

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Parish Council & Village News – February & March 2024

Wellingborough & Rushden Parliamentary By Election on Thursday 15th February. Given the amount of flyers that have arrived through your letterbox, it would be difficult not to be aware of this!

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).

Street lamp 22, adjacent to *The Cottage*, Chelveston and 1 Water Lane, is heading for its first anniversary (April) of waiting for Telent (Openreach's contractor) to sort out a date with National Grid to make safe and temporarily remove the power cable, before they can replace the rotting BT pole.

The latest instalment of this ongoing saga is that Openreach are now going to re-examine the pole to see if it needs replacing after all.

Allotment shed replacement: In the last newsletter we advised that the Council had submitted a grant application to the NNC Community Support Fund (funded by the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund) for the replacement of the remaining 12 worn out allotment sheds.

Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful as the fund was oversubscribed, but our application was transferred over to the Household Support Fund (also Government funded) and we have just been awarded over £6,000.

Village Hall closure: The Village Hall will be closed for maintenance from 2nd - 14th April 2024. New ceiling access panels are being installed and the ceiling is being redecorated. This work is part of a 10 year programme of maintenance and development agreed by the Trustees at their Annual Meeting in January.

Further work will take place in the paddock during May 2024. New underground rabbit fencing will be installed to persuade our furry friends to stay in the roadside ditch. Currently they are burrowing through the paddock into the Village Hall garden. Rabbitophiles can be assured that none will be hurt during the execution of this operation!

Hillside Illuminated bollard: This has finally been repaired after 15 months by the owner, the Longhurst Group, following the Council's request for intervention by the NNC Health Protection Team and the local division of the Health & Safety Executive.

Water Lane 30 sign: The knocked down sign has been replaced, but the old one is still in the brook! Northants Highways are aware and will collect it in due course.

A 20 mph zone update: At the December meeting, the Council agreed to support a resident request for a 20 mph limit within the centre of Chelveston. The Council has previously asked for a pedestrian crossing point over the B645 at *Cornerhouse Cottages*, but this was rejected due to road safety technical issues. Lowering the speed to 20 mph is another way to facilitate safer crossing.

The Council has asked Northants Highways to confirm what level of public support is required for a 20 mph Order, and agree the limits of the zone for compliance, such that the Council can canvass the electorate for their views (for or against) with accurate information.

Budget and Precept: At the January meeting, the Council agreed a balanced budget for 2024-25, with a Precept (local tax) of £12,360. The Councillors were conscious of the rising costs faced by many residents, so limited the Precept increase to just 3%. For a Band D household, this means the parish tax element will be £2.64 (~5p / week) higher.

Parking on pavements: The Council has been contacted by a number of residents concerned about vehicles parked partially on the footways or pavements adjacent to the road.

The Highway Code (as at 2023) covers this at –

Rule 145 “*You MUST NOT drive on or over a pavement, footpath or bridleway except to gain lawful access to property, or in the case of an emergency.*” HA 1835 s72 and RTA 1998 s34.

Rule 244 “*You MUST NOT park partially or wholly on the pavement in London, and should not do so elsewhere unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs.*” GL(GP)A 1974 s15.

As an offending driver can be prosecuted under the *Highways Act 1835* and the *Road Traffic Act 1988*, this is a police matter. They classify this as Anti-Social Behaviour, therefore residents are directed to report such occurrences online using the link <https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

Damaged Kimbolton Road gateway: This was reported to Northants Highways in October 2023, they hope to have it repaired by April.

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

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Events – February & March 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 Church had a very busy time over Christmas and services were well supported. The Soup and Roll Lunchtime on Tuesday 16th January almost required a second sitting for the number of people who came to enjoy good food and a warm welcome!

We have made preparations for a hopefully bumper **Snowdrop Weekend** of **17th / 18th February** and the recent mild weather has certainly brought forward the flowering of both snowdrops and aconites. Since last year we have lost three mature trees along the south wall of the churchyard due to high Autumn winds, but have now replaced them with two copper beeches and an oak tree which we hope will mature with our care for future generations to enjoy.

We also have plans for later in the year to reduce the height of the trees along the churchyard drive which should allow more light and reduce the amount of leaves in the Autumn we have to clear

Arthur Wright & Andrew Wager, Churchwardens



Free Spirits is a group of ladies who meet in the Village Hall on the **3rd Monday** in the month from 1.45 to 3.45 pm, with a variety of activities including Craft Workshops and Flower Arranging demonstrations, as well as interesting speakers and outside visits.

If you are interested, please just come along to one of our meetings or ring Judy Hill on 01933 622106 for more information



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

The Events team will be holding a **Fun Quiz** at St Johns Church on **Friday 9th February**. Tickets are £10 per person and include a Fish and Chip supper (vegetarian option available). Max 6 per team. Bar opens at 7pm and quiz starts at 7.30. If you would like tickets please contact Carol on number below

We will also be planning some activities around the parish to coincide with, and celebrate, the Olympic Games. Details and flyers will be distributed nearer the time

As always, if you have any ideas for future events, please do get in touch!
Carol on 07880 556286



The **Chelveston-cum-Caldecott WI** meets on the second Wednesday of the month at **7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

The next two meetings are on **Wednesday 14th February**, a Valentine's evening, and **13th March** our AGM.

Please contact Kate on 01933 397819 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 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
Clerk: Mark Hunter, Ashbury, Caldecott (626039).

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