

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Parish Council & Village News – December 2024 & January 2025

The new bus service: The scheduled Shire Community Transport route 94 service started on Monday 4th November, passing through the parish on the way from Oundle to Higham, Rushden and Rushden Lakes twice a day on weekdays.

The service is a little “erratic” at the moment, but we are hoping it will settle down soon. Similarly we are waiting on NNC to supply and install the new bus stop signs (or flags as they are known) so users know where to wait. The service includes free travel for bus pass holders after 9:30 am.

Star & Garter: The *Star & Garter* closed in August, whilst Charles Wells sought a new licensee to take over the running of the pub. We understand they are in talks with a potential new tenant.

Chelveston 20 mph zone: Following agreement by the Northants Speed Panel (a multi-agency panel of relevant officers from NNC, Highways, Police), the draft order will go out for statutory consultation to the wider community, so as to seek the views of those who drive through the parish and may be affected by the proposed 20 mph limit.

The Chelveston Environment Group: are getting ready for a series of local walks and nature-related activities in 2025. Would you like to help out? Whether you feel passionately about environmental issues or would just like to meet new people and join the team, everyone is welcome.

Email Ellen, Shayna and Chad for more information - ccvillagewildlife@gmail.com

Ford depth markers: In January 2024, two cars got stranded in the fords during Storm Henk. The Council requested Highways investigate whether depth markers could be added to both the Water Lane and Bidwell Lane fords to aid motorists.

This required the road surfaces to be surveyed, as the markers need to show the water depth relative to the lowest point on the roads. This has been completed and a site meeting was held with Highways in November to agree the locations of the markers. They hope to have them installed shortly.

305th BG(H) memorial works: The lettering and colours on the granite slabs are starting to fade, so the memorial masons, WT Drage, will be carrying out some restoration works when the weather permits. This has been kindly funded by grants from the Windfarm Trust and the Foulger Trust.

Community Police meeting: Our local PCSO, Will Page, will be holding a community policing session in the Village Hall **on Saturday 11th January between 10am – Noon**. This is your opportunity to raise any local issues with him.

Chelveston Village Hall: is independently owned and operated by one of the parish charities, the Educational Foundation of Abigail Bailey and Ann Levett, founded in 1760.

As reported in previous newsletters, the management of the Village Hall will become the responsibility of a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2025. Formal approval from the Charity Commission is still awaited, but this should be a formality.

Many Village Halls are currently converting to become CIOs as the pool of willing volunteers diminishes. There are now so many regulations to be followed that it is difficult for volunteers to stay on top of them all as a “hobby”, and it is unreasonable to hold them legally accountable for their actions.

Our new part time Village Hall Manager, Maxine Routledge, has hit the ground running and is working with Adrian Dale to implement a new online booking system for 2025. Janet McMillan is fortunately still handling all 2024 bookings and accounts management until new procedures are in place.

Routine grounds maintenance has been taken on by Karl Goodman of *Chelston Home and Garden Services*. Karl has previously undertaken fencing and car park repairs for the Village Hall, so we know him well. He has lots of equipment that we would otherwise have to hire, and the skills to maintain our grounds maintenance kit. He also tackles ad hoc small repair tasks on a voluntary basis, and recently rewelded a broken joint on our ballet barres.

Although these arrangements will cost more, the alternative is closing the Village Hall, leaving us without a civic venue and emergency reception centre. Contact details will also change. We now have a new number **01933 423 243** with an online switchboard service, so that calls can be redirected as required.

Two new classes are starting in January. Karina Bird of **Heart to Hand Dog Training** will be running classes twice a week on Monday and Sunday mornings. Robert Agar-Hutton of **Winghigh Tai-Chi** returns with monthly workshops every 4th Saturday of the month. See the live bookings calendar: <https://villagehall.chelveston.org.uk/calendar> for more details.

Christmas clean up on Sun, 22nd Dec. Meet at the Village Hall at 10am - Last chance to get on Santa's nice list! Come and join a community litter pick in the parish to make it look great for Christmas. Festive jumpers / hats welcome!

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

The Councillors and Clerk would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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Events – December 2024 & January 2025

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

There is a communion service **every Sunday morning at 9 am.**

The village church has had a very busy and productive year. One obvious sign has been the reduction in height and number of some minor trees along the churchyard drive which will enable more light and less autumn leaves blowing about. The churchyard itself has been kept in excellent appearance throughout the past few years with regular grass cutting and maintenance and we have been most grateful for all that Rachael Maywood has done. We extend our sincere thanks as she decides to spend more time on her other sports coaching activities. Churchwarden Andrew Wager has volunteered to undertake the continuing churchyard maintenance with a bit of extra help and we are most grateful to him.

The Christmas Fair in November was a real success on many counts and we sincerely thank all who helped and attended on the day. With this support we were able to clear £2,400 which will enable our donations to charity to be increased as well as help with the church's maintenance costs.

As Christmas looms we look forward to:

- Our Carol Service on **15th December at 3pm** with mulled wine/tea and mince pies afterwards.
- Crib Service at **noon on Christmas Eve** for all who are young/young at heart.
- Family Eucharist on **Christmas Day at 9 am.**

to which all are welcome.

On 21st January from 1 – 3 pm we resume our monthly soup/tea and cake afternoon.

Arthur Wright & Andrew Wager, Churchwardens

The Village Improvement Working Party

The Village Improvement Working Party is a new group that was set up by the Parish Council in response to ideas for improving life in the village put forward by residents. The Working Party currently consists of two Councillors and six other residents. At the moment, we are considering issues of traffic, the general village environment and communication. We would welcome ideas from the wider community.

The next meeting is on **Weds 15th January 2025 (7.30 at the Village Hall)** and residents are welcome to bring ideas to the meeting or contact me by email at cllr.martyn.rixson@chelveston-pc.gov.uk, or post at 2 High Street, Chelveston, NN9 6AS

Martyn Rixson, Chair VIWP

Local Elections 2025

Thursday 1st May 2025 will be Polling Day, with all the seats on NNC and the Parish Council up for grabs! You don't need to be a legal expert or a finance wizard (that's what Clerks are for), nor do you have to belong to a political party (no "whipping" on how you must vote at the parish level), but rather as a Cllr you should want to make things better for the local community for current and future generations.

Since few problems can be solved by just throwing money at it, you'll need to be open to alternate ideas and be able to work with others to achieve an acceptable outcome (dictators need not apply!). Speak to one of your parish Cllrs (details below) for further 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, resides in the parish.

Carol Parsons, 5 Pokas Cottages.
Martyn Rixson, Threeways, 2 High Street.
Peter Smith, 2 Bidwell Lane, Caldecott.
Clerk: Mark Hunter, Ashbury, Caldecott .

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

Telephone on (01933) 42 32 42