



# Wilstead NEWSLETTER

including Parish Council News

June 2025

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

## Wilstead Flower, Produce & Handicrafts Show

Saturday 30th August  
Village Hall



The Wilstead Flower, Produce and Handicrafts Show's schedule has now been posted on the Village website, so have a look and plan your entries for Flowers, Flower arrangements, Vegetables, Fruit, Cookery, Handicrafts and Photography.

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

If you can't put an entry in just come along and look at the show. There are refreshments during the show, and at the end a raffle, and an auction of produce.

The printed version of the schedule will be available from the Post Office in July.

**Linda and Ken Cook**

## Could you become a school governor?

**Are you looking for an opportunity to give back to the Wilstead community?**

Maybe you have professional experience in areas such as business, management or data analysis, which would be valuable as a school governor. Perhaps you are retired and want to use your skills to invest in the community.

Wilstead Primary School's Board Of Governors is a group of volunteers from various backgrounds who are keen to support the school.

We are looking for several new people to join our board. If you'd like to find out more about what's involved, we'd love to speak with you.

Simply contact the school office by emailing [office@wilstead.school](mailto:office@wilstead.school) or calling us on 01234 302303.

**Nicola Webb**

Deputy Headteacher | Wilstead Primary School

## 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.

**Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Prevention Team**

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Your Co-ordinator is:

## Wilshamstead Parish Council Planning Permission Granted For Up To 95 Houses On Cotton End Road

Bedford Borough Council Planning Committee met on 19th May to formally consider the application 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. The Borough Council Planning Officer had recommended in their report for the application to be approved.

Strong and robust representation was made, all in objection on the evening of the meeting by Borough Ward Councillors Marc Frost, Andrea Spice, Graeme Coombes as well as Parish Councillor Chris Carberry. Unfortunately, due to the local authority housing land supply not being at a strong enough level at present, combined with the new National Planning Policy Framework giving tilted balance to planning permission being granted for residential development it meant elected Borough Councillors were minded to grant the application planning permission. The vote taken by elected members was for the decision by the Committee to be deferred to enable further negotiations to take place. The reason for the deferral was due to consideration being given to include in the planning conditions agreed that are expected to be

applied to the application, to include a provision in the site development for bungalows to be built and the developer being required to make a financial contribution to healthcare provision improvements to serve the local area. The application will now return to a future Planning Committee of Bedford Borough Council for members to be updated and a vote to be taken.

The Parish Council are grateful for the approximately 40 residents who took the time to respond to the planning application individually, voicing their opinions on the application.

With it looking highly probable this planning application will be granted permission at Cotton End Road in the very near future it will in turn set a concerning precedent for Wilstead, as well as also setting a precedent across Bedford Borough for speculative development sites outside of the Settlement Policy Area. The Parish Council did strongly reference the current Wilshamstead Neighbourhood Plan which allocates no development in the parish, using this as part of the Parish Council's submitted argument against this application to the Borough Committee members. Therefore, in light of this planning decision the Parish Council are taking pro-active action to expedite a review of the current Neighbourhood Plan to ensure it can be used effectively going forwards given the situation now Wilstead finds itself in.



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Bedfordshire Schools



In regards to the outstanding planning applications for development the Parish Council remains waiting for notification on when these applications are to be determined, relating to:

**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.

**24/02463/MAO** 375 houses proposed by Wates Development for land south of Wixams which is within the parish boundary of Wilstead.

Please remember you can view the supporting documents for the proposed 375 houses, plus the 149 dwellings by heading to the Borough Council website and the planning portal,

Please send your comments to [planning@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bedford.gov.uk)

## Average Speed Camera Data April

As detailed in the last edition, the Parish Council are reliant on this speed data being shared on by Bedford Borough Council from Bedfordshire Police, with there now being a more timely sharing on this data it can be included in the Parish Council update for the local community. So please see below the data for some of the cameras in Wilstead. The latest data received was for April 2025 and shows the following:

Speed	Number of Tickets
<b>74MPH &amp; under</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>75MPH</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>76MPH</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>77MPH</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>79MPH</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>82MPH</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>83MPH</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>

## Parish Councillor Annual Appointments

Mark Brooks has been elected as the Parish Council Chair for the coming year, with Marc Frost elected as the Vice Chair. All Councillors present wished to express an enormous thank you to Eric Benton for his unwavering dedication and commitment to carrying out the Parish Council Chair role with such meticulous attention to detail.

The Parish Council appointed Working Groups for the coming year to remain focused on a range of different work areas of responsibility as well as appointing individuals to represent the Parish Council on external organisations.

Continued on page 4 >>>

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Starting age is 2½ years old. Demand for places is high, therefore it is advisable to register your child as soon as possible.

a member of early years alliance

>>> Continued from page 3

The Parish Council are extremely grateful for all the volunteers who work tirelessly giving their time to support the community in a wide number of ways.

Please remember if you would like to get involved or find out more, about any way you can possibly help out, whether it is just a small amount of time sporadically, or if you feel you have time to kindly give on a regular basis, the Parish Council would like to hear from you. So please do contact Lizzie, the Parish Clerk at [office@wilsteadparishcouncil.org](mailto:office@wilsteadparishcouncil.org).

## East West Rail Latest

East West Railway Company (EWR Co) has published a 2024 non-statutory consultation (NSC) update that is now available to view on their website at:

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/news/latest-stories/publication-of-2024-non-statutory-consultation-update-report>.

They have informed Parish Councils that since the consultation closed, they have been carefully considering all the feedback received as they continue to develop proposals before holding a statutory consultation next year.

The latest update they issued is intended to summarise how they approached the 2024 NSC, the levels of feedback received, emerging themes and how your feedback is being considered. It is not the purpose of the update to include detailed responses to the feedback received through the NSC process. That information will be provided in the "You Said, We Did" report which will be published at statutory consultation.

More than 6,000 people responded to EWR Co's NSC which took place between November 2024 and January 2025. They were grateful to everyone who shared their views with them.

If you have any questions relating to the project, please get in touch using [contact@eastwestrail.co.uk](mailto:contact@eastwestrail.co.uk).

## Allotments

The Parish Council, along with much help from Wilstead Allotment Society manage the allotments on Jubilee Way, Wilstead. If you are interested in an allotment and want to check availability of plots, please contact [russelladams@wilsteadparishcouncil.org](mailto:russelladams@wilsteadparishcouncil.org).

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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.

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 usually 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, with next meetings scheduled for **16th June** and **21st July**. Also please remember to view regular updates published on local matters through the Wilstead Parish Council website, do visit [www.wilsteadparishcouncil.org](http://www.wilsteadparishcouncil.org) to see the latest news and helpful information.



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.

**Summer Walks** Please note change of start time for afternoon walks – Summer start 13:30. Or try our “Ramble” on first Saturday morning each month – slightly shorter, slower pace.

## JUNE WALKS

**SATURDAY 7th JUNE**  
PM Wootton | 6.5 miles

**SATURDAY 14th JUNE**  
AM Priory Country Park | 10 miles  
or PM Mowsbury Park | 7 miles

**SATURDAY 21st JUNE**  
PM Sharnbrook | 7 miles

**SATURDAY 28th JUNE**  
AM Ivinghoe Canal Walk | 10.5 miles  
or PM Kimbolton | 6.5 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**  
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## Houghton Wilstead Golf Cup

The 19th edition of the Houghton Wilstead Golf Cup will be taking place on **Friday 25th July 2025** at Cainhoe Wood Golf Club!

Last years event raised over £10,000 and we are looking forward to raising more much needed funds for Sue Ryder in Moggerhanger.

The day only goes ahead with willing participants, so if you would like to play, please get in touch, it doesn't matter how good or bad you are, the day is about having fun with friendly rivals from either side of the A6.

Additionally, with it being a busy day, we are always looking for volunteers, hole sponsors and raffle prizes. If you feel you can help with any of these, please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you!

**Ranvir** 07590 375172

**Raj** 07939 153520

## Wilstead Village Hall

The Hall AGM was held in May and although there was a poor turn out from people who live in the village and use the hall, we did elect a Committee and enrolled two new people. Welcome Kat and Jane. If you have any suggestions about the running of the hall and how to improve things, please let us know. We still need other new faces as many of the present committee will probably retire next year, so now is a good time to join us and learn how the hall works.

We have had a new website designed for us and although it needs some alterations, it is now live. Unfortunately, this means a new web address, so please take note that it is: [wilsteadvillagehall.co.uk](http://wilsteadvillagehall.co.uk).

Don't forget that 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.co.uk](http://wilsteadvillagehall.co.uk).

We would greatly appreciate potential hirers using the online booking system and not emailing the Admin team.

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

**Angela Fosbrook** | Secretary  
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### **Flit Vale Local Group | Wildlife Walks & Talks | June / July**

#### **Saturday 14th June**

**Hexton Estate, Hexton, Herts | 10.00am**

Visit to Hexton Estate guided by Holly Bilcock, Senior Reserves Manager for the North Chilterns NNRs. Two years ago, Natural England purchased 586 acres of the old Hexton Manor Estate. Holly will lead us round part of the site and explain what is happening currently and what the plans are for the future. **Charge: £4.00 person**

#### **Wednesday 25th June**

**Wood End Farm, Cople, Beds | 7.00pm**

Visit to Wood End Farm. An evening walk to see the farm's wildflower meadows. Charlie and Carolyn Porter started establishing the wildflower meadow 40 years ago in conjunction with the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Monks Wood. Walking will all be on grass and total distance of no more than 2 miles. Further information on directions and parking will be sent once a booking is received. **Charge: £4.00 person**

#### **Saturday 5th July**

**Strawberry Hill Farm, near Knotting Green, Bedford, (MK44 1AA) 10.00am**

Visit to Strawberry Hill Farm  
lead by Wildlife Trust BCN staff.

Two months on from our previous visit, we are hoping to hear a different soundscape of birds at this remarkable 150-hectare site. We are hoping to see and hear Nightingales and a host of other bird species as well as invertebrates and a selection of flora.

**Charge: £4.00 person**

**BOOKING FOR OUTDOOR FLIT VALE EVENTS  
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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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## Wilstead & Wixams



### COMMUNITY ART GROUP

The days fly by and it's now June already! 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.

Our group has members of all abilities, using a variety of mediums. You might like sketching in pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, or painting by numbers. 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.



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## All Saints Wilstead News from the Pews

Hebrews Café is a newly-refurnished and expanded after - Sunday - Worship space situated in our narthex (the west end). The extra seating is needed to accommodate our growing numbers each Sunday. Coffee, tea and a variety of cakes and biscuits are served at the close of our 11am Sunday worship (without charge!) The church doors are open and you are most welcome to walk in and join us for coffee and a good natter from 11.50am each Sunday.

A Doggie Drinking Bowl is outside our porch. We would love it if walkers could top it up for us occasionally, especially in this warm weather.

"Spare a Penny for a Loo" We have our own accessible loo and baby-changing space in our adjoining Chapter House area. It is fully-equipped. We are using our 1p - 20p pieces to support Tear Fund's Toilet Twinning charity to raise money to give people overseas the opportunity to have a decent loo in their local area.

Pentecost Picnic Lunch in Hebrews. **Sunday 8th June** is Whitsun. We will be celebrating with a picnic sandwich lunch with cake and drinks at 12 noon. Everyone is welcome. If you don't attend church regularly, you are most welcome to join us. So we can plan for numbers, please email: [stagsdenopendoor@outlook.com](mailto:stagsdenopendoor@outlook.com).

Parish Visiting. Our church is a part of Elstow Team Ministry. If you, or someone you know would like a visit from a Team Minister, or would like a Home Communion, please contact us at Elstow Team: 01234 261477.

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## All Saints Church

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The services have been planned for June as follows:

**Sunday 1st June 11.00am**

**Morning Praise** | Helen H Applegarth

**Sunday 8th June 11.00am**

**Holy Communion** | Rev Crispen Nyatsuro  
Curate from Transfiguration Church, Kempston

**Sunday 15th June 11.00am**

**Morning Praise** | Robert Heley

**Sunday 22nd June 11.00am**

**Holy Communion** | Rev'd Mike Stewart

**Sunday 29th June 11.00am**

**Morning Prayer** | Helen H Applegarth

The service plan only gives us 2 Holy Communion services in June due to a shortage of vicars with Fr Paul being on sabbatical and Fr Steve having moved to his new parishes in June.

On **Sunday 8th June**, which is Pentecost Sunday, the Church's birthday, we are planning a sandwich and cake lunch in our new Hebrew café at the back of church.

This has been a great success thanks to the efforts of Helen each Sunday after morning worship. It gives us a chance to socialise each week. Please do come and join us.

The June Coffee Morning is on **Wednesday 18th June** from 10.30am onwards. It is planned to be at Mary Harris's house which is 25 Luton Road. This is dependent on the weather of course. If it is wet it will be in the Chapter House.

**Robert Heley**

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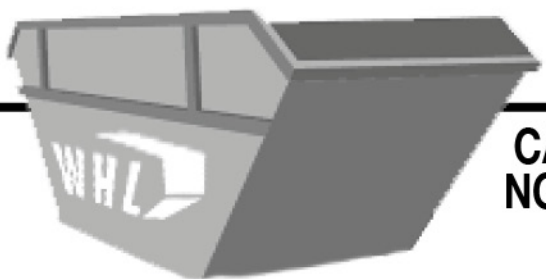
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## Wilstead Bowls Club

May has been a busy month. The In-house fish and chip spoon drive was very well attended. Fifty people came along and enjoyed the superb afternoon tea on 23rd May.

At the time of writing we are still two days away from our Open Day I hope some of you managed to come along and have a go. If not, you are invited to our Friday evening free taster sessions which start at 6pm. All you need are flat soled shoes.

### Selection of Up and Coming Home Games and Events in June:

**Sunday 1st June | 2pm**

Captains' Day, all money raised goes to charity.

**Sunday 8th June | 2pm**

The Mary Crease Cup. A game of Australian Pairs. The third year for this event.

**Saturday 14th June | 2pm**

A home game against Maulden.

**Sunday 29th June | 2pm**

The first of three 40th Anniversary celebration games, against Friends of English Bowling. Spectators always welcome.

Tickets for our 40th Anniversary Celebration Game on **Sunday 20th July**, which includes a hog roast, are selling well.

Please keep a look out on the Wilstead Community Facebook page for more club news and activities or join us on Facebook - **WILSTEAD BOWLS CLUB** or visit our website. [www.wilsteadbowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.wilsteadbowlsclub.co.uk).

If you need any club information you can contact:

**Sue Marchant**  
Club Secretary 07716 676383  
[sue@marchantonline.com](mailto:sue@marchantonline.com)  
[www.wilsteadbowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.wilsteadbowlsclub.co.uk)



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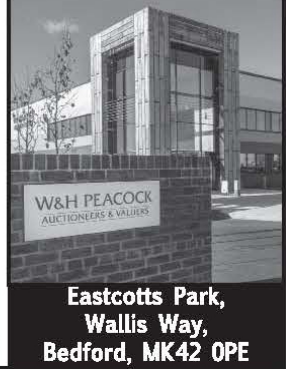
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## Wilstead Primary School

Here comes the sun (we hope!) As we come to the end of Summer 1 half term at Wilstead, it is lovely to see our children enjoying the sunshine after a busy few weeks

Our Year 6's have finished their SATs and our Year 4's are off to Grafham Water for their annual residential trip.

Soon we will be welcoming in a new cohort of Reception for stay and play sessions and getting to welcome new parents to our community at our Reception open evening.

As ever, we are grateful for the support that the wider Wilstead community has given the school in lots of different ways. Reception enjoyed their trip to All Saints last week with Revd. Mike; Key Stage 2 are looking forward to learning some Bowls with the Bowls Club; and our little group of crafters are gearing up for the Produce Show with their painted tiles supported by the wonderful Liz and Dot.

We are always on the lookout for new ideas of how to work with our village, so if you would like to get involved please do let us know!

**Mrs Webb** | Deputy Headteacher



## Wilstead Women's Institute

WI met on 1st May to have a members evening when we played biscuit bingo and had a good old chat.

We went to Stratford Upon Avon on 7th May and had a good look round Stratford on an open top bus then onto a boat on the river for a 90-minute cruise with a cream tea served to us. What a lovely afternoon outing and the weather just perfect.

We meet again on **Thursday 5th June** when we have a speaker Dimitra Frangos talking about her creative journey.

Bedford Concert Brass will be entertaining us with the sounds of summer on **Saturday 21st June** in the Village Hall with a cream tea. Bring your own wine or beer for what will be a splendid evening. Tickets are available at the Post Office or from Karen Cook – 01234 403936 or by email [Karencook3@btinternet.com](mailto:Karencook3@btinternet.com). Price is £10. Entry is by ticket only.

Everyone is welcome to come to a meeting as a guest 3 times before joining. For further information please contact me.

**Karen Cook** | President

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## Elstow Cricket Club

(Local cricket club for Wilstead, Wixams & Elstow)

The Cricket Season is now well under way and we have already had success with the Elstow Women's Team winning the Super 8's Development league with 3 wins out of 3.

Youth Cricket continues to flourish with age groups at U7, U9, U11 County & Development, U13 County & Development & U15 County & Development Teams. Friday nights our U7 to U13 age groups train on the square, in the nets and around the outfield. In late May they will be joined by All Starts aimed at 5 to 8 year olds.

We serve teas, coffee's, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks as well as sweets and crisps. Often on a Friday we will have a BBQ or do Pizza.

Our Adult teams have had some successes already this season. Our first century maker in the Sunday 2nd XI is Adeeb Ahmed scoring 152 not out against Blunham.

Vice President's Day on **Saturday 21st June 2025** will be at Elstow. The 1st XI will be playing Peterborough Knights at The Warren and we will host our VP's, The Friends of Elstow CC (FECCers) and our sponsors in a day of fun, food & cricket.

We are always looking for new members to come forward and help support the rapid growth of our club including new players - all genders, ages and ability, scorers, official training will be provided if needed, umpires, training is available if required, coaches and volunteers - to help with match day.

Please get in touch by emailing us at [elstowcricketclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elstowcricketclub@hotmail.co.uk) or visit our website [elstowcricketclub.co.uk](http://elstowcricketclub.co.uk) for more information.

## To All Newsletter Co-ordinators & Distributors

If you need to contact the Editorial team because of a problem with delivery, please would you contact [wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com). All members of the Editorial Team have access to this and you will get a speedy reply.

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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**

## Out and About in Summer

By the time you read this it will be meteorological Summer, neatly done in whole months rather than the astronomical dates which are mid month. The Wilstead Garden Club has traditionally gone out and about in the Summer months rather than meet in the Village Hall.

Our final meeting before going out and about was our annual plant swap. We have to thank our ninja Sue for organising the plants into different categories for ease of perusing after the meeting. Everyone had a chance to take at least one plant home to enjoy for the flowers or fruits.

Whilst the meeting was going on some invasive plants were found in the garden. This is the 3 Cornered Garlic. It is illegal to plant this quite attractive flowering plant in the wild as it is so invasive it will overcome native plants. If you have this plant, which has white flowers with green stripes rather like white bluebells, treat it with caution.

To calm us all down after this revelation, we were pleased to welcome Sheila who told us the ways to ensure greater success at the village Flower and Produce Show in August. She had a many pointers for all classes which cover such a wide range of topics that everyone could find a class to enter. Read the rules, keep to the rules, think about presentation and, most important of all enter. The show is only funded through entry fees and visitors so we need to support it if we want it to carry on.

Our June meeting is a visit to Castle Ashby on **Tuesday 17th June** leaving at an earlier time of 11am. If you would like further details contact us on [wilsteadgardenclub@hotmail.com](mailto:wilsteadgardenclub@hotmail.com).

**Wilstead Garden Club Committee**  
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## P3 Footpath Group Meetings

The next meetings of the Footpath Group will be at 10.00am on **Saturday 14th June** and **Saturday 2nd August** in the small hall of the Village Hall.

There will be reports of the condition of all the Public Footpaths and Public Bridleways in the parish. Any problems with path furniture such as waymark posts, finger posts and kissing gates will be identified and plans to resolve any issues with them will be agreed. Also any path overgrowth and undergrowth will be identified so that the Group can tackle them.

If any of these problems are too large for the Group to tackle or new furniture is needed then help will be requested from Bedford Borough Council.

Come along to the meeting if you would like to help ensure that these off road links between the various parts of the village, be they Public Footpaths or Public Bridleways, are easy to find and use. All are welcome.

## Working Parties

There have been few problems with the Footpaths and Bridleways around the village so far this year but if you do find any please contact the group on the number below and we will try and resolve them.

Working Parties to address issues raised by the group's two monthly inspection of all the 11 miles of Public Rights of Way in the Parish will be arranged at the meeting.

Any materiel needed to resolve these problems, e.g. new waymark posts, will be requested from the Borough Council or purchased by the Group.

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

## Walks

The early May walk was in the countryside to the north and east of Ampthill. The walk gave great views north towards Bedford from Houghton House as well as a wander through the emerging bluebells in King's Wood. Optional post walk refreshment was sought (and found!) at the Prince of Wales, Ampthill.

The next walks are planned for **Friday 13th June** (probably between Silsoe and Higham Gobian) and **Friday 11th July** leaving the Village Car Park off Whitworth Way at 6.30pm

Keep an eye on the posters on the village noticeboards for details of future walks. Come along if you fancy a wander (4-5 miles) through nearby Bedfordshire countryside.

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

## Newsletter

### DEADLINE

For any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

**Friday 21st June**

**The next newsletter will be published on Friday 4th July.**

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**Local Village News & Information**

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## RECENT CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

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**Harassment** | 20th April | Howard Close

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## Stay Vigilant Against Courier Fraud

The public are urged to stay vigilant and warn elderly relatives or neighbours against scammers impersonating police officers.

Bedfordshire Police has dealt with several cases of courier fraud where people have been tricked into handing over money or valuables.

Criminals are targeting the elderly or vulnerable and pretending to be from police forces across the country before asking the victim to withdraw sums of cash.

The money is then handed over at a later date to couriers who attend the victim's address to collect the goods.

In just one week in Bedfordshire, one victim lost £13,000 while another was scammed out of £48,000.

Usually suspects tell victims that they have people in police custody for cloning the victim's debit cards, they then ask the victims for their bank details and pin numbers.

Criminals may also convince the victim to transfer money to a 'secure' bank account, hand over their bank cards or give the criminals high value items, such as jewellery, watches and gold.

Another tactic used is called "open phone" where the victim is persuaded to stay on the phone to the criminal whilst they go to withdraw money or go to a jeweller. This stops the victim interacting with anyone else or having the chance to think about what is really happening.

Please remember that the police will never ask you to withdraw money for them or call you to ask for your bank details, and never ever share your debit or credit card with anyone else. They will also never ask for your jewellery to keep it safe.

You should always check the caller's credentials. Never click any email link you are unsure of or respond to any unsolicited emails or calls.

If you take a call from someone who you believe is not genuine, hang up, and contact either Action Fraud or the police. Where possible use a different phone to make the call, in case the fraudulent caller is still on the line.

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