

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Parish Council & Village News – August & September 2023

A new Councillor – following the recent vacancy, the Council considered two candidates who had offered themselves for co-option. The new Cllr is Claire Warsop from Caldecott, who will serve alongside the other Cllrs until the next ordinary elections in May 2025.

Parking issues – residents are reporting instances of inconsiderate parking in Water Lane, near and opposite the junction with Sawyers Crescent, where vehicles have parked on the pavements or footways, making it difficult for pedestrians.

The defibrillator at the Star & Garter also suffers from inconsiderate parking, despite a polite notice asking drivers not to park in front of the cabinet. Accordingly the Parish Council is now looking at installing a flower planter to keep the access clear.

The defibrillator intended for Chelston Rise is waiting for the developer to install an electrical supply (at their expense).

Street Lamp 22, adjacent to *The Cottage*, Chelveston and 1 Water Lane, is still waiting for Telent (Openreach's contractor) to sort out a date with National Grid to temporarily make safe and remove the power cable before they can replace the BT pole. This was originally all supposed to have happened in April, but keeps getting delayed.

Bidwell Lane HGV signage. The good news is that Northants Highways have the order ready to go for installing permanent signs on B645 either side of the Bidwell Lane junction. Unfortunately, they haven't yet worked out the legalities of installing new signage in the NNC area.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) is recruiting apprentice, full-time firefighters and is asking people from every community across Northamptonshire if they have got what it takes to join the county's firefighters.

If you live in Northants and are interested in applying, the recruitment portal is open until midday on **Monday 14th August**.

To be a trainee full-time firefighter, you must:

- live in Northants
- have a full car driving licence valid for the UK (with no more than 3 points)
- be able to permanently live and work in the UK without any restrictions
- be aged 18 years old at the start of the application process

Please visit the NFRS website at <https://www.northantsfire.gov.uk/full-time-firefighters/> for more information, and a link to the online registration portal.

Community Minibus (CommMiniBus) is a community transport service dedicated to enhancing transportation options for residents in North Northants. They have received a grant from the NNC to extend their Demand Responsive Transport service to parts of county that don't have an existing bus service. Possible destinations might be Rushden Lakes, Wellingborough, Kettering, etc.

Holders of concessionary bus passes are eligible for free off peak travel, whilst a mileage based fare applies to other passengers.

The Parish Council has been asked to identify what demand there is for such a service locally. If this is something you would use, please complete the accompanying flyer and drop off the completed form to your nearest Cllr (addresses over) by 31st August.

The allotment sheds are 13 years old now and some are reaching end of life. The Council has agreed to replace the sheds over three years, and so all the sheds have been assessed as to their priority for replacement.

The sheds were originally gifted to the Council by a (then) Cllr to avoid any impact on the public funds (the allotments operate on a neutral budget for the same reason). Accordingly the Council is intending to replace the sheds through grant funding, to avoid any impact on the Precept (local tax).

Annual Audit. As the Council is spending public money, in part through local taxation, so it is subject to internal and external audit. The external auditor is set nationally for the county, but the internal auditor is appointed by the Council.

For the last couple of decades, this role has been carried out by residents and ex-residents who were qualified bookkeepers or accountants. However this approach only focused on the finances, not how the Council operated in regard to risk and governance.

As the Council has more income and expenditure than it did 20 years ago, so the Cllrs decided it was time to move to a more professional approach, and so the FY2022-23 accounts have been audited by the Northants CALC Internal Audit Service, which audits over 170 of the 220 Town & Parish Councils in Northants.

The Council is pleased to report we only received two recommendations (one of which is for our accounting software provider). Now we await the results of the external audit!

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

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Events – August & September 2023

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

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

We have all been delighted to welcome our new priest Rev'd Louise Bishop and she has now continued from mid-July our usual 9am service as before with one or two minor changes. We hope her stay will be a long and happy one and we know she is anxious to extend her involvement in the village and its various activities.

Visitors to the churchyard can now see the completion of repairs to the wall on the south side adjacent to the Mommersteeg's field, and we must express our thanks to Mrs Patricia Mommersteeg for allowing uninterrupted access to enable Michael Farrow to keep materials and machinery on her side of the wall. His rebuilding of it is a tribute to his skill in the art of drystone walling. We shall shortly be replacing the wooden ranch-type fence on her side, which was seriously damaged when the tree fell on it.

Our monthly **summer teas in the church** have been very well supported and the next ones are **Tuesday 15th August** and **Tuesday 19th September** from 2pm - 4pm, so do come and join us if you can.

The annual **Ride & Stride** in aid of Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust takes place on **Saturday 9th September** and if you see a Sponsor Form in your direction please give it support as half of any money raised in our church's name is returned to us for our use and many of our lovely medieval county churches need all the help they can get.

Arthur Wright & Andrew Wager, Churchwardens



The Events Team programme of activities (TEXT Carol on 07880 556286).

The Events Team will be holding the **Annual Fun Dog Show** on **Sunday 3rd September** at the Village Hall. Gates open 12 noon and first class is at 12.30. All Welcome - please see flyer for more details

The next **Quiz** will be on **Friday 27th October** at St John's Church. The ticket price includes fish 'n' chips (or vegetarian alternative). This event is always very popular, so to avoid disappointment please order tickets from Carol on 07880 556286 asap!

As always we are open to suggestions for future events and if anyone is interested in joining the team please contact Carol on 07880-556286



The Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance is keen to help to keep mature drivers driving safer for longer. They are running two **FREE** Mature Drivers Roadshows on **Tues 5th Sept (9.30am & 1.00pm)** at The Goods Shed, John Clark Way, Rushden.

Driving ability changes over time for different reasons, especially as one gets older. It's important that we recognise whether and how our driving is changing, so we can stay safe and protect ourselves and those around us.

This mature drivers roadshow is aimed at drivers 60+, and will cover all different aspects of driving. There will be a short talk first, and then plenty of time to meet informally with many stand holders. Free advice will be available on car adaptations, eyesight, how your prescription medications may affect you, and much more.

The link for FREE tickets is <https://mature-drivers-2023.eventbrite.co.uk>



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 3 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.
Peter Smith, 2 Bidwell Lane, Caldecott
Claire Warsop, Manorfields, Caldecott
Clerk: Mark Hunter, Ashbury, Caldecott (626039).

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