

WIXAMS NEWSLETTER

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

Wixams Surgery Action Group Update

A meeting of the Wixams Surgery Action Group was held on Monday 18 September. The purpose of the meeting was to elect a Chair and Committee and to gather thoughts from Residents on what our next steps in the quest for a Doctors Surgery should be. The meeting was attended Wixams Residents, Cllr Graeme Coombes – Borough Councillor for Wixams & Wilstead, Cllr Rebecca Hares – Central Beds Councillor, Emma Holland-Lindsay – Lib Dem Candidate for the new MP for Mid-Bedfordshire.

Actions agreed at the meeting were:

- Collate a list of questions for the next ICB Meeting and attend the meeting
- Gather information from local GP surgeries regarding over-subscribed waiting lists, waiting times
- Gather patient stories to highlight the problems encountered by the community to get to a surgery outside Wixams
- Find out what the criteria we have to meet to qualify for a Doctors Surgery
- Once the new MP for Mid-Bedfordshire is in place take forward with them
- Present the petition to the ICB

Since the meeting on 18 September the Wixams Surgery Action Group has moved at pace and the following has happened:

WIXAMS IS GOING TO BE ON THE TELLY!
Tune in on Sunday 15 October –
BBC1 Politics East at 10 am

Following the excellent work being done by the new Wixams Surgery Action Group, the BBC have now agreed to feature Wixams on their Politics East show on Sunday 15 October.

The show will feature a panel made up of candidates for the upcoming by-election and, following a shout out for volunteers there will be stories from the Community to highlight some of the issues within the Constituency, including specific problems with the Wixams development. Some of the issues raised include the delay to the Doctors Surgery, no local dentists, train station delayed for more than 10 years, we only have one shop, the bus services are inadequate, there is a lack of facilities for young people and no open spaces for kids to play.

The GP Surgery GP Petition has been signed by over 1,000 residents – it is not too late sign today.

Scan the QR code to the right,
or visit the link below to sign the petition
www.change.org/p/fund-a-wixams-gp-surgery-now



Wixams Mid Beds By-Election Hustings

If you would like to attend this Hustings, please book a free ticket - Scan the QR Code.

Festus, Alistair and Emma have confirmed attendance.

When: Tuesday 10 October 2023 at 6.45 pm for a 7 pm start.

Where: Wixams Retirement Village – limited parking – as for Residents only

Please park on the main road or ideally walk if possible to hear from the candidates in this important by-election.

The date of the election is:

Thursday 19 October 2023

Submit questions to saqhib.pc@gmail.com

Format will be:

- Introductions by candidates
- Questions to the candidates
- Wrap up by each candidate



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.....	07544 853633
• 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 News

Street Racing along A6 and Anti-Social Behaviour

PC Lawson attended the PC meeting and advised the Parish Council that the police are aware of the street racing issue in Wixams and surrounding villages. They are doing all that they can to stop the speeding motorbikes and the arranged gatherings, which lead to street racing along the A6 at extremely dangerous and illegal speeds. He urged everyone in Wixams to continue to report any incidents that occur to 101. In the past, they have been able to use video footage taken by a resident to help in the conviction of one of the drivers.

Proposed extension of parking restrictions on Brooklands Avenue

The Parish Council voted in favour of implementing no verge parking for the entire length of Brooklands Avenue (Little Owl Lane to the roundabout at Bedford Road). This is not to include the side roads coming off Brooklands Avenue. The Parish Council has also requested double yellow lines at the junctions to the side roads coming off of Brooklands Avenue which prevents parking in line with the Highway code.

It was also decided a request for placing double yellow lines on both sides of the road for 10 yards at the junction of Southern Cross and Swift Way and the Junction of Southern Cross and Linnet Lane would be made.

Clerk reported that notification of a consultation period will be made by the Borough Council.

Bedford Borough Council Report

Borough Councillor Graeme Coombes reported the litter and grass along the verges on both sides of the A6 would be cleared by the Borough Council at some point in the near future. To safely do this one lane of the A6 will be closed while the team are working along the roadside.

Due to the delay in the Department for Transport approving the plans for Wixams train station there will be a delay in the proposed opening date of December 2024. This delay will likely see the train station not operational until December 2025 or later.

Planning

The following Planning Applications were discussed by the Council:

- Application No. 23/01972 – single storey rear extension – Council had no comments or objections to this application.
- Application No. 23/01616/M73 Variation of Condition Application – Council voted to object to this application. Council does not agree with plans to remove 2/3 bedroom homes and replace these with 5 bedroom dwellings. The council would encourage the council to insist on a broad spectrum of homes to reflect the needs of Wixams growing community.
- Application No.23/01614/M73 Variation of Condition Application – Council had no comments or objections to this application.
- Application No. 23/01950 – Single storey rear - Council had no comments or objections to this application.

Parish Council Logo

Councillor Whitely presented options for the Parish Council Logo and this logo was approved.

Wixams and Wilstead Underpass

Following an attack in the Wixams and Wilstead underpass Cllr Bowman discussed the possibility of implementing security measures for the underpass between Wixams and Wilstead. Clerk to speak with BBC street lighting team to

ensure adequate lighting is in place. Cllr Coombes has offered to put some of his ward funding towards a mobile CCTV camera if this security approach was found to be a good deterrent for anti-social behaviour.

Community Garden

Bedford Borough Council has given approval for the land between the Village Hall and Lakeview School to be adopted by the community to create a community garden. BBC have also offered to help the Community Garden Group with clearing and planting the area. The first meeting of the Community Garden Group was held on 2 October 2023. If any residents would like to become involved in the community garden project, please contact Deb Bowman at deb.bowman@wixams-pc.gov.uk



Average Speed Cameras on the A6

The council discussed the possibility of requesting BBC to place Average Speed Cameras along the A6 to help prevent the high speeds at which people are travelling along this road. Mayor Tom Wootton was in attendance and suggested a meeting with himself, Deputy Mayor Jim Weir and officers from the BBC Highway team meet with parish council representatives to discuss solutions for combating the issue of speeding along the A6.

Christmas Tree and Lights for Village 2

The Parish Council discussed increasing the number of Christmas trees to ensure all villages within Wixams' growing community are included. Also to be discussed in a future meeting is the purchase and installation of decorative lights on the streetlamps.

Next Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings will be:

Tuesday 17 October at 7.45 pm and Tuesday 21 November at 7.45 pm
In the Munson Room, Lakeview Village Hall, Brooklands Avenue, Wixams, Bedford

October update from your Local Bedford Borough Councillors

This month we learned the disappointing news that the Borough Council's Planning Department has decided to approve the planning application for landscaping the area which is frequently referred to as 'the rookery'. Borough and Parish Councillors, as well as residents, had all expressed the view that what was proposed was too intense, and that the site should be left with a more natural feel.

In particular, the view was expressed that nothing should be done which potentially harmed the birdlife on the site. Although the applicant and the Borough Council have agreed to relocate the proposed outdoor gym equipment elsewhere, the rest of the application has been approved. Yet again, Bedford Council's Planning Department has chosen to completely ignore local opinion when making important planning decisions.

The Department for Transport has given the approval for Wixams Station to go ahead, subject to certain conditions. This is a further step along the way to getting the long-delayed station built. However, as the Department for Transport took nearly 14 months to give the approval, this has had a knock-on effect on the timetable for the station opening, and the previous date of December 2024 will have to be put back as a result.

Despite yet another delay, the Borough Council remains fully committed to the Wixams Station scheme. Environmental mitigation work has already taken place and planning permission for the project was received on 20th February 2023. Agreement has also been reached with National Rail for a 'hybrid' delivery strategy, where National Rail will be responsible for track alterations, signalling and overhead line and power work and Bedford Borough Council will be responsible for all other project work.

As your Councillors we will continue to monitor progress and ensure that Wixams residents are kept fully informed.

You can contact us:

Andrea Spice - andrea.spice@bedford.gov.uk

Graeme Coombes - wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk

Marc Frost - Marc.frost@bedford.gov.uk

Follow us on @wixamsandwilstead

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

HALLOWEEN CAKE POPS

from www.bbcgoodfood.com

Preparation and cooking time

- Prep: 30 mins
- Cook: 5 mins plus chilling
- Easy
- Makes 10

These eerie eyeball chocolate cake pops will be a hit with kids at Halloween - they can help decorate them too

INGREDIENTS

- 100g/4oz madeira cake
- 100g chocolate sandwich cookies
- 100g bar milk chocolate, melted
- 200g bar white chocolate, melted
- few sugar-coated chocolate beans and icing pens, to decorate

You will also need

- 10 wooden skewers
- 1/2 small pumpkin or butternut squash, deseeded, to stand pops in

STEP 1

Break the Madeira cake and cookies into the bowl of a food processor, pour in the melted milk chocolate and whizz to combine.



STEP 2

Tip the mixture into a bowl, then use your hands to roll into about 10 walnut-sized balls. Chill for 2 hrs until really firm.

STEP 3

Push a skewer into each ball, then carefully spoon the white chocolate over the cake balls to completely cover. Stand the cake pops in the pumpkin, then press a chocolate bean onto the surface while wet. Chill again until the chocolate has set. Before serving, using the icing pens, add a pupil to each chocolate bean and wiggly red veins to the eyeballs.

SPOOKY WORDSEARCH

Candy
Trick
Treat
Costume
Party

Monsters
Vampire
Princess
Fairy

Z	C	X	E	C	S	R	R	F	F	V	V	I	S	J
D	W	Q	L	B	A	R	Z	U	S	M	D	I	S	J
T	U	E	Z	A	F	N	E	R	I	N	Z	M	E	Q
V	A	M	P	I	R	E	D	T	R	Q	T	J	C	R
Y	T	R	A	P	W	Q	H	Y	S	A	M	R	N	M
Y	F	R	H	H	B	X	N	J	C	N	V	Y	I	T
Q	F	J	C	G	W	A	K	K	S	L	O	X	R	H
S	E	M	U	T	S	O	C	S	T	E	U	M	P	J
Q	L	S	N	K	G	A	C	O	J	T	U	Z	T	X
P	V	N	R	I	L	Y	A	E	K	H	V	T	U	A
A	E	V	G	B	T	T	R	X	Y	B	E	S	T	G
W	S	P	J	R	R	Y	U	I	T	E	A	C	M	I
S	X	U	E	N	I	E	S	Z	A	H	C	O	U	Y
V	O	A	S	V	C	Q	U	G	T	F	N	I	Z	P
C	T	R	K	K	K	N	B	H	N	D	S	D	Z	Z



FURRY FRIENDS AND SAFETY: HANDY TIPS FOR DOG OWNERS

With so much news about dog safety lately, we wanted to share some essential tips to ensure your dog walks in Wixams are enjoyable and safe.

Leads and Leashes

Remember to keep your dog on a lead when walking your dog in public areas around Wixams. This is not only a legal requirement but also crucial for your dog's and others' safety. Always have a suitable leash on hand, especially near roads, wildlife, or other dogs.

Be mindful of other dogs

If you're walking your dog and encounter another dog, be aware of how your dog reacts and be ready to intervene if necessary

Identification

Ensure your dog wears a collar with an ID tag displaying your contact details. This is essential in case your dog wanders off during your outdoor adventures.



Dog body language



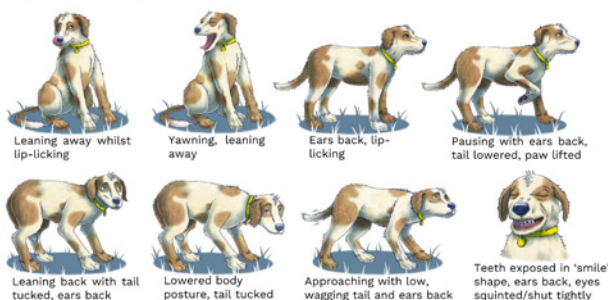
I'm relaxed



Being able to recognise when your dog might be feeling worried or frightened will help you respond appropriately, and keep you, your dog, and others safe.

We need space

Signs of fear or anxiety to look out for:



We need space now



Crouched and growling Tense, leaning forward. Rolling onto side or back, with ears back and tail outwards/up, staring, tail tucked, ears back, tense, under snarling, growling one or both back legs raised

Not all dogs will show these signs or in the combinations described, and others may show some of these signs in other emotional states. The whole body, context and individual dog must be taken into account when reading a dog and judging how to react in a situation.

Registered charity number: 2650798

Respect Wildlife

Wixams is home to diverse wildlife. While on your walks, be mindful of wildlife habitats, nesting areas, and grazing livestock. Keep a safe distance and prevent your dog from chasing or disturbing them.

There's no such thing as the dog poo fairy

Carry poop bags with you at all times and clean up after your dog. You face a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100 for failing to do so, and it's just common sense! "I didn't have a bag" is not an excuse.

Teach children about dog etiquette

Educate children about how to behave around dogs. Remind them not to run up to unfamiliar dogs and to always ask the owner for permission before petting. No matter how cute.

Remember..

... each dog is an individual with its own temperament and comfort level. It is essential to treat all dogs with respect and to prioritise safety for both yourself and the animals.



CRIME STATS

FOR AUG 2023

Recorded Date	Offence	Street
07/08/2023	Assault without Injury	Swift Way
11/08/2023	Possession of an article with blade or point	Nightingale Court
11/08/2023	Public Order Offence	Nightingale Court
20/08/2023	Drug Trafficking	Four Acre Drive
20/08/2023	Assault with intent to cause serious harm	Four Acre Drive
20/08/2023	Threats to kill	Four Acre Drive

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.



Lakeview Village Hall Activities



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	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
	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
Tuesday	10:30 - 12:00	Wixams Community Cafe	Swan		
	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
Wednesday	17:30 - 19:30	Wixams Youth Group	Swan	07880 448599	wendy.millgate@4ypuk.com facebook.com/4YPUK
	17:30 - 20:00	Irish Dancing	Lakeview	Katie	facebook.com/stuartirishdancebedford
	17:00 - 18:00	Rainbows	Munson		
	18:15 - 19:30	Brownies	Munson		
	19:45 - 21:00	Guides	Munson		
Thursday	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
	17:15 - 18:00	Entertainia Dance Class Class 2 (7-11 years)	Lakeview		
	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
Friday	10:00 - 11:00	Little Stars	Swan		
	18:00 - 20:00	Scouts	Lakeview		facebook.com/1stwixamscouting www.1stwixamsscouts.org.uk
	19:00 - 20:45	AA	Munson		
Saturday	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
	09:00 - 10:00	Lego Club (3-7 years)	Munson		Email: lego@wixams@gmail.com
	10:45 - 11:45	Lego Club (7-16 years)			
	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
Sunday	09:45 - 11:15	AA	Munson		
	10:30 - 11:30	Christ the Word Church Services	Lakeview	Alan - 07879 716958	facebook.com/christthewordwixams www.christthewordwixams.org.uk
	15:00 - 16:00	Christ the Word Sunday Club For children aged 4-10 years	Munson		
	18:00 - 19:00	Taekwondo	Lakeview		

Upcoming Events & Things to do

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

Event	Date	Location/Details
Wixams Community Cafe	Tuesday 17th October, 10.30	Swan Room, Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams Parish Council	Tuesday 17th October, 19.45	Munson Room, Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams WI	Tuesday 17th October, 19.45	Swan Room, Lakeview Village Hall
Michael Jackson Tribute Night	Friday 20th October, 19.00pm	The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine https://www.marstonvale.org/Event/michael-jackson-tribute-night
Wixams Photography Club	Saturday 21st October , 14.00am	Monthly meet on 3rd Saturday of the month Meet at seasons Garden Centre
Wixams Halloween Event	Saturday 21st October	Lakeview Village Hall. More info/tickets at wixamsevents.uk
Wixams Community Cafe	Tuesday 24th October, 10.30	Swan Room, Lakeview Village Hall
Christ the Word Church Talks	Tuesday 24th October, 19.30pm	Lakeview Village Hall
Christ the Word Church Talks	Wednesday 25th October, 19.30pm	For more information, visit; https://reallives.uk/
Kids Halloween Disco	Thursday 26th October, 17.00pm	The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine https://www.marstonvale.org/Event/halloween-kids-disco-thurs-26-october-2023
Kids Halloween Disco	Friday 27th October, 17.00pm	The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine https://www.marstonvale.org/Event/halloween-kids-disco-fri-27-october-2023
Christ the Word Church Talks	Friday 27th October, 19.30pm	Lakeview Village Hall For more information, visit https://reallives.uk/
Wixams Motorbike Meet	Sunday 5th November, 11.00am	Monthly meet 11am - meet at seasons Garden Centre 12 noon
Wixams Winter Wonderland	Saturday 2nd December, 12.00pm	Lakeview Village Hall. More info at wixamsevents.uk

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



**Lakeview Village Hall
Management Committee**



Notice of Annual General Meeting

All are welcome

Saturday 14th October
11.00am – 13.00pm
Swan Room
Lakeview Village Hall

Come and meet the
Committee Members
Find out more about how
you can get involved

Why not join the Committee

The Village Hall Management Committee is run by a small group of volunteers from Wixams. We are looking for more people to get involved to help support the management and development of the hall. To find out more contact the Chairman

Can't make the AGM and would like to join the Committee or find out more, please contact the Chairman

secretary@lakeviewvillagehall.co.uk



WIXAMS LEGO CLUB

*Come and join us at the Lakeview Village Hall
for our weekly meet to build everything Lego !*

Session 1 - 9:00am to 10:00am
aimed at children aged 3 to 7
with Duplo, Lego, Lego Kits & Bionicles

Session 2 - 10.15am to 11:45am
suitable for ages 7 - 16
with Lego, Lego Kits & Lego Technics

held every Saturday during school term time

Annual Membership Fee - £5
Members weekly attendance fee - £2
Non-members weekly attendance fee - £2.50

Please note that children under the age of 7 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

For further information please email – legoatwixams@gmail.com
or visit our Facebook page  **Wixams Lego Club**

Please note that due to popular demand this Club is open only to children who reside at Wixams.



Wixams' Bikers Raise £687 for Operation Oscar Bear

Oscar is a three year old from Wixams who suffered a Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE) event at birth. He is living with Cerebral Palsy and needs help to get an operation and intensive rehab which would change his life.



This summer a few motorcyclists from Wixams got together when they heard about Oscar's plight and his

parents' campaign to raise money for his operation. Bikers will find any excuse to get out on two wheels so, with the potential of raising some money for charity too, they decided to run a charity ride-out and *The September Sunday Super Sausage Shindig* was born!

On Sunday 3rd September around 40 bikers turned up to Seasons garden centre to take part in the ride-out to the Super Sausage Café on the A5 on the way to Towcester. Attendees came from all over including Bedford, Northampton, Milton Keynes and Huntingdon.



Riders were asked to donate £10 to take part in the ride-out which would all go to Oscar's fund.

Little Oscar and his family came along too so everyone had a chance to meet the star of the day, and Oscar even got to sit on one of the



biggest bikes there, Adam's Kawasaki GTR 1400. He got a real thrill out of hearing and feeling the big engine revving beneath him, a future biker in the making?

Before leaving the bikers were gathered together for a group shot (thank you Asan) and then the bikes left to make their way to the Super

Sausage for brunch and a brew. The convoy, with 40 bikes adorned with stickers and flags, must have turned some heads as they made their

way through north Beds and into Bucks. They arrived at the café all safe and sound, closely followed by Oscar and his family who let everyone know how much had been raised. It was more than anyone expected and certainly brought a lot of smiles for a job well done.

The Wixams Bikers would like to thank Seasons for allowing the group to use their car park, and everyone who took part and helped with organising this event, for helping raise so much money for Oscar, and for helping create such a great day for all. The bike group are already talking about running a similar event next year for a different charity!

For more photos from the day please visit

www.wixams.org/super-sausage-shindig





HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS COMPETITION



It's that time again soon when Wixams becomes a spooky and whimsical place for one night! We've joined forces with the events team for the Halloween Decorations Competition, which is now running for the fifth year. With so many fantastically decorated houses entering the competition each year, we ask residents to register their home at the webpage below if they would like to take part.

www.wixams.org/halloween-competition

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

Please see the webpage above for more information and to enter the competition.



To take part,
register by
Friday
27th
October





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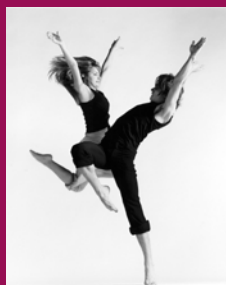


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info@je-group.co.uk www.je-group.co.uk



**Shine
Theatre School**

LAKEVIEW VILLAGE HALL
WIXAMS

Ballet
Modern Jazz
Street Dance
Musical Theatre

Classes for ages 3-12yrs
Limited places available

For more info or to book a FREE
trial contact Louise on
07749091885

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specialising in families, weddings, professional headshots, cakes smashes and newborn photography

Call Michelle - 07508362610

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PHOTOGRAPHY

www.missjonesphotography.co.uk

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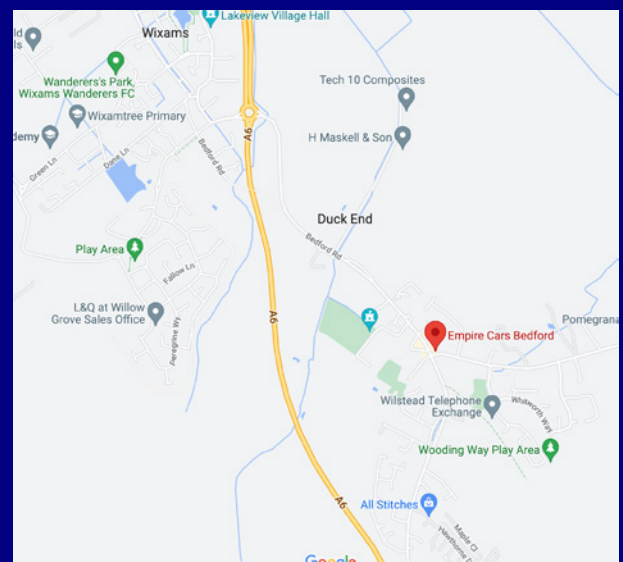
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YOUTH CORNER *by Ellie*

Hey!

Welcome back to the Youth Corner.
Everyone has a sweet tooth, so why not
bake some cakes?

Here's a cupcake recipe!

Prepare the following ingredients

- 110g softened butter
- 110g golden caster sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 110g self-raising flour
- For the buttercream
- 150g softened butter
- 300g icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 tbsp milk

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and fill a
12 cupcake tray with cases. Get a parent to do
this!

Using an electric whisk beat 110g softened butter
and 110g golden caster sugar together until pale
and fluffy then whisk in 2 large eggs, one at a
time, scraping down the sides of the bowl after
each addition.

Add 1/2 tsp vanilla extract, 110g self-raising flour
and a pinch of salt, whisk until just combined
then spoon the mixture into the cupcake cases.

Bake for 15 mins until golden brown and a skewer
inserted into the middle of each cake comes out
clean. Leave to cool completely on a wire rack.

To make the buttercream, whisk 150g

softened butter until super soft then add 300g
icing sugar, 1 tsp vanilla extract and a pinch of
salt. Whisk together until smooth (start off slowly
to avoid an icing sugar cloud) then beat in 3 tbsp
milk. Spoon or pipe onto the cupcakes.



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Gardening Tips for October

by Marion Colledge



Larger Gardens / Allotments

Lawns

'No Mow May' has continued for many people who have cut sections of their lawns cutting only every two-three months. Good for hoverflies and wild flowers. My granddaughter (aged four) likes the white yarrow which has sprouted up in the lawn as much as the planted cosmos in the flowerbeds. Time for one last cut and a good rake out (de-scarify).

Planting this month

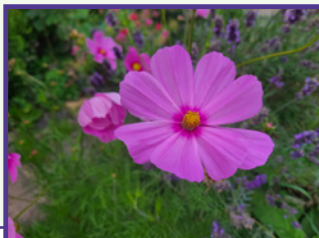
Of course it's garlic and onion planting month. You would put them on slight ridges, preferably rotating after a non-root crop and after dusting the soil with bone meal. They will need bird deterrents during the winter.

You can still plant Chinese leaf lambs lettuce, mizuna in your raised beds and pots, (avoid slugs with a circle of copper tape below the pot - they won't cross it). We probably have another four-five weeks growing time before frosts.

Enjoy your gardening and garden visits

Presents for the kids for Christmas

Think about good quality spades the right height now. Don't wait for Christmas.



Marion, a dogged gardener in all weathers, is a member of RHS, and Biddenham Gardeners Association. The rain this summer has been welcome. I have been kept away from the garden due to visitors, but runner beans in a well composted raised bed have produced a good crop without being watered. I didn't need to mist-spray the red flowers in the evenings. I have had to hunt out the snails in the ajuga in front of the bed though.

The weather has favoured them despite frogs in the garden. There are various ways of getting rid of them; small ones - squash between finger and thumb; large ones - poke a stick in them or crush and throw in nearest compost bin. Leaving them around will attract flies.

My kiwi trained on the south-facing brick wall was protected with a mulch of dry grass from the midsummer lawn cut and a kitchen waste compost bin to the side provided moisture and food, but on Saturday 9 September, half its leaves suddenly dried up. I should have misted those in the evenings. The fruit has not fallen off and will still ripen in November.

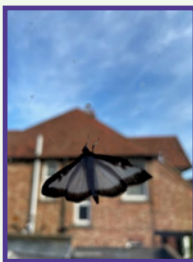
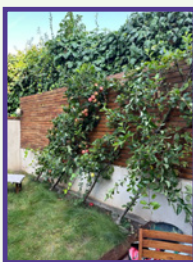
Small spaces - fruit trees

The other day a new allotmenter said to me 'Will the apples on that little tree get bigger when the tree gets bigger?' I said, 'No, the size of the apple depends on the genus. This apple tree isn't going to get any bigger because it was grown on dwarf root stock.'

I had watered every two weeks with six buckets of water, but could not get potassium sulphate - fruit food - for a while, so the apples on two of my dwarf trees were not swelling despite a good clear space round the bole (base) clear of grass and weeds. If you have only a small space, you can get big crops from small trees. In 2019 I was advised by Blackmoor Nurseries that along my daughter's twelve foot fence I could plant four cordons (sloping tree with a single stem where you keep the side branches well-trimmed). I planted two, two-year old pear trees (Beth and Beurre) and two, two-year old apple trees with spread-out harvest dates. Unbelievably, this year she has had eighty eight apples from her Royal Gala. The Golden Delicious has produced too much lush growth, so we have bent the branches over to discourage the sap from going to the ends of the stems rather than cutting off and given it potassium sulphate, hoping for a larger crop next year.

Box Moth

There were two Box Moths in my house the other night (see picture). I like their symmetry, but it's their grubs that, in the spring will destroy any small box hedges you have, so get your pheromone protection by the beginning of March if you can afford it.



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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

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- Booklets
- Business Cards
- Posters
- Brochures
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