



WIXAMS NEWSLETTER

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

Happy Easter, Vaisakhi, Rama Navami and Ramadan Mubarak

Wixams Newsletter Photography Competition Results!

Turn to page 5 to see the results of the newsletter photography competition.

YOUTH CORNER

Valentines Cake Competition Results!

See our two winners from the under 12 and over 12 categories on page 15.

No local shops for Wixams in Villages 2 & 4

Read about the changes voted by the WJDCC on page 9 that will see the removal of community facilities in Wixams.

Upcoming Events

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

Event	Date	Location/Details
Wixams Newsletter Meeting	Tuesday 12th April, 20.00pm	via Zoom - email newsletter@wixams.org for details
Wixams Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday 19th April, 19.30pm	Wixams Retirement Village
Wixams WI	Wednesday 20th April, 19.45pm	Lakeview Village Hall
ABBA tribute Night	Wednesday 22nd April, 19.00	The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine. £15 per person www.marstonvale.org/Event/quiz-night-27-march-2022

All upcoming events are correct at the time of publishing. Please check with the event organisers directly for more information.

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
- Welcome (Wixams Co-Op)..... 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

Wixams Parish Council

Community litterpick - Saturday 16th April

Please join us for the annual community litterpick at 10.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday 16th April. We're all set and we have small chocolate eggs for the kids. Just come along to the Swan room at the village hall and we will provide the equipment.

Highways proposals

We are still waiting for confirmation of a date from BBC Highways when they will be taking forward to public consultation the latest proposals for parking restrictions: double yellows and "No Footway parking" on Brooklands Avenue. These have already been approved by the parish council. You can find the plans on our website under the "News & Reports" menu.

Bollards

Last month I mentioned the four new bollards for Green Lane and Kingfisher Road: BBC Highways have raised a Works Order for the four new bollards and have provided an estimate of 6-8 weeks.

Bedford Road bus stop path

At the April meeting the council will be deciding whether to go ahead with the installation of a Breedon gravel footpath so that users of the bus stop don't have to walk a considerable distance across the grass to reach it.

Crossing attendant

The borough council have not yet managed to recruit for the two school Crossing Attendants to cover the below locations - one of these will be funded by the parish council. Please email the Clerk if you are interested and you will be put in touch with the borough council recruitment team.

Brooklands Avenue

AM 08:15 - 09:00 / PM 15:10 - 15:55
= 7 hours 30 min per week.

Green Lane

AM 08:15 - 09:00 / PM 15:10 - 15:55
= 7 hours 30 min per week.

You will be required to undertake 1 full day training, plus 6 training shifts (3 x AM and 3 x PM) before commencing in the role. You will also be required to attend 1 full day refresher training per annum.

Next Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings will be on 19th April (moved to avoid the bank holiday) and 16th May at 7.30pm. The council meetings are held at Wixams Retirement Village in the main hall - everyone is welcome to attend and you can address the council in the public forum at the start of every meeting.

wixamspc@gmail.com
www.wixams-pc.gov.uk

Wixams Supports Ukraine

**Unfortunately
we can't accept any clothing
Items Needed**

**First Aid Kits, Medical Kits
Plasters, Bandages, Facemasks
Nappies Adults & Child
Wipes, Baby Formula
Sanitary Products
Toiletries, Soap, Toothbrushes
Energy Bars Non Perishable Food
Dried Pet Food
Torches, Batteries
Sleeping Bags**

**Please
Donate
Drop Off At
The Village
Hall**

**Contact
Paula
07548 386450**



Councillor Graeme Coombes

Graeme is the Wilshamstead Borough Councillor.
Reporting to Wixams (March 2022)

Aldi – Regional Distribution Centre - Wixams

Bedford Planning Department advise that a planning application has now been received from Aldi. The application has been given the reference number 22/00532/MAR and the consultation is likely to end towards the end of April.

Wixams Station Board

The Wixams Station Board met on Monday 21st March and progress on the project continues. Highlights from the meeting include:

- The Commercial Overall Model (Business Case) is now with the DfT who are considering it before giving their approval
- The total cost of the project is now estimated at £31m, slightly below the amount of the S106 funding from Gallagher and the Borough Council loan to fund the scheme.
- A planning application is expected to be submitted around July 2022
- There has been a slight slippage in the completion date and the handover is now expected to be September 2024 with first trains due from December 2024
- A plan for the station car park is currently being put together. I reiterated the importance of considering residents who will be living nearby and ensuring that they are not inconvenienced by people parking near to the station, rather than paying the car park fee.

Revised Wixams S106

I Chaired the 9th March meeting of the Wixams Joint Development Committee, where the revised S106 was discussed. I made clear my opposition to the revisions, arguing instead that the Mayor should fund the shortfall, via all the S106 and CIL monies he receives from planning, instead of Wixams residents having a considerably reduced infrastructure.

Many of the proposals from Council Officers had not been thought through and there was little empirical evidence to support their views e.g. the reduction in shops and retail.

When it came to a vote, I voted against the proposals. Sadly, the revision was approved as a majority of Councillors voted in favour.

Pedestrian access between the two 'halves' of Wixams

Also at the Wixams JDC meeting, a report was presented, indicating developers would create a pedestrian access point allowing people to walk between the two sides of Wixams along Green Lane. It was hoped that this would relieve some of the traffic congestion around this area. The date given was June 2022, which means it would be open before the September school term.

I reiterated the importance of addressing the issue of vehicle access between the two sides as the only realistic prospect of alleviating the daily congestion during school terms.

Tel: 07815 302 318

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

Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes



Councillor Rebecca Hares

Central Bedfordshire Independent Councillor

I recently attended the Wixams Joint Development meeting where the renegotiation of the Section 106 agreement was considered. The reason this renegotiation was there was due to the original planning permission not requiring enough infrastructure to support the Wixams Development - specifically in the provision of education placements.

This new Agreement of Community contributions has seen further decline in the developer obligations across the entirety of Wixams - including the removal of a school and the expansion of existing schools. Some areas of the S106 have seen a 65% decline in developer contributions; but not to worry an additional 100 houses was included.

One of the questions I raised at the meeting was why the Councils could not utilise the New Homes Bonus they received from the development of Wixams to provide the shortfall - to which half an answer of "both Councils are providing some £20m of which part will be funded by the New Homes Bonus" - no response as to why all could not be funded due to the fact they would have no bonus without the development. I also queried how further reducing all community contributions from the developer and allowing more houses made sense, removing infrastructure because there is a deficit of infrastructure and then adding more housing - no response. I also asked why the schools could not just be delivered earlier then there is no longer a deficit... no response - the meeting had move on from questions to comments.

Cllr Coombes gave a very strong speech about how this agreement was not suitable for Wixams residents and I supported all his assertions reminding Councillors and Officers that it is residents we work for - not Developers.



Councillor Tim Hill's Report

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

Elstow South Pit Planning Applications - I had asked for the planning applications for the restoration of the old mineral extraction pits, to be discussed and decided by Planning Committee members. However, after officers took legal advice, this was thought not to be possible. The two current planning applications are the detail of how to meet the conditions of the original permissions from 1949 and 1980, which included a requirement to restore the Pits. However, following pressure by myself, the Wixams Community Group, and Tony Musgrove who is a Parish Councillor and a Wixams Retirement Village resident, a Council officer hosted a call with us on 25 Feb 22 to discuss these Planning Applications. On that call, the Council officer advised us that:

- The Planning Designation of the two Applications had been reviewed and changed to reflect their impact on the community.
- The Planning history is VERY complicated, but the applicants mistakenly thought that the history of the Planning Applications meant there would be no need for wider consultations.
- She agreed with me that the Pit itself is in Elstow Parish but given the impact on the residents in the Wixams Retirement Village, there should always have been a much wider automatic consultation than just Elstow Parish Council.
- She needs to meet with the Applicants to go through the Applications in fine detail.
- The applicants had agreed they should host a Consultation Event in Wixams and as I type this, the Event was booked for 10am-4pm on 17th March at Lakeview Village Hall in the Munson Room. I hope you went along to make your views known. I did a personal letter to all the residents of the Wixams Retirement Village. I hope the main Wixams village Borough Councillor did the same in his Ward.
- The deadline for comments would be extended to after the Consultation Event.
- For further details on these Planning Applications, please click on: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-applications/search-plans-page/>
- Then click on "View and comment on planning applications".
- "Advanced" should appear.
- Then choose:
 - "Elstow" under "Parish".
 - "Awaiting decision" under "Status"
 - Click on "Search".
- These two Applications will appear near the top of the displayed list.

Motorhome and White Transit Van causing havoc on Green Lane at school drop off and pick up time – Residents, including ones from the Wixams Retirement Village, had raised their concerns with me regarding the Motorhome and White Transit Van on Green Lane. The Motorhome was permanently parked there, along with a white transit van that was parked there many times. Residents had sent me videos of the havoc it was causing during school pick up/drop off times. Following my investigations with Borough Highways and the Police, we found out that the vehicle is registered to an address in Rutland Road, Bedford. I had been told that:

- The two vehicles have previously been moved on four times.
- The first site was Goldfinch Gardens in Wixams.
- The owner is living in the Motorhome and going to work in the White Transit Van.
- The owner is a father who is living separately from his family.

I asked the Police and Borough Housing Officers to visit the site and make contact with the owner with a view to:

- In the short term, ensuring the vehicles are moved on to a site where the impact will be much less. I suggested the track outside the empty property that is opposite 1, Dane Lane. This is not currently used by any vehicle and is a dead end. The police did make contact with the owner and the owner agreed to move both vehicles, but he moved them to a site in Bedford Road nearer Green Lane.
- Supporting him to find permanent accommodation. Housing Officers made contact. He refused the offers of help.

I'm pleased that the two vehicles have been moved and that the havoc they caused during school pick up/drop off times, has been reduced.

Unfortunately, our pleas were largely ignored and the agreement was endorsed.

On a brighter note, Village 4 playground that is routinely inaccessible due to it being under water is being addressed. Additional drainage options are being investigated to allow this play area to be used all the time.

Wixams Councillors have also been advised that a footpath from Village 4 through to the schools should be open by September 2022 at the very latest... we all know how the promise of this elusive footpath ended last time.

Crime Stats

Crimes reported in February and March 2022, by date committed:

- 01/02 - Assault without injury - Brooklands Ave
- 03/02 - Obscene publications, etc
- 07/02 - Possession of cannabis - Linnet Lane
- 08/02 - Harassment
- 11/02 - Theft in a dwelling other auto mach - Bluebird Gardens
- 11/02 - Obscene publications, etc
- 16/02 - Sexual
- 20/02 - Stalking
- 21/02 - Arson endangering life - Zander Way
- 23/02 - Malicious communications - Minnow Way
- 27/02 - Assault with injury - Bedford Road
- 27/02 - Assault with injury - Hedgehog Mead

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



Wixams Community Watch



A dog bite incident was reported by a resident on our Facebook page in early March. It has been reported that a poodle type dog was off the lead near the 3G pitch. The resident attempted to avoid this dog to prevent confrontation with their own dogs but ultimately became unavoidable as the unattended dog made its way to the resident and her dogs. The resident was clawed and bitten, subsequently the resident suffered injuries which required hospital treatment.

Residents should be aware of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. Most will think this only covers dangerous breeds, such as Pitbull terriers, however this is not true. Whilst there is a section dedicated to specific breeds, section 3 of the DDA in fact covers all dog breeds and refers specifically to any dog being dangerously out of control in any place, private or public.

Whether you have a large breed or a miniature breed and no matter if your dog is generally good or placid, if they become out of control, bite or injure someone, then as the owner you can be prosecuted for the offence. This could mean up to six months in prison or a fine of up to £5,000.

In other community watch news, you may have seen the Street Watch initiative roll out, there have been a number of patrols undertaken by our volunteers and the general feedback from residents has been positive.

Street Watch is a community scheme powered by Bedfordshire Police. Volunteers are local residents who spare up to two hours per month to rack up their step count by taking a wander around the neighbourhood, engaging with residents and giving advice on how they can help keep themselves, property and local area safe.

To ensure residents feel safe, all Street Watch volunteers are vetted and given full training by the local policing team. They are also provided with high visibility jackets so they are noticeable when out on the street.

The Street Watch team are still recruiting volunteers so if this sounds interesting to you, then please contact our local street watch rep Juliet. Wright@beds.police.uk or contact us at WCW (email address below).

Lastly, the WCW are also on the lookout for new committee members. The current committee meets once per month online for one hour to discuss various neighbourhood safety topics and general community awareness. If you would like to know more, you can contact us on the Facebook group or via email at the address below.

Nick Edwards
WCW Chair

Facebook: Wixams Community Watch
Email: Wixamscommunitywatch@gmail.com



JOIN

A VOLUNTEER RUN COMMUNITY GROUP, SET UP TO HELP THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND INCREASE SAFETY WITHIN THE LOCAL AREA.

YOU CAN DO YOUR PART BY JOINING THE GROUP TO STAY UP-TO-DATE, SHARE INFORMATION OR BY BECOMING A REPRESENTATIVE FOR YOUR STREET

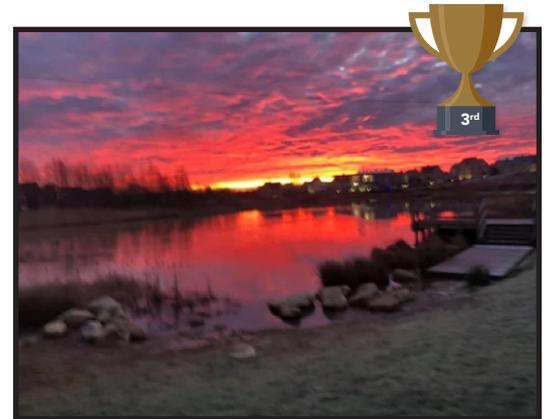
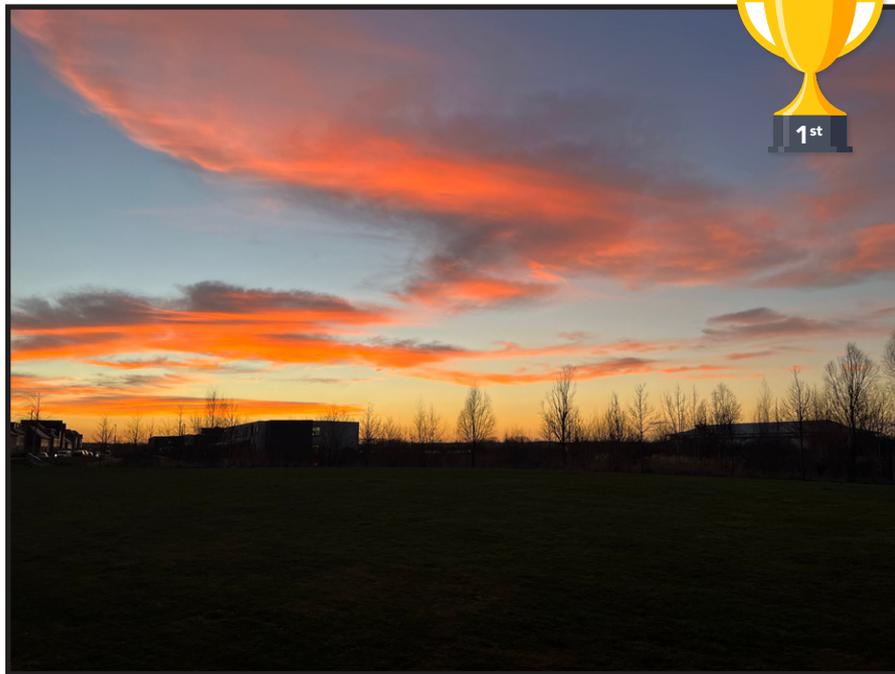
SCAN THE QR &
JOIN THE
GROUP



Email: wixamscommunitywatch@gmail.com

Wixams Newsletter Photography Competition

Congratulations to our 1st prize winner Holly Snoxell who won with 63 votes (out of 148 total). Well done to our 2nd and 3rd place winners, Rob Cowell and Sarah Perry, and to everyone who entered their fantastic photos.



The **Hollie Guard** platform is an safety service used for enhanced level of security & protection.

Key features:

- Captures **live audio and video** when an alert is raised. If you are in a dangerous situation your emergency contacts will be notified.
- Discreet alert** allows you to raise an alert discreetly in any uncomfortable situation to receive a response from your emergency contacts.
- Journey** gives you the confidence to travel safely from point A to B at any time of day, notifying your emergency contact of any journey you make.
- Hollie Guard Extra Services** allows a user to upgrade to Hollie Guard Extra which is a 24/7 police approved monitoring service.



How To Register

Step 1

- Go to your **app store** and download Hollie Guard
- Click on "get started"

Step 2

- Enter Voucher code and submit
- Follow the steps for account verification and set up

Step 3

- You can use your email address and password OR phone number and pin to complete the process
- You are now ready to **log in** and personalise your settings

Scan the code for app tutorials



Contact x email to register for Hollie Guard Extra service

Need some help?

If you have any questions, please view our online help at hollieguard.co.uk or contact us at info@hollieguard.com



Please contact safestreeets@bedford.gov.uk for more information

Bedford Borough Council Fail to Address Parents' Concerns

After her child Lola was hit by a car in January, concerned mum Amy Weaver submitted a petition to Bedford Borough Council demanding they take urgent action to install pedestrian crossings in some key places across Wixams.

Despite the petition receiving over 170 signatures the response from Bedford Borough Council fell far short of parents' demands.

Residents have been asking for safe crossing points near to the schools in Wixams for a number of years. Comments have been repeatedly made on Facebook expressing child safety concerns and some parents have even highlighted that their child was nearly hit by a car on the way to school. Yet over 12 years since Lakeview primary opened its doors, and 5 years since the two schools on Green Lane were built, Wixams is still left without safe crossings to protect vulnerable children.

The petition was debated before the full council meeting at Borough Hall on Wednesday 16th March. It was introduced by Leon Staszak, chair of the Wixams Community Group, who highlighted that urgent action is needed "before another child is injured or something even worse happens." He also asked why the developers were not being asked to install crossings when the roads are first built, meaning the tax-payer will be left to foot the bill.

In response to the petition Cllr Charles Royden (LibDems, Brickhill Ward), the portfolio holder for environment, highways and transport, put forward a motion which includes the following actions:

- The developers have promised to build a crossing on Green Lane before they transfer control of the road. Borough officers are pressing them to undertake this work at the earliest opportunity.
- Officers have been instructed to introduce a 20-mph speed limit on Brooklands Road, and this will be introduced as part of the 2022 programme of works.
- A weight limit is to be placed on Brooklands Avenue because residents had advised that 40 tonne lorries were driving along this road and it was entirely unsuitable for this.
- A new zebra crossing will be introduced on Fisherswood Road to complete a safe walking route from the Retirement Village into Village One.

The motion was approved by the council but missed out some of the urgent crossings needed to make roads in Wixams safer for pedestrians. Parents have long pointed out that a crossing is needed outside Lakeview Primary school but this point was not discussed. Likewise a crossing is not planned for at the Green Lane end of Bedford Road, a junction described by many as one of those most in need of a safe crossing.



The announcement of the planned crossing near the schools Green Lane will be welcomed by local residents, but parents have waited 5 years already and will have to continue to wait until the road is submitted for adoption by the developers and no expected date was given.

Cllr Royden also blamed the former Bedfordshire County Council for the the lack of crossings: "The more general issue is that we have to address a lack of crossings being included in the original design for the highways across Wixams", he said. "when I speak to our planning department, one of the things that I have reiterated time and time again is that we must plan for these things in the original designs which was something which was not done". The county council was disbanded in 2009 and Bedford Borough Council have worked with Central Beds Council to lead the development ever since. As the designs for Wixams have already changed multiple times in this period, residents are left wondering why crossings were not factored into the plans at any stage in the last 13 years.

Crossing to be built on Fisherswood Road

Since the doors opened in 2019, residents at the Wixams Retirement Village have pushed for a crossing to be installed on Fisherswood Road. Concerns have been raised over the safety of residents in mobility scooters travelling around Wixams: "When it comes to crossing Fisherswood Road they are at a disadvantage being lower down, so their line-of-sight is reduced and they also cannot be seen by drivers approaching from The Causeway." said Maurice Bunce, Chairman of the Residents Association at the retirement village. After already securing the new zebra crossing on Bedford Road, Cllr Tim Hill, borough councillor for Elstow and Stewartby including the WRV, has confirmed the new crossing is scheduled for later this year. However, the news of the Fisherswood Road crossing has frustrated some residents who are asking why crossings haven't yet been installed on Green Lane and near to Lakeview primary school despite highlighting their concerns for a number of years.

