



# Wilstead *February 2025* **NEWSLETTER** *including Parish Council News*

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



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Your Co-ordinator is:



# Wildlife Trust for **Beds, Cambs & Northants**

**Flit Vale Local Group | Wildlife Walks & Talks | February & March**

## **Fundraising quiz for the Wildlife Trust**

**Friday 28th February | 7:00pm for 7.30pm start**  
Maulden Village Hall

Come along to our popular quiz and pit your wits against our fiendish quiz master! There are prizes for the winning team as well as spot prizes. Please note this is a cash only event for entry fee, drinks purchases and raffle. Ticket price includes a fish and chip supper or vegetarian alternative.

- Due to licensing restrictions, no drink can be brought into the venue.

Please email details of your teams, including team name and meal choices to Ann at [flitvale.info@gmail.com](mailto:flitvale.info@gmail.com).

Charge: **£14 per person**

An illustrated talk on  
**'Introducing Beavers to the Nene Valley - an update'**  
by Lara Jones of the Wildlife Trust, BCN.

**Monday 24th March | 7.30 pm**  
Maulden Church Hall (MK45 2AU)

Lara will give us an update on the reintroduction project in the Nene Valley. She will talk us through the past year of the project: the big wins, the challenges and what the future may hold.

Charge: **£4 per person**

Booking for outdoor and online Flit Vale events is essential, as places are limited.

Please contact Ann by email [flitvale.info@gmail.com](mailto:flitvale.info@gmail.com) or phone (leave a message or text if you prefer) 075801 78889 to reserve your place.

**The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire**

Registered charity number: 1000412 | [www.wildlifebcn.org](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)

Flit Vale Local Group [www.flitvale.org.uk](http://www.flitvale.org.uk)



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## Wilshamstead Parish Council Bedford Borough Council Local Plan Latest

At the time of writing the Parish Council are aware that Bedford Borough Council have called a meeting to give an update on the Local Plan document.

The Local Plan is the key strategic planning document for the Local Authority, that sets out the allocations for development as well as the associated planning policies that will be applied in terms of supporting growth with suitable infrastructure. Following on from changes announced by central government in regards to national planning policies, this has a knock on effect at local planning level, so this meeting called by Bedford Borough Council is expected to give local Parish Councils the latest on the current status.

Wilstead Parish Council are aware that there have been a lot of speculative planning applications being submitted by land owners and developers, not only in Wilstead but across Bedford Borough, so this meeting with the Local Authority will give a clear direction. Parish Councillors will be in attendance and as usual the Parish Council will look to share any relevant updates with residents across the usual platforms.

## 375 More Houses Proposed For Wilstead...

As detailed previously, residents are probably aware of the recent planning applications for: 24/01566/MAO an outline planning application for the erection of up to 149 dwellings and associated works at land to the South East of Duck End Lane and 24/02231/MAO outline application demolition of existing buildings and erection of up to 95 residential dwellings at land at Village Farm, 85 Cotton End Road.

In early January the Parish Council were notified of a further new application for 375 houses by Wates Development for land south of Wixams which is within the parish boundary of Wilstead.

Continued on page 4 >>>

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>>> Continued from page 3

The application is for an outline planning application up to 375 homes and associated infrastructure, the application number is 24/02463/MAO.

Bedford Borough Council will be determining all three planning applications, all three applications are being considered at present, so it is really important residents engage in the planning consultation process for all these sites.

If you have not had a chance yet to engage in the consultation process and have your say for these applications, there is still time to submit comments to the Local Authority who will take them on board up until the point of determining the application. Please send your comments to [planning@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bedford.gov.uk)

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

### Parish Council Membership Update

The Parish Council recently received a Councillor resignation from Jo Bampton, thank you to Jo for your support during your time on the Council. The Borough Council have been notified of the vacancy and as always if anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor or finding out more, then please do not hesitate to contact Lizze, the Parish Clerk, or any current Parish Councillor, to find out how to apply.

