

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Environment Special Edition – Spring 2023

Lambs, litter picking and lots of chocolate!

On **Sunday 16th April** there will be an opportunity to *Welcome Spring* between **2-4pm** in the church yard:

2:00pm Meet a baby lamb, nature-themed egg hunt and chocolate prizes!

3:00pm Collect your litter picking equipment ready to clean up the paths and verges around our villages. All ages welcome. *See flyer over the page.*

The Big Seed Swap

Do you have any surplus flower and vegetable seeds or unwanted packets leftover from previous years? As part of our *Welcome Spring* event (above), **why not bring some seeds to swap with others and exchange growing tips** at 2:30pm. If you've not grown vegetables before, and would like to know how to start, then come along and find out more.

An evening walk in Ancient Woodland

Friday 12th May, 7:00-9:30pm. Join us for a relaxing evening, exploring the wildlife and footpaths in local ancient woodland. **Swineshead Woods** is only a 15-minute drive (lifts are available). Meet outside 39 Water Lane, Chelveston (NN9 6AF) at **7:00pm**.

It would be handy to know how many people are coming (so we know how much hot chocolate to make!), so please email ccvillagewildlife@gmail.com in advance if you would like to join in.

Photo Competition

Nature spotters of all ages are welcome to participate in the Chelveston-cum-Caldecott **Nature Photography competition** from **27th May – 4th June**.



It's a low-key and fun competition - you don't need to be an expert to enter! There will be prizes for Under 11s, 11-18s and adults. Whether it is a beautiful bird or butterfly, a woodland scene or a stunning sunset, all entries are welcome.

Submit your photos, taken in and around our villages, to ccvillagewildlife@gmail.com by **Sunday 4th June**. Winners will be announced in the following village newsletter.



Has anyone seen the Water Lane Kingfisher?

The unmistakable blue flash of a kingfisher has been a regular sight every winter for many years along Water Lane, but as far as we know, it has not been seen so far this year.

Contact ccvillagewildlife@gmail.com if you have seen it (or have spotted any other interesting wildlife)

Waste and Recycling

Following on from the success of the 'Bin Twinning' event in the autumn*, several households have been thinking about how to **reduce the waste that goes to landfill**. By recycling carefully and creatively, some families have been able to not put out their black bin at all so far this year! If you're interested to know more, and would like to learn together, then contact ccvillagewildlife@gmail.com



*Scan the QR to see the Northants Telegraph article!



Thank you to all who participated in the autumn litter pick event as we celebrated becoming the UK's first "Bin Twin Community."

In the run-up to this year's Earth Day on 22nd April, the Bin Twinning Team are running a **junk modelling competition** for a chance to win a litter picking kit for our group! Every day, tons of plastic waste makes its way into rivers and ends up in the ocean. Go on the hunt around your home to find waste items such as: egg boxes, kitchen roll tubes, plastic bottles, bottle tops, old clothes or bits of fabric. Complete your sculpture and send in a photo submission (one of the sculpture by itself and one of the sculpture with the 3D artists!) to info@bintwinning.org by midday on 24th April.

Litter Success!

A little advocacy can go a long way. Congratulations and thank you to **Lesley McCormack** for appealing to Chelveston Renewable Energy depot by the airfield to manage litter in its vicinity. She and other volunteers in the village had been litter picking themselves but politely asked the depot to help, and they've agreed. *"My limited conversations with Chelveston Renewable Energy reminded me that it is easy to feel powerless; but we all have a voice and if we can find our voice and use it, change can happen to make a difference!"* said Lesley.

Bring on spring!

Ideas to try this season...

- Place a bird box in your garden about 1.5 meters from the ground in a well-covered location to attract nesting birds
- For the little ones, try a rainbow scavenger hunt – find and collect plants, flowers and berries of each color of the rainbow on a walk

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Tricky to recycle...

If you're spring cleaning, a friendly reminder that at St. John the Baptist Church, Sue Wagner is collecting any of the following items to be recycled properly and donated to various charities. Just bring them (cleaned) anytime to St. John's and leave them in the boxes in the porch area.

- Milk bottle tops (only milk bottle tops; other tops can be recycled in your green bin)
- Old pens, biros and felt tips
- Squashed drink cans
- Pill blister packs
- Clean jam jars and the metal top

Would you like to join us?

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott has recently become one of the first **Team Wilder** groups in this part of the country. Organised by the **Wildlife Trust**, Team Wilder encourages communities to take action in caring for their local community. A small and friendly group of children, teenagers and adults from the local community have been meeting up every couple of months to talk about environmental issues and discuss what we can do locally to make a difference. If you're interested we'd love you to join us. Contact Ellen Pentland (Wildlife Trust) at ccvillagewildlife@gmail.com.

Please enjoy this poem submitted by an anonymous writer.

I long to feel the lightness

I long to feel the lightness
of the aspen leaves that dance,
or lay beneath the leaf mould
on cushioned moss and plants.
To understand the teeming
even enter in to death,
to touch the downy softness
that lines the thrush's nest.
To kiss the surface tension
that holds the skater's weight,
the whirligig's enchanting path
and minnow's piercing fate.
I long to feel the fallow's breath
or wade in silty mud,
to trickle up the sapwood veins
and hear the acorn's thud.

Welcome Spring Event

Sunday 16th April, 2-4 pm in the church yard

Join us in welcoming spring!

Lamb feeding 2-3 p.m.

Village litter pick 3-4 p.m.

as well as beginners' gardening, nature-themed egg hunt (with chocolate prizes!) and light refreshments.

All ages welcome.