In February 2022 the Wixams Parish Council voted to fund feasibility studies for crossings at key locations across the parish, but without funding provided by Bedford Borough Council the crossings won't be installed across those sites for the foreseeable future.



Wixams Community Group

www.wixams.org/community-group



**SUNDAY
15TH MAY**

Wixams Indoor Jumble Sale

WWW.WIXAMS.ORG/JUMBLE-SALE

SUNDAY 15th MAY 2022, 1-3 PM

LAKEVIEW VILLAGE HALL, BROOKLANDS AVENUE, MK42 6AB

£5 PER TABLE

BOOK A TABLE AND FIND INFORMATION ON WEBPAGE ABOVE

Some of the items you might want to buy/sell:

- Clothes, Shoes, Trainers & Boots
- Sports Equipment
- Board Games, Puzzles, Lego/Construction Toys
- Dolls, Figures & Accessories
- Books & Magazines, DVDs & Blu-rays
- Xbox, Playstation & Switch Games
- Household Items, Kitchenware & Unwanted Gifts
- Unwanted/Unused Tools & Equipment

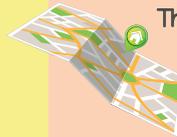


graphics ©freepik

+ Wixams Jumble Trail

The last trail was such a success, so why not join organiser Sarah for another Wixams Jumble Trail.

Set up a stall on your doorstep and sell on your unwanted items or come have a look around our village following the map to find those bargains.



This time Sarah is raising funds for the local scout group 1st Wixams.

Sunday 15th May, 12-4 pm

• Stalls £5 • Maps 50p

Get your map at the Lakeview Village Hall from 11:45

For more information email sarahperry47@yahoo.com

+ Repair Café

Got broken toys, games, electricals or household items? Bring them to the repair cafe and we'll see if our volunteers can help fix them.



Sunday 15th May, Swan Room, 1-3 pm



Yarn Bombing Group

www.wixams.org/yarn-bombing

Barratt/David Wilson Homes have kindly provided us some funding to create a 'yarn bombing' group in Wixams!

The idea is the group make knitted/crocheted art pieces to put up across town, or they could create a display somewhere for a specific event. Members would meet regularly to share ideas, and for the more experienced people to help the novices learn how to knit/crochet.

If you like arts and crafts this group might be right up your street!

Please visit the page above for more information.



Wixams Youth Services Meeting

Would you like to help bring more facilities to Wixams for our teenagers? Whether you're a young resident or a parent, we would like to hear your opinions and suggestions.

Join us for a meeting:

**Swan Room,
Lakeview Village Hall**

Wed 20th April 7pm



Bring the sun to Wixams - Get your free sunflower seeds!

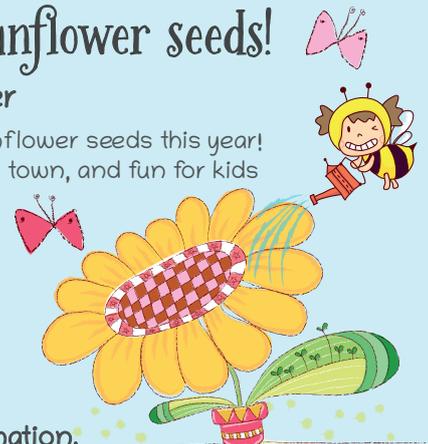
www.wixams.org/sunflowers-for-summer

In the Wixams Community Group we love gardening so we're giving away free giant sunflower seeds this year! We think it would be lovely if this summer there were sunflowers growing all around our town, and fun for kids to see huge plants growing in the garden.

We've put together some packs of seeds which we will put through the door of anyone who wants to join in the sunflower fun. Each pack contains giant sunflower seeds (grows up to 3 metres), red sunflower seeds and growing instructions.

When you are a (big or small) sunflower owner later in the year, why not share some photos of your sunflowers with us, our Facebook group or the Wixams Photography Club - we're sure everyone will be delighted to see those happy images.

Please visit our webpage above to sign up for your seeds and for more information.



Lakeview Village Hall Activities

In line with new Government regulations, all hirers and visitors to Lakeview Village Hall are required to wear face coverings

 Lakeview Village Hall

The groups advertised below are correct at the time of publishing. Some groups run term time only. Please contact the group directly for their class running times and further information.



Day	Time	Group	Room	Contact	Website/Facebook
Monday	15:45 - 16:45	Shine Dance Drama, Dance & Singing	Lakeview	Luisa Hodges - 07749091885	facebook.com/Shine-Theatre-School shinetheatreschool.co.uk
	18:30 - 20:00	Wixams Tang Soo Do	Lakeview	Nick	facebook.com/WixamsTSD
	20:00 - 21:00	Go box fitness	Lakeview	07727113285	facebook.com/goboxfit
Tuesday	17:00 & 18:30	Slimming World	Lakeview	Holly - 07968719951	www.slimmingworld.co.uk/group/558255
	18:30 - 19:30	Yoga	Munson	07825561569	www.liviyoga.co.uk
	18:30 - 19:30	Christ the Word Ignite Club for yrs 6, 7, 8 and 9	Swan	Alan - 07879716958	facebook.com/christthewordwixams www.christthewordwixams.org.uk
Wednesday	09:45 - 13:05	Baby Sensory Different groups running	Lakeview	Samantha - 07538502587	facebook.com/babysensorybeds www.babysensory.com/beds
	17:45 - 20:00	Irish Dancing Primary, Intermediate & Open classes	Lakeview	Katie	facebook.com/stuartirishdancebedford
	17:00 - 18:00	Rainbows	Munson		
	18:15 - 19:30	Brownies	Munson		
Thursday	20:00 - 21:00	Go box fitness	Lakeview	07727113285	facebook.com/goboxfit
	09:45 - 14:00	Toddler Sensory Different groups running	Lakeview	Samantha - 07538 502587	facebook.com/toddlersensebeds www.toddlersense.com/bedfordshire
	18:15 - 19:00	Go box fitness for kids	Lakeview	07727113285	facebook.com/goboxfit
	18:30 - 19:00	QI Gong Class Mind-Body-Spirit Exercises	Munson	07908006677	Email: innertherapy@gmail.com
Friday	19:30 - 20:30	Meditation Magic Class	Munson		
	10:00 - 11:00	Active Pack Wixams	Lakeview	Andy activepackactivities@gmail.com	facebook.com/activepackactivities/
Saturday	18:00 - 20:00	Scouts	Lakeview		facebook.com/1stwixamscouting www.1stwixamsscouts.org.uk
	09:00 - 10:15	Shine Dance Drama, Dance & Singing	Munson	Louisa Hodges - 07749091885	facebook.com/Shine-Theatre-School www.shinetheatreschool.co.uk
Sunday	09:30 - 11:30	Irish Dancing Beginners classes for all ages	Lakeview	Katie	facebook.com/stuartirishdancebedford
	08:30 - 09:30	Go box fitness	Lakeview	07727113285	facebook.com/goboxfit
	10:30 - 11:30	Christ the Word Church Services	Lakeview		
	15:00 - 16:00	Christ the Word Sunday Club For children aged 4-10 years	Munson	Alan - 07879716958	facebook.com/christthewordwixams www.christthewordwixams.org.uk

Meet a local ARTIST

Hi, I'm Roxana, a 32 year-old self taught artist who loves COLOUR. I am deeply inspired by nature and how colour makes you feel. I am happiest when it's sunny, surrounded by beautiful greenery, flowers and people I love.

I've always had a passion for the art world, having spent two years in drama school during high school, sketching, drawing and painting from a young age and recently qualifying as an interior designer. I never taught myself an artist until I read something very inspiring that was an eye opener for me. 'If you're putting in the work, you're doing everything that's required to claim your title'. But this is not about me, this is about my art, which I hope makes you feel happy. I'm a strong believer art should be fun and I want my pieces to reflect my love of life, happiness, feminism, colour and joy.



I love painting florals, I usually paint in acrylic on canvas, paper or wood but since having my daughter who is now three, I have found a new way of keeping up with being creative and that is digital painting. I mostly paint digitally on my ipad nowadays, but I also have a collection of canvases in my garage where I get drawn to paint in my little corner of love when I find the time.

I love texture, layers and thick brush strokes. You might find my work different but I like to feature the journey of every piece.

I hope you enjoy my art and if you love what I do come and follow my journey on instagram at @pinkbrushstrokes. See you there.

WJDCC Votes to Remove Local Shops from Villages 2 & 4

At the meeting held on 9th March 2022 the Wixams Joint Development Control Committee (WJDCC) voted to approve the S106 agreement revisions for the Wixams development. The S106 agreement for Wixams contains a wide range of provisions including: affordable housing set at 25% for each parcel, education contributions, highways and public transport improvements, the railway station, sustainability measures, sports and play facilities, community facilities, retail facilities and more.

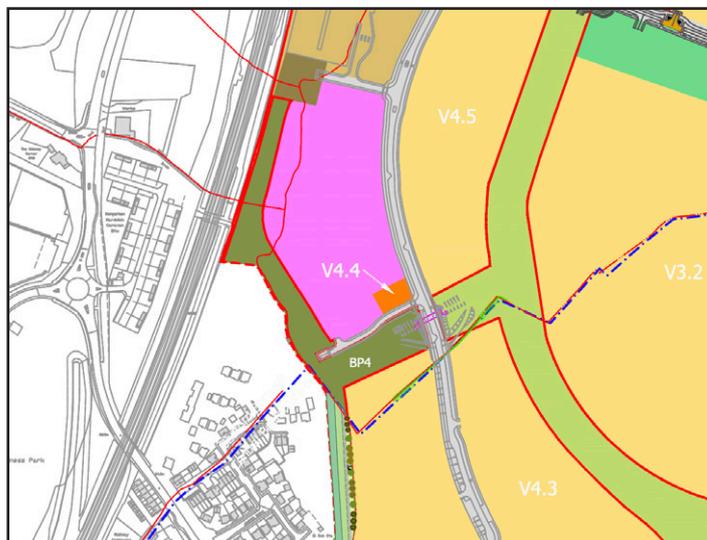
Due to a funding shortfall for the education facilities in excess of £20 million, it was no longer possible to build a primary school in both villages 3 and 4, so a single larger school will be built in village 3. Unfortunately this change alone was not enough, meaning there was a requirement to modify the S106 agreement to remove or reduce the obligations on the developers so money could be reallocated and the funding gap closed.

