



Message from the Chairman

It is with great sadness that I must mark the passing of two stalwarts of the Parish Council. Councillor Margaret Giddings was a Councillor for Oare for many years, being very heavily involved in many aspects of community life, for example in her role as Church Warden.

Councillor Colin Bouch was also on the Parish Council for many years, representing Wilcot. He also supported the community through a number of other roles, including being a Governor at Oare School. It was a privilege to work with both of them and I would like to offer, on behalf of the Parish Council, our sincere condolences to both their families.

Councillor Dee Nix

Litter Picks – Saturday 16th March!

As previously announced, the village litter picks take place on Saturday 16th March; just turn up at 10.00am at either Wilcot or Oare Village Hall to collect equipment and rubbish sacks for your haul.

Revamp Your Tank

Wiltshire Council and the Wessex Rivers Trust are offering fully funded grants to enable residents to upgrade their septic tanks at no cost to themselves. Please visit <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-bio-development> or Revamp Your Tank (wessexrt.org.uk) for further information about eligibility and to register your interest in the scheme.

Alternatively, please contact the Clerk for further information.

Party Kit Network

Oare School PTA has party tableware for hire; for £10 you will be able to borrow thirty colourful cups, bowls, plates and cutlery, plus two plastic jugs. For an additional £5, the PTA will do your post-party washing-up.

Email pta@oare.excalibur.org.uk.

Telephone 07776106840

Find out more at www.partykitnetwork.org

CIL monies – new benches and defibrillator

Defibrillators - The parish council is grateful to Mr Harriman for hosting the new defibrillator at Hillview Park, Sunnyhill Lane. There are now five defibrillators within the parish; the other four are located at Huish, Oare Village Hall, Wilcot Village Hall and West Stowell Farmhouse. Defibrillators are designed to be very user-friendly but if you would prefer to familiarise yourself with one in a non-emergency setting, please do let the Clerk know; if there is sufficient interest, the parish council is able to arrange a training session.

Benches - New benches for Oare and Huish have been installed, replacing those which were no longer fit for purpose; the parish council thanks the Oare Village Hall Committee for timely assistance with taking the delivery! The parish council successfully applied for a match-funded grant from <https://www.nwd-landscapetrust.org.uk/> towards the benches, for which we are very grateful.

Oare School Recycling Facilities

A reminder that residents are welcome to make use of the school recycling facilities. Please pop in to the office with your items; printer ink cartridges, glasses, and batteries.

University Bursary Grant

Wiltshire Community Foundation offers grants to young people in Wiltshire and Swindon who need support with the costs of studying an undergraduate degree at university. The One Degree More bursary is £1,600 for each year of the course to help with general living expenses, course costs, books and equipment. We are now open for applications for those starting university this year.

Eligibility

Young people can apply for a university bursary if they:

- are under 24 years old
- have lived in Wiltshire or Swindon for at least 2 years
- parents or guardians receive 2 means-tested benefits (2 elements of Universal Credit)
- eligible for funding through Student Finance England
- studying for first undergraduate degree at a UK university or college

<https://www.wiltshirecf.org.uk/grants-and-support/individuals/university-bursary-one-degree-more/>

Open for applications until 5th April 2024.

Wiltshire Council Cultural Strategy Survey

The 2024-30 Cultural Strategy for Wiltshire wants to place culture and creativity at the heart of Wiltshire's economic and social future, with a plan created with the broadest possible range of views. Wiltshire Council has identified five pillars for the Strategy: Economy, Identity, Tourism, Health & Wellbeing, and Community. Wiltshire Council wants to understand more about your priorities for culture, and how they might contribute to these themes.

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-wiltshires-emerging-cultural-strategy>

The survey closes on 24th March.

Voter ID

Do not lose your right to vote; if you do not have ID yet you can get help and register at

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8279/Registering-to-vote>

105

The electricity network operators have introduced 105, an easy-to-remember number to call in the event of a power cut or any other problem, such as damaged cables; this will put you through to your local electricity network operator. Your network operator is a different entity from the supplier to whom you pay your bills; not many people realise that their electricity supplier cannot help or advise in any way in the event of a power cut!

Precept 2024/2025

The parish council has set the precept for 2024/2025 at £9514.00, down from £9660.00 in 2023/2024. This will show up as a 0% change on your council tax bills, rather than a reduction, due to a slight drop in our tax base; this is the equivalent number of contributing Band D (average) properties in the parish, and it can be affected by several factors such as single-occupancy, and changes to Wiltshire Council policy regarding housing support and similar schemes.

Annual Meetings

This year the annual meetings will take place at Oare Village Hall. Proceedings will commence at 7.00pm with the Annual Parish Meeting, an opportunity for residents on the electoral roll to hear a review of the past year from their parish councillors and from Wiltshire Unitary Councillor Paul Oatway. Residents may raise any matters they wish, and the meeting is followed by refreshments provided by parish councillors. The second meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, which marks the start of a new civil year.

Your Parish Council

Chair: Dee Nix

Vice Chair: Dawn Wilson

Clerk: Ruth Kinderman

clerk@wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk

2 Little Woodborough, Wiltshire, SN9 5PL

01672 851757

www.wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk

