

**Merry
Christmas**

WIXAMS NEWSLETTER

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

Thank you for your support in 2023. There will be no January edition, see you in February 2024.

WIXAMS EVENTS GROUP PRESENTS



We hope you all enjoyed our Christmas Winter Wonderland which was held on Saturday 2 December at Lakeview Village Hall.

It was a very crisp cold day and we were pleased to see a lot of people attending the event which began with the arrival of Santa, Mrs Claus and the elves turning up in spectacular style on motorbikes.

Entertainment was provided by the Entertainia Theatre Group, Inspire Performing Arts, the Majorettes, the North Pole Elves, Elf, Golden Angel and Miss Snow Flake stilt walkers, Storminatecup Fire and Light Show. We must also give a big shout out to the naughty Grinch who arrived on a bicycle and got up to lots of mischief including taking the fuse out of the Ferris Wheel and trying to disrupt the switching on of the Christmas Lights along with being "nice" to the kiddies, giving stickers and brussell sprouts!

The special attraction this year was the Ferris Wheel which was free to ride and was sponsored by Barratt and David Wilson Homes – letting everyone see across the whole of Wixams.

The Christmas Tree lights were turned on by Oscar Bear to mark the beginning of Christmas for the Village and we listened to carols from the Gadsden Brass Band.

This Event would not have been possible



without the sponsorships from Barratt & David Wilson Homes, Taylor Wimpey, Hamberley Care Home, Bedford Borough Council, Paul Richie Skips, Wixams Parish Council and Lakeview Village Hall Committee. Wixams Events Group would like to thank them all very much for their support, its very much appreciated.

The Wixams Events Group are all volunteers and would welcome new members to join our team – if you are interested please e-mail wixamseventsgroup@gmail.com or alternatively come to one of our next meetings – look out for the dates on Facebook.

Keep up to date with information about our latest events at by joining our mailing list at wixamsevents.uk.

View some of the pictures from the event on pages 12 and 13.

NEWSFLASH



On 8 December 2023 the Wixams Surgery Action Group Chair, Barbara Matthews presented the Wixams Surgery Petition of over 2000 signatures to Felicity Cox Chief Executive of the ICB BLMK Board at their Board Meeting in Milton Keynes. The question we raised with the ICB prior to the meeting was:

"We know that Wixams as a whole meets the defined criteria for a GP Practice as supported by the evidence attached.

Can you please explain how the ICB will now deliver the Wixams GP practice, with support from BBC and CBC funding, and that the annual running costs will be funded by BLMK ICB?

Additionally can you assure us that work can start on constructing the practice building within the next 12 months, and it will open in January 2025?"

This was heard by the full board and the response to the question can be found here: <https://bedfordshirelutonandmiltonkeynes.icb.nhs.uk/about-us/board-meetings/> - please click on 8th December papers.

Following the meeting the ICB will be discussing the question raised and evidence to support it with the Surgery Action Group. There will be more to follow in the next edition of the Newsletter in February.

The petition remains open, please continue to sign it here.



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

Youth Club - Feedback from Wixams Youth Club

The Youth Club which meets every Wednesday gave feedback on their attendance at the Youth Club and how they enjoyed the activities.

Proposed Reporting System for Reporting A6 cars

A resident of Wixams presented a proposal for the introduction of a new reporting system for reporting cars racing on the A6. The Council agreed to set up a working group to investigate how this would be put in place.

Transfer of Christmas Tree from Lakeview School to outside Wixams Tree

The Council agreed at the Meeting on 17 October 2023 to investigate the possibility of locating a Christmas Tree outside Wixams Tree School. After consultation with David Wilson and Barrett Homes they agreed to fund the cost of the new Tree Pit and the Christmas Tree. The new tree pit is now in place and the Christmas Tree will be transferred to the new pit.

Removal of two dead/dying trees in Bedford Road

The Bedford Borough Council Tree Officer has advised the Council that there are two dead/dying trees which will be removed from Bedford Road near the Bus Stop.

Planning

The following Planning Applications were discussed by the Council:

Application No. 23/02/02461/FUL Full Planning Application. Two Storey side extension and garage conversion. The Council objected to this proposal on the grounds that the extension would remove access to parking spaces and turning circle.

Grant Applications

A grant application had been received from the Early Childhood Partnership for £1258.45 for hall hire for one year (£960) and play equipment (£298.45). This application could not be considered at the meeting as all the supporting documents had not been received.

CCTV

The Parish Council agreed to review the current CCTV system and a working group will meet to provide proposals for discussion at a future meeting.

Revision of Council Committees

The Scheme of Delegation Working Group presented their proposals to the Council. It was agreed to accept the proposal put forward. Chairpersons were appointed for the four Committees.

Next Parish Council Meetings

There will be no Parish Council Meeting in December.

Tuesday 16 January 2024 at 7.45 pm

Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 7.45 pm

In the Munson Room, Lakeview Village Hall, Brooklands Avenue, Wixams, Bedford



Fed up with the congestion on Green Lane and Brooklands Avenue?

The Wixams Parish Council Infrastructure Committee are investigating ways in which we can resolve some of the ongoing congestion issues in Green Lane and Brooklands Avenue particularly around the morning and afternoon school drop-off and pick-up times. We have created a survey to collect the views of residents and anyone who drops off their children to either or both of the schools in Brooklands Avenue and Green Lane.

To capture the views of everyone the Committee are going to form two working groups – one for Green Lane and one for Brooklands Avenue and we are inviting anyone who would like to join the groups to provide your details at the end of the Survey.

Please complete the survey and join the working group and provide your views, by scanning the QR code.





Councillor Rebecca Hares

Central Bedfordshire Independent Councillor

Budget consultation for Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) began on 6 December 2023 and will run until 9 January 2024

Please take part and tell us where savings should be made.

The budget consultation began on 6 December 2023 which gives YOU the chance to decide where you think Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) should spend money, and make savings. It's really important you take part!

We started our budget process with a deficit approaching £25million!

Two weeks ago Cllr John Baker (Executive Member for Finance) explained how the financial legacy of the previous council administration was a significant factor in the need for Council Tax to rise when the council sets a budget in February.

This deficit means the council has to generate cash, or cut costs. In reality, we have no choice but to do both. On Tuesday, Cllr Baker introduced the draft budget and set out an honest assessment of how difficult it will be for the council this coming year.

It won't take a maths genius to predict the need to raise Council Tax by 5% in February. However, it is also clear Council Tax alone won't be enough to protect vital services.

We have spent every waking moment of the last six months considering potential savings. These include:

- Only filling essential vacancies, with the Chief Executive getting the final say over all new hires.
- A reduction in building maintenance to that required for emergency and safety considerations.
- Cutting borrowing, while interest rates remain high.
- Carrying out a review of senior management posts.
- Replacing IT equipment less frequently.
- Cutting council heating, lighting and cleaning bills.
- No longer providing free food waste bags (saving £70,000/year), which get stuck in the machines used to sort rubbish.

All this effort has brought the deficit down massively.

But even with these measures and the use of an eye-watering £16.5m of council financial reserves, the gap between income and proposed spend still sits at £1.9million.

The penalty for not sorting out the budget is huge.

In the last week Nottingham City Council followed swiftly on the tails of Birmingham City Council in declaring itself effectively bankrupt. When this happens, the government takes control of the council and pretty much all non-statutory services cease.

This means no children's centres, no libraries, no garden waste collection, only essential road repairs, and any bus services which don't cover costs (there are lots) would cease.

So how do we fill this £1.9m gap?

After discussion with council officers, they have suggested several areas...

1. Charging for garden waste collection

Most local authorities already do this on the basis that only those with gardens would benefit. For example, Huntingdonshire charge £50/year, South Cambs charge £45/year and North Herts charge £49/year. Charging a similar sum for garden waste collection would provide the council with an estimated extra £2million/year. Some might be worried about fly tipping but this has apparently not been an issue in other local authorities as a result of the introduction of a charge. You would still be allowed to take garden waste to the tip if a charge for kerbside garden waste collection was introduced.

2. Reducing bus subsidies

At the moment, our Council Tax subsidises bus companies to the tune of £1.2million per year. This permits services to run where otherwise the private sector would not cover its costs. Removing some of these subsidies would likely mean a reduction in services in some areas. Bus subsidies do need to be reviewed, with some routes now so uneconomical that the council spends over £370k on subsidies of more than £5 per passenger. One route has an average subsidy of £16/passenger.

3. Increased use of reserves.

The previous administration did not put up Council Tax, and didn't fund that freeze with savings, leaving us likely to need £16.5million of council reserves in the coming year.

The council has further reserves of around £30million, but once they're gone, the council would likely run out of cash. Whilst our budget plan does predict these reserves should be restored in the years to come, this is no guarantee.

Using more reserves carries a significant risk, especially if there is continued economic turbulence.

4. Something else - you suggest. We'll look into any ideas proposed

If you were thinking of suggesting, "No pay rises for council officers", though, this is not an option as for local authorities, pay is agreed at a national level. We can't get involved in this side of affairs.

It's vital we get as many people as possible to take part. The more people who engage, the greater the mandate!

You may believe councillors don't listen, but we're doing this because we want to hear your views.

The consultation is now available online until **9 January 2024** and can be found here:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/budget>

If you would like a paper copy sent to you, please email communications@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Update from your local Bedford Borough Councillors

As we all get wrapped up in the Christmas period and with 2023 drawing to a close, it is a good time to reflect on the past and share some thoughts about the future. From a Council perspective we have undergone significant changes this year, after thirteen years, we now have a new Executive and new Mayor driving Bedford forward. With a new hand on the rudder, we are in exciting times and we look forward to a Council that will continue do its best for Bedford Borough residents.

We are immensely proud of getting the Wixams GP included on the revised Capital Programme, and it is heartening to see intention here to get this vital resource for residents underway. The Wixams station is another major project that is ongoing, plans were approved earlier this year and we will be monitoring progress closely.

2024 will undoubtedly bring new challenges but over this festive period, we can take a break from the stresses of life and spend some much-deserved time with loved ones.

We would also like to take this opportunity to send warm wishes to all Wixams residents for the Christmas season and New Year. However you choose to celebrate, whether you are a person of faith, for whom Christmas is a special time, please take some time to relax and reflect, to recognise the good in other people and spare some time to think about those less fortunate than ourselves.

Our very best wishes to you all this Christmas.

Cllr Graeme Coombes, Cllr Andrea Spice, Cllr Marc Frost



Andrea Spice

andrea.spice@bedford.gov.uk



Graeme Coombes

wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk



Marc Frost

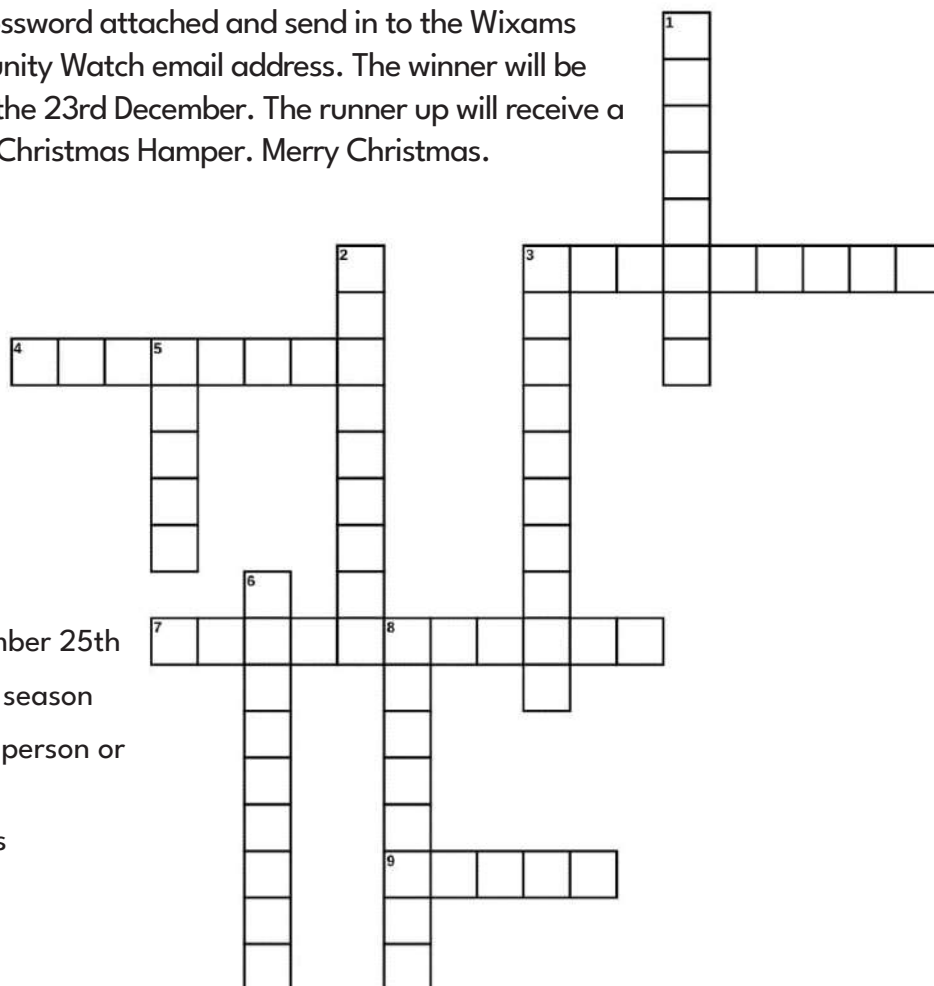
marc.frost@bedford.gov.uk



END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION



Be in with the chance to win this Ring Video Doorbell. All you need to do to enter the competition is complete the crossword attached and send in to the Wixams Community Watch email address. The winner will be drawn on the 23rd December. The runner up will receive a Christmas Hamper. Merry Christmas.



ACROSS

[3] A holiday celebrated on December 25th

[4] Gifts given during the holiday season

[7] A type of cookie shaped like a person or house

[9] Santa's helpers who make toys

DOWN

[1] A long sock hung by the fireplace for Santa to fill

[2] A plant hung during the holidays for people to kiss under

[3] Red and white striped sweets shaped like a cane

[5] Jolly man in a red suit who delivers presents

[6] A unique ice crystal that falls from the sky

[8] Animals that pull Santa's sleigh



CRIME STATS FOR MAY - AUG 2023

| Recorded Date | Offence | Street |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------|
| ASSAULT WITH INJURY | 11/10/2023 | LAKEWAY |
| ASSAULT WITH INJURY | 27/10/2023 | MINK MEADOW |
| ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY | 16/10/2023 | BEDFORD ROAD |
| ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY | 16/10/2023 | BEDFORD ROAD |
| HARASSMENT | 27/10/2023 | |
| MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS | 30/10/2023 | WILLOWSWAY RD |
| MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS | 30/10/2023 | WILLOWSWAY RD |
| STALKING | 22/10/2023 | |
| THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE | 17/10/2023 | SOUTHERN CROSS |
| THEFT OF A PEDAL CYCLE | 14/10/2023 | HARLEQUIN CRES |

**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.



YOUTH CORNER *by Ellie*

How many of these words can you find in our Christmas wordsearch?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decorations | <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Reindeer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lights | <input type="checkbox"/> Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Giving | <input type="checkbox"/> Wreath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candy Canes | <input type="checkbox"/> Mistletoe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ornament | <input type="checkbox"/> Cookies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presents | <input type="checkbox"/> Elves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa |

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



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

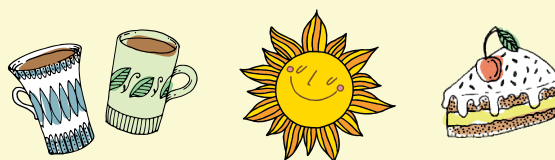
held every Saturday during school term time

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 Community Café

The Wixams Community Café is open weekly and for just **£2 each** (kids under 5 go free) you get unlimited tea, coffee, squash, biscuits and cakes.

Everyone is welcome so why not pop in for cuppa and a natter?

Tuesday mornings
10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Swan Room, Lakeview Village Hall



Wixams Yarn Bombers

We hope you enjoyed our recent Remembrance Display on the wall of Lakeview Village Hall and on the Pier - it was great to hear all your lovely feedback.

By the time you read this Newsletter our Christmas display will be on show outside the Village Hall on the Pier – we hope you enjoy it.

Our next meeting details will be on our Facebook page, you are most welcome to join us. We welcome new members so if you are interested please contact us - wixamsyarnbombers@gmail.com

Happy Christmas to you all from all the Wixams Yarnbombers



Wixams Villages Light up Christmas

Here are some photos of Christmas coming to Wixams in all of our villages.

Lakeview Village



Willow Grove Christmas Tree



At the September Parish Council meeting the Parish Council were approached by a resident with regards to relocating the community garden Christmas Tree to another part of the village.

The council acted on this request, and had Bedford Borough Council provide the parish council with a quote to do the necessary work.

As the land where the tree would be located is still not adopted the property developers working in Wixams were approached to see if they would be willing to contribute to the project and save taxpayers some money. Barratt and David Wilson Homes very kindly agreed to fund the entire project, which means residents

of Willow Grove outside Wixams Tree Primary School will get to enjoy the festive spirit together with the rest of Wixams with a beautiful Christmas Tree.

Harrowden Green

After residents attended the Houghton Conquest Parish Council meeting to ask for Christmas Lights in V4, they have managed to pull off getting 5 Christmas lights fitted around the park less than a month later!

They have also confirmed that next year the lights will be extended to cover more of V4

In addition there is the Advent Window Trail to follow each day – here are some of the windows:



Charlotte's World Scout Jamboree Journey

The 25th World Scout Jamboree was held from 1–12 August 2023 at Saemangeum, North Jeolla, South Korea, hosted by the Korean Scout Association using the theme of - "Draw Your Dream" About 45,000 participants from 158 countries attended.

Unit 17 of the UK Scouts Contingent Bedfordshire Bees consists of 36 young people and 4 leaders.



Chosen as one of the lucky 36 Bedfordshire participants, I had the absolute pleasure of attending the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in August of this year. I was selected out of over 130 applicants from various Scout groups across Bedfordshire.

First of all, I'd like to introduce myself - my name is Charlotte and I am a local Explorer Scout who has attended and volunteered at various local Scout groups including 1st Wixams (volunteering within their Beaver section). I attended the 78th Bedford Scouts in Elstow since 2017 where I joined Cubs. I later volunteered there as a young leader and I currently attend Explorer Scouts.

I was a part of Unit 17 of the UK Scouts Contingent called the 'Bedfordshire Bees' which had 36 participants and 4 leaders who were selected as part of a rigorous application process to narrow down 130+ applicants to 100 to attend the selection camp which then led to a place in unit 17.

Once selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree every participant/leader and International Service team member needed to **fundraise £4000 each** - an absolutely mammoth task given the **cost-of-living crisis and other difficulties**.

I am very grateful to Rosie from the 78th Bedford Scouts for her persistent commitment and effort to fundraise. We attended several events all over the Bedford area including a few in Wixams. Thank you

to everyone who offered their support by purchasing from our stall.

Unit 17 had 5 days prior to the Jamboree in Seoul where we were able to roam around the city and take in our new surroundings. We visited the DMZ, which is a great way to **learn more about the history**, and the current situation of separation between



North and South Korea and the impact it has had.

We visited the Gyeongbokgung Palace considered the **most beautiful, and certainly one of the largest of the five palaces** within Seoul. This was where we were able to dress in traditional Korean dress also known as Hanbok.

Whilst our overall experience in Korea was centred around Scouting and the Jamboree, it was also important to **gain an insight into the culture**. We had the opportunity to visit numerous **gorgeous temples** - some of which were hidden within Seoul.

A couple of members of unit 17 even designed their own unit badge that best reflected the unit and what we were doing which included both the UK and Korean flag and their national flower in addition to the honeycomb and bee motif.

After the 5 days in Seoul we travelled to the Jamboree site in Saemangeum. It was massive! To show you the size here is the campsite over Wixams!

Whilst at the site, we met many Scouts from around the world which was an excellent experience. I collected many neckerchiefs and badges from around the world and heard many different stories about their varying experiences within the movement.

The temperature was around 30c and sometimes even reached 40. The rapid measures of the UK contingent in addition



to immediate measures from IST on site (e.g. Regularly giving out ice cold water bottles, sachets and bottles of Pocari sweat (a popular electrolyte), ice lollies and regular air conditioned coaches we were able to find relief in), we were able to **manage, adapt and overcome** the challenging conditions.

We were swiftly transported back to Seoul where we continued our Jamboree journey despite this being a very different experience to what we expected. Regardless of the circumstances, we still had an **amazing time** exploring what Korea's bustling capital had to offer.

We were fortunate enough to watch a baseball game (Doosan Bears Vs Samsung Lions).

On Friday 11 August all 45,000 Scouts attending the World Scout Jamboree came back together for the closing ceremony in Seoul at the World Cup Stadium, which featured some of the biggest K-pop (Korean pop) bands in the world.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the leaders at the 78th Bedford Scouts for starting my journey, and also to my Explorer leaders who have given and continue to give me and other members of the organisation these **amazing opportunities**. I would like to give my thanks to the Unit 17 leaders Nick Kealy, Greg Kilpin, Chris Dodds and Amy Clews. **Without their unwavering support and dedication we would not have reached our goal.**

None of this would have been possible without the crucial aid of the thousands of volunteers both locally and internationally. There are **many ways to get involved** and make **incredible lasting impacts** whilst also **gaining experiences of a lifetime**. The international service team and contingent management and support team were essential to make this event happen. Volunteers can range from helping around the site such as giving out food, running activities and admin.

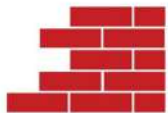
There are opportunities for everyone to get involved. **You don't need any prior knowledge** - training is provided! All of these incredible people started out at **their local Scout group**.

Where could it take you?

If you're interested in helping one of your local groups please follow the link below:

www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer/volunteering-with-scouts/





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



**Shine
Theatre School**

LAKEVIEW VILLAGE HALL
WIXAMS

Ballet
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Street Dance
Musical Theatre

Classes for ages 3-12yrs
Limited places available

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

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Miss Jones
PHOTOGRAPHY

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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: legoatwixams@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 | | |



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Preparation time: 45 mins

Cooking time: 22 mins
plus chilling and cooling

Serves: 12

Ingredients

- 500g vegetarian mincemeat
- 1 orange, zested
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and grated
- 2 tbsp whole milk
- icing sugar, for dusting

For the pastry

- 375g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- 1½ tbsp icing sugar
- 1 tbsp ground ginger
- 1½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ nutmeg, finely grated
- 225g cold unsalted butter, cut into cubes

Gingerbread Mince Pies

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STEP 1

First, make the pastry. Tip the flour, icing sugar, spices and a pinch of salt into the bowl of a food processor. Add the butter and pulse until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add cold water, 1 tbsp at a time, pulsing between each addition until the mixture starts to come together into a dough. Remove a third of the dough and shape it into a flat disc, then do the same with the larger piece of dough. Wrap and chill for 30 mins.

STEP 2

In a bowl, combine the mincemeat, orange zest and grated apple. Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Roll the larger pastry disc out on a lightly floured work surface to a 3-4mm thickness. Use a 10cm biscuit cutter to stamp out 12 circles, then use these to line the

holes of a 12-hole muffin tin. Divide the mincemeat mixture between the pastry cases. Brush the pastry edges with the milk.

STEP 3

Roll the smaller piece of pastry out to the same thickness on a lightly floured work surface. Use an 8cm biscuit cutter to stamp out 12 more circles, then use these to top the mince pies, gently pressing around the edges to seal. Cut out Christmas shapes from any offcuts, if you like, and stick these to the tops

STEP 4

Bake for 18-22 mins until the pastry is golden. Remove from the tins and leave to cool on a wire rack. Dust with icing sugar to serve.

Have you got a tasty recipe that you'd like to share with the community? We'd love to feature it in a future edition. Email newsletter@wixams.org

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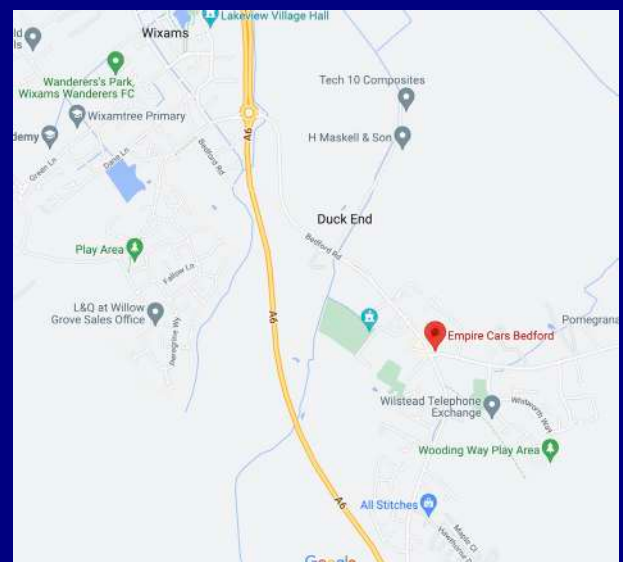
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Closing date for applications is Friday 5th January at 9am.
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Gardening Tips for December

by Marion Colledge



Marion is a dogged gardener, a member of Garden Organic, the RHS and the plant swap website FB Bedford Abundance.

Well, what a wet autumn it has been! Apart from no-mow May, some of us had no-mow autumn because there wasn't a dry enough day to cut the grass (mine is about 20 cm high). When my friends' rabbit came for holiday-sitting and was let out to graze in my walled garden, she flatly refused to get her paws wet in the grass. The sparrows were also tricked by mild weather and in mid-October raised a third brood of chicks under my front eave, feeding off whitefly caught on spiders' webs. Along with other plants the rosemary bush (*rosmarinus officinalis*) is flowering because the conditions till today (24 November) resembled those of spring. It has outgrown its space and although we use it with meats, I can't keep up with it and am trying to source other people's plates!

Pruning

Autumn and winter are traditionally a time for pruning bushes and trees. We pruned our forsythia down to the older wood that will flower next spring. The James Greave apple is again getting too big for the wall it is against. If you can shred your prunings, do so, they can be mixed into the wetter peelings in a compost bin and make a better mix and prevent wet mush forming. The woody parts of plants contain much needed carbon compounds. As I said to my Ukrainian house partner, 'Think of the cycle of transportation and processing costs, when we send stuff away in a council bin and then go to a store to buy compost!' A small, controlled bonfire in a burner in a safe place is also useful. You'll produce enough ash to make slug and snail deterrent to put in little circles round tender plants. It's valuable, so keep it in a bucket somewhere dry.



Plants to grow now (including in containers)

Three suggestions - cyclamens are always around in large stores, but the odds are they have been 'forced' in heated greenhouses and won't survive to naturalise outside, so it is best to choose a reputable online supplier. Hellebores, we used to call the single white ones Christmas roses, will be pretty. The classic single ones are better bee-attractants than the more complex-petalled ones. Finally, if you want to save money on buying herbs for Christmas cooking, you could buy a low-growing rosemary (*prostratus rosmarinus officinalis*), creating ground cover and preventing weeds at the same time. Needs full sun and should not be overwatered.



Protecting the Soil on larger plots

You can still plant some kinds of green manure seeds to stop unprotected soil being lashed and hardened by rain. If you have a moment to spare in your upcoming holidays and we are in a mild spell, you might try forage peas (the ones they usually feed to cattle). The peas will have pretty pink/mauve flowers and the tops are full of nitrogen. But later in February/ March you will have to decide – will you let the odd winter-flying bumblebee enjoy the flowers or will you dig in the tops to benefit the soil, which was your intention?

Christmas Presents

How about winter-flowering scented bushes for the future? There's a great article on winter-flowering shrubs at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/> Think Christmas box small enough for a container, wych hazel, smaller white honeysuckles. I am asking my daughter for wintersweet *chimonanthus praecox luteus* with its bell-like flowers. I will let you know how I get on with it!

Enjoy Christmas!



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Advertising

Why not advertise in this newsletter?
It is delivered to 2,750 homes and businesses.
A **50% discount and priority** will be given to Wixams and Wilstead based businesses as we will have limited space. Advertising options are shown here. If you would be interested in advertising in the next issue of the Wixams Newsletter then please contact Sheila Menzies on advertising@wixams.org or 07490 345510.

There may be a limit to how many adverts of each style we can accommodate in each issue

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Option 1 (93 x 132.5mm)..... | £40 per issue |
| <i>Local rate£20 per issue</i> | |
| Option 2 (93 x 64mm)..... | £20 per issue |
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| Full Page (190 x 270mm)..... | £160 per issue |
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Advertising prices do not include artwork design, but our designer can offer this service for an additional fee.



Visit www.wixams.org/newsletter

for digital versions of Wixams Newsletter and contact details.

Email: newsletter@wixams.org

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Deadline for submissions for next issue:
15th January 2024

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

The Newsletter Team

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

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL OUR DELIVERERS ARE VOLUNTEERS AND AIM TO DELIVER THE LEAFLETS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. AS THERE ARE 2750 COPIES TO DELIVER, SOME HOUSES MAY GET THEIR COPIES BEFORE OTHERS BUT YOU WILL GET YOUR COPY!

zeropa

SMALL EMERGENCY GRANTS

ZeroPA Madad CIC, is a new Wixams based community interest company. We can issue grants of up to £50 to families in urgent need of food, utilities, or clothing.

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CONTACT US

E-mail: grants@zeropa.co.uk
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