



WIXAMS NEWSLETTER

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

ANNIVERSARY EDITION



The Wixams Newsletter celebrates its first anniversary. Turn over to page 2.

WIXAMS HALLOWEEN COMPETITION



Turn over to page 11 for all the details...

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

The Wixams Newsletter Turns 1

The re-launched Wixams Newsletter turns 1 this month! We've collated some of the thoughts of our readers...

"It is informative, entertaining and inclusive, helping with community building."

"Love love love it"

"It's great that Wixams has a newsletter. It really pulls a community together. I don't believe it should only be available online either - not everyone has internet!"

"Interesting and worth the read."

"I really like the Wixams newsletter. It's full of interesting and helpful information and helped me feel part of the community when we moved here. Thank you so much for all your efforts. Keep up the great work."

And some of our advertisers...

"The advert has been fantastic for my business, I have gained 3 regular customers from the August edition."

"We can never be 100% sure on how much real impact the advertising has in the newsletter, but we at minimum think it's well worth it even if it just continues to get our name seen, as a very small family run business exposure in this way is hard to find. 90% of our work comes from recommendation and this way of advertising Heightens the Brand and gives good local exposure, we thank you for this and will continue to provide an excellent service to the people in our local community and beyond."

A huge thank you to all of our readers in the community, and everyone who has contributed to our newsletter. If you'd like to support us further, please join us at our AGM on 6th October at Lakeview Village Hall, whether you're interested in contributing content, delivering the newsletter, or interested in finding out more.

Wixams Newsletter Calendar

With 2022 just around the corner, the Wixams Newsletter Committee are putting together a Charity Calendar with local photographs from our readers and contributors.

To purchase a calendar, priced at £5 each, please send us an email at newsletter@wixams.org with the quantity you wish to purchase and we will send you information to arrange payment. The calendars will be delivered with our December 2021 edition, with plenty of time spare

until Christmas to give it as a gift, or for yourself ready for 2022.

All profits from the calendar will be split between the Royal British Legion and our three local schools.

We're currently in the process of designing the calendar. If you've got some local photographs that you'd like to be considered for our calendar, please email them over to us!

Upcoming Events

Wixams Newsletter Meeting	Wednesday 6th October 8pm	Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams Events Meeting	Thursday 7th October 8pm	Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams Community Walking Group	7th October 10am (Every Thursday)	Outside Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams Village Hall AGM	Saturday 16th October 10:30am	Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams Parish Council	Monday 18th October 7:30pm	Wixams Retirement Village
Halloween Pumpkin Picking	16th - 22nd October	Herrings Green Activity Farm - more information on page 16
Wixams Academy Open Evening	Wednesday 20th October 5:30pm - 8:30pm	Wixams Academy
Wixams Vixens WI	Wednesday 20th October 7:30pm	Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams Halloween Competition	Sunday 31st October	All around Wixams
Remembrance Sunday	Sunday 14th November 10:30am	All Saints Church, Wilstead

Send details of your local events to newsletter@wixams.org

Wixams Dance Hall, Wixams Retirement Village, Bedford Road, Bedford MK42 6EA

PLANET SWING

EVERY THURSDAY

WIXAMS

FREE SWING DANCE CLASS
Followed by Live Band

7.30pm till 10.30pm Entrance: £10

www.Swingsters.co.uk 07956-366449 dance@swingsters.co.uk

DAWNUNTILDUK
CHILDCARE

Lakeview Pre-School

Welcome to Pre-School!

We are pleased to say that our new children have all settled in well and our two year olds (Ladybirds) have been having fun exploring, books, painting and ice through a range of animal activities.

facebook and Instagram
fb: Dawn Til Dusk Lakeview Preschool
Instagram: dawntilduskpreschool

October Holiday Club

Come and join us at our October Holiday Club for children aged 7yrs and under

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

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

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Monday to Friday:
8.30am-5.30pm.

MAGIC KINGDOM PARTIES

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

Crime Stats

- 25/08/21 - Arson not endangering life - Thistle Lane
- 20/08/21 - Assault with injury - Tawny Avenue
- 11/08/21 - Assault with injury - Green Lane
- 26/08/21 - Assault without injury - Hedgehog Mead
- 10/08/21 - Assault without injury - Brooklands Avenue
- 04/08/21 - Assault without injury - Brooklands Avenue
- 02/08/21 - Assault without injury - Brooklands Avenue
- 02/08/21 - Assault without injury - Brooklands Avenue
- 02/08/21 - Criminal damage (residential) - Brooklands Avenue
- 13/08/21 - Criminal damage to a vehicle - Brooklands Avenue
- 06/08/21 - Harassment
- 31/07/21 - Harassment
- 31/07/21 - Malicious communications
- 27/08/21 - Public fear alarm or distress - Green Lane
- 16/08/21 - Public fear alarm or distress - Brooklands Avenue
- 18/08/21 - Theft by an employee
- 30/08/21 - Theft from a motor vehicle - Bedford Road
- 23/08/21 - Theft from a motor vehicle - Swan Road
- 04/08/21 - Threats to kill - Minnow Way

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



New PC in Wixams

Wixams welcomes a new Police Officer to join the North Rural Community Team, PC 6587 Craig BOND.

He will be based out of Riseley Police Station along with the rest of the team.

He will be responsible for the following villages:

- Cardington
- Cople
- Great Barford
- Eastcotts
- Elstow
- Kempston Hardwick
- Ravensden
- Renhold
- Stewartby
- Willington
- Wilstead



If you have any issues, problems or events for your village coming up, please could you make contact with Craig for his awareness and to begin to work on.

He has taken over these villages from PC 5324 Kerry JONES, who is still part of the Rural Community Team, but has responsibilities for other villages, so please contact Craig.

He is an experienced Police Officer and will be a great asset to you and your communities, but please bear with him as he adjusts to his new role in Community Policing.

Sgt John KILLICK 5892

WIXAMS NEWSLETTER

AGM

**Please join us for our AGM on
Wednesday 6th October
at 8:00pm**

**We're looking for writers, volunteers,
and anybody who would like to
support our community newsletter**

newsletter@wixams.org

07915 431739
www.laurathomas-counselling.co.uk
hello@laurathomas-counselling.co.uk

Overwhelmed? Stressed? Worried?

- Feel less alone with your problems.
- See your thoughts from a different perspective.
- Confront your feelings
- Help you plan and set goals
- Develop greater self-awareness
- Find easier ways to cope with everyday life

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WIXAMS PARISH COUNCIL COUNCILLOR VACANCIES!

Wixams Parish Council needs YOU to become a councillor!

The parish council is your local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in Wixams. It is the level of government closest to the community, with the borough authority (Bedford Borough Council) above it in the hierarchy.

We meet once a month in the evening for the council meeting, to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings may last two hours, depending on the agenda set for the meeting and what needs to be discussed. We also have Planning and Grants committees to deal with these specific subjects, which you are welcome to join if you wish. You may also help with community activities or in developing a new project for the community, but you are under no obligation to do so. No prior experience is required.

Come along and meet us and see if you'd like to join.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Meetings: One evening meeting a month!

Come along and join the team and influence:

Planning decisions

Crime prevention

Services & facilities

Footpaths, open spaces and highways

...and many more!

CONTACT

Email the Clerk for details:
wixamspc@gmail.com

Health & Wellbeing



Wixams Parent & Buggy Walk

Wixams Community Group will be hosting the first buggy walk on Thursday 23rd September 2021, at 10:00am. If there's enough interest they will continue running them weekly on Thursday mornings.

The meeting point is outside of Lakeview Village Hall and the walk should take no longer than 1 hour.

The group are also looking forward to people to help run future walks. If you are interested please let the Wixams Community Group know that that you would like to get involved.



Bedford Borough

Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub



NHS Bedfordshire Children & Young People's Services

Bedford Borough Council are running a new Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub, where children and young people living in Bedford can find resources to help support them. Please visit the web address below for more information and the contact numbers for support lines.

Just visit <https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/mentalhealthhub> to get started!

Christ the Word
church **Wixams**

Every Sunday 10:30am
you are welcome at
our Sunday Services
in the village hall* *some weeks Retirement Village

10:30-11:30am
Activity bag for young children
Please stay for tea, coffee & cake afterwards 😊

www.christthewordwixams.org.uk, 07879716958

ART & PASSION

SHOP TIMES:

MONDAY: 07:00-17:00
TUESDAY: 07:00-12:00
THURSDAY: 07:00-17:00
FRIDAY: 07:00-19:00
SATURDAY: 07:00-19:00
SUNDAY: 07:00-19:00

SHOP PRICES:

TRIM + BEARD £20.00
BOOKINGS £25.00
UNDER 15's £15.00
OVER 50's £15.00
SHAPE UP £10.00
FACIAL SERVICE £7.50

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[ALL BOOKINGS £5.00 EXTRA]

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[BOOKINGS WILL GET PRIORITY]



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Lakeview Village Hall Activities

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



Lakeview Village Hall

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
Monday	13:00 - 13:45	Moo Music (0 - 5 Years)	Lakeview	Caroline	Email: Carolinebedford@moo-music.co.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/MooMusicBedford
	18:30 - 20:00	Wixams Tang So Do	Lakeview		Facebook: www.facebook.com/WixamsTSD
	20:00 - 21:00	Go box fitness	Lakeview	07727113285	Facebook: www.facebook.com/goboxfit Email: goboxfit1@gmail.com
Tuesday	09:30 - 17:30	Seasons Art Class (2 sessions)	Swan	01234300725	Facebook: www.facebook.com/theseasonsart Website: www.theseasonsartclass.com
	17:00 & 18:30	Slimming World	Lakeview	Holly - 07968719951	Website: www.slimmingworld.co.uk/group/558255
	18:30 - 19:30	Yoga	Munson	07825561569	Website: www.livyoga.co.uk
Wednesday	09:45 - 13:05	Baby Sensory Different groups running	Lakeview	Samantha - 07538502587	Facebook: www.facebook.com/babysensorybeds Website: https://www.babysensory.com/beds Email: beds@babysensory.co.uk
	17:45 - 20:00	Irish Dancing Primary, Intermediate & Open classes	Lakeview	Katie	Email: stuartirishdance@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/stuartirishdancebedford
	17:00 - 18:00	Rainbows	Munson	TBC	
	18:15 - 19:30	Brownies	Munson	TBC	
Thursday	09:45 - 14:00	Toddler Sensory Different groups running	Lakeview	Samantha - 07538 502587	Facebook: www.facebook.com/toddlersensebeds Website: https://www.toddlersense.com/bedfordshire Email: beds@toddlersense.co.uk
	18:15 - 19:00	Go box fitness for kids	Lakeview	07727113285	Facebook: www.facebook.com/goboxfit Email: goboxfit1@gmail.com
	10:00 - 11:00	Active Pack Wixams	Lakeview	Andy	Facebook: www.facebook.com/activepackactivities/ Email: activepackactivities@gmail.com
Friday	18:00 - 20:00	Scouts	Lakeview		Facebook: www.facebook.com/1stwixamscouting Website: http://Www.1stwixamscouts.org.uk
	09:00 - 10:15	Shine Dance Drama, Dance & Singing	Munson	Louisa Hodges - 07749091885	Facebook: www.facebook.com/Shine-Theatre-School Website: www.shinetheatreschool.co.uk
Saturday	09:30 - 11:30	Irish Dancing Beginners classes for all ages	Lakeview	Katie	Email: stuartirishdance@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/stuartirishdancebedford
	08:30 - 09:30	Go box fitness	Lakeview	07727113285	Facebook: www.facebook.com/goboxfit Email: goboxfit1@gmail.com
Sunday	10:30 - 11:30	Christ the Word Church Services	Lakeview	Alan - 07879716958	Facebook: facebook.com/christthewordwixams Website: www.christthewordwixams.org.uk
	15:00 - 16:00	Christ the Word Sunday Club For children aged 4-10 years	Munson	Alan - 07879716958	Facebook: facebook.com/christthewordwixams Website: www.christthewordwixams.org.uk



Lakeview Village Hall
Management Committee



Notice of Annual General Meeting

All are welcome

Saturday 16th October | Come and meet the
10.30am - 12.30pm | Committee Members
Munson Room | Find out more about how
Lakeview Village Hall | you can get involved

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



Councillor Tim Hill's Report

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

The Causeway Roundabout resurfacing – The Causeway Roundabout has at long last been resurfaced!! I'm really pleased that the Borough Highways Department has kept their word to me, that this scheme would be the first one done after all the "safety critical" ones across the Borough have been done.

Link Road from A6 to Fisherwood Road – I have asked officers for an update on the design of this scheme. Others have suggested that an HGV ban should be imposed for the rest of Wixams. Therefore, this Link Road is even more important for the Retirement Village

Bus Shelter outside Retirement Village – Following my e-mail to him, a Borough Officer is getting a cost estimate for a shelter here.

Sign Rockery – I am investigating sources and their costs to create a rockery for the Retirement Village sign.

Overgrown grasses – At my request, officers are cutting back some overgrown grasses near the Retirement Village.

School Transportation – I am still working with Greenlakes Rise residents whose children should qualify for Free School Transport to Wixams Academy, but Borough Officers have so far refused to provide Free School Transport. It isn't safe for the pupils to walk to Marston Vale Middle and there is currently no pedestrian access to Wixams Academy!

Wixams and Planning – Following continuing concerns raised by residents and the local Borough Councillors, Borough Planners issued Breach of Condition Notices on the G-Park builders and the registered owners of the land. There are three notices, as the land registry now divides it into three separate units. There is no right of appeal and the notices will come into effect on 12th October 2021, under the notice period governed by national legislation.



Councillor Graeme Coombes

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

Traffic seems (yet again) to have been a major issue around Wixams last month.

During the surface repairs to the roundabout between Fisherwood Road and The Causeway, the Borough Council's poor decision to do repairs at night meant some residents were treated to an endless procession of HGVs through the village at all hours.

Back in August, I met Council officers outside Wixams Retirement Village to try and address the problem of HGVs parking overnight and then firing up their engines in the early hours.

The start of a new school year, with additional pupils as Wixams Academy and Wixams Tree Primary continue to expand, has also led to the return of the daily congestion and chaos around Green Lane and the roads off it, at school pick up and drop off times.

Last month's edition of Wixams News included front page article from pupils at Lakeview Primary School, highlighting the dangers to children from bad parking and speeding traffic

Lastly, a contractor ruptured a gas main in Fisherwood Road, which led to the temporary closure of The Causeway and a resulting hours long tailback of HGVs along the A6.

All of this makes clear the urgent need from the Borough Council for better traffic management around Wixams. The Council's poor planning decisions on local warehousing and the refusal of L&Q to open through roads joining both sides of Wixams are leading to daily traffic chaos that is blighting the lives of those who live here and putting children at risk.

The Mayor and Borough Council must grasp the nettle and deal with the appalling traffic situation, rather than constantly kicking the can down the road and just hoping everything will get better. An HGV restriction through the centre of Wixams and an alternative HGV access route would be a good start.

Tel: 07815 302 318

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

Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes

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Wixams Wanderers Football Club

Formed 2013



CHARTER STANDARD COMMUNITY CLUB

Wixams Wanderers FC were formed in 2013 when we started with a single team, for the season 2021-22 we have nineteen youth teams and two adult Sunday teams, which include four female teams.

The club has also achieved FA Community Club status which is the highest a club can reach. Wixams has created a pathway for players to progress through, starting from the ages of three and four with the "Little Wanderers" right into step 4 of the FA Pyramid through our partnership with Barton Rovers. The club uses the 3G facility as a home pitch for teams using 5v5 or 7v7 pitches and the grass pitch next to the 3G along with Moor Lane, Elstow for all 9v9 & 11v11 matches.

We will be writing a monthly report and will be running a team profile of each of the teams starting next month with the Diamonds U15 who won the Bedfordshire FA First Division last season.

For further details to get your child into football please see our website: www.wixamswanderers.com or contact Colin Sharpe at colin.sharpe@wixamswanderers.com



WHEN DID YOU LAST HAVE A FINANCIAL HEALTH CHECK?

Would you know if:

- Changes in legislation will affect how you access your pension?
- You could have a capital gains tax liability?
- Your pension fund is under performing?
- Your investments are providing the best return?
- You have an inheritance tax liability?
- You have sufficient cover in place to protect loved ones?

With a financial health check you could get the answers you need.

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Emergency Grants for Wixams Families

ZeroPA Madad Community Interest Company launched in Wixams in May 2021. It is a social enterprise that uses their profits and assets for the public good.

ZeroPA award grants of up to £50 to those in urgent need that may have been turned down access to emergency funding by the DWP, charities, credit unions or banks, and have been referred to ZeroPA by schools, places of worship, credit unions and Citizen Advice Bureaux.

It has limited funds from donations to help families in need with grants towards food, utilities, school uniform and other essentials. There is a simple grants form and income and expenditure template at www.zeropa.co.uk to be returned to grants@zeropa.co.uk

It is estimated that 10 million people in the UK (Step-change 2020) are in perpetual debt each month, owing in total £50 billion in non-mortgage debt. One can estimate that there are approximately 1,000 people that would benefit from our service in Wixams and surrounding villages. 15 million people in the UK are now in debt and 6 million people borrowed from family and friends during the pandemic.

Future plans include developing a market place of goods and services that beneficiaries can access to obtain cashback and discounted purchases such as white goods, repairs and groceries.

To find out more, call Saqhib Ali on 07758 157051 or email enquiries@zeropa.co.uk



SA Consulting

**KICKSTART
SCHEME**

Job Vacancies

SA Consulting are recruiting to 2 Kickstart scheme posts starting around 23rd October 2021.

- 1 x IT / Marketing Assistant**
- 1 x Admin / HR/ Accounts Assistant**

Hours of work: 25 hrs per week

£ per hour: National Minimum wage

Location: Working from Home

- Are you aged 16—24 and registered unemployed with a local Job Centre to Bedford?
- Are you looking to start a career in IT, Admin, Marketing or accounts?

To apply for one of the above positions, send your CV along with a covering letter to:

saconsultingservicesltd@gmail.com

Closing date for applications: 31st October 2021

For more information and to have an initial chat call Saqhib Ali on 07758 157051.



Get into scouting!

Ever considered volunteering regularly as an adult helper or assistant section leader?

Adult volunteers make a huge difference in developing the Skills For Life in our young people.

With timings that work for you, it doesn't have to be every week and you may even decide to work with a different section,

Beavers age 6-8

Cubs 8-10.5

Scouts 10.5-14

They are all interconnected through the 1st Wixams Scout Group.

Why not talk to a leader or email your interest to

GSL@1stwixamsscouts.org.uk to discover the benefits of

volunteering.

SPARKLES CLEAN

We are Recruiting

Sparkles clean is looking for a new member to join the team part-time/school hours. All work is local and have regular customers.

Hours of work: Part-time/School hours

£ per hour: £10.00

Location: Wixams (local areas)

Uniform: T-shirt will be provided

For more information and to have an initial chat contact Louise Canfield:

Email: sparklesclean2018@gmail.com

Tel: 07746907110



DemzCleans

We are Recruiting

DemzCleans are looking for domestic cleaners to join the team. Are you looking for flexible work to fit around school hours or a full time placement. There are cleaning jobs to suit all needs. Training is provided

Hours of work: Flexible / full time (Mon– Sun)

£ per hour: £10.00—£12.00 (depending on job)

Location: Bedfordshire areas

Transport: Essential

If you'd like to join the team

Email: DemzCleans@mail.com

Tel: 07933334496

Facebook: DemzCleans



Halloween Decorations Competition

www.wixams.org/halloween-competition

We are approaching that time of the year again where Wixams looks like something out of a fantasy book for one night - Halloween! Every year Wixams residents make a huge effort to create the most amazing atmosphere with fantastically decorated houses, which brings excitement to big and small people and even draws in visitors from other towns! Teaming up with the Wixams Events Team, we are coming back for the third year of our Decorations Competition and you can be in with a chance to win a £100 hamper for the spookiest house in Wixams!

Register to Enter in 2021

As Wixams is growing in size each year with more houses and residents joining our town, this year we are doing things a little differently...

To take part in the competition, please register your house on the page above by 24th October

On All Hallows' Eve our judges will make their way around Wixams to decide which home stands out the most. The judges will start from around 5 pm and will hopefully finish by 8:30 pm, so please don't start taking your decorations down until at least that time.

The Prize

We want to encourage and reward your fantastic ideas for Halloween as they make our community stand out and bring joy to everyone walking and driving by. This year we'll be awarding the winning home with a trophy and hamper donated by Budgens in Wixams worth around £100.

If you are new to Wixams or need inspiration for Halloween, here are some photos of past winners and other fantastic decorations residents put up in Wixams in the past years. We are looking forward to seeing your entries in 2021!



2020 WINNERS



2019 WINNERS



Gardening Tips for October

by Marion Colledge



Marion is a member of Garden Organic, and Biddenham Gardeners Association. and uses the Facebook plant swap site Abundance Bedford. She tweets @Marioncolledge

Raised beds, containers, trugs, little spaces

If you have herbs like lavender and thyme in your boxes, it's best to cut it back to behind the flowering sections to keep it strong. Overpruning to the woody sections, however, could kill them. You can still plant a few patches of salad leaves that will mature in three to six weeks such as purple mizuna, rocket or lambs lettuce (corn salad). Add more fine compost, level it off, water it gently (not too much), and scatter the seeds not too thickly, covering with one centimetre of soil and watering the patch gently. (Watch out for slugs!).

Vegetables on the Allotment

Now is the time to plant spring cabbages (brassicas). If the garden centres have run out, it is worth ringing the local nurseries to see if they have any plants left (say, Kempston, or Ridgmont) or checking out Bedford market. Brassicas use a lot of calcium and in clayey soil will benefit from a coating of lime around their neck, which will prevent cabbage blackfly. They'll need netting to prevent crows and other birds making dinner of them in winter.



My experience is that the If you haven't already got rid of your tomato plants and potato stems, they should go in a council green bin, not be composted in the home compost heap because our compost heaps are rarely hot enough to kill pathogens such as blight. Everything else can be composted. Larger stuff such as courgette stems should be chopped into two or three inch sections to make it easier to rot down.

Larger Gardens

As I write, on warm days in the late sunshine brown, spotted tortoiseshell butterflies rest on the catmint which is still producing flowers. Poppy seed heads should be collected for winter decoration or poppy seed collected in small old tins (or there'll be too many poppies next year). Autumn is traditionally a time for cutting down plants like hollyhocks and foxglove with woody material such as hollyhocks, but it is better for tiny insects such as hoverflies, lady birds that hide in the stems, if some of stronger perennials such as catmint are left till the spring.



You might want to take up Gladiolus and tender bulbs for dry winter storage.

The lawn should be raked with a lawn rake to remove dead grass and moss. This can make a nice top dressing for those apple trees which have worked so hard to produce their colourful crop.

It is a good idea to cover sections of the allotment not in use with cardboard till next spring. This will suppress weeds. It's not very fashionable to do autumn

digging nowadays: science has proven that the healthy bugs that live well below the surface are different from those near the top. Well-rotted horse manure will help to keep the ground warm, it will rot down.

Enjoy your gardening! There are lots of scents of damp earth and rotting vegetation at this time of year, all part of the round of life.



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Would you like to make a difference within your local community? School Governor opportunities have opened up at Wilstead primary.

What do Governors do?

The governing boards provides strategic leadership and accountability in schools and it does this through three key functions;

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school
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We are looking for candidates who could help bring the benefit of their experience and knowledge to this wonderful school. If you would like the rewards of contributing within a challenging



yet fulfilling dynamic that may vary from your current day to day, then please write a letter of application, briefly outlining any relevant skills and reasons why you think you would be suitable for this role to mjones@wilstead.school.

Wixams Academy Sixth Form Opens in September 2022

Wixams Academy is delighted to be opening its first sixth form next September. We will welcome our first Year 12 cohort in September 2022, with our familiar combination of academic excellence, inspirational student experience and a personalised approach.

We are just finalising our plans for our curriculum offer and student experience and will be releasing further information at the end of October. This will include the A Levels and other subjects offered, entry criteria and a flavour of student experience.

We will also be running a sixth form open evening in November where prospective students will be able to meet many of our experienced sixth form teachers, tour our specialist Sixth form facilities and learn more about the day-to-day experience of students in our sixth form.

Please keep an eye on our website (www.wixamsacademy.co.uk) and FaceBook page for announcements coming soon.





Remembrance Sunday 2021
Sunday 14th November 2021
10.30am
All Saints Church, Wilstead

Remembrance Sunday is a national service held to remember all service men and women who have served and sacrificed their lives in wars and other military conflicts since World War One.

The service will take place at All Saints Church, Wilstead and whilst the number of people permitted inside the church will be limited the service will also take place outside.

To show your support for the Royal British Legion and the annual service of remembrance the annual poppy appeal will take place in Wixams later in October. Details are being finalised so for more information visit the facebook page or www.wixams.org

For more information and updates visit <https://www.facebook.com/rblwilstead>



Wixams Vixens WI

In February 2020 the Wixams Vixens WI made the sad decision to close the WI as the numbers had dropped and it was no longer viable.

We have seen on local Facebook pages that there is some interest in re-forming the WI. We have now arranged a meeting on Wednesday 20 October at 7.45 pm to 9.15 pm at Lakeview Village Hall to discuss this. If you are interested in the WI starting up again please come and join us to discuss a way forward.

Look forward to seeing you there.

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

Notes

Meet your local... Painter and Decorator

T&L is owned by husband & wife who started from a small business to now being a respected and well known one throughout Bedfordshire.

1) What does TL Painting specialise in?

