



Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter



July/August 2021 – Summer Edition

From the Editor

This time last year in my “From the Editor” section I noted that “Week 19” of the lockdown had just passed and I was searching for scarce material for the Newsletter but I needn’t have worried thanks to my regular contributors. Back then we were anticipating what turned out to be a brief relaxation of Covid restrictions and now here we are in “Week 69”, and approaching another milestone – Freedom Day and a return to so called normality. Hopefully, when these local missives are unearthed in years to come, folks will get a sense of village life during 2020 through 2021.

We are pleased to announce some forthcoming events: There is a Dog Show in Wappenham on the 31st July and a Barn Dance on the 21st of August – details at the back of this edition

We were shocked and saddened to recently learn about the untimely death of Andy Seckington and our condolences go to his wife Chris, children Tom and Hannah and his mother Margaret and their family. Andy had lived in the community all his life and was a local farmer in Weston and, until recently a Parish Councillor and Parish Council Chairman. He will be greatly missed

On a happier note, we would like to welcome some new folks to the Village: Firstly welcome to Jake Wood and his partner Darcie and sons Oscar and Elliot who have moved into Middlethorpe; welcome also to Ro & Claire Cutler and their children George and Lucy (and spaniel Nellie) who moved into Vicarage Rise – into the same house that Ro and his colleagues from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service saved from a house fire some 9 years ago!! So a warm welcome (not too warm, Ro) to you all. You join our community in strange times with most of our community activities having been curtailed or cancelled due to Covid19 restrictions and are yet to be revived. We live in hope that things will return to some sort of normal and you can join in and meet all your new neighbours properly

Congratulations to Jenni Liversidge. She was recently recognised for her efforts making face masks for non-clinical staff at Northampton General Hospital and doctors surgeries in Towcester, and has made over 270 masks. The High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, Paul Parsons arrived at Jenni’s door earlier this year to present her with a Rose of Northamptonshire award. As some of you may know, Jenni has not been well and we wish her well in her recovery.

In the last edition we said farewell to William and Emily Sitwell. William has written a farewell message of his own.

If you are reading this as a printed hard copy, then you are in a select group of valued members of our community for whom I am happy to continue printing the newsletter. However, the majority of our community are now happy and willing to receive a “paperless” newsletter by email and so if you would also like to go “paperless” then just send me an email and I will stop trudging up your driveway to deliver. Also, if you know of anyone outside the Village who would like to receive the Newsletter then just let me have their details (email only).

The next edition of the newsletter after this will be in September/October 2021 and all material for that edition should be given to me by Tuesday, 31st August 2021

Paul Smith, 8 Vicarage Rise (01327 860626) Email: loisweedonpaul@gmail.com

Farewell from Sarah, Finlay and Oliver.

It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to you all in Weedon Lois. I have been shown extraordinary kindness from this community through some very tough times in our days here. As we start our new lives in Banbury, I will take with me some wonderful memories of living here.

Much love to you all

*Sarah, Finlay and Oliver Roe
(Previous residents of 3 Vicarage Rise)*

Beware: Strange Callers Are About

On Thursday 8th July, a young Irish chap in white transit called at my granddaughters house and asked to buy the camper van parked in the drive. She refused, saying it was her parents’ and they wouldn’t be interested. He was quite persistent. She told him to leave. Two things to note: the camper is not visible from the road and the other is a small dog in the house. My granddaughter is in Wappenham. Police have been informed, but I thought I should share this.

Pam Palmer

Parish Council

Here is a summary of the most recent Parish Council meeting held on **May 17th** in the Village Hall under Covid-19 restrictions. Full minutes of council meetings are posted on the Village Notice Boards and on the Parish Council website. If anyone would like more on any matter, please contact the Clerk, Ken Power.

At the opening of the meeting, the Council paid tribute to Andy Seckington, former Councillor and Chairman of the Parish Council, who had passed away recently. Cllr. Elkington also welcomed new Councillors: Helena Boughton and Chris Brough.

Election of council officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillor Responsible for Financial Oversight

- Cllr. David Elkington was unanimously re-elected as Chairman.
- Cllr. Danielle Sheppard was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.
- Cllr. Paul Smith was unanimously re-elected as Councillor responsible for financial oversight.
- Mr. Ken Power was unanimously re-appointed as Clerk and RFO to the Parish Council.

Calendar of Events 2021/2022

Council meetings will take place on 26th July 2021, 27th September 2021, 29th November 2021, 31st January 2022 and 28th March 2022. The Annual Parish Assembly and Parish Council AGM will take place on 9th May 2022. It was agreed that the July meeting will take place at the Village Hall, Lois Weedon. The venue for subsequent meetings will be decided later.

Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Standing Orders

The current Standing Orders and Financial Regulations will apply to the proceedings for fiscal year 2021/2022, and that the new Code of Conduct proposed by NCALC should be adopted

Other Finance Matters:

The **Annual 2020/2021 Internal Audit** report was approved

The 2020/2021 **Annual Governance and Accountability Return** (AGAR) was reviewed, and necessary responses confirmed by the Council. – all details of the return will be published on the Parish Council website

Accounts 2021/22 to-date and **budget performance** were reviewed and approved. **Internal Financial Controls** were reviewed and approved

Payments were approved for Clerk's salary and expenses, BHIB (Insurance), EON (electricity supply and maintenance), Ground Care Company (mowing churchyard), Complete Ground Management (mowing Millennium Field), Subscriptions (ICO, NCALC), Grants for Newsletter, Flood Warden storage, Village Hall hire, Chapel Hall hire

Planning and Licensing Matters: the following application was reviewed:

Applications reviewed since last meeting – no objections to these

- **S/2020/1785/FUL and 1786/LBC: Armada House, Weston.** Demolition and rebuilding of dilapidated outbuilding to form added accommodation.
- **WNS/2021/0099/FUL and 0100/LBC: 8A High Street, Weston.** Garden room extension and garden stairs.
- **WNS/2021/0193/TPO:** Trim back yew hedge.

New Project - Plumpton Wood Byway Relocation.

The council had been asked their view on a plan to relocate the byway currently leading to Plumpton Wood to a revised route around the edge of the residential property instead of across it. The council had mixed views but after discussion the majority of the councillors voted (with one objection) not to object to the plan, provided the new byway is created and maintained to a good standard.

Correspondence and AOB

- E.ON has informed the Council that the street lamp on Middlethorpe may need to be replaced as spare parts for this kind of lamp are no longer produced for environmental reasons, and stocks are running out. Estimated cost of a complete new unit would be £265.00 plus VAT.
- Spare parts needed for the defibrillators will be ordered, and additional training for their use will be arranged.
- It was agreed that the parish marquee will be free of charge for community organisations and events; private hirers will be charged £50.
- Prices of dog poo bins and service costs to empty them will be researched and the experience and opinions of neighbouring councils who have already installed the bins will be sought

Date and time of next meeting: Monday 26th July 2021 – at 8:00pm in Lois Weedon Village Hall

Ken Power, Parish Clerk, Tel: 01327 860054 (E-mail: wlwparishclerk@outlook.com)

Winners of Village Hall '200 Club' Lottery

May 2021		June 2021		July 2021	
Sara Cousin	162	Colin Atkins	71	Ric Harkin	3
Sara Pickering	22	Luke Longley	183	Jonny & Sarah Bougourd	171
Sandra Phillips	127	Emma Reynolds	108	Skip Sheppard	75
Don & Shirley Penfold	93	Pete & Chris Templeman	36	Gill Vassallo	184

The lottery is usually drawn once per month at the WI meeting.

During Covid restrictions, the draw will still take place on the first Wednesday of the month.

Prizes are £25, £15, £10, £5. - We still have lottery numbers available.

It will soon be time for your membership of the 200-Club to be renewed. Reminder letters will be sent out shortly.

Rachel Smith (01327 860626)

E-mail: rachel.k.smith4@gmail.com



Weston & Weedon Horticultural Society

5 from the garden in the season of plenty



- July is the perfect month for alfresco dining.
- Keep terracotta pots damp to keep the roots cool.
- It's time to pick your courgettes and any other veg.
- Enjoy harvesting your summer fruit
- Remove spent blooms from flowers to keep them tidy and encourage new blooms.

STAY SAFE

See you all in 2022 for the 80th WWHS Annual Show

As there is no show again this year we would be pleased if you could return any show cups or shields you may have.

