**GREAT WAKERING PARISH COUNCIL**

**From the Clerk**

**Christmas Parcels**

This year there will be the opportunity for those Parishioners of Great Wakering who are over 80 years of age to apply for a free Christmas food parcel. Application forms will be available from early to mid-November downloadable from our website or from the Parish Council offices. Parcels will only be delivered to those residents of Great Wakering who have submitted a form by the deadline. These parcels will be limited in numbers so allocation will be on a first come first served basis until they are all gone, so get your application in as soon as the application process is open!

**Christmas Lights Competition**

The Parish Council will once again be running a Christmas Lights Competition. The winner of the household judged to have the best external Christmas lights display will be able to nominate a charity of their choice to receive a £50.00 donation from the Parish Council.

Entry will be free and by a form downloadable from the Parish Council website or available from the Parish Council office from mid-November. Only houses within the Parish of Great Wakering that have submitted their entry forms by the closing date will be judged. The winner will be notified in January.

**Allotment Competition**

The annual allotment competition for the plot holders of the Parish Council allotments went ahead earlier this year. The results will be announced in the next newsletter once the winners have been informed.

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

**Bank Holiday Community Centre Event**

Members of the Parish Council took the opportunity to attend the August Bank holiday horticultural event at the Community Centre for the purpose of meeting Parishioners and providing important local information to residents. Information provided included updated bus timetables and other travel information, information from the fire and rescue service including how to book a free home safety visit, priority registration for the power network, the new online booking system for visitors to Rayleigh tip and information from various charities.

**Parish Council Burial Ground**

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.

**Great Wakering Household Recycling Point**

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

Saturday 19th November

Saturday 17th December

Saturday 21st January

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.**

Kind regards

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