



# Wilstead

# NEWSLETTER

February 2022

including Parish Council News

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

## Pre-School Quiz Night

Friday 25th March

### Wilstead Village Hall

Pre-school is pleased to announce it is holding a quiz night in the Village Hall. Compère and quiz master will be Samantha Lee (ex Blue Coat and all round entertainer!).

**Doors open at 7:30pm. Questions at 8.00pm.**  
**Teams up to 8 per table. Entry is £5 per person. We will be holding a raffle and bar will be available.**

Please do support this event for a worthwhile cause. To book a table contact 07948565992 or Pre-school 01234 742546.

This will be a really fun entertaining quiz night!

More details in the next Newsletter.

**See you there.**

## CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

### State or Public Order

Friday 24th December at 5am  
Pollards Close

### Stalking

Friday 24th December at Midnight  
No further details

### Malicious Communication

Monday 20th December - No time stated  
Pollards Close

### Robbery of Personal Property

Tuesday 14th December at 8pm  
Bedford Road

### Assault with Injury

Sunday 12th December at Midnight  
Wooding Way

### Other Criminal Damage

Monday 29th November between 6.15pm and 6.33pm  
Castle Close

## Crime Recorded for nearby Villages

Cardington 3, Houghton Conquest 1,  
Shortstown 7 Wixams 8.

*The above 'Crime Recorded' is the latest available and is up to 31st December.*

## Wilstead Memory Tree

Happy New Year! I just wanted to say thank you so much to everyone who joined me this year with the Wilstead Memory Tree in Wilstead Burial Ground.

The tree looked amazing with all the lovely hearts. Thank you to everyone who donated. We managed to raise £550.00 for St Johns Hospice.

I look forward to making more hearts for the Memory Tree this year and hope that you will join me once again. **Jo Brampton**

All enclosed articles are subject to current Covid19 restrictions

### Contents this month includes:

Parish Council .....	Page 3
Good Neighbours .....	Page 7
Garden of Remembrance .....	Page 8
Caretaker needed at Jubilee Centre .....	Page 11
Garden Club .....	Page 14

Your Co-ordinator is:

## Do You Know Where To Report Scam Messages?

Fake emails and text messages are a common tactic used by cyber criminals, their goal is often to convince you to click a link. Once clicked, you may be sent to a dodgy website which could download viruses onto your computer, or steal your passwords and personal information.

In order to try and convince you that their messages are legitimate, criminals will pretend to be someone you trust, or from some organisation you trust. This could be your Internet Service Provider (ISP), local council, even a friend in need. And they may contact you by phone call, email or text message.

### Reporting suspicious emails:

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, you can report it by forwarding the email to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service at: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

As of 31st October 2021, the number of suspicious email reports stands at more than 8,100,000, with the removal of more than 67,000 scams and 124,000 URLs.

### Reporting suspicious text messages:

You can report suspicious text messages to your mobile network provider, for free, by forwarding the text to 7726.

If you forward a text, your provider can investigate the origin of the text and take action, if found to be malicious. If 7726 doesn't work, you can find out how to report a text message by contacting your provider.

On many Android devices and iPhones, pressing and holding on the message bubble should present the option to forward the message.

For more of the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website: [ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware).

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# Wilshamstead Parish Council

## Highways Safety Police Bid Application Update

The Parish Council has been informed that the application has been considered and is being sent to the Police Crime Commissioner for approval before the outcome is known in the next few weeks. The Parish Council application was focused on looking to improve highways safety with a bid for £7,500 towards vehicle activated speed devices in the Parish. The intention then is that, if successful, this money would be matched funded by the Parish Council with a project total of £15,000, so hopefully multiple devices could be purchased to be located strategically throughout the main village routes.

## Average Speed Cameras Update

The Parish Council continues to receive the monthly data from the existing speed cameras in the Parish, which have remained in their current locations following on from the A6 surface work and subsequent diversion of traffic through the Parish.

Councillors have continued communications with Senior Borough Council Highways Officers to look at additional average speed cameras in the Village, to bring greater coverage to the Village, as the Parish Council appreciates that speeding vehicles is a concern for many residents, particularly along Cotton End Road.

At the January Parish Council meeting when the budget and precept for 2022/23 was reviewed in depth, discussed and approved, there was again considerable time taken to ensure the Parish Council has allocated some funding towards a further scheme for average speed cameras in the Village.

Please be assured this continues to be actively pursued and the Parish Council will keep residents updated on progress through the usual various different media platforms.

Continued on page 4 >>>

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>>> Continued from page 3

## Village Improvements

Also, part of the budget discussions was how best to spend some of the Community Infrastructure Levy monies from recent development in the Village. When new houses are built the developer has to pay a contribution towards local infrastructure to the Borough Council, and a small percentage of this money is paid over to the Parish Council.

Looking ahead this year, Councillors felt it is really important that all residents have an opportunity to engage and to have their say on what types of things the Parish Council should be spending the money on. The plan is to enable residents to have input on this very important subject, so those that those living in the Village can decide what are the top priorities. This will include all sorts of different items, from reducing vehicle speed, increasing the play equipment provisions, enhancing the allotments, expanding visual improvements, plus many other ideas.

The Parish Council has set up a Working Group to focus on how best to engage with residents, how to collate the feedback and to then ensure there is a clear progression of items being implemented in a timely way, as a direct result of the resident feedback.

## Neighbourhood Plan

Progress on the Wilstead Neighbourhood Plan has been stalled for the past two months due to the temporary incapacity of some of the key members of the Steering Group. However, things have picked up again and the Plan is in the process of being updated to assimilate the responses from all those consulted when the first draft was completed.

It is expected that the final draft plan will be submitted to the Parish Council for approval at their next meeting after which it will be submitted to Bedford Borough Council. Once submitted, Bedford Borough will check all the documents and publish them (under Regulation 16) for a 6 week period to allow comments to be made.

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The Parish Council will be asked to put all the documents on their website explaining this.

Any comments will be sent directly to an independent Examiner who will examine the Neighbourhood Plan and all accompanying documents. The Examiner will then consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan has been properly prepared, asking any questions that may arise and deciding if any modifications need to be made to the Plan. An Examiners Report will then be issued stating if the Neighbourhood Plan can proceed to Referendum, subject to any modifications.

Bedford Borough will then start the process of organising a referendum which will be held in the Parish (similar to normal election arrangements) at the normal polling station.

Voters will be asked if the Neighbourhood Plan 'should be used to determine planning applications in the Parish?' If there is a majority of 'yes' votes, then the Neighbourhood Plan will be 'made' by Bedford Borough Council. Once made, the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will hold as much weight in decision making as the BBC Local Plan.

### 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 remains temporarily closed in light of the most recent government guidance. Any changes to this will be communicated to residents. You are welcome to 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 7th February** 7.00pm in the small hall of the Village Hall, face coverings will be required.



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# All Saints Church News

With the coming of the New Year we hope that things will settle down and we can get back to some sort of normality with our activities at All Saints.

Services are held regularly on Sunday mornings at 11.00am, either a Eucharist led by one of our visiting clergy or Morning Prayer led by ourselves.

With Covid Regulations hopefully easing we hope to return to our monthly Coffee mornings.

The first of these is scheduled for **Wednesday 16th February** at 10.30am in the Chapter House and provisionally for **Wednesday 16th March** also at 10.30am in the Chapter House.

All are very welcome to come for coffee, cake and a chat.

On a more serious note we have received a letter from the Diocese about the Garden of Remembrance, (see page 8).

New Diocesan Regulations have come into force about what is and what is not allowed to be put around the Ashes Burial Plot. A copy of the letter is shown together with our Church News about what is needed to be done.

The Regulations are in the porch for you to read plus a copy of the letter.

Hopefully we can cooperate together on this extremely sensitive subject.

**Robert Heley**

# Wilstead Bowls Club

We are enjoying short mats every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons starting at 2.00pm and on Friday evenings at 7.00pm.

On Friday evenings at 9.00pm we play dominoes which is very competitive. We are looking for more members to come and join us.

Our next coffee morning is on **Wednesday 9th March** starting at 10.30am.

