**GREAT WAKERING PARISH COUNCIL**

**From the Clerk**

**Christmas Food Hampers**

This year 42 food hampers paid for by the Parish Council were delivered to residents of Great Wakering over 80 years of age. A good range of food was sourced by the Clerk and delivered by Councillors and the Clerk in the period immediately before Christmas.

**Villager of the Year**

The Villager of the Year competition was won by GC who chose Great Wakering Sea Scouts as their charity of choice to receive a £50.00 donation from Great Wakering Parish Council.

**Allotment Competition**

The winners of the Parish Council allotment competition were as follows:

1st Place – AP

2nd Place – JT

3rd Place – RS

4th Place – MJ

The prize winners will each receive national garden vouchers donated by the Parish Council.

Please continue to take care on the allotments, remember to sanitise hands and equipment frequently especially before and after touching shared resources. Please do not wash produce or equipment in the water tanks.

There is a short 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. We are constantly allocating plots to new plot holders.

**Remembrance Day**

Councillors attended the outdoor Remembrance Day service at St Nicholas church with the Parish Council wreath being laid at the war memorial in memory of all those that have given their lives.

**Successful Conclusion of Audit**

Once again the Parish Council has received confirmation of a successful conclusion of audit for the 2023/2024 financial year. We received another clear report with no matters arising or requiring attention.

**Bus Fare Cap Increase**

The bus fare cap has now increased by £1 and is now set at £3 until the end of 2025. Routes where fares would be less than the £3 cap will pay the lesser amount.

Parish Council Burial Ground

To prevent dogs being banned from the Burial Ground would dog owners please clear up after their pets and always keep their dogs on a lead whilst in the Burial Ground. There is a big increase in waste (especially plastic 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.

**Great Wakering Household Recycling Point**

The confirmed upcoming collection dates for the recreation ground are as follows:

Saturday 18th January

Saturday 15th February

Saturday 15th March

What can be taken:

Non-recyclable waste (sacks only)

* Bulky items such as mattresses and small furniture
* Electrical appliances (items that can be fitted into a standard sized carrier bag)

**What cannot be taken:**

* Garden waste
* Gas bottles
* Asbestos
* Any hazardous waste including chemicals and paint
* Hard core/building rubble/plasterboard
* Commercial/business waste

The vehicles will leave the site once they are full. Any waste left here by residents after the vehicles have left is classed as**fly tipping.**

Please be aware that:

* Waste can be investigated prior to disposal
* Any waste can be refused disposal at anytime
* Proof of address/ID will be required by residents using the arrangement – Rochford District residents only
* A vehicle height restriction of 2m will be in force
* Vehicle registrations may be recorded

Kind regards

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