

November 2021 | Issue 2 | Volume 2

WIXAMS NEWSLETTER

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

Wixams Newsletter Calendar



Support your local calendar. Only £5 inc delivery with the December newsletter.

Profits to be shared four ways between the three Wixams Schools and Royal British Legion.
Visit wixamsnewsletter.square.site (use the QR code above) or cash purchases at newsletter@wixams.org

WIXAMS EVENTS TEAM PRESENTS



SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021
12PM - 6PM

MORE INFORMATION (INCLUDING ROAD CLOSURES) ON PAGE 9

HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS COMPETITION WINNER!



READ MORE ON PAGE 3!

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..... 07821 744848
- Lakeview School 01234 741653
- Wixams Tree..... 01234 608960
- Wixams Academy..... 01234 608950
- Houghton Conquest Lower School 01234 740202
- Budgens..... 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 Station Update - October 2021

Bedford Borough Council took on the role of 'project sponsor' in 2018, to help advance this important project for the people of the Wixams and the wider Borough. Since then good progress has been made.

£27.4million of funding is now in place, and agreement has been secured from railway stakeholders for a two-platform station.

A formal decision on the 'preferred option' for the station's configuration will be taken shortly, after which the detailed design work will begin.

The station is currently planned to open in summer 2024.

Bedford Borough Council, 15 October 2021

Wixams Parish Council

Speed Indication Device (SID)

The parish council has purchased a fifth speed sign (SID) for Southern Cross – the installation of the column is due shortly and then we will get the sign in place. The intention was to have two more locations (Southern Cross/Harlequin Crescent) so the sign could be moved around. However, Barratt Homes have not given permission for these locations due to concern around liability should the columns be struck by a vehicle as it could require remedial works to the pavement. When the roads are adopted by the borough council we will look to include these locations – there is no date for this yet.

Green Lane and Retirement Village parking issues

The parish council responded with approval to the borough council's parking restriction proposals to resolve the issue of the bottleneck caused by cars parking on the S-bend on Green Lane. However, the borough were requested to extend this down to the junction with Harrier Leys. The proposal to restrict overnight parking on Bedford Road outside the retirement village was also approved, along with changes on Brooklands Avenue and Green Lane close to Lakeview School. We expect the borough council to now take these to public consultation.

Crossing attendant

The borough council are recruiting for two School Crossing Attendants to cover the below locations – one of these will be funded by the parish council. Please email the Clerk if you are interested and you will be put in touch with the borough council recruitment team.

Brooklands Avenue - AM 08:15 – 09:00 / PM 15:10 – 15:55 = 7 hours 30 min per week

Green Lane - AM 08:15 – 09:00 / PM 15:10 – 15:55 = 7 hours 30 min per week

You will be required to undertake 1 full day training, plus 6 training shifts (3 x AM and 3 x PM) before commencing in the role. You will also be required to attend 1 full day refresher training per annum.

Planning

Following an email from a resident who informed us of the lack of playground equipment for her son with disabilities, the parish council has been looking to ensure there is suitable equipment being considered for the playgrounds in Wixams. We have now responded to two playground planning applications from developers with a request to swap out items of equipment to make play more inclusive. We will also be approaching the borough council to offer funding towards equipment for the current playgrounds in Wixams.

Crime

You will most likely be aware of the vehicle crime in Wixams in October. The police changed their duties at short notice when the trend was noticed and, with the support of dog handlers and response vehicles, arrested two people who were charged and remanded. Thank you to the police for their efforts. We are pleased that our (fairly) new CCTV provided footage and number plates of vehicles of interest to the police.

New councillors

Welcome to Micah Matore and Bobby Madhur, who were both coopted to the council at the October meeting. We still have one councillor vacancy available so please get in touch if you're interested in joined the council.

Next Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings will be on 15th November and 20th December at 7.30pm. The council meetings are held at Wixams Retirement Village in the main hall – everyone is welcome to attend.

wixamspc@gmail.com
www.wixams-pc.gov.uk

Upcoming Events

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

Wixams Newsletter Meeting	Thursday 11th November, 7pm	Lakeview Village Hall
RBL Rememberance Service	Sunday 14th November, 10:30am	All Saints Church, Wilstead (more info on page 13)
Santas Grotto Experience	13th November - 24th December 2021	Frosts Garden Centre, Willington (Book your place via their website)
Wixams Parish Council Meeting	Monday 15th November, 7:30pm	Wixams Retirement Village
Wixams Vixens WI Meeting	Wednesday 17th November, 7:45pm	Lakeview Village Hall (more info on page 13)
Christmas Wreath Making Workshop	Wednesday 24th November, 10:30am - 1pm	The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine (Book your place via their website)
Pamper and Christmas Shopping Evening	Friday 26th November, 7pm – 10.30pm	The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine (Book your place via their website)
Wixams Winter Wonderland	Saturday 4th December, 12pm	Lakeview Village Hall (more info on page 9)
Herb Christmas Wreath Workshop	Sunday 5th December, 10am- 12.30pm Monday 13th December, 5.30pm -8pm	Herrings Green Farm, Wilstead (Book your place via their website)
Christmas Wreath Workshop	Saturday 27th November, 10am – 12pm Saturday 11th December, 10am – 12pm	Herrings Green Farm, Wilstead (Book your place via their website)
Christmas Evening with Owls	Saturday 11th December, 5pm – 8.00pm	Herrings Green Farm, Wilstead
Christmas Animal Antics Festive animal fun on the farm	11th - 23rd December	Herrings Green Farm, Wilstead
Kids Christmas Party	Friday 17th December, 5.30pm – 8pm	The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine (Book your place via their website)
Traditional Christmas Carol Service	Sunday 19th December, 10:30am - 11:30am	Lakeview Village Hall (see page 5)
Christmas Magic Show	Tuesday 28th December, 2pm – 3pm	The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine (Book your place via their website)

HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS COMPETITION

WWW.WIXAMS.ORG/HALLOWEEN-COMPETITION

So many people were out enjoying this year's Halloween in Wixams which was back in full swing thanks to our creative residents! With so many great entrants our judges had the tough job to choose the best decorated house out of the 36 spooky homes that signed up for our competition.



