**GREAT WAKERING PARISH COUNCIL**

**From the Clerk**

**Platinum Jubilee Mugs**

To celebrate the Queens’s Platinum Jubilee and to provide a lasting memento of the occasion the Parish Council will be purchasing 1000 mugs to be distributed upon application amongst the children residing in Great Wakering on a first come first served basis. Any mugs remaining after the children’s priority date has passed will be distributed amongst adult residents of Great Wakering on the same basis. Application forms are available on the Parish Council’s website and office.

**Villager of the Year Competition**

The Parish Council held a Villager of the Year competition and has made a donation to the winner’s charity of choice which was Myeloma UK.

**Parish Council Burial Ground**

Treeworks were undertaken in the burial ground to remove and cut back the branches of trees which were beginning to cover graves and headstones.

There is a big increase in waste being left in the burial ground. If possible would users please take their wilted flowers and wreaths home with them to place in their green bins for composting to reduce the increasing disposal costs. Please remember not to place glass or alcohol on the graves as this will be removed for safety reasons. Please remember that by entering the burial ground you agree to be bound by the burial ground rules posted on the noticeboard at the entrance.

**Fly-tipping** is a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to £50,000 - or 12 months imprisonment ifconvicted in a Magistrates' Court. The offence can attract an unlimited fine and up to 5 years imprisonment if convicted in a Crown Court.

**2022 Precept**

In January the Council set its new precept for the upcoming financial year with a new Band D rate of £36.37 which is well below the national average of £71.86. There was a 2% increase over the previous year, the rising power charges for streetlighting being a current area which needed extra funding.

**Information on Energy Bill Rebate**

The Government has announced an Energy Bill Rebate for households in England from April 2022 to help with rising energy costs.

This includes a one-off payment of £150 to most households in Council Tax bands A-D, excluding empty or second homes.

**The £150 will not be deducted from your Council Tax bill, it will be paid into your bank account.**

If you pay your Council Tax by Direct Debit you should receive the payment in April directly into your bank account.

Rochford District Council will begin contacting residents who do not pay by Direct Debit from April to arrange payment of the rebate.

There is also discretionary funding available to enable them to offer rebates to some residents in bands E-H. Once they have an approved scheme in place for this, we will update you.

**Please note that you do not need to do anything now if you think you will be entitled to a rebate, Rochford District Council will contact you.**

**Allotments**

Please continue to take care on the allotments during the current high case numbers, remember to sanitise hands and equipment frequently especially before and after touching shared resources.

There is a long waiting list for allotments but if you would like to rent an allotment plot please contact the Parish Council Office to be added to the waiting list. Parishioners of Great Wakering have priority on the list over non-Parishioners.

Kind regards

Sharon Hyatt – CEO/Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer