



Welcome from the Chairman

I hope that everyone is keeping well and are coping in these extremely challenging times.

Actions within our community

Two local groups have initiated a scheme to help those in our community who are vulnerable or elderly. The Parish Council fully supports their activities. Each group is asking residents who may need help to get in touch and also for volunteers to provide help where it is needed.

Whether or not you are self-isolating, you may feel vulnerable to COVID-19 – these groups are here to help. In Oare and Huish they will be setting up local teams covering small areas (Upper, Middle and Lower Oare; Huish; Sunnyhill; plus others as necessary). In Wilcot a similar arrangement is being put in place.

The things the groups can organise are: shopping for food and essential supplies – delivered to your front door or porch. Pharmacy collections – as above, for this they will need a signed permission letter. Finally, general support, in other words someone to talk to on the phone so that nobody feels alone through this difficult time. Please note that neither group can provide any transport services, medical advice or support, or physical care.

These are entirely voluntary projects being organised by locals and are free and available to all. You may not want or need help at this stage, but please keep this newsletter and contact the following people if things change:

Wilcot: John Macauslan - j.macauslan@btinternet.com - 562127 or neighbourhood organisers.

Oare: Victoria Coles – victoria.jane.coles@gmail.com – 01672 562161,
Jon Ford – jon.ford@me.com – 01672 564964,

Margaret Thompson – j.f.d.t@btinternet.com – 01672 564081

Huish: Dawn Wilson – dawn.wilson@wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk - 01672 563917

If your immediate contacts are unavailable please try one of the other contacts for the area.

Please make sure you follow the NHS and government advice on COVID-19, self-isolation and essential precautions. Please wash your hands with soap and warm water properly and regularly.

Volunteers

Both groups are looking for volunteers to enable these plans to go ahead. Please only volunteer if you are fit and healthy and are not in any of the “at risk” categories. However, please do not feel that other people will volunteer! Our population is small and so the number of people who are able to volunteer will also be low. Please contact either John Macauslan or Victoria Coles if you feel able to volunteer.

Open Space Survey

Wiltshire Council is undertaking a collaborative piece of work with which they are seeking assistance. Approximately 4 years ago, Wiltshire Council collected data related to open space provision in the area and residents' input was invaluable. The Council now wishes to bring records up to date to inform two significant emerging strategies. The data collected will be used to understand the current provision of existing open space within the county and will form part of the evidence base necessary to underpin a new Green Infrastructure Strategy and an Open Space Strategy. The survey relates to your use and opinion of the type and quantity of currently available open space in the parish.

For an e-copy, please contact the Clerk at clerk@wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk. For a hard copy, please ask your nearest parish councillor: for Oare, Cllr Dee Nix; for Huish, Cllr Dawn Wilson; for Wilcot, Cllr Richard Fleet.

Wiltshire Council would like responses by 14th April so please act promptly! If you wish to read around the subject Natural England's Green Infrastructure's Guidance page at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033> has a downloadable PDF which describes Green Infrastructure. If you wish to see further information regarding Wiltshire Council's current policies in the Wiltshire Core Strategy please go to their webpage at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-core-strategy>

Home-Start Kennet

Home-Start Kennet is a charity that helps young families struggling with challenges such as: isolation, post-natal depression, illness, bereavement, poor mental and physical health, family breakdown and multiple birth. Anybody interested in becoming a volunteer to visit families for around two hours per week should contact them on **01672 569457** or email hskadmin@homestartkennet.co.uk
www.homestartkennet.co.uk

Defibrillators

Councillor Dawn Wilson takes great care that the four defibrillators in the parish are ready to use at all times. The Parish Council is very grateful to her for ensuring the pads are replaced in due time and for reporting monthly to South West Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST) so that should anybody need to telephone 999, they will be directed to the nearest machine by the call-centre operator.

Apart from the regular maintenance costs, the defibrillators themselves will need replacing within the next two or three years. The Parish Council is exploring alternative options to buying machines outright; for example, it is possible to have machines provided on a contract basis and this might be cheaper. The Parish Council took this future expenditure into account when setting its precept for 2020/2021 and will be setting aside some money each year in readiness.

Recycling Changes

Everybody should have received information from Wiltshire Council regarding the changes to recycling arrangements. Further information can be obtained from the Clerk or online at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling-collection-changes>

Your Parish Council

Chair: Dee Nix

Vice Chair: Dawn Wilson

Any communication should be addressed to the

Clerk: Ruth Kinderman

clerk@wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk

2 Little Woodborough, Woodborough, Pewsey, Wiltshire, SN9 5PL

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As ever, all would be welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting for all Electors which is planned to be held on Tuesday 19th May at Wilcot Village Hall, to be followed by refreshments, after which the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be held. **Unfortunately, the Annual Meetings may be cancelled or postponed due to the circumstances.**