1ST PRIZE

We are pleased to present to you this year's winners, the Archer family from village 4. Their creepy decorations were fantastic and our judges felt they perfectly captured the spirit of Halloween. A hamper worth £100, kindly donated by Budgens, has been delivered to our winners and we hope they enjoy all the goodies. Congratulations!



Thanks to the Wixams Parish Council, who donated a £50 John Lewis gift card, we were able to also award this great home on Silverstream as the runners-up this year. We think this is great as there were so many fantastic decorations and we were able to make another family very happy. Congratulations for the great contribution to the competition, very impressive!

2ND PRIZE



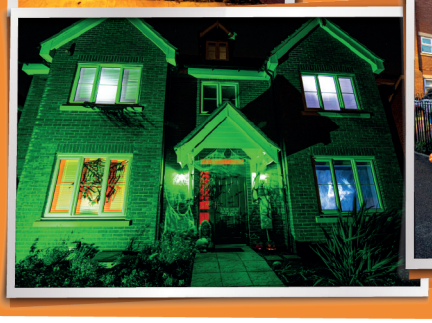
We hope you enjoy this selection of inspirational Halloween houses from the competition in 2021, and make sure to visit our page above for even more photos, taken by the incredibly talented Asan from Tu plus Tu Photography.



















BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

WIXAMS EVENTS TEAM

WITH THANKS TO:

BUDGENS WIXAMS

TU PLUS TU PHOTOGRAPHY
TUANDTU.COM

WIXAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Crime Stats

- 01/09/21 - Criminal damage to a vechicle - Swift Way
- 01/09/21 - Assault without injury - Roe Deer Place
- 02/09/21 - Assault without injury - Piper Lane
- 06/09/21 - Other theft - Bittern Lane
- 08/09/21 - Arson not endangering life - Zander Way
- 09/09/21 - Assault without injury - Bluewater Quay
- 09/09/21 - Sexual
- 11/09/21 - Other criminal damage - Dove Lane
- 18/09/21 - Sexual
- 24/09/21 - Theft from a motor vehicle - Warbler Grove
- 28/09/21 - Assault without injury - Mink Meadow

To report online non-emergency crimes, incidents or give the police information, go to ***www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report***
See also ***www.police.uk***
You can webchat direct with someone in the Bedfordshire Police control room by clicking the green icon on their website. If you have something to tell us that's not urgent this leaves the phone lines for emergencies.



Residents Join together to fight crime

Wixams residents met in Lakeview Village Hall on Monday 18th October and agreed to:

1. Set up a Wixams Street Watch group
2. Invite a Street Watch speaker from Beds Police
3. Volunteer to join Street Watch community patrols
4. Set up a network of Wixams street contacts linked using Whatsap to respond quickly to crime.

There was a lot of energy, enthusiasm and desire to keep our community a happy place. Your village needs you! Will you join us? See notices in Wixams Community Group on facebook and contact us.

Recent vehicle thefts and car break-ins

Bedfordshire Police is aware of and looking into a number of reports of thefts of motor vehicles, theft from motor vehicles and vehicle interference that have occurred in Wixams village during the week commencing 4 October.

We have briefed out to officers the information and intelligence that has been submitted by local residents via social media and recorded crimes in order to identify those involved and endeavour to recover any items taken.

Police have carried out both high visibility and covert patrols to offer reassurance to residents that this is being taken seriously and that this type of highly impactive crime is not tolerated in Bedfordshire.

Vehicle crime has decreased by 33 per cent across Bedford Borough from the start of January 2021 to 17 October, when compared to the same time period in 2020.

Officers have shared guidance on improving vehicle security and helping to keep your property safe:

- Ensure vehicles are locked and secure - even if they are only being left for a few moments
- Remove all items / tools from vehicles overnight
- If your vehicle has a tracking device, ensure this is activated as soon as the vehicle is purchased
- Park your vehicle in garages or secure car ports if available
- Park under street lighting
- Consider parking vehicles close to walls or reversing as close to garage doors to prevent vehicles from being entered or tampered with
- Consider purchasing CCTV for your property, or a camera-enabled doorbell.

This is not an exhaustive list and is simply offered as suggestions to help improve vehicle security.

All incidents should reported to Bedfordshire Police. Even if you don't believe an offence has occurred, all suspicious incidents can still be reported as your report might hold key information to help an investigation.

The below website will take you to Bedfordshire Police's online reporting tool -

www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report#1757510c

You can also use 101 and 999 to report incidents.

If there are any concerns around reporting to the police, then Crimestoppers are available to take anonymous reports via

www.crimestoppers-uk.org or 0800 555 111.

As posted on our Facebook Social Media page, there were two persons arrested and their vehicle seized in the early hours of Tuesday morning. As a result of that investigation, they have been charged with a number of vehicles offences and have been remanded pending a future court date.

Sgt John Killick, 5892





All are welcome to our
Traditional Christmas Carol Service
Sunday 19th December 10.30-11.30am
in Lakeview Village Hall, Wixams
Followed by mince pies, tea and coffee.
www.christthewordwixams.org.uk
Christ the Word Wixams

ART & PASSION
SHOP TIMES:
MONDAY: 07:00~17:00
TUESDAY: 07:00~12:00
THURSDAY: 07:00~17:00
FRIDAY: 07:00~19:00
SATURDAY: 07:00~19:00
SUNDAY: 07:00~19:00
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Councillor Graeme Coombes

Graeme is the Wilshamstead Borough Councillor. Reporting to Wixams (October 2021)

Last month, I was extremely privileged to be invited to Wixams Academy by a number of the students. As part of their studies, they wanted to ask me questions about my role as a local Councillor and how it helps the community.

I'll admit to being slightly nervous as I walked to the school, and keen to ensure that the students saw Councillors as people that they could easily engage with, dealing with matters that also concerned them, not someone stuffy or remote and disconnected.

I need not have worried. The students were absolutely fantastic, their questions were well thought through, and the discussion covered everything from facilities for young people at Wixams, local fishing, Wixams Station, the traffic outside the Academy, and mental health and wellbeing. They also wanted to know what Councillors do, where we meet and what had I actually achieved in the role.

I came away feeling very positive and I hope that I was able to answer their questions fully and that they got the answers they were looking for. The students were a real credit to themselves, to their teachers and their school, and to their parents and carers.

Additionally, with regard to the Wixams Academy, I'm pleased to have recently received communication from the Academy Trust, informing me that the planned 6th Form will go ahead and is scheduled to open in September 2022. I know this has been a major issue of concern to parents and carers, as well as those students currently looking at options for their post-16 education. I look forward to seeing it opening on schedule next year.

Tel: 07815 302 318 Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes
E-mail: wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk

Health & Wellbeing

Self-Weighing Clinics





Wixams Buggy Walk

Meets every Thursday, 9.00am
Outside Lakeview Village Hall

Would you like to meet other parents and go on a buggy walk together?

Wixams Community Group are hosting a weekly buggy walk on Thursday mornings. If you are interested just turn up outside the village hall at 9.00am.

No booking or registration required.

The group are also looking for people to help run future walks. If you are interested please get in contact with the Wixams Community Group

YMCA | One YMCA

One YMCA supports people across Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire through a range of crucial services across multiple communities.
Across England and Wales, One YMCA operate as a federation with 101 local YMCAs that work to support young people in their communities. YMCAs share a common goal to create supportive, inclusive and energising communities where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.
One YMCA work with all ages, faiths and backgrounds, as part of a global network of 14,000 YMCAs, celebrating 175 years of life-changing work.

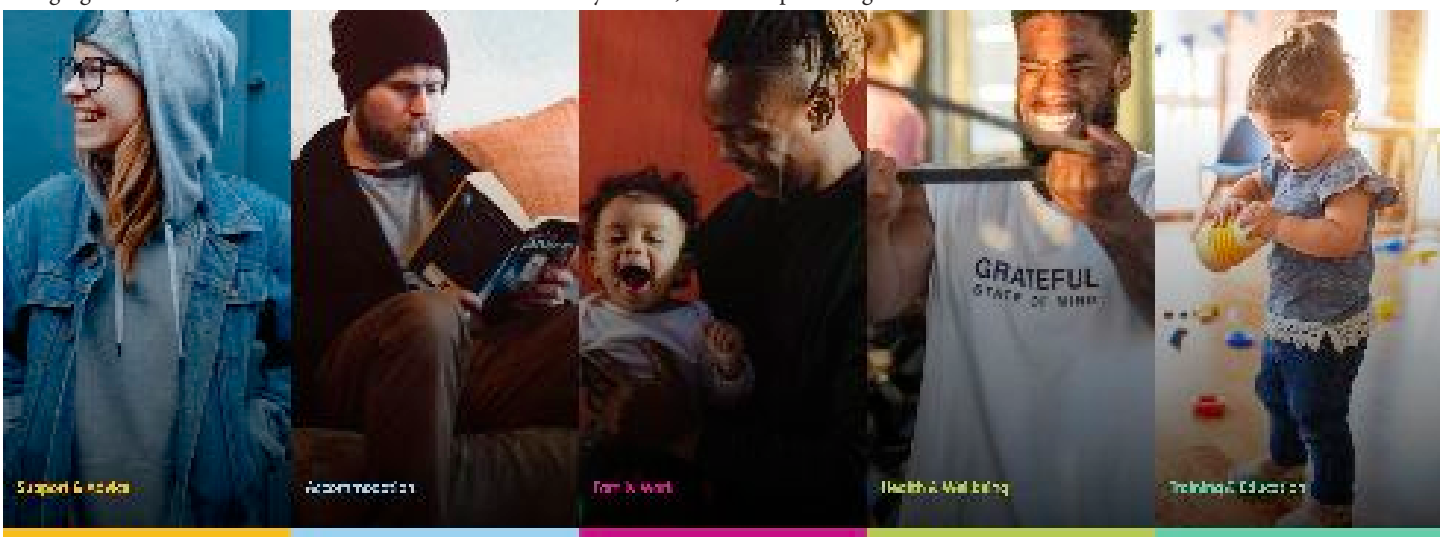
Services offered by One YMCA include:

Support and Advice
Includes Youth Work, Chaplaincy and Therapeutic & Specialist Services

Accommodation
One YMCA runs 4 hostels and provide supported living facilities

Family Work - Early Childhood Partnership (Bedford)
Early Childhood Partnership (Bedford) offer support from Children's Centres and community venues, as well as providing an outreach service that allows us to meet with families in their homes. Early Childhood Partnership work across three key areas: Perinatal Services, Children's Activities and Parenting Support. The service is used by expectant parents, carers and families with children up to five years old.

Training & Education
One YMCA offer services in 3 nurseries located in Bedford. The former Families First Bedfordshire nurseries are located in Goldington, Queens Park and Wootton.



One YMCA https://oneymca.org https://facebook.com/OneYMCA/
Early Childhood Partnership https://ecpbedford.org/ https://facebook.com/bedfordcc

Lakeview Village Hall Activities

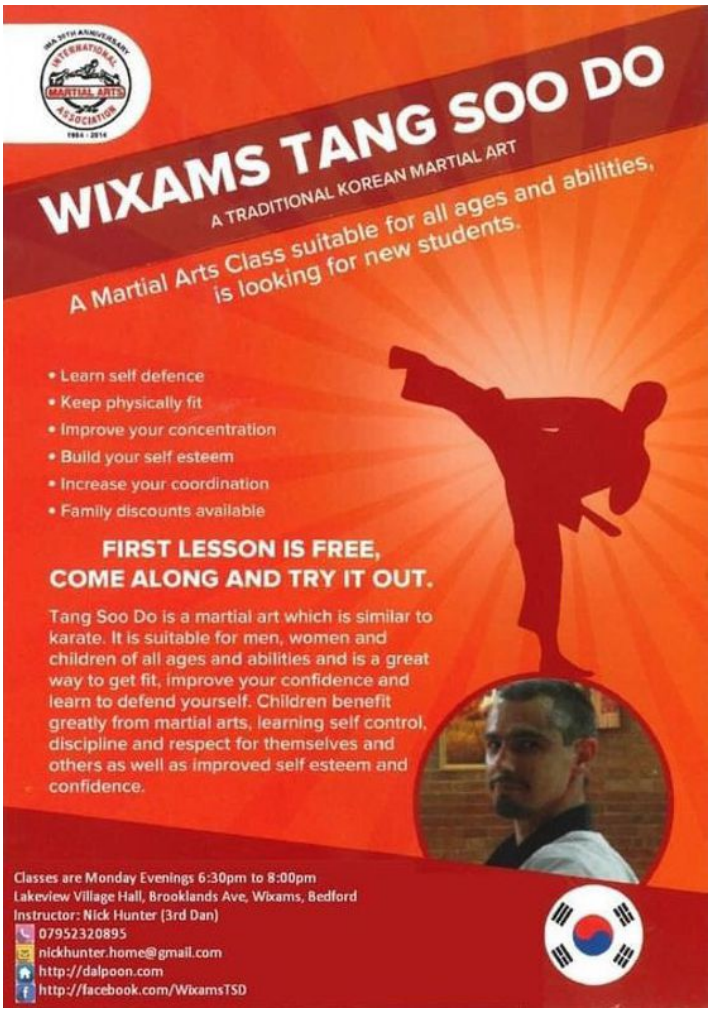
The groups advertised below are correct at the time of publishing.

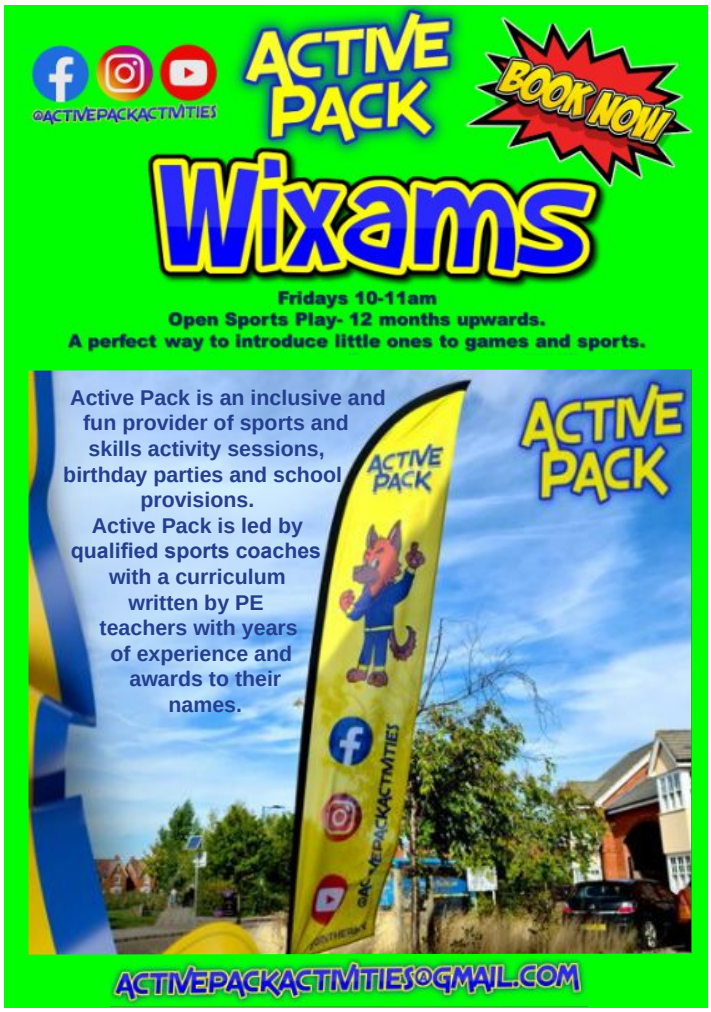
Lakeview Village Hall

Some groups run term time only. Please contact the group directly for their class running times. The groups will have their own restrictions in place to ensure the safety of their members, including maximum number of attendees permitted. If you wish to book on the groups below or have any queries, contact the group directly on the numbers provided below.



Day	Time	Group	Room	Contact	Website/Facebook
Monday	18:30 - 20:00	Wixams Tang Soo Do	Lakeview	Nick	Facebook: www.facebook.com/WixamsTSD
	20:00 - 21:00	Go box fitness	Lakeview	07727113285	Facebook: www.facebook.com/goboxfit Email: goboxfit1@gmail.com
Tuesday	09:30 - 17:30	Seasons Art Class (2 sessions)	Swan	01234300725	Facebook: www.facebook.com/theseasonsart Website: www.theseasonsartclass.com
	17:00 & 18:30	Slimming World	Lakeview	Holly - 07968719951	Website: www.slimmingworld.co.uk/group/558255
	18:30 - 19:30	Yoga	Munson	07825561569	Website: www.livyoga.co.uk
	18:30 - 19:30	Christ the Word Ignite Club for yrs 6, 7, 8 and 9	Swan	Alan - 07879716958	Facebook: facebook.com/christthewordwixams Website: www.christthewordwixams.org.uk
Wednesday	09:45 - 13:05	Baby Sensory Different groups running	Lakeview	Samantha - 07538502587	Facebook: www.facebook.com/babysensorybeds Website: https://www.babysensory.com/beds Email: beds@babysensory.co.uk
	17:45 - 20:00	Irish Dancing Primary, Intermediate & Open classes	Lakeview	Katie	Email: stuartirishdance@gmail.com Facebook:www.facebook.com/stuartirishdancebedford
	17:00 - 18:00	Rainbows	Munson	TBC	
	18:15 - 19:30	Brownies	Munson	TBC	
	20:00 - 21:00	Go box fitness	Lakeview	07727113285	Facebook: www.facebook.com/goboxfit Email: goboxfit1@gmail.com
Thursday	09:45 - 14:00	Toddler Sensory Different groups running	Lakeview	Samantha - 07538 502587	Facebook: www.facebook.com/toddlersensebeds Website: https://www.toddlersense.com/bedfordshire Email: beds@toddlersense.co.uk
	18:15 - 19:00	Go box fitness for kids	Lakeview	07727113285	Facebook: www.facebook.com/goboxfit Email: goboxfit1@gmail.com
Friday	10:00 - 11:00	Active Pack Wixams	Lakeview	Andy	Facebook: www.facebook.com/activepackactivities/ Email: activepackactivities@gmail.com
	18:00 - 20:00	Scouts	Lakeview		Facebook: www.facebook.com/1stwixamscouting Website: http://Www.1stwixamsscouts.org.uk
Saturday	09:00 - 10:15	Shine Dance Drama, Dance & Singing	Munson	Louisa Hodges - 07749091885	Facebook: www.facebook.com/Shine-Theatre-School Website: www.shinetheatreschool.co.uk
	09:30 - 11:30	Irish Dancing Beginners classes for all ages	Lakeview	Katie	Email: stuartirishdance@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/stuartirishdancebedford
Sunday	08:30 - 09:30	Go box fitness	Lakeview	07727113285	Facebook: www.facebook.com/goboxfit Email: goboxfit1@gmail.com
	10:30 - 11:30	Christ the Word Church Services	Lakeview	Alan - 07879716958	Facebook: facebook.com/christthewordwixams Website: www.christthewordwixams.org.uk
	15:00 - 16:00	Christ the Word Sunday Club For children aged 4-10 years	Munson	Alan - 07879716958	Facebook: facebook.com/christthewordwixams Website: www.christthewordwixams.org.uk







The Higgins Centre

The Higgins Bedford is situated just near the Embankment and is within short walking distance of Bedford Town Centre.

The Higgins Bedford unites on one site three previous cultural venues: Cecil Higgins Art Gallery, Bedford Museum and Bedford Gallery. The buildings themselves date back 200 years and have their own rich history of occupation and use, even before they became used for their more recent cultural past.
The art gallery and museum inhabit a complex set of historic buildings. As well as the Higgins family home and the Higgins Brewery buildings, there is the Hexagonal Gallery which is the oldest part of the site, and Bedford Gallery, a Grade II listed building.

The Hexagonal Gallery was built around 1804 upon the foundations of earthworks from Bedford Castle. Initially the building was a militia depot, and later it became St. Agnes' Elementary School. The Higgins family used the buildings as kitchen space. Since 1949 it has been used as a gallery, an office and an educational activity space. The Hexagon has now been developed as a stunning gallery to house the William Burges collection.

The Higgins Bedford is Bedford's art gallery and museum. It's a place to explore collections of fine & decorative arts, world-class watercolours, local stories and find out about great Bedfordians. Changing exhibitions mean there is always something new to see. There is lots to do for all the family.
The Higgins Bedford celebrates the inspiring stories of local people, encourages a sense of place for Bedford, and showcases outstanding collections.
Situated within walking distance of Bedford Town Centre and close to the Embankment this venue offers a variety of activities and exhibitions suitable for varying age ranges.

For more information on all the exhibitions and activities on at The Higgins Bedford, visit the website www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk



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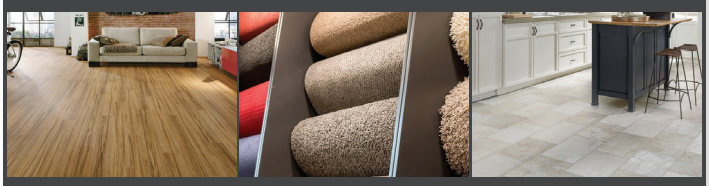
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WIXAMS EVENTS TEAM PRESENTS

WIXAMS WONDERLAND



SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021
12PM - 6PM

LAKEVIEW VILLAGE HALL,
BROOKLANDS AVE,
WIXAMS, MK42 6AB

PLEASE ADHERE TO LOCAL COVID RESTRICTIONS AND ADVICE

FUN FAIR RIDES • BRASS BAND
SINGERS • CRAFT STALLS
LOADS OF SWEET TREATS • RAFFLE
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT
LIGHT SWITCH ON AT 5PM
LICENCED BAR • AND LOADS MORE

FIND US ON FACEBOOK
Wixams Events Group

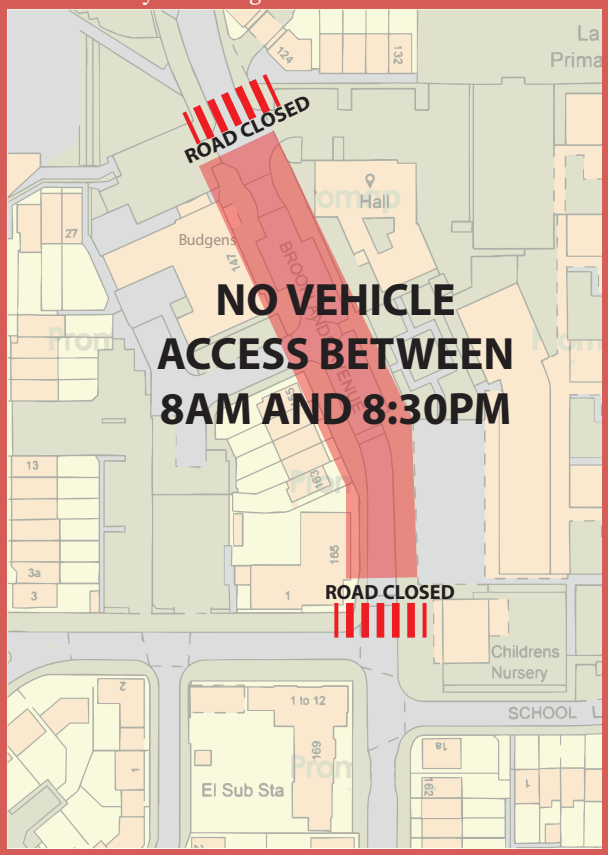
INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR COMMITEE, OR HELPING AT AN EVENT? CONTACT US AT
wixamsevents@gmail.com

THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY
DAVID WILSON HOMES
WHERE QUALITY LIVES
BARRATT HOMES

TREE INSTALLED BY
WIXAMS PARISH COUNCIL

THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY
BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Please keep traffic in Wixams to a minimum by travelling on foot to the event.



Please plan an alternative vehicle route via Green Lane and Bedford Road, or the A6. All pedestrian routes are still open.

Volunteer and Employment Opportunities

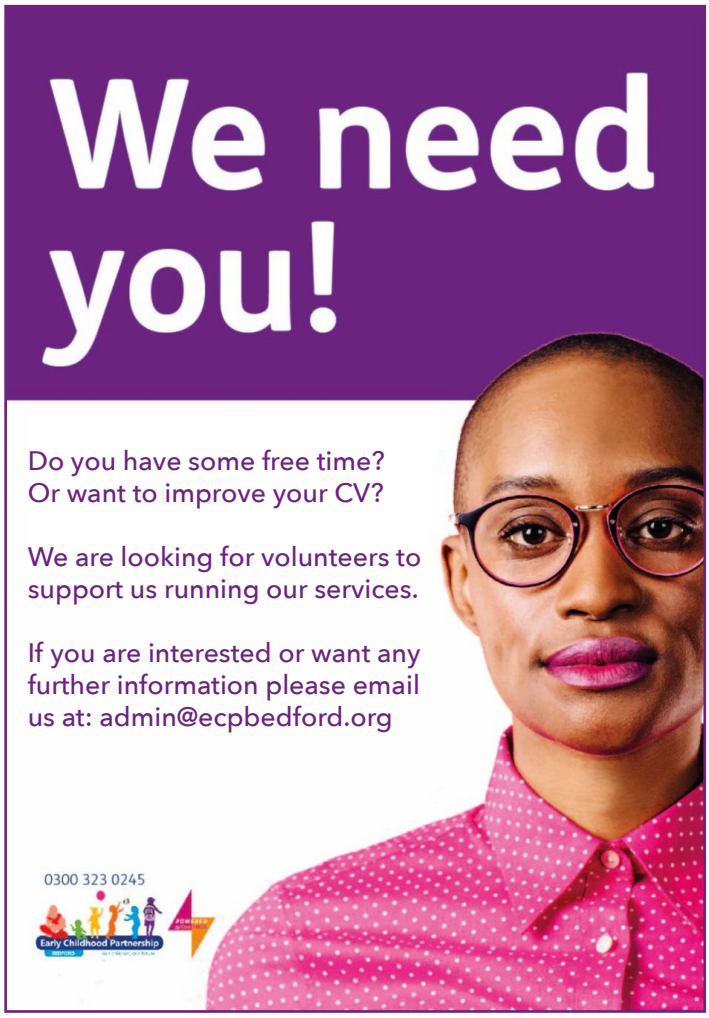


Do you have a position to fill whether it be a paid or volunteer role?

Would you like to widen your advertising to the local community of Wixams, delivering to approx. 2500 houses.

The team at Wixams Newsletter are keen to support local employment .

Get in contact to find out how we can support your Recruitment campaign.
Email: advertising@wixams.org



HOMEBASE
FEELS *good* TO BE HOME

Team Leader

Permanent Contract

Job reference:
HJ393005LutTL
Location:
Luton, Bedfordshire

At Homebase, we keep the customer at the heart of everything that we do.

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If you think this sounds like you – then keep reading because we're recruiting now!

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What we're looking for:

Because your team members will see you as the expert, it's essential that for this role you have some experience within retail or within a customer facing industry.

While some experience is important, your team are going to be looking to you for guidance on how to best serve our customers, having the right attitude is our most important requirement. This means always demonstrating your passion and enthusiasm for home and garden and being knowledgeable about our products and stock.

If you think you've got what it takes and would like to join our team as a Team Leader, visit https://homebase.careers/job-details/?jobID=205218 and click 'Apply' now.

What can we offer you in return?

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- Bupa Anytime Healthline – Access to 24/7 helpline for advice and information on any health concerns (for our UK based team members).
- Hapi to be Home –Through our Hapi to be home portal, you can save money on everything from your weekly food shop to a fun night out at the cinema, helping you to save those extra pennies for that something special.



WRV Choir



Way back in 2019, shortly after our Village opened its doors to residents, a choir was formed where anyone with a desire to sing was invited.
For many months we rehearsed Acapella, having no accompanist to help us. In December of that year we sang at the Civic Service held at Elstow Abbey Church, and also at our own Craft Fair held in our Village.
In 2020 we had to stop our activities due to the pandemic. In September 2021 we resumed our rehearsals much to the delight of the residents whose ages range from 60 to over 90 with old and new faces joining us. They are a very loyal bunch of people and enjoy the singing and camaraderie within the choir. Each member brings their own experience (sometimes, wide ranging) of singing and sees the therapeutic benefit both mentally and physically of belonging to this group. Most of all, though, we have fun making music under our conductor Phill and Linda his assistant.
We now have a wonderful accompanist, Ben, who brings a new dimension to the group. We have a very diverse repertoire which appeals both to the choir and our wider audience. We are looking forward to performing here in the Retirement Village during December with our Christmas programme.



Councillor Tim Hill's Report

Tim is currently the Borough Councillor for Elstow, Stewartby, The Wixams Retirement Village and Kempston Hardwick

Link Road from A6 to Fisherwood Road – Officers have provided an update as follows: "feasibility work is ongoing and potential land acquisition and land assembly is being explored with relevant third parties to understand the viability of the scheme. In tandem to this potential funding sources are being determined."

Bus Shelter outside Retirement Village – I am chasing the contractor's cost estimate.

Retirement Village Sign Rockery – I am chasing Highways permission for this to happen.

School Transportation – I am still working with Greenlakes Rise residents whose children should qualify for Free School Transport to Wixams Academy, but Borough Officers have so far refused to provide Free School Transport. It isn't safe for the pupils to walk to Marston Vale Middle and there is currently no pedestrian access to Wixams Academy!

Wixams and Planning – Following the Community Group's Question at a Full Council, Cllr Henry Vann the Portfolio Holder for Town Centres & Planning, hosted an in-person meeting to discuss Planning issues in the Council Chamber at Borough Hall at 4.30pm on 22nd September. The meeting seemed to go well with some constructive issues discussed and logged for action, mainly with Henry.

G-Park working very noisy on a Sunday – I have asked officers to enforce Planning Condition 16 which prohibits works on a Sunday that are audible beyond the site boundary.

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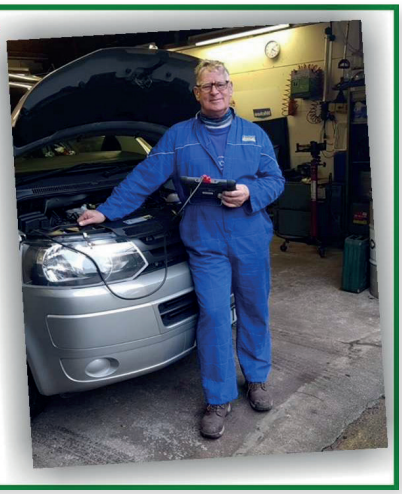
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Gardening Tips for November

by Marion Colledge



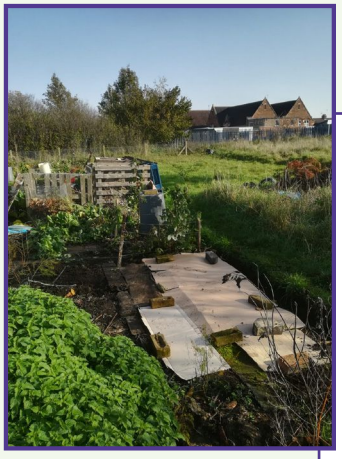
Marion is a member of Garden Organic, and Biddenham Gardeners Association. and uses the Facebook plant swap site Abundance Bedford. She tweets gardening/nature @Marioncolledge

Raised beds, containers, trugs, little spaces

Keep planting salads! Watch out for slugs! If you leave dough in the bottom of half a plastic drinks bottle in the ground, cover the dough with some water, the slugs may try to reach the dough and hopefully drown themselves in the water. The more expensive option is to use copper tape all the way round the trug as a barrier.

On the Allotment

Plant onions and garlic 6 inches apart, two inches below soil. If you are on clay soil, you need to mix in two buckets of well-rotted horse manure or compost for every square metre to avoid members of the garlic and onion family rotting. They will be ready in spring. Garlic could also be put in your raised bed or trug.



Now is the time to collect leaves to make compost. Softer leaves like cherry, lime and silver birch are like gold dust and will rot and be usable in a few months. If you only have access to plane or sycamore leaves, they'll take a couple of years to rot. Leaves need air to help them rot so they should not be put in the compost bin. If you have only a few, they could be kept in a sack with pinprick holes in. For larger quantities, a leaf cage one meter by one meter by one meter can be made with a roll of wire netting and a few bamboo canes. When the leaves have rotted, the heap will go down from one meter to about twenty centimetres. The leafmould is ready to pile on the soil. It's a good idea to do it at this time of year round perennial apple tree roots and on unused allotment soil, unless you are going to cover it up with black fabric or cardboard.



Larger Gardens

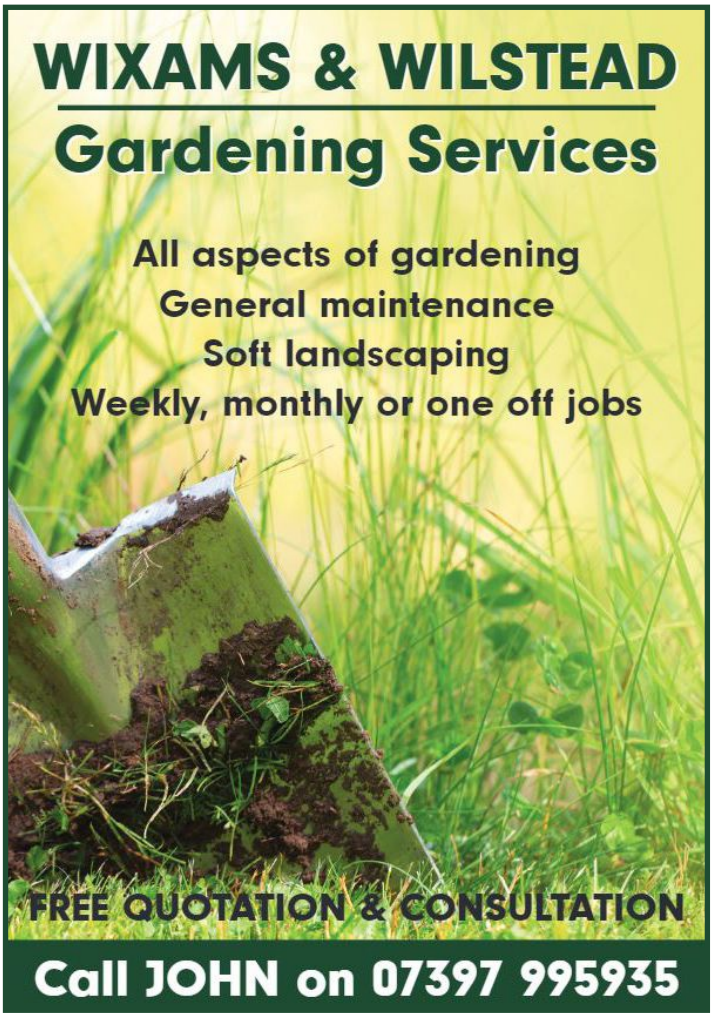
All vines can be pruned, after the fruit has finished producing and buddleia heads and roses can be chopped off behind the flowering stems to the next little orangey pink bud. Your yellow forsythia, if you didn't do it in the spring after flowering, can have this year's long stems pruned back to last year's growth, which will produce next spring's flowers.

Autumn lawn care – If you raked your lawn last month, you can now use a hollow tine on any compacted bits. If you didn't rake out dead grass, there's still time to do it now.



If there's enough space to have a pile of sticks in a corner of the garden, this will make a good hiding place for toads to overwinter safely who eat small slugs and snails and for black stag beetles.

Enjoy the garden! There are lots of scents of damp earth and rotting leaves of many hues of browns and yellows at this time of year, all part of the round of life.





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Remembrance Sunday 2021
Sunday 14th November 2021
10.30am
All Saints Church, Wilstead

Royal British Legion
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Remembrance Sunday is a national service held to remember all service men and women who have served and sacrificed their lives in wars and other military conflicts since World Ward One.

The service will take place at All Saints Church, Wilstead and whilst the number of people permitted inside the church will be limited the service will also take place outside.

To show your support for the Royal British Legion and the annual service of remembrance the annual poppy appeal will take place in Wixams later in October. Details are being finalised so for more information visit the facebook page or www.wixams.org

For more information and updates visit
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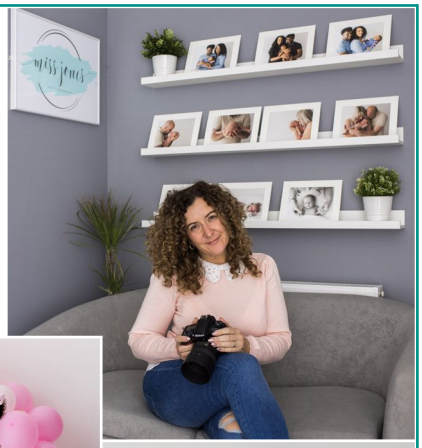
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Meet your local...Photographer



1) What does Miss Jones Photography specialise in?
I specialise in capturing moments that become memories. I am very much a children's, family, and wedding photographer.

2) How long have you been in the industry?
Around 14 years ago, I fell into photography. I borrowed my Dad's digital SLR camera to play around with. He then called me one day so excited and said "Michelle, I've got you a wedding booking" He was so happy with himself whilst I was having a panic attack that I couldn't do it. I actually booked a professional photographer to be my assistant as I was so nervous. The couple loved their photos and it progressed from there.

3) What do you love most about your job?
I love the happiness of a wedding day. I love that families come back year in year out, and I love being my own boss so I can fit it in around my family, most of the time!



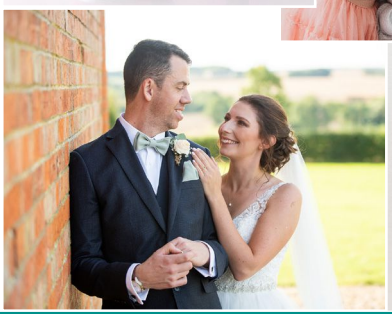
4) What has been your most creative project
My most creative project has to be a wedding day. Every wedding is unique with the venue, timings, all the little details. I believe it's the people that make a wedding day.

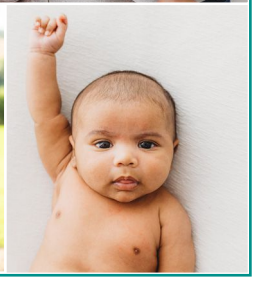
5) What has been your most challenging project?
Photographing funerals by far is my most challenging project. I remember photographing my first funeral some years ago, I was shaking so much. Some people think it's odd having a photographer at a funeral but I have come to understand a funeral can be a blur for those mourning and it is a memory to quietly look back on. I photograph various funerals each year.



6) What is your popular request / photoshoot?
Newborn photos and a one-year-old cake smash photoshoot.

7) How do people contact you for a quote?
The best way is to pick up the phone and call me on 07508362610 or send an email with your requirements to missjonesphotography@gmail.com





8) How long have you lived in Wixams?
I first moved here 20 years ago before Wixams was here! I then resettled back here 5 years ago.

9) What do you most like about Wixams
I love the number of parks and lakes we have here and the great community feels, people are always friendly when we are out and about.

10) What is your top tip for someone looking for a photographer?
Ask friends for recommendations and then check out the photographer's website, check you like the style of photography and know what you will be getting from your photographer. If you have any questions always ask before booking and book feeling excited for your photo session.

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Over the years we have been lucky enough to play in several tournaments including representing both our club and county to compete in competitions such as the Regional Futsal Finals and the ACES National Tournament on two occasions where we had the opportunity to play against the league winners from the top divisions across the country.



During the 2019/2020 season the Diamonds managed to go 19 games unbeaten and were on their way to a league cup semi final and a first league title when the season was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19 with just two games left to play. This was devastating for the team but we are proud to say that that we were able to put it behind us and go on to win the Bedfordshire FA Division one under 14's league title again officially last season in what was a very competitive division.



Our aim is to continue playing and improving together as we enter into under 16's and then adults football and we'd like to take the opportunity to thank the players, the parents and the club for their dedication and commitment to this great football team.



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YOUTH CORNER by Ellie

Hello Youth of Wixams! In case you haven't realised, this month is Halloween! In this edition, I'm taking over the Recipe Corner and will be teaching you how to make pumpkin-shaped sugar cookies to celebrate. Happy Halloween!

Pumpkin Sugar Cookies

226g unsalted butter
200g granulated sugar
1tsp vanilla extract
1/2tsp almond extract
1 egg
2tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
360g plain flour

Preheat the oven to 180°C. In your mixing bowl, cream the butter and sugar together for at least 3-4 minutes. Beat in both the vanilla extract and the almond extract into the mix. In a different bowl, mix the baking powder and salt to the flour and slowly stir into the wet ingredients. Wet your hands and finish off kneading the dough by hand. Next, roll the dough out flat and cut out the cookies with a pumpkin-shaped cookie cutter. Finally, place in the oven to bake for 6-8 minutes, or until a light golden-brown around the edges.

Tip - Let a grown up prepare the oven and the freshly-bake cookies so you don't get hurt.

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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Deadline for submissions for next issue:
19th November 2021

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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