Please return them to **Ivor Jones** or **Graham Ellis**.

If you need help please contact us through thewwhs@gmail.com

Thank you

An appeal to dog walkers

It is an offence for anyone to let their dog foul a public footpath – whether they leave the poo on the path or collect it in a bag and then leave the bag, it's still illegal. Just because nature might eventually dispose of dog mess left behind, that is not a reasonable excuse to walk away from the mess. An unsuspecting child (or adult) could step on the poo and possibly come into contact with very unpleasant infections. Please bag it and take the bag home to your black bin.

The Parish Council recently researched the costs to install dog poo bins. The bins alone would cost about £200 but the service cost to have them emptied was considered prohibitive, given the council's limited annual budget. Note: dog poo emptying is not a standard West Northants Council service. This has to be undertaken by private contractor. Our Parish Council approached neighbouring parishes where dog poo bins have been installed to seek their opinion on the costs, the process and effectiveness. The feedback was that the results did not justify the costs and process. Basically regular offenders, albeit a minority, continue to ignore the dog poo bins and let their dog foul the pavements and ignore the "residue".

For now our Council has resolved to try and persuade people to bag it and dispose of the bag in their black bin.

More information is available on the West Northants Council website including details of the possible fines to be imposed if someone is caught breaking this particular law.

www.southnorthants.gov.uk/info/288/dogs/223/report-dog-fouling

News from the Rectory

So, here we are in July, and the pandemic is still with us, despite the best efforts of lockdowns and vaccinations. Next week we will have more ‘freedom’, but this comes also with more responsibility as freedom always does. Despite the vaccination rate, the infection rates are still high, and there is a real risk that moving into a more open society will not help. I’m struck by the way that the Government have resorted to faith – faith in the vaccination program, faith that the summer holidays will result in lower infection rates, and also faith in society.

Christians along with others of ‘faith’ have much experience in living in faith! Our faith is based on the acknowledgement that there is a loving creator God behind all our created world. That faith leads us to try our best to live God’s love in our own lives, which I think is truly relevant to the place we find ourselves in now. It is so tempting to breath a big sigh of relief and say – ok the rules are relaxed; we can go back to normal life – however by doing so we run the risk of failing to honour and love those around us who are more cautious – often for very good reason as their health is frail – or they are shielding loved ones who are vulnerable.

So, in church we will be moving cautiously forwards – still using masks if required, looking carefully at when and how we should introduce singing, and delaying the reinstatement of the Communion Wine. However, we will be creating plenty of opportunities for celebration over the next few months, with my Induction Service at Syresham on 5th Sept., and plans for Harvest Festivals and social events.

My prayer for you all is that you will have a lovely and refreshing summer, and that we will all be able to approach the autumn in good health and spirits.

God Bless, Revd Diane

Food Bank Vouchers

Revd Diane can provide vouchers for Brackley and Towcester Food Banks for anyone in need in Helmdon, Lois Weedon, Weston, Radstone, Syresham, Wappenham, Whitfield and the surrounding area.

Please contact her for details

Raffle in Aid of Astwell Benefice

Thank you everyone for contribution to the Benefice Raffle. As you all appreciated we were disappointed to have to cancel the Garden Party, due to take place on June 26th, but by jingo you all came up trumps. The total raised after costs was close on £2,800. This will help significantly to reduce the burden of our Benefice expenses which is eventually paid by each Parish. Lois Weedon and Weston with Plumpton raised nearly a half of that total (not that it's a competition) which is helping to make up for a shortfall in recent years.

So that you can be reassured everything was properly conducted, I attach a list of prize winners. The draw was videoed and is probably floating around in the internet somewhere.

