



Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter



May/June 2016 – May Day Edition

From the Editor

The final touches are being prepared for May Day and in just a few days it will all be over. I tell myself that every year as I start to fret about the last minute preparations for the May Day Fair on the Bank Holiday Monday. The number one concern is the weather and I can't control that. So fingers crossed and some helpful prayers please and we hope to have another bumper year. A massive thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make it happen (again !!!) and for all the kind donations of books, toys and tombola prizes. Sadly this year's event will not be started by The Great Weston Run but I have every confidence it will be resurrected at some stage in the future, and anyway we have cart-loads of great stuff to keep everyone entertained. More details inside.

If you are able to help in any way on the day then please get in touch. We are also looking for volunteers to join the committee to help organise next year's event. If you would like to take part, in any capacity, let me know.

The Annual Parish Meeting is due to take place on the 9th May. Everyone in the community is encouraged to attend this meeting at which representatives of the various Village Organisations will present brief reports; we also hope to have our local councillors (SNC and NCC) and possibly a representative from the Police.

Welcome to new arrivals Karrie Shotton and her daughters, Lucia and Maryja, who recently moved into Lois Weedon. Finally, as I was roaming around the village last week-end collecting for May Day and stopping to chat (as you do), it was commented by one resident: "You never welcomed US in the Newsletter!"... "Didn't I", said your Editor, "How long have lived here?" ... "Ten years !!!". So apologies and a very belated welcome to Clare and Melvin Bramer!

The next edition of the newsletter will be in July 2016 and all material for that edition should be given to me by Saturday, 18th June 2016.

Paul Smith, 8 Vicarage Rise (01327-860626)

Email: loisweedonpaul@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

(For details of some events - see inside the newsletter. Later events, details to follow)

Mon., 2 May	Lois Weedon & Weston May Day Country Fair – Details on page 3.
Mon., 9 May	Annual Parish Meeting 7:30pm at the Baptist Chapel, Weston, followed by Parish Council AGM (approx.. 8pm)
First Wed., of the month	Lois Weedon & Weston WI – 7:30, Lois Weedon Village Hall
Sat., 3 Sept	Horticultural Society Annual Show – Details on page 6 and in the next edition

Recent Winners of Village Hall '100 Club' Lottery

April 2016	
Gavin & Sue Bridge	97
Iris Gregory	44
Silas Wilde	69

Mobile Library Van

Because of the cuts we now have only one library van in South Northants. The new time of the van will be the second Wednesday of the month at 10:45am, starting on 8th June, stopping at Middlethorpe.

At the moment only 5 of us use the van; one of whom is a child so we will lose her because of the mid-week timetable. It would be nice to get a few more people to use the van.

You can get audio CD's as well as books, greeting cards, quiz books and postage stamps. They will also order any book for a small charge.

Please help us to keep the library going or this could be the end of yet another facility in the Village.

Jenni Liversidge

Parish Council

Here is a summary of the Parish Council meeting held on **March 21st** in the Baptist Chapel, Weston. Full minutes of council meetings are posted on the Village Notice Boards. If anyone would like more detail or would like to read the actual minutes on any matter, please contact the Clerk, Ken Power.

Planning and Licensing Matters:

The council resolved to support Application **S/2016/0573/FUL** for an extension to 2, Vicarage Rise, Lois Weedon.

St. Loys School parking and traffic problems – Update.

Cllr. Ellis and The Clerk visited St. Loys School on 22nd February at the invitation of the School Head and Governors, in response to complaints from residents and parents about potentially dangerous parking and driving during drop-off and pick-up periods. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Jay Shah, the Safer Routes to School (SRTS) Officer for Northamptonshire. A number of possible measures by the school and by SRTS were identified which would improve children's safety. The Council will work with the School and SRTS to implement these as soon as possible.

Finance Matters: Payments were approved for Clerk's salary, Rent for the Chapel, New Councillor Training, Street lighting maintenance and Car Scheme donation. Accounts to date and performance against budget were accepted. The Internal Audit Report was reviewed and accepted.

Review of Available NHB Funds and Possible Projects Details of the available funds were presented by The Clerk. There is a balance of approximately £10,000 available. There was a discussion regarding possible ways in which the available funds could be spent to benefit the village. Options being considered include a new village marquee. Another possible option is to acquire the red telephone box from BT, currently offered to us for £1.00. There had been a suggestion that fitness equipment could be bought and installed in the School field, but Councillors had concerns about the high cost (including essential safety flooring) and possible insurance issues. Cllr. Smith will be asked to include in the next village newsletter another request for ideas from villagers as to how the available NHB funds could be used. There was a suggestion that defibrillators could be bought using some of the money, and installed at suitable sites with easy access in Weston and in Weedon Lois. It was agreed that Cllr. Ellis would investigate the practicalities of this idea, and The Clerk has asked NCALC if they can give any advice based on the experience of other parishes.

Review of Risk Assessment and Asset Register - The 2016 Risk Assessment was reviewed and unanimously accepted. The Councillors resolved to accept the recommendations of the 2016 Review of the Asset Register for repair or replacement of damaged Parish assets. (Benches and bus shelters.) Proposals will be prepared for this work.

Extension Graveyard Mowing Contract At the last Parish Council meeting in January the Councillors had agreed that the Council would take over responsibility for the mowing of the extension graveyard at St. Peter's and St. Mary's Church in Weedon Lois. Four contractors were asked to tender for this work. Three tenders were received. At the Parish Council meeting all offers were reviewed, and the Councillors agreed unanimously to accept the lowest cost tender, from Complete Ground Management Ltd.

Grit Bins A letter was received from SNC informing us that the grit bins on Middlethorpe and at the bottom of the hill between Weston and Weedon Lois would be removed. The Clerk responded that the bin on Middlethorpe is used for gritting pavements to avoid accidents, especially to the older residents living nearby. SNC have confirmed that this bin will be maintained. The bin on High Street is on a priority 1 gritting route and the Parish Council agreed that it was no longer necessary.

Casual Vacancy - Various candidates were considered for co-option to the Parish Council Casual Vacancy.

Village Website - Frank Hunter, the council appointed webmaster, has informed the Council that the website will go live as soon as possible.

Ernie Wheeler - It has been suggested that the award of the Légion d'Honneur to Ernie Wheeler for his part in the D-Day Normandy landings and subsequent liberation of France should be recognized by the Parish. It was proposed that the Parish Council would donate to the Horticultural Society an "Ernie Wheeler Légion d'Honneur" trophy to be awarded each year.

Date and time of next meeting: Monday 9th May - Annual Parish Meeting: 7:30pm in the Baptist Chapel to be followed by the Parish Council AGM at 8.00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Annual Parish meeting at which reports will be presented on behalf of all the various Village organisations

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

May Day Country Fair - 2016

35th Year of the Lois Weedon and Weston May Day Fair Monday the 2nd May, Helmdon Road, Weston NN12 8PX

One of South Northants Great Village Events Open To All

Entrance to the Fair, including free programme, is £2.00 for adults, £1.00 for children, Car Parking free,



The fair is busy from 10am but is opened officially at 12 noon with the crowning of the May Queen by our guests of honour, **Mr and Mrs David Elkington**. David is a former rugby player for Northampton Saints, a successful local businessman and our current Chairman of the Parish Council. The crowning ceremony will be followed by the traditional Maypole Dancing by the children of St Loys CEVA Academy, Lois Weedon. This year's May Queen is **Connie Gray** and her attendants are **Tilly Poole, Amy Osman & Freya Thatcher**. They will arrive at 12.00 in a Aston Martin DB7 Vantage Volante – driven Mr John Archard Jones. The children of the school also designed the covers of the May Day Programme.

Then all the fun of the fair can start: music from **Brackley Brass Band, Brackley Morris Men**, Children's Entertainer - **Silly Soapy**, Judo Display, the amazing **Hawkeye Falconry display** and, in their new livery, **donkey rides**, thanks to Jan and Pete Parmenter.

Raffle tickets are on sale throughout the day (draw takes place at 4.00, the official closing of the show)

Prizes include, **Bottle of bubbly** - Thanks to Waitrose, **Red and White Wine** - Thanks to the Atkins Family, **Voucher for Beauty Treatment**- Thanks to Images by Joanna Family, **Centre Membership** - Thanks to Towcester Centre for Leisure, **DVD and CD's** Thanks to Fairport Convention, **Two tickets to the British Touring Car Championship** - Thanks to Silverstone Circuits Ltd, **Two tickets to one Sky Bet Football League match at Sixfields Stadium 2015/16 or 2016/17 season** - Thanks to Northampton Town Football Club Ltd, **Two tickets to a one day Steelbacks Cricket Match** - Thanks to Northants Cricket

There is the usual substantial and varied **Craft Fair** under cover in the barns with over 30 stalls including a huge **Tombola, Toys and Book stalls, crafts and food stalls, Candy floss, and Ice Cream**

We are especially pleased to announce our **Companion Dog Show** with a variety of Special Classes. Judging starts at 12.30pm and will be followed by our ever popular **Terrier Racing**. At the time of going to press we are still hoping that there will be a sheep-shearing display but availability of the "right kind of sheep" has yet to be confirmed

Refreshments are available throughout the day with teas and coffees and cakes in the refreshment barn, **Beer** courtesy of **Towcester Mill Brewery** and **Cider** courtesy of local cider experts, **3C's Cider, Hog Roast and Burger Bar** and 'Foodie Stalls' in the Barns.

Summary of this year's attractions include.

- Brackley & District Band
- Donkey Rides
- Classic Cars & Bikes
- Companion Dog Show
- Judo Display
- Terrier Racing
- Brackley Morris Men
- Falconry Display
- Bouncy Castle & Sideshows
- Swings and Roundabouts
- Welly Wanging Competition
- Children's Entertainer

What happens to the money raised by May Day ?

May Day is now in its 35th year and in that time has turned over something approaching £250,000, at least half of which has been profit which has been distributed among various Village organisations. The event is one of the few Village activities that brings significant outside involvement of non-residents into the community and without this extraordinary effort and the funds it raises, the various organisations and activities within the village would need to find funding from elsewhere or might not even exist. Members of the various Village organisations participate in one way or another before and on the actual day, helping make the event a success.

After each May Day, once all the money has been counted and the bills paid, the May Day Organising Committee meet to consider the distribution of funds. It has become customary for the various Village groups in need of funding to write to the Committee to request a suitable donation. Each group that has benefited in the past from a May Day donation in the past will receive a letter inviting them to apply for any funding they require, stating the amount required and the purpose for which the money is to be used. The following is a list of some of the organisations and local causes that have benefitted from May Day funding over the years.

Bell Ringers, Car Scheme, Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Drama Club, Film Club, Fireworks Displays, Football Club, Lois Weedon Church, Churchyard trimmer, Playgroup/Pre-School, Plumpton Church, Village barbecue, Village marquee, Millennium Playing Field, Parish Council (various projects), Replanting of Daffodils, Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch, St Loys School, Village Hall, Village Newsletter, Weston Community Project/Baptists Chapel, Youth Club

New groups or any which feel they have been overlooked are encouraged to make themselves known to the Committee by writing to me, *Paul Smith, Chairman, May Day Organising Committee (01327 860626)*

Ella's Charity Chop!

In March I decided that my hair was getting to long and then I had a thought of cutting it off for a charity. For a bit of fun I asked people to sponsor me. If I got £150 I would cut ten inches of my hair. In twenty four hours my friends and family had sponsored me £150 !!!! So off it came.

I sent my hair to the Little Princess trust , which is a charity for little girls that have cancer or have been through chemotherapy and they make wigs out of real hair which is really amazing .

I left my just giving page open for one week and by Sunday i had reached £350 which was enough to make and pay for another wig.

I would like to thank everybody that has sponsored me in the village and everyone else that has given me support on quite an emotional event. I hope the little girl that I now share hair with is happy and has got her self-confidence back, and I hope you are happy again!

Thanks again

Ella Palmer x

Duke of Edinburgh Award

My name is Angus Gray from Weston. I will be 14 on May 2nd. I am doing my Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award at school. For this, I need to do at least 3 months voluntary work for 1-2 hours a week.

For my voluntary work, I'm going to be available to anyone in the villages (Weston and Lois Weedon or nearby) who needs any help including washing cars, mowing the lawn (general help in the garden), babysitting, company, help with computers and basically anything I can do to help anybody.

Please contact me on 01295 236239 or my Mum (Angie Gray) on 07818 040087 or you can email angusgray13@gmail.com if you need help and are interested. I'm available at the weekend and Fridays early evening.

Please note that this work is voluntary and so there will be no charge.

Angus Gray



St Mary and St Peter PCC needs a Secretary!

Would you be willing to help us out?

We need someone to take the minutes at our PCC meetings as well as deal with a small amount of correspondence. We meet no more than 5 times a year and although the post is voluntary we are able to pay expenses.

Please contact Rev'd Carole on 01327 860798 if you are able to help us out.

Outlook from The Chapel, Weston.

Hello there,

Here at 'The Chapel' over the past few weeks we have been giving away a book called 'The Servant Queen and the King she serves'. It has proved to be very popular with Royalists and Republicans alike, because it is a focus on the individual and not the institution. It's focus is on Queen Elizabeth... We have in Queen Elizabeth an Magnificent Monarch.

It was Shakespeare who wrote, 'Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them'. We know from history that at her birth Elizabeth was third in line to the throne, but abdication of her uncle and the death of her father, found herself Monarch. I am always astounded by the maturity of her broadcast as a 21 year old Princess, and the words she used when she committed herself to the service of her people. 'My whole life whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service' There was both a note of destiny in these words and also a great sense of duty.

The Queen has lived her life as a global leader, under constant media scrutiny, while working in a rapidly changing Country and Commonwealth. Today we live in a multi-cultural, multi faith, politically correct society, and we have seen how the Queen has carried out her role brilliantly. Today she is one of the best loved and most respected monarchs in the world. She has shown us a life of service and prodigious self-restraint, as she has developed deep understanding of her evolving role.

Yet what marks Elizabeth out as a great Queen is not so much her parentage, her personality, or her position. It's what she said herself, when she said, 'I know just how much I rely upon my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad...I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give my best in all that the day brings and to put my trust in God.' Here is a person who is utterly clear and unashamed about her beliefs, as she sees that she has given her service not just to her people, but to her God. The Queen has shown us all how to live in an age of constant change, with a felicity so as not to be left behind. She offers us an example of whole life discipleship, under the guidance of God who always exalts those who humble themselves before Him, who serve one another regardless of their position or power. When we live like this we too can know greatness in our life..

Thanks for reading.

Paul Knight (Rev)



Weston & Weedon Horticultural Society



Most of you will be aware of the annual Horticultural Show and Food Fair presented by the society. In 2010 we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the show started by the wartime broadcaster C. H. Middleton. To maintain this wonderful tradition we are eager to broaden the appeal of the society and recruit new members. Currently members enjoy entry to exclusive classes at the show. Many take advantage of the allotment spaces managed by the society and share the benefits of RHS affiliation. During the years we have enjoyed 'Celebrity Chef' evenings, fund raising events, annual dinners, workshops and visits. As part of the society's future development we are keen to encourage larger numbers of show entries in classes that reflect a more general interest in gardening and cooking. We have launched a project with our local school working on an allotment space and have visited the children during their school assemblies. In June or July we will be visiting the Canons Ashby gardens for an exclusive tour and in September we are aiming to visit RHS Wisley. There is another 'Celebrity Chef' evening planned and we are hoping to negotiate a members discount with a gardening supplier. All this will be offered to members as a priority and some events at a discount. Another benefit is the advice from our network of members on all those gardening issues.

Membership is currently £5 per year *Join now and receive membership until 30th September 2017*
If you are interested pick up a flyer on May Day or contact us at thewwhs@gmail.com
WWHS ANNUAL SHOW & FOOD FAIR @ Home Close 3rd September

5 Tips for the garden

- ✓ Finish feeding and mulching around all fruit trees, bushes and canes. Add a layer around the base of perennials, trees and shrubs.
- ✓ Give roses a boost with general purpose or rose fertiliser.
- ✓ If you are planting vegetables now is the time to fork in some compost and cover with plastic sheeting to warm up the soil.
- ✓ It is much better to sow most vegetable types little and often. That way you will have a succession of crops rather than a glut.
- ✓ Late frosts can still damage young seedlings so be prepared to protect them.

Letter from Cat Lover

In the autumn of 2014, a malnourished cat in very poor condition began frequenting our garden. Taking pity on it, Pam & I began to feed it and after a few weeks it braved entering the house. We could see by its behavior that he had been spayed. He is affectionate and enjoys being stroked, but even now it is too timid to be picked up.

