

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Parish Council & Village News – April & May 2024

A new Councillor – following the recent vacancy, the Council considered two candidates who had offered themselves for co-option. The new Cllr is Martyn Rixson from Chelveston, who will serve until the next ordinary elections in May 2025.

Wellingborough & Rushden Parliamentary By Election – We have a new Member of Parliament, Gen Kitchen (Labour), who is the first female MP for this constituency since it was created in 1918.

Police Fire & Crime Commissioner election – Stephen Mold is stepping down, so we will have a new PF&CC after the election on Thursday 2nd May.

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).

Precept and Billing: In the last newsletter we advised the Council had agreed at the January meeting to a 3% increase (to £12,360), but some residents noticed the Council Tax demand from NNC shows a 4.9% increase for the parish.

The difference is to do with how NNC calculate the Council Tax Base (CTB) each year. The CTB for the parish has reduced by 4 houses, so the rest have to pay a little more to compensate, which is 1.9%. So 3% parish increase + 1.9% CTB change = 4.9%.

So what alters the CTB? It's made up of two parts, an adjustment for the numbers in each CT banding in the parish, and an adjustment for the expected number of exemptions and discounts (e.g. single person discount, etc). For FY2024-25, NNC expects more discounts applied, so the CTB is lowered.

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 has meant this has been postponed to June.

The work is being grant funded by the NNC Household Support Fund (which is itself funded by the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund).

WI [Kate Hawson] : After 103 years in existence, it is with a very heavy heart I have to report that Chelveston-cum-Caldecott WI was suspended at the AGM on 13th March. We had worked extremely hard over the past year, but could not attract new members or recruit committee members.

Therefore, there was no alternative but to close. If anyone else would like to re-open the club you can phone WI House on 01604 646055 or email admin@ncfwi.org.uk for advice.

Spring Village Litter Pick: on **Saturday 13th April** at **2:00pm**. Meet outside St. John the Baptist Church to collect your litter picking equipment. All ages welcome, but children must be supervised.

Anglian Water road closures for sewage repairs: Bidwell Lane and Water Lane may be closed at times between the 8th to 26th April.

Annual Parish Assembly: This will be on Monday 13th May @ 7:30pm. A chance to hear what the Council has been up to over the last 12 months and for you to raise any issues relating to the parish.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will follow afterwards.

Do you want to form a Running Group? There are a couple of us living in the village who enjoy running. Any others interested in getting together, possibly on a Tuesday Evening, for a run on the good footpaths (and roads) we have around us? Contact Michael Farrow on 07802 521523.

Bidwell Lane: Progress on the permanent signage for HGV drivers coming from the B645 to highlight that it is not suitable for HGV's has been "slow" (requested in May 23). But Northants Highways advise they have now got through the backlog and it's due to be installed in the next 6 months...

Damaged Kimbolton Road gateway: This was reported to Northants Highways in October 2023, with a 6 month timescale for repair, so we *might* see this fixed in April.

If the Parish Council was offered £500k by the Government, what should it do with it?

A couple of conditions, the £500k can only be spent on capital funding of cultural projects and must be spent by March 2026.

Culture is who we are. It is our heritage and future. It is how we live our lives and express our identities. It is art, music, film, fashion, design, even gaming. But it is much more: it is what defines us and how we are changing.

Cultural interventions can positively influence the prosperity of our communities and there is no definitive list of activities that this funding can support. From creating a community orchard to a mini theatre / film house – we want your ideas, so let the Clerk know (contact details over).

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

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Events – April & May 2024

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

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

The **Snowdrop Weekend** was a great success and we were delighted to see so many village residents come and support their village church and patronise the various stalls. We were particularly grateful for members of the Village Events Committee who provided additional help on stalls where needed - it made for a really inclusive village event. Final figures showed a surplus of **£12,000** and we are most grateful for everyone who contributed to make the weekend so successful - there's a lot of hard work that goes into it.

Church services over **Easter** were well supported and this year we had Stations of the Cross in church on Monday 25th March at 6.30pm and on Wednesday 27th also at 6.30pm with the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening 30th March at 7.30pm followed by refreshments. Easter Sunday was our usual 9am service and we are all most grateful to the clergy for whom Easter week meant a great deal of preparation and active involvement.

The mild Spring has also meant the churchyard has been looking particularly lovely and the grass kept in very good order by Rachael Maywood, who hasn't been helped by the churchyard rooks who have deposited plenty of surplus twigs onto the drive and surrounds from their nest building efforts, but what would a village churchyard be without its noisy residents high up in the trees!

Arthur Wright & Andrew Wager, Churchwardens



East Midlands Steam and Country Show at Lancaster Farm (B645).

Saturday 4th / Sunday 5th May from 10.00am – 5.00pm and Monday 6th May from 10.00am – 4.00pm.



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

The Events Team held another well-supported quiz at St Johns on 9th February and would like to thank the Church for their continued support with this. We are looking forward to planning some activities around the summer Olympics and will be publicising events closer to the time - if you have any suggestions which would tie in with this please do let us know!

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.



80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings - The Ministry of Defence will lead on the celebrations of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and the Council has purchased an official event flag to be flown from the parish flagpole. The guidance is that it should be flown from **9.00am on Thursday 6th June**, leaving it up for one week.

819 Defence Squadron was formed at RAF Chelveston on 4th September 1941, later renumbered 2819 Sqn RAF Regiment in February 1942, operating as a Light Anti-Aircraft (LAA) unit. The Squadron took part in the D-Day Landings, initially providing mobile Anti-Aircraft cover on Juno and Gold Beaches, and then at the temporary Advanced Landing Grounds as the allies advanced into Normandy.



The Parish Council usually meets on the second Monday of the month at **7.30pm** (*note the April meeting is 22nd April*). 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