### East West Rail Public Consultation

The consultation recently closed, thank you to those residents who took the opportunity to engage in the consultation process and fed back your thoughts and views. The Parish Council did respond to the consultation, with one of the items being highlighted was concern over the parking for the main Bedford train station being sited on part of the current Bedford Hospital car park.

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## Dog Fouling

The Parish Council has received complaints from Allotment Holders about dogs fouling the pathways and tracks within the Allotments area. The track that leads to and from the Burial Ground is a 'Dogs on Leads' zone and only allotment holders may go beyond the track. Please be aware that if you are observed not clearing up after your dog you may be subject to a £75 on the spot fine or, if taken to court, subject to a £1000 fine. Further information is available here:

[www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/dog-control-and-welfare/dog-control-orders](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/dog-control-and-welfare/dog-control-orders)

## Contacting The Parish Council

The best way to contact the Parish Council is to email Lizzie (the Parish Clerk) at: [office@wilsteadparishcouncil.org](mailto:office@wilsteadparishcouncil.org)

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

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

Do not forget it is always more interesting to attend a Parish Council meeting in person to see what goes on and understand the range of items covered in trying to move improvements for the Wilstead community forwards.

Dates and the agenda are advertised on the village noticeboards, with meetings on a Monday starting at 7pm in the small hall at Wilstead Village Hall. (Head to the left-hand side of the main hall building and you will see the door open which is where the Parish Council will be). Everyone is most welcome to join us, on 10th February and 10th March.

Please mention the



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**Natalie Neighbour** MBACP  
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## Wilstead Village Hall

Good news! We are in the throes of appointing new caretakers, who hopefully will be in place during mid-February. Please be kind to them as they settle in, learn the ropes and get to know you if you use the hall. Please remember that they are under no obligation to get out the furniture for hirers but we hope that they will help those who really can't manage.

Another reminder that at the end of a booking, hirers and users are responsible to leave the hall clean and tidy as found. The caretakers do extra cleaning, toilets, etc and keep the hall running and maintained for all to use.

Not so good news! We have only received interest from one person to probably join the committee in May. This is very disappointing because to support the hall via volunteering on the committee need not be a time consuming task. We meet about 5 times a year to discuss the running of the Hall and how to improve it further. If you are slightly interested, you are welcome to attend the next meeting on Tuesday 1st April at 7.30 in the small hall.

We especially need support from the "working aged" people of the community who have fresh ideas and approaches to life to balance the more mature people on the committee.

At 7.30pm on Thursday 22nd May, we will be holding our AGM when a new Committee is formed. Please put the date in your diaries and give the idea of standing much thought.

To find any information about the hall, T's & C's, rates of hire, hall availability and to make a booking via the On-line Diary etc., please visit: [wilsteadvillagehall.org.uk](http://wilsteadvillagehall.org.uk)

**Barbara Seamark** | Deputy Chairperson  
[seamarkbarbara@gmail.com](mailto:seamarkbarbara@gmail.com) | 07709 573475

**Angela Fosbrook** | Secretary  
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# All Saints Church

## United in Faith. Welcoming All

The services have been planned for February as follows

### **Sunday 2nd February | 11.00am**

Morning Praise | Helen Harbron-Applegarth

### **Sunday 9th February | 11.00am**

Holy Communion | Fr Steve Marsh

### **Sunday 16th February | 11.00am**

Holy Communion | Rev Mike Stewart.

### **Sunday 23rd February | 11.00am**

Holy Communion | Fr Paul Messam

The Christingle service on Christmas Eve was a great success. The church was full with around 140 adults and children. It was an entertaining service led by Fr Paul Messam. We should like to thank Mandy Adger and her team who had made the Christingles the day before and grateful thanks must be given to the Post Office who donated the 100 oranges.

We had a collection for the Children's Society which raised £176.00.

The Chapter House with its roof problems is still awaiting a decision from the Insurance Company. Hopefully we shall get a decision soon to repair the damage.

We have planned Coffee Mornings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

The dates are:

**Wednesday 19th February**

**Wednesday 19th March**

**Wednesday 16th April**

**Wednesday 21st May**

**Wednesday 18th June**

**Wednesday 16th July**

They will be held in the Chapter House at 10.30am in February, March and April, the summer ones may be held as garden parties in peoples gardens.

