



WIXAMS NEWSLETTER

An Independent Newsletter covering all parishes across Wixams • newsletter@wixams.org

The WIXAMS Survey!

We would love to know your views and opinions on a wide range of topics affecting residents whichever parish you live in Wixams.

You'll find the survey online and at the back of this issue...

SAVE WIXAMS! Mystery Trail

Watch out - Burglar Bertie is planning on stealing the village hall's weather vane! But don't worry - this isn't the latest crime statistic for Wixams, this is the story for a puzzle trail around Wixams designed by local resident Thomas Price.

The trail is a series of clues you access from your phone taking you to different locations around the village. There's even a stop at one of the parks if you want to have a break on your way round. The clues you solve will help you thwart Burglar Bertie's dispicable plan and save Wixams!

"I enjoy web design and we did loads of online escape rooms during lockdown", said Thomas, 13, who attends Wixam's Academy. "So I thought I would make my own but base it around where I live. It's free to play and you can download a certificate at the end".

The activity takes about an hour to do and can be found at www.savewixams.tk

And why does Burglar Bertie want to steal the village hall's weather vane? You'll have to do the trail to find out!

Ramadan in Wixams

This year, Ramadan began on Tuesday 13th of April and will end on Wednesday 12th of May, depending on the sighting of the moon.

A lot of us may have friends, family and colleagues who will be fasting.

You may see lights on early in many houses in Wixams as people wake before 4 am to start the fast with an early breakfast until they finish the fast after 8pm.

What is Ramadan?

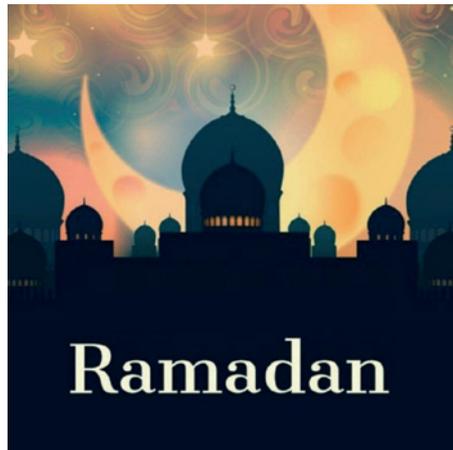
Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and the month in which the Quran was revealed. The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar and months begin when the first crescent of a new moon is sighted in the country you are resident. Fasting during the month of Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

- Healthy adult Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan from dawn to dusk (longest before 4am to up to 9pm UK as the month progresses).
- Muslims are required to abstain from drinking, eating, immoral acts and anger.
- Acts of worship such as prayer, reading the Quran and charity are encouraged.
- One of the aims of fasting is to empathise with the less fortunate members of society who may be short of food and drink.

The prize at the end

- Eid-al-Fitr is the first day of the new month after Ramadan
- People celebrate Eid by wearing new clothes, attending morning prayer, and preparing different kinds of food
- It's a chance to spend time with family and friends. Children receive gifts, money, and toys
- In some countries, it is a three-day holiday after Ramadan

On Eid day people say "Eid Mubarak!" which means "Have a Blessed Eid!"



Readers Pictures...



Chloe Price delivering the Wixams Newsletter on wheels!

Send your pictures from around the village to newsletter@wixams.org

Crime Stats

- 01/03/21 - Other criminal damage - Woodpecker Gardens
- 04/03/21 - Assault without injury - Roe Deer Place
- 04/03/21 - Assault without injury - Roe Deer Place
- 05/03/21 - Malicious communications
- 09/03/21 - Obscene publications etc
- 09/03/21 - Criminal damage to a vehicle - Zander Way
- 09/03/21 - Assault with injury - Robins Heath
- 12/03/21 - Harassment
- 12/03/21 - Malicious communications
- 13/03/21 - Other theft - Green Lane
- 14/03/21 - Malicious communications
- 16/03/21 - Sexual assault (19D)
- 18/03/21 - Sexual assault (20B)
- 21/03/21 - Assault with injury - Bluebird Gardens
- 21/03/21 - Assault with injury - Bluebird Gardens
- 21/03/21 - Public fear alarm or distress - Bluebird Gardens
- 21/03/21 - Assault without injury - Bluebird Gardens
- 24/03/21 - Malicious communications
- 25/03/21 - Possess of control drugs (ex cannabis) - Zander Way
- 28/03/21 - Criminal damage to a building - Business - Harrier Leys
- 29/03/21 - Other criminal damage - Green Lane