A few weeks later he began to bring along another cat, a tortoiseshell, also in a very poor state. She was even more timid but now feeds & sleeps in the conservatory. Closely following the female, a dominant, very aggressive male began visiting the garden. Again this specimen was clearly 'half starved'. Both of 'our' cats were terrified of him, they were reluctant to go outside when he was around. Last autumn we found him limping with a serious leg injury. Unable to catch him for veterinary treatment, we contacted one of the cat charities, who managed to trap him and take him for treatment, eventually returning him to the village. Before long he was back and up to mischief with our cats, although a few weeks later he mysteriously disappeared and has not been seen again. Fingers crossed !!

Having given a background, I now come to the point of this letter. The person who came out from the cat charity stated that they are very 'unhappy' with the amount of feral cats in Lois Weedon. They previously had been called out by someone with many cats who wanted them neutered - this they were happy to do. However they were prevented from spaying all of the cats by the 'owner' who stated that he wanted some of them for 'the farm.' The charity remains displeased by this, as they say "spay one - spay all," or it is a pointless exercise. It was felt that they had wasted their time, effort and (scarce) funds.

We know that the farmers in the village look after their cats, despite wanting them to control rodents. An unhealthy cat is a poor hunter. Their cats don't have to roam the village in a desperate search for food.

The cats in question are being subjected to cruelty by default, that is to say utter neglect. Of late, another specimen, ghost like in appearance is to be seen around, it is almost completely devoid of fur, imagine how it has suffered even in a mild winter

Tom Palmer

TALES FROM THE TOWER

I began bell ringing when I was 13 at St Michael and All Angels church in Haselbech where I was born. The gentleman that taught us was called Arthur Flutter, a little man who wore a shirt and tie and a waistcoat also round spectacles and a flat cap.

Haselbech church had eight bells and I was taught to ring alongside other more experienced people, at first we only did rounds then progressed to other methods as our ability grew.

Before I began, I had visions of flying up and down on the rope as the bell swung, of course this was not the case - although Mr. Flutter did leave the floor occasionally as he rang the tenor down!

Some 25 years later, after getting married and having four children, I was invited to visit our Lois Weedon bell ringers at one of their practices, I went to watch initially but soon found myself having a go at ringing a bell again with the help of one of the experienced ringers, amazingly I soon remembered the technique of ringing. I joined in with the weekly practices when I could on a Wednesday evening and found it enjoyable and I have learnt a lot and still am learning new methods.

Church Bell ringing is a village tradition going back many years and it would be a great shame if it were to stop in our village.

We are looking for some new people to come and join our group, you do not have to be a church goer to ring.

We are a friendly group and meet on a Wednesday evening 7.30pm - 9pm. If you are interested and would like to see us ring and maybe join our group we would be pleased to see you.

You would learn alongside ringers of various abilities and be taught to ring the bells by experienced ringers who give us their help and knowledge on all aspects of ringing. It takes a long time to learn properly but it is fun, we have a laugh on the way and always stop for chocolates and often cake! and a chat during practice too.

If you are interested or inquisitive and would like more information or to register your interest please contact our tower captains Dave and Joy Kirkham on 01327 860372 , we look forward to seeing some new faces.

By the time you read this newsletter we will have taken part in the Ringing for England campaign. The campaign started in 2010 with the aim to get 44,000 bell ringers to ring 208,000 bells in 12,000 churches to celebrate St George , more details can be found on ringingforengland.co.uk Lois Weedon bells were rung at 9.30am on Saturday 23rd April, they will also be rung to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday in June.

Sarah Webb

Lois Weedon & Weston May Day Country Fair Companion Dog Show

Entries from 12 Midday

Judging to commence 12.30 pm

Treats for the Winner in Each Class

Rosettes 1st to 4th in each Class, Specials for other competitors

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. A V Puppy 6 – 12 Months | 6. Dog with the Waggiest Tail |
| 2. Best Child Handler | 7. Prettiest Bitch |
| 3. A V Veteran (Over 7 years) | 8. Most Handsome Dog |
| 4. Best Crossbred | 9. The Most Appealing Eyes |
| 5. Best Rescue | 10. The Dog the Judge would like to take home |

Judge: William Willmott

Best in Show & Reserve Best in Show

(Selected from the winners of each Class)

Followed by Terrier Racing



Quiz night Fundraiser

At St Loys School Hall

Friday 13th May

7pm

Come and enjoy the fun with a Quiz night to raise funds for the school & church.

Only £5 per person (4 to a team), price includes drinks and nibbles.

So get your thinking caps on and get a team together for a night of fun and challenging questions.