



WIXAMS NEWSLETTER

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

Event Photographs

We hope you all had fun at the Wixams Summer Party! A huge thank you to our whole community from the volunteers, local businesses, entertainers and everyone who attended that contributed to the success of the event. Watch this space for information about our Christmas event!



Official event photography by Tu + Tu Photography - www.tuandtu.com

Upcoming Events

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

Event	Date	Location/Details
Terrific trees and leaves crafts	Tuesday 30th August, 11.00am and 13.00pm	The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine. Spaces are limited. For more information visit: https://www.marstonvale.org/Event/terrific-trees-crafts-tuesday-30-august
Forest Family Fun Day	Saturday 3rd September, 10.00am	The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine. For more information visit: https://www.marstonvale.org/Event/forest-family-fun-day-2022
The Community Forest Cake Off (part of the Forest Family Fun Day)	Saturday 3rd September, 10.30am	For more information and judging categories visit https://www.marstonvale.org/Event/ffjd-forest-cake-off-2022
Jersey Boys Tribute Night	Friday 9th September, 19.00pm	The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine. Spaces are limited. For more information visit: https://www.marstonvale.org/Event/jersey-boys-tribute-2022
Wixams Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday 20th September, 19.30pm	Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams WI	Wednesday 21st September, 19.45pm	Lakeview Village Hall

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 NEWSLETTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

**Wixams Newsletter
seeks volunteers across
Villages 1,2 and 4 to
help with stories, regular
columns, proof reading
and delivery**

Contact
newsletter@wixams.org

Wixams Parish Council

To let you get to know your parish councillors we will be posting profiles in each newsletter. We are starting with our two newest councillors who were coopted at the July meeting – a warm welcome to them. We are now full again with fifteen councillors. It's very pleasing to see so much interest and enthusiasm from residents interested in joining the council.

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



Zoe Gammie

My husband and I have only been living in Wixams since January 2022, having escaped London in search of a better place to raise our two boys. However, I have strong ties to the area, having grown up down the road in Ampthill and I attended Bedford High School. I still work in London a couple of days a week, organising conferences and awards programmes for NHS and healthcare sector leaders, so am very much looking forward to the Wixams train station being built!

I look forward to playing an active part in the community as the town continues to develop, to help ensure we have the right facilities, support mechanisms and relationships in place across all four villages for our children and families to thrive.



Kevin Hunter

My wife Shirley and I (both originally from NE England) moved to village 2 Wixams with our two grown up sons in March 2020 from Elstow (where we lived for 17 years).

I work in IT as a manager at a multi-national food manufacturer; I've been in IT for 25 years but I started out in my work career in aviation (10 years).

From 2008 to 2015 I was Chair of Governors for Elstow School, in which time the school expanded from lower school to primary. Matters affecting education and children remain a key concern of mine.

I am passionate about getting the best for our settlement and believe joining the council will allow me to represent our community as we go through the future planned developments, the town centre and railway station quarter and beyond!

Things to do this summer



Marston Forest Centre Family Fun Day

Saturday 3rd September 2022 from 10:00am

Lots to do for all the family - from local food and drink, to stalls, the grand raffle, rides and games

Giant obstacle course

Tea cups

Nature trail

Crazy golf

Helter skelter

Animal Edge Petting Farm

Tombolas

Inflatable slide

Climbing wall

Archery

Traditional games

...and more

	ADULTS	CHILDREN
ADVANCE TICKETS	£1	£2
ON THE DAY	£2	£3

<https://www.marstonvale.org/Event/forest-family-fun-day-2022>

Summer on the Farm at Herrings Green

7 Days a week from 10am - 5pm

The Farm is home to over 200 beautiful Birds of Prey and farm animals including owls, sheep, goats, eagles, ponies, donkeys, hawks, alpacas, highland cows and much more.

We have a packed program of events to keep the whole family entertained:

10.30 - Meet and handle an owl.

11.30 - Flying display.

12.00 - Animal & critter display.

12.15 - Tractor Rides & Barrel Rides *Weather dependent

12.30 - Have a go at flying an owl.

1.30 - Pat a pet with our gorgeous rabbits and guinea pigs.

2.30 - Flying display.

3.15 - Tractor Rides & Barrel Rides *Weather dependent.

3.30 - Meet and greet with our farm animals.



Take the kids to the outdoor playgrounds, have a go on the tyre run and for the little ones enjoy the ride on tractors. Our tea room is open daily 10.00 - 5.00, serving sandwiches, wraps, cakes and snacks or alternatively you are welcome to bring a picnic. All activities are included in the admission.

<https://birdsofpreycentre.co.uk/product-category/summer-2022/>

Family Summer Holiday Activities at the Higgins Centre Bedford

Personalised Pencil Cases

Tuesday 30 August

Workshops at 11:15am & 2:15pm
(lasts for about an hour)

£3.05 per child, Booking Essential

Decorate your own bug-themed pencil case



Star Gazing

Thursday 25 August

Workshops at 11:15am, 2:15pm
(lasts for about an hour)

£3.05 per child, Booking Essential

Discover the patterns we find in the stars and make a constellation projector

https://www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk/Whats_on/Family_Events.aspx#SummerHolidayActivities



Councillor Graeme Coombes

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

The draft 'Local Plan 2040' does not, on the face of it, sound the most exciting of documents. At 143 pages, containing phrases such as 'spatial strategy', 'non-designated heritage assets' and 'National Planning Policy Framework' it sounds a fairly heavy read and people could be forgiven for wanting to pass on it.

Yet this document will have profound implications for both Wixams and the surrounding villages, if allowed to go ahead as currently proposed.

The Local Plan is meant to be a guide to what can be built where. It is the Mayor's answer to the housebuilding targets set by Central Government and should determine the future pattern of development - housing, employment sites, roads, etc. - in Bedford Borough.

I have previously communicated to residents the proposals for 2100 dwellings along the A6 in Wilstead and my opposition to them. Additionally, the Mayor is proposing a further 3800 dwellings at Kempston Hardwick, to the west of Wixams, with even more housing proposed for Kempston Rural and Shortstown. The end result will be that Wixams is sat right in the middle of a continuous line of housing along the A421 and losing much of our surrounding green space.

If what is proposed goes ahead, Wixams will be sat in the middle of a continuous line of housing along the A421 corridor. We will be slowly strangled and enveloped by an ever increasing urban sprawl, losing much of our green space and where all our local villages and communities will appear to merge into each other and lose their local identity.

There is no talk of the vital infrastructure necessary to make housebuilding viable and the Local Plan lacks any real clout in terms of promoting sustainability and environmentalism. (2100 new houses in Wilstead will probably result in 4200 more cars)

Wixams is a living example of "development without infrastructure". Any proposal to drop even more houses on us, without first addressing the infrastructure deficit, is only going to make matters worse.

Tel: 07815 302 318

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

Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes



Councillor Tim Hill's Report

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

PERSONAL

I wish to place on public record my very grateful thanks to all residents who sent me a very kind Bereavement Card. This followed the very sad passing of my Dad on 19th June 2022. It is very much appreciated.

PARISH

Litter Bins - Residents regularly ask me and/or their Parish Council, for an extra litter bin in their area. Despite already achieving savings of more than £100 million, Bedford Borough Council still needs to identify further savings. The impact of Covid-19 has had a major impact on the Council's finances and resources, alongside increased demand on care services. The Council faces an estimated funding gap of £15.7M to 2025/26 with an immediate pressure of over £5M in the next financial year - 2022/23. Therefore, the Borough Council is not able to install extra litter bins which would impact on the limited resources which the Borough has. Extra litter bins mean extra work, which means extra bin men required, which means increased costs. However, the Borough can look at relocating some current litter bins if there is a better position for them. This would need agreeing by the relevant Parish Council for it to accept the initial cost of removing and reinstalling the bins to a new location. The Parish Chairs and I have been successful in ensuring the refuse crews are not missing overflowing litter bins. Officers will also be monitoring litter bins in my Ward to make sure this isn't a contributing factor. Each Parish Council can also fund the replacement of the existing litter bins, with the dual ones seen elsewhere in the Borough. They just need to let me and the Borough Environment team know they want to do this.

Cow Bridge road sinking - I have reported to Borough Highways, the very deep pothole in the middle lane of the going south traffic on Cow Bridge. It isn't very wide, but it is very deep and needs urgent attention. If you want a pothole repaired, please report it on this link, send me the reference number and I'll chase it up. That way, the issue is reported promptly, Borough officers have a good overall picture of where pothole problems are and I have evidence of residents' concerns I can use: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/potholes/>

Used Syringes Collection - Residents with Diabetes and other illnesses have asked me if the Borough provides a free collection of used Sharps Syringes. I was pleased to advise them that they can request a free collection of used Sharps Syringes using this form: <https://bit.ly/syringesBeds>

WRV Bus Shelter - I have submitted a £4,000 bid from my Councillors Ward Fund as a contribution towards the cost of a Bus Shelter for the Bus Stop on Bedford Road, opposite the entrance to the Wixams Retirement Village. The Bus Stop is actually in the Wilstead Borough Ward and Wixams Parish, but will mainly benefit the residents of the Wixams Retirement Village who live in my Ward and Wixams Parish. The Parish Council Clerk and I are chasing Borough Officers to get my Ward Fund bid paid direct to the Parish Council. This will enable the Parish Council to claim VAT relief on the whole cost of the Project.

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Wixams Lego Club

Dear Readers,

In support of our youth we are proposing a Lego club, based at Lakeview Village Hall. This could occur once a fortnight in the early evenings.

If you or your children are interested in attending such a group, please send an email to legoatwixams@gmail.com stating number of children, age and preferred day of attendance.

In addition, before we can get started, we need volunteers to help run the sessions. Please also send an email if you can help support the group.

Looking forward to serving the community,

Rob



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Please email saghib.pc@gmail.com



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0-5 years

1st & 3rd Monday of the month
(term time only)

Lakeview village hall
155-160 Brooklands Avenue
Wixams
Mk42 6BE

*We ask for a contribution
towards the hall hire



See our full
timetable here!



Booking required
0300 323 0245

Self-Weighing Group

1:30 - 3:00pm
1st Thursday of the month

Lakeview village hall
155-160 Brooklands Avenue
Wixams
Mk42 6BE

Baby area available if you want to stay and play



Book NOW!





WIXAMS COMMUNITY WATCH

JULY CONTENT BY: NICK EDWARDS

FACEBOOK: WIXAMS COMMUNITY WATCH

EMAIL: WIXAMSCOMMUNITYWATCH@GMAIL.COM

SUMMER FETE ROUND UP

We had an awesome turn out at the Wixams Summer Fete, with plenty of interaction with the community!

Big thank you to our volunteers and all who paid us a visit, hope everyone enjoyed the emergency vehicles outside, Anthony's Buzz wire challenge and the prizes won by all the fantastic kids from the photo competition.



CRIME STATS

Date	Offence	Street
01/06/2022	ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	Tawny Avenue
04/06/2022	AGGRAVATED VEHICLE TAKING	Bluebird Gardens
05/06/2022	PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS	Roe Deer Place
07/06/2022	ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	School Lane
07/06/2022	PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS	Roe Deer Place
09/06/2022	MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS	Mink Meadow
12/06/2022	ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	Parkview Terrace
17/06/2022	OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES	Greenside Close
18/06/2022	ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	Waterside Way
23/06/2022	ASSAULT WITH INJURY	Tawny Avenue
23/06/2022	ASSAULT WITH INJURY	Tawny Avenue

STREET WATCH

We had a huge amount of interest in The Street Watch group from local residents. This group continues to grow and is a very important part of the community.

We are also seeking volunteers in Village 4.

Keep an eye out on the WCW Facebook group for more information on what is involved and how you can help, alternatively you can email Julie Wright at the address below and request further information.

Juliet.Wright@beds.police.uk or contact us at WCW email address above.

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





Wixams Wanderers FC



CHARTER STANDARD
COMMUNITY CLUB

Another season comes to an end. As always a massive thank you to all of our coaches for all of their efforts throughout the season, a big thank you to all the players and parents for their commitment also.

Another big thank you to our sponsors, who have kindly helped teams out where they can with kits, jackets, jumpers etc. In particular B&M who have sponsored several of our teams and will hopefully continue to do so over the coming years.



Lakers u12s won the mkddl shield and our goalkeeper was scouted and signed for mk dons, we missed out on promotion by one point sadly though.



Wixams Madrid winning league two and promoted to division one.



U9s Allstars reaching the Final of the AFC Dunstable tournament losing 1-0 under their new coaches. Long day for the boys but they all did so well. Listened to the instructions given and played with really heart.

The Diamonds u15's Girls went into the League Cup final this year missing 5 players through injury and played a system that had never been tried or tested before. The girls responded brilliantly in what was a great game of football, beating Luton Town Ladies 3-1 to bring home a trophy for the mighty Wixams Wanderers FC and round off another successful season



Wixams Lionesses - Under 11s.

Winners of the trophy final at the Stoke Hammond Tournament in Milton Keynes - which included a nerve-racking penalty shoot win in the semi-final, followed by a commanding 1-0 victory in the final.

This achievement is particularly pleasing due to the considerable development this team has shown over the past few years - with the majority of the girls coming into the team new to the world of football.



Alongside this we have had our 20 players signed to a professional football clubs in the past five years, our development centre has over 80 children attend each week, offering children the opportunity to develop and improve their skills, whilst making new friends. We will be adding a further 3 brand news teams to our ever-growing club. This will take us to 22 teams this season. We are always looking for more volunteers to help, so if this is of interest please get in touch.

www.wixamswanderers.com



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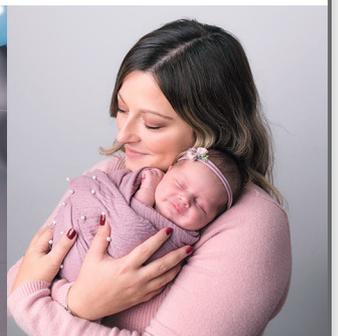
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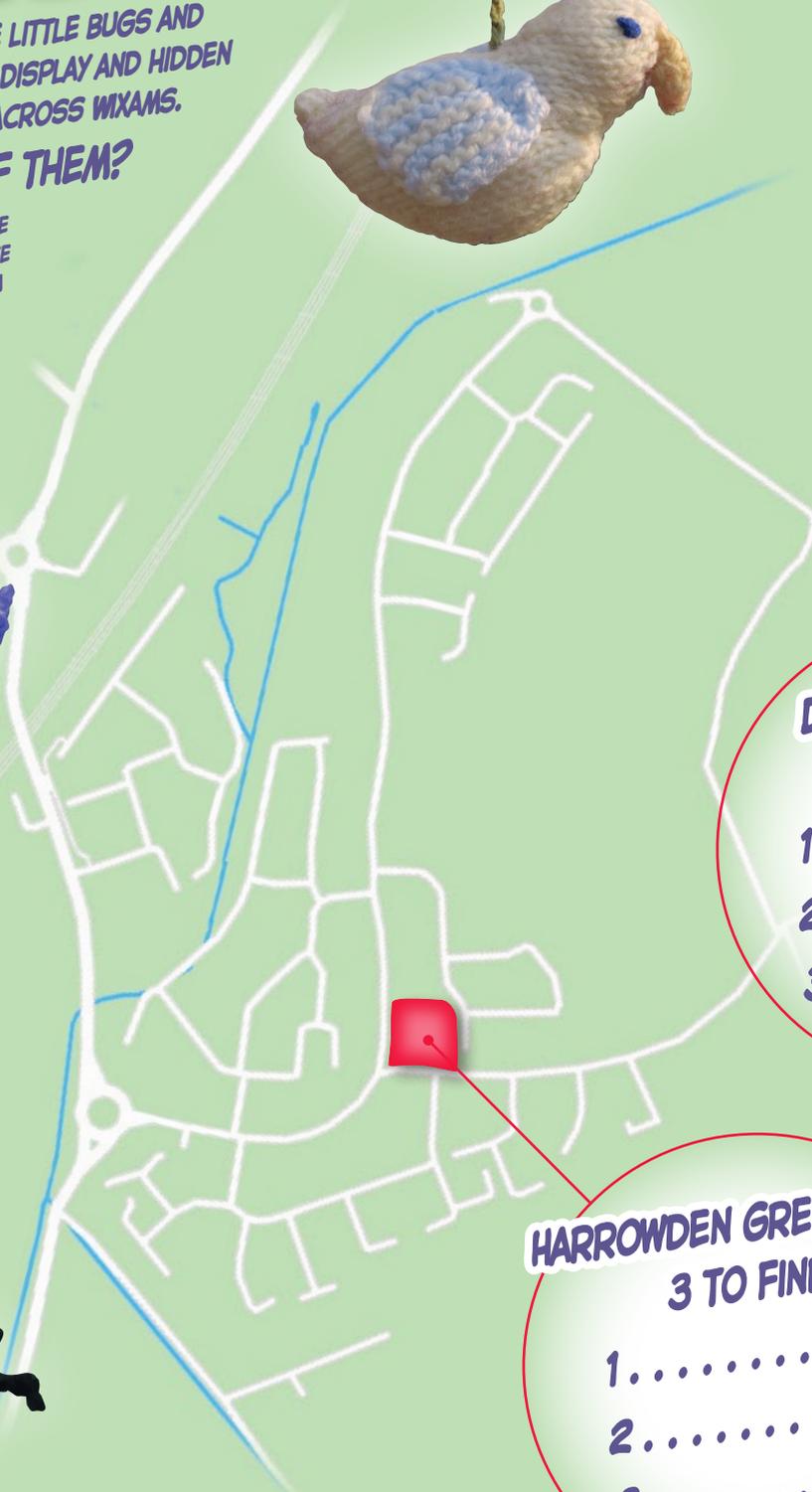
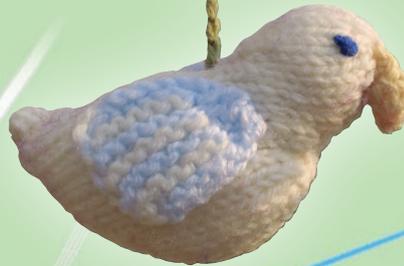
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www.missjonesphotography.co.uk

Wixams Yarnbombers Treasure Hunt

WE'VE TAKEN A BUNCH OF THE LITTLE BUGS AND
FLOWERS FROM OUR JUBILEE DISPLAY AND HIDDEN
THEM IN THE PLAYPARKS ALL ACROSS WIXAMS.
CAN YOU FIND ALL OF THEM?

TO REPORT AND ISSUE OR FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT THE WIXAMS YARNBOMBERS PLEASE
EMAIL: WIXAMSYARNBOMBERS@GMAIL.COM



LAKEVIEW
3 TO
1.....
2.....
3.....

DANE LANE PARK
3 TO FIND
1.....
2.....
3.....

HARROWDEN GREEN PARK
3 TO FIND
1.....
2.....
3.....

**W PARK
FIND**
.....
.....
.....

**KINGFISHER PARK
3 TO FIND**
1.....
2.....
3.....

**GREEN LANE
PLAYPARK
1 TO FIND**
1.....

**WOODPECKER PARK
2 TO FIND**
1.....
2.....

**WILLOW GROVE PARK
3 TO FIND**
1.....
2.....
3.....



If you take part in the Wixams Yarnbombers Treasure Hunt you are doing so at your own risk. Please take all necessary precautions to keep yourself and your child(ren) safe.

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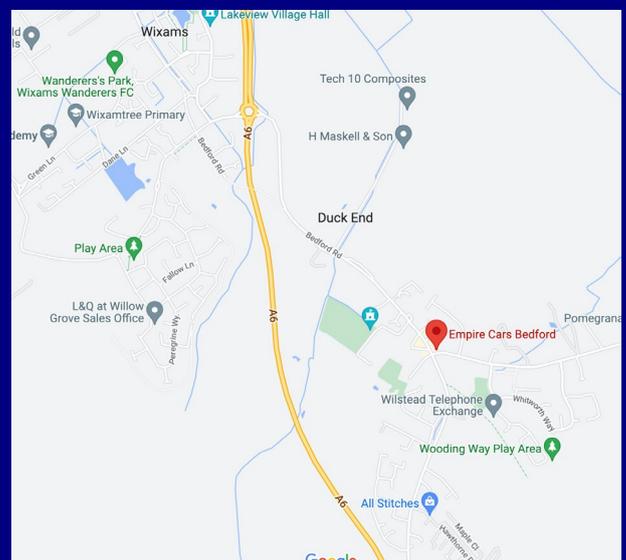
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Volunteer and Employment Opportunities



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

Email: advertising@wixams.org



Job Vacancy - Apprentice Falconer

We have an opening for an apprentice falconer, full time 5 days a week including weekends 8.30 - 5.00. This is an apprentice position, all training will be given. Successful applicant will go on to learn the art of falconry; learning how to handle, train and fly different species of birds of prey, husbandry, day to day running of the bird of prey centre, be trained in giving flying displays, educational talks and visits and running experience days.

Applicant must have a full clean driving license, be good at working well on their own as well as working closely with their colleagues, be punctual, enthusiastic, outgoing and confident and have a keen interest in birds of prey.

This is a challenging position, birds of prey require the best care in all weathers, it is a physically demanding job. However it is an incredibly rewarding career which becomes a way of life.

Please email your CV to Emma at falconry.centre@btconnect.com

The Jobs Hub offers people of all ages who live in Bedford Borough

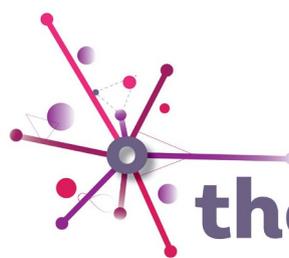
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August Garden Update

by Marion Colledge



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

As I write, I feel very happy. The scents of the last week or two: roses, catmint, the persuasive scent of the buddlea davidii and the strong scent of all kinds of mint as I cut them for my tea. Sometimes I finger the leaves of the tomato plants and sniff them as I take the yellowing old ones off. No coffee in this hot weather, just the different kinds of mint, calamint, sage and common mint. I'm going to cut the whole lot off and dry it on my dining table so that I have tins and tins full for the winter.

Raised beds, containers, trugs, little spaces

Fill your trugs with plenty of plants so that there's no room for weeds. They should be child friendly. We don't want babies eating poisonous leaves. You can have a squash and cook the flowers in batter, you can have yellow African marigolds (tegetes), calamint which is a small mauve mint and maybe one runner bean with a stake (purple or red flowers dependent on the variety). Or maybe a Tumbling Tom small bushy tomato plant. It is important to water daily, making sure that the water reaches the soil and not the tops of the leaves. water from a water butt is better than water from the tap because it's chemical-free. You could use 1 capful of seaweed solution (SM3) in a wateringcanful to add trace elements which will give your plants extra resistance to diseases and drought.

Children and gardening

At the time of year we all want our children to enjoy the garden. We don't them getting jealous and bored when we are doing gardening and from the age of four they can have their own little corner and tools and plant what they're interested in. The quickest things are quick salads but they're not interesting, so why not get a packet of flowers, blue cornflower and red poppies, these can be picked without the child harming themselves. Poppies are good as they'll make shaky seed heads later.

Five or six is a good time to buy good gardening tools. I was asked to buy a spade for my six year old granddaughter for her birthday and her mother thought I would buy a pink one from the big online A. I would have done if she'd only been three or four). As it was, I bought a Kew garden brand spade with an ash wooden handle and a trowel and a fork, these will last her until she's 10. Children like to have their own corner of the garden and plan the content, maybe online.

You can engage children in colouring flowers from pictures in a phone and maybe in pressing them between blotting paper. There are lots tiger moths round Bedford at the moment and children like them too : red when flying and white with brown stripes when at rest.

Enjoy the holiday in the garden!



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26th August 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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