Watch this space.

**Robert Heley**

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●

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# Wilstead Primary School

## We can't wait for Spring!

Even though it's been cold, that still doesn't stop our students from being outside. Forest School sessions are still enjoyed in all weathers, we just wrap up warm and put on our waterproofs.

We took part in the RSPB's Big Bird Watch which was fun and we have been eagerly looking for signs of Spring, which we are seeing as our Daffodils and Tulips are starting to poke through, we can't wait to enjoy their pretty colours.

PE classes have been starting to move outside too, Tag Rugby has been a particular hit and got the kids moving. We also can't wait for our yearly sponsored Fun Run, which this year will take place on Valentines Day, so look out for lots of pink and red flashes (there will be a colour dress up theme!) speeding by as they run around the school site.

We will also be joining some off-site events this month, notably the Faith Tour in Queen's Park, which we are incredibly lucky to join most years. Our students in Years 3 and 6 gain so much knowledge and understanding from this trip. Check out the details here: <https://faithinqueenspark.org.uk/faith-tours/>

Our choir will also be representing the School at Young Voices, a yearly singing event at the O2 in London. It is billed as the largest children's choir in the world! Primary schools from all over the country take part and fill the arenas to collectively sing songs, a real highlight of the year which allows our choir to say they have performed at the O2!

Miss Brown | Headteacher

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## P3 Footpath Group

### Meetings

The next meetings of the Group are planned for **Saturday 5th April** and **Saturday 14th June** at 10.00am in the Village Hall, small hall. (The February meeting was still scheduled for the 1st Feb.)

There will be a report on each of the 17 public footpaths and bridleways around the village including their current ease of use. If problems are identified then plans to address these will be discussed.

Come along to the meetings if you are interested in monitoring the path's ease of use and / or if you are interested in helping to keep them easy to go along. All are welcome.

### Working Parties

Working Parties to address any issues raised at the meetings will be arranged.

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

### Walks

The traditional **New Years Day** walk around along the Footpaths and Bridleways around the village was cancelled due to forecasted rain and high winds.

However all was not lost and New Year's Day post walk celebrations (mince pies and mulled wine) were enjoyed (without having to work up an appetite!).

Hopefully 2025 will see an improvement in the weather on future walk dates (see provisional list below).

2025 walks will be advertised on the village noticeboards outside the village hall and at the Crossroads

### P3 2025 Provisional Calendar

**Meetings** (Saturdays). 5th April, 14th June, 2nd August, 4th October, 29th November.

**Walks** Sunday 9th February 10.30am, Sunday 9th March 2.00pm, Sunday 13th April 2.00pm, Friday 9th May 6.30pm, Friday 13th June 6.30pm, Friday 11th July 6.30pm, Friday 15th August 6.15pm, Sunday 14th September 2.00pm, Sunday 19th October 10.30am, Sunday 23rd November 10.30am.

Meet in the Village Car Park off Whitworth Way.

**Working Parties** will be planned as and when required.

**Nigel Jacobs** | Wilstead Footpath Group | 01234 400733

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Thank you!

Keech Hospice would like to thank all of the Wilstead residents who gave so generously to the Santa street collection on 12th December.

You donated an amazing **£799.59** for your local hospice.

**Thank you!**



**WILSTEAD & WIXAMS**

### February update

Welcome to a new year, and a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers who have helped make '24 a quite successful year. We are hosting another 'Cafe with a Cop' session on the 7th and I hope you can come along and give the Police team another warm welcome!

Also big Thank You to all those involved in the Tea Party, it was a great afternoon, and to the children who entertained us, the best performance to date - well done!

Next Wilstead Cafe dates in the village hall are Friday 7th and Friday 21st February at the normal times 2.00pm to 3:30pm. And don't forget Wixams, Lakeview Village Hall every Tuesday 10:30am to 12 Noon. All ages welcome!

