



Wilstead NEWSLETTER

including Parish Council News

January 2023

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

Tea Party Help

If you are able to help prepare the food on the day, **Wednesday 1st March**, and/or could provide cakes please can you phone me on 01234 400733.
(Leave a message if I am not in).

See back page for Tea Party invitation.

Thank you

Nigel Jacobs | Wilshamstead Endowed Charities



Wilstead Pre-School Quiz Night

Friday 3rd February 2023
Wilstead Village Hall

Time 7:30pm - questions start at 8.00pm.
Teams of up to 8. £5 per person entry fee.

Back by popular demand, with our fantastic quiz master Sammy.

Please feel free to bring nibbles but no drink needed as there will be a bar available.

Please book a table by text or call 07948565992 or 01234 742546.

This was a hugely popular event last time as everyone really enjoyed it and had a fun night, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Look forward to seeing you there.

CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Motor Vehicle
Wednesday 30th November
Between 7.30am and 5.30pm
The Square

Burglary - Residential
Wednesday 8th November
Between 4pm and 6pm
Luton Road

Criminal Damage to a Vehicle
Friday 4th November
Bedford Road

Malicious Communication
Friday 4th November
Dane Lane

Controlling or Coercive Behaviour
Friday 4th November

Crime Recorded for nearby villages
Cardington 3, Cople 3, Cotton End 2,
Shortstown 14, Wixams 14.

The above 'Crime Recorded' is the latest information available.

Contents this month include:

Tennis Club	Page 2
Parish Council	Page 3
Welcome Our New King	Page 9
Art Club	Page 10
Tea Party Invitation	Page 16

Your Co-ordinator is:

Over 60's Table Tennis Club

It's the start of a new year so do you fancy the idea of trying something new (or maybe something old)?

How about coming along on a Monday morning at 10.00am to Elstow Village Hall and join our friendly group playing table tennis. We have a superb coach, coffee (and sometimes cake!) and a chance to play with a range of abilities for 3 hours – all for £5.

We started life as an Over-60's club but many of us have been coming along for so long because we enjoy the camaraderie so much that we may have to change the name soon!

So why not come along for a free taster session – if you live in Wilstead it may be possible to offer you a lift there.

If interested, please contact either:

Simon Collier | simoncollier33@gmail.com or

Dave Fosbrook | david.fosbrook@ntlworld.com

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Bowls Club News

Our short mat section is thriving. We are open every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon when games start at 2.00pm, so you need to come before that time. We are also open Friday evenings at 7.00pm, and you can come Sunday lunchtime between 12 midday and 2.00pm. The Thursday evening league is progressing well.

There is no coffee morning in January and the next one will be on the **Wednesday 1st February** when everyone is welcome.

We are holding a quiz night on **Saturday 28th January** with a fish and chip or sausage and chip supper.

For more details please contact **Peter Denton** on 07717500547 or **Margaret Hinson** on 01234 349028

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Jean Ward | Club Secretary



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Wilshamstead Parish Council

Highways Speed Data - Good and bad

The Parish Council is now extracting the data from the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) which have been in situ since October. The data shows a large majority of vehicles keeping to the speed limit but it also shows some worrying data - particularly with regard to the highest speed recorded.

>>> Bedford Road

1965 vehicles per day

80% within the speed limit

16% just over the limit

4% prosecutable

Highest speed recorded 97mph!!!

Clearly this is a major accident waiting to happen?

>>> Luton Road

793 vehicles per day

94.4% within the speed limit

3.7% just over the limit

1.9% prosecutable

Highest speed recorded 67mph

>>> Cotton End Road

(travelling from East to West)

500 vehicles per day

81.9% within the speed limit

14.6% just over the limit

4% prosecutable

Highest speed recorded 69mph

>>> Cotton End Road/Chapel Lane

(travelling from West to East)

1022 vehicles per day

88.5% within the speed limit

9.2% just over the limit

2.3% prosecutable

Highest speed recorded 82mph!!!

This data will be passed to the Police and will be used to justify Police Speed Checks in the future.

Based upon the above, **137 drivers per day** would have been caught speeding and prosecuted over the period the speed signs have been in operation.

Continued on page 4 >>>

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Member of early years alliance

>>> Continued from page 3

We are still looking for volunteers to collect and report this data on a regular basis. If you can help please contact the Parish Clerk as shown below.

Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Result

It was great to see the village turnout on 24th November at the Referendum for the Wilshamstead Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you to those who took the time to attend and engage in any part of the consultation process along the way. The confirmed results of the vote were:

In favour: 395

Against: 45

Unmarked papers: 2

Total number of attendees: 443 which equals 21.8% of eligible voters.

This is a high level of turnout for a Neighbourhood Plan - very pleasing indeed to see.

Financial Items Update

At the last Parish Council meeting there was approval for a grant to be made to the Scout Group to enable them to purchase a pizza oven, with a donation of £159.99 being agreed.

The Parish Council had also sought financial support from the Borough Councillor Ward Fund to assist with plans to expand the seating provision in the play area at Whitworth Way. We are pleased to have recently been notified of £1,500 being awarded towards this work.

The Parish Council is now working hard on producing the budget workings for 2023/24 which will be used to set the Parish Precept for the next financial year.

Cotton End Road Average Speed Cameras Latest

A site meeting took place between Parish Councillors and the responsible Borough Engineer on 1st December to look at the exact locations possible for Average Speed Cameras in Cotton End Road. Frustratingly a number of site locations proposed are not possible due to the location of utilities, overhead cables, the ownership of the land, parked cars obscuring the collection of number plate information or overhanging trees or vegetation.

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We are left with four possible locations at the Western end (Dines Close or around the first entrance to Whitworth Way and one just after the long straight heading towards Littleworth (all others having been ruled out for the above technical reasons).

The Parish Council spent a lot of time at the December Council meeting discussing next steps and are supportive that one of the VAS units from Cotton End Road be relocated to Littleworth so those residents receive some coverage from the VAS unit now that it has proven impossible to locate an ASC in that area.

At the time of writing the Parish Council is waiting to be advised which of the alternative locations would be possible based upon the records of utilities that are buried in the area, as feedback to the searches takes some time. The Parish Council continues to pursue securing the average speed cameras as soon as possible to ensure the need of Wilstead is prioritised over the 80 different locations in the Borough that have been identified and the Police have been very helpful in backing our case.

The Next Parish Council Meeting

This will be held on **Monday 9th January** at 7.00pm at the Jubilee Centre in Jubilee Way next to the Football/Sports Field. There will be the opportunity for the public to voice any concerns they may have over any issue, including the location of Average Speed Cameras.

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 (at the rear of the Village Hall) is open most Mondays, 9am to midday. It is always worth ringing in advance to ensure it will be open but it is planned that the Office will remain open even though the Village Hall is closed during January.

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Footpath Group

Meetings

The next meeting of the Footpath Group will be on **Saturday 11th February** at 10.00am in the Village Hall (small hall).

Members of the Group will be reporting on the paths they have been given and any other issues. These paths are changed every few months so in time members of the group get to report on all the paths in the Parish.

Work

In the New Year the Group will be tackling some minor work on the paths including cutting back overgrowth and undergrowth, replacing/re-installing the odd way mark post and replacing faded way mark discs.

Currently all of the paths around the Village appear to be passable. The recent snow and any subsequent rain may have made sections of the paths a bit trickier to go along but all are walkable.

However if you do notice a problem on any of the Public Footpaths or Public Bridleways please contact the number below and the Group will look to get the problem resolved.

Walks

The approximately 5 mile end of November walk was through the fields, woods and parkland around Woburn. The weather was good and the views over the surrounding countryside great. There were some unusual Bedfordshire animals seen on the walk.



The optional post walk refreshments were at the Black Horse in Woburn.

Hopefully the New Year's Walk along the footpaths and bridleways around the Village were dry.

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Footpath Group 2023 Calendar

Below is a list of provisional meeting and walk dates for 2023.

Meetings: (Village Hall 10.00am).

Come along if you are interested in possibly joining the Group and helping to keep an eye on the paths around the Village and / or possibly helping to keep them easy to use.

Saturday 11th February

Saturday 1st April

Saturday 3rd June

Saturday 5th August

Saturday 7th October

Saturday 2nd December

Walks: These approximately 5 mile walks are provisionally planned for:

Sunday 5th February 10.30am

Sunday 5th March 2.00pm

Sunday 16th April 2.00pm

Friday 19th May 6.30pm

Friday 16th June 6.30pm

Friday 14th July 6.30pm

Friday 18th August 6.15pm

Sunday 17th September 2.00pm

Sunday 22nd October 10.30am

Sunday 26th November 10.30am

Keep an eye out for posters detailing the walks which will be on the Village Hall and Crossroads noticeboards.

There are normally spare seats available in cars going to the start of the walk, so not having transport shouldn't be a problem, just let me know beforehand so we can ensure there are enough cars.

Walking shoes/boots are recommended as bits of paths can be uneven or even muddy.

Nigel Jacobs
01234 400733



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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.

●

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Green-fingered Greetings for 2023

The Wilstead Garden Club wishes everyone a 2023 full of beautiful flowers and produce and the time and opportunity to enjoy them.

Our Christmas meeting was our celebratory meal. We have many people to thank for making it such a lovely time. Brian and Sandra were our guests and we thank them for their support over the year. We hope Brian continues his recovery.

We must also thank Lakeview Fish and Chip Shop for again providing generous portions of really hot food for our 26 members.

There were also a number of busy elves who got the Hall ready, organised the raffle, served the food and drinks and most importantly cleared up afterwards. Thank you everyone who made the event smooth running and fun.

As part of the meal members were encouraged to add to the suggestion box for ideas of talks, visits and gardening questions.

These will support our planning for 2023 and be the basis of our get together in January. This will be on **Tuesday 17th January** at 2.30pm in the All Saints Church Chapter House. Entry is in the door on the other side of the church along the right hand path from the gate. The meeting will be an informal 'Nosh and Natter' answering questions from the suggestion box and sharing gardening tips.

A full programme of talks and visits will be finalised after our January meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there. Entry £1.50 with an optional raffle for £1 per ticket.

Happy New Year!

Maralyn, Lynda, Mary, Viv and Julie
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Wilstead Celebrates our New King

King Charles III's coronation will be held on
Saturday 6th May 2023.

Monday 8th May 2023 has been announced
as a Coronation Bank Holiday and the Parish
Council would be very pleased to support
anyone in the Village who would like to form
a group to organise a Village celebration.

The Jubilee Centre and Jubilee Field have
been reserved for this event, and all support
will be given to a group who wish to make this
special day one to remember in Wilstead.

Perhaps it would be a good opportunity for
the local groups to showcase their members
and have a stall or stand? Youth groups may
wish to put on a display or a presentation.
The possibilities are endless.

Something like this takes time to organise
and the Parish Council and the Jubilee Centre
are happy to support any event organised.

Initially, if you wish to become involved,
please submit your name to our Parish
Clerk Lizzie, on 01234 743152 or at [office@
wilsteadparishcouncil.org](mailto:office@wilsteadparishcouncil.org). Lizzie will be
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**Come on Wilstead, let's not let this
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Wilstead Player News

In spite of the heavy snowfall, a group of Players
and supporters spent an uplifting hour or so singing
carols and enjoying the warming mulled wine and
hot mince pies on offer around the Christmas tree
in the foyer of the Village Hall before Christmas.

It certainly took our minds off the problems of the
world for a short while. Thanks to all who braved the
elements and joined us.

We wish all our members, patrons and supporters a
very happy and peaceful New Year.

Jackie Tanswell | 01234 740782



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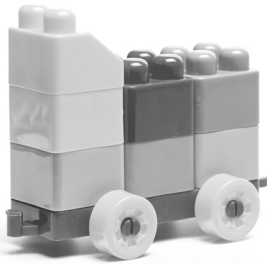
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All Saints Church News

By the time you read this Christmas 2022 will once again have passed into the realms of history. However, life at All Saints continues to be very busy

Back at the end of November as the new church year began we had a wonderful Christmas Tree Festival and Advent Fair. The Church looked beautiful with so many different Christmas trees from 17 of our community groups in the Village and they continued to grace the Church until Epiphany. The Advent Fair reached the magnificent sum of £778. Many thanks to all who helped on the day and thanks to all who supported us.

The Village School children came for their annual carol service which prior Covid had been held for quite a few years. After a two year break the school has grown and so two mornings were needed to fit all the children in. As usual they were very good and parents and friends enjoyed their singing.

The Church had its own service of carols and readings on the Sunday before Christmas.

Then it was into Christmas weekend with the popular Christingle service followed by the late night Midnight Mass. There was a service on Christmas Day with readings and carols.

So we begin New Year 2023 with regular services. Please do come and join us.

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Welcome To The Beginning Of A New Year!

We hope you had a warm, safe and Merry Christmas and Santa brought you all that you wished for.

Our last Wilstead Community Cafe meeting of 2022 went down very well with 20+ visitors, and all enjoyed a little extra in the way of festive nibbles and cakes etc, downed with many cups of tea and coffee. I don't think anyone went hungry as there was very little left to clear away!

A big Thank You to Jean Millar who laid out a very attractive table and to all the volunteers

who supplied cakes etc. and who helped clear all away at the end. Thank You!

Dates for our Community Cafe 2023 are starting 2.00pm to 3:30pm on:

Friday 10th February

Fridays 24th March

Friday 10th March

Friday 24th March

These dates will be placed in the Village notice boards and in the Post Office.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year, keep safe and well and encourage more of your friends to visit us, all ages welcome!!

Regards to all.

Rick Baxter
Chairman WGNs
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Dear Wilstead Resident

Please could you consider the safety and wellbeing of postal delivery personnel and Newsletter delivery volunteers and ensure your letterbox isn't too difficult for people to push their items through. Some of the more modern ones have a second flap inside and they can be extremely hard to push through.

In addition some of our canine friends can be less than welcoming and will throw themselves at the front door, and grab whatever is coming through the letterbox, whether it be papers or fingers!

Whilst we all agree a canine deterrent is the best thing to put off would-be intruders please also give a thought to the more innocent members of our community, keen to do their best.

We hope this letter is received in the spirit it is submitted, and no offence is caused.

With very best wishes.

From several **Newsletter delivery volunteers**

Wilstead Primary School News

Life at the school has been busy as ever! You might have seen that the scaffolding on the school roof has been removed: now we have a lovely new leak-proof roof which will last us for many years more of the English weather.

The approach to Christmas was an exciting time with Reception's Nativity, the choir's performances at Elstow Manor and Danecroft Residential Homes and the extremely well-attended Grandparent's Christmas Craft Afternoon. It is lovely to welcome our families and friends into school after such a long period without being able to.

If you are having a wardrobe clear out over the festive period, please don't forget to keep the Clothes Bank topped up for us - it is a great little source of revenue to the school!

Lastly, a grateful thanks to all of our families, friends and supporters here in the Village and beyond - we really do appreciate your care and support for our wonderful little school.

Merry Christmas, and a happy new year to you all!

The Children and Staff | Wilstead Primary School



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Wilstead & Wixams



COMMUNITY
ART GROUP

As the Village Hall will be closed for the whole of January, we have booked the Jubilee Centre for the whole of January, barring the bank holiday on 2nd January. If you live in Wilstead you will know where the Hall is but please Google the location if you are not sure. The postcode is MK45 3HN.

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? 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. (Jubilee Centre for January). 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 a mixed media. Meeting in the large hall makes it a safe space to work in and we are well spaced out.

We wish you all a Happy New Year.



Painting by Andrew

Enquiries:
Michael Bradley

Mobile:
07526 939164

Email:
revmichael14@outlook.com



NEW YEAR GREETINGS

From all the volunteers for
Wilstead Newsletter

The Newsletter team wishes all the residents
of Wilstead a very happy and healthy 2023.

We are always looking for volunteers so if you feel you could help with collating and distributing please contact us at wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com.

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Our local village store stocks fresh grocery and bakery products daily, along with providing a wide range of products including newspapers, magazines, National Lottery, photocopying and much, much more!

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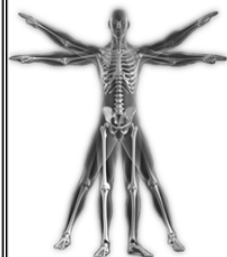


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This newsletter is published by Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch, part of Bedford & District NW Association, in close co-operation with Bedfordshire Police.

