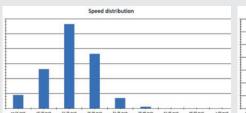
Thank you to all our readers and new and old advertisers over the last 3 months. We're pleased to be delivering to the whole of Wixams. May you have a restful and peaceful Christmas break with your loved ones. Look out for the January edition!

Wixams Parish Council News

Speed feedback signs

The four vehicle-activated speed feedback signs have been in place for three weeks and we've taken the first cut of data. The signs can be pointed in either direction, so we'll look to change them periodically. Below is the data recorded from the signs on Southern Cross and Bedford Road between 1st November and 18th November.



Southern Cross: 10,655 vehicles passed by in one direction with the speeds apportioned as shown in the table. 6% (639 vehicles) broke the 30mph speed limit. The maximum speed was 70mph and the average speed was 23mph; although we can't discount emergency vehicles from the data.

Facebook group

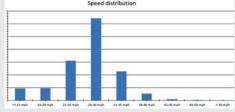
The parish council now has a Facebook group for sharing information. Search for "Wixams Parish Council". Correspondence with the parish council from residents should remain via email/letter/phone call directly to the clerk.

Councillor Vacancies

The parish council is pleased to have filled the two councillor vacancies and we now have a full house with 15 councillors. Welcome to Cllr Scott Foster and Cllr Rhianna-May Duffy.

Grants

The council is pleased to have awarded the Wixams Events Team £240 for the Wixams Christmas tree and £500 for partial payment towards the lighting of a further three trees by the shops.

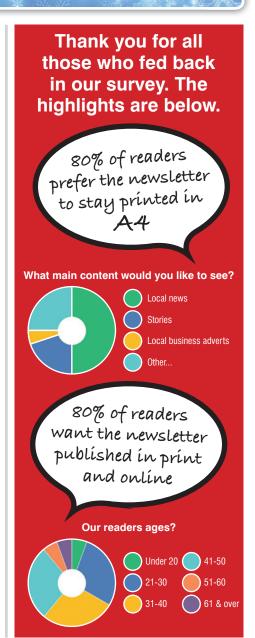


Bedford Road: 12,778 vehicles passed by in one direction with the speeds apportioned as shown in the table. 20.5% (2,619 vehicles) broke the 30mph speed limit. The maximum speed was, worryingly, 74mph and the average speed was 27mph.

The council has funding of £10,000 in total each year to fund local groups. To apply for a grant you must be a community group or local voluntary organisation with a dedicated bank account, operating or providing a service to the community of Wixams. Grants can be offered on a one-off basis to support a particular project or the purchase of equipment, to new groups wishing to start up, or as a contribution towards running costs. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

Next Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings will be on 21st December and 18th January at 7.30pm. We are currently meeting using Zoom video conferencing. Please email the clerk if you wish to attend. Our agendas will always be published on our website at least 3 working days before the meeting.



Crime Stats

- 26/10/20 Burglary Residential Dwelling Harlequin Crescent
- 23/10/20 Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Pedal Cycle Zander
- 21/10/20 Assault without Injury Common assault and battery Cadwall Drive
- 21/10/20 Theft by an Employee
- 13/10/20 Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH) Brooklands Avenue
- 10/10/20 Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000) Bedford Road
- 9/10/20 Harassment without violence (course of conduct)
 1/10/20 Harassment without violence (course of conduct)





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> Love Helen and Lynsi X

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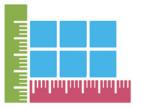
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- Trauma resolution
- @laura_thomas_counselling

sensitively





Wixams Retirement Village Residents Association

ixams Retirement Village Residents Association was formed in May 2020 predominantly to engage with the ExtraCare Charitable Trust, our Landlord. Our main objectives at the moment are dealing with the numerous building defects left by Galliford-Try, the construction company responsible. These are mainly badly fitted doors, windows and gutters.

We as an organisation also represent any residents who may be having trouble dealing with management issues.

The Association committee is in the form of eleven people voted for by the residents of the village. The committee then chooses its officers. Although our main objective is the retirement village we have been active in opposing the G-Park and Fuse Warehouse projects, both of which impact on our lives. We are also quite happy to put any influence we may have behind actions taken to lessen the nuisance of lorry traffic around the area which is creating unwanted noise and pollution.

Maurice Bunce Chairman

Wixams Festive Shopping Event

Join us for our first virtual Festive Shopping Event and support our amazing local businesses this Christmas. With fabulous sellers from beauty products, delicious bakes, floristry, gifts and much more, all from our Wixams community, there is sure to be a gift to tick off your list! Hosted on Facebook - search for Wixams Festive Shopping





Wilshamstead Borough Councillor GRAEME COOMBES Reporting to Wixams (December 2020)

s we head towards the end of the year, Awe will always remember 2020 as having been distinctly odd. Since March we've found ourselves in the midst of a global health pandemic that has placed all kinds of restrictions and impositions on our daily lives: not going out; wearing face masks and gloves; no shaking hands; standing 2m apart; queueing outside supermarkets for sanitised trollies; working from home; and vastly reduced socialising in pubs and restaurants.

Christmas is likely to be no different. Usually a time spent with family, a very significant date for Christians, for others a chance to relax after a busy year, we are likely be out of lockdown, but still with limits on how we interact, unable to meet in large groups.

However, Christmas is also a time of hope. As we look to 2021, we hope for a better year, with the possibility held out of a vaccine that can protect us and allow us to try and return to a more normal way of life.

Special thanks this year go to all of you who have been at the front line, protecting the nation's health, caring for the sick and elderly, teachers in schools, those making sure our essential services continued, and volunteers helping others. You too have had an unusual year and many of you will carry on working over the holiday period, so a very big "thank you" from all of us.

However you spend your Christmas this year, whether it's a special and meaningful time for you, or you just want the chance to relax and wind down, my very best wishes.

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

USEFUL NUMBERS

999 - Emergency

- Where there is a risk of: Personal injury
- Loss of life
- Crime in action

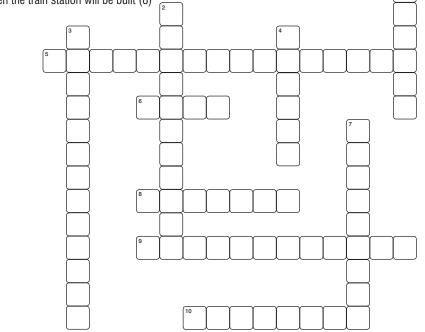
101 - Non emergency

- · Reporting a crime that is no longer in progress
- Giving information about a crime
- Contacting local police officer • Getting update reported crime
- Suspicious incidents

Puzzle Corner

ACROSS

- 5 One of the main roads through Wixams (10,6)
- 6 Some of the fish that live in our lakes (4)
- 8 A Wixams common complaint (7)
- 9 Our amazing resident who runs the Church Service, Holiday Clubs, did a fab job on the Newsletter and general Wixams legend! (4,8)
- 10 When the train station will be built (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Our local necessity (7)
- 2 A great place for an event (7,4)
- 3 Our local Councillor (6,7)
- The Events Team's head honcho (6) 4
- 7 The Wixams children's
- football club (9)





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Councillor Rebecca Hares

Central Bedfordshire Independent Councillor

I'm Rebecca Hares (call me Becs!), your Central Bedfordshire Councillor.

I'm an Independent, meaning I'm not aligned to any political party and am solely here doing my best to solve problems for residents. I have three children attending local schools, and one at Bedford College, and I work at Waitrose in Ampthill.

I appreciate many of you are concerned about the O&H Land proposal for Wixams Park, a 1,200-home cul-de-sac connecting to the B530. Residents have expressed concerns that if the new development doesn't have adequate connectivity to Wixams by foot and cyclepath, children cannot get to school without requiring a car, meaning there may be additional vehicles driving through existing Wixams estates.

I share those concerns, and will take them up with O&H. Do you have other issues you would like me to raise?

Another key issue I'm working hard on is getting developers to finish roads and pavements! It's all too easy for developers to sell houses, make promises, but not actually deliver. The junction of Juniper Drive and the B530 being a perfect example: I've written to the developer to request action and will continue following up until they complete the work.

In other news, after lobbying by Independent Councillors, CBC has launched its garden waste wheelie bin scheme. You can swap garden waste bags for a bin by visiting https://tinyurl.com/cbcgardenbin. It's great news for residents with larger gardens!

If you have any issues that you wish me to raise with Central Bedfordshire Council, please do not hesitate to contact me at *bex. hares@gmail.com*, on 0300 300 8505, or via my Facebook page: *Facebook.com/CllrHares/*

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Councillor Tim Hill's Report *Tim is currently the Borough Councillor for Elstow, Stewartby, The Wixams Retirement Village and Kempston Hardwick*

Coronavirus - Elstow & Stewartby Ward (including Wixams Retirement Village) up to 8 Nov 20, is the Borough Council Ward with the highest number of Coronavirus cases per 1,000 population at 19.9. Please, please, follow the guidelines, including limiting your contact with others and staying home as much as you can.

Mayor Dave has relaunched the Borough's Community Hub to provide support for vulnerable residents. If you or someone you know needs support to get food deliveries or assistance with prescriptions, please get in touch with the Hub. It can be contacted via 01234 718101 or Covid19help@bedford.gov.uk

Congestion at Interchange/B530 - The first section of the reconstruction work on the B530 (Ampthill Road) was completed in early November. The overall completion date was pushed back to 2 Dec 20, due to unforeseen ground conditions. I would guess Wixams residents would use the A6 anyway to get back home, but the re-opening of the B530 (Ampthill Road) should make it quicker for you to get to the A6.

The signs to warn drivers of the closure of the B530 weren't fit for purpose. The contractors wrongly assumed that all drivers know Ampthill Road is the B530. Tim successfully asked for clearer signs to be installed at all essential routes. On entering the Interchange, drivers were ignoring the new access road and causing congestion when going back round the two entrance roundabouts, to get back to the new access road. Tim also successfully got the Interchange contractors to provide clearer signs.

Mobile Advice Surgery - Tim was originally planning to hold an Advice Surgery in the "Village Hall" at Wixams Retirement Village at 12pm-12.30pm on Saturday 14th November 2020.

With the new national lockdown, that unfortunately had to be cancelled. Tim instead held a "Virtual" Mobile Advice Surgery via Zoom for all of his Ward at the same time. This was advertised via social media and by e-mail.

Children's Groups

s a result of Covid-19 the provisions of Children's playgroup and wellbeing sessions have had to cease with some services moving to a virtual platform. Below is some information on some of the groups that are currently running.

The groups below are supported or provided by Bedford Boroughs Children's Centres. If you have any queries or to book a place, please contact the relevant numbers shown below. To keep up to date on activities being provided, follow the Wixams Facebook pages or the Bedford Borough Children's Facebook page. These groups were correct at the time of publishing.



solid-foods-bedford-borough-families-only-

tickets-128759247375?aff=ebdssbonline



Monday Wednesday Friday

1.30pm - 2.30pm 10.00am - 11.00am 10.00am - 11.00am

sday 15th De Starting at 2pm er questions, please ring 0300 323 0245

sday 3rd Deo

Dads Activity Packs!



For any breastfeeding support or advice, we have one-toone online sessions via Zoom available everyday, please call 0300 323 0245 to book.



As you are aware, we have not been able to run our Dads Session, so we have come up with a new way to operate. We will be offering Activity Packs for Dads who would have attended our group, free of charge. The pack will contain all the resources to complete an activity with your child at home and all we ask is you send us through a picture of you and your child enjoying the activity.

search

If you are a Dad, Grandad, Uncle or Brother and would like to participate or would like to know more please call us on 0300 323 0245 to book your place. SPACES ARE LIMITED

Meet your local... Florist I. What does Kate Wren Flowers specialise in? Kate Wren Flowers specialise in elegant and fabulous florals for weddings, events, every day, subscription flowers and home celebrations. 2. When did you start your business? I started KWF in December 2018 3. How long have you been in this industry? I have been in this industry for nearly two years now 4. What are your most popular flowers for a bouquet? I don't have the most popular as all my clients love different types of flower bouquets. All my bouquets are bespoke to each client What are your average prices for a bouquet? The starting price is from £35, most of my clients tend to spend around £60 to £70 as men love spoiling their wives, girlfriends and fiances with high quality flowers 6. What do you love most about your job? The excitement that I get when I deliver the flowers. Seeing the clients genuinely happy with the flowers makes me love my job even more 7. What is your most popular item at Christmas? The most popular item this Christmas is the Spruce & Berry Christmas Wreath followed by the Christmas floral garland perfect for the Christmas table or mantlepiece 8. How long have you lived in Wixams? I have lived in Wixams for 8 years with my husband and daughter.

9. Whats your favourite Christmas tipple? Fanta zero

KATE WREN FLOWERS WWW.KATEWRENFLOWERS.COM 07769 334585

Lakeview School Wixams Events Team

ur lovely children at Lakeview created a beautiful, collaborative poppy made from pebbles to mark this year's Remembrance Day and to remember those who lost their lives to secure and protect our freedom. The children were a credit to the school and laid each pebble with care and thoughtfulness.





y the time you receive the Newsletter the Village Christmas Tree will be in place and sparkling with lights and Stars which have been decorated by the children of Lakeview and Wixams Tree Schools.

We must also express our thanks to the Wixams Parish Council for

providing the funding to pay for the lights on the third tree and also for the Christmas Tree. This means that we will have lights on five trees altogether which is great news. Hopefully by the time you receive this Newsletter vou will have

enjoyed the virtual switch on of the lights, sadly not in the way we normally celebrate the switching on of the tree and the start of the Christmas Celebrations. Once again Caroline and Gary of Liftright Access of Wilstead have come up trumps and provided us

with the use of a Cherry Picker to put up the tree so if you need some lifting equipment don't hesitate to call them.

Look out for the photos in the next issue of the Newsletter. Unfortunately due to the

ongoing pandemic and current lockdown we are unable to



organise the Snow Globe as mentioned in Octobers Newsletter so apologies for that. Mama Mexican and the Churro Boys will be outside the Village Hall on Fridays 16.30 to 19.30 so look out for them. This has been a

very difficult year for all of us and here's hoping that we can hold some events next year as safely as we can.

In the meantime

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and as always stay safe.

The Wixams Events Team



H Maskell & Son Ltd The Works, Duck End Lane

Wilstead, Beds, MK45 3HP mot@hmaskell.com

Tel: 01234 740 213



∎info@sandrabeckmande.co.uk 07971 671 646 Sandra Beck



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Lakeview Pre-Schoo





This term we are supporting two charities. We have raised £33 for Children in Need. Take a look at our Pudsey Pictures. We also have lots of donations coming in for Patrick's Parcels. These parcels will go to families that are struggling in these difficult times. Thank you for your kind donations © **Christmas Holiday Club** We are now taking bookings for our Christmas Holiday Clubs for children aged Tyrs and under Mon 21st Dec - Wed 23rd Dec 7:30 - 6pm Thur 24th Dec - 7:30 - 1pm Mon 4th Jan2021 - 7:30 - 6pm WWW.kidsdawntildusk.co.uk

Call Head Office for Holiday Club enquiries on 01234 930505

URGENT! 3 Streetwatch Volunteers required



For more details contact: juliet.wright@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk Tel: 07590 449815

Shine Theatre School

Dance classes in IDTA Ballet and Musical Theatre for ages 4yrs-Ilyrs. Lakeview Village Hall, Wixams.

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Remembrance Day 2020

This year, like most things, Remembrance Day was a little different because of coronavirus, usually a parade would have taken place but this year the community was asked to remember in their own private way. As well as wearing a poppy, support was shown by using a digital poppy on social media sites, or by colouring in a downloadable poppy picture and displaying it in your windows.

The first two-minute silence in Britain was held on 11 November 1919, when King George V asked the public to observe a silence at 11am. This was one year after the end of World War One. He made the request so "the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead".

Wilstead, Houghton Conquest & Wixams Royal British Legion would like to thank all of the community for supporting this years Poppy Appeal. Our Remembrance Ceremony took place on Sunday 8th November and was a virtual event.

The video can be viewed on our official Facebook page *https://www.facebook.com/rblwilstead* or on YouTube *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxPlCEAYe88*

Thanks for all your support during the Poppy Appeal this year





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Wixams Tree Primary School

hat a busy start to the new academic year!

We have been settling the children into their new classes and putting all of the social distancing rules in place to ensure that we are kept safe and sound at school. I have to say, all of the children, parents, carers and staff have been amazing in taking on this new way of school life. I just couldn't be any prouder!

Sadly lots of our trips have had to be cancelled, but we have recently managed to take the children out on a safety walk of their area. Looking at safe places to cross and following the rules of stop, listen and look. As a result, the children have been discussing the importance of walking to school, to keep healthy, avoid traffic build ups and to help save the environment with unnecessary emissions from the car fumes.

We were lucky to have had a videographer in school, they have showcased our school brilliantly! You can find this on our Facebook page, see if you can spot any familiar faces!

If you wish to enroll your children for our Reception years, this can be done via Bedford Borough before the 15th January 2021.



Best Wishes to you all Mary Langley (Headteacher)

Season's Greetings from all at Wixams Academy

t has been the most unusual year for us at the Academy, but life goes on here and students and staff are working very hard to catch up 'missed ground' from the lockdown.

We are still finding time to support our local and wider communities and recent charity days have raised £800 for the 'Foodbank' appeal and for 'Children in Need'. Sixty of our Year 10 students have also started the Duke of Edinburgh course here at the Academy and a number of them will be focussing on cleaning up the local environment, so look out for them in the community near you soon!

We had two high profile visits last week. An ITV film crew came to film our 'Knife Crime Dance Group' and the airing went out on ITV Anglia. This group is working with a local charity to highlight the devastating effects of knife crime in our communities. Have a look! Also, we welcomed the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, who very kindly donated 11 laptops to our students as part of a local scheme to ensure all students have access to remote learning.

All that remains is for us to wish you all a very merry Christmas and peaceful season's greetings.





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Wixams Community Group

www.wixams.org/community-group



Halloween Decorations Competition 2020

www.wixams.org/halloween-competition-2020



The Halloween of 2020 was a little different than we are used to, but thanks to the fantastic decorations many of our residents put up, there was still a colourfully ghostly atmosphere around town, that brought a lot of fun to anyone taking a stroll around Wixams.

For our Halloween Decorations Competition there were so many great houses to choose from, so thank you to everyone who decorated their homes this year.

The winners in 2020 are the Price family on Green Lane! Despite some tough competition, 5 of our 8 judges placed them first so they were the clear winners. We awarded them a trophy for the spookiest house and a well-deserved hamper full of drinks, snacks and more!

Many thanks to Michelle and the team at Budgens for the hamper goodies.



Check our page above for more photos from the evening.



Big thanks to Tu Plus Tu Photography for the great photos.

Christmas Decorations Competition

www.wixams.org/christmas-competition-2020

Following the success of our last decorations competitions, we'd like to continue this budding tradition this Christmas. There were many beautifully decorated houses in Wixams last year, making it a pleasure to go for a winter walk through our town. We think this year especially the decorations and lights that our Wixams residents will put up will bring much needed joy to many.

We are looking forward to seeing Christmas coming alive in Wixams, and will **reward the best decorated house with a hamper full of goodies!** Please visit the website for more information.

Community Christmas Lights

A wonderful idea has been put forward by community member Hazel, a Community Christmas Lights switch on. Just turn your lights on at the date and time below, and Wixams will be festively illuminated in an instant. It will certainly make for an exciting start to the Christmas season, so why not join in!



Wilstead & Wixams Good Neighbours Scheme

In October the two good neighbour group committees from Wilstead and Wixams met and formally merged into one organisation. The Chairman of the new group is Rick Baxter from Wilstead, with Leon Staszak from Wixams as the Vice-Chair, and a combined committee is in place to represent the larger community.

The recent increase in lockdown levels has meant there have been low levels of requests for the group but we are still open for business. We just have to evaluate each request on its merits in order to protect our volunteers and of course our clients, we are still having to abide by Government guidelines and the same local guidelines apply.

If you'd like to support people in your community you would be very welcome to join our team of volunteers, just contact us by phone or email:

07807 408928 Wilstead.Wixams.GNS@gmail.com

Advertising

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A **50% discount and priority** will be given to Wixams and Wilstead based businesses as we will have limited space. Advertising options are shown here. If you would be interested in advertising in the next issue of the Wixams Newsletter then please contact Sandra Beck on **advertising@wixams.org**
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Deadline for submissions for next issue: **19th December 2020**

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**

The Newsletter Team

Editor	Saqhib Ali	newsletter@wixams.org
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Committee	Alan Pibworth, Sheila Menzies, Emma Egan and Ellie Egan	

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