**Jean Ward | Secretary**





Until next time, look after yourselves and keep well.  
Regards to all.

**Rick Baxter** | Chairman WGNS

01234 740854 | WGNS Phone 07807 408928

## Wilstead Players News

A very belated Happy New Year to all our members, Patrons and supporters. The Players were pleased with the reception of 'Make 'em Laugh' in December and thank everyone who came. Your support enabled us to recoup some of the losses we suffered with the aborted production of 'The Wizard Of Oz' just as Covid derailed everything.

Looking ahead, Nic Hickson has proposed to direct 'Bouncers' by John Godber as our next production for late April, possibly **Thursday to Saturday 21st to 23rd April**. More details will be in the next edition of the Newsletter.

**Jackie Tanswell** | 01234 740782

## January Update

As a group we are still 'open for business' but for the time being we are having to revert to the previous precautions and where lifts are concerned, the client must declare that they do not have Covid symptoms and must sit in the rear of the car and must wear a mask at all times and, unless absolutely necessary, be on their own and essentially mobile, with car friendly walking aids at the drivers discretion.

The Wilstead afternoon tea/coffee shop is still going strong with many of the 'old regulars' returning which is good to see. The next dates are Fridays - 11th February, 25th February, 11th March and 25th March.

Our Group plans to hold our postponed AGM (Government Rules permitting) on Tuesday 22nd March, at Wixams Village Hall, with Wilstead Village Hall as backup, more details in the next Newsletter.

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

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# Wilstead Garden of Remembrance

We are writing to let you know about some work that will be done in the Garden of Remembrance in Wilstead churchyard in a few weeks time and to seek your help to make sure the churchyard is tidy, respectful and pleasant for all families and visitors. Guidelines for what this means for Churchyards and Gardens of Remembrance are laid out in the Churchyard Regulations, copies of which are in the porch.

The Regulations were revised in August 2020 updated July 2021 and are now in force.

It is understood that in the day immediately following a burial or interment of ashes, the family and friends mourning the death of a loved one may wish to place items on a grave to commemorate their loved one and as tokens of their love. Such items may be left for a reasonable period not exceeding 3 months. To avoid misunderstandings please ask permission from the PCC as we have no parish priest at this time.

As you know we endeavour to maintain the churchyard as an orderly and peaceful place for mourners and a place of peace, dignity and respect for the departed. We need to ensure that it is a place of safety for those maintaining it and that the place is maintained in an environmentally sensitive manner. Any items left in accordance with the Churchyard Regulations should not encroach on to other plots to ensure that all families can pay respects to their loved ones appropriately. Thank you to all of you that cooperate to ensure this.

The plots are close together and you are only allowed the space on and around the memorial plaque which only gives you one square foot of space. You don't actually own the plot. It has been noticed that flowers and other memorabilia have encroached on to adjacent plots making them difficult to access. Stones and pebbles have been placed and should not be used and must be removed.

To this end and to comply with the Regulations from the Diocese displayed in the porch it will be very helpful if you can take away any loose items on your loved one's plot and ensure there are no chippings, stones, flowerpots or shrubs.



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Please do this by the end of **February 2022**. After that date we will carefully remove such items from graves and place them in the church porch for you to collect. The PCC will dispose of any items not collected by the end of **March 2022**.

The only exceptions which can be placed on the grave or memorial plaque are:

- Poppies at Remembrance time
- Wreaths at Christmas
- Wreaths at the anniversary of a loved ones death for a limited period

As regards flower vases which are not normally allowed, may we suggest that you get a "spike" vase which can be stuck in the ground alongside the memorial plaque.

Items not permitted include:

- Free standing metal, plastic or glass containers or pot plants or shrubs
- Loose items of any kind
- Wire or string
- Artificial flowers
- Crosses made of wood placed at the burial of ashes must be removed as and when a memorial plaque is put into place. The family may keep the wooden cross.
- Chippings, stones, kerbs and timber edging
- Items which may be inappropriate, cause distress to other churchyard visitors, or be stolen, or which could be a danger (e.g. glass jars)
- Planted shrubs or small trees

**PCC Contact 740927**

If you require clarification on the Churchyard Regulations on the points made please contact The Diocese of St Albans by email to [dac@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:dac@stalbans.anglican.org) or telephone within office hours on 01727 818138.

