



Wilstead NEWSLETTER

including Parish Council News

January 2021

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

Change of Personnel at the Wilstead Newsletter Editorial Team

The Editorial Team are pleased to welcome a new member to our volunteer group. Simone Milligan has kindly agreed to take on the task of graphic designer, to ensure our popular and useful publication continues to reach everyone in our village.

We know that all the volunteers and everyone in the village will join us in welcoming her and wishing her every success in this role, and we will do all we can to make the transition as smooth as possible.

The Editorial Team

New PCSO to cover the Area

PCSO Chloe Dymock is the new PCSO for the North Rural Community Team which, based at Riseley Police Station, covers Wilstead and twelve other areas.

PCSO Dymock will be working closely with other member of the Rural Team to understand the different areas, the three Groups having been split into two.

PCSO James Dancer will cover the Groups not covered by PCSO Dymock.

PCs Kerry Jones and Amanda Harveys are still on the Team with the hope that another PC will joining in January or February.

Report any crime or suspicious incidents on 101, 999 or online at the Bedfordshire Police website.

All enclosed articles are subject to current Covid19 restrictions

Contents this month include:

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CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

**Assault Without Injury -
Common Assault and Battery**
Tuesday 17th November at Midnight
Cotton End Road

Harassment Without Violence
Between 11.45am Wednesday 4th November
and 8.47am Thursday 19th November

Blackmail - Indictable
Sunday 1st November 8.40pm

**Wounding with intent to do
Grievous Bodily Harm**
Sunday 1st November 8.26pm
Longmeadow Drive

Crime Recorded for nearby Villages

Cardington 3, Cople 3, Cotton End 3,
Shortstown 31 and Wixams 7.

The above Recorded Crimes are the latest available and are for the period up to 30th November.

Your Co-ordinator is:

Bowls Club News

Unfortunately there will no short mats for the present time. Phil Hubbard will be sorely missed by our Club. We will not be able to re-open again until we hear news from the government that it will be safe to do so.

We are hoping to hold the Club AGM in early February. We will notify our members nearer the time, and hope we might be back to normal by then.

Barbara Carter is our County Ladies President for 2021, and we send our good wishes that all goes well for her. Hopefully we will be able to bowl outside normally by April/May as Barbara starts her term of office with a church service in April followed by Ladies President's Day the following week.

Our bar has missed all the regular customers and looks forward to when we can open again.

Hoping everyone is keeping well and safe, wishing a good bowling year for 2021.

Jean Ward - Secretary

Community Emergency Restoration Team (CERT) Coordinator

This role is becoming available in the New Year.

Since 2007 Wilstead has had an Emergency Plan, outlining some of the things that may be a risk to our community and how to prevent or mitigate the problems. Several members of our community have volunteered to help in an emergency by offering equipment, facilities and time. This includes many of the facilities we use each week in our village plus many community members who, whilst not known to everybody, are there when called upon.

If you would like to get involved by supporting your community by co-ordinating local emergency planning and working with others in a broader emergency contingency planning, then this role may suit you.

The role requires keeping the emergency plan for Wilstead up to date and working with a small group of volunteers and members of the community, who have become voluntary supporters, providing their facilities and equipment when called upon in an emergency.



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Some of the key qualities required are:-

- Ability to follow instructions
- Effective communicator
- Logical approach to problem solving
- Team working
- Awareness of the role of a Community Emergency Responder
- Aware and respectful to the Emergency Services Hierarchy
- Respectful, friendly and honest
- Able to attend training sessions
- Willing to work in the elements

Desirable qualities include:-

- Able to work under pressure
- Knowledge of local area
- First Aid Trained
- Full UK Driving licence

The role can have a broader scope for those who would like to be part of the regional scheme of volunteers and organisations that provide specialised facilities, such as St. John's Ambulance and many other national support groups.

This group is known as Bedfordshire and Luton Emergency Volunteer Executive Committee (BLEVEC). This group provide regular training on how to deal with specific emergency situations.

As the CERT Coordinator and member of BLEVEC you will become part of a national organisation that provides strategies and plans to help cope with wider reaching emergencies with regular training and exercises to demonstrate how well things have been planned.

This role is a voluntary one, that will enable you to become part of a bigger team and help your community. It is supported by the Wilshamstead Parish Council locally and by the Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils in this region.

If you would like to find out more go to www.bedfordshireprepared.org.uk and download the information pack. If you are interested, contact the Parish Council.