**Rick Baxter | Chairman | 01234 740854**  
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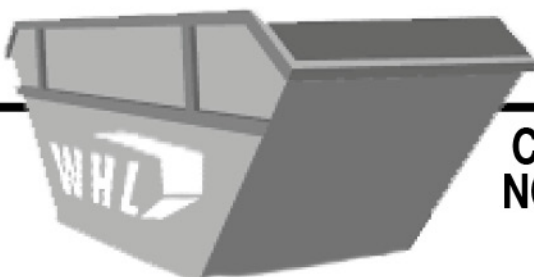
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# Senior Citizens' Tea Party



Thank you to all who came along to our tea party on 15th January and made it such an enjoyable occasion.

Thank you too to all the helpers that made it such a success.

Thank you to the children from Wilstead Primary who came along to help us set up and who sang so wonderfully.

The Turf Tappers led some enthusiastic singing and created a great atmosphere.

Finally, thanks to those individuals who provided raffle prizes and to the following organisations who gave so generously:

123 Flooring, Reflections Cleaning Services, Andy Worboys, Scott Veterinary Clinic, Wixams Arts Club, Small Acts of Kindness Charity, Burrs Garage, The Baking Suite, Bromham, Caroline's Childcare, The Post Office, Charlene's Hair and Beauty, The Red Lion, Darmody Plumbing and Heating Services, The Woolpack, Darren Maskell, Vanquish Fire, Driveway Rejuvenation, W & H Peacock, Elstow Manor Care Home, Wilstead Bowls Club, Empire Car Sales, Wilstead Chinese Takeaway, Julie Boscher, Wilstead Garden Club, Karen Adams Childminders, Wilstead Good Neighbour Scheme, MNS Property Maintenance, Wilstead Tandoori

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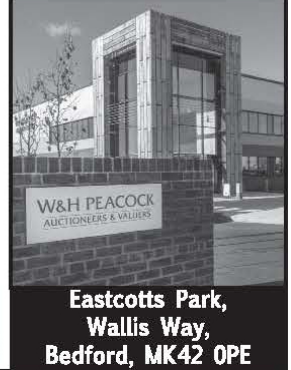
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Come and join us for a walk. We walk every Saturday afternoon approximately 6 miles and Saturdays twice a month in morning for approximately 12 miles.

**Winter Walks** Please note change of start time for afternoon walks - Winter start 13:00

**Saturday 1st February**  
PM Woburn | 6.5 miles

**Saturday 8th February**  
AM Old Warden | 12 miles  
or PM Grafham | 7 miles

**Saturday 15th February**  
PM Upper Dean | 7 miles

**Saturday 22nd February**  
AM Flitwick | 5.5 miles  
or PM Flitwick | 5.5 miles or both for 11 miles

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

Please bring a drink, snack or lunch as we always have a break.  
For more information on our walks telephone:

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

## Suspicious Emails

Over 32 million suspicious emails have been reported to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS), with more than a third of all emails reported in the last year, new figures reveal.

This has led to more than 329,000 websites addresses being removed by the National Cyber Security Centre. Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, launched a national phishing awareness campaign in June 2024, as reporting reached its highest level since SERS launched.

There has also been a huge number of text messages reported to 7726. In March 2024, more than 60,000 malicious websites were removed as a result of being reported using 7726.

Report a phishing email by forwarding it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk), or forward spam text messages to 7726.



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## Moths and Butterflies Friends or foes?

Watching butterflies on a warm sunny day has been an enjoyable activity for many of us but moths are another matter. On a warm evening in the garden any light source seems to attract these less than welcome visitors. Are we misjudging both of them? We invite you to come and find out at our next Wilstead Garden Club meeting on **Tuesday 18th February** at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. Entry is £3 and there is an optional raffle at £1 per ticket.

Our January meeting was a social when we enjoyed very delicious, flaky croissants instead of the advertised scones. Who thought the usual scone supplier has decided to stop making them? The meeting looked back at events in 2024 and forward to what is planned for 2025. This included a discussion about village open gardens and how seeing gardens of villagers not normally at the meetings but who are keen gardeners was very enjoyable.

This year we are hoping to visit gardens around the crossroads and start of Bedford Road. If you live around that area and would like us to view your efforts, please let us know. Gardens are only open for garden club members and advertised only within the group to control access and numbers.

Finally, last but not least, did you get bulbs for Christmas? Please plant them as they will do their best to grow even if unpacked! An amaryllis was found one Easter all curled up and flowering still in the gift box. It was rescued and planted!

We look forward to welcoming you to our very friendly group.

**Maralyn, Lynda, Viv, Mary, Julie, Annette**  
and **Chris** - your Garden Club Committee  
[wilsteadgardenclub@hotmail.com](mailto:wilsteadgardenclub@hotmail.com)

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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](http://www.wilsteadvillage.org.uk)



## Wilstead Women's Institute

Our January meeting was held in the Bowls Club during the afternoon. There was no speaker but we held a member's afternoon where members brought lovely plates of food to share. We had enough to feed the village, and had a great fun afternoon. We had a game of beetle drive with some strange outcomes, not sure we all played to the rules but laughing was certainly the name of the afternoon. 31 people attended which made it good fun.

Our next meeting is again at the Bowls Club on Thursday 6th February at 2.00pm. We have a speaker, Alex Prior who will be talking about 'The Eclectic Collector'. This should be very interesting.

Just to add a big 'thank you' to the Wilstead Bowls Club in allowing us to use their venue. Without this we would not have been able to have a meeting.

If you would like to join us as a guest, we meet from March in the Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. If you would like further details please contact me on the details below.

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# Wilstead Bowls Club

**1985 – 2025! In 2025 the club is celebrating its 40th Anniversary.**

The date for the main Celebration Day has now been set for **Sunday 20th July**.

The day will include a club game, a hog roast and other entertainment (still to be confirmed). The preparations are at an early stage.

An event was held on Saturday 11th January to celebrate the lives of Sandra and Brian Spinks. This took the form of a games evening with Bingo, Beetle Drive and Play Your Cards Right. The money raised from the Raffle and Name the Penguin was split equally and donated to Prostate Cancer Research and The Air Ambulance Service.

A Quiz Night was also held on Saturday 25th January.

## Up and Coming

Our next Coffee Morning is Wednesday 12th February 10.30-12pm £3. All welcome.

Year 3 pupils from Wilstead School will be coming to give short mat bowls a go, starting later this month.

The annual Subscription Evening will be held on Friday 7th March . £75 for playing members and £22 for non-playing members. If you are interested in joining us as a new member get in touch or have a look on the website under Information/Welcome Packs.

If you need any club information you can contact:



**Sue Marchant**  
Club Secretary 07716 676383  
sue@marchantonline.com  
www.wilsteadbowlsclub.co.uk

## Newsletter DEADLINE

For any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements  
**Friday 21st February**

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 7th March.

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

**wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com**

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

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## Who's Who:

Neighbourhood Watch, Wilstead.

### Advertisements & Accounts

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✉ wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com ☎ 407998

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**Crime Prevention News/Information**  
**Local Village News & Information**

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✉ wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com ☎ 742757

**Artwork by** SIMONE MILLIGAN ✉ wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com  
**Printed by** WHITE HART PRESS, 58A York Street, Bedford

## RECENT CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

**Assault With Injury** | 4th January | Hooked Lane

**Attempted Residential Burglary**  
12th January | Cotton End Road

**Harassment** | 5th January | Wilstead

**Residential Burglary** | 2nd January | Cotton End Road

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**COMMUNITY  
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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?

To make it clearer, we do not have a resident art teacher but from time to time we may invite a guest artist. Our members are always glad to advise where they can and to encourage you in whatever medium you choose to use. You need to bring your own materials, but we can provide some equipment, easels and paints etc.

Your first session is free and, if you decide to continue and become a member, it will be £3 a session when you're able to come.

We usually meet in the Village Hall on Mondays from 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 or in a mixed media. Do whatever you like. We'd love you join us.

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A Winter scene by Andrew

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