



# WIXAMS NEWSLETTER

An Independent Newsletter covering all parishes across Wixams • [newsletter@wixams.org](mailto:newsletter@wixams.org)

## TRAFFIC CONCERNS

### A LETTER FROM THE HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY AT LAKEVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

The pupils in Year 6 at Lakeview School have been discussing traffic safety. We wanted to make you aware of some of the issues we face when moving around the local community, including problems with traffic. We know it is everyone's responsibility to keep themselves and others safe. We love living in Wixams and we want to make it a safe utopia of a village for everyone. That is why we are sharing our thoughts with you.

Firstly, there seems to be a problem with parking. There are cars parked all along the sides of the roads. There is only room for one car to drive along the road which means cars might collide with each other. When we are walking and crossing the road to come to our school, it is difficult to see around the tall vehicles parked at the side of the road. Sometimes people walk into the road before looking left and right because they can't see until they are in the middle of the road. There have also been times where car drivers stop in parking spaces very quickly when we are walking past. There are some electric cars being used in the community, and they are difficult to hear, especially when there are lots of people around. This is a concerning danger as children may not notice these vehicles.

Some people are riding electric scooters. They move very quickly and some people are riding in the road as well as on the footpaths and when they move quickly around corners you can't always see them coming. We would like people with electric scooters to check when and where they are allowed to ride these as you might be breaking the law. Children are also riding their bikes in the road, doing wheelies and stunts. Often they do not have helmets on either which could lead to fatal injuries.

There are some road users who seem to be breaking the speed limit. Outside of Lakeview School, the road surface changes to bricks and this smooth surface might make your car speed up unintentionally. Please check you are going a maximum of 20 miles per hour. A further problem is that there is no drop-down kerb. This means younger children can walk in the road without knowing they are. Please be mindful of this if you are driving and, if you are walking, you have to look for yourself. We have also noticed children playing in car parks which is both risky and dangerous.

Next, the use of technology is also causing a problem for pedestrians as well as road users. Using a mobile phone when you are driving is against the law. Another problem is that people are looking at their phones, and using headphones, whilst crossing the road. We are concerned that these things combined are a recipe for disaster!

Finally, it has been reported that some children are being silly in the road, for example dancing when they think nothing is coming or walking carelessly in the middle of roads. I'm sure you will agree that these examples are very dangerous. Perhaps they don't realise what could happen?

We are sharing these things to keep young lives safe, and protect everyone who lives in our wonderful, caring village.

With best wishes

Lakeview School Head Girl and Head Boy.



#### A note from Sergeant John Killick

In regards to the recent Cygnet incident, this has been recorded and is being investigated by Bedfordshire Police.

We (the North Rural Community Team) are in contact with the Parish Council regarding this and will update them with the progress of the investigation.

A recent school input was completed at Wixams Academy by Police and Fire which covered water safety, not going into the lakes, be respectful to those living around the lakes and respectful to the local wildlife.

We have had regular visits to Wixams, especially around the lakes, shops and football pitches. Our engagements and patrols have been added to social media for the awareness of local residents.

Patrols will be continuing to detect and deter ASB, certainly as we approach the school holidays.

**We encourage residents to report issues of ASB to the Police using 101 or the online reporting tool via the Bedfordshire Police website at**

<https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/>

# Crime Stats

- 29/06/21 - Assault with injury - Nightingale Court
- 19/06/21 - Assault with injury - Woodpecker Gardens
- 30/06/21 - Assault with injury - Woodpecker Gardens
- 11/06/21 - Assault with injury - Green Lane
- 24/06/21 - Assault without injury - Green Lane
- 12/06/21 - Assault without injury - Magpie Gardens
- 13/06/21 - Assault without injury - Southern Cross
- 01/06/21 - Assault without injury - Hedgehog Mead
- 06/06/21 - Assault without injury - Kingfisher Road
- 30/06/21 - Assault without injury on a Constable - Avocet Road
- 12/06/21 - Criminal damage to a vehicle - Zander Way
- 09/06/21 - Harassment
- 20/05/21 - Harassment
- 28/06/21 - Malicious communications
- 20/05/21 - Malicious communications
- 17/06/21 - Other criminal damage - Dove Lane
- 28/06/21 - Public fear alarm or distress - Bluewater Quay
- 22/06/21 - Theft from a motor vehicle - Fisherswood Road

To report online non-emergency crimes, incidents or give the police information, go to [www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report)

See also [www.police.uk](http://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.



**Christ the Word Wixams**

You are welcome to join our Church service

We are meeting back in LAKEVIEW VILLAGE HALL every Sunday from **SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER** 10.30am - 11.30am

Alan or Chris [word@wixams.org.uk](mailto:word@wixams.org.uk) or 07879 716958 Facebook: Christ the Word Wixams [www.christthewordwixams.org.uk](http://www.christthewordwixams.org.uk)

## Maskells M.O.T

Class 4 & 7 MOT's

Your Local, Friendly MOT Test Centre. No Repairs, just an honest and fair test

H Maskell & Son Ltd  
The Works, Duck End Lane  
Wilstead, Beds, MK45 3HP  
[mot@hmaskell.com](mailto:mot@hmaskell.com)  
**Tel: 01234 740 213**

Do you think twice before clicking on links in emails in case it's a scam?

[takefive-stopfraud.org.uk](http://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/ourwatch](http://www.facebook.com/ourwatch)

07915 431739  
[www.laurathomascounselling.co.uk](http://www.laurathomascounselling.co.uk)  
[hello@laurathomascounselling.co.uk](mailto:hello@laurathomascounselling.co.uk)

### The Teenage Brain

Struggling to understand your teen?

Its a turbulent time isn't it!

We assume behaviours are down to hormonal changes but did you know the brain is 'under construction' until our mid 20's?

Find out how the teenage brain grows, how to manage the changes, learn tips, advice and strategies to give you both an easier time.

Please visit my website and social media pages for more information

[@laura\\_thomas\\_counselling](https://www.instagram.com/laura_thomas_counselling) [@laurathomascounselling](https://www.facebook.com/laurathomascounselling)

Therapy room based in Wixams

**Counselling for:**  
Adults  
Teenagers  
Couples

## WIXAMS NEWSLETTER DELIVERY TEAM NEEDS YOU

If you have an hour or so a month to spare and would like to get out in the fresh air then Wixams Delivery Team needs your help. We are looking for more volunteers to deliver our popular Newsletters especially in Village 4 or just as a back up to cover holidays. If you would like to help us please contact Barbara at [newsletterdistribution@wixams.org](mailto:newsletterdistribution@wixams.org). Thank you.

## Emergency Small Grants

ZeroPA Madad CIC, a new Wixams based Community Interest Company can issue grants of up to £50 to adults in urgent need for food, utilities, or clothing.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS AT [WWW.ZEROPA.CO.UK](http://WWW.ZEROPA.CO.UK)

[grants@zeropa.co.uk](mailto:grants@zeropa.co.uk)  
07758 157051

# T&L

## Painting & Decorating

Reliable,  
efficient ,professional  
family run business  
based in Wixams

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www.tlpaintingservices.co.uk

Call us  
Free no obligation quotation  
07578829561

## WIXAMS TURFING & LANDSCAPING SERVICES.



Hi my name is Jason, I have lived in Wixams for 10 years  
and have been in the Turfing & Landscaping  
Business for 12 years.

I would like to bring my experience to your outside space so that you can  
enjoy throughout the year.



If you would like a full or part transformation  
Or simply a garden tidy

Or haven't the time for upkeep of your garden  
Please give me a call or drop me an e-mail and I

Will be pleased to give you a free quote.

Contact Jason  
01234 743302  
07484651015

E-mail -wixamsturf@gmail.com



DAWNUNTIL DUSK  
CHILDCARE



## Lakeview Pre-School



### Good Luck to our 2021 Leavers

During the last week of term we had a  
Graduation Ceremony for our 2021 leavers.  
We wish them well in their new adventures  
as they move on to big school.

All the leavers took home a special bear to  
remind them of their time at Pre-School.

Follow us on facebook and Instagram  
fb: Dawn Til Dusk Lakeview Preschool

Instagram: dawntilduskpreschool  
Summer Holiday Club

Come and join us for Half Summer Fun at  
our Holiday Club for children aged 7yrs

and under

[www.kidsdawntildusk.co.uk](http://www.kidsdawntildusk.co.uk)

Call Head Office for Holiday Club  
enquiries on 01234 930505

## Burr's Garage Ltd

Tel, 01234741167  
Mob, 07777656767,  
Service, Repairs and  
Diagnostics

30 Ivy Lane,  
Wilstead,  
MK45 3DN

Monday to Friday:  
8.30am-5.30pm.



## Councillor Graeme Coombes

Graeme is the Wilshamstead Borough Councillor.  
Reporting to Wixams (July 2021)

A 279 signature petition was recently presented to Bedford Council requesting measures to ensure Bedford College Academy Trust (BCAT) delivers a 6th Form at Wixams Academy from September 2022 onwards.

Parents and carers had been concerned at a decision by BCAT not to provide the 6th form in 2022, despite it being expected. The Wixams Academy Funding agreement between BCAT and the DfE states "the planned capacity of the Academy is 824, in the age range 11-19, including a 6th form of 224 places". So it's clear that the DfE is expecting a 6th form at Wixams Academy.

There was a belated climb down by BCAT, who then stated in a letter to parents and carers that there WILL be a 6th form from 2022. However, the letter includes some caveats:

1. They stated clearly, that "There will be provision within existing buildings"
2. They also state "We have asked the Principal to find a solution within the existing accommodation"

Neither of these is currently possible. There is no room in the existing buildings because the Trust has taken in so many streams at lower ages. By turning responsibility onto the Principal, BCAT are washing their hands of a problem they have created and pushing it onto someone else.

A solution must be found quickly, and should include creating sufficient capacity to ensure the 6th form can be accommodated. I've spoken to both the Council's Education Portfolio Holder and Chief Education Officer, asking them to ensure BCAT are held to account for delivering the 6th form on time.

The petition was debated at a Council meeting on 14th July, and after prior discussion with other political parties, we unanimously agreed a resolution to champion "the addition of a 6th form provision starting in September 2022 at Wixams Academy, to meet the needs of local residents". At the time of writing, a meeting between the Borough Council and BCAT is imminent.

Tel: 07815 302 318

E-mail: [wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk)

Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes



## Character Appearance Parties

Pass the parcel, Singing, Dancing, Fun and Games,  
Glitter Tattoos, Mini Face Painting, Parachute and  
Bubble Fun, Spell Lessons, sweetie catapults,  
Treasure Hunts and much more! Followed by a  
special surprise for the Birthday child!

WhatsApp or Call : 07729844822

[rebecca.fraser@magickingdomparties.co.uk](mailto: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
• Houghton Conquest Lower School .....	01234 740202
• 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
• Wilstead Post Office .....	01234 740210
• Seasons Garden Centre .....	01234 741909
• Houghton Conquest Parish Council .....	01234 270016
• Houghton Conquest Post Office .....	01234 740208
• Stewartby Parish Council.....	01908 397959

# Health & Wellbeing



## Bedfordshire and Luton Recovery College

Courses and workshops focus on mental health wellbeing and recovery. They are delivered by people with lived experience and professional experience.

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://bit.ly/bedsrecovery>

Email [elft.recoverycollege@nhs.net](mailto:elft.recoverycollege@nhs.net)

Telephone 01234 263 621

## Beat The Heat

With the Summer holidays now started and the recent hot weather, its important to take care when you're out and about as well as at home.

Make sure you #BeatTheHeat by following the Public Health England's guidance for staying cool

Enjoy and stay safe during the holidays!!



## Beat the Heat

Coping with heat & COVID-19

### Stay cool at home



Some of us will spend more time at home this summer



Know how to keep your home cool



Look out for others safely, check latest COVID-19 guidance

### Stay cool, keep well



Drink plenty of fluids and avoid excess alcohol



Slow down when it is hot



Stay connected, listen to the forecast

### Cooler, safer places



Find somewhere cool to rest, indoors or outdoors



Self-isolate at home if advised to do so



Use cool spaces considerably, keep your distance

### Watch out



Be aware of signs of heat-related illness



Cool your skin with water, slow down and drink water



Stay safe when swimming



Get help. Call NHS 111 or in an emergency 999

For more information go to [www.nhs.uk/heatwave](http://www.nhs.uk/heatwave)

PHE publications gateway number: COV-1289

# Wixams Parish Council News

## Waterside Way accessibility

The borough council will shortly be installing a ramp on the steps between Waterside Way and Brooklands Avenue shops for accessibility reasons following a request from a resident, who pointed out that the only other route to the shops was long and winding. Borough Councillor Graeme Coombes will very kindly be funding half of this from his Ward fund.

## West Wixams entrance sign

The third and final Wixams entrance sign should be installed imminently over on the west side of Wixams by the roundabout off the B530. This location has proved trickier to find a suitable location than the other two.

## Speed Indication Device (SID)

The parish council will be purchasing a fifth speed sign (SID) that will be moved periodically between three locations, including Harlequin Crescent and two locations along Southern Cross.

## Youth group

We would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in volunteering their time to run a youth

group in Wixams, which would be funded by the parish council. Please reach out to the Clerk if you're interested: [wixamspc@gmail.com](mailto:wixamspc@gmail.com)

## Green Lane parking issues

Following on from last month, where we asked residents to contact borough council Highways if they were suffering due to the bottleneck caused by cars parking on the S-bend on Green Lane, we should shortly be receiving a proposal from Highways to try to resolve this. If suitable, then the parish council can confirm they'd like it moved to the next step, which is a public consultation. We are also expecting to receive a proposal for other areas in Wixams, including verge parking restrictions on Brooklands Avenue. This has been requested by the parish council for some time now.

## Dane Lane lake path

In relation to the deterioration of the path alongside lake at Dane Lane, we are pleased that the borough council supported our feedback that a gravel surface could end up causing accessibility issues; it is a high frequency route. The borough council have asked L&Q Estates to come back with an alternative

proposal.

## Crossing attendant

The borough council Transport department's study determined that the criteria were met for a crossing attendant for the schools at Green Lane in Wixams. However, their approach was to work on having a pedestrian crossing installed. The parish council was not satisfied with this and has agreed to fund at least one crossing attendant. This will be dependent on there being suitable candidates to fill the role. Please contact the Clerk if you have an early interest and wish to be kept informed; this will be advertised properly in due course.

## Next Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings will be on 16th August and 20th September at 7.30pm. The location will be confirmed on the agenda.

## Contact Details:

Email: [wixamspc@gmail.com](mailto:wixamspc@gmail.com)

Phone: 07554 443800

Website: [www.wixams-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wixams-pc.gov.uk)



Now that the Summer holidays have begun, are you looking for ideas to keep your kids entertained? Somewhere local and not too expensive. Look no further; the following resources may help you in your planning:

**MILTON KEYNES KIDS**

Suggests 10 Free days out for kids near Milton Keynes in 2021  
<https://www.facebook.com/MiltonKeynesKids>  
<https://miltonkeyneskids.com>

**BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Summer holiday guide with a range of ideas for days out, free things to do and other ideas  
<https://bit.ly/bedfordsummer>

**MUSIC IN THE MEADOWS**

The newly renovated bandstand will soon be ready to use. We are happy to announce that on the 8th August Bedford Town Band will be playing the first of our Music in the Meadows series. Bring a picnic and join us at the beautiful Embankment setting for a relaxing afternoon of traditional bandstand entertainment. See poster below for more information.

**FOREST OF MARSTON VALE**

<https://www.marstonvale.org/pages/events/category/events-whats-on>

**HERRINGS GREEN ACTIVITY FARM - WILSTEAD**

<https://birdsofpreycentre.co.uk/>

**MORE IDEAS**

<https://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk/things-to-do/east/bedfordshire>



**Lakeview Village Hall  
Management Committee**



## Notice of Annual General Meeting

All are welcome

<p><b>Saturday 16th October</b>  <b>10.30am - 12.30pm</b>  <b>Munson Room</b>  <b>Lakeview Village Hall</b></p>	<p>Come and meet the Committee Members          Find out more about how you can get involved</p>
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**Why not join the Committee**

The Village Hall Management Committee is run by a small group of volunteers from Wixams. We are looking for more people to get involved to help support the management and development of the hall. To find out more contact the Chairman

Can't make the AGM and would like to join the Committee or find out more, please contact the Chairman

[bookings@lakeviewvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@lakeviewvillagehall.co.uk)



**Sundays from 3pm to 5pm**  
**Mill Meadows Bandstand**  
**The Embankment, Bedford**

# Music in the Meadows



The Summer Bandstand Concerts return to the Embankment Bandstand this August & September.	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Bedford Town Band
	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	May Blossom Vintage Songbird
	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2021	Bedford Town Band
Come along, bring the family and a picnic and enjoy two hours of traditional bandstand music...	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	MK Brass
	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Fynnius Fogg





Supported by Bedford Borough Council's Town Centre Priority Fund

[events@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:events@bedford.gov.uk)

[www.twitter.com/BedfordEventsUK](https://www.twitter.com/BedfordEventsUK)

[www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk)

[@BedfordEvents](https://www.instagram.com/BedfordEvents)

[@Bedford Events](https://www.facebook.com/BedfordEvents)



# Wixams Community Group

[www.wixams.org/community-group](http://www.wixams.org/community-group)