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Wilshamstead Parish Council

January Parish Council Meeting Change

Please note the January meeting is now to be held on **Monday 11th January at 7pm**, so you can access the online meeting and log on. If you would like to take part in the meeting and raise something under Open Forum, or just to observe the Parish Council then please do contact Lizzie, to join the meeting.

Installation Of Mini Roundabout At The Crossroads, Lineage To Prevent Parking In This Locality And Changes To The Pedestrian Crossing In Luton Road By Briar Bank.

Following the information within the last Newsletter the Parish Council have been in continued dialogue with the Borough Council Highways Officers.

Information was shared on social media and on the Parish Council website.

We would like to thank those of you that have fed back your comments on the proposals. Naturally, questions have arisen, which the Parish Council is not always able to answer. A number have been directed at the Borough Officers to seek clarity and reassurance.

There have also been suggestions of amendments to help the works be effective and these have also been fed back. These include yellow lines for both corners of Church Road (not just Church Road/ Bedford Road).

The Borough Council are also in the process (or may already have by the time this goes to print) of contacting residents who will be impacted by this work and a letter is due to be sent to residents.

We would encourage residents to review the information and if you have any specific questions then please do feel you can get in touch with the Parish Council so these can be followed up.

The works are planned to be taking place from **7th January** through to **10th February**. A set of plans is shown on the Parish Council website and Bedford Borough Council should be contacted if you have any questions on the proposed work. This can be done via emailing:

highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk.

Please copy in the clerk at

clerk@wilsteadparishcouncil.org

That way we can keep track of its progress as well.

The Parish Council also has been notified that the three roundabouts on the A6 will be resurfaced shortly after the completion of the work above in Wilstead.

Have A Look At The Parish Council Website...

You will find lots of local useful information on the website, the latest news from the Parish Council and items such as the proposed highways drawing plans as detailed above. The website can be found at: www.wilsteadparishcouncil.org

Christmas Decorations

The Parish Council would like to thank all the many residents who have been involved in bringing some festive cheer to Wilstead this Christmas. There have been many positive comments on this and it is planned for this to become a village tradition in future years.

Proposed Changes To Borough Ward Boundaries Consultation

The Parish Council did submit a strong statement in response to this consultation stating that Wilshamstead Parish should be warded with Wixams given the number of shared local community facilities. The Parish Council also detailed that if this was not achievable then warding with Elstow would be more in keeping given the history of the two rural communities, instead of being warded with Cotton End, Cardington and Cople.

Parish Council Vacancies

Please remember the Council still have some vacancies, so if you are interested in making a difference then do get in contact with the Clerk, Lizzie, or one of the Parish Councillors to express an interest or just to find out more.

How Do I Contact The Parish Council?

The best way to do is this via email by sending a communication to the Clerk, please note this is possibly a different email address to the one you have used previously. To confirm it is:

clerk@wilsteadparishcouncil.org

As previously advised, the Parish Council office is not open at present, so the best way to contact the Clerk is via email as indicated above.

All Saints Church

Events cannot be planned at the moment due to the current situation. Until told otherwise, it is hoped to hold services on Sunday morning.

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PayPal Scams - Again!

The Police are warning people selling items online to be on the lookout for criminals sending fake PayPal emails.

Between January 2020 and September 2020, 21,349 crime reports were made to Action Fraud about fake PayPal emails. Victims reported losing a total of £7,891,077.44 during this time.

Those targeted included people selling jewellery, furniture and electronics via online marketplaces.

Reports of fake PayPal emails to Action Fraud made up a third of all reports of online shopping and auction fraud during this period.

How does it happen?

Criminals have been targeting people selling items online, by sending them emails purporting to be from PayPal. The emails trick victims into believing they have received payment for the items they're selling on the platform.

Typically, after receiving these emails, victims will ship the item to the criminal. This leaves them at a further disadvantage having not received any payment for the item and also no longer being in possession of it.

How can you protect yourself?

- **Sellers beware:** If you're selling items on an online marketplace, be aware of the warning signs that your buyer is a scammer. Scammers may have negative feedback history, or may have recently set up a new account to avoid getting poor feedback. Don't be persuaded into sending anything until you can verify you've received the payment.
- **Scam messages:** Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details.
- **How to spot the difference:** A PayPal email will address you by your first and last name, or your business name, and will never ask you for your full password, bank account, or credit card details in a message.

If you think you've been a victim of fraud, report it to Action Fraud online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

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Wilstead Newsletter Dates for your Diaries

To all our contributors and delivery volunteers: below are the **deadline** and **delivery dates** for 2021. If you could bear these in mind for future contributions etc., that would be most helpful.

Month	Deadline	Publishing
February	22nd January	5th February
March	19th February	5th March
April	19th March	2nd April
May	23rd April	7th May
June	21st May	4th June
July	18th June	2nd July
August	23rd July	6th August
September	20th August	3rd September
October	17th September	1st October
November	22nd October	5th November
December	19th November	

North Rural Community Priority Update From Bedfordshire Police

I am glad to report that there were only 5 burglaries in the north rural villages in November 2020, which is compared to 22 in November 2019. So, this is a fall of 17 which is 77%. The most recent lockdown may have been an influence on these figures as more people would have been at home.

However, there was an increase in *Attempted Burglaries*, with 7 being reported in the month compared to 4 in November 2019.

Burglaries in Businesses saw no change, with 7 reports in both November 2019 and 2020. Although there were 2 Attempted Business Burglaries this year, with none in 2019.

PCSO 6753 James Dancer

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- Home visits to help complete benefit application forms for people who are unable to visit our office.
- Community Support Workers who will work long term with clients who have more complex needs.

- In depth advice and support for vulnerable older people who otherwise would suffer from living in cold homes.

- Telephone Befriending Network supported by the Harpur Trust in Bedford Borough.

●

Our services are delivered in a caring, friendly and professional manner, through our team of fully trained, dedicated staff and volunteers.

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Neighbourhood Watch Crime Survey

The national Neighbourhood Watch Crime Survey was conducted online using the Survey Monkey platform from 30th July to 21st August 2020.

A detailed report will be published shortly and a link to this report will be published in the Newsletter.

Foot Health Professional

Samantha Skelton BSc MCFHP MAFHP

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Fingers and Toes Crossed for a Better 2021

We very much hope that you and your family kept safe and well over the Christmas festivities and that you managed to have a pleasant time. At the time of writing the future is still very uncertain. As with everyone else, we want to provide a safe environment for our meetings and we will do our best, within restrictions and guidelines to hold meetings.

If circumstances allow, the next meeting is planned for **Tuesday 19th January** at 2.30 pm when we hope to have a fascinating talk from Guy Lambourne about willow weaving. Not just confined to baskets and fences, willow can provide interesting living structures in the garden. As it grows, any mistakes can be rectified, so even a skill for the less proficient.

If there is any change to this meeting, members will be sent an email or a note before the meeting.

Now for the quiz answers:

1. Albertine, Rambling Rector and Crimson Shower are all varieties of? **Roses**
2. Which county is the home to RHS garden Rosemoor? **Devon**
3. Early Purple Wight is a variety of? **Garlic**
4. You would grow nymphaea where? **In water**
5. Are we being asked to stop using sand, loam or peat when planting? **Peat**
6. Who introduced the practice of decorating Christmas trees to this country? **Prince Albert**
7. Where was the Wollemi Pine discovered? **Australia**
8. Which fruit is used to make Perry? **Pears**
9. Frankincense and myrrh are created from the bark, sap or roots of these rare trees? **Sap**
10. Are the bright colours on poinsettias leaves, bracts or flowers? **Bracts**

How did you do? Thank you Mary for the questions and answers.

We hope to see you all again very soon.

Maralyn, Lynda, Viv and Mary

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Good Luck To Our Graphic Designer

After many, many years of service to Wilstead Newsletter, our graphic designer, Linda Marlton, and her husband Pete, are moving away from the village.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank her for all the hours she has spent to make our Newsletter as good as it is today.

Every month she produces a professional and pleasing publication, with the help of the rest of the volunteer team.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for everything, and to wish her and Pete the very best luck in their new home.

The Editorial Team

Speeding in Rural Villages

Many motorists are travelling at speeds greater than the set limit in local parishes and villages. In some cases, there are records of motorists at 63mph in a 30mph limit and another at 79mph in a 40mph limit.

The set speed is a limit and not a target, and driving conditions will worsen over the winter months.

The Police advise us they will continue to look at speed limits and conduct speed enforcement throughout local villages. They further advise they will deal with speeding motorists when necessary.

Those who see speeding as an issue may be interested in joining a local SpeedWatch group. SpeedWatch enables volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally.

SpeedWatch is an educational and awareness programme which highlights the speed of which the motorist is travelling and is not about enforcement. If you would like further information, please contact the Neighbourhood Watch team.

PCSO 6753 James Dancer



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Update on Our Good Neighbours Scheme

I am sure the village grapevine has already made it known that the two groups from Wilstead and Wixams have now agreed and implemented the agreement to merge and we are now one organisation.

Leon Staszak is now Vice Chairman to assist me, together with a couple of Wixams committee coming on board as well to represent the larger community.

We also have gained a few new volunteers with more looking to join which is a good thing for our future. Apart from that announcement there has been little else change as the recent increase in lockdown levels has meant very little increase on the low levels of requests our group has had to respond to but we are still open for business.

We just have to evaluate each request on it's merits in order to protect our volunteers and of course our clients, we are still having to abide by government guidelines and the same local guidelines apply as mentioned in my last insert.

The villager (client) has to have and wear their own face mask and be on their own. The volunteer must also wear their own face mask. The client must be 'ambulatory', not needing assistance to get to or from the vehicle, preferably without additional walking aids.

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If a walking aid must be used the volunteer must wear protective gloves to handle the aid and use a sanitiser spray to wipe the aid down before placing it in their vehicle. The client should not have any luggage (other than handbag) and must sit in the rear seat opposite the driver and preferably have a window open.

A seat cover (which we can supply) should be used over fabric seats. A sanitiser spray must also be used to wipe down seats, door handles, seat belts and anything the client could have touched after job completion. The volunteer should not take the client into any premises.

The Thursday Coffee Shop will not be opening anytime soon as it is going to be difficult to abide by social distancing rules, assuming we can get use of the Church Hall again. However we are keeping an eye of things and want to re-open as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

More info as it comes in.

Have a happy New Year.

Look after yourselves and keep well.

Regards to all.

Rick Baxter | Chairman WWGNS

740854 | WWGNS Phone 07807 408928

Local Burglary Update

In addition to the **North Rural Priority Update from Bedfordshire Police**, we have been advised that although burglaries remain low – just two with one *Attempted* – during the period 12th to 19th December – residents should not relax taking measures to protect their property.

As well as the two Burglaries there was a *Suspicious Incident* and a *Distraction Burglary* where money was taken.

Although the above have not taken place in the Village, residents are advised to be aware of persons or vehicles in the area that seem suspicious or catch attention.

A further reminder - report **ALL** information and suspicious incidents to the Police website www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report or ring 101.


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Our Flitvale Wildlife Trust group has been quiet for a while. Our attempts to arrange some socially distanced walks started well with a tree walk in Maulden Woods in early October. It was then abruptly stopped again with the second lockdown. Hopefully we will be able to start walks again in spring 2021.

Impressed by the quality of Zoom talks and question-answer/chat opportunities arranged by other groups we are hoping to go ahead with two evening talks in the New Year:

**27 January 2021 - Talk on 'Moths'
by Andy & Melissa Banthorpe**

Our County moth recorders will give an insight into these fascinating insects, including the trends in moth migration and how this is changing with climate change.

24 February - Talk on 'Future Wildlife' by Brian Eversham, CEO of the Wildlife Trust, BCN

Brian will speculate on what our wildlife might be like in 50 years' time, if the Trust succeeds in its aims? A thought-provoking discussion of future habitats and the species which may live in them, especially in response to the warming climate.

Please contact Ann de Winter (our Event Organiser) on flitvale.info@gmail.com if you wish to participate in these talks. She will send instructions on how to log on nearer the time.

Stay safe!

Julia Burkett

Chairwoman, Flitvale WLT Group

Future Advert Changes in the Newsletter

The Newsletter team are very grateful to everyone who advertises with the Newsletter, and the income generated enables us to cover the cost of printing.

Our team of volunteers make sure every property in Wilstead receive a copy, for which we thank them.

Whilst the change of personnel takes place, it would be most helpful if our advertisers could ensure all adverts and amendments are sent to us in PDF format. This will save time and a lot of work for us.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

The Editorial Team



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Online Shopping Fraud

Reports of online shopping fraud have surged by 30% over the pandemic as many of us continue to shop online in light of current restrictions.

Figures from Action Fraud show that criminals conned 17,407 shoppers out of almost £13.5 million over the Christmas period last year, an increase of over 20% when compared to the same period in 2018.

Action Fraud is warning the public to take extra care when shopping online, as shoppers search for bargains.

Top tips to shop online securely

Where to shop:

Making a purchase from an online store you haven't used before? Carry out some research first, or ask a friend or family member if they've used the site and about their experiences before completing the purchase.

Your information:

Only create an account if necessary or to save you effort if you're going to use that site a lot in the future.

Be cautious if the website asks you for details that are not required for your purchase, such as your mother's maiden name or the name of your primary school.

Payments:

If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, ensure that the webpage where you enter your payment details is secure (website address starts with "https").

