



WIXAMS NEWSLETTER

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



We hope you enjoyed the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
 Please send in your pictures to be featured in the July newsletter, to newsletter@wixams.org
 If your child was born after 1st June 2021 and you live in Wixams please contact saqhib.pc@gmail.com
 to receive a Platinum Jubilee commemorative coin from Wixams Parish Council



This crown was made for Ronald Macdonald House Charities



This crown was made for FACES Bedford Charity

Upcoming Events

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

Event	Date	Location/Details
Wixams Vixens WI	Wednesday 15th June, 19.45pm	Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday 21st June, 19.30pm	Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams Summer Party	Saturday 2nd July, 12.00pm	Lakeview Village Hall - SEE PAGE 5
Wixams Newsletter Meeting	Tuesday 12th July, 20.00pm	Zoom - please email newsletter@wixams.org
Happy Circus (Lakeview PTA)	Saturday 16th July, 13.30pm	Lakeview Village Hall

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

Wixams Parish Council

Annual roundup for 2021/2022

It has been another unusual year due to the pandemic, but in May 2021 we returned to physical meetings (with precautions) rather than using video conferencing. We have a full house of 15 councillors again for the year. There was a time when we were struggling to recruit councillors, so this is reassuring that we must be doing something right. **Your current councillors are:** Sam Mardel (Chair), Charlotte Day (Vice Chair), Saqhib Ali, Clinton Taylor, Anthony Musgrove, Jody Casey, Sergio Fowles, Terry Christian, Graeme Coombes (who is also a borough councillor), Scott Foster, Bobby Mudhar, Kelly Carr, Micah Matore, Debbie Bowman, and Richard Jeffery.

Let's have a brief walkthrough of some of the items covered this year. Most recently, thank you to the 70 people who joined in the **community litterpick** on 16th April, which was a success.

We continue to work with Borough Council Highways to secure improvements to the road network in Wixams. However, we do struggle with the borough's resource and budget constraints – even when we put forward our own funding it can take a long time to be prioritised. We are currently waiting for confirmation of a date from Highways when they will be taking forward to public consultation the latest proposals for **parking restrictions:** double yellows and “No Footway parking” in select locations on Brooklands Avenue. Parking restrictions on Green Lane to resolve the traffic bottleneck have been implemented along with restrictions on Bedford Road outside the retirement village due to an issue with large vehicles parking overnight.

The parish council has agreed to fund a **feasibility study** run by the borough council in relation to adding crossings (with the types to be determined) at three locations across Wixams. The idea is that the parish council will then put funding towards them to ensure these get implemented. Other items this year have included:

- Funding four **new bollards** for Green Lane and Kingfisher Road at two hotspots where vehicles have either been cutting over the pavement on a corner or damaging the grass verge. These are expected to be installed shortly.
- Nine **new benches** were installed across Wixams. What may seem straightforward had many hidden complications, especially with such a wide variety of locations, changing landowners, and sodden ground for months.
- The third and final Wixams **entrance sign** was installed on the west side of Wixams by the roundabout off the B530.
- Two **new bins** for litter and dog waste are being funded by the parish council.
- A **salt bin** for Southern Cross where the pavement and road are on an incline.
- An additional fifth **speed indication device** on Southern Cross, and another one on the way for Bedford Road (subject to highways approval); we are also progressing with discussions over a sign for Harlequin Crescent.

Planning matters have been constant, varied, and in some cases disappointing in their outcomes. To clarify, the parish council is a consultee in the planning application process and the actual decisions are made by the borough council. As well as a high number of smaller domestic planning applications, we also reviewed an application to modify the Section 106 agreement that covers the infrastructure required to be provided alongside development of houses across Wixams. A major shortfall between the amount of funding in the agreement and the amount required to provide the expected infrastructure, has resulted in the loss of a requirement for a village 4 school and the retail units in villages 2 and 4, amongst other items. We also objected to the 5G phone mast on Bedford Road and the borough council agreed with us, but this went ahead after a government appeal. I could continue for a while with the list of planning concerns, but I won't. Other items included landscaping works to the area known locally as The Rookery: we requested this area is left in a more natural state and were pleased to see the application revised.

