Million

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) is warning the public about the continued increase in reports about scams where victims are targeted on WhatsApp by criminals pretending to be someone they know – typically their children.

Between 3rd February 2022 and 21st June 2022, there have been a total of 1235 reports made to Action Fraud linked to this scam, with total reported losses exceeding £1.5mn.

Criminals will usually begin the conversation with 'Hello Mum' or 'Hello Dad' and will say that they are texting from a new mobile number as their phone was lost or damaged. They will then ask for money to purchase a new one, or claim that they need money urgently to pay a bill

The criminal will provide bank details for the payment to be made to, with some coming back with further demands for money.

If you receive a message like this from a friend or family member, don't send any money until you've had a chance to call them and confirm their identity. Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

How to protect yourself:

- Stop. Think. Call. If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person to confirm their identity.
- You can report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.
- Never share your account's activation code (that's the 6 digit code you receive via SMS).

Action Fraud, Administrator, National



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

Wildlife Walks and Talks August

Dragonfly and Damselfly Walk with David Withers

Saturday 6th August | 10.00am-12.00 noon
Duck End Nature Reserve

A guided walk round the Duck End nature reserve with the reserve's warden, David Withers. This small reserve (1ha, 2.4ac) is a gem of remaining wetland, hopefully providing some unusual flora, dragonflies and damselflies.

£3.00 per adult.

Wildlife Walk with Betty Cooke

Saturday 13th August | 10.00am-12.00 noon
Broom

A guided walk round Broom looking for invertebrates, birds and wildflowers with Betty Cooke.

Meet in the overflow car park of Jordan's Mill.

£3.00 per adult.

Bat Walk

with Colin Carpenter

Wednesday 24th August | 7.45pm
Flitwick Moor (TL045354)

Colin will take a set walk through Flitwick Moor checking for bats. If you have a detector, please bring it. The Moor, with its different environmental areas, is rich in bat activity. How many will we see, record and detect?

£3.00 per adult.

OPEN TO ALL | To reserve a place or for further information please email Ann at flitvale.info@gmail.com or ring or text on 07580 178889.

**The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire,
Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire**
Registered charity number: 1000412
www.wildlifecbn.org
Flit Vale Local Group www.flitvale.org.uk

Newsletter DEADLINE

For any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

Friday 19th August

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 2nd September.

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

wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com

Please note that requests for NEW ADVERTS and Advert Changes should now be sent to **Maxine Hendry**, as should Payments.

Next Co-ordinators' Meeting:

Date and venue to be advised of the next co-ordinators' meeting.

Telephone Number List:

To cut out and keep by your telephone.

EMERGENCY	999
CRIME IN PROGRESS	999
Non Emergency Police	101
Police Headquarters	01234 841212
PC6587 Craig Bond	101
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Abandoned Vehicles	01234 221768
Borough Councillor, Graeme Coombes	07815 302318
Neighbourhood Watch Central Office	01234 842043
Wilstead Good Neighbours	07807 408928

Who's Who:

Neighbourhood Watch, Wilstead.

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Tips On How To Avoid Mobile Malware

Stick to official app stores

It is important to use verified app stores to install applications. Third party stores or unknown sources may contain malware and aren't blocked by an authority, such as Google.

Install an antivirus on your mobile device

This is especially important if you choose to install apps from unofficial sources. You can also be protected from malicious websites this way. Antivirus software acts as a safety net, protecting even the most careful users.

Remain vigilant

It's important to remain cautious when downloading new apps, especially apps advertised in short and catchy videos, or through push notifications in the browser.

Disable or limit premium SMS with your carrier

While there are legitimate uses for premium SMS, recent SMS malware campaigns highlight the importance of having control over additional charges on your phone contract. Disabling premium SMS features - or at least setting a limit - significantly limits the potential impact of campaigns like this. This step is especially important on children's phones.

From Neighbourhood Watch Our News

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