The proposed changes included:

- Removing bus subsidies and funding for public transport infrastructure
- Moving the community centre obligation in village 4 to the Railway Station Quarter
- Removal of the planned retail facilities in villages 2 and 4
- The land allocated for the primary school in village 4 released for housing

No Local Shops for Villages 2 & 4

After a campaign led by the Wixams Newsletter (Dec 2021 edition) 57 residents objected to the application with the main concern being the loss of retail units in two of Wixams' four villages. However, the points raised were largely ignored and the WJDCC voted to approve all the revisions with 5 votes in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention. Two of the votes against the changes came from Wixams'



The changes remove the retail facilities in village 4, pictured above in orange. The community facilities will be moved to the Railway Station Quarter.



The S106 changes removed the retail facilities planned for village 2, pictured above in orange

own councillors, Cllr Graeme Coombes from Bedford Borough (who also co-chairs the committee) and Cllr Rebecca Hares from Central Beds, meanwhile the votes for the proposals came from councillors from other parts of Bedfordshire. This has led to criticisms of the committee on social media asking why members from outside of Wixams voted against the views of Wixams' own residents.

When considering this application the committee members are provided with a report put together by council officers. In this report the officers argued the retail sector has changed with "a large increase in the internet shopping market" and that the impacts of the pandemic on the retail sector are unclear. Questions have been raised over this reasoning as the now-removed retail provisions could have included local shops and takeaways like in village 1, facilities which are crucial for residents and which help to create a thriving community.

Another Blow to Wixams' Planned Facilities

This year's S106 revisions come after another set of changes were approved in 2016 which removed other vital community facilities in Wixams, also due to an education funding shortfall. The changes included:

- Building Wixams Tree Primary and Wixams Academy on the same site
- Removal of a dedicated public library
- Removal of incubator units for startup businesses
- Removal of public arts funding

The 1999 Wixams Masterplan aimed to create a modern town of 4 villages in the "character of a traditional English market town". However, with planned facilities being dropped one-by-one Wixams may for some end up feeling like an uninspired housing estate with an attached logistics park.

Homes for Ukraine: deciding to host a family



More than 3 million Ukrainian citizens have fled their home country since the start of the Russian invasion on 24th February, losing their homes and loved ones as they begin their journey to safety. In response, the UK government has launched 'Homes for Ukraine', a campaign asking the British public to open their homes. We have decided to help. This is our experience.

Finding a family - It's important to consider how well your home meets the needs of a particular family. First, we considered age, profession, their grasp of English and their desire to be close to job opportunities, friends, relatives, shops, public transport and schools. We decided to host a mother and baby as, with our own baby, we can offer everything they need.

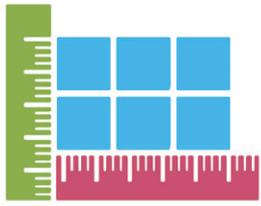
Getting to know each other - For such vulnerable families, it's vital to provide them with reassurance

to feel secure. Many are understandably worried about becoming victims of abuse, scams and human trafficking. To build mutual trust we shared everything about our lives: our names, age, photos, jobs, hobbies, home, facilities, local area, and our reason for wanting to host. We also met on a video call, to ensure we all felt comfortable with each other before committing to sponsor.

Navigating the process - Our advice, having completed the Visa application process, would be to ensure you explain in simple language the support refugees will receive when they arrive - healthcare, money, employment support, education and English language tuition.

A warm welcome - Suddenly arriving in a stranger's home is incredibly daunting, so we are putting a lot of thought into how we can help. We have focused on essentials (clothing, toiletries, bedding), access to a mobile phone, Ukrainian home comforts, cultural and religious awareness and Ukrainian community.

We hope by sharing our experience, you feel better informed about how you can help - be it by sponsoring a refugee family, or supporting the invaluable work our Wixams community can provide to Ukrainians as they settle in.



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Did you know Bedford has a Credit Union?
Do you know what a credit union does?

Bedford Credit Union provides loans, savings and basic bank accounts for anyone in the area around Bedford, including Wixams.

Our mission is to help local people manage their finances with fair loans, financed by the savings of local people. The maximum net loan to any member is £7250, our average loan is £1000, but we often lend smaller amounts. Our interest rates are fixed - we don't load them against members with poor credit scores. Our loans are flexible - repay all or part early with no penalty. We don't penalise those in genuine difficulty - although if payments are delayed the loan will still be accruing interest.

As you would expect loans are subject to checking affordability and credit record - but we understand life is complicated, things like CCJs are not a bar to borrowing from us.

What do our members borrow for? Holidays, vehicle purchase (or that unexpected garage bill), home improvements, white goods or furniture - any larger-than-average cost. We are also keen to reduce reliance on unfair lending: paying off expensive credit cards, overdrafts and store cards with a lower cost credit union loan can make sense.



Bedford Credit Union

We like to help our members to save. Even a small amount of savings put you in a better position to control your finances. Our ordinary member loans need a certain amount saved with us, but we have two types of loan to help members without savings: Save as you Borrow loans add a savings element to each repayment; or Child Benefit Loans where the child benefit is paid to your credit union account and part of it goes towards loan repayments.

You'll notice we've used the word 'member' not 'customer'. Every adult who has an account with us is a member of the cooperative, has a vote at our AGM and can be elected to our board of directors. Our relationship with our members is much more personal than is usual in the bank system today. If you are interested in the services we offer take a look at our website www.bedfordcreditunion.org.uk, give us a call on 01234 346352 or drop in to see us at 6 St Paul's Square on a Wednesday morning, we'd love to talk.

All are welcome to our Easter Service
Sunday 17th April, 10:30-11:30am
in Lakeview Village Hall, Wixams



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Do you have a position to fill whether it be a paid or volunteer role?

Would you like to widen your advertising to the local community of Wixams, delivering to approx. 2500 houses.

The team at Wixams Newsletter are keen to support local employment .

Get in contact to find out how we can support your Recruitment campaign.

Email: advertising@wixams.org



Do you fancy a part-time job of about 6 hrs per week?
Do you want to earn money for holidays and/or other extras?
If you have answered yes, then please consider becoming our Assistant Caretaker.

Wanted – Wilstead Village Hall Assistant Caretaker

To start as soon as possible, Wilstead Village Hall Management Committee is looking for an assistant caretaker to work closely alongside the main caretaker. This is for a minimum of 6 hours a week, worked flexibly across 2 days, one of which is to be a Monday. The job also is to cover the main Caretaker's holidays and sick days. The pay is at the current minimum wage and paid by the hour. Duties would include good time keeping to unlock and lock the hall for hirers; preparing the hall and cleaning after a hire; and stepping into the Caretaker's full role when needed. This requires working closely with the Caretaker, especially when covering his fuller duties.

If you require further information and/or are interested in taking up this post, please contact either of the names listed below. Brian, our main caretaker is very willing to have a chat about the job and show you around the Hall.

Sandra Spinks (Chairperson) sanschambers@hotmail.com, 07853395939
Angela Fosbrook (Secretary) angela.fosbrook@ntlworld.com, 01234 294692



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YOUTH CORNER

by Ellie

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Gardening Tips for April

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 gardening/nature @Marioncolledge

Containers, trugs and elsewhere

With the price of oil going up, the price of vegetables will rise, so it'll be really worth planting your favourite salads, or a few carrots or peas in your trugs. Don't forget you can make your own compost if you can't buy any (featured August 2021). If you have three containers, you can plant seeds every three weeks and have successional crops. Incidentally, there's no need to keep buying seeds. Friends staying with me last year who didn't know anything about it, put too many seeds in. Spread them thinly. Keep the spare seed. Most seeds will still be viable long after their use-by date (like up to two years afterwards), especially if you've stored them in a tin in a cool place.

Larger Gardens

When we had our warmer weather last week (16 degrees), suddenly the almond blossom, the flowering currant bush, the primroses, the aubretia and the rosemary were out. All this happens one month earlier than when I came to Bedford a generation ago.

The pulmonaria (lungwort) with its mixed pink and mauve flowers (pictured) had sprung up their eight inches and busy with bees. Pulmonaria is a good plant to have at the front of a border (or even in a raised bed). When the flowers are finished, the stems can be cut off and the green leaves with grey spots make good ground cover for the summer. They're trouble-free. Some plants are spreading along, rather than growing up, as yet. I am once more giving away snowdrops and Michaelmas daisies via the swap site shown above. The Michaelmas daisies are so invasive that I'm thinking of putting plastic edging in front of them to stop them spreading to the smaller flowering plants at the front of the bed.

The Michaelmas daisies are so invasive that I'm thinking of putting plastic edging in front of them to stop them spreading to the smaller flowering plants at the front of the bed.

Allotment

I hope you got some potatoes in (see last month). It's not too late still to plant 'maincrop' ones (maturing August-September), and as the price of wheat, much of which comes from Ukraine, looks like it will go up, it'll be worth eating more of them. Undamaged specimens will store in cardboard boxes in a cool (8-11 degrees) dark place till January, or they can be made into potato pies or saag aloo and frozen.



The Pond

Little ponds can be fairly maintenance free if wild pond plants are in there. They should attract frogs who, provided you are not using chemicals can live in your garden and eat the slugs and snails. But last October I forgot to put wire netting across to keep the leaves out of mine. So a few weeks ago (7th March) I was looking at the temperatures - I wanted to scrape the rotting leaves out with my spade to stop it being smelly in the summer, and I needed to do it when there

were no frogs sheltering in there. Male frogs do overwinter there, female ones generally under sheds and compost heaps. I needed to do it before it got sunny and 17 degrees and the frogs spawned. On Sunday 13th March I took the flag irises and the pot of rushes out, divided the irises with my spade and composted threequarters of them. I scraped and got a bucket of half rotted leaves and mud out and added these to the compost bin too. On 14th March the

temperature was due to go up and the frogs did indeed lay their jellied spawn (pictured).



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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

The Newsletter Team

Editor	Saqhib Ali	newsletter@wixams.org
Advertisements	Sheila Menzies	If you are interested in advertising in this newsletter, please contact Sheila at advertising@wixams.org or 07707 209698
Distribution/Delivery	Barbara Matthews	If you would like to help out and have an hour or so a month to spare please contact Barbara at newsletterdistribution@wixams.org
Design and Production	Dan James	Find out more at danjamesmedia.com
Editorial/Proofreading	Barry Huckle	
Treasurer	Anthony Musgrove	
Wixams Community Group	Leon Staszak and Adriana Schepankiewitsch	community@wixams.org
Committee	Alan Pibworth, Nick Edwards, Kelly Carr, Emma Egan and Ellie Egan	

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