The parish council was pleased to award a **grant** of £2000 to the Lakeview Village Hall Committee towards the replacement of the flooring in the main hall and kitchen, and £435 to Wixams Community Watch for a gazebo, marketing equipment and banners for use during events. We have £10,000 of grants available each year for local groups – most years a lot remains unallocated, so please reach out to the Clerk if you wish to discuss this further.

Still on the topic of money, in January we resolved to retain the parish council portion of your **council tax** for the coming year at the same level. An average household will therefore pay £42.14 for the year, which comes out of the total £2059 that same household pays to the borough council.

The **allotment** land is owned by the parish council but operated by the Lakeview Allotment Association (LAA) who continue, year after year, to provide excellent support to their members. There is still a waiting list for the allotments and we await news of when the second allotment site will be presented for use – we know it's in the pipeline, but don't know when.

That was a fairly brief overview of the highlights of this year's work. Let's see what the next year bring – hopefully very different to the last.

Sam Mardel, Outgoing Chair, Wixams Parish Council

As of 17th May 2022, the new Chair is Charlotte Day, and the new Vice Chair is Saqhib Ali.

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 Station

Public Engagement

Have your say on the proposals for Wixams Station.

Bedford Borough Council is hosting two drop-in events for local residents and businesses to learn more about the station project and ask questions of the project team, ahead of a planning application being submitted. These are at:

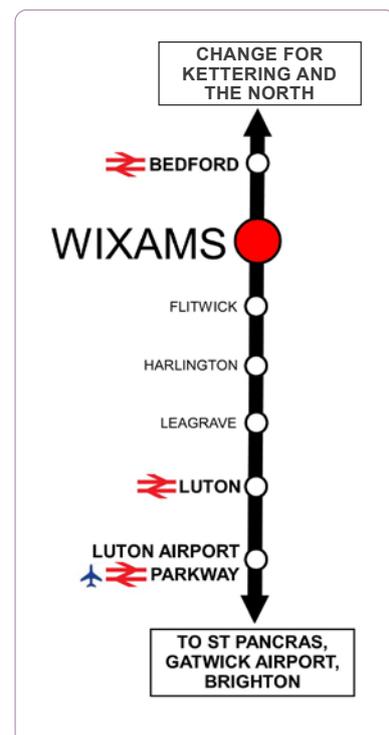


Wixams Retirement Village,
Bedford Road, Wixams, MK42 6EA
27 June 2022 – 10am to 3pm



Wixams Retirement Village,
Bedford Road, Wixams, MK42 6EA
28 June 2022 – 2pm to 6.45pm

If you are unable to attend the drop in events, find out more and have your say at: www.bedford.gov.uk/WixamsStation from 27 June until 24 July 2022.



The closing date for comments is Sunday 24 July 2022

If you would like the engagement materials in hard copy or in another format or language, please contact us via email at:

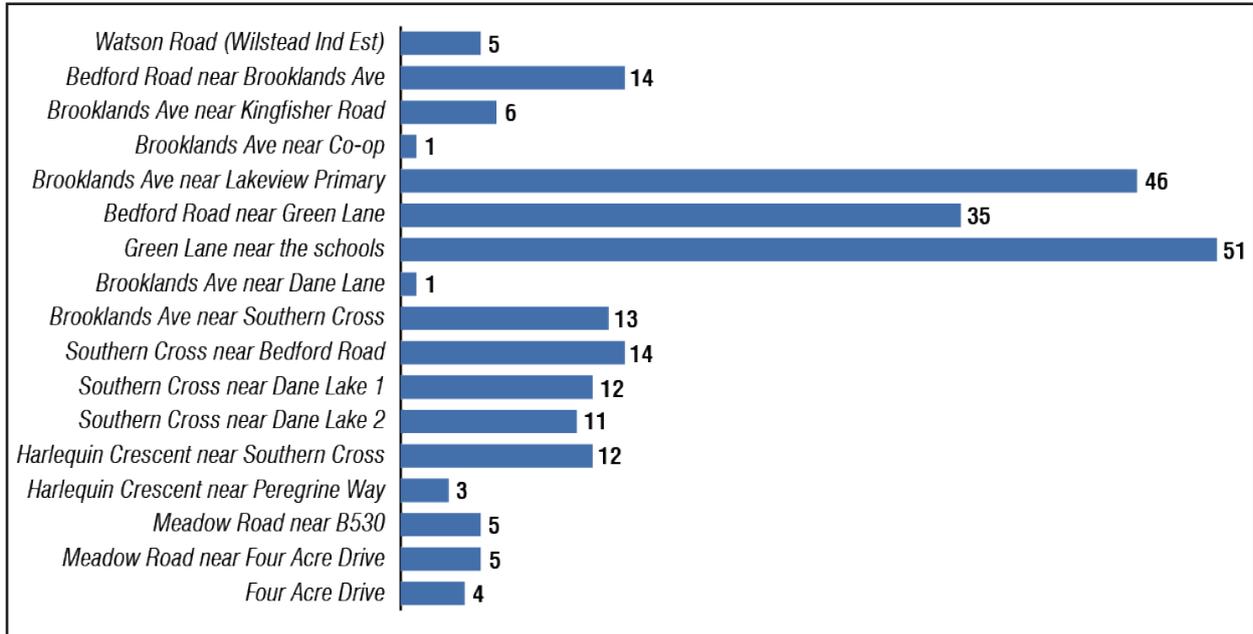
@ WixamsStation@bedford.gov.uk or by post to:

✉ **Wixams Station, Major Projects,
Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP**



Road Safety Survey Results

In March the Wixams Newsletter ran an online survey asking residents of Wixams to vote on which locations they considered to be the highest priority for pedestrian crossings. There were 64 responses to the survey and the results show the main concerns being near to the three schools in Wixams.



Residents have been asking for crossings to be installed in these areas for a number of years but so far little action has been taken. For example a crossing cannot not be installed on Green Lane by Bedford Borough Council as the road is still owned by the developers and would need to be adopted by the council first. However, a recent planning application for an extension to Wixams Tree Primary school includes a provision for a crossing point on Green Lane close to the greenway.

At the February Wixams Parish Council meeting the council voted to fund feasibility studies at three locations:

- Bedford Road near Green Lane
- Brooklands Avenue outside Lakeview Primary school
- Southern Cross

Brooklands Avenue and Bedford Road, the two areas parents are most concerned about, are already under council ownership so it is hoped that once these studies are complete crossings can be installed on those two roads in the near future.



Councillor Graeme Coombes

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

I went to the exhibition organised recently by L&Q and their partners, at the Wixams Retirement Village, showing their draft proposals for our new Wixams Town Centre. I am advised that over 270 people attended the exhibition throughout the course of the day, which clearly demonstrates the strength of local interest.

The town centre proposals included a planned community hall, a retail and health facility, and a confirmed outlet for a Sainsbury's supermarket. I was also advised that discussions with the CCG on the proposed health facility are progressing well, which is encouraging, as this is something that has dragged on for far too long.

Whilst only in draft, and in advance of any formal planning application, which will need to be approved, I felt that the proposals looked really impressive and I'm pleased that L&Q decided to consult the local community on the plans.

It's important that we are able to have our say with L&Q on what will undoubtedly have a major local impact. Too often Bedford Council routinely ignores public feedback at the planning application stage. Wixams Town Centre looks set to be a major asset to our community and combined with our station, which will be located nearby, it will benefit other nearby villages and communities too.

I am very much looking forward to seeing Wixams Town Centre progress and hope that resident feedback is taken on board and we get a thriving and vibrant town centre.

G-Park Developers Fined for Breaching Sunday Working



On Friday 14th May the case against Readie Construction for breaching working hours at the G-Park Wixams site was heard at court, with the Defendant pleading guilty. During the construction of the development Wixams' residents reported that the agreed working hours were being regularly breached, including with the use of heavy machinery Sundays, sometimes before 8 am. Planning enforcement officers at Bedford Borough Council used evidence collected by residents to bring the case forward against the company.

The magistrates court said that Readie Construction had had little regard for the management and conditions. They empathised with residents living nearby who had suffered from the construction noise, and the company put in place profit before considering residents. The court accepted that the defendant was highly culpable and that there had been harm caused.

The court took into account the Defendant's early guilty plea and their full cooperation with the local planning authority throughout. Applying a 1/3 discount for the early guilty plea they sentenced the defendants to a fine of £1,333, plus legal costs of 3,752.09 and a victim surcharge of £133.

REPORT A PLANNING BREACH

Bedford Borough Council

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/contact-planning/planning-enforcement/>

Central Beds Council

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/44/planning/443/planning_enforcement_and_appeals/

I am writing to inform you that the case against Readie Construction for breaching working hours at their site G Park was heard at Court today with the Defendant pleading guilty.

The magistrates court said that the company had had little regard for the management and conditions. They empathised with residents living nearby who had suffered from the construction noise when they should have expected there to be none. The company put in place profit before considering residents. The court accepted that the defendant was highly culpable and that there had been harm caused.

The court took into account, the Defendant early guilty plea and full cooperation with the LPA throughout. Applying a 1/3 discount for the early guilty plea they sentenced as follows;

*Fine £1,333
Legal Cost £3,752.09
Victim Surcharge: £133
Total: £5218.09*

May I take this opportunity to thank you both for your help in collecting evidence against Readie Construction and for providing witness statements for the prosecution case.

Kind Regards



WILSTEAD COMMUNITY CAFE

TEA, COFFEE and CAKES

Alternate Fridays 2:00 - 3:30pm



Next dates:

- 17th June
- 1st July



Wilstead Village Hall
MK45 3BX

All ages welcome!



Wixams
Walkers

Wixams Walkers

www.wixams.org/wixams-walkers

The Wixams Walkers group is part of the national Wellbeing Walks scheme. It's aimed at all ages and abilities and gives an opportunity for residents to get some exercise, meet people and to explore parts of Wixams 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 cope with things like stress, depression and anxiety.

Meet new people

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

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

Time:

Every Saturday at 11 am

Meeting Point:

In front of Seasons Garden Centre



Wilstead & Wixams Good Neighbours Scheme

If you need help at home, in the garden, with shopping or occasional lifts, the Wilstead & Wixams Good Neighbours Scheme is here to help!

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who are ready to offer you assistance in a great range of ways:

- Lifts to the Doctors/Hospital/Opticians/Pharmacy etc.
- Prescription collection
- Help with shopping
- Pet care/dog walking
- Form filling/letter writing
- Small household or garden tasks
- Help with using technology or computers
- Even just someone to talk to

Please get in touch with us today to see if we can help, or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.

07807 408928

Wilstead.Wixams.GNS@gmail.com

www.wixams.org/wwgns



STAND UP FOR *women*



Caring For Humanity

WIXAMS SUMMER FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY 26th JUNE

2022, 1pm-4pm,

Lakeview Village Hall

Stalls for fundraiser

costs only £15.00

Contact: 07490725595





Wootton Golf Society has been established for over 11 years and have about 50 members from the local area. We play on average once a month at courses within Bedfordshire and neighbouring counties.

We are a very friendly group of golfers of all standards, we play a mixed selection of golfing formats including stableford, matchplay and stroke play. We always have a weekend trip away which is thoroughly enjoyed by all, this year it is booked at Stoke by Nayland in the Colchester area.

Our golfing programme is booked a year in advance so you can plan when you would like to attend. Our



venues for this year include, Luton Hoo, Brampton Park, The Northampton and The Buckingham. We welcome anyone who would like to join or even attend as a guest to see how each event is run. There are prizes at each event and at the end of the year we have a presentation evening for all the main prizes.

Wootton Golf Society also collect money for charity throughout the year which is presented to a worthy charity voted on by our members. At present we have about £2500 in the charity fund and are looking for local charities that we can donate to.

If you are a seasoned golfer or have just taken the game up and wish to play amongst other like minded, friendly golfers on a regular basis please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

When you become a member you will be get a Wootton Golf Society shirt as well as have access to our member's website where you can sign up for events.

If you require any further information about us or wish to join – please visit our website www.woottongolfsociety.com



Was your child born after June 1st 2021?

Receive a commemorative Platinum Jubilee Coin from Wixams Parish Council.



Please email saqhib.pc@gmail.com

EMPIRE CARS BEDFORD

01234 741002 / 07727258633 SALES@EMPIRECARSBEDFORD.CO.UK

1 COTTON END ROAD, WILSTEAD, MK45 3BT

SALES SERVICE MOT REPAIRS

FROM SERVICING AND MINOR REPAIRS TO CLUTCH AND ENGINE JOBS, OUR WORKSHOP IS EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH IT ALL! WE HAVE A HIGHLY-SKILLED MECHANIC AND THE ABILITY TO CARRY OUT MOT TESTS ON-SITE, SO YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT YOUR VEHICLE IS IN GOOD HANDS!



SALES

WE OFFER QUALITY USED CARS AT VERY AFFORDABLE PRICES. WE HAVE OVER 60 CARS IN STOCK SO IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR YOUR FIRST CAR OR SIMPLY LOOKING TO UPGRADE, GIVE US A CALL.

WE CAN CREATE CUSTOM FINANCE SOLUTIONS TO SUIT YOUR INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS SO THAT YOU CAN PAY FOR YOUR NEW CAR IN MONTHLY INSTALMENTS. EVEN IF YOU HAVE BEEN DECLINED FINANCE IN THE PAST, WE CAN HELP. NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED FINANCE APPLICATION CAN BE DONE OVER THE PHONE, EMAIL OR IN PERSON AT OUR SHOWROOM, IT TAKES AROUND TEN MINUTES.

WE BUY CARS FOR CASH

WE BUY ALL MAKES AND MODELS OF CARS, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SELLING YOUR VEHICLE, PLEASE COME DOWN TO OUR SHOWROOM, GIVE US A CALL ON 01234741002 OR EMAIL US AT SALES@EMPIRECARSBEDFORD.CO.UK

SERVICING, REPAIRS & MOT

(FREE PICK UP/DROP OFF TO WIXAMS)
AIRCON, TYRES, EXHAUSTS ENGINEER & GEARBOX REPAIRS

DPF CLEANING

BODY REPAIRS

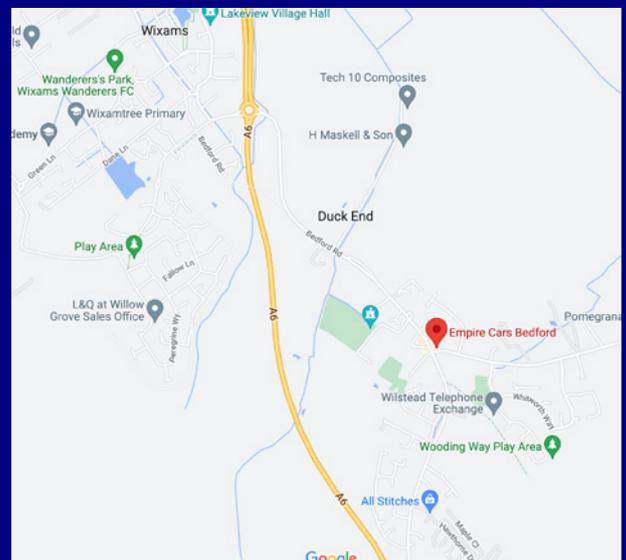
ALLOY WHEEL REPAIRS

DENT REMOVALS

MINOR SCUFFS OR SCRATCHES

How to Find Us

WE ARE LOCATED AT THE CROSSROADS IN THE CENTRE OF WILSTEAD VILLAGE, JUST OPPOSITE WIXAMS AND TWO MINUTES FROM A6 ENTER WILSTEAD ON THE BEDFORD ROAD AND WE ARE ON THE LEFT NEXT TO WOOLPACK PUBLIC HOUSE.





WIXAMS COMMUNITY WATCH

JUNE CONTENT BY: ANTHONY OLISA

FACEBOOK: WIXAMS COMMUNITY WATCH

EMAIL: WIXAMSCOMMUNITYWATCH@GMAIL.COM

HIT & RUN!

Unfortunately, there has been a report of a hit and run on Southern Cross. CCTV footage shared on social media shows a car, in what appears to be an accident, knocking down and injuring a motorbike rider whilst attempting to reverse. Despite the two parties initially sharing contact details at the scene, the vehicle's occupants failed to respond to any communication attempts, nor did they report the accident, which is an offence.

The police have been informed, and they are currently investigating.

Did you see anything?

The incident happened on the 8th of May at 10:54, and the car involved appeared to be a dark coloured Mk5 Vauxhall Astra. If you saw anything or have any further information, don't hesitate to contact the police on 101.

What should you do in a road traffic accident?

Road traffic accidents can be scary. So if you unfortunately ever find yourself involved in one, here's what you need to do:

- Stop at the scene - it is a legal requirement
- Put your hazard lights on and switch off your engine
- check for any injuries to yourself and any passengers
- Call the police and an ambulance immediately if anyone is hurt or if the road is blocked
- Exchange details with anyone involved - name, address, car registration number
- Provide your insurance details if requested

If you do not give your name and address at the time of the collision, tell the police about the accident within 24 hours - Failure to do so could result in a fine, disqualification, and even imprisonment in the most serious cases.

CRIME STATS

Date	Offence	Street
10/04/2022	POSSESS OF ARTICLE WITH BLADE OR POINT	Green Lane
13/04/2022	BURGLARY - BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY	Southern Cross
13/04/2022	HARASSMENT	Wixams
15/04/2022	MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS	Fallow Lane
21/04/2022	CRIMINAL DAMAGE - RESIDENTIAL	Thorne Close
21/04/2022	STATE OR PUBLIC ORDER	Fallow Lane
22/04/2022	OTHER THEFT	Southern Cross
23/04/2022	PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS	Merlin Meadows
25/04/2022	SEXUAL	Wixams
28/04/2022	PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS	Robins Heath

MAKING OUR PRESENCE KNOWN

Great news! Our brand new Street Watch signs are now up and dotted across Wixams. The signs are a great way of showing others that we are a community that cares about preventing crime.



COMPETITION TIME

Have you seen the new signs?

We've got great children's prizes to give away to those who can find all 8 of them! All you have to do is take a selfie next to each one you find and bring your photos along to our stall at the Wixams Summer Party (2nd of July, noon -6 pm).

COME & SAY "HI"

The Wixams Summer Party is always great fun, and the WCW team will be helping to make sure this year is no different. As well as prizes for the lucky winners, we will be bringing along uniformed police, a marked police car for the kids, fun games to try and maybe even a fire engine! We look forward to seeing you there!

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Sadly, there have been further reports of anti-social behaviour where children have been seen kicking front doors and running off. This behaviour may seem like harmless fun, but it can cause unnecessary distress for households with young children and elderly inhabitants - Not to mention the risk of criminal damage. Fortunately, the incidents have been captured on video doorbells, and the information provided will be passed on to our local PSCO. If you have been affected by these incidents, please report it to 101 or dial 999 in an emergency.

JOIN US

The Wixams Community Watch team of volunteers is growing, but we are still open to new members.

It's a great way to contribute to your community, so if you are interested, contact us at the email address at the top of the page or by scanning the QR code





'It's all so magical!'

Imogen Coleman

Baby Sensory™

Precious Early Learning for Babies



'Time and time again
you just go 'WOW!'

Lisa Earley

Toddler Sense™

Life's an Adventure



Available
from
0 - 13 months.

Available
from
13 months
- 5 years.

Baby Sensory

Our multi-award winning classes will introduce you and your baby to a world of sensory delights, where you can relax, spend quality time with each other and enjoy meeting other new parents.

Classes run in Bedfordshire
- see website for info

Contact Sam on

07538502587 or email
beds@babysensory.co.uk



Toddler Sense

It's time for Toddler Sense. A place where structured play goes hand in hand with imagination, the freedom to explore and adventure!

Classes run in Great
Denham Wixams St Neots

Contact Sam on

07538502587 or email
beds@toddlersense.co.uk



www.babysensory.com

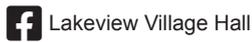
www.toddlersense.com



We've done the research; so you can enjoy the fun...



Lakeview Village Hall Activities



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.livyoga.co.uk
	18:30 - 19:30	Christ the Word Ignite Club for yrs 6, 7, 8 and 9	Swan	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		
Thursday	18:15 - 19:30	Brownies	Munson		
	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
Friday	18:30 - 19:30	QI Gong Class Mind-Body-Spirit Exercises	Munson	07908006677	Email: innertherapy@gmail.com
	18:00 - 20:00	Scouts	Lakeview		facebook.com/1stwixamscouting www.1stwixamscouts.org.uk
Saturday	09:00 - 10:15	Shine Dance Drama, Dance & Singing	Munson	Louisa Hodges - 07749091885	facebook.com/Shine-Theatre-School www.shinetheatreschool.co.uk
	09:30 - 11:30	Irish Dancing Beginners classes for all ages	Lakeview	Katie	facebook.com/stuartirishdancebedford
Sunday	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

ROLL UP! ROLL UP! THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN!!

Happy's Circus company are coming to Lakeview School on Saturday 16th July!



Tickets are now on sale

£12 per person

For more information and to book your tickets visit:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/lakeviewbedford>

Happy's Circus provides a professional all human (no animals) 2.5 hour themed experience presented by a 16 strong touring team in a colourful Big Top seating 600.

Please be aware that under 3s are free BUT must be sat on an adults lap to ensure enough seating for everyone.

All under 18s must be accompanied by an adult

"We are always greeted with a smile": **From Ukraine to Wixams**

The fastest and most radical way to start a new life is to move to a new country. This comes with difficulties, adapting to a new environment, new language, new acquaintances all meaning a complete change to our usual way of life. When the reason for moving is war, then the worldview and values change.

My son and I arrived in England, to the beautiful village of Wixams on April 12th, Sarah and Michael welcomed us into their family.

During our time in Britain, I have seen much of your culture and want to highlight what I like most about the UK and Wixams. The positivity and friendliness of people. The generosity of strangers and goodwill of others means so much. When meeting new people we are always greeted with a smile.

In Wixams the streets feel safe, you can walk down the street and know if there is any trouble the police will intervene. Residents feel safe and secure and this is quite unusual for Ukrainians and other post-Soviet citizens.

Most Britons live in houses, not apartments. This is conducive to respect for private property and a measured way of life. Much attention is paid to comfort, which is reflected in the condition of the roads, the cleanliness of the streets, for example when they are decorated for the holidays.

Britain has a wide variety of cultures, languages and traditions. This allows you not only to get acquainted with many people of the world without leaving the country, but this also makes your networking unique.

We love how the beauty and purity of nature are respected and much care is taken to preserve it. My son and I were surprised that deer and hares were running free nearby.

Everyone knows that property and the cost of living is high in Britain. Though in Britain there are higher standards of living compared to other European countries. This is a great position, for example when someone travels from Ukraine to work in Britain, they can earn very well but have significantly higher expenses. The support we have received with is amazing.

We have not yet found any cons of living in Wixams, we hope that this will continue in the future.