We specialise in interior and exterior painting and decorating.

2) How long have you been in the industry?

T&L Painting & Decorating Services Ltd turned into reality from a dream in 2018.

3) What do you love most about your job?

We love turning a house into a beautiful home and making our customers happy.

4) What was your most recent project?

We decorated a huge entrance, stairway & landing in a 4 bedroom house for a lovely family in Kempston. We painted the walls in dark blue and re-did the whole woodwork. Absolutely stunning results. Pictures can be seen on our page.

5) What has been your most creative or challenging project?

Most challenging project so far has been decorating the local worship house (the mosque) located on Westbourne Road Bedford. The project took over 5 weeks but was completed to a high standard. Plus not to forget the Arc in town centre, great achievement that also took hard work and dedication to complete for the lovely owner Gemma!

6) How do people contact you for a quote?

We can be contacted through phone, email, website or even facebook or Instagram.
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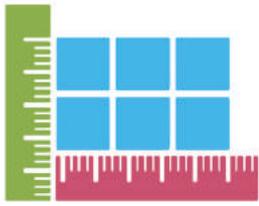
7) How long have you lived in Wixams?

We've lived in Wixams for 10 years

8) What do you most like about Wixams

We've had so much support from the Wixams community which we are very grateful for. We are so proud of what we've achieved in the last year and would like to thank the Wixams community for the love and support.





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Herring Green Activity Farm is part of The English School of Falconry. The farm is home to over 200 birds of prey as well as many different farm animals.

During your visit to Herring Green Farm you can see many of the birds in action during their flying displays. The shows are designed to educate visitors on the importance of conservation as well as giving family fun displays. Whether it's the thrill of holding one of their rare birds of prey or watching their flying displays, the team are keen to share with you their love of birds of prey.

In addition to their birds of prey, they also have a large collection of farm animals including many rare breeds of Goats and Sheep as well as Alpacas, Highland Cows, Ponies, Donkeys, Wallabies, Parrots, Reptiles, Mammals and more.

There's so much to see and do for all ages including:

- Animal encounters
- Pat a pet
- Meet the goats
- Pony boutique
- Hatchery
- Play areas



A great place to visit with all the family and only an 8 min drive from Wixams. Don't forget to visit the tea room for that well earned refreshment.

Herring Green Activity Farm offer so much more than a day on the farm. They also host a variety of events, workshops and experience days. Please see the list of upcoming events to the right.



To keep up to date on all the activities and events follow their facebook page

 Herring Green Activity farm



Event	Date	Time
Halloween Tea with Owls	31st October 2021	
The Centre of Hocus Pocus	23rd—31st October 2021	10.30am, 1.00pm & 3.00pm
Halloween Owl Encounter	25th & 28th October 2021	11.00am & 2.00pm
Posy in a pumpkin Workshop	23rd October 2021	2.00pm—4.00pm
Posy in a pumpkin Workshop	24th October 2021	10.00am—12.00 2.00pm—4.00pm

For further details or to book you place, visit the website <http://birdsofpreycentre.co.uk>

Contact details

Herrings Green Farm
Cotton End Road
Wilstead, Bedford
MK45 3DT

Opening Hours: Monday—Sunday
10.00am—5.00pm

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Shortbread Stars



170g Plain Flour
 113g Butter
 56g Castor Sugar

1. Grease a large baking tray.
2. Mix the flour and sugar together and add the butter (cut up into small pieces)
3. Rub in the butter until it forms a smooth ball.
4. Lightly flour the worktop and roll out the mixture to about half an inch thick.
5. Using a Star shaped cutter cut out the shortbread making sure to go as close as possible to each star to obtain as many as possible.
6. Transfer the shortbread to the baking tray. If there is enough mixture left continue to roll out the mixture and cut out the stars until all mixture has been used.
7. Bake in the oven (160) for about 20 minutes or until firm and lightly brown.
8. When cooked and still hot dredge with castor sugar.
9. Remove from the tin when cool.

~~~~~  
 Have you got a tasty recipe that you'd like to share with the community? We'd love to feature it in a future edition - email [newsletter@wixams.org](mailto:newsletter@wixams.org)



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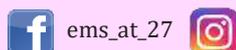
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Printed by White Hart Press, 58a York Street, Bedford MK40 3RL  
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Deadline for submissions for next issue:  
**19th October 2021**

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](mailto:newsletter@wixams.org)

## The Newsletter Team

|                               |                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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