

Parish Newsletter Late Summer 2024



Welcome from the Chairman

As the nights draw in and Autumn approaches, please take extra care on our roads and footpaths. Please help all of us by reporting any flooding incidents, potholes etc. Frustrating as it may feel, it builds a picture for us to hold Wiltshire Council and landowners to account for keeping us all safe.

Councillor Dee Nix

WATER Special Edition

Pre-empting the winter weather.

Many residents in the Pewsey Vale, including several of our own parishioners, suffered under the heavy rainfall last season. With this in mind, please could all landowners ensure ditches are cleared in good time to maximise drainage efficiency once the autumn rains set in.

Wessex Water Community Drop-ins

Do you have a query about your water bill, how to save water and prevent blockages, or your water and sewerage services?

@wessexwater will be holding drop-in sessions at Devizes Library on Tuesday 17th September and 5th November 2024 to answer all of your water related questions. The drop-in session will be run between 10am-11am, with bookable slots available between 11.30am and 2.30pm.

To find out more, visit:

<https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/community-drop-ins>

Related to this, the following article has been contributed by a resident, drawing attention to a problem which can easily be avoided:

Let's Talk About Sewage

"The main sewage pipe in Oare runs parallel to the main road about 30 yards to the left if you are travelling to Pewsey and connects to the small pumping station (the green box) just before you get to the derestricted sign.

On the first Sunday of May after a heavy

rainstorm I woke up to find raw sewage on my lawn. The sewer had blocked and the manhole cover in our garden had been forced up. Wessex Water could not have been more helpful, a man arrived that morning and spent about 3 hours unblocking the sewer and then another 30 minutes hosing the worst of the sewage back down the manhole. Because we have dogs and didn't want them subject to the contamination a crew came on the Monday and cleared the first layer of turf and reseeded the lawn.

The cause of the blockage (one of the worst the operative had seen) was wet wipes. In the last 10 years between us and our neighbours we have seen about half a dozen blockages normally with the same cause. We are unfortunate because we live close to where the pipe turns up towards the pumping station so most of the village's sewage has already been collected by the time the pipe runs under our garden.

So, a plea going forward, please do not dispose of wet wipes down the toilet, you are likely to cause a blockage and mean a fellow villager will suffer and before you complain about the cost of water supplies, remember Wessex Water has to have clean-up crews to deal with these problems."

Wessex Water repairs – road closure

The C264 by Pennings Farm will be closed for 3 days from 4th November.

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

Energy Efficiency Grants

Grants are available to homeowners with an annual income below £36,000 or to landlords with fewer than four properties. Wiltshire Council is working with EDF to implement works and interested residents should contact our Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway Paul.Oatway@wiltshire.gov.uk for further information.

Swimming and Cost of Living Support

The Local Youth Network is working with the leisure centres to provide swimming sessions for all children unable to swim a width unaided. The Cost of Living Support Scheme is still open to those in need, provided applications are supported by a referee such as headteacher, GP or parish councillor. Please contact the Clerk or Cllr Wilson for more information.

Changes to Connect Bus services

The timetabled service has been adjusted and a new operating zone added to the bookable service which will mean greater ride availability, with changes taking place from 1st September 2024. All details can be found at <https://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/2024/08/wiltshire-connect-service-changes-from-1st-september-2024/> To download the Wiltshire Connect app, please go to www.wiltshireconnect.co.uk For further information and to book the bus by telephone, call the helpline on 01225 712900.

Tidworth, the Collingbournes and the Kennet Valley villages are now included in the operational area.

Saturday operating hours for the on-demand service will be amended to 8am to 7.30pm from 7th September; Monday to Friday is unchanged, remaining at 6am-8pm.

New timetable leaflets can be ordered by emailing: WiltshireConnect@wiltshire.gov.uk

· 100 Marlborough-Devizes: Peak journeys are withdrawn due to low use. A reduced timetable with 2 off-peak trips in both directions will continue to operate on Monday to Friday.

· 101 Pewsey-Devizes: Revised timetable and school journeys are amended.

· 110/120 Marlborough-Hungerford-Great Bedwyn: Minor timetable amendments. The 15.25 120 journey is extended from Hungerford to Marlborough offering a new timetabled service from Hungerford to Marlborough at 16:15 Wiltshire

Gypsy and Travellers Development Plan Consultation

The consultation runs until 4th October and can be accessed at

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-gypsy-travellers>

Proposed changes to National Planning Policy

To view Wiltshire Council's webinar about the Government's proposals and how Wiltshire may be affected, please visit their Youtube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= MLFP7-Ex90>

To take part in the consultation, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system/> The consultation ends at

11.45pm on Tuesday 24 September 2024.

Parish Councils – Local Elections May 2025

Local elections take place every four years; all current parish councillors automatically stand down and a new council is elected. More information about how to stand will be available nearer the time but please contact the Clerk at any time if you would like to understand more about the role.

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2024-25

Tuesday 24th September, Oare

Tuesday 26th November, Wilcot

Tuesday 14th January, Oare

Tuesday 25th March, Wilcot

Wednesday 14th May, Wilcot – Annual Meetings

Chair: Dee Nix **Vice Chair:** Dawn Wilson

Clerk: Ruth Kinderman 01672 851757

clerk@wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk

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