



Wilstead *August 2021* **NEWSLETTER** *including Parish Council News*

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

The Bedfordshire Young Farmers 58th Ploughing Match Including Farm And Produce Show

It gives me great pleasure to confirm that **Silsoe Young Farmers** will be hosting this year's annual YFC Ploughing Match here in Wilstead! After the disappointment of having to cancel this event last year we are now working tirelessly to hold the event, thanks to H Maskell & Son, at **Duck End Farm, Wilstead on Sunday 19th September - Public Entry 9.30 am.**

This is a great family day with lots of interesting activities and exhibits. You will be able to watch live ploughing, where ploughmen (and women) will be using a wide range of vintage, classic and state of the art machinery. There will be a range of open competition classes for the public to enter too - Horticulture, Produce, Handicraft classes to mention a few. You can also try your hand at shooting on the laser clay shooting stand! Main ring activities will take place later in the day, so there really will be something for everyone.

A good range of refreshments will be available including a licenced bar and an ice-cream stall!

If you would like more information or a copy of the competition classes, or you are a local business wanting to advertise in our show schedule, please contact me via email villagefarmwilstead@gmail.com.

Entry is £3.00 per person, under 10's go free. Look out for further information on social media and posters around the village.

Leigh Westwick Crouch
Advertising & Sponsorship | Silsoe Young Farmers

All enclosed articles are subject to current Covid19 restrictions

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CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

Assault with Injury
Recorded Monday 14th June
Occurred Thursday 4th March 7.49pm
Cotton End Road

Malicious Communication
Monday 14th June at Midnight
No further details

Sexual
Monday 14th June
No further details

Crime Recorded for nearby Villages

Cardington 3, Cople 1, Cotton End 1, Shortstown 18, and Wixams 16.

The above Recorded Crimes, the latest available, cover the period from 1st of June to 30th June.

BEDFORD BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2040

Bedford Borough Proposes up to 500 New Houses in Wilstead by 2040.

See the article inside and make sure you have your say!

Go to page 3 for important information on this.

Your Co-ordinator is:

Bowls Club News

The County Ladies Senior 4's semi-final was held at Wilstead on Thursday evening 15th July at 6pm, and we had very close matches. Barton V Priory had to have an extra end, with Priory winning, and Henlow beat Bedford Bowling Club.

At the time of writing it is hoped the Men's County game against Surrey on **3rd August** went well with good weather.

Lady County President Barbara Carter is holding a President's day on **Friday 6th August**. We will be welcoming two players from every club in the Bedfordshire area to play a friendly game followed by a meal.

On Sunday 8th August we are having a Captain's day, and hope all playing members of the club are able to come and join in.

Dot Baker is the President of the Ladies Tuesday League this year, and the final of the league KO competition will be played at Wilstead at 2pm on **Sunday 15th August**.

We are hoping to see many spectators from all the clubs that have participated to watch the final. We will be offering tea/coffee and cake during the afternoon. The players will be having a meal afterwards.

Club competitions are going well now the weather has improved. We hope to complete them before the end of August, so that Roy Whiffin who is the Men's Competition Secretary, is able to arrange when all the finalists will be playing on finals day in September.

Jean Ward - Secretary

Village P3 Footpath Group

Meetings

Fifteen members of the Group attended the July meeting which was held in the Village Hall. The main problems highlighted were overgrowth from adjacent hedges and trees and undergrowth, mainly long grass along the paths, around kissing gates and adjacent to way mark posts.

There were other tasks identified ranging from re-instating 'fallen down' way mark posts to adding new yellow caps and discs to way mark post to make them more visible.

The next meeting will be on **Saturday 18th September** in the Village Hall at 10.00am.

Group members will be reporting on the footpaths and bridleways in the parish which they will have recently surveyed, identifying any problems / issues with their path. All are welcome.

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

Continued on page 9 >>>



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Bedford Borough Local Plan 2040 – Have Your Say!

Each household in Wilstead should have received a 4-page document inviting you to 'Have Your Say' on the proposed plans for growth and development in the Borough.

The document explains the requirement for 12,500 additional dwellings in the Borough over the next 20 years on top of the 13,000 already identified in the existing Local Plan (which only extends to 2030).

Borough Planning have identified seven options for where the additional growth might take place - with sub-options against a number of them. They are concentrating on Option 2 within which 3 of the 4 sub-options would potentially include additional housing in Wilstead. (Wilstead is named among a group of parishes that together would be required to have between 2,000 and 750 additional dwellings.) Less favoured are Options which specifically mention 500 additional houses for Wilstead.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan for Wilstead identifies **no additional houses for Wilstead** over the next 15 years but has yet to be completed and accepted.

