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Hello, I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I've enjoyed some lovely weekends working in the garden and it really seems that spring is around the corner, despite some really stormy weather at times!

At the beginning of March we had our first Cemetery tidy day of the year. With a great turnout, we were able to install all the rabbit guards to the new hedging along cemetery road, and clear leaves, brambles and ivy from around the memorials and Chapel of Rest. Do come along to if you would like to join us – we're a friendly bunch and meet on the first Wednesday of each month between now and November (10:30 to 1ish). In April, we had a general tidy and extended the compost heap.



Left to right – Mike Lavelle, Mel Karunaratne, Kathy Cordy, Jo Pask and Mary Jolland



Left to right – Kathy Cordy, Mel Karunaratne & Roger Medley

Thanks go out to Mary Jolland for leading the litter pick on Sunday 29th March, a fantastic turnout of 16 adults and nine children, who collected ten bags of rubbish and some boards and posts. Thanks too to Barbara Merritt and the team at Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre for their support with facilities and refreshments...Further litter picks take place on for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

1<sup>st</sup> Wickhambrook Beavers have also been busy, and a big thank you goes out to them and their leader Kingfisher Noel Micallef for putting up 8 bird boxes in Wickhambrook Cemetery from kits put together by our Chairman, Mike Lavelle – thanks also go to Mike and everyone who contributed wood for the project...

April signals the start of a new financial year in the clerk's calendar, with preparation of accounts for the past financial year, and submission of all the documents for the annual audit.

At its February meeting the parish council welcomed two new Councillors, Mrs Andrea Grimes and Mrs Linda Smith, and we've had a further application to be considered at our April meeting. This means we have just one vacancy left – please do get in touch if you'd like to find out more about becoming a councillor.

West Suffolk has recently been consulting on its Local Plan, and the parish council has submitted a representation (summarised below, full details will be posted to the NP pages):

Wickhambrook Parish Council objects to Policy AP53 in its current form. While the Parish Council supports the principal of the development, the policy does not demonstrate that sufficient account has been taken of highway issues and infrastructure capacity or specify that sufficient infrastructure capacity needs to be in place before the development is occupied. Furthermore, given the advanced stage of the preparation of the neighbourhood plan, greater emphasis should be given to that Plan.

The parish council also agreed to purchase a further memorial bench for the cemetery, to mark the 80th anniversary of D-day in June this year with a "Royal Navy Past and Present" bench. A further sustainable bench has been purchased for installation at the Inner banks of Six Acres.

Our April Estates Committee met on 4<sup>th</sup> April – take a look at the [draft minutes here](#).

On 25<sup>th</sup> April, we'll be holding both the [Annual Parish Meeting \(6:00pm\)](#) and a parish council meeting (7:30pm) taking place on 25<sup>th</sup> April (Dulcie Smith Room, MSC). If there is anything you would like the parish council to consider, [please do get in touch with me](#).

Do feel free to forward this message on to neighbours, friends and family in the parish and ask them to get in touch with me at [parishclerk@wickhambrook.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@wickhambrook.org.uk) if they would like to be included in our e-newsletter mailing list!

Wishing you all the best, keep safe and well

Hilary Workman  
Clerk for Wickhambrook Parish Council