Thank you all

Frank Hunter, Churchwarden

Raffle Prize	Ticket No	Name	Address
Cottage Holiday Lake District	2214	Jane Kellar	Weston
Silverstone Classic Car	845	Peter and Elizabeth	Syresham
Silverstone Touring Car	181	C Gartside	Helmdon
Bell Plantation Voucher	1076	Musgrave	c/o Syresham
Silverstone Interactive Museum	278	Linda Smith	c/o Helmdon
Kings Head Syresham Voucher	192	Lin and Chris	c/o Helmdon
Filled Summer Picnic Hamper	2365	Ashley Cartwright	Lois Weedon
Wine	1548	Johnny Wilson	c/o Helmdon
Large Anthony Steuart Tray	2515	Sue Taylor	c/o Lois Weedon
Waitrose Voucher	2277	Whale (nee Streten)	c/o Lois Weedon
Kasmere National Trust Shawl	1538	Derek Pasquire	c/o Helmdon
Katies Mens Room Voucher	2040	Sarah Timmis	c/o Whitfield
Handmade Cushion Jenni Liversidge	1821	Bill Elkington	Helmdon



We are fortunate that the path to the end of this academic year has been a relatively smooth one! As I write, we are in the midst of preparations for the usual busy end to a summer term. We began this week, Monday 12th July, by enjoying a performance of Treasure Island: the Musical. Whilst we are not able to invite all parents into school in the traditional way, we will record this event and share it to our Facebook page; our audience will be wider than usual! Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have worked incredibly hard, learning their lines to the play and their fantastic singing has filled the corridors with joy!

On Wednesday 14th July, we visited Cadbury World as a whole school trip. As you can imagine, news of our visit has prompted much excitement. We are so pleased that our lovely children will finish the year with such a celebration.

We are hoping that the sunny weather holds out for our usual Sports Day on Thursday 15th July; as you can see, it is going to be a week full of excitement and fun!

On Monday 19th July, we will hold our Leavers Service in church. Whilst we are not able to extend our invitation to visitors as usual, our Year 6 parents will join us as we say goodbye to our fabulous Year 6 pupils, Violet, Hermione and Noah, all of whom are known to the village. We will miss you all very much but are excited for your next steps.

Last week we welcomed into school our new Foundation staff children for settling in sessions, ready for joining Mrs Addison's Hedgehog class in September. Lots of the children join us from Pre-school so they are already familiar faces.

Our Pre-school offers outstanding care and is open weekdays 8.50am-3.30pm. Places are available. For more information, please visit www.stloys.co.uk or telephone us on 01327 860539.

We are all very much looking forward to starting the next academic year with a little more normality when we can welcome visitors into school more freely and celebrate with our parents in the ways that we used to. In the meantime, I am so grateful to all our wonderful staff who have provided consistent and secure teaching and care to our pupils. Thank you to our parents who have been a tremendous support in a year the like of which we have never experienced. To our children who amaze me and bring such happiness each and every day, thank you for being you. Have a happy summer break!

Kathryn Crawford

Message of thanks From Evelyn Wheeler & Family

My family and I would like to thank all the people who turned up outside the Church on a bad weather day for Ernie's funeral. He would have been very pleased that we gave him such a good send off and he would have been very proud of the Marines and Standard bearers. Thanks to everyone who sent cards and to everyone who gave donations to the Church – we raised £900. And thank you to Frank Hunter for recording the service.

Thank you all again.

Evelyn, Jacqueline, Gareth and Family

Message of thanks From Chris & Margaret Seckington

Chris and Margaret Seckington and family would like to express their sincere thanks for all the kind messages of sympathy they have received following the sad and tragic loss of Andy.

Unfortunately Covid restrictions limited the number of people allowed inside the church for the funeral but so many in the churchyard was a truly moving tribute to a much loved husband, father, son, brother and friend....

A treasured life, lost too soon

Margaret & Chris Seckington & Family

Farewell to Weston

Where I write around me are some very old friends: books, paintings, framed photographs, a large chest of drawers, an old green sofa. Indeed, all around the house are objects that are very familiar. Yet their surroundings are very different with new juxtapositions, not to mention a very different house.

We've moved to Somerset, where Emily grew up and went to school, the North coast and Bristol Channel are a few miles north and the house we bought nestles in pretty hills with steep climbs and beautiful views.

The chaos of our last week at Weston recedes in the memory. The sadness of it softened by those familiar items around us. We finally exchanged contracts on the house mid-March and then agreed to be out in ten days.

Our ancestor, Susanna Jennens came to Weston Hall in 1714. Since then countless generations have come and gone. The Sitwell connection came in the early 1900s when my great-grandfather, Sir George Sitwell, acquired the house from an aunt. We Sitwells then clung on for another century.

