

Parish Newsletter December 2023



Welcome from the Chairman

December has brought yet more rain, with flooding and worsening potholes. The Parish Council are working hard to impress on Wiltshire Council the need to repair our roads speedily and effectively. In the meantime, please take care when walking, cycling or in your car.

On a happier note, on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful, Healthy and fulfilling New Year.

Councillor Dee Nix

Forthcoming road closures

9th-11th January 2024 – the A345 between Prospect and the Pewsey Wharf will be closed between 9.30am and 3.00pm

8th – 19th January – the Everleigh road from Swan Corner in Pewsey will be closed for verge over-run repairs.

22nd-26th January – the C52 between Indigo antiques (on the A345) and the Manningford triangle will be closed for surfacing works.

Check <https://one.network/> for all road closures.

Ditches and Rights of Way

A reminder that landowners are responsible for maintaining public rights of way; this includes cutting back overgrowth and ensuring stiles and gates are safe to use. Likewise, landowners are responsible for keeping their ditches clear and dug out to assist with drainage. Residents and walkers may report any problems on MyWilts, and Wiltshire Highways will contact landowners directly. However, if landowners can look after their patch, a good outcome for all will prevail.

Slug pellets

Residents may be unaware that, under the Environment Act 2021, metaldehyde was banned as an ingredient in slug pellets because it is so toxic. Should residents have unused stocks, it can be disposed of at the Wiltshire Council recycling centres; please do not be tempted to use it up.

All things school!

Parking - In response to a request from the parish council on behalf of beleaguered residents, Oare School has asked parents to be far more considerate when parking near the school and to desist from blocking residents' driveways. Parents have been reminded that it is far safer for all concerned to park in the car parking area by the White Hart and walk the rest of the way.

Textiles Recycling - Residents who may have been used to the textiles recycling bin near the school are advised that this has been removed due to difficulties with parking the school minibus without damage to either vehicle or bin. As school has been advised that the Domestic Violence Charity, based in Calne, which was displayed on the bin, receives very little in way of money from the textile company which collects the donations, school has decided that it would be better to hold a regular direct collection of unwanted clothing for the charity instead. Any villagers who wish to contribute in this way, via Oare School, are welcome to do so.

Battery Recycling - Residents are also welcome to make use of the small battery collection bins in the school, as well as the spectacles recycling box.

Litter Pick 2024

Reminder - Saturday 16th March - All welcome to join in!

Wiltshire Connect Bus service

More than five thousand passengers used this service during its first two months. For further information and to book the bus by telephone, call the helpline on 01225 712900. Visit the website to download the app:

<https://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/getting-around/bus/wiltshire-connect/>

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)

You are probably aware that our parish sits within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. On 22nd November, all AONBs were renamed as National Landscapes.

You may read the official press release at <https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/areas-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-renamed-national-landscapes/>

Pewsey Area Board

The Wiltshire Area Boards have recently launched a new facebook page and X/Twitter account.

<https://www.facebook.com/wiltsareaboard>
<https://twitter.com/WiltsAreaBoard>

Follow to find out more about what the Area Boards do, including approving grants for various projects.

Community Speedwatch (CSW)

The Oare Team looks forward to carrying out more frequent sessions with the welcome help of three new team members. The data generated by the Speedwatch team will be of great use in attracting support from Wiltshire Highways and from Wiltshire Police in the parish council's efforts to make this stretch of the A345 safer for all road users, drivers as well as pedestrians. However, some of our locations are now deemed too dangerous because we must walk on the road to get to them! Cllr Nix is following this up with Community Speedwatch but if ever the dangers of being a resident needed underlining this does it perfectly!

Communal skips

The parish council is considering funding three skips per year, one for each village in the parish. Please let the Clerk know if you strongly support – or disapprove of – this proposal.

Police matters

The Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner is conducting his regular survey to find out your opinions on police performance, priorities and expenditure.

You may complete the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SM6NJMY>

There does not appear to be an offline alternative but you may write to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon at:

London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 2DN
Remember that you can sign up for police updates direct to your inbox at <https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/>

Voluntary roles available

Community Emergency Contacts – Wiltshire Council is updating its register of those who are willing to be the first point of contact for their village in the event of an incident.

Tree Warden – Wiltshire Council is aiming to revive this scheme whereby every village has a tree warden, to keep an eye on existing trees and spot suitable locations for new ones.

LINK – this charity is looking for drivers willing to use their own cars to chauffeur people to and from medical appointments, shops etc. Please contact the Clerk for further details if you are interested in any of these roles.

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2023-24

Tuesday 9th January, Wilcot
Tuesday 19th March, Oare
Tuesday 14th May, Oare – Annual Meetings

Chair: Dee Nix

Vice Chair: Dawn Wilson

Clerk: Ruth Kinderman

clerk@wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk

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