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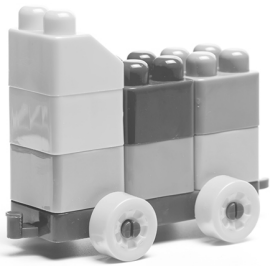
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**Facebook:** Wilstead Stay and Play



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## Footpath Group

### Meetings

The Group had its latest meeting on 15th January and there were reports on each of the seventeen Rights of Way around the Village. A lot of the paths were muddy and slippery in places, some with standing water. The largest 'lake' was on the path from Ivy Lane to Elms Lane which measured about 5 metres across, but we could still get round it.

The main areas of work identified for the Group to undertake were the re-instatement of several waymark posts and the replacement of some faded waymark discs. There is little the Group can do about muddy/slippery paths if there has been a lot of recent rain!

The next meeting is on the **Saturday 12th March** in the Village Hall. If you are interested in helping to keep an eye of some of the seven miles of footpaths and bridleways in the Parish then come along to the meeting and see what it is all about.

### Work

It is planned to undertake the work identified above in the next month by having a couple of working parties.

### Walks

The traditional New Year's Day Walk went along the paths to Elms Lane, then up to the edge of Haynes and along the top of the escarpment before coming back through Wilstead Wood. Post walk refreshments were at the Jubilee Centre. Thank you to those who organised this.

## WOODCARVING CLASSES

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Contact Barbara Beard 01234 743062 or [bar.beard@btinternet.com](mailto:bar.beard@btinternet.com)

The next walks are on **Sunday 6th February** and **Sunday 6th March**. Meet at the Village car park in Whitworth Way at 10.30am and 2.00pm respectively.

Currently walks are being planned around Steppingley, Roxton, Harlington and Marston. Keep an eye on the Village notice boards at the Village Hall and Crossroads for details of each monthly walk. These walks are normally around 4 to 5 miles. All are welcome.

**Nigel Jacobs | P3 contact 01234 400733**

**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**

**Caretaker Needed For Jubilee Centre**

Do you have some spare time and want to get involved in the community whilst earning?

Wilstead Jubilee Centre is looking for someone to open and close the Centre for regular clubs and occasional parties.

There is minimal cleaning and some safety checks are made weekly and/or monthly.

The pay would be £5 per opening/closing and the successful applicant would be self employed.

If this is of interest to you, and you have a few spare hours a month, please contact the Secretary, Jackie Lloyd on either **07504 908288** or by email at **bookjcentre@icloud.com**.

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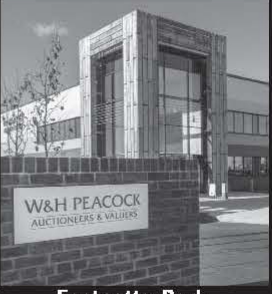
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**Wildlife Walks  
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February and March**



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Northamptonshire**

**Beneficial Insects**  
with **Brian Eversham**

**Monday 21st February**

start at 7.30pm – On-line Zoom talk

Brian, the Wildlife Trust BCN's CEO, will enthral with fascinating stories of the diverse benefits that insects and other invertebrate residents and visitors bring to our gardens, pollination, seed dispersal, 'pest' control and more.

A free event, but donations at another event always welcome. Open to all.

Links to the Zoom meetings will be provided to all registered attendees closer to the events.

To reserve a place or for further information please email Ann at [flitvale.info@gmail.com](mailto:flitvale.info@gmail.com) or ring or text on 07580 178889.

**The Mystery of Scientific Names**  
with **Judith Knight** and **Bob Hook**.

**Monday 14th March**

start at 7.30pm – On-line Zoom talk

Join us for a light-hearted talk and find out there are good reasons for the names, and how many names can be unravelled without too much research!

There are some funnies, too, (did you know that there is a slime mould beetle named after George W Bush?) and some bits of mythology. Judith will also look at a mixture of plants, insects, mammals, and birds. She will spend a couple of minutes talking about Linnaeus.