To report online non-emergency crimes, incidents or give the police information, go to www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report

See also www.police.uk

You can webchat direct with someone in the Bedfordshire Police control room by clicking the green icon on their website. If you have something to tell us that's not urgent this leaves the phone lines for emergencies.

Last year, over 25% of all collisions involving driver using mobile phone ended in fatality or serious injury - Beds Police



fleeceware apps have earned over \$400 million on Android and iOS
Fleeceware promise free subscription trials but deliver costly charges to victims.

- Be careful with free trials of less than a week.

- Read the fine print
- Be sceptical of viral advertisements
- Shop around
- Secure your payments
- Discuss the dangers of fleeceware with your family

Read more at blog.avast.com/fleeceware-apps-on-mobile-app-stores-avast
www.ourwatch.org.uk

Lakeview Pre-School

Easter 2021

The children had an eggciting time searching for Easter Eggs around Wixams. No 11 was tricky to find as it had blown away. Thank you to the family that found it and attached it to a tree.

Follow us on facebook and Instagram
fb: Dawn Til Dusk Lakeview Preschool
Instagram: [dawntilduskpreschool](https://www.instagram.com/dawntilduskpreschool)

May Half Term Holiday Club
Come and join us for Half Term Fun at our Holiday Club for children aged 7yrs and under

www.kidsdawntildusk.co.uk
Call Head Office for Holiday Club enquiries on 01234 930505

07915 431739
www.laurathomascountselling.co.uk
hello@laurathomascountselling.co.uk

As we come out of lockdown, are you worried about getting back out there?

Have you been questioning the relationships you are in?

Are you thinking about the direction life is heading, and wondering about change?

Talk through your thoughts, bounce around ideas and gain clarity!

Therapy room based in Wixams

@laura_thomas_counselling
 @laurathomascountselling

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Wixams Social Group

Wixams Social Group was formed by two residents for residents. As our activities grew in popularity more volunteers were sought and found bringing us now to a group of six.

We offer weekly shopping trips which we feel helps prolong resident's independence, coupled with local trips of interest including cruises on the Ouse, Museums, Cinema, Garden Centres and Shuttleworth to name but a few. This year we are off to Bourton on the Water, a boat trip on the Thames & Greenwich market and of course our annual excursion to the seaside, this year Brighton. For the first time we are arranging a Turkey and Tinsel three-day trip to Bournemouth; much excitement about this one!! We shall of course arrange other Christmas activities for those who cannot be away for the duration.

We believe the benefit of our trips and events is of great help for both new and existing residents with socialising with others in a different environment.

We believe listening to the laughter we hear on every single trip and for the chit chat that buzzes around the village following the trip, they can only but help with resident's wellbeing. We believe they are important.



Wishing you a happy
and blessed 2021.

We are still meeting you are welcome to join us for our church service using ZOOM, every Sunday 10.30am to 11.30am. Join our service from the comfort of your own home.

For the Zoom link please contact Alan or Chris
word@wixams.org.uk or 07879 716958
www.christthewordwixams.org.uk  Christ the Word Wixams



Wilshamstead Borough Councillor GRAEME COOMBES

Reporting to Wixams (May 2021)

East West Rail - latest round of consultation now open

The latest round of EWR consultation has now opened and the route continues to stoke controversy. A group of properties in the north of the town centre have just been informed that their properties may be subject to a CPO (Compulsory Purchase Order) to make way for the line. A number of groups opposing the chosen EWR corridor have formed.

I encourage all Wixams residents to respond to the consultation by the 9th June closing date. Responses can be submitted via the EWR website: <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation>

Wixams Station

The latest meeting of the Wixams Station Board on 6th April heard that good progress continues to be made. A meeting has been held with L&Q to discuss the planning application strategy. Engineering surveys have been completed and the delays outlined at the previous meeting have been mitigated, with a June 2024 completion date back on track. Ecological surveys have started and will run through to July 2021. A list of platform layout options was presented to the Board and is in the process of being narrowed down to a single option in due course.

Green Lane schools traffic

After having received many further representations from residents around the traffic issue, I have again contacted the Borough and L&Q, stating that the delay in installing a link through to both sides of Wixams is unacceptable and that the matter cannot be allowed to just drag on until developers are ready to install it. I have requested an update from both outlining how they plan to proceed, with clear and measurable timescales.

Resurfacing around the roundabout between The Causeway and Fisherwood Road

The Borough Council informs me that they 'continue to liaise with B&M' but are not yet in a position to confirm exact dates for the roundabout resurfacing. I have responded stating that the delay is unacceptable and sounds as though the Borough is letting B&M dictate terms, when it should be the other way around.

Early construction work on Warehouse site

Borough Council Enforcement Officers acknowledged on 31st March a breach of conditions. As the extended hours were due to lapse on the same date, it appeared to me that the Borough had dragged its feet until the expiry of the extended hours, in order to avoid actually doing anything about this. New hours of working are now 8am-6pm Monday to Friday, though I understand that breaches have continued. I have again written to the enforcement officer asking what they plan to do to address these breaches.

Tel: 07815 302 318

E-mail: wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes

USEFUL NUMBERS

999 - Emergency

Where there is a risk of:

- Personal injury
- Loss of life
- Crime in action

101 - Non emergency

- Reporting a crime that is no longer in progress
- Giving information about a crime
- Contacting local police officer
- Getting update reported crime
- Suspicious incidents

- Wixams Parish Council 07554 443800
- Lakeview Village Hall..... 07821 744848
- Lakeview School 01234 741653
- Wixams Tree..... 01234 608960
- Wixams Academy..... 01234 608950
- Budgens..... 01234 740404
- Portu Gallo's..... 01234 741116
- Lakeside Fish & Chips..... 01234 743942
- Wilstead Tandoori 01234 740904
- Wilstead 9th Kitchen..... 01234 740413
- The Red Lion 01234 402446
- The Woolpack..... 01234 742318
- NHS Direct..... 111
- Wilstead Pharmacy..... 01234 740609
- Bedford Hospital..... 01234 355122
- Doctors - London Road 01234 266866
- Doctors - Houghton Close 01525 300898
- Doctors - Greensand 01525 631390
- Doctors - Oliver St..... 01525 631395
- Doctors - Wootton..... 01234 762500
- Dentist - Cranfield..... 01234 752515
- Scotts Vets..... 01234 742423
- BPHA Customer Service..... 0330 100 0272
- Bedford Borough Council 01234 267422
- L&Q Estates..... 01926 339339
- Wilstead & Wixams Good Neighbours Scheme 07807 408928

RBL 100 - A Century of Service

The Royal British Legion Centenary falls on Saturday 15 May 2021. The Centenary programme will bring together nations, individuals and communities to celebrate the tremendous achievements of the Legion over the last 100 years.

The RBL was formed in May 1921 by the merger of four veterans' associations of the First World War. Its purpose was to provide help to veterans and their families in need, to campaign authorities for improved conditions, and to champion Remembrance.

In 1921, British Legion Founder and President Earl Haig announced that he wished Armistice Day on 11th November to be known henceforth as Remembrance Day and that it would be a 'Poppy Day' to raise funds for veterans' relief. The nation rallied to his call, wearing all 8 million of the poppies available and establishing a tradition to last a century.

The RBL Centenary isn't only about celebrating our past. It's as much about looking to our future. We will be looking at how the Legion can stay abreast of ever-changing welfare needs while delivering a better and more seamless journey to those who come to us with needs or to offer us their help.



