

# VIXA EWSLETT

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



The Wixams Yarn Bombers were extremely busy crafting for the Coronation, decorating Wixams with multiple displays. Read on and view the pictures on page 10.



including details of road closures



# **Operation Oscar Quiz**

A huge thank you to everyone who got involved in the quiz on Saturday 3rd June, from all the teams who entered, everyone who donated raffle prizes and the volunteers who helped out. Together we raised £900 towards Oscar's worthy cause.

For more information about Oscar and other fundraisers, or to donate, scan the QR code to the right.



## **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



# **Councillor Graeme Coombes**

Graeme is the Wilshamstead Borough Councillor. Reporting to Wixams (May/June 2023)

This is my first article since the recent election in early May and I would like to start by thanking the people of Wixams for re-electing me for another four year term as your local Councillor. We have achieved a lot, collectively, over recent years, but there is still so much more that we have to do.

The challenges faced by Wixams have not gone away and will require continued effort from your elected representatives to deliver the best for Wixams and to battle on your behalf. The station, GP, Local Plan, road crossings, cycling paths, potholes and all the issues raised during the election remain high on the agenda.

As you know, the growth of Wixams has resulted in the ward changing from being a single Councillor ward previously, to three Councillors going forward. Therefore, I am delighted to be joined by Marc Frost and Andrea Spice and we will work together as a team to deal with those issues that need addressing.

We will probably need to review how we report back to you in the newsletter, with three of us rather than one. We will work hard to repay your faith in us as your elected representatives. Thank you again from Andrea, Marc and myself.



# **Councillor Rebecca Hares**

Central Bedfordshire Independent Councillor

After my successful re-election, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the residents who supported me and voted for me. Your trust in me is highly appreciated, and I promise to work tirelessly to deliver on all my campaign promises. It is my sincere hope that this election will usher in a new chapter of unity, accountability, and progress for our community.

As I continue with this role, I want to make it clear that my commitment to the residents remains unwavering. I understand the many challenges that our community is facing, and I pledge to work closely with all stakeholders to find solutions. I aim to promote transparency, inclusivity, and collaboration in all my activities, and I am committed to listening to the voices of all residents, including those who didn't vote for me.

Together, we can make our community a better place to live, work and raise a family. I am aware that there will be obstacles and setbacks along the way, but I am ready to face them head-on.

I encourage all residents to hold me accountable for my actions, and to share their concerns and suggestions with me. I firmly believe that every resident has something unique to contribute towards the growth and development of our community. By working together, we can create a brighter future for all and I am excited about the opportunity to discover fresh perspectives and innovative ideas.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support. I look forward to embarking on this new journey with you all, and I am committed to making our community a better place for generations to come.



# Barry Huckle - Obituary

Barry was the Borough Councillor for Wilstead and also chairman of Wilstead Parish Council for many years.

As someone who was born in Wilstead, he played a very active role in supporting people in the parish. Barry was treasurer of Wilstead Endowed Charities. In the early planning stage for Wixams, he with other parish councillors, studied the plans with great care and made responses to each consultation, expressing support, objections or concerns. In later years, finding he was now living in the new Wixams (Wixams Parish was formed in 2015 out of Wilstead Parish), he was always generous with his time and willing to share advice and knowledge.

For the previous eight years he proof-read the monthly Wixams Newsletter with an eagle eye, before it went to print. We are grateful for all that he did and our thoughts are with Betty and his family.

The funeral service was held on Friday 9th June at All Saints Wilstead.

# YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS









BARRAT



Planning decisions

Councillors: 15 unpaid volunteers & 1 Clerk

Planning: Consultee on planning applications

Receive portion of Council Tax: Average household £39

Highways: Request borough council for improvements

(Some spending powers)

Open spaces: Not parish council owned

Playgrounds: Not parish council owned

Grants: Award funding to local groups

Allotments: Owned by parish council – managed by allotment association

Street Ranger: Employee who keeps Wixams tidy

Other spending powers:

Entrance signs, benches, speed signs, bins, salt bins, (landowner must approve – borough council or developer) noticeboards, CCTV, Xmas tree... (not full list).

Councillors: 28 wards represented by 46 paid councillors (3 for Wixams

& Wilstead Ward)

Planning: Decision maker & enforcement (National & Local Policies) S106 funding (infrastructure provision): Negotiates with developer

(e.g. Rail station, community buildings)

Council tax: Average household £2123 (inc. Fire/Police)

Highways: Maintenance & improvements

(Responsible body & wide spending powers)

Adopts streets from developer and becomes responsible for

Open spaces: Adopts from developer and becomes responsible for

Environmental eloper and beca Streetlights Electoral Plavarounds: Bins & bin

Anti-social behaviour

nuisances, flytipping) (Dogs, neighbour

Youth services

enforcement Parking

Education

...lots more...



# Wixams Lego Club

Hi everyone!

Those parents who have children that attend the Lego Club will know how much they are enjoying it. Since starting in March, we have had 24 children become members and we have another 20 children who attend on a regular basis. We are really pleased with how the Club is growing and it is so lovely to see the children having such a great time building the kits or creating their own builds.

The Committee have been working behind the scenes applying for various grants. The Parish Council were generous in providing funding for our set up costs and we have recently been awarded a grant by the Bedford Education Association which will cover our room hire costs until the

end of this year! So, all future income we generate will be used to invest in new kits and activities.

The Lego Club will be taking a break during the Summer with no Club planned for July & August but from September we will be running two sessions on the Saturday morning for the following age groups: -

Session 1 will run from 9:00am to 10:00am for ages 3 – 7 Session 2 will run from 10:15am to 11:45am for ages 7+

If your child is interested in attending the Club then please e-mail *legoatWixams@gmail.com*.

Please also join and follow our Facebook page for further updates <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/wixamslegoclub">https://www.facebook.com/groups/wixamslegoclub</a>

# YOUTH CORNER by Ellie

Hello, and welcome to this month's Youth Corner!

Since we've had some summery weather lately, I thought it would be fun to do an ice cream-themed colouring in.

Why not add some sprinkles or your favourite sauce?



# Lakeview Village Hall The groups advertised below are correct at the time of publishing. Some groups advertised below are correct at the time of publishing.



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
	09:30 - 11:00	Playgroup	Lakeview		1st and 3rd Monday of the month (term time only)
	16:00 - 17:00	Shine Theatre School Ballet (aged 5-11 years)	Lakeview	Luisa Hodges - 07749 091885	facebook.com/Shine-Theatre-School shinetheatreschool.co.uk
Monday	17:15 - 18:15	Rainbows	Munson		
	18:15 - 19:30	Brownies	Munson		
	18:30 - 20:00	Wixams Tang Soo Do	Lakeview	Nick	facebook.com/WixamsTSD
	20:00 - 21:00	Go box fitness	Lakeview	07727 113285	facebook.com/goboxfit
	10:30 - 12:00	Wixams Community Cafe	Swan		
Tuesday	18:30 - 19:30	Yoga	Munson	07825 561569	www.livyoga.co.uk
,	18:30 - 19:30	Christ the Word Ignite Club for yrs 6, 7, 8 and 9	Lakeview	07879 716958	facebook.com/christthewordwixams www.christthewordwixams.org.uk
	17:30 - 19:30	Wixams Youth Group	Swan	07880 448599	wendy.millgate@4ypuk.com facebook.com/4YPUK
YAYo Jan and	17:30 - 20:00	Irish Dancing	Lakeview	Katie	facebook.com/stuartirishdancebedford
Wednesday	17:00 - 18:00	Rainbows	Munson		
	18:15 - 19:30	Brownies	Munson		
	19:45 - 21:00	Guides	Munson		
	09:45 - 14:00	Toddler Sensory Different groups running	Lakeview	Samantha - 07538 502587	facebook.com/toddlersensebeds www.toddlersense.com/bedfordshire
	16:30 - 17:15	Entertainia Dance Class Class 1 (4-7 years)	Lakeview	Nina	entertainiatheatreschool@gmail.com
Thursday	17:15 - 18:00	Entertainia Dance Class Class 2 (7-11 years)	Lakeview	Ivilia	entertainiatileatiesenoon@gman.com
	18:30 - 19:15	Go box fitness for kids	Lakeview	07727 113285	facebook.com/goboxfit
	18:30 - 19:30	QI Gong Class Mind-Body-Spirit Exercises	Munson	07908 006677	Email: innertherapy@gmail.com
	10:00 - 11:00	Little Stars	Swan		
Friday	18:00 - 20:00	Scouts	Lakeview		facebook.com/1stwixamscouting www.1stwixamsscouts.org.uk
	19:00 - 20:45	AA	Munson		
	08:45 - 9:15	Shine Theatre School Ballet (aged 3-5 years)	Swan	Louisa Hodges - 07749 091885	facebook.com/Shine-Theatre-School www.shinetheatreschool.co.uk
Saturday	09:30 - 11:00	Lego Club	Munson		Email: lego@wixams@gmail.com www.facebook.com/groups/ wixamslegoclub
Saturday	09:15 - 10:00	Shine Theatre School Musical Theatre (aged 4-7 years)	Swan	Louisa Hodges - 07749 091885	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
	09:45 - 11:15	AA	Munson		
	10:30 - 11:30	Christ the Word Church Services	Lakeview	Alan = $11/8/9/16958$	facebook.com/christthewordwixams
Sunday	15:00 - 16:00	Christ the Word Sunday Club For children aged 4-10 years	Munson		www.christthewordwixams.org.uk
	18:00 - 19:00	Taekwondo	Lakeview		



# JUNE 2023 CONTENT BY ANTHONY OLISA FACEBOOK: WIXAMS COMMUNITY WATCH

EMAIL: WIXAMSCOMMUNITYWATCH@GMAIL.COM





# Our meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner

The WCW team recently made a trip down to Kempston police station, where we heard from our PCC Festus Akinbusoye on his commitments to community safety and crime reduction in areas like Wixams.

All in all, it was a great opportunity to learn more about what Bedfordshire Police is doing for our community.

We are awaiting the dates for the next event so if you would like to join us or just have a question you would like for us to ask on your behalf, pop an email over to our inbox. (email address above)



# Cycle safety workshop

We are currently planning a free cycle safety workshop for the kids of Wixams. We will be sharing the date and time in the next newsletter and on our Facebook page.



## **Anti-social behaviour**

Sadly, there have been reports of some young children kicking front doors and running off. On occasions, this has resulted in damage to property and left some of our vulnerable residents frightened.

We understand the need to have fun, but please take the time to remind the young ones in your care that such behaviour is not acceptable.

# Crossword competition results

Thank you to those who entered our last Crossword competition and congratulations to our winner Freya. K (6)

## Runner-ups

- Imran. M
- Sophie, D
- Katy. R (8)
- Haroon, H
- Kit and Tom
- Rohini, P
- Steve. H
- Sharyn. F
- Shae. T

Apologies for the late publishing of these results.



**FOR APRIL 2023** 

Recorded Date	Offence	Street
ARSON NOT ENDANGERING LIFE	29/04/2023	Cadwall Drive
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	20/04/2023	Bluebird Gardens
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	22/04/2023	Robins Heath
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	24/04/2023	Lakeside Way
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	27/04/2023	Brooklands Avenue
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	29/04/2023	Tawny Avenue
ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	07/04/2023	Bluebird Gardens
ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY	29/04/2023	Brooklands Avenue
BURGLARY - BUSINESS AND	20/04/2023	Brooklands Avenue
COMMUNITY		
OTHER CRIMINAL DAMAGE	17/04/2023	Bluebird Gardens
RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY-HOME	05/04/2023	WILLOWS GROVE
STALKING	19/04/2023	
THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	19/04/2023	Bedford Road
THEFT OR UNAUTH TAKING OF A	04/04/2023	Hummingbird Way
MOTOR VEHICLE		

JOIN US

REMEMBER, THE WIXAMS COMMUNITY WATCH GROUP ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS. SO FEEL FREE TO GET IN TOUCH IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING.





# **Upcoming Events & Things to do**

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

Event	Date	Location/Details
Missana Laga alub	Catuaday 17th Israel 00 20	Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams Lego club	Saturday 17th June, 09.30	To book a place email: LegoatWixams@gmail.com
		Monthly meet
Wixams Photography Club	Saturday 17th June, 14.00am	3rd Saturday of the month
	·	Meet at seasons Garden Centre
Wixams WI	Tuesday 20th June, 19.45pm	Meeting at Priory Marina for a walk
Missana Laga alub	Catuaday 24th Ivana 00 20	Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams Lego club	Saturday 24th June, 09.30	To book a place email: LegoatWixams@gmail.com
		The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine
Tina Turner Tribute night	Friday 30th June, 2023 at 12:30pm	For more information visit;
, and the second	,	https://www.marstonvale.org/Event/tina-turner-tribute-night
Wixams Summer Event	Saturday 1st July, 12.00 noon	Lakeview Village Hall
		Charity quiz night raising money for Keech Hospice.
THE DOMESTIC	Saturday 1st July, 6.30pm	Herrings Green farm, Wilstead
Lifes a Beach Quiz Night		For more information visit;
		https://birdsofpreycentre.co.uk/product/lifes-a-beach-july-1st-6-30-late/
		Monthly meet
Wixams Bike Meet	Sunday 2nd July, 11.00am	11am - meet at seasons Garden Centre
Wixanis Dike Meet Sunday 2nd July, 11.00ani		12 noon
		The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine
ROARome Crafts	Tuesday 25th July, 11am and 13.00pm	For more information visit;
	, , ,	https://www.marstonvale.org/Event/dinosaur-crafts
XA7: D:1 M4	C 1 4d I 1100	Monthly meet
Wixams Bike Meet	Sunday 4th June, 11.00am	11am - meet at Seasons Garden Centre
		The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine
ABBA Tribute Night	Friday 28th July, 19.00pm	For more information visit;
	• • •	https://www.marstonvale.org/Event/abba-tribute-night-jul2023

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



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# **WIXAMS EVENTS TEAM PRESENTS**





SATURDAY IST JULY 2023

• I2PM - 6PM

LAKEVIEW VILLAGE HALL BROOKLANDS AVENUE, WIXAMS, BEDFORD, MK42 6AB



CRAFT STALLS, FUN FAIR, WRESTLING, PUNCH AND JUDY, PERFORMING ARTS, FOOD & DRINK (BAR FOR THE ADULTS) AND MUCH MORE....

NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED AT THIS EVENT

MORE INFORMATION AT WIXAMSEVENTS.UK

**EVENT SPONSORS** 



DAVID WILSON HOMES

WHERE QUALITY LIVES

Wixams Events Team are in the final stages of planning for our Summer Party 2023, which will be held on Saturday 1st July from 12-6pm.

Wixams Events Group is a not-for-profit group comprised of members of the Wixams Community, who on a voluntary basis host a variety of affordable events to cater for the whole community.

We're less than a month away until our 2023 Summer Party, and this year we will be extending the event onto Brooklands Avenue!

These events are not possible without the support of our sponsors, which include Barratt Homes, David Wilson Homes, Paul Riches Skips and Scott Veternary Clinic. Wixams Parish Council most recently agreed to our grant application to support with some of our costs for event insurance, first aiders and road signs. We're very grateful to all of our sponsors who allow us to host the event safely, allow free entry, and provide lots of free entertainment throughout the day.

#### INTERESTED IN BOOKING A STALL?

All indoor stalls in the hall have now been booked, but there is still some availability for outside stalls. Please contact us at *wixamsevents@gmail.com* for more information.

#### ROAD CLOSURE

Brooklands Avenue will be closed from 8am-8pm on Saturday 1st July from Green Lane through to Woodpecker Gardens. Resident access will still be available. There will still be pedestrian access to the shops.

#### INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

We're always in need of helpers for our events, whether its just to help out for an hour at an event, or becoming heavily involved in the coordination and planning of events. Everyone is welcome, whether you just want to meet up with some locals in the community, or you're a seasoned event professional, our doors are always open.

For more information, please visit www.wixamsevents.uk



# Notice of **Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 8th July
2 pm
Swan Room
Lakeview Village Hall

Come along to meet the team and find out about our work in the community. All are welcome.

We're also on the look out for new committees members, including a secretary and treasurer so please join us if you want to get involved.

www.wixams.org/community-group



# **Wixams Yarn Bombers Update**

Our last project was King Charles III Coronation and we had displays at several locations, David Wilson/Barratt Homes Sales Office, outside the Co-Op was a display of soldiers, a post box topper and around Lakeview we put flags, bunting and our new edition of a yarn bombed bicycle. Our display at David Wilson homes was sponsored by them and this included full size mannequins of King Charles and Camilla which was put together by our fabulous Jane along with bunting and flags.

A huge amount of work went into these displays and we would like to thank everyone in the group for their commitment and time in putting these displays together. We would also like to thank the community for their lovely comments on social media and for the fact that not one display was touched or damaged for which we are truly grateful for. If you would like any of the items, please get in touch as all we ask is for a donation.

We are enjoying a well-earned break for a few weeks and will be discussing our plans for the remainder of 2023 at our next meeting which is being arranged.

If you would like any further information please contact us.

Facebook: Wixams Yarn Bombers Email: Wixamsyarnbombers@gmail.com













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# Gardening Tips for June by Marion Colledge

Marion, a dogged gardener in all weathers, is a member of RHS, and Biddenham Gardene Association

In April I talked about water butts. Well, we had plenty more rain in May, so we haven't used the water and larvae of midges may be growing in them. I am told that to prevent midges from breeding in a water butt we can spray a layer of neem oil on top. I am going to try it with just one water butt using my watering can hose: I jammed my sprayer with neem oil /water mix when spraying apple tree branches against codling moths in 2021.

If you have a small property without a back garden you could invest in a mini water butt

(50 – 150 litres) for the front. There are some on which you can put potted plants. The sales pictures look fantastic and I was thinking of investing in one so I am not carrying water through the house. But it needs a base and a filter at the top to prevent leaves and moss blocking it, so I think I will go for a small butt that hugs the downpipe and keep my pots.



#### **Drought**

June is mostly very dry so we need to talk about plants that survive well in drought. If you are planting out bedding, or say, sunflowers with children in mind, in anticipation of dry weather, add plenty of humus, preferably peat-free, for water retention at the bottom of the planting hole and water the hole so the water is underneath. This encourages the roots to grow downwards, not up to the surface, which will dry out much more quickly.

There are lots of ways of dealing with drought. One of the best is to choose plants with silver/white leaves which reflect the sunlight, for example buddleia as a medium sized shrub; artemisia, which has a nice scent; and stachys (pictured) or cardoon, a silver cousin of a thistle if you want perennials. You can mix these plants with pink penstemons, which are also good at resisting drought.



## Trugs, pots raised beds

Some perennial drought-resistant plants could be grown in containers, eg, the more fluffy cotton lavender, the so-called curry plant silver with yellow flowers (not used for making curry) as well as the common hard-to-kill

Some of you might want to use annuals in which case there is bold eight petalled pink or white cosmos, begonia, mauve scabious and of course the commoner blue lobelia.



#### **Garden Visits**

If you like long days out it's worth visiting Beth Chatto's famous 7.5 acre dry garden in Essex about two hours' drive away.

https://www.bethchatto.co.uk/. Address Elmstead Market, Colchester CO7 7DB, Tel. 01206 822007. Beth (1923-2018) was an award-winning plants woman who created this huge garden specially to prove what could be grown on a dry hills cape. Your visit might last 2– 4 hours, but might not be so interesting for children unless you have got them doing an I-Spy or hide and seek kind of activity.



## Gardening for the children

Suggestions: Plant half a packet of sweet peas in old paper cups then transfer to the garden: save the rest for the next year, grow quickly, meant for picking.

Competition between siblings: How many flowers in the garden? How many three petalled (some daylilies), four petalled flowers (some clematis), five-petalled flowers (commonest) and so on, can you find? Are there any irregular ones, eg lilac, multi-petalled roses and daisies.

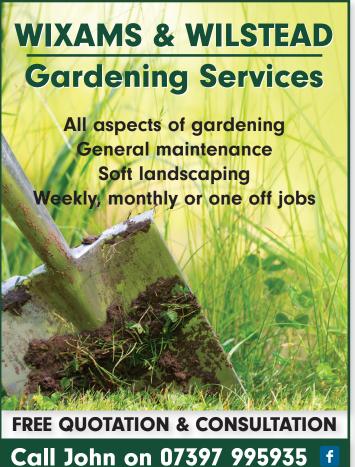
Colours: many plants have different coloured centres, eg forget-me-nots are blue, but may have a pink centre. Look for these!

It is also well worth looking at the RHS family activities https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/gardening-children-schools/family-activities.

Enjoy your gardening!





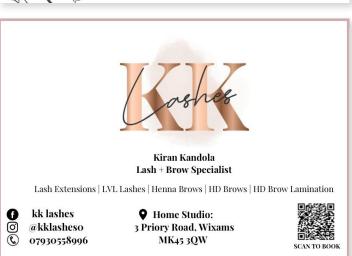


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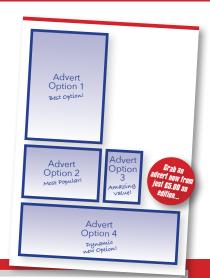
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