



Wilstead NEWSLETTER

May 2022
including Parish Council News

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

WILSTEAD FLOWER, PRODUCE AND HANDICRAFTS SHOW

This Year Will Be Held on
Saturday 27th August

At Last!! It looks as if the Wilstead Flower, Produce and Handicrafts Show will go ahead this year now that things are starting to get back to normal.

We have changed many of the classes in most sections from previous years that the show was going ahead, as some were getting a bit stale and we hope you will like the changes.

The new schedule will be printed in July and will be found in the Village Post Office. Meanwhile we will post the schedule on the Village website soon so keep an eye on www.wilsteadvillage.org.uk

The classes for the photographic section this year are:

- (1) Mist
- (2) Silhouette in black & white
- (3) A flowering shrub
- (4) A thatched building
- (5) Junior class - A bench

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

Linda and Ken Cook

All enclosed articles are subject to current Covid19 restrictions

Contents this month include:

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CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

Other Criminal Damage

Recorded Thursday 17th March
Hooked Lane

Criminal Damage to Vehicle

Between Friday 11th March
and Monday 14th March
Dines Close

Assault Without Injury

Wednesday 9th March 10.10am

Make/Supply Articles - Fraud

Recorded Wednesday 2nd March
Luton Road

Crime Recorded for nearby Villages
Cardington 1, Shortstown 17, Wixams 13.

*The above 'crime recorded' is the latest
available and is up to 29th March*

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Your Co-ordinator is:

Plant Swap Time

The Garden Club will be holding their annual plant swap on **Tuesday 17th May**. For those of you who don't know, members of the Garden Club bring their excess plants and hope to find other plants to swap. Plants can be annual flowering plants, perennial seedlings or perennial plants that have been split, vegetable plants and even small shrubs.

There are some rules to make the swap a success. A fine day always helps but should the weather not be kind we ask that plants come in a way that causes least mess if they need to be taken in the Hall. Small plants and seedlings should be in fairly dry compost to avoid muddy drips. Larger plants roots should be wrapped in paper to avoid soil spills.

The plant swap is open to all members of the Garden Club whether they have plants to swap or not. At the end of the meeting we can offer remaining plants to other members of the community.

The Garden Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month. In June, July and August we go out and about visiting other gardens and venues. This year we also plan an evening Bat Walk around Priory Marina. More details next month.

Wilstead Garden Club Committee.
Maralyn, Lynda, Mary, Viv and Julie.

New Pilates Course Wilstead Jubilee Centre

Starting **Thursday 12th May | 2.00pm – 3.00pm**

Bookings open Wednesday 30th March at 9.30am.

Book and pay online at
www.bedford.gov.uk/activeadults.

Active Adults is ideal for people who may never have tried sport before and would now like to have a go at something new or for adults who might have tried sport a long time ago and want to return to an activity in a relaxed, informal environment with other similar minded people.

All sessions are organised by the Bedford Borough Council Sports Development. The sessions are run exclusively for adults, run by experienced and qualified coaches and run for 8 weeks.

Due to COVID-19 we are unable to take cash or cheque for any courses this time.

All course bookings are on a first come first served basis. If the bookings are very low on specific courses we may need to cancel them at short notice (one week before the start of the programme).

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Wilshamstead Parish Council

Local Plan Important Update

At the time of writing, the meeting papers for the Borough Council Executive Committee have just been published, which include the draft Local Plan consultation document. This is the development framework and strategy for the Local Authority regarding housing development and employment areas.

There are some important items to note at first glance, though please be assured there is already a lot of work being undertaken to scrutinise the vast information contained within the recently published items which run to hundreds of pages.

The public consultation will run from **Wednesday 15th June to Friday 29th July**, full details on how members of the public can comment will be made available, and as usual the Parish Council will be arranging a number of ways to support residents through the process.