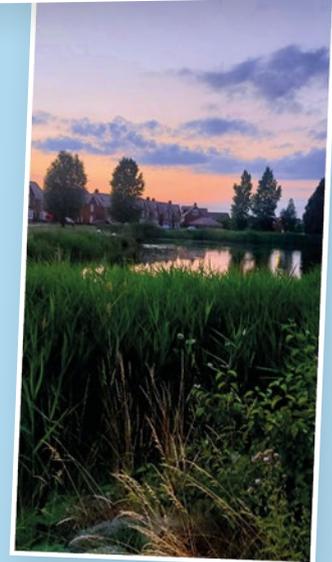


## Wixams Photography Club

Wixams is quite the photogenic town with its lakes, green areas, wildlife and fantastic sunsets. If you love taking photos or just enjoy looking at photos from the community, why not join our friendly photography group on Facebook? The fabulous photos on this page all come from brilliant Wixamers and really show off the beauty you can discover everywhere. [www.wixams.org/wixamsphotographyclub](http://www.wixams.org/wixamsphotographyclub)



photos by Rob Cowell



photos by Sally Campion



photos by Mark Hogan



photos by Jamie Lowings



photos by Lucy Oxlade



photos by Karin Spedding

NEW START TIME  
11 AM



Wixams  
Walkers

## Wixams Walkers

As part of our efforts to bring the community together, we run the Wixams Walkers group, part of the national Wellbeing Walks scheme. The group is aimed at all ages and abilities and simply gives an opportunity for residents to get some exercise, meet people and to explore parts of Wixams and Bedfordshire that they might not yet have seen.

### Healthy body

Walking is good for us. It can help us stay healthy.

### Healthy mind

Walking can help us cope with things like stress, depression and anxiety.

### Meet new people

Get to know other people in Wixams and make new friends.

**Time:** Every Saturday at 11 am.

**Meeting Point:** In front of Seasons Garden Centre.

No need to book, just turn up! Each walk is about 1 hour long at a leisurely pace. Well behaved dogs are welcome.

[www.wixams.org/wixams-walkers](http://www.wixams.org/wixams-walkers)



## iOS App Development Course

FREE

If you want to learn a new skill, take up a hobby or even change your career, then perhaps learning mobile app development will interest you. We'll soon be running a **free** iOS App Development Course open to all residents from 14 years of age in Wixams which will be held weekly in the evening in Lakeview Village Hall.

We'll be covering a wide range of topics which should give a solid foundation in app development, including covering the Swift programming language, building user interfaces, storing data and much more.

**The starting of this course has been delayed due to Covid but it will hopefully begin later this year. We still have places available which will soon be opened up to residents in villages outside of Wixams, so if you'd like to attend please get in touch soon to avoid disappointment.**

For entry requirements, more info and instructions on how to book a place please visit the page below:

[www.wixams.org/ios-course](http://www.wixams.org/ios-course)



## Wixams Development Plans

In June we met with Ian Hardwick (Group Managing Director) and Richard Edwards (Group Planning Director) from L&Q Estates. They kindly updated us with a lot of information about the remainder of the Wixams development including the opening of the roads between the two sides of Wixams, healthcare facilities, and the plans for the town centre such as the supermarket and pub.

We have shared all the points in our Facebook group (under announcements):

[www.facebook.com/groups/wixamscommunitygroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wixamscommunitygroup)

L&Q have also provided us with some plans for the Wixams development which we have uploaded to the website on the page below:

[www.wixams.org/development-plans](http://www.wixams.org/development-plans)



## Wilstead & Wixams Good Neighbours Scheme

Being a good neighbour simply means that when someone has a request, you're one of many that will be contacted to see if you can help them. If you can then great, if not then hopefully someone else can. You're never asked to do anything you don't want to and you decide when you're available. The most common requests the group receives are:

- Lifts to medical appointments
- Shopping collection
- Small DIY jobs

If you'd like to support people in your community you would be very welcome to join our team of volunteers, just contact us by phone or email:

07807 408928

[Wilstead.Wixams.GNS@gmail.com](mailto:Wilstead.Wixams.GNS@gmail.com)



## Councillor Rebecca Hares

Central Bedfordshire Independent Councillor

Over the last few weeks my attention has been drawn to several complex Planning Enforcement issues in other areas in our Ward and it has prompted me to reach out to residents of Wixams to ensure that potential breaches of planning can be investigated by the appropriate Council. As Wixams is still predominantly a building site, I thought this information would be really relevant. As this is a legal process it can be quite drawn out depending on the complexities, however it is important to bring such issues to the Council's attention early on to ensure that they're resolved before any time constraints (detailed in the permissions) are triggered, which legally leaves the Council powerless to insist the issue be rectified at the Developer's cost. Please report to planning.enforcement@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or 0300 3008301

