



# Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter

May/June 2021 – (What should have been) The May Day Edition



## From the Editor

I'm typing this on a very wet May Day bank holiday on what should have been the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lois Weedon & Weston May Day Country Fair. Maybe it was just as well that we have given May Day 2021 a miss this year as it is without doubt guaranteed to be a scorcher next May !! (yeah, right) – We can but hope !!!

We were all very sad to hear the news that Ernie Wheeler passed away after a short illness. The funeral is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May but attendance in the church is by invitation only. The service will be relayed by PA system to anyone paying their respects outside the church

People moving: We'd like to say farewell to William and Emily Sitwell and their family and welcome Thalia and James Keane who moved into Weston Hall and to Elaine Rawlinson who moved into Middlethorpe. You have joined our community during these strange times but we hope you will enjoy living in our small but well-formed parish. ☺

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).

As both Newsletter Editor and a Parish Councillor, I receive a regular stream of information from sources such as South Northants Council, Northamptonshire County Council, The Highways Department as well as companies and organisations advertising products and services. A lot of this material is irrelevant but a fair chunk of it will be of interest to the community. So along with the full editions every 2 months, there are regular updates, keeping everyone as informed as possible. If you would like to receive this information and you are not already on my "News for the Parish" distribution list then email me at [loisweedonpaul@gmail.com](mailto:loisweedonpaul@gmail.com) and I will add you to the list. For anyone who is active on Social Media, we also have a Facebook page for local news, information and chat.

The next edition of the regular newsletter will be in July 2021. I would like all material for the next edition to be with me by **Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021**.

*Paul Smith, 8 Vicarage Rise (01327-860626), Email: [loisweedonpaul@gmail.com](mailto:loisweedonpaul@gmail.com)*

## Dates for your Diary

(Yes we are starting to advertise events !!)

Wed., May 5	<b>Lois Weedon &amp; Weston WI</b> 7:30pm Zoom Meeting - Resolutions and Fish & Chips (delivered)
Thu., May 6	<b>Local Elections</b> 0700am – 10:00pm –Village Hall - Polling stations have exemptions from COVID-19 restrictions.
Mon., May 17	<b>Parish Council AGM</b> – details will be announced shortly
Sun., June 13	<b>Open Gardens</b> - from 1.00 to 6.00pm for the National Garden Scheme – Details on page 3
Sat., June 26	<b>Garden Party</b> in aid of the Church at Lois Weedon House courtesy of Sue Greenaway. Details on back page
Sun., June 27	<b>Plumpton Summer Concert:</b> From noon till 3pm, Plumpton Churchyard. – Details on page 4
Sat., August 21	<b>Barn Dance</b> with the Banana Band at the Warrens Farm. Details to follow

## **Lois Weedon & Weston Voluntary Car Scheme**

After providing a voluntary service for the last 26 years to provide the local community with transport for health visits and other essential appointments, we have decided to wind up the scheme. Our administration costs have increased year on year and the demand for the service has diminished. We are very grateful for all the support we have received from the May Day Committee, the Parish Council and others within the community.

For anyone in need of individual transport we are recommending Towcester Area Door-to-door (TADD) 01327 810300; [tadd@btconnect.com](mailto:tadd@btconnect.com)

*Jenny Wilde & Rachel Smith*

## **Parish Council**

Here is a summary of the most recent Parish Council meeting held on **January 25<sup>th</sup>** held on-line & email due to 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.

**Finance Matters: Accounts 2020/21** to-date and budget performance to date were reviewed and approved. These have been posted on the Village website and shared by email to those on the community email list. A claim has been submitted for a VAT refund of £326.84

**Payments** were approved for MacIntyre Trees (survey of Castle Mound trees), Clerk's salary and expenses, annual subscription to CPRE

**Planning Matters:** One planning application was presented – S/2021/0348/FUL - **6 Grove Lane Weston** (demolition of existing house and rebuild new house). It was agreed that the council would support the application.

**Review of Parish Assets:** The up-dated Parish Assets Register was reviewed. It was noted with regret that one of the picnic tables on the Millennium Field is missing and is assumed to have been stolen

**Castle Mound Tree Maintenance:** The recent survey of Castle Mound identified work required to maintain public safety and to resolve concerns. Quotes were requested from eleven local companies to do this work. Four responded. The lowest quote was from CGM and so it was agreed to award the contract to CGM.

**Elections 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** Councillors Raven and Ellis indicated that they will not be standing for re-election. Nomination forms for people wishing to stand for election are available from the Clerk. The deadline for forms to be submitted to SNC in Towcester is 4.00 p.m. on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Litter Picking:** The council is considering organising a litter-picking event in the Parish, as suggested recently by Andrea Leadsom.

**Dog Waste Bins:** The Council has been asked to investigate the cost and feasibility of dog waste bins for the villages.

**Date and time of next meeting:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – meeting arrangements to be determined.

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

## **Parish Council – Local Election**

At the time of the nomination deadline, 4.00 p.m. on 8<sup>th</sup> April, there were only 7 nominations for parish councillor and so it was declared an “uncontested election” and the following were duly elected as your parish councillors:

- David Elkington
- Moira Hillman
- Danielle Sheppard
- Simon King
- Helena Boughton
- Chris Brough
- Paul Smith

## **Weston & Lois Weedon Film Club**

*Memorable movies on your doorstep!*

We plan to start our programme in September 2021.

Our showings will be on Tuesday evenings in The Village Hall as ever.

We are waiting till nearer that time to see what restrictions may be in place in the Autumn before deciding exactly how to operate but we look forward to publishing more details in the next Newsletter.

*Jane, Alan and Pete*

We are so sad that only three names appear here as Jhayden, the fourth member of our team, died last year.



## St Loys Primary Academy



Last month we welcomed back all pupils and staff for what we hope will be an undisturbed summer term! This will be our first full term for a long time and as well as experiencing the joy of being back together in school, we are also thrilled to have welcomed new children into our St Loys family.

Our children have been wonderful in adapting to the many changes that we have seen over the last year and we are fortunate to have incredibly supportive parents who have been understanding of all of the measures we have needed to put in place. With this network of support, absence has been minimised and even in the most difficult points of the pandemic, we have managed to avoid any Covid outbreaks within our St Loys' community. Long may this continue!

As our village community will be aware, St Loys is a small school and the children benefit daily from smaller class sizes. Having given much thought to moving to the next phase of operating the whole school as one "bubble", our St Loys roadmap out of lockdown began at the beginning of last week (26<sup>th</sup> April). We have started to share lunch together in the hall, as well as daily worship/celebration and the children are now excitedly sharing break and lunch play together as one bubble. It is heart-warming to be back together.

Last Friday, we laced up our trainers and took to the field for 'England Does the Daily Mile'. We considered why we do the Daily Mile regularly in school and for the first time, enjoyed our walk/jog/run with friends from other classes. You can see a selection of pictures on our Facebook page.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school next week for Covid secure Parents evenings and as the weeks pass, look forward to gradually opening up our lovely school further.

*Kathryn Crawford, Head Teacher*

### **National Garden Scheme - Gardens Open On June 13<sup>th</sup>**

Seven gardens in Lois Weedon and Weston will be open on Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> from 1.00 to 6.00pm as part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS).

Each year the NGS raises millions of pounds for charities such as Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie and Hospice UK.

So please support our gardeners in this worthwhile cause, enjoy the gardens, chatting to neighbours and tea and cake on the green in Weston.

Tickets, £5.00 (children free) can be bought in advance on line at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk) or at the gardens on the day.

*Lindsey Cartwright, Assistant County Organiser, 07908 521047*

### **Village Golf Day**

We are intending to hold a village golf day, maybe in August, either at Silverstone or Cherwell. You must be a resident in Lois Weedon, Weston or Plumpton to enter.

For details and to register your interest: email [diana876@archardjones.co.uk](mailto:diana876@archardjones.co.uk) ; telephone: 01295 760378

*Diane Archard Jones*

### **Astwell Benefice Group of Churches**

We might be in Lockdown but we are still very much here for you all.

So if you need to talk to someone please do ring one of us.

Hopefully in the not too distant future we will be able to actually visit you!

Rector: Diane Whittaker: 01327 226245

Reader: Paul Stothard: 01295 760816

Reader: Wiggy Smith: 01295 760953

### **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

## News from the Rectory

It seems to me that we are emerging from lockdown in step with the world around us emerging from winter – each time I go for a walk, or work in the garden I discover new growth – the leaves coming on the trees, the blossom on the fruiting trees in the garden, peonies I didn't know I had, cowslips, primroses, blue bells, even the humble daisy and blowsy dandelion – they are all there. I even saw a house martin on a telephone wire the other day – that is definitely a harbinger of summer.

My garden is also rewarding me for the harsh pruning we gave the shrubs last year – with climbing roses beginning to re-grow and buds appearing on the vine. In church we have just been thinking about the passage in the bible where Jesus describes himself as a vine – pruned and cared for by God in order to bear good fruit. He also says that as his followers, Christians need to be grafted on to him – as a vine is grafted onto rootstock. As parts of the vine, we also need to be pruned to bear good fruit. I think that many of us have experienced a form of pruning over the last year – we have had to discipline ourselves to stay at home, reduce our shopping trips, give up seeing close family and friends, forego holidays, say goodbye to loved ones who have died.

As we come out of lockdown into a life where we can see our loved ones again, go travelling, do our shopping, go to church, maybe we need to look at our lives to see whether the pruning – the cutting back – has produced fruit in ourselves. Are we more appreciative of our loved ones, does the world around us seem even more precious as we travel through it, do we treasure our renewed contacts with the world around us and our communities?

My prayer for us all is that as we return to something approaching 'normal' we will hold on to our renewed delight in relationships, the world around us and our communities and work towards making all we do fruitful – so that the future is full of promise for ourselves, our communities, and our world.

Our churches are now open for worship most Sundays, so please do look out for service times and do come and join us.

If you would like to meet me – for coffee/tea in the garden or for a local walk – I would love to hear from you.

A prayer for ourselves – that we will cherish God's beautiful world.

*Creator God,  
We acknowledge that as your handiwork,  
we stand alongside all that you have made.  
Trees and rivers, mountains and valleys,  
soaring birds and scuttling creatures,  
all are held within your care.  
May we grow in our love and appreciation  
for the fabulous variety around us;  
and may our awe and wonder draw us closer  
to the natural world, and through it to you,  
the God of all things.  
We pray in Jesus name, Amen*

*God Bless, Revd Diane*

## Lois Weedon Church Notices

From Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May the Church will be open during the day. Normal services have been resumed: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, Prayers and Praise family service or Private prayer at 9.30, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Matins at 9.30 with Mike Streten, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Holy Communion at 9.30 with Reverend Diane, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Benefice Evensong at 6.00pm with Paul Stothard (currently), 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Benefice Service to be announced as and when.

*Frank Hunter, Churchwarden*

## PLUMPTON SUMMER CONCERT Sunday 27th June

The trustees of **The St John the Baptist Heritage Trust** at Plumpton, invite you to an **opera picnic** on Sunday 27th June from noon until 3pm to help raise funds for the church.

If you can come please let me know by email as soon as possible. We need to limit the numbers to around 100 so please book early so as not to be disappointed. We are asking for a contribution of £25 per head.

If you cannot come but would like to donate let me know this by email and I will let you know how you can donate.

Looking forward to seeing you on the day

*James Miller, jamesmiller.art@gmail.com, 01327 861159*

## **Lois Weedon & Weston Village Hall**

Under the current Covid-19 restrictions, the Village Hall remains closed to hirers. It is regularly inspected and has been equipped with all the means to be Covid Safe. Our current plans are to reopen for hirers on **17<sup>th</sup> May** but at this time we are uncertain about the exact conditions under which we will be able to operate (numbers, spacing etc.).

Please note that as the hall is currently not in normal use, we have assumed that the refuse bins are not being used. Under normal conditions these are solely for hall users and hence we are NOT leaving them out for regular collection. We have been given an exemption for the hall to be used as a polling station for local elections on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Masks must be worn and please take your own writing implement to mark your ballot paper.

### **Winners of Village Hall '200 Club' Lottery**

<b>April 2021</b>	
Jenni Liversidge	63
Simon & Samantha Clarke	132
Louisa Richards	122
Edwina Kidd	197

### **LOIS WEEDON AND WESTON W.I.**

Why is it that when one has little to occupy oneself everything seems to take longer to accomplish?

Time has always flown by, and as one gets older it seems to pass so much quicker, but coupled with "Covid inertia" it seems to go faster still! It seems only last week that it was Christmas, and now it is almost May, and another Weston May Day will pass us by unacknowledged again.

We have not had a "proper" W.I. Meeting since March 2020. BUT we did have a Zoom meeting in April when about 14 members joined in. Our speaker was Danielle Sheppard who spoke about the Mitford Sisters. That took both time and courage on Dan's part and was very informative and interesting. Thank you Danielle.

The May meeting is usually "Resolutions" when we vote on whether to support a suggested theme or purpose countrywide. This year the subject is drawing attention to the early signs of Ovarian Cancer. Once we have voted whether to support it or not, the resolution is usually followed by a Fish & Chip supper which includes partners.

This year we will have a quick Zoom meeting for the Resolution, and then the Fish & Chips will be delivered around the village to all paid up members at about 7.30 pm.

Our member Jenni Liversidge has been making masks for the NHS and also selling them to anyone who asks. She does this voluntarily and any money made is donated to the NHS and Katherine House Hospice. Jenni does this in conjunction with Towcester Evening W.I. I received a letter from their President the other day to tell me that she had nominated Jenni for a "Rose of Northamptonshire" award. This was accepted and Jenni was presented with it by the High Sherriff of Northamptonshire, who went to her house for the presentation. To date, Jenni has made 25bags and 285 masks. All this whilst having treatment and operations for cancer. We wish her speedy recovery.

Our Kneeler project in celebration of our Century Anniversary is almost done. We are waiting to present them to the Church, once we can all get into the Church for a service. We are hoping for the end of November near our 101st Birthday.

Once the new government guidelines are announced on May 17<sup>th</sup> and we know the new limits about getting together, we will be making a decision about what to do for our June meeting.

*Sue Taylor*  
*President Lois Weedon and Weston W.I.*

# **INVITATION TO A SUMMER GARDEN PARTY**

**SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2PM TILL 5PM  
IN THE MAGNIFICENT GARDENS OF  
LOIS WEEDON HOUSE**

*By kind permission of Lady Greenaway*

**IN AID OF THE ASTWELL BENEFICE GROUP  
OF CHURCHES**

**TICKETS ON THE DAY £5 PER ADULT, UNDER 18'S FREE**

**FREE CAR PARKING**

**AFTERNOON TEAS, CAKES AND/OR PIMMS**

**CRAFT AND PRODUCE STALLS**

**RAFFLE PRIZES**

**ICE CREAM**

**MUSIC BY LOCAL ARTISTES**

**ACTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL**

**FOR DETAILS VISIT:**

<https://www.astwellparishes.org.uk/>

or contact [frank.hunter@btinternet.com](mailto:frank.hunter@btinternet.com)