
WIXFORD NEWSLETTER

September 2009

Welcome to the September issue

We're a little late publishing our autumn edition but, as you'll see, we have a LOT of news - some of which we needed to become public before we could include in the newsletter.

As always we welcome feedback and suggestions for content. You can send us email at WixfordNews@googlemail.com Alternatively you can drop your submission off with the current editor (Jon Haworth) at "Fieldside" on the 'main' road half way through the village.

Would you like to be a Parish Councillor?

We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor on Wixford Parish Council. If you would like to put yourself forward as a candidate then please submit a brief resume about yourself and why you would like to be a Parish Councillor, including your name, address and telephone number, address this to:

Karen Parnell
109 St Mary's Road
Stratford-Upon-Avon
CV37 6TL

If you would like to find out more please contact the Clerk on 01789 292968 or by e-mail at Karen.parnell@homecall.co.uk

The next Parish Council meeting is in the Village Hall on **Tuesday November 3rd at 7:30**. Public participation is encouraged during the initial part of the meeting.

Community Matters

The Parish Council has been active in a number of areas over the last months.

One area which is a concern for many residents is the subject of traffic speeds through the village. Wixford resident Sue Goodman has put a lot of effort into raising this topic at all levels within the council and her efforts resulted in an initial speed survey which illustrated the high average speeds of traffic entering the village.

Following guidance from the District Councillors, the Parish Council attended the recent **Community Forum** at Bidford and the issue was raised with the local Police liaison. As a result you may have noticed a few additional Police speed checks in the village – with more to follow. We're not finished with this issue and the Parish Council will continue to investigate options to provide additional traffic calming measures.

The next **Community Forum** is in Aston Cantlow at 7:00 p.m. on **November 10th** (opposite the pub). It's a great opportunity to have your say in raising community issues to the local authorities.

Bidford Fire Station Closure



On September 14th plans were announced to close Bidford Fire Station – along with a number of other Fire Stations in Warwickshire.

To summarise what this means for Wixford is quite simple. Fire and rescue services (including help with flooding) would be provided, initially, from Alcester. In terms of typical response time this would mean that the 8 minutes for help to arrive from Bidford Fire Station becomes **15 minutes**. And this assumes that Alcester has sufficient resources to service the needs of a larger geography during periods of high demand.

If this concerns you then now is the time to make your opinion heard.

Step 1: There will be an open day held at Bidford Fire Station THIS Saturday - September 19th, from 11 until 3:00 and show your support for the Fire Fighters.

Step 2: Bidford Parish Council have organized a public meeting to discuss the proposed closure. The meeting is on **Wednesday September 30th** at 7:45 p.m at Crawford Memorial Hall on Salford Road, Bidford

Step 3: If you are online then add your signature to the petition to save Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Stations at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/SaveWFRS/>

Step 4: Write to the **Chief Executive** of Warwickshire County Council at

Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall
Warwick
CV34 4SA

Step 5: Visit the WCC web site and read the information in the Fire Service Consultation section (at the bottom of the section called "Talk to Us"). There is an online survey where you can express your opinion.

We have until **December 8th 2009** to make our opinions known

Obituary: George Heap Haines

It is with great sadness that the Newsletter has to report the passing of a long standing Wixford village resident.

George Haines passed away earlier this month aged 79.

George lived in the area all his life, having been born in Alcester. He moved to Wixford in the late 1950s, buying Stone House as the result of a successful bid at an auction held in the garden of the house.

George started his working career in farming but, after a spell in the Royal Air Force, decided to focus on his skills as a motor mechanic and followed that career path until he retired in the mid 1990s.

Outside work George was a passionate and expert Bee Keeper. He was a valued provider of bees to local farmers to help pollinate their crops and was recognized for his expertise by his appointment as a judge at the Royal Show.

George was a solid supporter of the village community, serving as a Parish Councillor for a number of years and being an active public participant in Parish Council meetings when he was not an elected Councillor. George rarely missed a meeting.

On behalf of the village the Newsletter offers condolences to George's family

Village Hall Corner – Dates for your Diary

October will see a series of "Taster Events" held at the Village Hall over a two week period starting on October 5th.

Mon Oct 5 th 10:30 a.m.	Tai Chi £3.50 per person
Tues Oct 6 th 7:15 p.m. (for a 7:30 p.m. start)	Flower Arranging £2.50 per person (see NOTE)
Thurs Oct 8 th 7:30 p.m.	Wine Tasting £15 per person
Fri Oct 9 th 7:30 p.m. (doors open 7:00 p.m.)	Film Night £2.50 per person
Tues Oct 13 th 7:30 p.m.	Creative Writing £2.50 per person (see NOTE)
Wed Oct 14 th 7:30 p.m.	Gardening Club £2.50 per person
Thurs Oct 15 th	Wixford Women's Club
Monday evenings 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.	Yoga – this is a regular event! First class free.

NOTE: Some events require you to take some materials along!

Contact Lesley to book or get further information.

Tel: 01789 491386 OR 0797 4796301

Email: Lesley@barnmeadow.net

Do you want to "go green"

We have had a number of requests for the Wixford Newsletter to be delivered electronically. If you want to receive an electronic copy then email us

WixfordNews@googlemail.com and we will include you on our distribution list.

In the short term you will still receive a paper copy but if we get sufficient requests for electronic subscription then we will investigate means to be selective in where we deliver the printed copies – and try to save some paper.

Welcome to the Village!

We have quite a few new residents to the village over the last 6 months so the Newsletter thought it would be good to formally welcome our new community members. Please take time to say hello when you see new faces around the village.

Starting at the 'top' of the village, Debbie and Malcolm Chilton have moved into Holly Cottage (renamed from "Heathfield Cottage"). They join us from a rural village near Sheffield.

In the 'middle' of the village it's great to see some younger residents joining our community. Hillside has two sets of residents; Zoe and Roz are in the 'old' part of the house and Zoe's brother Nigel lives 'next door' in the sympathetically extended new part of the building. They are local to the area having moved from Alcester and Zoe tells the Newsletter that she is enjoying the quieter environment that Wixford provides.

And at the 'bottom' of the village, having been empty over the winter, Horseshoe Cottage has new owners. Liz Benson and Mark Kent have moved to Wixford to enjoy all that the village has to offer. Mark is from Birmingham, and this is his first taste of rural living. Liz grew up in Welford, and her parents now live in Ardens Grafton. Liz and Mark (who married in July 2008) both work in the West Midlands. Wixford will be their rural respite! They would like to thank everyone for making them feel so welcome, and assure you all that Horseshoe Cottage, although a work in progress will be up and running soon.

Watch out – there is a thief about!

One of the unfortunate side effects of the increased levels of monitoring and CCTV recording in built up areas is a tendency for criminals to target more rural communities where detection of their crimes in-progress are less likely.

Sadly we've seen some activity from thieves in Wixford this week with a vehicle break-in and the theft of valuable tools. This seems to be part of a 'spree' with neighboring villages also being 'hit'.

Please;

- LOCK your vehicles and do not leave valuables in them
- Be ALERT
- REPORT any unusual vehicles or behavior to Alcester Safer Neighbourhood Team 01789 444816 or 01926 415000 extension 16179 (Pete Groom)