**GREAT WAKERING PARISH COUNCIL**

**From the Clerk**

**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. Councillors and staff also attended the Remembrance Day parade outside the British Legion.

**Christmas Food Hampers**

Around 15 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 in the period before Christmas.

**Outdoor Christmas Lights Competition**

The Parish Council held its annual outdoor Christmas lights competition and we are pleased to announce the winner as being 49 Kingfisher Street. The judge stated that all the entries were decorated beautifully but that this entry went the extra mile. The winners will choose a charity of their choice to receive a £50.00 donation from the Parish Council.

**Successful Conclusion of Audit**

Once again the Parish Council has received confirmation of a successful conclusion of audit for the 2021/22 financial year. We received another clear report with no matters arising or requiring attention.

**Allotment Competition**

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

1st Place – Mr Alves

2nd Place – Mrs Barttram

3rd Place – Mr Pitts

4th Place – Mr Mead

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

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.

**Great Wakering Household Recycling Point**

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

Saturday 18th February

Saturday 18th 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 attend from 9am and will leave the site once they are full or at noon. Any waste left here by residents after the vehicles have left is classed as**fly tipping.**

**Parish Council Burial Ground**

If possible would users please take their rubbish home with them to reduce the increasing disposal costs. Please remember not to place glass on the graves as this may be removed for safety reasons.

**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.

Kind regards

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