



# Wixams News

Neighbourhood  
Watch

November 2019

Published by Wixams Neighbourhood Watch, part of Bedford & District NW Association



Wixams N.W. National Award  
for Community Cohesion  
London June 2014

Caring for the community - Without Prejudice

**A**lmost all drivers risk having cars stolen by criminals using high-tech theft devices: Here are the simple steps to stop it happening to you



- Most drivers keep keys where they can be hacked by criminals

- Car security firm says two thirds of car thefts involved 'relay' attacks

- Keys can even be kept in the fridge to stop the signal being copied

Andy Barrs, head of police liaison at Tracker, said there are some simple precautions people can take to stop criminals from being able to tap into keys, though they might take some ingenious thinking.

He said: 'Whilst the relay devices can receive signals through walls, doors and windows, metal is its enemy, so putting keys in a metal tin or the microwave is a cost effective way to thwart the criminals.'



Andy adds: 'Alternatively, invest in a metallised signal blocking pouch, such as a Faraday wallet (£4.99 on Amazon), which is designed to shield electronic keys from relay attacks.'

Source: ROB HULL FOR THISISMONEY.CO.UK 6 December 2017  
[www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/cars/article-5151873/How-stop-car-key-signal-hacked-criminals.html](http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/cars/article-5151873/How-stop-car-key-signal-hacked-criminals.html)

## Where is our doctor?!!!"

Bedford Borough planners will be meeting with Wixams Parish Council early in 2020 to brief them on the new Wixams town centre. This will be an ideal opportunity to ask questions about the provision of a medical centre building. What? When? Where? How?

A purpose built building would be a huge step towards getting a doctor and other medical services.

Be at the meeting. Write to your MP now. Send us your story of the difficulty of getting to a doctor's surgery.



## Wixams Parish Council

### Development in Wixams



The council would like to thank Stephen Sage (Project Director L&Q Estates, formerly Gallaghers) for attending the October Parish Council meeting to provide an update on development in Wixams.

This included confirmation that: The infrastructure for **Village 3** is being installed currently – completion by early 2020. The Town Centre (estimate start date early 2021) is due to contain a food store, pub, 10-15 retail units, a large sports facility and a primary school in Village 3. There may be a Medical Centre, although this is not yet definite.

A pedestrian path and link road between Village 2 and Village 4 will hopefully be opening in Spring 2020 off Green Lane.

The **Dementia Care Home** is still planned to go ahead. The land next to it has been sold to be used for industrial units/land.

**Adoption** by the Borough Council of multiple roads in Wixams is imminent; any blown streetlights will be fixed as part of this snagging process.

### Benches

We are in the process of planning the installation of new benches around the lakes in Wixams – in various styles and locations. The proposal is on our website to allow residents to provide feedback. We'll then obtain permission for as many of the locations as possible. Please go to the Official Documents area of the website and look for the Benches folder.

### Village signs design competition

A committee of councillors and non-councillors met in October to choose the winner of the sign competition. This will go to the council in November for formal agreement. The winner will receive their prize of an iPad shortly after.

### Next Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings will be on 18th November, 16th December and 20th January at Lakeview Village Hall – members of the public are very welcome. Look out for our agenda for the next Parish Council meeting which will always be published on our website at least 3 working days before each meeting. You can also view past minutes and find out who your councillors are, how you can contact them and what they look like! Our website is: [www.wixamsparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk](http://www.wixamsparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk) (or just Google 'Wixams Parish Council')

### Councillor positions

We were sorry to see Councillor Tracey Flower leave us last month and thank her for the time she put in. We now have eleven councillors, with David Owens and Anthony Musgrove being coopted to the council at the October meeting – they are warmly welcomed. We had a strong response to last month's request for councillors, and there's a good chance we could have a full house soon.

Cont.

## Reported crime

### Crimes reported in Wixams

**26/08 07:30** Brooklands Avenue  
Assault without Injury

**26/08 07:45** Brooklands Avenue  
Criminal damage to a dwelling (Under £5k)

**25/09 17:30-26/09 07:30** Green Lane  
Burglary

**01/10 00:00-24/10 00:00**  
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety

**05/10 09:00**  
Harassment - without violence

**05/10 22:00-06/10 08:35** Wren Terrace  
Theft from a motor vehicle

**05/10 18:00-06/10 10:30** Green Lane  
Theft from a motor vehicle

**05/10 14:00-06/10 12:00** Pheasant Grove  
Theft from a motor vehicle

**05/10 18:00-06/10 10:30** Green Lane  
Theft from a motor vehicle

**05/10 09:00** Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety

**06/10 01:50** Green Lane  
Interference with a motor vehicle

**06/10 03:10-03:28** Peacock Gardens  
Interference with a motor vehicle

**09/10 00:00** Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety

**17/10 00:00** Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety

**17/10 00:00** Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety

**23/10 17:00-24/10 08:30** Magpie Grdns  
Interference with a motor vehicle

*The crime report is provided by Bedfordshire Police with volunteer help from Bedford & District Neighbourhood Watch.*

**CCTV is in operation in the Wixams.** Bedfordshire Police, in collaboration with Wixams Parish Council, are able to view footage if crimes have been committed. Note: the Police need a location and a time.

Signpost Hub  
Freephone:  
0800 0282 887



### 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
- Reporting theft of property
- Contacting local police officer
- Getting update reported crime
- Suspicious incidents

To **report online** non-emergency crimes, incidents or give the police information, go to [www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report)

Additional contact methods can be found at [www.bedfordshire.police.uk/contact.aspx](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/contact.aspx) See also [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111**  
[crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

For further information on **Wixams Neighbourhood Watch** see [www.wixams.org.uk/wnw](http://www.wixams.org.uk/wnw), facebook, or email Alan at [wnw@wixams.org.uk](mailto:wnw@wixams.org.uk)

**Bedford & District Neighbourhood Watch** - [bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org.uk](http://bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org.uk)

The aim of Wixams Neighbourhood Watch (WNW) is to help develop safer local communities and improve the quality of life. Members of WNW deliver the Wixams News in Wixams.

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## Opinion

### Cyber crime -don't be a victim

To reduce your chances of becoming a victim to cyber crime:

- Use a strong password or passphrase, which is at least 12 characters long and contains a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols
- Never give personal or sensitive details out online or over email
- Make sure all devices have up-to-date anti-virus software and a firewall installed
- Keep software and apps regularly updated
- Only download from legal, trusted websites only open emails and attachments from known and trusted sources
- Look for the padlock icon in the address bar when paying for goods or services online – it means the website is trusted and secure
- Check the address starts with https:// whenever you're asked to enter sensitive information online
- Avoid using public WiFi hotspots that are not secure or ask you for personal information to access it
- Regularly back up your data
- Control your social media accounts – regularly check your privacy settings and how your data is being used and shared
- Be cautious of internet chats and online dating – there's no guarantee you're speaking to who you think
- Be extremely cautious if you're asked for money

Source: <https://www.met.police.uk>  
under advice and information

Thanks Alan



**Wixams News deadline - Friday 29th November** for any copy, news adverts or changes to existing adverts. Contact [wnw@wixams.org.uk](mailto:wnw@wixams.org.uk) 47 Green Lane, Wixams, Bedford, MK42 6DA [www.wixams.org.uk/wnw](http://www.wixams.org.uk/wnw) The next Wixams News will be published mid December.

community group or local voluntary organisation with a dedicated bank account, operating or providing a service to the community of Wixams. The Council defines a voluntary group as a not-for-profit organisation, set up and run by a voluntary, unpaid management committee.

Grants can be offered on a one-off basis to support a particular project or the purchase of equipment, to new groups wishing to start up, or as a contribution towards running costs. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

### Wixams Parish Councillors

Anthony Pedder (Chair)  
[anthonypedder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anthonypedder@hotmail.co.uk)  
Saqhib Ali  
[saqhib.pc@gmail.com](mailto:saqhib.pc@gmail.com)  
Graeme Coombes  
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Robbin Brough, Clerk to the Council  
Wixams Parish Council  
[wixamspc@gmail.com](mailto:wixamspc@gmail.com)  
Tel 07554443800

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### Wixams Parish Council cont. Grants

The council noted at the last meeting that there has been a lack of suitable grant applicants, resulting in an underspend in this area, and would welcome groups to come forward. The council has funding of £10,000 each year to fund local groups.

To apply for a grant you must be a



## Art News

A Huge thank you to...

everyone who helped to make our 5th Annual Art Exhibition and the first one for the Art Group run by our members a success!

We raised £200 for the Primrose Transport Charity from Raffle ticket sales, refreshments, sales of artwork and donations.

We also had comments from visitors from other art groups about how lovely our village hall is as a venue for our exhibition which we are fortunate to have.

We would also like to thank Wilstead Village Hall Committee for their help especially Andy the caretaker who helped us enormously to set up the exhibition and with the taking down afterwards.

For further information please go to [www.wixams.org/community-group](http://www.wixams.org/community-group) [villagehallart@gmail.com](mailto:villagehallart@gmail.com)



## Black Cricket Animal Services

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[www.facebook.com/BlackCricketAnimalServices](https://www.facebook.com/BlackCricketAnimalServices)

## 3G artificial football pitch

The 3G artificial football pitch in Wixams is available for hire by clubs, teams and individuals. The Council has a new booking service provider.

See the Bedford Borough Council sports in parks page:  
<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sports-and-physical-activity/outdoor-sports-in-parks/>

The 3G pitch is available for pre-booked sessions only. The income from hire of the facility is to offset the high operational and maintenance costs of the facility. Operating as pre-booked only also helps prevent damage and vandalism.

Natasha Hollidge

Manager for Waste and Resources

Environment and Sustainable Communities  
Bedford Borough Council

DAWNUNTILDUSK  
CHILDCARE



A Puppy at Pre-School  
Tracy brought her puppy, Chase to visit us at Holiday Club. Chase was very well behaved and gentle with the children. We look forward to Chase visiting us again.

Sparklers, Hot Chocolate and Marshmallows

The children at Pre-School had the opportunity to sit around a fire and drink hot chocolate and eat marshmallows. The children also had a sparkler demonstration during After School Club



[www.kidsdawnuntildusk.co.uk](http://www.kidsdawnuntildusk.co.uk)

Call Pre-School on 7818036499



## Councillor GRAEME COOMBES

Reporting to Wixams November 2019

Last month I met with a Borough Highways Officer to discuss the many speeding and parking issues around Wixams. We looked at 6 different spots around Wixams where traffic problems have been raised by residents as a concern.

Inconsiderate parking and speeding traffic have been raised repeatedly at Wixams PC and Parish Councillors are determined to address this. Over a long period of time, residents have demanded action on the following:

- Parking cars on pavements, preventing pedestrians and those with child buggies and disability scooters from crossing
- Parking too close to road junctions, preventing cars from manoeuvring safely
- Cars not stopping at junctions, as the junctions are not clearly marked and white lines have worn away
- Speeding, particularly along Bedford Road, Green Lane and cars leaving the MUGA

The Parish Council and I are currently discussing the areas where most urgent action is needed. Once these have been agreed a report will be sent to the Borough Council, who will then launch a statutory 6-week consultation, where residents will be able to comment – for and against – what is proposed.

It's imperative that we address these traffic problems as quickly as possible before someone is injured or worse. We have successfully had yellow zig-zags and cameras put in place outside Lakeview School, and a number of tickets have been issued to those who continue to flout the parking rules.

The safety of local residents, of all ages, is extremely important to me. We cannot allow people to drive around like maniacs or park with complete disregard for others. Pavements are for pedestrians, roads are for traffic, to drive along at a safe and responsible speed.  
Tel: 07815 302 318  
E-mail: [wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk)  
Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes





# Wixams Community Group

[www.wixams.org/community-group](http://www.wixams.org/community-group)



## Halloween Decorations Competition

[www.wixams.org/halloween-competition](http://www.wixams.org/halloween-competition)

Our very first Halloween Decorations Competition was a resounding success, thank you to everyone who took part! It was fantastic seeing dozens of houses around Wixams covered in a wide range of creative decor and spooky props. Skeletons, spiders, cobwebs, witches (including a set of legs poking out of a cauldron), ghosts, grave stones, light shows, a lot of excellently carved pumpkins, and even some ghouls trying to escape from the window of a house.



Wixams has already become famous for getting into the Halloween spirit (pun intended) so everyone should give themselves a pat on the back for helping to create a fantastic community-led event.

### Our winner

Congratulations to this colourful winning home, which we are sure many of you liked too. The judges were very impressed by the variety of spooky items on display, lots of cobwebs, gravestones and the overall impact of the lights display, which made the house really stand out. We hope they enjoy their hamper of goodies. Please visit the page above to see what they have won and more photos from the evening.

We'd like to give a huge thank you to Budgens in Wixams for donating the prize for this competition.

There were a lot of fantastic homes to choose from this year, the judges really were split in deciding the winner. Here are some photos of a few of the other contenders we considered and some other great scenes on display:



## Christmas Decorations Competition

As our Halloween Competition was such a success and the Wixams community spirit was so impressive, we have decided to also run a decorations competition for Christmas and the winter season.

If you love Christmas and making your home look festive, simply decorate your house and you'll be automatically entered in the competition. Visit the page below for more information and inspiration:

[www.wixams.org/christmas-competition](http://www.wixams.org/christmas-competition)







## Wixams Good Neighbour Group

### Volunteers needed!

Wixams is growing in size rapidly and we want to continue to help wherever we can, so why not join our team of volunteers and be part of a rewarding experience:

- Get involved with your community and do as much or as little as you want.
- Meet new people, including those from different generations.
- Share your skills to help people who might need a little extra support or don't have their own car.
- Volunteer work can be an excellent way to boost your CV.

### What does the Good Neighbour Group do?

If you need help at home, the Wixams Good Neighbour Group is here to help in a range of ways!

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

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

#### Call us on:

07929 656674

#### Or email:

wixamsgoodneighbourgroup@gmail.com

[www.wixams.org/wgng](http://www.wixams.org/wgng)



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1 Crossroads, Wilstead, Bedford MK45 3H



## Wixams Walkers

As part of our efforts to bring the community together, we run the Wixams Walkers group, part of the national Walking for Health scheme. Aimed at all ages and abilities, it simply gives an opportunity for residents to get some exercise, meet people and to explore parts of Wixams and Bedfordshire that they might not yet have seen.

#### Healthy body

Walking is good for us. It can help us stay healthy.

#### Healthy mind

Walking can help us cope with things like stress, depression and anxiety.

#### Meet new people

Get to know other people in Wixams and make friends.

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

**Time:** Every Saturday at 10 am.

**Meeting Point:** In front of Seasons Garden Centre.

**Email:** [wixamswalkers@gmail.com](mailto:wixamswalkers@gmail.com)

[www.wixams.org/wixams-walkers](http://www.wixams.org/wixams-walkers)



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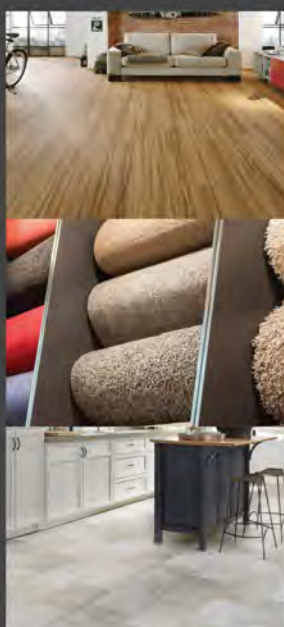
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## Wixams Book Club

Did you know that Wixams has its very own book club? If you love reading and enjoy interesting chats with friendly people in a relaxed atmosphere, why not join us?

We meet once a month in the evening to unwind and discuss our latest book. Some examples of past reads are:

- The Handmaid's Tale
- Becoming
- The Homegoing
- Secret Pigeon Service
- The Story of Arthur Truluv



New members very welcome! Email: [wixamsbookclub@yahoo.com](mailto:wixamsbookclub@yahoo.com)

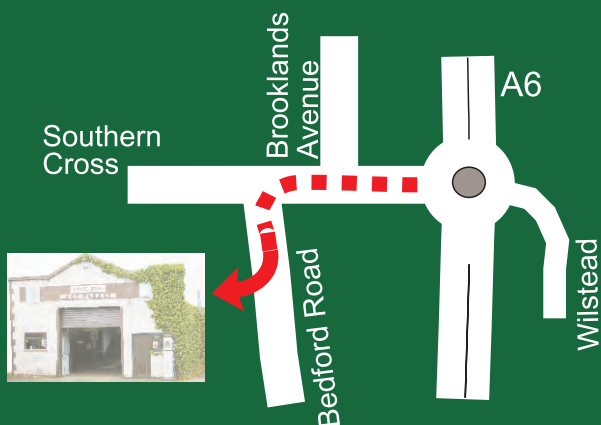
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every Sunday everyone is

Welcome to

# Christ the Word Wixams

church service

## 10.30-11.30am

Munson Room, Lakeview Village Hall  
[www.christthewordwixams.org.uk](http://www.christthewordwixams.org.uk)

## Wixams Sunday Club

ages 4-10, 3 to 4pm  
 every Sunday term time  
 Lakeview Village Hall

**IGNITE**

Ages 10-14, Tuesday  
 6.30 - 7.45pm

Alan & Anne Pibworth  
 Chris & Becca Clarke  
[word@wixams.org.uk](mailto:word@wixams.org.uk)

# Shine

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LAKEVIEW VILLAGE HALL, WIXAMS - SATURDAY'S 9.30-10.30AM.  
 BALLET CLASSES ALSO AVAILABLE - MONDAY'S 3.30PM & 4.00PM  
[WWW.SHINETHETHEATRESCHOOL.CO.UK](http://WWW.SHINETHETHEATRESCHOOL.CO.UK)

# Lakeside

## Fish & Chips

Lakeside offers a variety of fresh and homemade choices for all the family.

Fish wraps and fish tacos if you are in the mood for something different or mini meals for those who want a lighter option.

Do come in and give us a try if you haven't already.

We look forward to meeting and feeding you soon.

Mark & Helen

**Opening Times**  
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 11am-2pm  
 Dinner Mon-Fri  
 4.30pm-9pm  
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Find us on Facebook

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[www.lakesidewixams.co.uk](http://www.lakesidewixams.co.uk)

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## Wixams Turfing & Landscaping Services

Hi my name is Jason, I have lived in Wixams for 8 years and have been in the Turfing & Landscaping Business for 10 years

I would like to bring my experience to your outside space so that you can enjoy it throughout the year. If you would like a full or part transformation or simply a garden tidy or haven't the time for upkeep of your garden please give me a call or drop me an email and I will be pleased to give you a free quote.

E-mail [wixamsturf@gmail.com](mailto:wixamsturf@gmail.com)  
 Contact Jason 01234 743302, 07484651015

Wixams News delivered by 25 members of Wixams Neighbourhood Watch