

Wixams News

June 2025

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

FREE

POP-UP PARKOUR POWER!

**SECOND YOUTH EVENT OVER HALF
TERM WAS A SUCCESS!**

WIXAMS PARISH COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW CHAIR

**BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MARC
FROST VOWS TO GET WIXAMS
BACK ON THE MAP**

MEET THE DEVELOPER OF OUR TOWN CENTRE

**WIXAMS MASTER DEVELOPER, URBAN & CIVIC ARRANGE ENGAGEMENT EVENT
TO ALLOW THE COMMUNITY TO INFLUENCE AND SHAPE THE TOWN PLANS**

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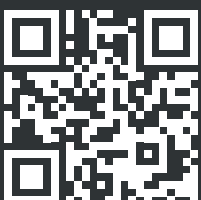
We'd love to share your local news stories, via our print and upcoming website. We also have spaces for regular columns. Have a conversation with us – we'd love for you to get involved!

Submission deadline for next edition
15th July

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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www.wixams.news



Engagement Event - Wixams Town Centre

Come along to meet with the Master Developer for Wixams and see our proposals for the Town Centre at Wixams.

It is a great opportunity to have a look at the plans, shape and influence the proposals.

We look forward to seeing you again.

The event is being held on
Monday 14th July 2025.

Location: Lakeview Village Hall

Date: Monday 14th July 2025

Time: 14:30 - 19:00

Urban&Civic



Meet the committee

IN THIS EDITION, WE INTRODUCE OUR EDITOR AND CHAIR



"I'm proud as a resident, as a family man, that we have this kind of community... where we continue to grow together for the benefit of all of us that live here."

Q: What is your name?

A: Nick Edwards

Q: What is your role on the Wixams News Committee?

A: Editor and Chair

Q: What year did you move into Wixams?

A: My family and I moved to Wixams in 2020 from Milton Keynes

Q: What made you decide to get involved with Wixams News?

A: When we moved to Wixams, I recognised it was still a small community but would grow rapidly over the next few years. Having come from a much larger area, I saw it as a great opportunity to get involved with the community very early on to help discover what's out there in the local area and also help other residents moving into the area discover the same.

Q: What's one thing you love doing that brings you closer to people in Wixams?

A: I love being part of Wixams News, it has

given me the ability and a pathway to be able to network and connect with like-minded people for positive community reinforcement. Becoming Editor has only enhanced this and I feel very privileged to have this role. The local events that are put on are another great aspect that I love, not everywhere has such dedicated people to bring these things into their communities. It's great to know that we have this in Wixams, it's great to see everyone coming together to have fun as individuals or with their families. It all helps to build that community togetherness.

Q: You're going to the Co-Op in Wixams to pick up a Friday night comfort food snack. What are you choosing?

A: I don't have a particularly sweet tooth so I always opt for savoury munch, if I'm being selfish, I always go for the spiciest crisps known to man.

Q: You're heading to Lakeside Fish & Chips to get a takeaway for you and a dream dinner party guest. Who are you dining with?

A: It has to be my guy.....David Attenborough!! I can picture a lot of my generation nodding their heads in appreciation to this!

Many iconic TV personalities I have grown up with have all but passed on sadly, but this living legend is still going at 99 years, still out there travelling and making documentaries. It's completely crazy this man is still going. There is clearly a sense of nostalgia with this pick but also the stories he must have would be unfathomable.

I do wonder though, with his affinity to the natural world and conservation if he actually eats fish?

Q: If you can't find me at my Wixams home, I'll most likely be...

A: If it's not running the kids to their sports clubs in Bedford, it's usually down at my allotment plot on Mile Road.

Q: If you could have any superpower for a day, what would it be, and how would you use it in Wixams?

A: This is a bit tongue in cheek but I know it resonates with so many in the community. I would have magic clicky fingers – you read it right, out of all the superpowers I could have its magic clicky fingers – The primary objective would be routing out those dog owners that can't ever seem to find the poo bags in the pet store, so never seem to come out with any to clear up their pooches mess and just leave it to ruin our lovely walkways ready for kids to step in. Armed with my magic clicky fingers, with one click, that dog mess would teleport right into the owner's pocket.

Q: If Wixams opened a karaoke bar tomorrow, you'd catch me singing...

A: Now this is quite difficult, I have a couple of polar opposite choices depending on how I feel. Either;

Nothing because I'm feeling too socially awkward

80's stuff as I grew up with a much older brother who was into Simple Minds, Aha, Tears for Fears, Level 42 etc.. I would probably go for 'Hungry like the Wolf' by Duran Duran!

Anything from my teen life, which would be old school garage classics, gives me a chance to relive my wannabe MC days much to the embarrassment of my kids. I'd go for '21 Seconds' by SoSolid Crew!

Q: If you could introduce one new feature,

event, or improvement to Wixams tomorrow, what would it be?

A: I am a big foodie, when I lived in Milton Keynes I had a foodie blog/website with a ton of recipes on using ingredients I had either grown myself, foraged or sourced locally, I am thinking about bringing it back as there are a lot of local producers in Bedfordshire.

MK has a great indie food scene. Bedford has some great offerings too and so for Wixams I would like to see or even help to introduce a regular food festival.

Maybe this is something that might interest the community? (If you're interested, please get in touch!)

Q: What's one thing you're most proud of in/about our community?

A: To drive home my point I want to start off by saying that Wixams, like all places in the UK has its issues, usually from crime, ASB or political sources. Some of these things I see get exasperated online, it can breed negativity and create a pessimistic outlook within residents of the community. What's left however, is an image of the Wixams community as having nothing good about it. This is simply not true in my eyes. The problems mentioned above are no different from anywhere else, there is not a single place in the UK where politicians are not delivering, where there is not some form of Anti-Social Behaviour, where there is no crime.

Of course it's important to connect and alert our neighbours and the community of crimes, of ASB, this is a positive aspect and shows the community togetherness for helping each other out. It's also important to discuss local political issues but I don't think it should come at the cost of taking our energy and focus away from sharing and discussing the positives that go on in the community, we need a good balance of both.

So what am I proud of about our community? It is made up of so many diverse, selfless, inspiring, motivated, kind people that want nothing more than to encourage, foster and grow a positive community spirit, a feeling of togetherness, a feeling of safety, a feeling of support. There is so much more of this that goes on behind the scenes, so many unsung heroes, so many that I see battling tirelessly against some really dreadful humans or incompetent organisations just to try and bring the best results to our community. There are those that continue to give up their time to help run various clubs and groups or organise events so that our community has a variety of outlets to support and encourage social interaction, personal development, health, fitness, wellbeing, recreation. There is an immense amount of good in this community that many will not realise or see the positive impact it has and it is this that needs to be celebrated, shared, discussed and most importantly supported by any means necessary whether its liking posts, sharing links, writing positive reviews or even getting involved.

I'm proud as a resident, as a family man, that we have this kind of community out there and where I can, as part of Wixams News and the Wixams Community Group try to ensure we continue to grow together for the benefit of all of us that live here.

Q: If you were to describe the Wixams community in three words, what would they be?

A: Inclusive, Collaborative, Vibrant

Message from the New Chair of Wixams Parish Council



I'm honoured to have been elected Chair of Wixams Parish Council. Many of you may already know me as one of your local Borough Councillors, or from my long-standing involvement with Wilstead Parish Council since moving to the area from Bromham in 2002.

Let's be honest, in recent years, Wixams Parish Council has lost its way. Too much energy has been wasted on internal infighting, and not enough on delivering for residents. That ends now. The Parish Council exists to improve our community, not to squabble. I will ensure that we focus our time and efforts where they belong, on outcomes that benefit the people of Wixams.

I have a unique vantage point. As one of your Borough Councillors, I'm directly involved in key local issues including the GP surgery, Wixams Station, and Universal's development. I also chair the Wixams Joint Development Committee. Working with my colleagues at Bedford Borough Council, we're committed to securing the best possible outcomes for Wixams.

Residents are always welcome at Parish Council meetings. Each meeting begins with an open session where you can raise concerns or share ideas. We want to hear from you.

To improve communication, we'll be working closely with Wixams News and launching major updates to our website and social media channels. Transparency and community engagement are top priorities.

I'd also like to thank the families of Wixams for your overwhelming support of the newly formed Youth Working Group. This group includes representatives from Bedford Borough Council, CBBC, Police, Fire Service, Youth Offending Team, Bedford Giving, Wixams Community Group, 4YP, HCPC, and our own Sam from WPC. The youth event at the Academy in January was a huge success, and it sent a clear message: Our young people are not the problem; they are a powerful asset.

That event sparked lasting partnerships. Bedford Giving is now working with the Academy on mentorship programmes. If you can offer time and life experience, visit bedfordgiving.org.uk to become a mentor. Bedford Giving also offers grants to groups supporting young people across Bedford.

We've already delivered two fantastic youth events: a mobile skate park over Easter and a parkour session during summer half term. Despite the wind, the turnout and energy were brilliant, and the message from our young people was clear: they want more.

We've listened. Thanks to support from Bedford Giving and Bedford Blues, more **free youth events** are coming this summer. Keep an eye on social media and Wixams News for details.

And that's not all, WPC is teaming up with Urban & Civic to deliver an **open-air cinema at the end of August**, a free family event made possible by the hard work of Sarah from HCPC and Sam from WPC.

Wixams is moving forward. With your support and your voice, we will get this community back on the map.

Marc Frost

Chair of Wixams Parish Council

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**Every Sunday 10:30am
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our Sunday Services
in the village hall**

10:30-11:30am. Activity bag for young children
Please stay for tea, coffee & cake afterwards 😊



www.christthewordwixams.org.uk, 07879716958

POLICE & CRIME

CRIME STATS

1 Jun	Assault without injury	Lakeside Drive
1 Jun	Assault without injury	Tawny Avenue
1 Jun	Criminal damage - residential	Goldfinch gardens
1 Jun	Harassment	Undisclosed
1 Jun	State or public order	Tawny Avenue
2 Jun	Malicious communications	Undisclosed
3 Jun	Assault with injury	Mink meadow

3 Jun	Assault without injury	Mink meadow
3 Jun	Sexual	Undisclosed
3 Jun	Stalking	Undisclosed
4 Jun	Blackmail	Undisclosed
5 Jun	Other theft	Green Lane
7 Jun	Interfering with a motor vehicle	Brooklands Avenue
10 Jun	Threats to kill	Goldfinch Gardens
12 Jun	Theft in a dwelling other auto mach	Goldfinch Gardens
12 Jun	Threat intent to commit crim dam	Goldfinch Gardens
13 Jun	Threats to kill	Green Lane
14 Jun	Assault with intent to cause harm	Brooklands Avenue
14 Jun	Theft from a motor vehicle	Tawny Avenue
14 Jun	Theft or aunauth taking of pedal cycle	Brooklands Avenue

WIXAMS SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Wixams first Scarecrow festival is coming soon!

Organisers are seeking sponsorship from local businesses.

Sponsors will feature on the festival trail map, all event advertising and can be part of the prize giving ceremony.

For further information please contact:

scarecrows@wixams.org

or visit:

www.wixams.org/scarecrow-festival



The Wixams Residents Group Has Closed Down

We sadly need to let you know that the Wixams Residents Group was closed down at the AGM in March. We achieved a lot in 2 years and have pushed forwards with very real change in Wixams. The S106 application now includes extra facilities which were never in the plans (read more below). We campaigned for pedestrian crossings, leading to the two we have now on Green Lane and Brooklands Avenue, and another two planned for the current financial year. We hosted residents meetings to bring people together and talk about the main issues in Wixams such as the surgery, crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). The meeting about ASB led to the establishment of the Wixams Youth Working Group, managed by the Community Safety Team at Bedford Borough Council, which is working to help tackle those issues.

There is more work to do, so we urge residents to stay engaged with the issues in Wixams and continue to contact their representatives to highlight the problems and to demand solutions.

S106 Plans Now Include a Skatepark and Basketball Court

Had the S106 application on sports and leisure facilities gone through in 2023, Wixams would have lost even more from the plans. Instead the WRG led a campaign to encourage people to object to the application, to demand consultation with the community and to ask for facilities to be added. In October the application was presented to the Wixams Joint Development Control Committee (WJDCC), which rejected it based on the responses from the public.

The most recent version of the plans was submitted in May and the developers have now included a skatepark for the teenagers, a dedicated basketball court in place of one tennis court, they have reduced the number of football pitches meaning the 'Gateway' park will be retained, the 3G all-weather football pitch will be in a location better suited to the needs of the community and the educational interpretive facility has been retained too. It's an excellent outcome, instead of losing facilities we actually gained some!

The new application will be decided at the WJDCC meeting in July. After that hopefully the developers will be able to make a start building these much needed facilities.

Town Centre Consultation Event

Urban&Civic have worked closely with members of the residents group since their S106 application was rejected at the WJDCC in October. We have encouraged them to consult with residents on the town centre plans before they submit them, and they have now scheduled an **engagement event for Monday 14th July** in Lakeview village hall. Please see posters for more details closer to the time. Make sure you go and have your say on YOUR town centre.

wixams.town Under New Management

The group set up the new website wixams.town as a platform for sharing news about planning applications and other important matters related to the Wixams development. The great news is this website is going to remain, and now comes under the ownership of the Wixams Community Group (WCG). Some of the members of the former residents group have now joined the WCG to help manage the site and to continue to collaborate for the benefit of Wixams.

You can read more about the group closure on the website:



www.wixams.town/2025/04/wixams-town-under-new-management





PARKOUR SUMMER EVENT



The youth working committee comprising of supporters from Bedford Borough, Bedford Giving, Ward Councillors, Youth offending Services, 4YP, Police and Fire Services, along with the usual suspects from the community, Leon, Sam and Sarah wanted to ensure that the positivity of the recent skate park event in the village was not forgotten or utilised, so they have worked hard to bring another free event to the youths of Wixams. This one was a parkour event run by Spiral Free running. The weather over the week of half term was disappointing, but this did not stop some of the dedicated hard core youths from turning up and proving what Wixams can do. It was an amazing event, the academy worked with us to provide the facilities, which due to the wind, we are so thankful. Co-op manager provided refreshments, which considering how hard these youngsters worked, well plenty of water was needed during the break. Due to the nature of this event, we had to limit the number that could take part, but we were able to ensure that all those that turned up were able to take part. All the youths enjoyed the activity, Spiral free running ensured that youths enjoyed themselves. The report from them about Wixams is so positive and they have expressed interest in returning

for future events.

Thank you from me to all the youngster that turned up, I am going to work with all the group to get you more events for the summer, I am even planning something exciting for the whole family at the end of August. The youths kept the area clean and tidy and proved that they deserve respect. I am proud of them and the fun and freedom these events are providing for them. If you want to help and support then please get in touch with me at sam.mardel@wixams-pc.gov.uk.

The feedback was great, these events are making a difference, the youths are extremely respectful. I am grateful to be part of this, the team are working to fund more free activities for all youths in Wixams over the summer.

Please sign up to the newsletter to ensure that you are aware of these activities.

Sam Mardel
Wixams Parish Cllr

Fundraiser @The Woolpack

Little Princess Trust

with the official hair cutting on the day

Date: 19th July 2025

ALL DONATIONS WELCOME!

Time: 1pm

£1 Entry

Cash Event (some cashless)

Emilee is a local 10 year old who is growing her hair for the big cut to make wigs for the little princess trust

All ticket entries and donations on the day ALL go to the charity! We are making a special fundraiser for a special girl doing a beautiful thing!

EVENT INCLUDES:

Music Games & Play

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Ponies to pet and photos with

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A Fond Farewell to long term Parish Councillor and Wixams Resident



At the recent Wixams Parish Council AGM, long term Wixams resident and local councillor Saqhib Ali stepped down as Chair.

Wixams News caught up with Saqhib and asked him to reflect on his time at the Wixams Parish Council.

I was asked to write a piece about my time in Wixams, having moved away in February 2025 and stepped down as Parish Councillor after 10 years and as Chair of Wixams Parish Council in May at the Annual General Meeting .

We moved to Wixams end of May 2011, Plot 58, Bloor Homes on Swan Road, when there were about 450 homes in the new Wixams Lakeview. Now there are over 3,000 homes across Villages 1-4. When we moved to Wixams, my daughter Myah only 3 months old, my younger son Tom was 11.

That year I joined the Wilshamstead Parish Council representing Wixams.

Like many other householders we were promised by the developers and house builders a railway station by 2013, an Asda super store at some point and a GP's surgery.

One of the first things I was involved with setting up was a playgroup in 2013 at the new Lakeview village hall with two Wixam's mums also with toddlers.

In 2015 I started on my plot 24 at the new Lakeview Allotments, which I maintained badly for 5 years.

Wixams Parish Council also started with 15 Cllrs with Chair Tony Pedder, with me as Vice Chair.

Subsequent Chairs were Cllr Sam Mardell, Cllr Charlotte Day, myself, Cllr Terry Christian and then me again August 2024 to May 2025.

Over the last 14 years I have campaigned for a GP's surgery leading petitions twice including 2000 signatures with the Wixams surgery group to the Integrated Care Board in December 2023.

I also campaigned for the railway station when it looked as if we would lose £13m Gallaghers funding. Gallaghers got taken over by L&Q a housing association, and last year Urban and Civic- owned by Wellcome foundation. The part time 2 platform station was due to open in December 2026, as you'll be aware that this is now likely to be late 2020s early 2030s due to Universal coming across the B530, with EMR intercity trains and 4 platforms.

In 2020 I brought back the Newsletter as Editor with a group of eager volunteers and deliverers- initially to 1,000 homes, from Alan Pibworth who had run it as Wixams Newsletter through Neighbourhood Watch.

I was also briefly involved as Chair of the Lakeview Village Hall, and as a committee member 2022-25

I have really enjoyed my time in Wixams as it has grown to 4 villages- Lakeview, Willow Grove Harrowden Green, and Cromwell Place.

When Lakeview School then Primary opened with 7 kids in 2009, who knew we would have three primary schools, with the arrival of Wixams Tree and Willow Grove and now an extended secondary school, Wixams Academy where I taught Business Studies and Science in Autumn 2019.

Here's to the next 15 years of the Wixams story, it will always have a special place in my heart where my daughter met her best friend at the age of 4- still friends 10 years later and the amazing Wixams Christmas and Summer Fayres, Halloween and Christmas decoration competitions.

A special shout out should go to Barry Huckle former County Cllr and Wilstead and Wixams landowner- sadly now passed and Leon Staszak- Mr Wixams himself.

Wixams has an amazing Community spirit- it is a fledgling community that has great things ahead of it. Good luck!



Saqhib Ali



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BY *Vij*



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

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

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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-

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	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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£30 - Standard Day (9am - 4pm)

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Age range: 4 - 13

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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	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Basketball		Party Games	Multi sport			
Tuesday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Football	Team Games		Archery/Crossbow	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Cricket		Tennis	Multi sport			
Wednesday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Party Games	Team Games		Archery/Crossbow	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Cricket		Tennis	Multi sport			
Thursday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Party Games	Team Games		Archery/Crossbow	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Cricket		Tennis	Multi sport			
Friday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Party Games	Team Games		Archery/Crossbow	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Cricket		Tennis	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	Team Games		Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	DnB Dodgeball		Golf	Multi sport			
Tuesday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Team Games		Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	Basketball		Tennis	Multi sport			
Wednesday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Team Games		Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	Basketball		Tennis	Multi sport			
Thursday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Team Games		Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	Basketball		Tennis	Multi sport			
Friday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Team Games		Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	Basketball		Tennis	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	Team Games		Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	Glow Badminton		Tennis	Multi sport			
Tuesday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Team Games		Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	Basketball		Tennis	Multi sport			
Wednesday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Team Games		Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	Basketball		Tennis	Multi sport			
Thursday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Team Games		Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	Basketball		Tennis	Multi sport			
Friday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Team Games		Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	Basketball		Tennis	Multi sport			

Tigers

We focus on people first.

The best 'Children's Sports Coaching' out there, let us prove it to you!

Recipes from our community

This edition's recipe comes from local resident Jane. The Wixams News team were lucky enough to sample, probably more than our fair shares worth, of Janes' Easy Fruit Cake at the recent Wixams Parish Council AGM in May. It was completely addictive, so we thought we needed to share this. Enjoy!

A little bit about Jane. 'I have lived in Bedford Road since 1989, which was long before Wixams existed. Have seen lots of changes. I have two sons, two lovely daughters-in-law and four gorgeous grandchildren. Now it is just my husband and golden retriever at home. I love baking and cooking, reading and knitting. I am an active yarnbomber in the Wixams group.'



Jane's Easy Fruit Cake



INGREDIENTS

6oz. Soft Brown Sugar
4oz. Margarine
Small can of pineapple or peaches.- chopped
12oz. Dried fruit of choice
4oz. Glacé cherries
1 teaspoon mixed spice
8oz. self-rising flour
2 eggs, beaten

METHOD

Line a tin of your choice with baking paper.

Place the soft brown sugar, margarine, pineapple or peaches, dried fruit and glacé cherries into a large microwavable bowl and melt in the microwave for 2 minutes, alternatively you can melt in a saucepan on a hob.

Remove from the microwave or hob and beat in the flour and spice.

Add the eggs and mix well.

Pour into your lined tin of choice and bake at 150°C for approx. 1 hour if using a loaf tin or 30 mins if using a shallower baking tray - Check regularly, as ovens differ.

Leave to cool in tin.

Dust with icing sugar if desired.

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Monthly Gardening Tips

Tips for June 2025, by Marion Colledge

I left the area under my magnolia wild last year. I was delighted this spring, for the first time ever, to see an orange tip butterfly going to the self-set honesty (lunaria) <https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/orange-tip>. The sweet little coal tits left their nest in next door's bay-tree (17 May). A parent was speedily feeding insects to two of them, six feet apart, under my magnolia. One was even on the ground among the bluebells – most unusual for tits. After many snaps taken where only the tail could be seen, it flew on my ladder (pictured).



PRUNING, FEEDING AND PROTECTING MINI FRUIT TREES

We are in a terrible drought. My tiny pond is already over half empty. A thirsty pigeon ate my plum flowers on the allotment, so there'll be no plums. I am losing half the fruit of my cherry tree. In the sun cherry trees lose moisture through their large porous leaves and need frequent watering and the fruit stalks flop (pictured).

I have done a sort of prune. In Japan pickled or salted leaves are used for wrapping sweets, but I will blanch, freeze and use in hotpots in winter. To protect against drought, the cherry tree is now being watered and fed deeply into holes with plant pots in ten cm in the ground, NOT on top.

Other fruit trees are best watered with about eight buckets of water once every week or two. After watering it's good to mulch with light-coloured things, such as chopped cardboard, chopped newspaper, straw or the rather expensive organic Strulch (chopped mineralised straw). Check apple trees for the tortrix moth caterpillar plague. Remove their webbing, maybe wearing gloves, and squash the wriggly dark-brown beasts.

You can prune forsythias, magnolias and some other bushes which flowered earlier in the spring, <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/types/shrubs/pruning-early-flowering>

There's less chance of fungi entering the cuts at this time of year than in the autumn. Forsythia is a bush you can shape, but a magnolia will need the centre taking out.



DROUGHT IN FLOWER BEDS

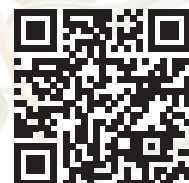
Have a look around and see what plants have been wrecked by the drought. Aim to replace them next year with drought-resistant ones such as the perennials penstemon, lavender or catmint, or you could



beg or steal seeds of annual self-setting aquilegias (pictured) and love-in-the-mist (pictured) from friends.

There'll be Gardens Open to the Public in June and later. Enjoy! <https://ngs.org.uk/gardens/near/bedfordshire/> https://www.opengardens.co.uk/open_gardens_in_buckinghamshire.php

Marion



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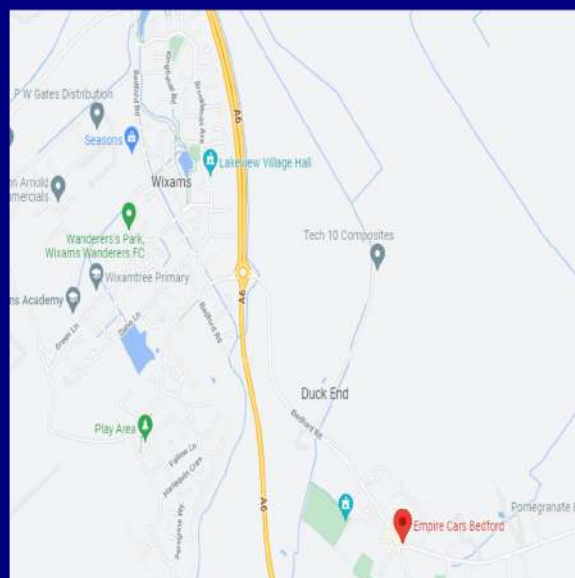
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Wixams 1st Guides



Last weekend the 1st Wixams Guides joined around 50 other girls at a regional camping event "Strictly Come Camping" which was held at our Girlguiding centre in Bromham.

This was the first time we had had the opportunity to take our Guides camping and we all had the best weekend, it was in fact my first time camping also!

Our first day started with an opening ceremony where we raised our flag to initiate the start of camp, one of our Guides kindly volunteered to help with this. Next up we had an activity which was pioneering, the Guides all made a catapult with wooden sticks, rope and bands. Great teamwork!

Onto the next activity and this time it was camp cooking where they all made quesadillas and camp doughnuts(yum!) which were cooked on a camping stove. We all enjoyed cooking and eating these! Some of the girls also helped to make a fruit flan for the evenings pudding.

Activity 3 was pitching our tents, most had never put up a tent before so this was interesting but with the most amazing teamwork we managed to pitch the Guides tent for the evening. A few of the girls were regular campers which was really helpful – they knew exactly what they were doing!

Then... the rain came down.. so we did what most people would do. Hid under shelter ate biscuits and drank tea. Luckily our tent was up and fully waterproof – phew!

Then it was time for our 4th activity which was camp fire cooking whilst it was still pouring with rain... We collected wood, lit our fire, and boiled an egg in a tin which they carefully had to balance over sticks. We had a task set to make sure we had a hard cooked egg within a certain timeframe and we managed to ace it. This was the first time most of the girls had cooked on a camp fire and I think it was one of the highlights of camp for them.

By the time we had finished our campfire cooking it was time for some craft so we made some friendship bracelets and then we had dinner – which was from the chip shop! We played some games, sang a lot of campfire songs and took ourselves off to bed ready for day 2!

Day 2 started with beautiful sunshine, breakfast in our camping chairs and lots of chatter about the previous day's events.

Before leaving we all packed away our tents and had a go at throwing tomahawks. All the girls received a badge for camp and then it was time for us all to go home!

A great weekend was had by all and we can't wait for our next camp!

1st Wixams Guides runs every Wednesday termtime only 7:45–9pm at the village hall.

We currently have spaces available so if your daughter would like to join please contact myself (Nicola) or Kelly at firstwixamsguides@outlook.com.
Nicola Di Carlo

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Wixams Events Group

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Thanks to your kindness and community spirit, we are able to bring smiles, laughter, and unforgettable memories to so many in Wixams. Without your support, what we put on simply wouldn't be the same. You help us make these events not just possible, but magical.

From all of us at Wixams Events Group, thank you for being part of something special. We can't wait to see you again at our spooktacular Halloween Party and then for the return of our enchanting Winter Wonderland.

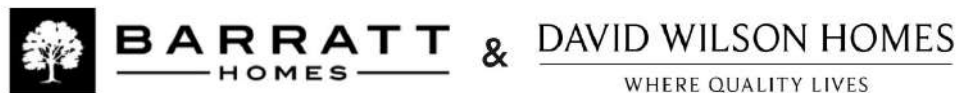
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With heartfelt thanks,

Wixams Events Group

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In October 2020 we launched the Wixams Newsletter that followed on from the Wixams Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter. At that time the area we covered for delivering Newsletters was manageable. Over the last few years the village has grown and is still growing and whilst we have a lot of lovely deliverers across Wixams we need more and more. If you can help, even if it is only your own Street, please get in touch. You don't have to do anything as the Newsletters are delivered to your door, all you have to do is deliver them to your allocated streets.

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