



# Wixams News

Neighbourhood  
Watch

September 2019

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



Wixams NW National Award  
for Community Cohesion  
London June 2014

*Caring for the community - Without Prejudice*



We are busy organising the sixth Macmillan Coffee morning to be held on **Friday 27th September, 9am-12**, at **Lakeview village hall**.

Donations of cake and help would be much appreciated.

Please contact Paula 07821744848.

We look forward to seeing everyone for Coffee and cake and to support this great cause.

## The Wixams Station update

Cllr Graeme Coombes has spoken to Borough Officers about **Wixams Station**. Chris Pettifer (Bedford Borough Council Head of Transport and Operations) advises that the feasibility scheme is progressing well and the feedback from the consultants has so far been positive. He will be at the Parish Council meeting on **16th September** to provide an update on Wixams Station.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm, Munson Room, Lakeview Village hall. It is likely that Wixams News will not be published in time, but look for the WPC published minutes.



### Be a Good Neighbour

- Introduce yourself to your neighbours
- Establish a good relationship. ...
- Volunteer in your local community. ...
- Respect your neighbours...
- Get involved. ...
- Keep your neighbours in the loop. Source: NUS !



**Report crime**  
(and many other things)  
at the Beds Police website.  
**USE IT !**

[bedfordshire.police.uk/report](http://bedfordshire.police.uk/report)

Wixams' first fun fair was hosted by Showman James Gilby and Family in August.

Nathan of the Events team said "thank you to Wixams Academy for the use of the car park".



## Wixams Parish Council

### Reporting crime/anti-social behaviour

We would encourage you to report any crime or anti-social behaviour to the police. The amount of police presence allocated to us is based on the level of reported crime; low crime statistics have been quoted back to the Parish Council in the past when requesting action for ASB by the lake area, although we did successfully secure a patrol this summer. Aside from resource allocation, it also provides useful information to the police. You should call 101 to report crime that does not require an emergency response.

### Benches



We are in the process of planning the installation of new benches around the lakes in Wixams – in various styles and locations. Please feel free to contact me if you have a suitable location in mind and we'll see if we can include it.

### Mobile Security patrols



You will probably have seen the mobile security patrols around Wixams. We are currently trialling the use of these patrols and will shortly be considering whether they provide value-for-money crime prevention and if they will continue.

### Village signs design competition



We were pleased to have received a high number of entrants for the competition to design the look of the new entrance signs to Wixams. We'll be choosing a winner shortly and presenting them with the prize of an iPad.

### Councillor vacancies

We are now up to 8 councillors, with a potential 3 joining in the next meeting. There are 15 roles in total, so we still have spaces! If you are interested in becoming a councillor then please email the Clerk; it's an extremely easy application process. Meetings are once a month and occur in the evening. No prior experience is required.

### Change in Clerk contact number

Please note that the phone number for the Clerk is now 07554443800.

### Next Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings will be on **16th September, 21st October and 18th November** 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')

Cont.

## Reported crime

### Crimes reported in Wixams

**Nov 2018** Pheasant Grove  
Assault without Injury  
**1 Jan 2019** Sexual  
**26 June 18:00** Brooklands Avenue  
Theft from shops  
**26 June 16:00** Brooklands Avenue  
Theft from shops  
**29 June 09:00-09:30** Robins Heath  
Criminal damage to a vehicle  
**5 July-08 July 13:00** Brooklands Avenue  
Theft  
**12 July 00:00** Kenneth Way  
Criminal damage  
**08 July 10:30-25 July 14:30**  
Harassment - without violence  
**02 Aug 18:55** Racially or religiously  
aggravated harassment, alarm or distress  
**09 Aug 01:00-08:30** Peacock Gardens  
Theft of conveyance  
**10 Aug 00:00** Having possession of a  
controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis  
**12 Aug 14:30** Racially or religiously  
aggravated fear or provocation of  
violence  
**12 Aug 14:35-14:42** Green Lane  
Assault without Injury  
**12 Aug 14:35-14:45** Green Lane  
Assault without Injury  
**12 Aug 10:00-14/08 18:00**  
Stalking  
**14 Aug 22:00** Swan Road  
Arson not endangering life

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.

### 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.

**SA Tutoring**  
**Maths, Business Studies and**  
**Biology to GCSE**  
**General Science Years 7 and 8**  
**£25 per hour**  
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## Opinion

### Wixams News - the future



Wixams News is produced by Wixams Neighbourhood Watch for the Wixams community - currently over 1200 houses.

In its present format 45 editions have been produced over the last four and half years. See [www.wixams.org.uk/wnw](http://www.wixams.org.uk/wnw)

However, the current work of editorial, advertising, layout, accounts and distribution cannot be sustained. This is especially the case with the building of many new homes in village 2,3,4 and 5.

If you are interested in contributing to the production of Wixams News and can work to deadlines, then please contact me on the email below.

Wixams News is viable financially as a voluntary operation and it helps to build the identity and cohesion of the Wixams community.

**Volunteer needed** to deliver 60 Wixams News once a month at the north end of Brooklands Avenue.

Page five and six of this edition has been edited by **Wixams Community Group**.

Thanks Alan



**Wixams News deadline - Friday 4th October** 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 October.

### Wixams Parish Council cont.

#### Grants

We have grant funding of £10,000 each year to fund local groups.

To apply for a grant you must be a 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.

#### Areas of ownership

With such a high level of development in Wixams it can be hard to follow the ownership of roads, streetlights, grasscutting areas and bins – be it developer or Borough Council – and residents have in the past asked us for information. You can now find on our website the information we hold on this (in the Documents section of our website you'll see a folder called Wixams Ownership). It's a work in progress and we are still reaching out to the Borough Council for more data. In all instances you can reach out to the Borough Council for maintenance issues and they will direct you.

Robbin Brough, Clerk to the Council  
Wixams Parish Council  
[wixamspc@gmail.com](mailto:wixamspc@gmail.com)  
Tel 07554443800

#### 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  
[wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk)  
Charlotte Day  
[lottie\\_day@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lottie_day@yahoo.co.uk)  
Tracey Flower  
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[janine.allibalogun1@gmail.com](mailto:janine.allibalogun1@gmail.com)  
Sam Mardel  
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Ashley Carr  
[Ash.carr30@gmail.com](mailto:Ash.carr30@gmail.com)



DAWNUNTILDUSK  
CHILDCARE



### Summer Term 2019

At the end of the summer term we said farewell to our very first cohort of Pre-School leavers. These children attended a special graduation ceremony where they were presented with a teddy bear as a small reminder of their time with us at Dawn Until Dusk. We wish all the children well as they start school in the Autumn term.

### Autumn Term 2019

#### All About Me!

We are starting the new term talking about ourselves and our families. We will be exploring our senses and trying new tastes and smells. We will also be creating family books to help the children talk about family members with their new friends.

Facebook: Dawn Til Dusk Lakeview Preschool

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

Call Pre-School on 07818036499



**Supporting those affected by crime in Bedfordshire** To access support contact the Signpost Hub Freephone: 0800 0282 887 (calls are free from landlines and mobiles)  
Email: [info@signpostforbedfordshire.com](mailto:info@signpostforbedfordshire.com)

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September  
2019  
1pm till 3pm  
Join Us for Tea, Coffee,  
Cakes Or A Scone



**Free Admission**

Lakeview Village Hall  
Brooklands Avenue  
Wixams

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



QUIZ NIGHT

Where: Lakeview Village Hall, Brooklands Avenue, Wixams

When: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (Doors open 7:15pm & Quiz Commences At 7:30pm) Event Finishes at 10:30pm

Teams: Maximum Teams Of 8 People

Tickets: £7.50 Per Person

Drinks: Tea & Coffee Provided, Bring Your Own Drinks (Including Alcohol)

Included: Pizza & Salad Is Included In The Ticket Price A Raffle Will Also Be Taking Place

Tickets Are Available From Lakeview Village Hall Or Buy Online Through Our Facebook Page



**ART** Wilstead & Wixams Community Art Group  
11am - 3pm **exhibition**  
Wilstead Village Hall **Saturday 5th October**  
Art Demonstrations throughout the Day

There will be Refreshments served throughout the exhibition and a Raffle, the proceeds of which will be donated to a local charity - The Primrose Unit Free Transport. Based at Bedford Hospital. In addition 10% from any art sold will be donated. Entry FREE

## EMPIRE CARS BEDFORD

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MK45 3BT

01234 741002 OR 07727 258633  
[WWW.EMPIRECARSBEDFORD.CO.UK](http://WWW.EMPIRECARSBEDFORD.CO.UK)



**Councillor GRAEME COOMBES**

Reporting to Wixams September 2019

The Borough Council is currently running a consultation on Bedford Town Centre. Bedford residents have frequently expressed concern about the current state of the town centre, both as a shopping centre and a place to visit. Whilst the town has a lot to offer, there are a number of issues that need to be addressed.

There is a serious need for new thinking, to address the ongoing drop in footfall and the closure of a number of significant retailers, including Marks & Spencer. The nature of our town centres is changing as more and more of us shop online, or at retail parks. To date there has been a woeful lack of urgency from the Council in addressing this issue in Bedford, with too much focus on the controversial Riverside North development and the installation of the new footbridge. However, Bedford Council has belatedly decided to address the issue, with the creation of a Cabinet position with specific responsibility for the town centre. In addition, the Council is currently running a public consultation, to get your thoughts and find out what would make you go into the town centre more often.

I would encourage residents to respond to the Council's consultation, to have your say on what you want to see for Bedford Town Centre. The survey is open until Friday 27 September 2019 and is available online on the Borough Council website: <https://forms.bedford.gov.uk/TCS/>

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)



We're sure most would agree that Wixams is a great place to live. However, as a new development it may lack social groups and opportunities that might exist in a more established community. It's this belief that led to the creation of the Wixams Community Group back in June. We have a simple goal in mind, we want to make Wixams an even better place to live!

We think the best way to do this is by setting up groups and projects which anyone in the community can take part in or benefit from. As you can see on these two pages, we've already made a huge start but we have plenty of plans still in the pipeline.

## How it works

The WCG has no formal membership, we rely on volunteers to help us run our groups and projects. Our committee does the work of planning the projects, applying for funding and advertising. If you want to take part in a group or project, all you have to do is turn up.

## Your ideas matter

The best people to know how to make life in Wixams better are the community itself. If you have an idea, please get in touch with us and we'll see if we can help out. This might be an idea you just want to propose, or it could be a project you want to plan and run yourself but need help with funding, advertising and asking for volunteers to help out.

## Together we're stronger

From time to time we're going to find issues in Wixams which can be more easily resolved by working together. If there's something you think could be improved, just talk to us and we'll see if we can resolve it together.

## Stay in touch

[community@wixams.org](mailto:community@wixams.org)  
[www.wixams.org/community-group](http://www.wixams.org/community-group)  
[facebook.com/groups/wixamscommunitygroup](https://facebook.com/groups/wixamscommunitygroup)



## Community Talks

To help people in the community to stay informed and learn new things, we are bringing a series of monthly talks to Wixams covering a wide range of topics.

We've already had talks on Dementia Awareness in August and Cyber Crime in September. We also have the following talks scheduled up for the next two months:

16th Oct - Do You Want to Build a Website?  
13th Nov - Mental Health First Aid

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



## Halloween Decorations Competition

This Halloween we'll be running a new competition to find the house with the scariest decorations in Wixams. The winning house will be awarded a prize worth around £100!

You don't need to do anything to enter, just decorate the front of your house and our judges will make their way around the whole village on All Hallows' Eve to see which puts the most shivers down their spines!



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

## Wixams Gardening Group

Judging by the beautiful flowers we've seen this summer, Wixams has its fair share of green fingered residents. We've established the Wixams Gardening Group to bring together those gardeners who want to meet like minded people and to use their talents to benefit the community.

You might have seen the great weeding work some of our volunteers have been doing around Budgens and the Village Hall in recent weeks. As you can see below, we have big plans ahead! Check out the page at the bottom if you'd like to get involved.

## Spring Bulb Planting

Later in the year we're going to be inviting all residents, especially those with children, to come along and help us plant some spring bulbs in some of the areas we have been weeding. We think it'll be a real pleasure for them next year when they can see their own bulbs in bloom.

## Community Garden

The lakes of Wixams are part of its beauty and we'd like to build a space from which we can all enjoy the views and be closer to nature. We have big plans for the community garden including picnic benches overlooking the lake and raised flower beds which we want to build from old pallets!

It's early days but our flagship project is going to take a lot of work to get off the ground so we really need more volunteers to join our group.

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







## 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. The group is aimed at all ages and abilities and 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 new 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

**www.wixams.org/wixams-walkers**



## Wixams Good Neighbour Group

If you need help at home, in the garden, with shopping or occasional lifts, the Wixams Good Neighbour Group is here to help!

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who are ready to offer you assistance in a great 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.

### Call us on:

07929 656674

### Or email:

wixamsgoodneighbourgroup@gmail.com

<https://www.wixams.org/wgng>



## Herrings Green Activity Farm October Events

No booking required unless stated!

### Activity Farm & Birds of Prey Centre in Wilstead.



5th-6th

### Scarecrow & Apple Fest

Live music, ciders & family fun

12th-13th

### Harry Potter Weekend

A weekend of wizarding fun.

19th-27th

### Hocus Pocus

Herrings Green becomes the centre of Hocus Pocus for half-term.



Adults £8  
Children £6 for this weekend only!



### Halloween Owl Encounters

at 11am & 2pm - must be pre-booked

26th

### Halloween Evening with Owls

Must be pre-booked

01234 742362

Cotton End Road, Wilstead

MK45 3DT

birdsofpreycentre.co.uk

falconrycentre@btconnect.com



## New Pilates Classes

Small Classes and individual attention with Sally

All ability Pilates (1 hr)

Wednesday and Thursday 10.30 am Haynes

Over 60s Stretch & Tone (45 mins)

Tuesday 10.30 am Wixams

Seated Pilates (30 mins)

Tuesday 11.30 am Wixams

Contact sallyjmarsh@btinternet.com

Call 07765 240354



## Black Cricket Animal Services

Your Local Professional Animal Carer

[www.blackcricket.co.uk/pet-care-services](http://www.blackcricket.co.uk/pet-care-services)

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

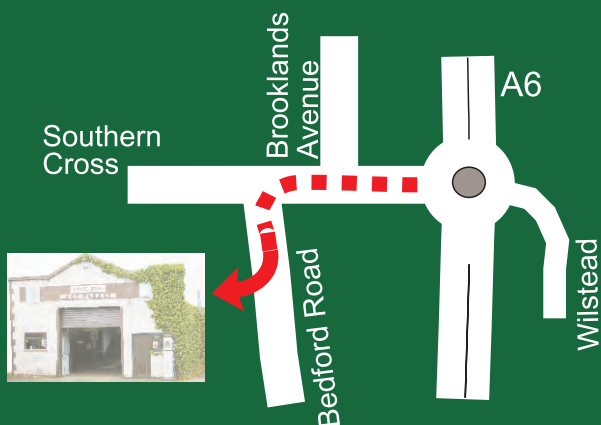
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**Also Diesels and Catalysts**  
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Mondays - Fridays 8.30am - 5.30pm  
 Saturdays 8.30am - 1pm (March-Sept)

**133 Bedford Road, West Wilstead**  
**(Wixams) Telephone: 01234 740252**



every 2nd & 4th Sunday  
 everyone is  
 Welcome to  
**Christ the Word Wixams**  
**church service**  
**10.30-11.30am**  
 Munson Room, Lakeview Village Hall  
[www.wixams.org.uk/christtheword](http://www.wixams.org.uk/christtheword)

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



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



### PERFORMING ARTS CLASS

THIS FUN 1 HOUR CLASS CONSISTS OF SINGING, DANCING AND DRAMA. STUDENTS WILL HAVE FUN, BUILD CONFIDENCE AND STRETCH THEIR IMAGINATION.

IF YOUR CHILD LOVES TO PERFORM, COME ALONG FOR A FREE TASTER SESSION. TO BOOK CALL 07749091885.

LAKEVIEW VILLAGE HALL, WIXAMS - SATURDAY'S 9.30-10.30AM.  
 BALLET CLASSES ALSO AVAILABLE - MONDAY'S 3.30PM & 4.00PM  
[WWW.SHINETHEATRESCHOOL.CO.UK](http://WWW.SHINETHEATRESCHOOL.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  
 Lunch Tues-Fri  
 11am-2pm  
 Dinner Mon-Fri  
 4.30pm-9pm  
 Open all day Saturday  
 12-9pm



Tel: 01234 743 942  
[www.lakesidewixams.co.uk](http://www.lakesidewixams.co.uk)

## Wilstead Pharmacy

- Free Walk In Flu Jab Service
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Opening Times: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm  
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Call 01234740609

Order Your Meds

Collect Or Request  
 Delivery To Home

☎: 01234 740 609

[www.wilsteadpharmacy.co.uk](http://www.wilsteadpharmacy.co.uk) | [wilsteadpharmacy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wilsteadpharmacy@hotmail.co.uk)  
 1 Crossroads, Wilstead, Bedford MK45 3H

## 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