It has been disappointing to learn that Bedford Borough Council have been unwilling to support residents access to the School Transport Julia Archer and myself lobbied CBC and the Developers to provide. This service allows parents the peace of mind that their children are getting to and from school safely without incurring significant costs to do so privately and individually. This transport also encourages the use of sustainable transport in the absence of the long promised footpath connectivity between Village 4 and the schools. The failure to provide safe access to the school is the responsibility of the Developer and the Planning Department, and yet it is the Residents being asked to bridge the gap. Cllr Hill has been supporting where possible, and I would urge Bedford Borough Residents to support Cllr Hill by petitioning Bedford Council for access to the School Transport in lieu of the ever delayed pedestrian access. People power has proven effective in resolving issues such as these, information on how to do this is provided in the following link: <https://councillorsupport.bedford.gov.uk/mgePetitionListDisplay.aspx?bcr=1>

It has been brought to my attention that there have been a volume of antisocial behaviour issues occurring in Village 4 at the hands of a select few. Efforts to establish collaboration between Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council in seeing permanent resolutions for this behaviour are ongoing, but have seen unavoidable delays. I have recently engaged the support of the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer from the Community Safety Unit and it has already been resolved for the Council Equivalent of PCSOs to routinely visit Village 4 in order to deter these individuals' behaviour. As ever, please report all of these issues to 101 or the Councils and we hope to see progress on this issue in the very near future.

If you have any issues that you wish me to raise with Central Bedfordshire Council, please do not hesitate to contact me at [bex.hares@gmail.com](mailto:bex.hares@gmail.com), on 0300 300 8505, or via my Facebook page: [Facebook.com/CllrHares/](https://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

A big, big thanks to everyone who looked after me in A&E on Saturday 10th July and then Reginald Hart Ward until discharge with seven different medications on Thursday 15th July.

I had an Anaphylactic Reaction and what turned out to be the onset of extremely painful Shingles.

We are all very, very lucky to have the NHS.

The people who looked after me in A&E and Reginald Hart Ward are truly wonderful.

I also want to say a very big thanks to my lovely lady. Her love and support, as ever, has been totally beyond compare.

As this Report is typed, I am under the strictest instructions to put my feet until at least 25th July and then see how I am.

I hope to be back in action after then, campaigning for local residents, keeping in touch and getting things done.

# EMPIRE CARS BEDFORD

QUALITY USED CAR SALES

0% DEPOSIT FINANCE  
AVAILABLE

MOT

(FREE PICK UP/DROP OFF WIXAMS)

SERVICING & REPAIRS

AIR CON, TYRES,  
EXHAUSTS

DPF CLEANING

1 COTTON END ROAD, WILSTEAD  
MK453BT

01234 741002 OR 07727 258633

[WWW.EMPIRECARSBEDFORD.CO.UK](http://WWW.EMPIRECARSBEDFORD.CO.UK)

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# Wixams Events Group

Hope you are all well.

Hello to you all but for those who are new to Wixams we would like to introduce ourselves. **We are the Wixams Events Team and we organise Events in the Village twice a year; one in the Summer and one in December** where we switch on our Christmas Tree Lights and the lights that are now situated in the trees near Budgens.



The Summer Event is a lot of fun with many craft stalls, food stalls, fairground rides and a bar - and live entertainment including Punch and Judy, Juggler, Fire Eater, etc providing lots of fun for young and old. The highlight of the Christmas Event is the annual switch on of the lights and for the Children Father Christmas. These Events bring the village together.

We are a small team of volunteers and would welcome anyone who would like to join us to help at our events.

The Covid pandemic stopped everyone and everything in their tracks and we know it is not over yet but we are optimistic that we will be able to hold a Christmas Event in December and have met as a group recently to discuss how we can take this forward. This will be organised in line with the guidance that is in place at the time.



If you would like to join us to help please contact us at [wixamsevents@gmail.com](mailto:wixamsevents@gmail.com) or contact Nathan Sutters on 07754 407693.

We are always looking for sponsors for our Events so if you would like to sponsor or donate towards our events please let us know.

We are always looking for ideas to hold events in addition to Summer and Winter so if there is anything you would be interested in - we'd love to hear your ideas!



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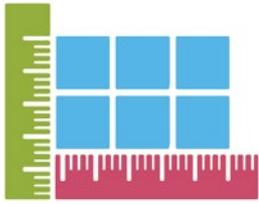
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# Elstow Cricket Club Newsletter

Local cricket club for Wilstead, Wixams, Elstow & surrounding areas



Hopefully by the time you read this Elstow will, at the third attempt, have made it into a mid week cup final having been narrowly defeated by Eaton Socon & Flitwick in the respective East Beds Charity Cups (mid week cup team pictured). The Elstow Rabbits face Blunham in the Mid Week League cup semi on the 4th August at The Warren.

The Saturday 1st XI are moving up the table in the FCCL division 1 & whilst the 2nd XI haven't picked up a win for a couple of weeks signs are very good with excellent contributions from a number of the young players in the squad. On a Sunday the 1st XI are in mid table in a very tough Bedfordshire County League Div 2 while the 2nd XI made up almost entirely of U16 players are 4th & have had some fantastic results so far including an impressive innings from young Henry Jones who smashed 150 off just 118 balls in a comprehensive win. The Elstow Rabbits (mid-week team) are also going well & they currently sit 2nd in Division 1.

The Elstow Belles (ladies/girls) team continue to train on a Tuesday evening & would welcome any girls or ladies who are keen to join a club, do a bit of exercise & have some fun. All ages & abilities are more than welcome.

In youth cricket all of our teams are going well with some significant wins. We continue to field strong teams at U9, U11 (2 teams), U13, U15 & we also field a team in the U18 East Beds Shield. Age group cricket continues to thrive under the watchful eye of our Youth Development Manager Geoff

Couling. The Warren is packed on a Friday evening when kids training takes place.

We are always looking for coaches & helpers, particularly on a Friday so please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Spectators are now allowed at The Warren & the refreshment bar (The Pigeon Toe Inn) is open on match days & Friday evenings. Serving beer, wine, cider, tea, coffee, sweets, crisps & soft drinks, it's a great place to come & have a drink whilst taking in the cricket or watching your kids training. All are welcome to pop along for a beer or a cuppa. In line with Government & ECB guidance we continue to be cautious & as such we are still not opening the facility fully. All refreshments are served outside, we have a regular monitored cleaning regime & signage promoting social distancing is in place.

As with all clubs we are always on the look out for volunteers. If you can help at all or would just like to be part of the Elstow CC family then please get in touch. Thanks.

After the success of Ladies Day & Vice Presidents Day in July we now look forward to our End of Season celebrations which will take place on the bank holiday weekend of 28th & 29th August. Again all are welcome to come & celebrate what has been another fantastic season & who knows we may even have some more trophies to parade.

Please visit our new website [elstowcricketclub.co.uk](http://elstowcricketclub.co.uk) for all our news, fixtures & results or see us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram. Fixture cards are now available from the cricket club & can also be downloaded from the website.





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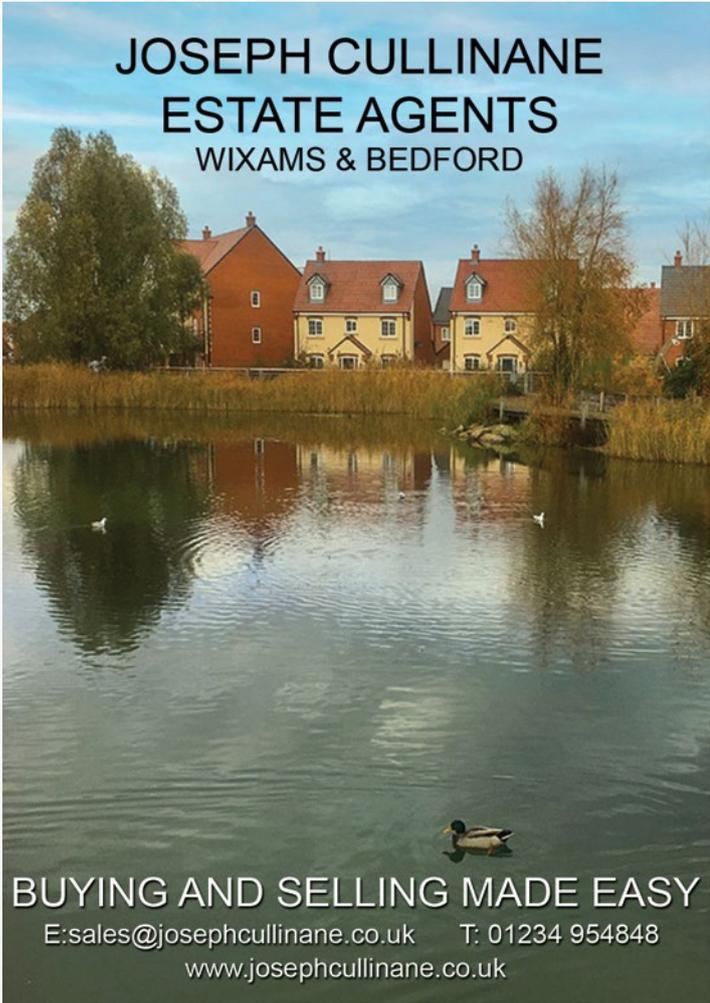
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**What does Paul's Cuts specialise in?**  
Paul Cuts is a mobile barbering service based in Wixams. I specialise in all forms of haircuts from short to long hair also beard trimming and shaping services too.