The document shows allocations to the following areas:

Adjacent to the urban area

HOU11 (3245) – land at Bedford River Valley Park – residential, education, open space and recreation including watersports lake – 1,000

HOU13 (636 1333) – Land at Gibraltar Corner, Kempston Rural – Residential and open space – 500

Total Adjacent Urban Area – 1,500

South of Bedford

HOU14 (1050 809 745 898 900 905) - Kempston Hardwick new settlement – New settlement – range of uses – 3,800

HOU15 (1004) – Land South of Wixams – Residential and open space – 300

HOU16 (3233) – Land East of Wixams – Residential, community, employment and open space – 1,800

HOU17 (1513) – Land at College Farm, Shortstown – Residential and open space – 1,000

HOU18 * - Land at former DVSA site, Shortstown – Residential – 150

EMP5 (634) – Land at Pear Tree Farm, Elstow – Business park – n/a

Total South of Bedford Dwellings – 7,050

Little Barford

HOU19 (907) – Little Barford New Settlement – range of uses – 3,800

Continued on page 4 >>>

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early years alliance

>>> Continued from page 3

Employment sites in other locations

EMP6 (764 761) – Land at Water End and St Neots Road – Business park – n/a

EMP7 (1005) – Land at College Farm, Black Cat Roundabout – roadside Services, industrial, warehousing and distribution – n/a

EMP8 (1355) – Land at Roxton, SW of Black Cat Roundabout – Warehousing and distribution uses – n/a

*Not submitted through the 'call for sites' process

Total Dwellings 13,528

Whilst on initial review it appears there is no specific site allocation to Wilstead, there are areas which are in close proximity to the Village, so these will be looked at in depth. (See HOU15 and HOU16 above totalling a potential 2,100 dwellings).

Please be assured the Parish Council will be reflecting and reviewing the documents in great detail and once the Executive Committee have or have not confirmed the consultation being taken forwards, Wilstead residents will be updated through the many various different platforms of communication.

To see the Executive Committee meeting documents in full please visit:

<https://councillorsupport.bedford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=116&Mid=5801&Ver=4>

As always if you have any questions or comments on any of the above please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk or any Councillor to talk these through.

Parish Tree Warden

The Parish Council would like to express its grateful thanks to John Quenby who for many years has served as the Tree Warden, which is an invaluable role that enables Parish Councillors to have someone with specific knowledge and skills in this important area to provide an opinion on tree related matters in the Parish. The Parish Council is also pleased to announce that Frances Maynard has kindly accepted taking on this role going forwards, and the Councillors look forward to working with her.

East West Rail Local Engagement Update

The Parish Council was invited to attend a local Stakeholders Group which has been set up by East West Rail. The meetings are to take place quarterly and more information on this group can be found at: <https://communityhub.eastwestrail.co.uk/lrg-bedford-marston-vale>

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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 on Mondays from 9.00am through until midday. You are welcome to pop in, ring or email Lizzie, in addition to raising any items with a Parish Councillor, if that is easier.

Please note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 16th May** at 7.00pm in the small hall of the Village Hall, face coverings will be required.

Bowls Club News

We are looking forward to a healthy season outside with good weather for bowling.

We start playing home and away matches from **Sunday 1st May**. The County competitions begin in the first week of May with the Ladies Rinks and the Senior 4's.

Men's Monday League starts on **Monday 9th May** and the Ladies Tuesday League starts on **Tuesday 17th May**. Wednesday Men's County League's first game is on **Wednesday 4th May** home to Dunstable town starting at 6.15pm.

We have a joint Captain's Day on **Saturday 21st May** followed by our Open Day on **Sunday 29th May** from 10.00am until 4.00 pm, when all are welcome to come and visit and have a try, a go on the green or inside on the short mats.

Jean Ward | Club Secretary

Test your smoke alarm!

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**

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 2pm-4pm. We don't meet on Bank Holidays.

On Saturday 7th May we are hoping to exhibit our artwork in Elstow Abbey church, so please come along and support us. You will be able to purchase original artwork at the May Fair.

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.



*Moonlight seascape in acrylic by Michael.
(Original in colour)*

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New Highway Code Changes

It is important that all road users are aware of The Highway Code and are considerate towards each other. Ultimately, knowing and applying The Highway Code will help keep our roads safe for everyone.

More people are taking up cycling and The Highway Code needs to keep pace with how people are using the roads. These changes to The Highway Code seek to improve safety for people walking, cycling and horse riding. They will help to ensure that interactions between all road users are safe and respectful.

The main changes (from 29th January 2022) included:

- **Drivers and riders should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross the road.**
- **Drivers to give priority to cyclists when they are travelling straight ahead.**
- **Guidance on safe passing distances and speeds when overtaking cyclists and horse riders.**

These changes aim to reinforce what good road users already do. They signpost the kind of community we want to live in; towns cities and villages that are friendly and safe for people to ride, walk and wheel.