Following the 'Call for Sites' to landowners and potential developers last year the Borough have so far assessed about 12 sites within the village with a potential for 1,400 new houses. A large majority of the sites put forward were identified in the draft Neighbourhood Plan as 'Important Green Spaces' which need to be maintained to preserve the essential rural nature of the village.

It is vitally important that everyone has their individual say regarding the proposals. We need as many people to write to the Borough as possible to ensure that our voice is heard.

You can access the Local Plan Document at: www.wilsteadvillage.org.uk and click on the link **Local Plan 2040 Draft Plan**. There are three links shown. These are:

- The 7 options where development in the Borough might take place.
- The sites so far assessed within Wilstead with Borough comments against each.
- Arguments against further development in Wilstead.

Please have your say!

Eric Benton

Chairman | Wilshamstead Parish Council

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Wilshamstead Parish Council

Your Village Needs.....You

Wilstead is an active village with lots of great facilities, this is simply only possible due to the number of people who very kindly give their time to support these brilliant assets. Volunteering is rewarding and it would be great to see some more people coming forward.

The Wilstead Village Hall Management Committee are currently looking for an individual who can Chair and lead the wonderful group of members who keep the Hall running so smoothly.

The Parish Council has two vacancies at present. We are currently pursuing a number of exciting projects, from improvements to the play area at Whitworth Way, looking at ways to enhance the village visually, and improving highways safety along the village roads. Can you help us?

Bedford Borough Council Local Plan 2040 Consultation. As mentioned on page 3 in this Newsletter it is vital for residents to engage in this consultation which closes on Friday 3rd September. More information is at: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-its-purpose/local-plan-review/>

Telecommunications Mast

Towards the end of July the Parish Council were alerted to pre-application being sought for a large mast structure in the centre of the village. Contact was made with senior Borough Council Officers on 21st July to seek clarity on the application. The Parish Council were informed there was no current formal application that they had received as of 21st July.

A further review of the online planning portal on Monday 26th July, which was discussed in depth at the Parish Council meeting, showed an application received, validated, and a notice issued on Friday 23rd July.

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However, thanks to the intervention of our Borough Councillor, Graeme Coombes, Bedford Borough have now admitted an administrative error and confirmed that there has, as yet, been no formal application. When it is received the Parish Council will have the opportunity to comment.

The Parish Council are very concerned and strongly object to any central village location for a large mast, which would be totally out of keeping with the character of the village.

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.

Work is in progress for the re-opening of the Parish Office, the confirmation date will be circulated shortly.

Please note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 6th September** at 7pm in the small hall of the Village Hall.



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Newsflash!

Wilstead won the Houghton v Wilstead Golf Cup 2021 with a very well contested total of 9½ points to Houghton's 8½ points.

Full details in the September issue of the Wilstead Newsletter.

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Wilstead Village Hall

The WVHMC AGM did take place on 23rd June and although a Committee was formed, nobody volunteered to be the new Chairperson. It was very disappointing that only one new person volunteered to be on the Committee. Come on people, where is your community spirit? The Hall cannot run much longer by a tired bunch of volunteers who have been on the Committee for many years now!

Now that Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted by the Government (unless changes have been made since writing this article), you might be asking 'how does this affect Wilstead Village Hall'?

The Hall Committee is strongly encouraging all hirers and users to follow the government guidance in that 'everybody needs to continue to act carefully and remain cautious'. Therefore, we are asking everyone to: -

- Keep a distance from people not from your household or bubble.
- Wear face masks, especially when in close proximity to other people.
- Use the hand sanitizer and/or wash your hands regularly.
- Use the displayed QR codes to check in using the NHS COVID-19 app, or the hirer to continue collecting customer contact details to support NHS Test and Trace.
- Keep the Hall well ventilated.
- Encourage the use of tissues to trap coughs and sneezes. 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It.' Additional bins with bin liners will remain in place in the Hall for this purpose.
- Use the disinfectant sprays and disposable cloths which will continue to be provided in each area for hirers to wipe over any surfaces and tables if they wish to do so.

The risk of catching or passing on COVID-19 is higher in crowded spaces and although there is not a Covid-19 restriction with numbers in the Hall at present, the above is particularly relevant to hirers using the Hall for parties, dancing, singing, performances and big events. Please think carefully as to how you are organising an event if wishing to hire the Hall.