**How long have you been in the industry?**  
I graduated at the London School of Barbering in October 2020. I had wanted to be a barber and was fascinated by the craft for many years but I was tied into my previous career. The initial lockdown in 2020 gave me the push I needed to take a chance and retrain in something that I have always wanted to do. It has turned out to be the best decision I've made so far.

**What do you love most about your job?**  
The physical craft of cutting hair has always appealed to my artistic side. It's a genuine form of creativeness and I love that. But the best aspect to being a barber is the people. As someone who likes to talk a fair bit, I get to meet so many different personalities from all different backgrounds. Everyone has a different tale to tell and there isn't a day that goes by where I don't discover a new fact about something.

**Where are you located?**  
I'm based here in Wixams but I'm mobile so I visit clients in their homes.

**How has it been since lockdown restrictions have been lifted?**  
The first week in April when the restrictions lifted was amazing. It was crazy busy. Everyone was desperate to get a fresh trim in. I saw some very interesting home haircuts that week.

**How do people contact you for an appointment?**  
I can be contacted through my Facebook page: **paulcutsbarber**, WhatsApp, Instagram, or the old-fashioned way of a simple phone call via **07800 778005**.

**How long have you lived in Wixams?**  
I have lived in Wixams since March 2012. We moved here from Hitchin, where I'm from. I'm one of those that can say that I remember when 'all this was fields' lol....

**What do you most like about Wixams**  
For me, and I'm guessing many others, the sense of community spirit here in Wixams is what makes us proud and happy to live here. We have great friends here, brilliant neighbours and a sense of safety too, especially as I have young children.



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# Gardening Tips for August

by  
Marion  
Colledge



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

As I write, I feel very happy. The scents of the last week or two: roses, privet hedges, honeysuckle, and in Bedford Park the yellow lime blossoms on the linden trees have been a treat for our noses.

## **Raised beds, containers, trugs, little spaces**

A friend asked me about her runner beans. She said they'd grown well in a seed tray. She'd then given some to her neighbours and they'd had loads of beans in their raised beds and she hadn't. I suggested she check whether her raised bed was in a 'rain shadow', on the sheltered side of the building where it wouldn't be damp enough and might need more watering. Some other important things to do are to spray the flowers hard with water on hot evenings (nice job for a child with a water gun). In dry weather this helps them to set; otherwise they may fall off. They may also need a dose of potassium sulphate once a month as they are flowering/fruitletting plants (rather than green leafy ones which need more of a nitrogen feed).

If you are going on holiday and have containers with plants, and there's no one to water them, and you're only going away for a few days, you can use watering spikes (devices which you can fill with water which have holes in the bottom), to stick into the soil.

## **Larger Gardens/Allotments**

Some of the early potatoes are ready to dig up. Potato tops are one of the rare things I don't compost. This to avoid the spread of diseases specific to potatoes.

The maincrop potato ridges may need hoeing, watering, and mulching, as we are now a dry spot of weather. If they start to flower, it's best to take these off,



because they may put their energy into making a seed head: a small poisonous round green ball, reducing the size of the root crop.

It's not too late to plant a few more sugarsnap peas. (I started some off in old paper cups a week ago, which germinated almost immediately and are now two inches high), which should produce a small crop at the end of September. They do need six inches of loose soil though—the main trouble is dryness. The soil will need watering right underneath as they are planted out.

More salad leaves can still be planted, but it's best to do it straight after rain when the soil is damp. They will need water in a little trench at the side (better than on top). Alternatively, plastic bottles cut in half with four holes punched in them can be plunged into the ground at intervals and will deliver the water slowly under the surface of the soil where it is required for the roots.

Don't forget to cut lavender flowers to put in clothes cupboards and you will get more. And carry on deadheading roses and geraniums. Cutting spreading plants like catmint will also make them produce more flower spikes.



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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](mailto:newsletter@wixams.org)

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