

Doors open on an exciting new later life opportunity.

Seventy-one-year-old John Davey was among local guests at the opening of the new Wixams Retirement Village show homes in Bedford recently.

John plans to move into a two bedroom shared ownership apartment with his wife. He was joined by partners from The ExtraCare Charitable Trust, Bedford Borough Council, Harpur Trust and future residents.

Around 1200 households have already registered their interest in this ground breaking village, opening in 2019 with 230 light and spacious apartments, 92 for outright sale, 92 for shared ownership and 46 for affordable rent. Apartments will have their own hallway, living room, one or two bedrooms, kitchen and a shower room, plus either a balcony, patio or bay window.

As with other ExtraCare Retirement Villages, Wixams will feature a superb range of facilities including a bar, bistro, village hall, IT suite, hair and beauty salon, gym and a shop, for use



Mick Laverty, Chief Executive of the ExtraCare Charitable Trust; Shirley Davey; John Davey; and David Russell, Chief Executive of The Harpur Trust.

by residents, their families and the local community as part of an exciting 'community hub'. In addition, up to 50 activities will be on offer each week including IT classes, choir, gardening and chair aerobics.

"One of the factors that attracts us to Wixams Village is the opportunity to make new friends and meet different people," said John, a retired production engineer in the aerospace industry, who moved with his wife to Bedford nine years ago to be closer to their grandchildren.

"My wife and I are really interested in the community life

that Wixams will offer. We're a bit isolated where we're living now, but everything is there at the village, with a shop and different facilities. We're looking forward to the chance to have a close community around us. It's also reassuring to know that when we get a bit older and less mobile, there is care available on our doorstep."

Around a third of residents within the village will receive help with care. Dependent on individual circumstances, the village can support residents with significant assessed care needs, including dementia.

Residents' Story

David and Colette Woodbridge So excited to have moved into an ExtraCare village.

David and Colette Woodbridge were one of the first couples to move into our Hughenden Gardens Village when it opened in May this year.

Colette is retired and David is retiring shortly. They had lots of stairs and a large garden at their previous home, and had difficulty maintaining it. So when they saw the plans for the village 5 years ago in a local paper, they kept their eyes peeled for more information before deciding the move was right for them.

Having been to Friends meetings and get togethers, and met with residents from other ExtraCare villages, the couple had heard about how life at ExtraCare provides endless opportunities to be active, enjoy your independence and get more out of later life. Moving into their beautiful village apartment was also the perfect opportunity to downsize and give their sons peace of mind.

Colette loves having access to all the village's social and leisure facilities and activities; she can pop into the village shop, the hairdressing and beauty salon, or meet friends in the café bar and bistro. She can visit the Library/IT Suite to surf the internet, or tone up in the Fitness Centre. There's even a proper village hall, which is perfect for when you fancy a dance or a get-together.

The village is open to everyone, so there are always lots of new like-minded friends and neighbours, and the couple are never short of things to do.

They both think the staff are amazing. Everyone says hello and there's always someone around to help or answer any questions.

After taking up Tai Chi classes and joining the gym, Colette is now looking forward to volunteering on reception for a few hours a week. In fact, both David and Colette are eager to get involved in village activities, whilst finding time to relax and enjoy their retirement together. Both they and their family think that moving to the village is the best thing they've ever done.



"Moving to the village is the best thing we've ever done."

Reflections on the development's progress.



As you turn off the A6 and approach Wixams Village along the causeway, you see the imposing structure of the new village centre, now five floors high, reflected in the lake that will form the backdrop for the bar and bistro.

Turning right, you next find the most advanced section of the development; this contains the impressive Galleria and, to the ground floor, the newly completed sales and marketing suite.

Clearly there has been a great deal of progress since the previous update, and this continues now that some of the roof areas are complete and the scaffold is being struck to allow for the finishing details to the elevations. These will include finishing the render and forming the balconies.

Other areas moving forward are Zone B, which will house the all-important village centre and its wealth of facilities; here the brickwork has been completed and is now ready for the wall plate and roof trusses.

First and second finishes for all trades are being completed throughout the development, which includes plastering, kitchen fitting, tiling and decorating.

The show apartments are open to visit between **10am and 4pm, Mon-Fri**, no appointment necessary. Local older people and their families wishing to view the apartments can phone **0300 303 2333** or email **wixams@extracare.org.uk**



Upcoming Events

Information Days at Wixams Retirement Village

These present an ideal opportunity for you to find out everything that you need to know about Wixams Village and whether living in this inspirational community will be right for you.

Information Days

17th July

10am or 1pm

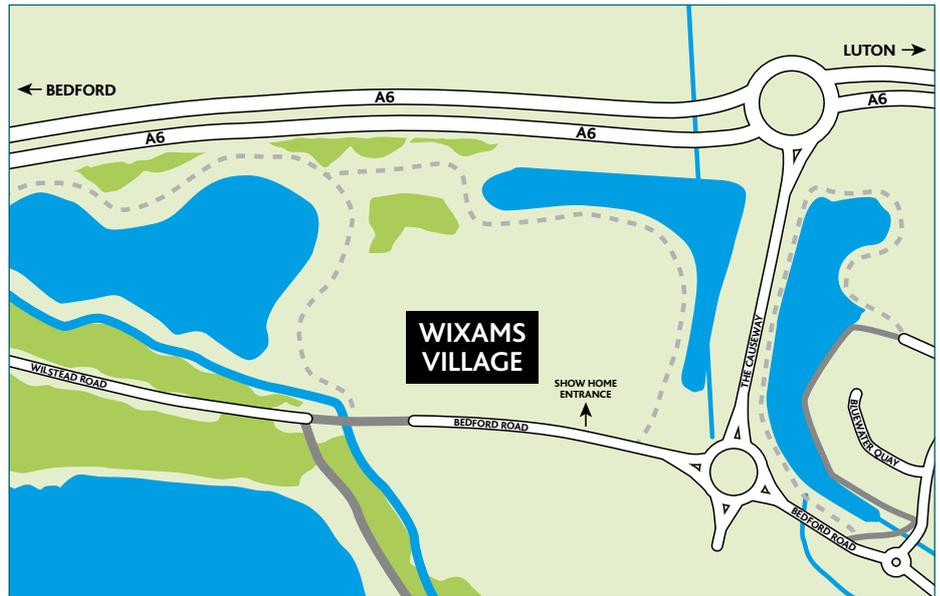
18th July

10am or 1pm

24th July

10am or 1pm

Please call
0300 303 2333 or email
wixams@extracare.org.uk
for more details



ExtraCare - the charity

Founded in 1988, The ExtraCare Charitable Trust is a registered charity based in Coventry. We operate over 30 retirement villages and smaller housing developments across the Midlands and the North. Our vision is better lives for older people and our mission is creating sustainable communities that provide homes older people want, lifestyles they can enjoy and care if it's needed.

The
ExtraCare
Charitable Trust

Better lives for older people

A registered charity since 1988

www.extracare.org.uk



 wixamsretirementvillage

Wixams Retirement Village, Bedford Road, Bedford MK42 6AX
Call **0300 303 2333** or visit www.wixamsvillage.co.uk