Using a credit card to pay online also means that should the worst happen and your payment details are compromised, your main bank account won't be directly affected.

Phishing:

Some of the messages you receive about amazing offers may contain links to fake websites. Not all links are bad, but if you're unsure, don't use the link – go separately to the website. Report any suspicious emails you receive by forwarding them to: report@phishing.gov.uk

You can also report suspicious text messages by forwarding them to 7726.

For more information about how to shop online securely, please visit: actionfraud.police.uk/shoponlinesafely



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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

Village P3 Footpath Group Meetings

The next meeting was planned for **Saturday 9th January** starting at 10.00am. It would seem very unlikely that we will be able to have a face to face meeting but we may try a virtual one. The Group members will each report on the condition of one of the 17 Rights of Way around the village and identify any problems.

If you would like to see the Group 'in action' contact the number below and we will arrange for you to be sent an invite if we have a virtual meeting. If you fancy joining the group and help with the monthly path surveys then you will be most welcome. We can always use another pair of eyes. It is useful to have more than one view of any path.

If we don't then notes on the RoW surveys will be compiled, problems highlighted and work planned to overcome any issues/problems raised. If the work is too large for the Group to tackle then the Borough Rights of Way team will be contacted for assistance.

Hopefully by the time of the following meeting on **Saturday 13th March** vaccinations will be well underway, rules relaxed, hall open and we will be able to have our first face to face meeting in over six months.

Below are the rest of the provisional dates for 2021 meetings.

Saturdays: 8th May, 10th July, 11th September, 13th November.

Footpath Work

Recent weather has made the paths around the village a bit muddy in places but they are all walkable though wellies or walking boots/shoes may be advisable.

So whilst there appears to be no overgrowth or undergrowth problems to be sorted there does remain some broken way mark posts and faded way mark discs to be replaced. A few discs have been replaced in the last month but there remains quite a few faded ones left to replace.

There is also the gradual addition of yellow plastic caps to the over 100 way mark posts along the paths. These caps are intended not only to help with visibility of the posts but also prolong their life/ If you 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.

Map

If you would like a map which shows where these Footpaths and Bridleways are and how they connect with each other and neighbouring villages (Haynes, Elstow, Cotton End and Houghton Conquest) please contact the number below.

Walks

The New Year's Day walk was cancelled because of the virus. It is uncertain as to when we will be able to resume these monthly 4-5 mile wanders through the Bedfordshire countryside.

Keep an eye out for posters on the village notice boards at the Village Hall and at the Crossroads for information.

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:

Sundays 7th February am, 7th March pm, 11th April pm.

Saturday 8th May evening.

Fridays 18th June evening, 16th July evening, 6th August evening.

Sundays 5th September pm, 10th October am, 21st November am.

Nigel Jacobs

P3 contact 01234 400733

Delivery Scam

Customers are reporting money being stolen from their accounts after they have responded to fake emails from parcel delivery companies, like DPD.

Criminals are sending messages, pretending to be from parcel delivery companies like DPD or Royal Mail. The aim is to get you to click the link and give away your phone number and bank details. You will then receive a call from the criminals, pretending to be from your bank's fraud team, trying to persuade you to move your money to a 'safe account' or give away your card reader codes.

Many variations of this scam exist; from bogus claims of unpaid TV Licence or Vehicle Tax to fake HMRC Tax rebates and free Supermarket shopping vouchers.

The Police are working hard to keep you safe from fraud. If you think you may have given away your details to a scammer, please contact them immediately - they can help.

Newsletter DEADLINE

For any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

Friday 22nd January

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 5th February.

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.

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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

Who's Who:

Neighbourhood Watch, Wilstead.

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Remembrance Day 2020

This year, like most things, Remembrance Day was a little different because of coronavirus. Usually a parade would have taken place but this year the community was asked to remember in their own private way. As well as wearing a poppy, support was shown by using a digital poppy on social media sites, or by colouring in a downloadable poppy picture and displaying it in your windows.

The first two-minute silence in Britain was held on 11th November 1919, when King George V asked the public to observe a silence at 11am. This was one year after the end of World War One. He made the request so 'the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead'.

Wilstead, Houghton Conquest & Wixams Royal British Legion would like to thank all of the community for supporting this years Poppy Appeal. Our Remembrance Ceremony took place on Sunday 8th November and was a virtual event. The video can be viewed on our official Facebook page. www.facebook.com/rblwilstead or on YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxPICEAYe88

Thanks for all your support during the Poppy Appeal this year.

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