Every family brought items to the house. And it was large enough, with an entire floor of large attics that other relations stored some of their contents there; the largest attic was stuffed full of trunks and cases. Out of some spilled old toys, from others piles of ancient letters.

In a house of over 50 rooms every corner, every shelf and every cupboard was full.

Ten days before completion I rang Dreweats, the auction house working with us to value and disperse contents.

'I'm afraid we've pulled the deadline forward,' I said. *'Don't worry,'* they replied. *'We'll do it.'*

For months we had already been packing and moving stuff, mountains of cardboard were invested in, hundreds of bin bags filled with unwanted objects. Already some 50 boxes of books had arrived at our new place, stored in a barn as builders were still on site.

But ten days 'til D-day and the place still looked full to the brim. Every wall hung with pictures, every room filled with furniture. There were outbuildings too, the stables piled with boxes, years of stored indecision about to face its day of reckoning. Over the weekend strategies were made and by Monday a plan was in place.

We now had seven days. I drove up from Somerset having ordered hundreds more boxes, bubble wrap, paper and tape. I was greeted by a team of six men who had already installed themselves in the house, comfortably spreading themselves across the place in some of the dozen or so bedrooms.

This was the clearance team at the helm of which was a wonderful man called Andrew whose job, week in week out, is clearing offices and houses. With him were members of his family, cousins and friends, all connected by their membership of an evangelical church in Penge.

As I stationed myself in the main house kitchen, packing crockery, cutlery, glasses and more, he and his team worked through the rooms identifying what was what and what was going where.

My brother, sister and mother were taking some items, some would go to the house sale this November, others to a secondary sale at Mendips in Somerset, others to a clearance house which would make pennies or a few pounds, the rest was for the skip or bonfire. And that, it turned out, meant three skips and a fire that burned long, high and hot day in, day out, for five days!

As the days progressed, small vans arrived, more men piled in, directed to this room or that. They lifted and lugged large chests and beds and sofas and fridges. They jostled for position as they manoeuvred through the house, all the while directed by Andrew and his deputy, brother-in-law Nigel, both dressed in smart shirts and shoes, respect, perhaps, for the house.

At the end of each day we ate in the old kitchen then had a drink in the drawing room. Each day that beautiful room seemed to shrink, as did the rest of the house. The 18th century library, with every shelf filled with leather bound books, emptied and then echoed. Large oil paintings were removed from the drawing room; Lord Glenbervie, painted by the famous Sir Thomas Lawrence was packed and removed. The collection of bird pictures by the Irishman Samuel Dixon left the Justice Room. The dining room, scene of so many wonderful occasions, lost its table and chairs and became an empty space. By Thursday drinks in the drawing room was on kitchen chairs, the men who started the week sleeping on comfortable beds were now on blow-up ones and mattresses on the floor.

On Friday a lorry came to collect our personal possessions and the contents I was bagging. I directed the removal men around the house and then found myself chasing others onto the drive who had mistakenly taken something. *'Hey, that's my card table...'* I rescued three old wooden wine boxes en route to the bonfire...

On Friday some friends arrived to take some books I had promised them, I already had my fill down in Somerset. *'Choose what you like,'* I said up in the Book Room, my grandfather Sacheverell's personal library, books that reflected his own writings, books not reckoned to be valuable enough to sell.

They arrived and found treasures of old art books, botanical drawings, tales from Japan, churches in Romania. *'Thank you so much,'* said my old friend Natasha, who had found a book that her mother, an artist, would treasure. *'That's ok,'* I said and burst into tears.

By the end of Friday, tired and hungover from having made a bold attempt to drink the cellar dry with the guys the night before, I was nearly done. I reckoned everything was accounted for. Then I opened a forgotten cupboard in the kitchen. It was full, heaving... so I shut it, got into the car and left.

The house was almost empty, bar the fabulous portrait of Susanna Jennens that hangs in the drawing room, is listed so can't be moved and will look over and after the Keane family as they settle in.

Farewell Weston, I thought as I drove off. You're a house full of memories and drama and happiness. As we cleared the house I discovered a letter from Knight Frank and Rutley dating from the early 1920s, agreeing to manage a sale of the house.

Ah, I thought, my family tried to flog it once before so that makes our decision (with the same estate agents!) more a fulfilment than a failure. Indeed my grandfather had struggled so much with the running costs that he had rented the place for several summers to his Canadian parents-in-law.

Farewell to Weston; I shall miss you. But I'll miss the village also, of course. I grew up there, had my first pints at The Crown, snogged girls in the potting shed, learnt (some frankly bizarre) facts of life in the garden from Frank Wills. It's a place of so many chums, the families and individuals I'm proud to count as friends: the Jones's, Webbs, Ivor, AJ, Clyde, the Jarmans, Wildes, Seckingtons and so many more. All friends of my parents and grandparents linked by the good times we had, sadnesses we shared, the events we hosted.

Farwell to Weston, we shall miss you, but please pop in if you're en route to Devon, or Watchet or, who knows, Butlins in Minehead. Come and see us, and those old friends. And the wine boxes, proudly on our terrace and holding herbs and daisies.

William Sitwell

What's going on at Canons Ashby this June – July



Summer is officially here! Having just passed the longest day with the summer solstice, the gardens are really starting to bloom with colour: at least the plants are enjoying the rain! The summer bedding has recently been planted, just a couple more weeks and there will be a wide array of colour and fragrance on show.

We have a navy blue and yellow planting scheme to look forward to in the Top Terrace, and pinks and purples with navy blue Salvias in the Sundial Terrace. The circle beds include African marigold 'Antigua Primrose' edging and Lobelia 'Crystal Palace'.

The bedding plants this year have all been grown 'in house' at Canons Ashby by our gardeners and dedicated volunteers. They have even grown extra plants for the shop and honesty bench where they help to earn that little extra to support Canons Ashby.

Our staff and volunteers have been working hard to get our second-hand bookshop open again. We are still unable to accept donations of second-hand books at this current time, but we have plenty of tempting reads to choose from. Housed in the Brewhouse, the books sit where the beer would have been brewed for the family estate and workers to enjoy.

To find out about our work and projects, what is open or to book tickets please go on our website:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/canons-ashby Please book tickets in advance, especially if you are planning to visit at busy times such as weekends, bank holidays or school holidays.



PRE-BOOK
YOUR TICKETS FOR

ASTWELL BARN DANCE

7.00PM SATURDAY 21ST AUGUST

MANOR FARM, WAPPENHAM, NN128PH

BBQ & LICENSED BAR

LIVE MUSIC BY BANANABAND

TICKETS £20 INCLUDES FOOD



TO PRE-BOOK YOUR TICKETS AND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT SHEENA WARREN
EMAIL: SHEENA.WARREN@HOTMAIL.CO.UK MOBILE: 07515 287909
IN AID OF ASTWELL BENEFICE

Wappenham Fun Dog Stroll & Show

Saturday 31st July 2021



9am until 1pm by Village Hall, Wappenham

🦷 9am till 10.30 am - dog strolling with new doggie friends (and owners...) choose from a number of marked walks – some short, and some a bit longer!

🦷 10.30 Tea / cakes / Hot Rolls from the village hall

🦷 11 am The big event...: **The Big Show** with the following classes:

- **Dog With The Waggiest Tail**

Open to any breed/mixed breed dog, male or female, with a happy nature.

- **Best Paw Shaker**

Open to any breed/mixed breed.

- **Best Child Handler**

A number of tasks such as “sit”, “lie down” “come etc”

- **Best Adult Handler**

Requires a dog to stay whilst the handler walks 10 metres away, turns and then on command, the dog returns straight to the handler. Best of three wins

- **Musical Mats**

Just like musical chairs, with owner trying to encourage the dog to sit on the closest mat when the music stops, mats taken away in turn until the winner is declared.

- **Dog egg & Spoon Race**

Dog on lead with owner holding the egg & spoon and running a a short course

- **Dog the judges would most like to take home - 1 yr +**

Open to any breed/mixed breed.

- **Best Biscuit Catcher**

From a 2 metre throw. Dog has to sit and wait and then catch, best of three

Entry just £5 per dog & human (to include hot drink) please confirm entry by email to: wappenhamfundraising@gmail.com (please confirm dog & human names)

Show entries 50p per class, entries on the day

Well behaved dogs (and owners) only please, all entries are at owners (and dogs) risk