MACS MECHANICS

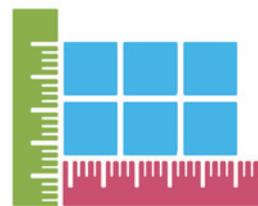
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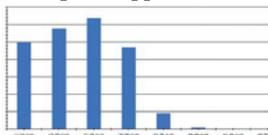
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**FOR ALL YOUR
INTERIOR AND
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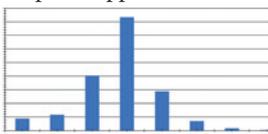
Wixams Parish Council News

Speed feedback signs - Speed data has been taken again from the vehicle-activated speed feedback signs. Below is the data recorded from the signs on Southern Cross and Bedford Road between 31st January and 10th April 2021; the signs were rotated since the previous cut of data was taken, but the speed distribution appears to be similar.

Southern Cross: 31,974 vehicles passed by in one direction with the speeds apportioned as shown in the table. 4% broke the 30mph speed limit. The average speed was 21 mph.



Bedford Road: 65,575 vehicles passed by in one direction with the speeds apportioned as shown in the table. 21% broke the 30mph speed limit. The average speed was 27mph.



Planning - Bedford Borough Council Planning have refused permission for a 5G phone mast

for Wixams; the planning application showed a proposed location for the 18 metre mast on Bedford Road, quite close to houses. The borough council agreed with the parish council that this was not a suitable location – it is required to be away from houses and in a less visible position.

Crossing attendant - Bedford Borough Council are carrying out a study in April to determine if the criteria are met for a crossing attendant for the schools in Wixams. This is supported by the parish council and we are keen for the study to be successful.

Grants - The council continues to have a low amount of requests for grants from local groups. Therefore we have removed the cap on maximum grant sizes and will also be arranging regular virtual drop-in sessions to provide informal advice for applicants. The council has funding of £10,000 in total each year to fund local groups. To apply for a grant you must be a community group or local voluntary organisation with a dedicated bank account, operating or providing a service to the

community of Wixams. Grants can be offered on a one-off basis to support a particular project or the purchase of equipment, to new groups wishing to start up, or as a contribution towards running costs. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

Facebook group - The parish council now has a Facebook group for sharing information. Search for "Wixams Parish Council".

Correspondence with the parish council from residents should remain via email/letter/phone call directly to the clerk.

Next Parish Council Meetings - Our next meetings will be on Monday 24th May (Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meeting) at 8pm at Lakeview Village Hall and Monday 21st June at 7.30pm. Look out for future announcements on our website and facebook.

Contact Details:

Email: wixamspc@gmail.com

Phone: 07554 443800

Website: www.wixams-pc.gov.uk



Councillor Rebecca Hares

Central Bedfordshire Independent Councillor

In the last month work has been ongoing in the background to find resolutions to the access to the schools from Village 4 residents. Cllr Coombes and I presented our respective Councils with a presentation of extensive evidence the delay of access to the schools is having on these students and their families. Since that meeting I have been working with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) officers, and the Village 4 spokeswoman for this issue, to find a suitable alternative to limit the significant impact residents have been experiencing. I'm pleased to say that progress is being made and we should see a temporary resolution in place in the near future.

I have received complaints from landowners regarding footpath issues, largely consisting of trespassing and fires being lit. There were several concerns raised about fires being lit on the public footpath between The Marquee and Bedford Car Auctions which has, to my knowledge, successfully been resolved; this resolution was achieved swiftly with the support of my colleagues and the Officers of Bedford Borough Council. It appears many of these complaints of trespass and associated damage are unintentional, deviation from footpaths is not permitted and in some cases the footpaths have become widened by 2-3 metres. Most of us are fortunate enough not to have public footpaths through our properties, and I imagine we would all agree we would not expect to bear the cost of repair our property due to avoidable damage from the public, nor suffer loss of income because of it.