Please have a look at the following link that will give you more information on the 8 changes:

[Gov.uk-highwaycodechanges](https://www.gov.uk/highwaycodechanges)

Stacey Moore | Community Safety Officer | Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

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

We have been helping older people for over 30 years with confidential advice and support. We work with Bedfordshire residents over the age of 50, their families, friends and carers, focusing on the individual client to ensuring their needs and wishes are prioritised.

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- Information and Advice on Benefit Entitlement, Health and Housing issues, Personal Budgets, Legal Matters and virtually any other matter relating to older people.
- 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.

If you or anyone you know would like more information, please contact us on the number below or visit our website www.ageukbedfordshire.org.uk

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Wilstead Village Hall

The Committee wish to apologise for having to close the Hall in April for 5 days but this was due to the Caretaker having Covid, the lack of an Assistant Caretaker and there not being any members of the Committee available who were either not working, not having Covid or physically not able to do the job.

Thankfully, later in the month, while the Caretaker was on holiday, some members returned to full health and shared the Caretaker role to the best of their abilities for that time. We could not give keys to hirers as we needed to know that the Hall would be left ready for the next hirer each time. This included Health and Safety aspects of cleaning toilets and sinks, sweeping floors, emptying bins and putting out tables etc., for those hirers unable to do so. Hence we apologise for any inconvenience caused during these times.

As you can see from the above comments, the Committee desperately need new people, preferably with some fitness but especially with enthusiasm to move the Hall forward. Please consider joining the Committee and attend the AGM on Thursday 19th May at 7.30pm in the Small Hall.

At the time of writing this article, the Committee continues to look for an Assistant Caretaker. Ideally the job is for a minimum of 6 hours per week but we are happy to adapt the requirements if need be. If nobody takes up the job, this could lead to the Hall not being open for hire every day! Therefore, please consider the post by contacting the Chairperson listed below.

We would like to thank a kind person who has been donating plants and time by planting in the Hall garden. Thank you very much whoever you are.

DON'T FORGET – AGM 19th May at 7.30pm

Sandra Spink | Chairperson
sanschambers@hotmail.com
07853395939

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Wilstead WI

Finally it feels like Spring has returned, but not before time. This Winter and Covid took its toll on WI meetings, with the January meeting cancelled due to illness and the February meeting held on Wednesday afternoon to allow members to come and go in daylight.

The March meeting was in the evening again, when we were our speaker, Alison Morgan, had us enthralled with her story of nurse turned crime fiction writer. On that note, the WI's programme for the next few months promises to lighten all our spirits.

Our May meeting will be a week later than usual, on **Thursday 12th May** rather than the 5th. As usual we start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The speaker is a Wimbledon umpire who will tell us about his experiences on that most prestigious of tennis courts. Non-members are welcome to attend for a small fee at the door.

Of course we had to do something extra special to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, so on **Thursday 2nd June** we will be replacing our usual evening WI meeting with a celebratory afternoon tea from 3pm to 6pm. Friends and family are welcome to join us at a cost of £5 each. We will need payment in advance, so please text Leah Batham on 07816835961 or email to leahbatham@yahoo.co.uk for details.

And on **Saturday 11th June**, the ever-popular Bedford Town Band Concert Brass will be back to perform a 'Last Night of the Proms' themed concert. This will start at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Tickets are £10 each and can be purchased at the Wilstead Village Shop and Post Office or obtained from Karen Cook (tel: 01234 403936 or email: karencook3@btinternet.com). Numbers are limited so get your tickets before they run out! Snacks are provided but you will need bring your own drinks.

Finally, on **Friday 1st July**, we have planned a trip to the Norfolk Broads. It's an all-day affair with a stop for lunch and a wander round the craft shops at Wroxham Barns, followed by a river boat cruise which we'll board at Horning. The whole day, including coach and boat cruise (but not food or drink) costs just £30. If you're interested, contact Karen Cook (see above) for more information on how to book.

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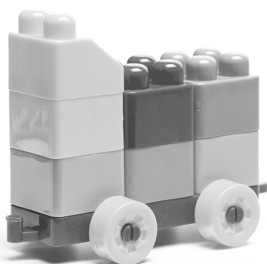
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All Saints Church News

We began our new schedule of services in the new Team Ministry on **Sunday 1st May**.

Details of our May Sunday Services
are as follows:

8th May 11.30am - Holy Communion
(Please note change of time)

15th May 11.00am | Holy Communion

22nd May 11.00am | Holy Communion

29th May 11.00am | Morning Prayer

We have a Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 18th May**
in The Chapter House from 10.30am.

A Summer Fete is planned for June/July date to be
agree but details will be in the June Newsletter.

Do you have a talent for flower arranging or are
you an enthusiastic amateur who would be willing
to make our Church of All Saints beautiful? We are
looking for anyone who would be willing to come on
a rota. Obviously the more people we have the less
often you would be called upon and perhaps we
could combine our efforts on special days, Easter,
Pentecost, Harvest etc.

We are also looking for donations in memory of loved
ones no longer with us, or special occasions such
as birthdays or anniversaries. This could be either
to provide the flowers or finance the purchase of
flowers on a yearly basis. If you can help in this way
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You can apply for membership to our Membership Secretary Sue Dee, 53 Mersey Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 7PP (01908 374881) or by subscribing at one of our meetings. Annual membership fees are £7.50 or £14 for two at the same address. (Entrance fees for National Trust properties will have to be paid by non-National Trust members during our day excursions and holidays.) We are scheduled for the following:

Day Visits 2022

Saturday May 14 – Chartwell

Saturday June 25 - Duxford

Monday July 11 - Elton Hall and Peterborough Cathedral

Holiday 2022

Sunday May 29 to Friday 3 June - North Yorkshire Holiday

Money raised through these activities are used to support National Trust projects. We meet once a month on the first Thursday of each month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, and scheduled lectures include:

Thursday May 5 - Claydon, Now You See It, Now You Don't - Frank and Daphne Preece

Thursday June 2 - The Underground Railroad - Patterned Path to Freedom - Kay Goddard

There will be further updates to these schedules as we recover from the pandemic and plans can be finalised. The meetings of the Milton Keynes National Trust Association are at the Oak Tree Centre, Wallinger Drive, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes MK5 7GZ. £2 for members of the MKNTA and £4 for non-members. The Oak Tree Centre is a well ventilated, light and airy place; hand sanitation facilities are provided and the use of face masks is a personal choice. Questions can be referred to Sue Dee via phone or via e-mail to sue-davedee@talktalk.net.

More information and a membership form can be found online at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/milton-keynes-association.

(Due to their upgrade project, our membership secretary info hasn't been updated on the website—the correct info is above).

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WILSTEAD & WIXAMS

The Wilstead afternoon tea/coffee shop celebrated an early Easter with the 'traditional' hot cross buns and Easter egg for those that attended on the 8th. There weren't many buns left at the end! And each visitor left with an egg to start the Easter break off. It was good to see the 20 or so happy faces.

We had a small meeting with the volunteers setting up the Wixams version of the tea/coffee shop and agreed a starting date of **Tuesday 3rd May** at 10:30am in the Swan room of Wixams Village Hall. I am sure they would welcome any visitors from Wilstead if you can get there. We wish them well with their Community Café project.

We are still looking for ideas for our Group to celebrate our Queens Jubilee in some form, so please come up with some suggestions to consider. You can leave messages on either of the phone numbers below. Don't be shy, give the grey cells a bit of a workout!

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

Regards to all.

Rick Baxter | Chairman WGNS
01234 740854 | WGNS Phone 07807 408928



Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline - If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

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Wilstead Pre School News

Wow. Can I just say a huge huge thank you to all those who attended our quiz night at the end of March.

It was just fantastic to see the Hall packed with people enjoying themselves and hearing the laughter.

It was our first fundraiser in over two years and I can't thank you enough for those who came and supported the event.

Huge congratulations to the winning team University Challenge. I hope your winners medals and cups are taking pride of place in your homes.

A massive thank you has to go to our absolute fantastic quiz master Sam who put so much effort in on the night and beforehand.

She's an absolute legend and gave her time for free and made the night a really entertaining one. Thank you!

We raised just over **£1000** which is a spectacular amount. We donated some of that money to the British Red Cross Ukrainian Appeal and we have already spent money on some much needed new toys and equipment for the children which after a difficult two years is much needed.

Thank you to parents for the money raised during our sponsored pancake race. Approximately **£300** was raised and this has been spent on some brilliant sensory toys and a special sensory den for all the children to use.

It's the final term of the year (time absolutely flies) which will be very busy and hopefully spent outside, playing with our new toys, in some glorious weather! Again many, many thanks for those who continue to support us.

It is **very** much appreciated by us all at Pre School.