If you wish to enquire about making a booking, please see the hall advert in this Newsletter or look at www.wilsteadvillage.org.uk and click on Village Hall for any information on rates of hire, conditions of hire, COVID-19 procedures etc.

Angela Fosbrook | Wilstead Village Hall Secretary.
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Elstow Cricket Club

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

Hopefully by the time you read this Elstow will, at the third attempt, have made it into a mid-week cup final having been narrowly defeated by Eaton Socon and Flitwick in the respective East Beds Charity Cups (mid-week cup team pictured). The Elstow Rabbits face Blunham in the Mid-Week League cup semi on the 4th August at The Warren.

The Saturday 1st XI are moving up the table in the FCCL Division 1 and whilst the 2nd XI haven't picked up a win for a couple of weeks signs are very good with excellent contributions from a number of the young players in the squad. On Sundays the 1st XI are in mid table in a very tough Bedfordshire County League Division 2 while the 2nd XI made up almost entirely of U16 players are 4th and have had some fantastic results so far including an impressive innings from young Henry Jones who smashed 150 off just 118 balls in a comprehensive win. The Elstow Rabbits (mid-week team) are also going well and they currently sit 2nd in Division 1.

The Elstow Belles (ladies/girls) team continue to train on Tuesday evenings and would welcome any girls or ladies who are keen to join a club, do a bit of exercise and have some fun. All ages and abilities are more than welcome.

In youth cricket all of our teams are going well with some significant wins. We continue to field strong teams at U9, U11 (2 teams), U13, U15 and we also field a team in the U18 East Beds Shield. Age group cricket continues to thrive under the watchful eye of our Youth Development Manager Geoff Couling. The Warren is packed on Friday evenings when kids training takes place.

We are always looking for coaches and helpers, particularly on Fridays so please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

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 or watching your kids training. All are welcome to pop along for a beer or a cuppa.

Continued on page 8 >>>

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

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>>> Continued from page 7

In line with Government and ECB guidance we continue to be cautious and as such we are still not opening the facility fully. All refreshments are served outside, we have a regular monitored cleaning regime and signage promoting social distancing is in place.

As with all clubs we are always on the look-out for volunteers. If you can help at all or would just like to be part of the Elstow CC family then please get in touch. Thanks.

After the success of Ladies Day and Vice Presidents Day in July we now look forward to our End of Season celebrations which will take place on the bank holiday weekend of 28th and 29th August. Again all are welcome to come and celebrate what has been another fantastic season and who knows we may even have some more trophies to parade.

Please visit our new website 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



Macmillan Coffee Morning 2021

In view of the on-going confusion with respect to the current Covid crisis, we have decided not to hold our usual Wilstead Macmillan Coffee morning in September in its regular form. As last year we plan to place donation boxes in various places around the village and to rely on the proven generosity of the residents of Wilstead to contribute to what is a particularly worthwhile charity.

Hopefully we will be holding our usual 'Coffee & Cake' big get together next year.

Mary, Alison, Heather, Di and Viv

>>> Continued from page 2

New Seat

The Group has been instrumental in getting a new seat installed on the ridge overlooking the village with views across to Bedford and beyond. This seat is next to the re-aligned Footpath 7 which runs from the end of Ivy Lane up past the Woods to go over the ridge to join the footpath which runs to North Lane Haynes. This re-alignment avoids two Crossfield paths and now goes around these fields.

The seat and its installation has been paid for by a local resident in memory of a loved one who used to go and sit and contemplate on the rickety bench beside the old alignment.

Borough Paths

It was hoped to help the Borough undertake surveys of paths in other parishes. Each parish is meant to have its paths surveyed every six years though some parish surveys are already overdue.

There are only a few tablets available to undertake such electronic surveys so it may be that we just undertake the six yearly survey of Wilstead paths (some 11 miles) using a tablet borrowed from the Borough. Around ten members of the Group have said they would help with these surveys.

One of the Group has been on a Borough training course and a few sample paths in Wilstead have been electronically surveyed in order to check that the surveys are being undertaken correctly and no information is missed out. The Borough have looked at the submitted survey data and validated it so that it is now on the Borough database. In addition feedback was provided to the Group including answering some of the queries raised by the Group.