I have been contacted by several residents regarding antisocial behaviour again increasing at Kempston Hardwick and encroaching into Village 4. I have been discussing options with CBC regarding how best approach and resolve this issue, and I am aware my Beds Borough counterparts are taking similar steps. The complication for CBC is that Kempston Hardwick is within the Bedford Borough boundary, requiring invitation and agreement from the latter for Central Bedfordshire Council to become involved. I hope I speak for all Ward and Parish Councillors in this area when I say, I will continue my efforts to determine a lasting resolution for this issue. It will take time to get these conversations happening; we then require the opportunity to get to the crux of the issues before steps can be taken to resolve them.

If any of these issues have resonated with you or if you have any other issues that you wish me to raise with the Council, please do not hesitate to contact me at bex.hares@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/CllrHares



Councillor Tim Hill's Report

Tim is currently the Borough Councillor for Elstow, Stewartby, The Wixams Retirement Village and Kempston Hardwick

East West Rail - On 12th April 2021, the East West Rail Company opened their 'Virtual Consultation Rooms' and again Mayor Dave and I urge you to get involved if you want to share your views about the route of East West Rail. Links to the 'Virtual Consultation Rooms' were published on the East West Rail Company's website at <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation>. The East West Rail Company held some geographically based public events. The details were on their website. As I type this, Mayor Dave is also arranging online public sessions to listen to views regarding the Council's consultation response as we proceed through the East West Rail Company's consultation period.

Resurfacing of The Causeway roundabout - I have chased the Chief Officer again for a scheme to be designed soon for resurfacing The Causeway roundabout and for it to be done.

Ward Fund Ideas - I know I will have a Councillor's Ward Fund of approximately £10,000 to spend in 2021/22. I just don't know the exact total yet. As always, I intend to spend the money in rough proportion to the number of people in each area. As I type this report, my contributions for Wixams Retirement Village Projects are as follows:

Contribution towards the cost of double yellow lines on Bedford Road, Wixams - £600.00. *To be submitted.*

Contribution towards the cost of Wixams Newsletter - £100.00. *To be submitted.*

The above is roughly the same proportion of the population of the Wixams Retirement Village is of the whole of my Ward. So, for this financial year, I won't be contributing to any other Projects in the area of the Wixams Retirement Village.

Coronavirus - The weekly Coronavirus Borough Snapshot for up to 4th April 2021 showed: • 924 people tested • 32 COVID-19 cases • 18.5 cases per 100,000 people (down from 35.2 the week before)

Wilshamstead Ward is one of only 3 Wards with 3 or more new cases in the 7 days before the Report, but it is in the bottom half for all cases per 1,000 of population.

Street Surgeries - Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, I cannot hold my usual Street Surgeries. I am holding Ward-wide "Virtual" Surgeries at 12.00pm-12.30pm one Saturday a month. These will be advertised via social media and by e-mail. If you want to be included in my regular e-mails, please let me know. Street Surgeries will soon be re-starting.

Libraries re-opening - The Libraries started re-opening from 12th April 2021 with Bedford Central and Kempston. The Mobile Library has also re-started and you can find the new timetable on the Borough Council website.

Fieldfare CAKES



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www.fieldfarecake.co.uk
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Puzzle Corner

Wixams Wordsearch

S	P	I	H	C	D	N	A	H	S	I	F	Y	G	J
Z	P	I	P	U	Q	C	I	F	F	A	R	T	M	Y
J	L	J	T	R	A	I	N	S	T	A	T	I	O	N
E	B	O	E	K	I	W	Z	N	C	S	V	N	F	N
B	V	O	R	Y	B	U	D	G	E	N	S	U	S	F
S	R	X	V	R	U	I	R	U	E	A	E	M	C	D
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K	S	L	T	I	S	Z	J	S	C	H	O	O	L	S
K	I	E	A	R	N	O	R	V	Z	I	Y	O	G	R
X	R	L	L	W	I	G	J	T	D	J	U	F	S	N
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- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| BIRDS | LAKES | SCHOOLS |
| BUDGENS | LORRIES | SWANS |
| BUILDERS | NATURE | TRAFFIC |
| COMMUNITY | NEWSLETTER | TRAIN STATION |
| DUCKS | PARKING | WALKS |
| FISH AND CHIPS | PORTU GALLO'S | WIXAMS |

Last month's solution:

B	I	S	A	U	B	I	A	V	N	N	U	B	B
T	H	S	N	R	E	T	S	A	E	T	N	Y	A
B	G	D	K	U	O	B	A	S	K	E	T	N	N
N	S	F	C	N	O	B	R	T	A	N	S	F	K
H	M	O	G	K	G	S	N	T	G	D	P	L	H
S	S	U	N	D	A	Y	S	D	M	C	R	H	O
O	L	I	R	P	A	C	C	O	Y	M	I	U	L
C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	R	R	N	N	I
C	H	I	C	K	S	E	D	S	R	C	G	T	D
L	A	M	B	S	H	O	N	D	S	A	T	M	A
H	O	T	E	N	N	O	B	A	Y	S	I	O	Y
G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	R	M	A	H
R	O	A	S	I	D	I	N	N	E	R	E	D	R
O	P	R	A	G	E	N	N	E	G	G	S	E	S

Health & Wellbeing

Buggy Walks are a session for you to meet other parents, have a lovely walk and get out with your children. This will be a small group with two practitioners to support and offer advice and guidance if you need it.

Please note due to the small numbers we can currently accommodate families will only be able to book on one session per week and **MUST** live in Bedford Borough. To book your place please visit www.eventbrite.co.uk, tickets will be available one week before the sessions:

Toddler & Cruiser

Title	Buggy Walk @ Jubilee Park
date	Monday's
time	1.30-2.30pm
Title	Buggy Walk @ Addison Park
date	Tuesday's
time	10-11am
Title	Buggy Walk @ Allen Park
date	Thursday's
time	1-2pm

Please note sessions are Term Time ONLY

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* equivalent to 75% of regular black sack, or large 60x50x25cms laundry bag (supplied free to regular customers).

Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week
10-16 May 2021
Hosted by the Mental Health Foundation

This year, the theme for the week is 'Nature'. Across the country, people will be celebrating the mental health benefits of being around nature in their local community in a range of digital and creative ways.

This week is an opportunity for people to talk about all aspects of mental health, with a focus on providing help and advice. Nature is something that is all around us. It can be really helpful in supporting good mental health.

Spending time in and around nature can reduce stress and help increase feelings of positivity.

Take some time out this week to appreciate little bits of nature around you that you may not have noticed before. Do things like, eating your lunch outside, going for a walk, or planting flowers.

For more info on Mental Health Awareness Week, visit our website:
www.mentalhealth.org.uk/mhaw

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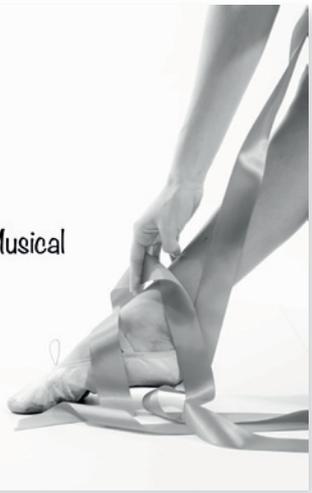
"Chris was brilliant at replacing our en-suite. He took our original idea and made it better!"

"Great job, highly recommended!"

Shine
 Theatre School

Dance classes in IDTA Ballet and Musical Theatre for ages 4yrs-11yrs.
 Lakeview Village Hall, Wixams.

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Gardening Tips for May

by Marion Colledge



Marion is a member of Garden Organic, and Biddenham Gardeners Association. She tweets @Marioncolledge

Hoeing

April in Bedfordshire has been a cold dry month. Each year is different, but it's fair to say that we have only the same annual rainfall as Barcelona, so saving water in water butts, old water tanks from attics, or salvaged food grade containers, is important, as is hoeing/pricking the top of the soil to stop evaporation, if you've time. Mulching the spare ground with newspaper, rotted leaves or wood chips is an easy way to keep it damp.