Personally, no one has ever helped me as much as the residents of Wixams. My son and I have everything we need at the moment. I take this opportunity to thank you all! The UK is doing so much for Ukraine in these difficult times. I thank all the British people and the government of this country.



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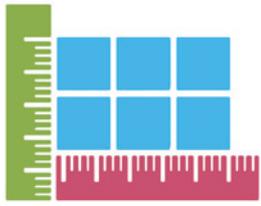
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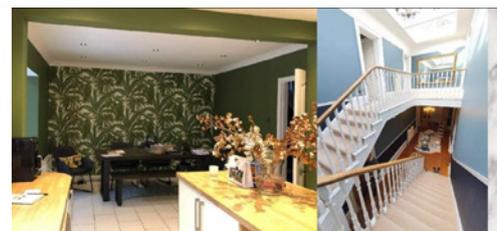


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Gardening Tips for June

by Marion Colledge



pollinators coming you need plants that they like all the time and try not to use pesticides.

House Sparrows

A lady recently asked how she could have house sparrow nests at her house. Unfortunately, you need an old house with at least one bit of mortar missing from under the eaves. The RSPB have noted that a lack of insects is a main reason for chick mortality in house sparrows. In winter our sparrows flit from the pyracantha to other small bushes in

my front garden eating insects and keeping warm. They just about manage to fly across the road into the bay tree. Three weeks ago they were much stronger and were flying about 60 feet with stuff for their nest which included pieces of my last year's pampas grass flowers. Now they are feeding their first brood of chicks. I counted that the mother how was gone seven minutes from the nest foraging for her babies, in my olive tree, pulling at the forsythia, and goodness knows where else, so she must have collected a lot of invertebrates in that time.

On the Allotment

You can still plant squashes, sweetcorn and later sowings of lettuce and peas. It's worth freezing raspberries for the autumn and winter. You can reuse old takeaway containers-I froze them immediately last year without washing them. I have found that by doing this, the fruit is less damaged.

Keep covering pieces of the allotment that you are not using with black fabric or cardboard. You can cover the cardboard with scavenged leaf mould and it will all rot down when it rains.

I hope to be at Chelsea next week. Enjoy your gardening.

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

In March, April and May we have experienced one of the worse droughts I have ever known in Bedford. The ground has been rock hard and it was very difficult to put my potatoes in without bruising my hand. Any rain that has fallen as I write this on the 17th May has only penetrated about an inch. I have been giving away invasive autumn raspberry plants and have had to thoroughly water them first. If you are doing any watering try to make sure that the water is delivered under the ground and not on top. You can do this by making a hole with a spike or by using half a Coke-a-Cola bottle that you have made little holes in in the ground. I have bought extra water tanks (old oil drums) which are being plumbed together for me so that water flows from one to the other without me having to ladle the water with a bucket and get freezing fingers in mid-winter when we have the most rain.

Raised beds, containers, trugs, little spaces

I recently cycled to Wixams and was most impressed with the pots and containers that I could see on the balconies of the Retirement Village. You can still plant tomatoes and herbs such as marjoram and basil in your containers and there's still time to put in tender annuals such as annuals which, although you would have seen them outside the supermarkets for a long time, might earlier have risked getting night-frost-damaged. Don't forget to get good quality well-looked after specimens, not ones from outside a supermarket, which have been allowed to dry out.



Annuals

At the weekend I visited the nursery at Ridgmont and was impressed with the prices and the looked-after-ness of the thousands of specimens. I am not an annuals fan but I came away with some tobacco plants which will resist the drought in my garden and cosmos which I love because of its feathery leaves.



Jobs for June - larger gardens

Keep a bit of your lawn long if you can bear to. This is very good for pollinating insects. Pollinators don't just include wild bees and honey bees, the biggest pollinators are hoverflies. For several years I didn't see any in my garden but then I bought a little bee house and that may have made the difference. Pollinators also include flies, moths, butterflies and tiny moths of unassuming colours. To keep the



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15th June 2022

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

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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
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