Footpath Work

Hopefully the work identified at the last Group meeting can be addressed in the next few weeks. We just have to check that the equipment (mower, brushcutter, strimmers etc) are still in working order and the fuel hasn't 'gone off'. Then we can resume work on the paths, which bar a few caps and discs added to way mark posts, has been in abeyance for many months.

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

The July walk was cancelled but hopefully we will be able to resume the monthly walks on Friday 6th August. Probably around Broom. Meet at Whitworth Way car park at 6.15pm. Keep an eye out for posters on the noticeboards. If you want a lift please bring a mask.

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

Below are provisional dates for rest of the walks in 2021:

Sunday 5th September Afternoon

Sunday 10th October Morning

Sunday 21st November Morning.

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Out and About in the Sun and Rain

Summer means the club takes a break from meeting in the Village Hall and gets out and about. The weather can make this even more exciting!

In July we visited Kathy Brown's garden in Stevington. This has been developed over the past 30 years and changed from formal planting to a more contemporary style and includes a series of stunning art inspired areas. It was good to hear they have had similar issues to us in our own gardens, box blight and lavender beetle.

As well as the beautiful garden we had a display of atmospheric wonder, black clouds, rain, thunder and lightning! We had tried to blow the clouds back but that didn't work. A bonus was being able to sit in a shelter together and enjoy delicious homemade cakes. Despite this we were able to see a large part of the garden with explanations from Kathy herself, as well as a spectacular sunset across the wild meadow.

This garden is open every Tuesday, some Saturdays and Bank Holidays and well worth a visit. There are also special events like edible flowers and apple pressing and don't forget the cakes! Booking is online.

By the time you read this we will have had our village open gardens in the Whitworth Way area. This year we have six gardens to visit then a get together for refreshments. We usually do this in June, so it will be interesting to see a different season and how the wet, dry, hot, cool weather has affected our own gardens.

Meetings will resume in the village hall in September, arrangements will depend on any restrictions. Further details next month.

Enjoy the rest of summer.

Maralyn, Mary, Viv and Lynda
wilsteadgardenclub@hotmail.com

Award Winning Interactive Musical Fun Show for Pre-School Children



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For more information, contact

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All Saints Church

We plan to hold services on each Sunday. Arrangements have been made to have visiting clergy taking the services as follows:

- Sunday 1st August. The Bishop of Bedford, (Eucharist)
- Sunday 8th August. Morning Prayer
- Sunday 15th August. Revd P Littleford (Eucharist)
- Sunday 22nd August. Revd Helen Gardner (Eucharist)
- Sunday 29th August. Revd Jennie Cappleman (Eucharist)
- Sunday 5th September. Revd P Littleford (Eucharist)

The services are at 11.00 am and all are welcome to join us. We are now able to sing hymns.

As regards events we have planned Coffee Mornings:

Wednesday 25th August. At Viv Riddle's house, 73 Whitworth Way - 10.30 am until midday

Wednesday 26th September. At the Chapter House 10.30 am until midday.

Please support these, they are vital to our fund-raising efforts as we still have to pay our dues to the Diocese in spite of the fact that we have no vicar.

Looking ahead we have planned Coffee Mornings and a Soup and Pudding Lunch.

We hope to have an Advent Fair with Christmas Tree Festival weekend with a village carol service in the first weekend of December. Details to follow in subsequent Newsletters.

Robert Heley

Wilstead Players

At last, thank goodness, things seem to be moving on the Wilstead Drama Front!

Firstly, the production of 'The Wizard of Oz' planned for March 2020, and inevitably put on hold owing to Covid, is now being considered for Spring 2022.

All cast members should have received an email asking them to state whether they would again be available for this production. If it is at all feasible we should be starting up again with as much of the original cast as possible.

Secondly, older Wilstead residents may remember the founding of The Wilstead Players in October 1971, which makes this October our 50th Anniversary. We hope to lift everyone's spirits with a production called 'Make 'em Laugh' made up of sketches and comedy items, both old and new, with informal seating in the Village Hall.

We hope to perform this later in the year. More details in future Newsletters.

If anyone appeared with us in those early years please make yourself known to us, particularly if you fancy treading the boards again in any sort of capacity.

Jackie Tanswell | 01234 740782

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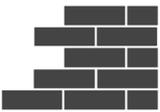
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Bedford Borough Councillor

Coronavirus in Bedford Borough

Although many COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted it is still important to exercise caution.