Raised Beds/Trugs/Herb Box/ Little Space

If you included peas in the raised flower/herb bed in April, they will need stakes and string or net to climb up now. If you didn't plant a box last month, it's not too late to start. A couple of climbing bean plants can be added among the flowers. Go tall, to make up for lack of space. These days we're spoiled for choice and the purple stringless French beans are a good bet. The beans need to be planted, two together about two inches under the soil. I suggest soaking the beans in a dish of water for 36 hours before planting. They have very hard skins, and I have on occasions lost mine through they drying up in the soil.

Peas/ Beans in the Bigger Gardens /Allotments

Peas give a good crop, so the secret is not to plant too many at once. I also soak peas for two days so that the shoots begin to burst through the softened skin, and plant them an inch under well hoed, damp soil, a dozen or so each month until the mid-year. To save space, lettuces or radishes, chicory or other small quick maturing crops can be planted under and around peas. I like to plant purple green chicory as it will later produce lovely blue flowers for the bees, but it's rather bitter, an acquired taste. I'm rather a lazy gardener and I let it seed itself, so it's there from early March each year to eat.



Dealing with the Enemies: Frost and drought

The damp soil in the seed beds can be covered with newspaper till any seeds have germinated, then there's no need to water again. We still get night frosts, sometimes -3°, till the end of May, so it's best to keep an eye on the daily weather forecast. Used litre plastic bottles can be cut in half and each inverted top can protect a tiny bean plant from the frost. Later, these bottle halves, with holes punched in, can be plunged into the soil a couple of inches, and used for delivering water under the soil, near the roots, rather than on top, where it could evaporate.



Larger Flower Gardens

Purple aubretia seed heads can be roughly cut back with shears after flowering, so they may reflower later in the year. If you deadhead primulas, throwing the seed heads down, they may self-set and spread into a carpet the following year.



Some spreading herbaceous plants like catmint, purple Bowles wallflower (erysimum) will be about a foot high by the end of the month. To extend the flowering season, the front third of the flower shoots can be cut off with shears six inches below their tops, so the back half of the plant will flower soon, and the front half will grow up and flower later in July/August. This procedure is called 'the Chelsea chop', because it's done around the time of the famous Show.

It's worth asking to join the Facebook page Abundance Bedford as sometimes members offer their spare plants to those that need them.

Enjoy yourself in the garden!



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There may be a limit to how many adverts of each style we can accommodate in each issue

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for digital versions of Wixams Newsletter and contact details.

Email: newsletter@wixams.org

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Deadline for submissions for next issue:
19th May 2021

If there is anything specific you would like to see in the Newsletter or if you would like to write an article of interest to others please get in touch with us at newsletter@wixams.org

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Wixams Residents Survey 2021

It's been more than a decade since the first bricks were laid down here in Wixams so it's a good time to get some opinions and feedback from this rapidly growing community. We've put together 23 questions which will help understand a little about our residents, what the issues are and what the biggest priorities should be here.

Once complete, the results from this survey will

be published on www.wixams.org/survey-2021 for all to access.

The data can then be used by parish councils and local groups to help plan and prioritise. Some questions may be challenging due to the current Covid-19 pandemic so please answer all questions as you would post-Covid.

Your opinion matters, so thank you for taking the time to participate.

Please complete and cut off the survey and drop it at one of the below collection points, or scan/photograph and send to newsletter@wixams.org

- Lakeview Village Hall post box
- Wixams Retirement Village reception

You can also complete this survey online at: www.wixams.org/survey-2021

Please complete one survey per household.

1. Which parish do you live in?

- Wixams Houghton Conquest
 Elstow Stewartby
 Not sure

2. How many people (including children) live in your household?

3. How long have you lived in Wixams?

- 0-2 years 2-4 years
 4-6 years 6-8 years
 8-10 years 10+ years

4. If you have a mobile phone from any of the providers below, how good is the mobile reception in your house?

Tick all that apply.

	Good	Fair	Bad
• BT Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• EE / Orange / T-Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• GiffGaff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• iD Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• O2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Sky Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Tesco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Three	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Virgin Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Vodafone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Public Transport & Commuting

5. How often do you use the bus services in Wixams?

- Never Once or twice a year
 Once or twice a month Once or twice a week
 Many times a week

6. How could the bus services be improved?

Tick all that apply.

- Discount schemes (e.g. Day Rider tickets)
 Reduced fares Improved routes
 More frequent services Earlier/later services
 24 hour services
Other: _____

7. When built, will you use rail services from the Wixams station to commute (incl. to Bedford)?

- Yes No Not sure

8. Do you run a business from home?

- Yes No

Crime & Road Safety

9. Which of these have affected you in the last 5 years (or since moving to Wixams)?

Tick all that apply.

- Burglary Anti-social driving
 Drugs Car crime
 Drunkenness Anti social behaviour
 Vandalism Litter
 Speeding Dog fouling

Other: _____

10. Do you think any of the following measures are needed to help prevent crime in Wixams?

Tick all that apply.

- Better consultation between police and local people
 More visible police presence
 Better supported neighbourhood watch
 More activities for young people

Other: _____

11. What measures do you think are needed to improve road and pedestrian safety?

Tick all that apply.

- Speed humps Average speed cameras
 Raised traffic platforms 20 mph zones
 Road narrowings Double yellow lines
 Priority chicanes Verge parking restrictions
 Fixed speed cameras Pedestrian crossings

Other: _____

Wixams Development & Consultation

12. How well do you know what is planned for the Wixams town centre?

- Extremely well Very well
 Moderately Slightly
 Not at all

13. Do you think the facilities in Wixams meet the needs of children & teenagers?

- 0-6 years: yes no not sure
- 6-12 years: yes no not sure
- 12-18 years: yes no not sure

14. Do you feel like you're kept informed about the plans for the Wixams development?

- Yes No Not sure

15. Do you feel your views for the Wixams development are being taken into consideration by the developers and councils?

- Yes No Not sure

16. Should regular meetings/open sessions be held for residents to keep them informed of the plans for Wixams?

- Yes No Not sure

17. If yes, how often should these meetings be held?

- Every 6 months Annually
 Every 2 years Every 5 years

Issues & Priorities

18. What are your top five issues in Wixams?

Select up to 5.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roads & traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of open green spaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speeding | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of recreational facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of community facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of healthcare facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pollution | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of facilities for children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus services | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of facilities for teenagers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime | <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough school places |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-social behaviour | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile phone coverage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment opportunities | |

Other: _____

19. What do you think should be prioritised for the remainder of the Wixams development?

Select up to 7.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary school places | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental surgery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary school places | <input type="checkbox"/> Village hall / community facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports pitches | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Link roads from B530 to A6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gym | <input type="checkbox"/> Office spaces to rent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor gym equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial units to rent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skatepark | <input type="checkbox"/> Shops / retail units |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities for teenagers | <input type="checkbox"/> Large supermarket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open green spaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Public house |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trees and greenery | <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurants / cafés |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allotments | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric vehicle charging points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctors' surgery | |

Other: _____

20. Please use the box below to provide further comments about issues or priorities in Wixams:

21. When fully built, how well do you think Wixams will meet the expectations you held when you moved here?

- Well above expectations Above expectations
 As expected Below expectations
 Well below expectations

And finally...

22. What sort of activities & events in Wixams would you or family members be interested in attending?

Tick all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee mornings | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Residents association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Running / jogging group | <input type="checkbox"/> Evening classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking group | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Institute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth club | <input type="checkbox"/> Live music/DJ nights/discos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book club | <input type="checkbox"/> Bar nights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening club | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz nights |

Other: _____

23. Where do you get most of your updates and news about Wixams?

Tick all that apply.

- Bedford Borough Council
 Central Bedfordshire Council
 Wixams Parish Council
 Houghton Conquest Parish Council
 Ward Councillor
 Notice boards
 L&Q Estates
 Wixams Newsletter
 Spotted: Wixams
 Wixams Community Group
 Word of mouth

Other: _____

Please drop off your completed survey by 31st May

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION