



WIXAMS NEWSLETTER

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

A WIN FOR WIXAMS

A community success story by concerned parent - Paul Pantony

Along with every other parent I first heard about Bedford college academies trust withdrawing the provision for a 6th form via email on April 22nd.

It took a few hours for it to sink in properly, and understand exactly how much upset this was going to cause.

I vented my unhappiness on the local Wixams facebook group, and the support from other parents and the wider community was overwhelming, clearly more need to be done to get this overturned.

By day 2 there was a dedicated Facebook group set up, and I had contacted the local newspapers and BBC 3 Counties Radio, I am a dedicated fan!

In the following days a newspaper article was published by Bedford Independent, a petition was created and BBC 3 Counties had done two live broadcasts from the Academy. Support was growing fast.

Meanwhile a dedicated group of parents were behind the scenes emailing anybody and everybody in authority. We went to the top!

By May 5th we were made aware that the DfE were meeting with BCAT, and at 3.30pm we received an email telling us the decision had been reversed and apologising for the distress caused, and the 6th form would go ahead as planned.

We are delighted, relieved and look forward to working with BCAT in the planning and implementation going forward.

A win for Wixams at last!

Wixams Academy



Dear Friends,

As COVID slowly eases, it has been wonderful to see our students enjoying a more 'normal' school experience. Assemblies have re-started this week in the Main Hall, after-school clubs are underway and thriving and school trips and sports fixtures are getting closer again.

We are so happy with the announcement that our Sixth Form will open in September 2022, in time for our 'Founding Students', now in Year 10, to join us. We are very grateful for the support of our wonderful community and will continue to work with you and our students to develop a brilliant sixth form. More news on this very soon!

Now we approach the last half term of our fourth year as an Academy.

The year has not been without its challenges, but we have been immensely proud of all students as they mature and turn into impressive young adults. We have also been recruiting more outstanding teachers and support staff to join our excellent Academy team. We will be close to 100 staff in September, yet it doesn't feel long ago that we opened with 8 colleagues and 80 students!

We all look forward to working closely with our community over the coming weeks and months.

*Paul Spyropoulos
Principal*

Some of our Duke of Edinburgh Award students orienteering



WIXAMS Survey deadline EXTENDED!

There is still time to air your views and opinions on a wide range of topics affecting residents whichever parish you live in Wixams.

You'll find the survey at the back of this issue again, and online by scanning the QR code or visiting at www.wixams.org/survey-2021/



Crime Stats

- 2/4/21 - Other criminal damage - Zander Way
- 2/4/21 - Public fear alarm or distress - Harlequin Crescent
- 3/4/21 - Public fear alarm or distress - Hummingbird Way
- 4/4/21 - Harassment
- 4/4/21 - Public fear alarm or distress - Hummingbird Way
- 8/4/21 - Assault with injury - Harlequin Crescent
- 13/4/21 - Assault without injury - Lakeside Way
- 13/4/21 - Assault without injury - Lakeside Way
- 13/4/21 - Other criminal damage - Lakeside Way
- 13/4/21 - Other theft - Harrier Leys
- 15/4/21 - Sexual assault (19E)
- 16/4/21 - Malicious communications
- 24/4/21 - Harassment
- 25/4/21 - Assault without injury - Goldfinch Gardens
- 27/4/21 - Assault with injury - Goldfinch Gardens
- 27/4/21 - Assault without injury - Goldfinch Gardens

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.



WRV Gardening Club

The garden club is for any resident with an interest in gardening. Many of us have left much loved gardens but wish to continue with a hobby we enjoy. WRV has a maintenance contract for the grounds however this does not include the tubs at the front of the building, the raised beds and the Galleria (see picture).

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of some residents we were able to plant this area and display Camellias and Rhododendrons donated by a resident.

The external boxes are mainly planted with flowers but we do have some herbs and a bay tree for the use by people here. We aim to have a floral display at the front of the building throughout the year to welcome visitors.

The club is self financing and thanks to the generosity of residents, and Cottage Farm Nursery in Cople, we can continue planting for the enjoyment of all.

*Margaret Musgrove,
Garden Club Secretary.*





**Christ the Word
Wixams**

*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
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Career Counselling
Each year of full-time work equates to around 2000 hrs of our life - a considerable amount of time! Not surprising that being unhappy or unsatisfied in a job can profoundly affect our lives.

What we could work on:

- Negative thought patterns and how to change them
- Looking at personal issues that may be impacting
- Advice on CV and cover letter writing
- Learning to make the most of your skills, attributes and experiences
- Setting attainable goals and putting a plan in place
- A place to understand your fears, vulnerabilities, hopes and dreams without judgement



Please visit my website and social media pages for other areas that counselling can support you with

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YOUTH CORNER *by Ellie*

Welcome back to the Youth Corner!
In this month's issue, I'll be showing you all a craft you
can do with your family.

You will need:

- Ruler
- Scissors (Ask an adult to help you out with these - they can be dangerous!)
- Paper
- Coloured Pencils
- Glue Stick

Start by cutting strips of paper, each one longer than the other. Make sure a parent or guardian does this for you, as this can be dangerous.



(photo credits to bakerross.co.uk)

Colour the strips in rainbow order, making sure it starts with red as the longest and purple as the shortest. Next, stick the strips of paper onto a piece of plain A4 paper, making a rainbow shape by bending the strips into half-circles. Write a message on the plain paper base, and you're done!

Have fun with this craft - you can be as creative as you want!
Why not try drawing and sticking on some clouds, butterflies or birds? See you in next month's issue! -Ellie



Wilshamstead Borough Councillor GRAEME COOMBES

Reporting to Wixams (June 2021)

6th Form Education Provision at Wixams

In recent weeks I have been contacted by a number of parents, extremely concerned about the decision by Bedford Academy Trust to delay 6th form education provision at Wixams. I share their anger and frustration, as it has long been recognised that education provision at Wixams would be from age 5 right through to age 19.

When the first residents moved to Wixams back in 2009, under the 3 tier system in place at the time (long before the Academy and Wixams Tree Primary were built) I knew of Wixams parents with 3 children at three separate schools, all outside Wixams. This was a logistical as well as a financial nightmare for parents.

Thus the original plans for Wixams clearly showed that there would be continuous education provision right up to age 19, so that all Wixams parents had the choice of sending their children to local schools for the whole of their school life.

The decision to delay is therefore yet another example of what was originally promised to Wixams subsequently failing to materialise. I have written to Borough Council education officers making clear my concern about this decision to delay 6th form provision. The Borough education department is now erroneously trying to claim that education provision was only ever guaranteed up to age 16, not 19. This is blatantly not the case and numerous Council documents and education papers demonstrate clearly how untrue this statement is.

Both the Academy Trust and the Borough Council now need to work together to deliver 6th form facilities at Wixams as originally agreed. Further delay and backtracking will yet again show that Wixams promises are never honoured by Bedford Council and that parents and pupils are again being let down.

Tel: 07815 302 318

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

Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes



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rebecca.fraser@magickingdomparties.co.uk

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

Health & Wellbeing

Bedford Borough Children's Centres

Bedford Borough Children's Centres offer a full range of **FREE** services to expectant parents/carers and families with children up to the age of five.

They are currently offering parenting workshops via zoom - to book your place visit www.eventbrite.co.uk

Tickets will go on sale a week before the session is due to take place.

Delivery of some services is continuing via Zoom such as Workshops, Bedford Bumps and Introducing Solid Foods and bookings will remain through Eventbrite.

Please see the image as an example.

Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>Monday</p> <p>Self-Weigh Appointments @ Daisy Hill</p> <p>Home Safety Workshop on Zoom (monthly)</p> <p>Breastfeeding Support Appointments @ Cherry Trees</p> <p>Buggy Walk @ Jubilee Park</p> <p>Zoom Well-Being</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Self-Weigh Appointments @ Queens Park</p> <p>Potty Training Workshop on Zoom (monthly)</p> <p>Breastfeeding Support Appointments @ Queens Park</p> <p>Buggy Walk @ Addison Park</p> <p>Lockdown Baby Group @ Goldington</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Self-Weigh Appointments @ Cherry Trees</p> <p>Behaviour Workshop on Zoom (monthly)</p> <p>Breastfeeding Support Appointments @ Daisy Hill</p> <p>Lockdown Baby Group @ Kingsbrook</p>
Thursday	Friday	<p>Self-Weigh and Breastfeeding Appointments to be booked by ringing 0300 323 0245</p> <p>Workshops, Lockdown Baby Group, Buggy Walks & Zoom Well-Being to be booked via Eventbrite:</p> <p>https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/early-childhood-partnership-27970195355</p> 
<p>Thursday</p> <p>Self-Weigh Appointments @ Goldington</p> <p>Sleep Workshop on Zoom (monthly)</p> <p>Breastfeeding Support Appointments on Zoom</p> <p>Buggy Walk @ Allen Park</p> <p>Lockdown Baby Group @ Queens Park</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>Self-Weigh Appointments @ Pine Cones</p> <p>Breastfeeding Support Appointments @ Pine Cones</p> <p>Lockdown Baby Group @ Daisy Hill</p>	

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The college is open to any adults who live or work in Bedfordshire and Luton and the timetable of courses are published 4 times per year.

For further information or to review the current prospectus, visit:

https://www.ehft.nhs.uk/service/382/Bedfordshire-and-Luton-Recovery-College?fbclid=IwAR1-ICeEhngxZWZPK2E8SlyAjp_k-ev7NXkzYcUpq5UjKMOIZAVb-OtvK8Ro

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www.mindrecoverynet.org.uk/scouts, scouts.bedfordshireandlutonrecoverycollege.org.uk



Recovery walks



Bedford Park (meet at the front of ROBINSONS POOL) on Thursdays at 12 noon

Wardown Park (meet at the front of WARDOWN HOUSE) on Fridays at 3pm

www.mindrecoverynet.org.uk/providers_profile/bedfordshire-and-luton-recovery-college/

For further information: email: ehft.recoverycollege@nhs.net or telephone 01234 263 621 / 01582 708 917

enrol online 

QUIZ TIME!

Challenge your family and friends to this QUIZ courtesy of www.freepubquiz.co.uk

Round 1

- 1 Can you name England's only ever pope?
- 2 What is the nearest planet to earth, mars or venus?
- 3 What was the name of the monster in Mary Shelly's famous horror novel?
- 4 Can you name the largest bird species in the world?
- 5 How many pairs of ribs do humans have?
- 6 Name the largest landlocked country in the world?
- 7 And name the most populated landlocked country in the world?
- 8 Name the last imperial dynasty of China (which ruled China proper from 1644 to 1912)?
- 9 How many books are there in the bible?
- 10 How many planets are there in the solar system? Do you know the hottest?
- 11 What is the Spanish word for fox? How about spanish for hat?
- 12 Which period came last in the three-age system of archaeology: the Bronze Age, Iron Age or Stone Age?
- 13 The word mensa is Latin for what?
- 14 Kirsch is a colourless brandy traditionally made from which fruit?
- 15 What does the acronym LASER stand for?

Round 2

- 1 How many bones are there in the human body?
- 2 On which island was Napoleon exiled to following his defeat at Waterloo?
- 3 How many fences are jumped in the Grand National?
- 4 Which newspaper began life as the The Daily Universal Register in 1785?
- 5 What is the term pogonophobia the fear of? And what is acrophobia an extreme fear of?
- 6 Name the smallest country in the world?
- 7 Which two countries in South America are landlocked?
- 8 Where does an arboreal animal live?
- 9 What is the name of the phantom in the Gaston Leroux's novel The Phantom of the Opera?
- 10 How many pairs of chromosomes do humans have?
- 11 Which two country's flags are more or less the same?
- 12 What are the four blood types?
- 13 Which philosopher said, "I think, therefore I am"?
- 14 What do the initials B and Q stand for in the DIY chain B&Q?
- 15 How long did the hundred years war last?

Answers: Round 1

- 1 Pope Adrian IV (born Nicholas Breakspear). He was pope from 1154 to 1159.
- 2 Venus
- 3 It did not have a name but was identified by words such as monster or creature (Victor Frankenstein was the young scientist who created him)
- 4 Ostrich (Struthio camelus)
- 5 12 pairs of ribs
- 6 Kazakhstan (Mongolia was the previous largest until the break up of the Soviet Union in 1991)
- 7 Ethiopia (over 101 million people)
- 8 The Qing dynasty (it was preceded by the Ming dynasty)
- 9 66 books (39 are found in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament)
- 10 8 planets. Venus is the hottest.
- 11 Zoro is Spanish for fox. Sombrero is hat.
- 12 Iron Age comes last, after the Bronze Age (iron was naturally abundant but its high melting point put it out of reach of common use until the end of the second millennium BC)
- 13 Table
- 14 Cherries (Cherry fact: the maraschino cherry is nicknamed the cocktail cherry)
- 15 An acronym for "light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation"

Answers: Round 2

- 1 206 bones (also, babies are born with about 270 bones, the femur (thigh bone) is the strongest, longest, and largest bone, and the stapes or stirrup bone in the ear is the smallest)
- 2 St. Helena (other facts: he was born in Ajaccio, Corsica. His horse was Marengo and he was defeated at the 1815 Battle of Waterloo on Belgium)
- 3 30 fences (two laps of 16 fences, the first 14 of which are jumped twice)
- 4 The Times
- 5 Beards. Acrophobia is fear of heights (note: by definition agoraphobia is a fear of open spaces)
- 6 Vatican City
- 7 Bolivia and Paraguay
- 8 In trees (the biggest arboreal animal is the orang-utan)
- 9 Erik
- 10 23 pairs of chromosomes (for a total of 46)
- 11 Romania and Chad (the slight differences can only be spotted with a very keen eye)
- 12 A, B, AB, and O
- 13 Rene Descartes
- 14 Block and Quayle (it was founded in 1969 in Southampton by Richard Block and David Quayle)
- 15 116 Years

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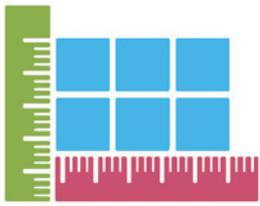
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Councillor Rebecca Hares

Central Bedfordshire Independent Councillor

The spread of the Indian variant of Covid-19 has generated significant concerns, especially with the closure of some year bubbles in the local schools. We're all in this together and the more we can adhere to Government restrictions, the sooner normal life can resume. I encourage residents to utilise the temporary testing centre that has been operating from the Garden Centre car park to hopefully get this outbreak under control.

Recently I put a post on social media outlining the issues residents have experienced at the hands of the Bedford Road chicane where the priority has been incorrectly allocated. Over my time as Ward Councillor I have been inundated with complaints and concerns about this traffic management feature and invited residents to support the requests made to have it rectified by emailing or writing to the Highways Department. If you have experienced a near miss incident at this feature or agree that the issue requires attention, on your school run, or journey through Houghton Conquest village, please email daryl.harvey@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

I'm pleased to announce that efforts to have a bus service for school children currently unable to walk or cycle to school due to the footpath not being accessible, have been successful. Central Bedfordshire Council are still waiting on Bedford Borough for some information to ensure all families requiring this service are catered for. The service is expected to commence after May half term and will be routinely assessed to accommodate new applicants. The service is likely to expand for September to allow for the increased need, the new school year will bring.

The confusing road sign issue is still ongoing with the latest response being that the most recently installed signs are considered accurate as eventually Harrowden Green and Greenlakes Rise will form part of Wixams. In my opinion there are two options with which we could pursue this:

- 1 Lobby both Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council for the relocation of the Kempston Hardwick sign and alterations to the existing signage to limit the confusion.
- 2 Lobby both Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council for the relocation of the Kempston Hardwick sign and investigate the process of having the residential addresses match the signs already installed.

If this is an issue that has affected you, please contact me at bex.hares@gmail.com subject: **Wixams Signs** to let me know which option you think would be best or suggest alternatives you think should be considered.

If any of the above have affected you, or any other areas of concern that I may be able to assist with, please contact me at: bex.hares@gmail.com



Councillor Tim Hill's Report

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

Resurfacing of The Causeway roundabout - The Chief Officer has advised that once all the safety critical schemes are done in the Borough, the resurfacing of The Causeway will be done. I am continually pressing for a date.

Bugs & Bees - Whilst I was out campaigning for Jas Parmar on the P&CC Polling Day, two Wixams Retirement Village residents told me about the lovely flowers recently planted at the front of the Wixams Retirement Village. These are part of the Borough's Bugs & Bees scheme and are a good example of the residents and the Borough working together to make the area even nicer.

Borough Ward Boundary Proposals - The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has released its latest draft proposals. These are at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/bedfordshire/bedford>

Wixams and the Wixams Retirement Village are proposed to be in a new Ward with three Councillors covering Wixams, Wilshamstead, Elstow, Stewartby and Kempston Hardwick. The Borough-wide proposals lead to more wards bigger or smaller than the mean, which is the absolutely key criteria.

I am strongly opposed to the latest draft proposal for the new Ward on the following grounds:

- The sheer size of the proposed Ward means the issues within it are too many to have any decent priority to get resolved.
- There is little or no community of interest across the five villages. Will the old Littleworth Hamlet at the edge of Wilstead really have any community of interest with Green Lane in Stewartby? Of course not!
- Having three Borough Councillors as well as the Mayor, an MP, a Police & Crime Commissioner just adds to the endless confusion on who actually does what.

Street Advice Surgeries - As I type this report, I am planning to re-start my Street Advice Surgeries, at 12.00pm-12.30pm one Saturday a month. These will be advertised via social media, leaflets through letter boxes and by e-mail.

Wixams Parish Council News

End-of-Year Statement for 2020/2021

Your parish council

Like with other organisations, the year has been coloured by the restrictions imposed by Covid. Wixams life has been impacted but the parish council has managed to serve our community. Who would have thought that eighteen months ago we would be conducting council business on screens, but this has worked well and we have managed to keep on top of things.

We are currently a full council with 15 councillors and I was pleased to see our vacancies filled this year by keen volunteers. Your councillors are Samantha Mardel (Chair), Charlotte Day (Vice Chair), Saqhib Ali, Clinton Taylor, Anthony Musgrove, Jody Casey, Tony Blanch, Sergio Fowles, Terry Christian, Graeme Coombes, Rhianna-May Duffy, Scott Foster, David Owens, Janine Alli-Balogun and Rajesh Varma.

Projects

We completed a number of long-running projects this year. We installed four speed feedback signs around Wixams to encourage drivers to watch their speed. The results have shown a speed problem so we have an agreement with the Police and the Borough Council Community Speedwatch van to carry out speed checks as regularly as possible. We remain on the waiting list for average speed cameras and have set aside a sum of money to support this.

We installed two new entrance signs that were designed from a picture by a local 11-year-old competition winner. We're still finalising the location of the sign out to the west, but expect it to be in place soon.

We've added a noticeboard to the green space at village 2 for the public and the parish council to place notices.

There are nine benches being installed in various spots around Wixams; this is due to be completed this week if the weather is good to us. The project was delayed over the winter months because the grass would have been damaged by the machinery.

The parish council is financially supporting a project to permanently embed the stones

painted by children during lockdown on a raised plinth. This is planned to be installed near the Dane Lane lake and should be in place in the next few weeks.

We now have a Facebook group where we will post updates and share useful information. Search for "Wixams Parish Council".

Highways

We continue to work with Borough Council Highways to secure improvements to the road network in Wixams. However, I have to be honest and say that we struggle with the borough's resource and budget constraints – even when we put forward our own funding we sit on a "seemingly" long list waiting to be prioritised.

We have agreed to fund "No verge parking" signs for the southern part of Bedford Road and parking restrictions for outside the retirement village where HGVs are parking on verges overnight; Borough Councillor Tim Hill has also put forward money for this from his ward fund. "No verge parking" signs for Brooklands Avenue and a number of other improvements were requested from the borough council some time ago now.

Planning

Planning is also another hot topic, mainly I think because we have so much of it as a developing area. We have recently received large-scale planning applications for villages 2 and 3 to comment on. The theme of our comments has generally been the same: that we expect the infrastructure and facilities to be provided in line with what was originally outlined for Wixams. With so much development in Wixams, we often receive some quite varied planning applications to comment on. We recently objected to an application for a 5G mast on Bedford Road because the proposed location was so close to houses. We are hoping they can find a more suitable location so we can support the application, although this is now subject to a planning

appeal following the borough council's refusal of planning permission.

Grants

Surprisingly, we continue to struggle to give away grant funding and would encourage groups to come forward. We will shortly be hosting drop-in meetings to give grants advice to potential applicants. To receive a grant you need to be community group or local voluntary organisation with a dedicated bank account, operating or providing a service to the community of Wixams.

Allotments

The Lakeview Allotment Association (LAA) continue to provide good support to their members. The parish council financially supported the implementation of a French Drain on the allotment site to resolve the flooding issue. There is still a waiting list for the allotments so it's important that as many plots as possible are operating. We await news from the borough council of a second allotment site for Wixams.

Committees

The council has created an Events Committee to work alongside the current Wixams Events Team. We also now have a committee to bring outdoor equipment to Wixams, including items such as a fitness trail. These are just getting off the ground so we'll look to bring you more detail in the near future. We also now have a MasterPlan Working Group to review and comment on plans and changes to the MasterPlan, which sets out how Wixams is to be developed.

That was a very brief overview of of this year's work. Let's hope the coming year is less of a struggle for everyone.

Contact Details:

Email: wixamspc@gmail.com

Phone: 07554 443800

Website: www.wixams-pc.gov.uk

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Lakeview Village Hall Timetable

The groups advertised below are correct at the time of publishing.

The groups will have their own restrictions in place to ensure the safety of their members, including maximum number of attendees permitted. If you wish to book on the groups below or have any queries, contact the group directly on the numbers provided below.

Day	Time	Group	Room	Contact	Website /Facebook pages
Monday	15.45 – 16.45	Shine Dance (Ballet)	Lakeview	Louisa Hodges 07749 091885	www.facebook.com/Shine-Theatre-School www.shinetheatreschool.co.uk
	18.30 – 20.00	Wixams Tang So Do	Lakeview		www.facebook.com/WixamsTSD
Tuesday	09.30 – 17.30	Seasons Art Class 2 sessions	Munson	01234 300725	www.facebook.com/theseasonsart www.theseasonsartclass.com
	17.30 & 19.30	Slimming World	Lakeview	Holly 07968 719951	www.slimmingworld.co.uk/group/558255
Wednesday	09:45 – 13.05	Baby Sensory Different groups running	Lakeview	Samantha 07538 502587	www.facebook.com/babysensorybeds www.babysensory.com/beds Email: beds@babysensory.co.uk
	17.45 – 19.00	Irish Dancing - Primary, Intermediate & Open classes	Lakeview	Katie	Email: stuartirishdance@gmail.com www.facebook.com/stuartirishdancebedford
	20.00 – 21.00	Go box fitness	Lakeview	07727 113285	www.facebook.com/goboxfit Email: goboxfit1@gmail.com
Thursday	09.45 – 14.00	Toddler Sensory Different groups running	Lakeview	Samantha 07538 502587	www.facebook.com/toddlersensebeds www.toddlersense.com/bedfordshire Email: beds@toddlersense.co.uk
	18.15 – 19.00	Go box fitness for kids	Lakeview	07727 113285	www.facebook.com/goboxfit Email: goboxfit1@gmail.com
Friday	10.00 -11.00	Active Pack	Lakeview		www.facebook.com/activepackactivities Email: activepackactivities@gmail.com
	18.00 – 20.00	Scouts	Lakeview		www.facebook.com/1stwixamscouting www.1stwixamsscouts.org.uk
Saturday	09.00 – 10.15	Shine Dance (Ballet)	Munson	Louisa Hodges 07749 091885	www.facebook.com/Shine-Theatre-School www.shinetheatreschool.co.uk
	09.30 – 10.15	Irish Dancing Beginners classes for all ages	Lakeview	Katie	Email: stuartirishdance@gmail.com www.facebook.com/stuartirishdancebedford
Sunday	8.30 – 9.30	Go box fitness	Lakeview	07727 113285	www.facebook.com/goboxfit Email: goboxfit1@gmail.com



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Projects I've undertaken have ranged from tiling singular walls to remodelling whole living spaces and creating a more useable environment.

What has been your most creative or challenging project?

I recently created additional space for a family bathroom by utilising the empty storage cupboard. Knocking the wall down to house the bathtub opened up the room and was a great challenge to overcome. I've since been back to this family to upgrade their ensuite for them.

What do you love most about your job?

One of the things I am most proud of is the feedback I receive from my clients time after time. I'm proud to boast an excellent clientele which has been established through great reviews and continues to grow through recommendations.

It's important for me to achieve a sense of individual pride from each project and I undertake each task as if I were creating the space in my own home. Listening to the visions of my clients and seeing their wishes turn into reality is a real privilege and an enjoyable part of what I do.

How long have you lived in Wixams?

I have lived with my family in Wixams for over 6 years. My children go to the local primary school and my fiancé is a childminder in Wixams and governor at the school so we have integrated our lives into this community.

How do people contact you for a quote?

If you'd like a quote for any tiling or bathroom work please feel free to contact me in any of the following ways:

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Gardening Tips for June by Marion

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



Raised beds, containers, trugs, little space

It's not too late to plant vegetable or flower seeds. If possible, it's best to wait for rain, and plant just before or after. A good plant to add to containers is yellow/orange nasturtiums. It's quick-growing, colourful—both the leaves and flowers are edible. It's also nice to have a small variety lavender plant, as the perfume is lovely—the flowers can be collected and used in drawers to deter clothes moths. Plants in containers will use up the nutrients, so they'll need watering with added seaweed solution/topping up with a sprinkling of seaweed powder/or more compost.

Seed companies won't like me saying this, but nearly all types of seeds can be stored longer than the 'Sow by' date. Most will keep for several years. The receptacle should be tight closed and be kept in a cool dry place. I store them in tins in the outhouse or in containers in the bottom of the fridge.

Last year I found two patti pan squash seeds (also known as summer squash) left over, expiry date end 2016, both of which germinated in paper cups last year.



In the larger garden/on the allotment Weeds/Grass clippings

Well, we got our rain eventually – all at once and everything doubled in size. If you feel 'down' about the weeds, bear in mind that tall weeds are a sign of healthy soil. Mulching (damp) beds with a thick layer of grass clippings will help suppress them. It seems a waste to put grass clippings in the council recycling bin. I've used a layer of them to mulch a miniature pear and apple tree. Grass clippings rot down very quickly and a compost heap full of grass clippings alone would turn to mush. Courgettes and cucumbers like to have heat underneath, so if you haven't put them out yet/sown the seed, you can use some of the clippings under a raised bump of soil a foot wide and six inches deep with a depression in the middle for the plant and for watering. The rotting grass will create heat.

Weeds can nearly all go in a compost bin, except for bindweed, bulbous buttercup and couch grass with its long white roots. Interestingly, pet rabbits do eat bindweed; couch grass used to fetch a lot of money in Naples as horse fodder, back in the day!

Favourite Spring/Summer Plants

Consider sowing aquilegia, which will self-seed in several different colours: pink, white, yellow, purple, for the future. And tall pink trumpet-like flowers of the hollyhock, which may also self-seed, or at least last two or three years.

If the herbaceous border is full of summer-flowering, spreading plants like catmint, long-flowering Bowles wallflower, and lavender, and Michaelmas daisies and Iceland cactus for the autumn, there will be little space for weeds. And a bonus is that all these species attract bees and hoverflies.

Enjoy your gardening!



Puzzle Corner

Sudoku - Skill: Medium

				9		2		
6	1	2			8			5
		7			1		3	
	9			8				2
		3	9		4	1		
7				6			4	
	4		8			5		
5			7			6	8	3
		6		5				

Notes:

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

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 New readers' letters page coming soon

Dear Editor, I want to ask about 5G reception in Wixams...

Dear Editor, what is the latest news on the train station..?

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Deadline for submissions for next issue:
19th June 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

The Newsletter Team

Editor	Saqhib Ali	newsletter@wixams.org
Advertisements	Sheila Menzies	If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact Sheila at advertising@wixams.org
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Design and Production	Alex Hall	Your local Graphic Designer! For all your design needs visit www.alexhalldesign.co.uk
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Wixams Community Group	Leon Staszak and Adriana Schepankiewitsch	community@wixams.org
Committee	Alan Pibworth, Sandra Beck, Emma Egan and Ellie Egan	

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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
New deadline - 6th June

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION