

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Parish Council & Village News – June & July 2024

General Election on 4th July – as always, the Parish Council encourages you to exercise your democratic right to vote, either by post or at the Polling Station. Who you vote for is up to you!

If you are voting in person at the Village Hall Polling Station, please remember that you will need to take photo ID with you in order to vote (e.g. bus pass, passport, driving licence).

Village Improvement Working Party: Alongside the Events Team and the Environment Team, the Council has agreed the formation of another Working Party. Its role is *“to consider potential ways in which the village could adopt measures which could reduce speeding, reduce traffic volumes and make improvements that would enhance the look and feel of the village”*.

Why do we have Working Parties? In part because they are not required to have the same “formalities” that apply to the Council meetings. This makes them more flexible and also appeals to volunteers who just want to “do stuff”.

The flipside is that because they are not formal meetings, they can’t directly commit the Council e.g. to buy something, but that hasn’t stopped the Events or the Environment Teams requesting the Council to purchase assets for them, from their budgets.

Cllrs Rixson and Seaman are on the Working Party and would like to hear from residents who would like to volunteer.

Lamp 22: This ongoing saga continues, it’s over 14 months since the Council was asked to take the street lamp down so that Telent (an Openreach contractor) could replace the wooden post.

With the installation of a new post on the nearby triangle green, we did wonder if they were going to move their telecoms services over and leave us with the old post just for lamp 22, but this doesn’t appear to be the case.

Speed Indicator Device “SID Solar” project: The Council is converting two of the SIDs (Raunds Road and Water Lane) to solar powered, whilst the Caldecott SID will become mains powered (from the lamppost it is mounted on). This should mean the SIDs will be operational more of the time, and not reliant on volunteers having to lift up and swap the heavy battery units every fortnight.

Allotment shed replacement: The 12 new sheds have been ordered and the original plan was for our local handyman, Alistair Mead, to be erecting them in April. However, the waterlogged ground meant this was postponed to June. The work on sheds should be starting in the next week or so.

Randal “Cuffy” Cuthbert RIP

Sadly Cuffy passed away suddenly in June. He had lived in Chelveston for over 35 years and was a well-known village character, always willing to help anyone. Cuffy was a staunch supporter of the *Star and Garter*, and an original allotment tenant in 2010, albeit growing more chickens than veg!!

20 MPH zone in the centre of Chelveston: After a 5 month wait, Northants Highways have responded positively to the Council’s draft proposals for a 20 mph zone, in particular to enable safer crossing from the west of the village over the B645 and B663 roads. Now we can now move to the local consultation stage.

Defibrillators: A heritage style self-watering planter is now in place in front of the defibrillator at the *Star & Garter* to prevent cars blocking access to it, following approval from Charles Wells and a licence from Highways. Many thanks to [Plants2Gardens](#) of Bidwell Lane for donating the plants.

Website refresh: The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) defines how to make web content more accessible to people with disabilities. WCAG 2.2 was released in October 2023 and public bodies have 12 months to implement.

Accordingly, the Council’s website has undergone a refresh to meet the criteria. All the previous content is still there, just how it is accessed has changed.

Chelveston Village Hall: Is independently owned and run by one of the Parish Charities. It is governed by a board of 7 trustees. Since 2010 day-to-day operations have been managed by Adrian Dale – Clerk to the Trustees.

By June 2025 half of the trustees will have long completed their permitted terms of office and will be standing down. Adrian Dale will also be retiring then, as will Janet McMillan, the current Bookings Secretary / Finance Officer.

The trustees are working with the Parish Council to explore how the Village Hall can be directly governed through the Parish Council, giving residents more of a say in how the venue runs and develops.

Fresh ideas are needed and there are several interesting opportunities for residents to get involved. These are explained in the leaflet accompanying this newsletter.

Next Issue: The August & September issue of the Newsletter should be delivered in the first week of August, so if you want to publicise a parish event, please let me know before the end of July.

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Events – Jun & July 2024

The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist (contact Arthur Wright - 624530).

There is a communion service **every Sunday morning at 9.00am**.

Sunday services continue with our usual 9am service, but **Sunday 23rd June** was our special Patronal Service celebrating the birth of St John the Baptist in whose name our church is dedicated.

On **Saturday 22nd June** we had an **Arts and Music Festival** in the church which featured Arts during the day, and then in the evening we hosted a **Cheese and Wine event** with local musicians.

On **Sunday May 26th** we were very pleased to welcome some 30 members of the 305th Air Mobility Wing (AMW) to our special 10am service, who had flown in to remember and pay tribute to their former members who had flown Flying Fortresses from the nearby airfield in WWII, and from which 769 young men had been killed in the missions they undertook.

A short service took place at the foot of the church tower memorial at 11am which records their sacrifice. We then witnessed a flypast by a P51 Mustang, the iconic American fighter, that made two runs over the church, followed shortly after by a KC-46 refuelling aircraft which the 305th AMW currently fly, on its return from Normandy where it had been part of the D-Day celebrations - altogether a memorable morning that keeps alive the association that connects the church and village to our American friends.

Arthur Wright & Andrew Wager, Churchwardens



Free Spirits (contact Kathy Brooks)

Members will be out on a garden visit in July, and no meeting in August.



The Events Team programme of activities.

Sunday 14th July, 10am to 2pm: Table Top Sale, Village Hall paddock (indoors if wet).
Tables @ £5 each, must be booked in advance by 7th July.

26th July - 11th August: The Green will be decorated to support and reflect success of Team GB.

Sunday 1st September: Annual Dog Show, Village Hall Paddock. 12 noon start.

Friday 18th October: Quiz with a Fish'n'Chip supper at St John's Church. Bar opens 7pm and Quiz starts 7.30pm.

Once again if anyone has any ideas for future events or would be interested in supporting or joining the Events Team please contact Carol on 07880 556286.



Environment Group Update - A small group has come together from our villages to read local author Mark Avery's new book '*Reflections*'. Mark is a nationally well-known wildlife writer and activist who lives in Raunds. He is passionate about wildlife and how communities can get involved.

Would you like to join us as we read his book and work out how we can improve conservation efforts in our local area? We hope there will be an opportunity to meet with the author too. Copies of Mark's book (and a lot of cake) are available. Contact cllr.jenny.harwood@chelveston-pc.gov.uk for more information.



The Parish Council usually meets on the second Monday of the month at **7.30pm**. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak on any agenda item at the Chair's discretion.

The agenda and meeting papers are posted on the website (www.chelveston-pc.gov.uk) and the agenda is on the parish noticeboards at least three clear days before the meetings.

Parish Council Members & Officers

Chair: Andrew Seaman, Rosemoor, Raunds Rd.

Vice: Jennifer Harwood, 7 Britten Close.

Andy Cuthbert, 38 The Crescent, Chelston Rise.

Clinton Hill, 52 The Crescent, Chelston Rise.

Carol Parsons, 5 Pokas Cottages.

Martyn Rixson, Threeways, 2 High Street.

Peter Smith, 2 Bidwell Lane, Caldecott

Clerk: Mark Hunter, Ashbury, Caldecott (626039).

E-mails to the Council on clerk@chelveston-pc.gov.uk