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



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Wildlife Walks and Talks January & February

Dream Island: Two years on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire

with
Steve Halton

Monday 23rd January | Zoom online | 7:30 pm

After graduating with a wildlife illustration art degree at Carmarthen, Steve volunteered on Skomer Island for a few months and was then offered a job as Assistant Warden on Skokholm for two years. This is the story of a magical island with choughs, puffins and peregrines by day and Manx shearwaters and storm petrels by night. A tale of birds, big seas, flowers and cliffs and people who love wild places.

Free, but donations welcome.

Quiz Night

including

Fish and chips supper

Friday 10th February | 7:00pm for 7.30pm start
Maulden Village Hall

Come and test your knowledge on a range of subjects and have a fun evening!

You can now book in your teams, maximum six members, for the event. Email Ann with names of your team members, a team name and meal choices. Vegetarian option available.

Cash payments at the door only please.

£12.00 per person.

Note: Due to conditions of the Hall's license, you may not bring or consume your own alcohol. Wine, beer, and soft drinks will be available to purchase from the bar.

OPEN TO ALL, HOWEVER, PLEASE BOOK AS SPACES ARE LIMITED

To reserve a place or for further information please email Ann at flitvale.info@gmail.com or ring or text on 07580 178889.

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

Registered charity number: 1000412

www.wildlifebcn.org

Flit Vale Local Group www.flitvale.org.uk

Wilstead Village Hall

The Wilstead Village Hall Management Committee (WVHMC) wish everyone a Happy New Year and send a BIG thank you to all the hirers and users of the hall who have adapted throughout the year of 2022 not always having a complete and normal service. Hopefully 2023 will not have any reasons to close or run at half measures because of Covid, short staffed and/or ill health of the Hall team.

By the time you are reading this, with luck, the floor is being repaired and no major problems have been revealed to delay the hall opening again on Monday 30th January. With a new floor and new curtains, the Hall should look very smart for 2023.

There is still a vacancy for the role of assistant caretaker, working for 3 hours or 6 hours per week. If you wish to discuss the job, please contact either of the names below.

Sandra Spinks | Chairperson
sanschambers@hotmail.com | 07853 395939

Angela Fosbrook | Secretary
angela.fosbrook@ntlworld.com | 01234 294692

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Newsletter

DEADLINE

For any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

Friday 20th January

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 3rd 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.

Telephone Number List:

To cut out and keep by your telephone.

EMERGENCY	999
CRIME IN PROGRESS	999
Non Emergency Police	101
Police Headquarters	01234 841212
PC6587 Craig Bond	101
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.

Advertisements & Accounts

MAXINE HENDRY, 17 Hampton Close, Wilstead MK45 3DA
✉ wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com ☎ 407998

Editors

Crime Prevention News/Information

BRIAN JONES, 16 Hooked Lane, Wilstead MK45 3DL
✉ wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com ☎ 741931

Local Village News & Information

JACKIE LLOYD, 41A Luton Road, Wilstead MK45 3ER
✉ wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com ☎ 742757

NW Area Co-ordinator

GERALD GALE, 149A Cotton End Road, Wilstead MK45 3DD
✉ wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com ☎ 740972

Artwork by SIMONE MILLIGAN ✉ wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com

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The Village Hall has been booked for the Tea Party on **Wednesday 1st March** and the entertainment has been arranged.

The previous New Year Tea Parties have, not surprisingly, been in early January but repairs to the Village Hall floor has meant that the next Tea Party will have to be a bit later.

So if you are a senior citizen and you don't want to miss out on this increasingly popular village event please fill in the slip below, tear it off and drop it in at the Post Office or give it to one of the contacts listed below.

A super Tea Party is planned and the entertainment is booked.

All we need now is you.

The Tea Party will be from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. So come along and enjoy yourselves.

Contacts:

Nigel Jacobs | 51 Dines Close | 01234 400733

Eric Benton | 125A Cotton End Road | 01234 740971

Transport can be arranged if you have difficulty getting to the Village Hall.

If you would like a lift please indicate on the tear off slip and be ready by 2.50pm and we will pick you up between then and 3.15pm.

(Organised by Wilshamstead Endowed Charities)

I would like to come to the New Year's Tea Party on **Wednesday 1st March 2023** - 3.30pm to 6.30pm.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

☐ If you would like a lift to the Tea Party please tick this box

Tear off and drop the slip to the village Post Office, or hand it to one of the contacts listed above.