

Wixams News

An aerial, stylized illustration of a theme park. In the center, there's a large blue pool with a yellow roller coaster track looping around it. To the left, another roller coaster track is visible. The park is surrounded by various buildings, including a large one with a red roof and another with a blue roof. There are green trees and pathways throughout the park. The background shows a dark, hilly landscape.

May 2025

Our independent news hub, championing our community | wixams.news

FREE

EXCITING CHANGES TO WIXAMS NEWS

THE OLD WIXAMS NEWSLETTER HAS EVOLVED INTO SOMETHING NEW

SKATE PARK SUCCESS

OVER 100 KIDS HAD FUN IN A TEMPORARY SKATE PARK IN WIXAMS OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

WIXAMS RUNNERS 5K EVENT

RECENT COMMUNITY 5K AND KIDS RUN, AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

UNIVERSAL GETS THE GO-AHEAD

EUROPE'S LARGEST THEME PARK RECEIVES THE GO-AHEAD TO BE BUILT NEXT DOOR TO WIXAMS. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WIXAMS TRAIN STATION?

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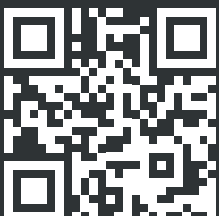
We'd love to share your local news stories, via our print and upcoming website. We also have spaces for regular columns. Have a conversation with us – we'd love for you to get involved!

Submission deadline for next edition 22nd May

Wixams News is produced and delivered all by volunteers. We'll deliver each edition of the more than 2800 copies as quickly as possible each month.

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58a York Street, Bedford, MK40 3RL
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www.wixams.news



Welcome

EXCITING CHANGES AHEAD! OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER EVOLVES FOR YOU

In last month's edition we briefly explained that we are starting to evolve the newsletter into something more. This evolution is designed to serve and support the community more by making up to date news, general interest articles and community updates accessible to all on a regular basis.

As well as the monthly printed newsletter we will also have an online presence at www.wixams.news – Our website will allow us to publish and share real time news, information and articles as they hit us. We will also have more of a dedicated presence on social media and you will soon see Wixams News channels appear on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok

Your printed newsletter has been going since 2020 and it's also time that this had a design make over, which you will experience in the edition you are reading right now.

OUR VISION AND VALUES SHOW OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

FRESH DESIGN, STRONGER VALUES

The overall design and useability is very important to us. It's important for us to be able to have a design that simplifies production every month, however, it is just as important to ensure the design – look and feel of the newsletter is attractive and engaging. This is also a critical factor when creating and publishing content. Our mission, as part of this evolution, is to ensure content is balanced, accurate, attractive, informative, engaging and enjoyable to readers.

UPDATED DESIGN

- Cleaner, more engaging layout.
- Improved readability and accessibility.
- More visuals, infographics, and community highlights.

CORE VALUES

As a committee of volunteers we have decided to think about what our core values should be moving forward. This will help guide the existing members

and anyone that wishes to join in terms of attitude and outlook. Our core values will be at the heart of everything we do.

- **Inform:** Deliver news and updates relevant to our Wixams community, celebrate community achievements, and provide thorough coverage of local events.
- **Champion:** Promote a positive community spirit, supporting the wellbeing and vibrancy of Wixams for all its residents.
- **Include:** Foster strong collaboration and partnership with local groups and residents, ensuring every voice is heard and welcome.
- **Trust:** Create and maintain a reputation as the reliable source for credible news, earning the community's trust through integrity and transparency.

EXPANDING BEYOND PRINT: DIGITAL GROWTH

MORE WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED: INTRODUCING OUR ONLINE HUB & SOCIAL MEDIA

New Website Launch: www.wixams.news (in development)

- More in-depth articles, content, event calendars, and resources covering a wide range of topics and subject matters.
- Real time information and updates from a variety of local resources.
- Archived newsletters for easy access.
- Interactive features (e.g., polls, feedback forms).
- Local Business listings

Social Media Channels:

- Facebook, Instagram, TikTok for real-time updates and interactions.
- Community discussions, event reminders, and behind-the-scenes content.
- Encouraging followers to engage and share their stories.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

BE PART OF THE EVOLUTION! GET INVOLVED WITH SOMETHING GREAT!

Feedback Welcome: Share thoughts on the new changes or simply let us know what sort of content you would like to see more of? What information is important to you?

Club & Group Admins/Leaders: I am looking to establish much stronger relationships with our local clubs and groups. This is to ensure that Wixams News is supporting you to the best of our abilities, sharing information and updates, promoting any events you may have planned or giving readers and insight into what you do best.

Community Champions / Special Mention: A great way to encourage and support a positive community spirit is to proudly shine a light on our local community champions. One thing we need right now in this world is more positivity and more happy, inspiring stories. So whether it's Roger our old street ranger who was known for his kindness to our beloved pooches, to Dan, a local resident who encouraged local kids to take up fishing as a way to stay out of trouble or the many residents who are doing something fantastic to support charities. If you have a feel good or inspiring story you would like to share then this is absolutely something we will be championing going forward.

Contribute Content: Submit local stories, events, recipes, photos. Maybe you are a business owner and would like the chance to create an article on useful hints, tips or advice based on your professional experience? Or maybe you love cooking and baking and have a few recipes up your sleeve.

We would welcome and love to publish content from the community, from all diverse backgrounds and cultures to champion a community spirit that represents all of us.

Follow & Share: Like/follow social media, stay up to date and spread the word. Visit our website at wixams.news to find links to follow us on Facebook, TikTok and Instagram.

Volunteer Opportunities: Help shape the newsletter's future. If you feel you can help us run the newsletter and be part of the committee then get in touch to find out more about what's involved.

Maybe you just want to submit regular information to be published that's absolutely fine, you don't have to be part of the committee to do this.

The newsletter is also distributed by an amazing team of volunteers, we always have new streets being established or require cover now and then for holidays or sickness. Whether it's a street of 5 houses or a few streets of 100 houses we are grateful for any time and support that you can give to help ensure the community receives their copy each month.

If you have enjoyed reading more about the future of Wixams News and have any comments, feedback or would like to get involved in any way then please email me at editor@wixams.news

Nick Edwards, Editor, Wixams News

In the next issue we will introduce you to the committee members.

SKATE PARK POP-UP SUCCESS



Friday 11 April saw Lakeview Village Hall come alive with the buzz of wheels as the first free skate park event rolled into Wixams. Organised between Wixams Parish Council, Bedford Borough Council and local charity Bedford Giving, the event was a resounding success, offering both fun and opportunity for the younger residents of Wixams during the Easter school holidays, and with glorious weather.

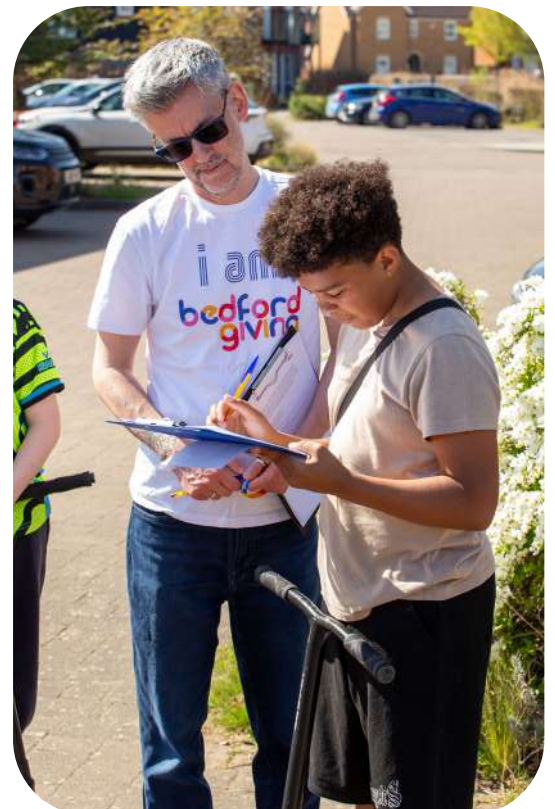
Thanks to grant funding from Bedford Giving, the temporary skate park was set up with nine elements, including a half-pipe, grind rail, and boxes of various heights to cater to beginners and seasoned riders alike. While most brought their own equipment on the day, scooters, skateboards, and BMX bikes were made available to ensure that

children and teens of all abilities could join in the fun and try using something different. Safety was a top priority, with helmets and pads also provided, and expert-led safety briefings before the marshalled sessions.