The Borough Council is asking people to:

- Get tested regularly
- Self-isolate if told to by NHS Test & Trace
- If you can, wear a face covering in public places
- Meet up with others outdoors rather than indoors

More information about the lifting of restrictions can be found at the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

Vaccine rollout

The vaccine rollout continues. There are a number of drop in centres available around the Borough where residents not yet vaccinated can go. Details of locations and times can be found on the BLMK CCG website: <https://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/drop-in-covid-19-vaccination-sessions-available-for-people-aged-40-and-over/>

East West Rail – Wixams Station

There has been much discussion recently about the East West Rail (EWR) project and, locally, its impact on Wixams Station. There were five route options to consider, two of which went through Bedford Town Centre and three that took a southern route, broadly along the line of the A421.

The Mayor asked me to support a route through the centre of town, stating that a southern route might prejudice Wixams Station, either delaying it further, or turning it into a 'crossover' station, with EWR, and potentially outside of Wixams.

Therefore I supported the town centre option and selection of route E when it was chosen.

However those living near the chosen route are opposed. The Mayor claimed if an alternative southern route was chosen, houses in Wixams could be demolished.

I believe this is appalling scaremongering, without merit or justification,

The EWR consultation has now closed and a response from the East West Rail Company is expected later in the year.



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Ward Boundary Review

The Boundary review closed on Monday 15th July. I have objected to the proposed three Councillor Wixams and Wilstead ward.

I have proposed a 2 member ward, covering the parish of Wilstead and Wixams. The final recommendations from the Boundary Commissioners will be released on Tuesday 31st August.

Bedford Borough Town Deal

Bedford Borough will receive £22.6 million from the Government, following a successful bid for a Town Deal. This will rejuvenate the town with a number of projects, including:

- Regeneration of the Station Quarter and Midland Road
- Public realm improvements to St. Paul's Square
- Improvements to town centre junctions
- Upgrades to local pedestrian and cycling infrastructure
- Investment in health, science and digital skills and full fibre broadband

Local Plan 2040 Update

The new Local Plan 2040 draft is now available. A consultation called 'The Draft Plan: Strategy Options and Draft Policies Consultation' runs from Tuesday 29 June to Friday 3 Sept 2021.

New Bike Shelter in Bedford Town Centre

A new bike storage shelter has now opened near Harpur Square complementing the bike racks already there.

To access the shelter, cyclists need to email sustainable.transport@bedford.gov.uk with their full name, address in Bedford Borough and phone number. They will then receive details on how to access the unit and will need to download the 'Okey Access' app on their smart phone.

The bike storage unit uses secure encrypted Bluetooth and 'Near Field Communications' to communicate between your phone and the shelter, you do not need internet access. This is the UK's first ever cycle hub to feature an app-based locking and booking system that can be managed from your smart phone or tablet.

Cllr. Graeme Coombes

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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

Wilstead & Wixams



In July we met in a pretty warm hall reading 30 centigrade and with 11 people present. It also happened to be Stage 4 of the Covid precautions so, with everyone's consent, we were at last able to remove our masks. Phew!

Painting is so much more enjoyable that way.

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 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.

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.

We meet every Monday from 2pm until 4pm in Wilstead Village Hall but not on Bank holidays.

Enquiries: Michael Bradley

Mobile: 07526 939164.

Email: revmichael14@outlook.com



Man with Eagle by Wendy Snare



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10.30am start | £3 per adult

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Drive down Brook Lane over the bridge and park at the barn.

Hopefully, we will have a bright sunny day which will bring out a good number of these enchanting creatures. John will share his knowledge and enthusiasm for the lovely dragons and damsels! Families are especially welcome.

Booking is essential, as places are limited.

To book places or for additional information email **Ann** on: flitvale.info@gmail.com or 'phone: 07580178889.

Open to all. Events have group size limits. Please reserve.

Please note that for much of the walk, we shall be on a boardwalk leading to the pond and this can be slippery when wet. The area surrounding the pond and some areas of the Reserve can be wet and muddy. Please keep children under supervision at all times. Please make sure you have appropriate footwear. It would be a good idea to bring binoculars if you have them. We very much look forward to seeing you!

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Flit Vale Local Group www.flitvale.org.uk

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Friday 28 August

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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.

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

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Sue Ryder Coffee Morning Saturday 4th September Village Hall - 10.00am to 12.00 noon

It's Back!

(Covid-19 allowing)

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After the difficult and extremely trying time we have all had it's time to try and get back to as near a sensible normal as we can. So if you can, please support the work that the Hospice has continued to provide throughout the pandemic.

Social distancing rules will be followed.

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