A free event, but donations at another event always welcome. Open to all.

Links to the Zoom meetings will be provided to all registered attendees closer to the events.

To reserve a place or for further information please email Ann at [flitvale.info@gmail.com](mailto: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](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**

We are very grateful to those members who were able to come regularly in 2020/21 despite Covid as it enabled us to survive. By the time you read this article Covid restrictions may have been completely lifted but we wait to see what happens.

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.

If you're interested in joining 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.



*Drawing/painting by Maggie*

Maggie loves drawing, painting and pastels and often tries out new ideas with different media.

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## The Spring Chorus and Other Animals

The Garden Club has started the year with a bumper turn out for the first meeting when they welcomed Guy Lambourne from Wassledine near Gravenhurst. Wassledine is a small farm with environmental credentials and is open for visits for days in the woods, storytelling and workshops. Guy told us how they have planted areas of willow, hazel and ash for both works of art and more practical uses such as fencing and other structures. The highlight was the demonstration of splitting a hazel stem with a bill hook. A few of us were checking our first aid! Thankfully it was not needed.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15th February at 2.30pm when we will be welcoming Peter Holden the entertaining bird man. Peter was a leading light for the now familiar annual bird count and he has a host of bird related facts and stories. This time he is talking about birds and other wildlife that might be resident or visit our gardens.

We were very pleased to welcome some new members to our January meeting as well as welcoming back some who hadn't been able to come lately. If you haven't been to our friendly meetings and are interested in our talks and visits, please join us. There is no joining fee. Meetings cost £1.50 with an optional raffle and we meet in the Village Hall usually on the third Tuesday of the month. Tea, coffee and biscuits give a chance for a chat with friends old and new.

We hope to see you soon.

**Maralyn, Lynda, Viv and Mary**  
[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)

## 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.

# Wilstead Village Hall

The Hall is certainly getting busier and it is nice to see groups back, children enjoying their parties and people being responsible when socialising within the current Government guidelines.

Between writing this article and you reading it, hopefully several actions will have taken place.

Firstly, the WVHMC meeting will have been held late in January and we hope that new people will have attended. However, at the moment, only one person has shown any interest and more volunteers are needed, especially those youngsters in the Village. It would be such a shame if the Hall had to close because of the lack of a Committee!

Secondly, we may soon have an assistant caretaker, who will be trained by Brian (our main caretaker) for a while. Please support him and be patient as he learns the ropes. When a caretaker is unable to be on duty, a member of the Committee has been and will be covering the hiring. Again, please be patient and support these volunteers as things might not be up to a caretaker standard.

Thirdly, according to the Government's most recent announcement, from 27th January, it will no longer be mandatory to wear face masks in the Village Hall.

However, the WVHMC continue to encourage all hirers and Hall users to wear face masks, to socially distance, use the sanitiser and wash their hands regularly, keep the Hall well ventilated, wipe down tables used, and consider the size and make-up of the group as well as taking sensible precautions to reduce the risk of an infectious spread.

## Chairperson – Sandra Spinks

07853395939 | sanschambers@hotmail.com

## Secretary – Angela Fosbrook

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## Newsletter

### DEADLINE

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**Friday 18th February**

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 4th March.

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

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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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Neighbourhood Watch, Wilstead.

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## Fraud Reporting Trends

These types of fraud have been increasing or commonly featuring during recent months:

- Passport application fraud.
- Lottery scams - victims notified they have won a lottery prize. Fees are required to obtain winnings.
- Rental fraud - increase to holiday rental.
- Door to door sales.
- Application fraud - criminals using false information to apply for a financial product.
- Driving license renewals - websites purporting to offer driving licence renewals.
- Crypto mining scams - victims were persuaded to invest, but no returns were received.
- Covid tests - from a website purporting to be Government approved, no test received.
- Vaccine passport scam emails.
- Fake emails - purporting to be from Amazon claiming to offer an exclusive - it is a phishing email designed to steal personal information.
- Looking ahead: There is the potential for cybercriminals to target vulnerable or older adults who are eligible for a booster Covid-19 vaccine from September 2021.

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