For Noah, a BMX rider (pictured), the event couldn't have come soon enough. *"I've been waiting for a long time for a skate park near home. The box was great!"* he said.

The event drew more than 60 kids from across Wixams, many of whom were trying a skate park for the first time.

Harley, a local scooter rider, was thrilled: *"The skate park is really good! I like how they came with lots of skateboards and safety gear."*



Harley wasn't the only one inspired. His friend Lenny shared a desire that was echoed by many attendees: *"I'd love to have a full-time skate park in Wixams, as I'd get out more. It's difficult to get to the other skate parks in Bedford from home."*

Even Wixams' new dedicated Police Officer, Abi Holt, got in on the fun, jumping on a scooter while her colleagues from Bedford Police preferred to watch on from the sidelines! *"Having joined the Wixams community fairly recently as the village's designated police officer, the skate park was a great way to meet families in the area,"* said Abi.

The skate park event was initiated in response to several key factors within the growing community, which still awaits the construction of its town centre. With many families expressing concerns about the lack of activities for kids and teens, events like these are both timely and necessary, not only for recreation but also as a constructive response to concerns about youth



behaviour in the area.

"It was brilliant seeing so many of our young people taking part in such a positive activity," said Councillor Sam Mardel, one of the event's organisers. *"This event shows a clear demand for sports and recreational facilities in Wixams. We're looking ahead to providing more opportunities like the free skate park again in the future, and more broadly, working hard to create more opportunities in our village."*

**bedford
giving**

Editorial and photography by Dan James.



"The skate park is really good! I like how they came with lots of skateboards and safety gear."

"I'd love to have a our own skate park in Wixams - I'd get out more as its difficult to get to the other skate parks in Bedford from home"



Exciting news for Wixams and the surrounding areas—Universal Studios has been given the green light to develop a brand-new theme park a stone's throw from our community! This major entertainment destination, **Universal Studios Destinations & Experiences UK**, is set to transform the region, bringing world-class attractions, thousands of jobs, and a significant boost to the local economy.

WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

- **Location:** The park will be built on a large site in Kempston Hardwick, between the Maston Vale Rail Line and Midlands Main Rail.
- **Timeline:** Construction is expected to take several years, with an estimated opening in the 2031, though as we know with major developments delays can be expected.
- **Attractions:** Universal's parks are known for immersive rides based on blockbuster films like Jurassic World, Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings. However it is important to note that no details of attractions have been released. There are a number of online sources that are predicting which attractions will be built based on the current artists impression of the park but nothing has been confirmed and it may be a while before we see this information.

HOW THIS COULD AFFECT RESIDENTS

As with any major development, there will be both opportunities and challenges for the local community:

Economic Growth & Jobs – The park will create an estimated 20,000 jobs during construction, with an estimated 8,000 jobs being created once the park is operational. A predicted 80% of employees coming from the Bedford area. This would make Universal one of the largest employers in our region.

On a wider scale Universal expects to inject £50bn into the UK economy whilst it builds Europe's first Universal Theme Park bringing in wider investment into the UK.

Construction & Traffic – Over the next few years, there will likely be roadworks, increased heavy vehicle movement, and possible temporary disruptions. There will be new slip roads taking visitors directly into the park from the A421 and local roads will be improved to manage the increase in traffic. The council and developers will need to manage this carefully giving local residents advance notice of any disruption

Housing & Infrastructure – Demand for housing may

rise, potentially affecting property prices. New transport links (roads, rail, or bus services) could be introduced to handle visitor numbers. This announcement has now put a temporary stop on the Wixams Train Station development as the plans for Universal will rely on using this line. The proposal is to increase Wixams Station to four platforms. As soon as this has been approved we would expect construction on the station to continue.

I feel the increased frustration with some residents due to the years of delay, however there is more benefit to us as a community for the station to be built right first time to handle the increased capacity.

Community Engagement – Universal pride themselves on local engagement on forming local partnerships so we expect that residents will have opportunities to voice opinions on planning applications, traffic management, and environmental considerations.

WHAT'S NEXT?

More detailed plans are yet to be released and it may be some months before we see these. There are several ways to keep up to date with the latest developments for this project;

- Visit and bookmark the official website www.universalukproject.co.uk
- Like or follow official Wixams News media channels on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok, simply search 'Wixams News'
- Visit and bookmark our official website www.wixams.news (currently under construction)
- Visit Bedford Borough Council www.bedford.gov.uk and search 'Universal'

This is a landmark moment for Bedford, positioning our town as a key destination for tourism and entertainment. While there will be adjustments, the long-term benefits could be substantial.

Wixams News will be dedicated to keeping you updated as this exciting project progresses!

GOT QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

We would love to hear from the community any thoughts or opinions on this announcement, if you would like to have your say please contact us.

In due course we will be seeking thoughts from local businesses, councillors and most importantly, the community for publication in the coming months.

To get in touch email Nick Edwards at editor@wixams.news



Universal Studios is coming to Bedford, and we are the local group that is 5 minutes from the site!

Want the latest updates, photos, and pure speculation fun?

Join the largest Facebook community following Universal's journey in the UK.



We Are Universal Studios Great Britain

Come for the news, stay for the Minions and marmalade!



Got a few minutes to fill in our quick survey about Universal Studios?



We want to know your thoughts on how it will affect Wixams!



Annual General Meeting

Wixams Parish Council would like to invite you to their Annual General Meeting which is being held on **27 May 2025** followed by the Annual Meeting which will include stalls from the developers, Urban & Civic and other community groups.

Please come along to meet your Parish Councillors and to speak with all those involved in making Wixams a good place to live.

Annual General Meeting – 18.30-19.30
Swan Room, Lakeview Village Hall

Annual Meeting – 19.00-20.30
Main Hall, Lakeview Village Hall

POLICE & CRIME

CRIME STATS

03 Mar	Other criminal damage	Peregrine Way
06 Mar	Assault with injury	Swan Road
06 Mar	Harassment	Undisclosed
07 Mar	Assault with injury	Minnow Way
10 Mar	Blackmail	Undisclosed
13 Mar	Assault with injury	Robbins Heath
13 Mar	Malicious communications	Undisclosed
14 Mar	Assault with injury	Lesser Avenue

PC ABI HOLT

WIXAMS WELCOMES ABI HOLT

PC6389 Abi HOLT Joined Beds police in 2014, I have worked all over the county and am now the dedicated police officer for WIXAMS and SHORTSTOWN.

I work out of RISELEY POLICE STATION but default to WIXAMS when on duty. Please stop and say hello if you see me or my police vehicle parked up outside the Village Hall.

I monitor the Wixams community group on Facebook and there are a lot of unreported issues which is not a true reflection of the community. Please can I urge the local community to report crimes and anything suspicious to us on 999 if it is an emergency, 101 or online reporting form if not.

POLICE COMMISSIONER

UPDATE FROM JOHN TIZARD



Since last time I wrote to you, I talked about my aim to reinvigorate community policing and increase officer numbers. And now we have some exciting news.

When the Prime Minister announced his Safer Streets Mission and Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee he committed to funding more community police in Bedfordshire.

I am pleased to secure £1.8million of extra funding for this new financial year for Bedfordshire.

This means within a year there will be an additional twenty new officers plus eight Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in our community teams. There will also be ten new student officers who will be within the next 12 months.

These extra officers will increase police visibility, and we are ensuring every urban and rural neighbourhood

including Wixams has a named officer.

I am confident that in partnership with the government I expect to expand the community police team further annually over the next four years.

Community policing is core to ensuring public confidence in policing. It is also a critical to prevention, problem solving and intelligence gathering.

Reinvigorating community policing is about much more than just recruiting a bigger team, important as this is. It is about evolving a new approach to local policing, where the police work with you all in local communities alongside community groups, councillors, public sector professionals to tackle crime and the causes of crime. There will be focus on anti-social behaviour, retail crime and other issues that the residents of Wixams are all too aware of.

Together with Bedfordshire Police I am committed to making Bedfordshire safer and fairer.

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The Parish Churches covering Wixams



"The welcome someone receives in church has a huge impact on whether they stay. Many of us are in church because of the acceptance and inclusion we've felt when we entered it, and that we continue to feel as we've remained".

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<https://elstowteamministry.org.uk/>

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ELSTOW

All Saints
WILSHAMSTEAD (Wilstead)

All Saints
HOUGHTON CONQUEST

St Mary the Virgin
CARDINGTON

St Michael & All Angels
Barford Avenue, BEDFORD

**DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS**
Living God's Love

WIXAMS EVENTS TEAM PRESENTS



SATURDAY 28TH JUNE 2025

12PM - 6PM

LAKEVIEW VILLAGE HALL
BROOKLANDS AVENUE, WIXAMS,
BEDFORD, MK42 6AB



CRAFT STALLS, FUN FAIR, PERFORMING ARTS,
FOOD & DRINK (BAR FOR THE ADULTS) AND
MUCH MORE....

NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED AT THIS EVENT

MORE INFORMATION AT WIXAMSEVENTS.UK

.....

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BY *Vij*



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Tennis Tuesdays

Bedford, Wixams Village Hall, MUGA

6:15pm - 7:15pm Age 4 - 7

7:15pm - 8:15pm Age 8 - 12

Football Wednesdays

Bedford, Kempston, Hillgrounds field

6:30pm - 7:30pm Age 4 - 7

7:30pm - 8:30pm Age 8 - 12

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Football 1-2-1

£35 - £45

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Age 6 - Adult

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MULTI-SPORT EARLY BIRD AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB SCHEDULE

Ofsted
Registered

MONDAY	3:30pm	Football
	4:30pm	First Pick up
	5 pm	Hot Dinner
	5:20 pm	Dodgeball / Benchball
	6pm	Last Pick up

TUESDAY	3:30pm	Tennis
	4:30pm	First Pick up
	5 pm	Hot Dinner
	5:20 pm	Kick Rounders/Cricket
	6pm	Last Pick up

WEDNESDAY	3:30pm	NERF / Volleyball
	4:30pm	First Pick up
	5 pm	Hot Dinner
	5:20 pm	Tag Rugby
	6pm	Last Pick up

THURSDAY	3:30pm	Glow Badminton
	4:30pm	First Pick up
	5 pm	Hot Dinner
	5:20 pm	Archery / Crossbows
	6pm	Last Pick up

FRIDAY	3:30pm	Basketball
	4:30pm	First Pick up
	5 pm	Hot Dinner
	5:20 pm	Golf / Dodgeball
	6pm	Last Pick up

EARLY BIRD From 7:30am	Monday	Football
	Tuesday	Tennis
	Wednesday	Glow Badminton
	Thursday	Dodgeball / Benchball
	Friday	Team Games

Breakfast Included

Important Information

Schedules will be followed with the relaxed activities but also we shall try to squeeze in as many extra sports as possible!

Entrance and Exit is by the black gate on the left

Phone Number - 07530062988

Email - jack@eliteskillsandfitness.com

Website link-

eliteskillsandfitness.com/afterschoolandearlybird

RELAXED ACTIVITIES

£6 till 4:30pm
£10 till 6pm
£14 till 6pm with Hot Dinner
Menu on the Website
Age 4+



	Reading Books
	Colouring
	Large Connect 4
	Interactive Lego
	Chess & Draughts
	Life size Jenga
	BIG Snakes & Ladders
	Tic-tac-toe

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Lakeview school

Activity schedule on reverse



For content from our last camp



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CHILDREN'S MULTI-SPORT HOLIDAY CAMPS

WHEN?

Every school holiday

Open to children from all schools!

Also includes break up days (half days)

WHERE?

Lakeview School, School Ln, Wixams, Bedford, MK42 6BH

PRICING

£20 - Half Day (8am - 12pm / 10am - 2pm)

£30 - Standard Day (9am - 4pm)

£35 - Extended Day (8am - 6pm)

Optional Extras

£4 Lunch & Snacks

£4 Breakfast & Hot Dinner

Childcare Vouchers and Tax-Free
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Age range: 4 - 13

GET IN
TOUCH

Jack@eliteskillsandfitness.com
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On top of our busy activity schedule we have some more relaxing activities on offer during our snack breaks and 30min free play slot. These are:

- Connect four
- Colouring
- Tic-tac-toe
- Chess + Draughts
- Interactive Lego
- Our own Library of reading books
- BIG Jenga
- Uno
- Dominos
- Massive Snakes and Ladders



Sports Activity Schedule

Relaxed activities in gaps all throughout the day

KEY
Camp Start Times
Food Breaks / Hot Dinner
Camp Finish Times

4 - 7 Years Old

	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	10:15	10:30	11:15	12:00	12:30	13:00	14:15	14:30	16:30	17:00	18:00
Monday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Dance/Zumba	Team Games	Football	Football	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Freeplay	Basketball	Party Games	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Tuesday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Football	Football	Football	Football	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Freeplay	Cricket	Cricket	Cricket	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Wednesday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Party Games	Party Games	Party Games	Party Games	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Freeplay	Cricket	Cricket	Cricket	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Thursday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Party Games	Party Games	Party Games	Party Games	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Freeplay	Cricket	Cricket	Cricket	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Friday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Party Games	Party Games	Party Games	Party Games	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Freeplay	Cricket	Cricket	Cricket	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport

Ducks

We are here to make a positive difference in bursting out that comfort zone, social skills, self belief, helping sculpt that top 1% in all areas of life and having fun doing it!

8 - 10 Years Old

	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	10:15	10:30	11:15	12:00	12:30	13:00	14:15	14:30	16:30	17:00	18:00
Monday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Football	Football	Football	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Freeplay	DnB Dodgeball	Party Games	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Tuesday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Football	Football	Football	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Freeplay	Basketball	Party Games	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Wednesday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Football	Football	Football	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Freeplay	Basketball	Party Games	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Thursday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Football	Football	Football	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Freeplay	Basketball	Party Games	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Friday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Football	Football	Football	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Freeplay	Basketball	Party Games	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport

Meerkats

Whether that is tailored sessions to your younger one or following the different coaching sessions at holiday camp. We develop character whilst improving their skills in the sport of their choice.

11 - 13 Years Old

	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	10:15	10:30	11:15	12:00	12:30	13:00	14:15	14:30	16:30	17:00	18:00
Monday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Golf	Golf	Golf	Dance/Zumba	Freeplay	Freeplay	Glow Badminton	Party Games	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Tuesday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Golf	Golf	Golf	Dance/Zumba	Freeplay	Freeplay	Basketball	Party Games	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Wednesday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Golf	Golf	Golf	Dance/Zumba	Freeplay	Freeplay	Basketball	Party Games	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Thursday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Golf	Golf	Golf	Dance/Zumba	Freeplay	Freeplay	Basketball	Party Games	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Friday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Golf	Golf	Golf	Dance/Zumba	Freeplay	Freeplay	Basketball	Party Games	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport

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Wixams Runners Host Community 5k and Kids' Fun Run at Town Park

Wixams Runners recently held their Community 5k and the Ginger Cow Kids' Fun Run at the Wixams Town Park in May. The event took place under sunny skies – somewhat different from the wind the runners had to endure at the last event! .

Local runners of varying abilities participated in the Wixams Runners Community 5k, taking on a course that wound its way through the Town Park. The Ginger Cow Kids' Fun Run also proved popular, with many enthusiastic youngsters enjoying the opportunity to run and be active.

Throughout the morning, participants and spectators were able to enjoy food provided by Food Bruvaz, adding to the community feel of the event.

The success of the day was supported by the generosity of local sponsors: Ginger Cow, B&M and PW Gates, whose contributions helped to cover event costs, provide drinks and fill the finishers' bags. All participants in both the 5k and the kids' fun run received a commemorative medal, and those who completed the 5k also received a finishers bag. Importantly, the proceeds raised from the event will be donated to local community groups, directly benefiting initiatives within the Wixams area.

Adrian, a member of Wixams Runners, expressed his appreciation for the level of participation and the invaluable support provided by local runners and residents who volunteered as marshals. He also extended a sincere thank you to the dedicated team of organisers who worked hard to make the event run smoothly. "We were delighted with how the day went," Adrian commented. "A big thank you to everyone who came along to run and support us. Your enthusiasm made it a truly enjoyable event."

Wixams Runners aims to foster a supportive and inclusive environment where individuals can connect through running, regardless of their experience or ability. The group holds regular running sessions and



welcomes new members. The Community 5k and Kids' Fun Run also marked a celebratory milestone for the latest graduates of the Wixams Runners' Couch to 5k programme.

Wixams Runners meets at the Barratt's marketing suite on Southern Cross on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 pm, and Sundays at 9 am. Whether you're an experienced runner or just starting your fitness journey, the group offers a welcoming space.

For more information about Wixams Runners and their upcoming activities, please visit facebook.com/groups/wixamsrunnerscommunity.



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Monthly Gardening Tips

Tips for May 2025, by Marion Colledge



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Last year I was pruning my red fruit bushes on the lottie and the frogs were laying their spawn in the mini-garden pond in the funny hot snap in February. This year not so.

Saturday 14 March finally a lull in the grey weather. Then swiftly: the daffodils and the pink anemone Friday, the beautiful almond blossom today and by Sunday 15 March a hint of forsythia flowers.



POND

Pond: on 8 March the temperature was still too sharp for the frogs to leave the pond. I skimmed the duckweed (*lemna minor*) off the tiny pond so I could actually see in it, by holdig a shovel flat and scooping it into a bucket. I used it to compost a dry area under my wall-hugging kiwi and peach tree. I split the yellow flag in half as it uses too much water in summer. The frogs spawned 20 March, only one clump. The population has reduced – females should migrate each autumn and return, but since

we turned the garage into an extension, they can't get in the garden and back to their birthplace. One year we found one waiting on the doorstep!

'Why do you have a pond?' asked my little Ukrainian guest. Because we know the frogs eat little slugs and snails, and because my son at ten years old, was energetic enough to spend a week of his Easter holiday blunting his child spade in its excavation – mostly pebbles and sharp flints once he hit fifteen centimetres down! We straightway lined the hole with sand, bought the plastic shell, one metre across and half meter deep, from the garden centre, the aquarium gave us five tadpoles and so it began.

PLANTING BULBS FOR SUMMER

I'm currently planting fritillary bulbs (mauve hanging bell-shaped flowers) I'm putting them as deep under my herbaceous border as I can get, so they won't be disturbed by pulling out weeds or dividing large plants like the catmint that come up later. They may still flower at the end of April or beginning of May. You could plant crocosmia or dahlias or alliums – for best results feed with bone meal – bulbs need a lot of phosphorous (search rhs summer bulbs).

KNOW YOUR SOIL AND YOUR WEEDS



Travelling on Thameslink past the new house-building work near Wixams yesterday, I could see mountains of removed white clay piled up. What back-breaking stuff to work in your garden, but full of minerals, good for growth if you lighten it with mulch of 2-3 cm leaf mould and let the worms do the work. If your soil is hard-trodden clay, it will favour a certain type of weed that likes to have its roots squashed in such as daisies, yellow coltsfoot, yellow thistles, and self-set primulas (you might not call primulas weeds as they have pretty flowers). Supposing you have a lawn on clay, my advice is to get garden

sand or grit and leaf mould, make small vertical holes with a hollow tine (a fork with hollow spikes), or as I've just done an ordinary fork. Hopefully then and drop the grit and leaf mould down into the holes. Now's the time to do it, not when it's dried out and cracked in summer.

TRUGS/ ALLOTMENTS OR WHEREVER

Now's the time to get cracking on planting a few salads and peas (rhs

how to grow peas). A word on cabbages. Get good stock from a decent online or local nursery or from the market, not from a supermarket where they've let them dry out and weaken in the day. They can have nasty diseases. Choose a variety that will grow quickly and heart out. You need plenty of lime in your soil – cabbages need a lot of calcium. Make a hole the size of the roots, but if the roots have got compacted in a small



container, open them out a bit. Make sure that the bottom of the stem is level with the top of the soil. Pour water in the hole around the roots, fill with soil and water daily. Then you won't be getting water on the surface where the sun will dry it up. Put a generous layer of wool compost around the bottom of the stem or more lime or expensive cabbage collars. This will prevent blue-grey mealy aphids invading the stems. Water regularly into the hole. If you haven't eaten them by June, watch out for cabbage white butterflies' yellow eggs: remove them or cover with a net.

I hope you enjoy the spring gardening. Don't get disheartened about weeds!

Marion

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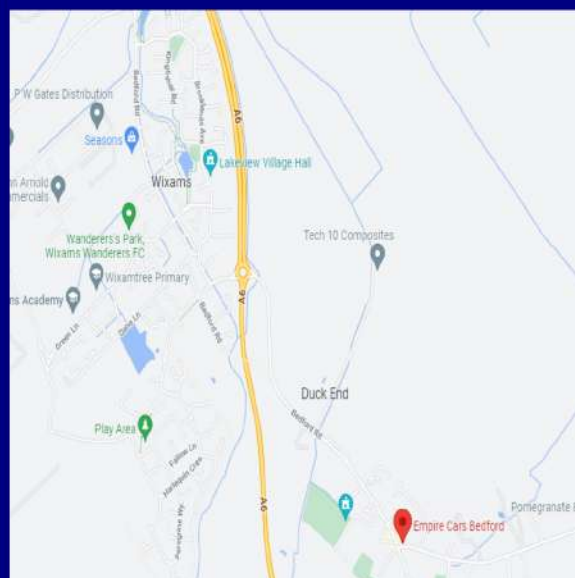
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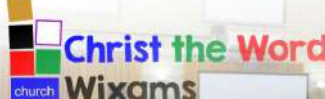
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Mayor Tom Wootton: Standing Up for Wixams and Bedford Borough, Delivering Real Results

As Mayor, I'm not here to make promises, I'm here to deliver. And right now, Bedford Borough needs action, not more talking.

Crime is rising

Residents have told me they see shoplifters act with impunity, anti-social behaviour running rampant, with a police presence that's all but vanished. That's why I've written directly to the Chief Constable, demanding an immediate, visible increase in policing across our communities. We need officers on the ground, not behind desks. Enough is enough.

I'm fully aware of the recent issues in Wixams, including arson, robbery, persistent anti-social behaviour, and the nuisance of A6 street racers.

Every one of these is firmly on my radar and being tackled with urgency.

Wixams needs a GP surgery, and it needs it now

The Council has already committed £9 million to improve access to local health services, and Wixams is a top priority. My Executive is applying constant pressure on the NHS and Integrated Care Board. Residents should not have to wait years for basic healthcare. It's simply not good enough, and we will not stop until the doors are open.

A four-platform station for Wixams, fully funded and future-ready

In a major win for our community, Wixams will now receive a four-platform station, double the original plan, fully funded by the Government, saving local taxpayers £25 million. This elevates Wixams into a regional transport hub, not just for Bedford, but for the wider area.

I have asked Council officers to pause the smaller scheme and begin detailed discussions with all key parties to ensure Network Rail delivers the upgraded version without delay.

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It's almost a year since I was elected to Parliament, and no village or town in Mid Bedfordshire has been mentioned more by me in Parliament than Wixams. I wish I could be talking about Wixams because of the fantastic community, brilliant schools and so much more. But sadly, I've had to mention Wixams so much because of the continued failure to deliver the infrastructure you need and were promised.

For far too long you've had to cope without a GP surgery and without the train station you were promised ever since residents first moved in. 16 years since the first houses in Wixams were occupied; this just isn't good enough. I've met with the Government's Health Minister to try and get the project moving, but the real sticking point remains the Integrated Care Board (ICB), so I recently spoke in the House of Commons about giving locally

elected politicians powers to deliver GP surgeries rather than unelected quangos. But that isn't a short-term fix, and I will keep pushing and doing everything I can.

Now, we do of course also have some fantastic news to welcome. Universal Studios. I have been championing the project in Parliament, because it will be a real gamechanger for our area, for thrill seekers and job seekers alike. But I also know there are questions being asked about the disruption it may cause locally, and I have already been working with Universal and the Government to ensure the appropriate road, rail and accommodation infrastructure is planned and built to deal with the expected increase in visitors. Wixams train station is another essential piece of infrastructure, and work is also now underway to ensure that when it is built it will include extra platforms to cope with the demand from Universal.

When I speak to Universal, the Government and our local councils I will be banging the drum for your key infrastructure priorities, so I have set up a short survey which you can complete on my website: blakestephenson.uk

Keep In Touch – If you want to stay updated on the work I'm doing for you in Parliament you can sign up for my regular newsletters on my website, where you can also find the dates of my upcoming advice surgeries.

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