Thank you | **Julia**

Wilstead Jubilee Centre Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 24th May | 8.00pm

in the **Jubilee Room**, off Bedford Road

All residents are invited to attend this AGM when new Officers and Committee Members will be elected.

For more information please contact the Secretary on 01234 742757 or at bookjcentre@icloud.com.

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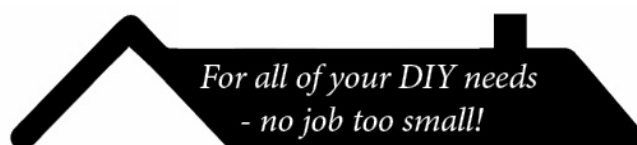
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This newsletter is published by Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch, part of Bedford & District NW Association, in close co-operation with Bedfordshire Police.

The Wilstead Village Website can be found at
www.wilsteadvillage.org.uk



Elstow Cricket Club Newsletter for 2022

(Local cricket club for Wilstead, Wixams, Elstow, Kingsbrook, Cauldwell and Other Surrounding Areas)

The season is now well under way and we hope for a long, hot summer and a successful season on and off the pitch. The Club has some ambitious ideas for 2022.

As well as growing its youth and adult membership, we are increasing the level of competitive cricket for our girls/ladies team (girls of all ages and abilities are welcome to join) and we are fundraising this year for a new net facility. We have a number of fundraising events planned, including our Annual Vice President's Day on **Saturday 9th July** and the return of Iceland for an International T20 tournament at the end of the season.

Teas are returning on Saturdays and The Pigeon Toe Inn, Elstow's Licensed refreshments bar, will be back to normal opening on Friday evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays during matches. We also hope to have some bbqs on Friday evenings. Please do come along and support the teams, have a drink and help us raise some funds towards our target. Thank you.

As always, we are looking for helpers with teas, running the bar, coaching and managing the youth teams and maintaining the grounds and equipment. If anybody would like to help or be part of our growing Club then please do get in touch.

Finally, fixture cards will be available from the bar when our training sessions takes place.

If you have any questions please get in touch by emailing us at elstowcricketclub@hotmail.co.uk or by calling one of our current committee members as follows:

Jim Tanswell | Chairman 07775 668123

Fiona Tanswell | Treasurer 07855 758696

Geoff Couling | Youth Development Manager
07577 609399

Ranvir Thiarra | First Team Captain 07590 375172

You can also visit our website elstowcricketclub.co.uk for more information and the latest news and fixtures.

P3 Footpath Group

Meetings

The next meeting is on the **Saturday 7th May** in the Village Hall at 10.00am. If you use the paths around the Village and would be interested in reporting on their condition then come along and see how the Group monitors the state of the eleven miles of Rights of Way in the Parish. Or come along if you just want to find out a bit more about them. Maps will be available and you will be made most welcome.

Work

Covid has continued to restrict work the Group has done on the footpaths and bridleways. However it is intended to restart this work in the next few weeks. The main work is to do with waymarking, either installing new posts where existing ones have rotted or replacing faded waymark discs with new ones.

Walks

The April walk started in Steppingley and went towards Ridgmont skirting Millbrook Warren. 18 villagers went on the five mile walk along footpaths, bridleways and byways beside pastures and arable fields and through woodland. Primroses and deer featured.

It was a fine day and the walkers were rewarded with great views over the rolling countryside in this part of Bedfordshire. Optional refreshments were taken at The French Horn.

The next walk will be on **Friday 6th May**. Meet at Whitworth Way car park at 6.30pm. This five mile circular walk will be in and around Maulden Woods. Hopefully it will feature lots of bluebells and will go along some of the less well trodden paths in the wood.

Please note that this May walk was going to be on the 27th May but re-arrangements (Covid again) has meant that it will now be earlier in the month.

Also the date of the June walk has changed. It will now be on **Friday 17th June**, a week earlier than previously planned.

Continued on page 16>>>

Newsletter

DEADLINE

For any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

Friday 20th May

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 10th June.

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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Who's Who:

Neighbourhood Watch, Wilstead.

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>>> Continued from page 15

To complete a trio of new walk dates the October walk will now be on **Sunday 30th October** (a knock on effect of Covid re-arrangements again!).

Come along if you fancy a wander through the Bedfordshire countryside. All welcome. Walking shoes/boots are recommended as bits of paths can be muddy, especially after rain.

If you would like more details on any of the above contact the number below.

Nigel Jacobs | 01234 400733

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