



Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter



November/December 2020 – (Covid-19 - Shutdown) Winter Edition

From the Editor

Well 2020 is heading for the end of what has been a most horrendous year in my living memory in this community. Normally we would be starting to get ready for Christmas with several events leading up to the festive season such as Carol Singing, Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch, Christmas Market, Christmas Hamper Raffle and other local festive activities, all now cancelled. However, as long as we are all still safe and looking forward to 2021 with some degree of optimism then I guess that is the best we can hope for. Looking on the bright side, as I type this, BBC have reported positive news about vaccine. Oh I hope and pray this will result in the long hoped for salvation from our current problems. Even things seem to becoming more hopeful across the pond (depending on your political views!!) Special congratulations to our village WI who were due to celebrate the organisations 100th Birthday this month. Sue Taylor, current WI President (no need for a recount there) has written a short article (page 4). Also our new Rector and her local team have endeavoured to keep everyone's spirits up.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome recent arrivals in the two villages. Firstly a warm welcome to Stan and Katie Shires and their poodles Phoenix and Simba who recently moved into Weston as we say goodbye to the Grover family – Cat, Rob, Noah & Jacob plus several pets, some of whom were reluctant to leave. Secondly please welcome Carrick Barrons and Jessica Burnett and their dog, Hugo, who have moved into Kettle End, Lois Weedon – at least until their house in Grove Lane, Weston has been refurbished. Welcome to our currently restricted community.

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'll stop trudging up your driveway to deliver. Also, if you know of anyone outside the Village who would like to receive the Newsletter just let me have their details (email only).

This will be the last edition of the Village Newsletter for 2020 and it's been quite a strange year. The Newsletter is normally published 6 times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November) and is normally funded by the May Day Committee, the Parish Council and by private donation and as editor, I am always grateful for that support. However, for obvious reasons, publication and funding this year has been somewhat limited.

The next edition of the Lois Weedon & Weston Newsletter will be in January 2021 and all material for that edition should be given to me by Saturday, 5th January 2021. For contributions to be published I will take them in any format but I appreciate them either as MS Word documents or as emails. Pictures or photos are good but for those receiving printed copy, please note that I print in black & white (mostly) so colour pictures don't always reproduce that well.

Finally, as editor, publisher and delivery boy of the Newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support and wish you all the very best for the coming festive season and the New Year beyond.

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

Village Hall Notes.

ANNUAL MEETING – As a registered charity, the Village Hall Management Trustees is required to hold an annual general meeting. This year, with agreement of the Charity Commission, an on-line/email meeting was held on the 29th October. The finance accounts were reported: a noticeable surplus was achieved, avoiding an anticipated loss, thanks to a Covid rate relief grant and, as expected expenditure was significantly lower than the previous year.

As you might expect, under direction of Government lockdown, the hall is now currently closed to hirers, at least until December 2nd when we will take a decision on if and when we can safely open again.

Winners of the Village Hall '200 Club' Lottery

October 2020		November 2020	
Jill Jones	64	Paul Smith	34
Sue Taylor	41	Gareth Wheeler	45
Luke Longley	183	Frank & Maralynn Hunter	115
Ivor Jones	94	Penny Spademan	98

We still have lottery numbers available – contact Rachel Smith (01327 860626), rachel.k.smith4@gmail.com

Parish Council News

Edited notes from the Parish Council meetings held on **September 28th** which was held on-line/email due to Covid restrictions. Detailed minutes are posted on the Village website and also available from the Clerk to the Council.

Planning and Licensing Matters: The following applications were considered

- **S/2020/1297/FUL:** 6, Grove Lane, Weston. Two storey rear extension. Comment response.
- **S/2020/1536/MAF:** Lois Weedon House. Installation of a ground source heat pump. No objection.

Finance Matters:

- The accounts to-date were reviewed and accepted as
- Payments were approved for Ground Care Company (churchyard mowing), CGM (playing field mowing), Neighbourhood Watch (donation), E.On (street lighting maintenance) and Clerk's salary.

Correspondence/AOB

- Request from property developer for the PC to circulate a "Housing Needs Survey" for Weston. Declined

Extraordinary meeting to consider planning application **S/2020/1785/FUL** and **S/2020/1786/LBC:**

Armada House, 1 High Street, Upgrade of derelict outbuilding to form added accommodation

On Tuesday 3rd November a quorum of councillors met on site visit to consider the above planning application. The proposed plan is to return a derelict and potentially dangerous building to modern use. It was unanimously agreed that there should be no objection to the application, noting that the proposed development would be a visual improvement.

Date and time of next meeting Monday 30th November - conducted on-line/email; contact Clerk for details

Ken Power, Parish Clerk,

Tel: 01327 860054; E-mail: wlwparishclerk@outlook.com www.westonandweedonloispc.org.uk

Lois Weedon & Weston May Day Country Fair – Date (if at all) to be determined

As most of you will know, we had to cancel this year's event and under the current circumstances we face the prospect of having to cancel next year's event – so many aspects of the traditional country fair will be restricted, even if current lockdown conditions are well and truly lifted by next May. As so many things need to be planned and booked well in advance and under Covid restrictions additional facilities (and hence cost) need to be arranged, we are reluctant to commit to the event. The organising committee will take a final decision in January.

The most optimistic outcome may well be an equivalent event perhaps later in the year – watch this space

Paul Smith, Chairman, May Day organising Committee

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

Christmas Card Delivery Service

Despite the restrictions of Covid, as a service to our fellow villagers and in order to raise funds for the Village Hall we plan to repeat our Christmas card delivery service. We will be delivering cards throughout the villages of Lois Weedon and Weston about a week or so before Christmas. Donations will be gratefully received.

Unfortunately as there will NOT be a Christmas Market this year and so no "Big Red Post Box". If you would like us to deliver your cards please leave your cards for delivery (including any donation) in the white post box at: **8 Vicarage Rise, Lois Weedon** by **Sunday 13th December** (at the latest) for delivery on **Friday 18th December**. This will give us at least 72 hours between the cards being dropped off at our house and being delivered to the recipients. Please could you clearly address the envelopes (at least to the best of your knowledge).

Thank you. *Rachel Smith (01327 860626), On behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee*

Christmas cards for sale

In aid of funds for St Mary and St Peter's church featuring reproductions of beautiful watercolours of Lois Weedon Church by Peter French, by kind permission of Mrs Patricia French.

10 cards for £5. Available from Frank & Maralynn Hunter: 01327 860597 email frank.hunter@btinternet.com



News from the Rectory

Since my last contribution to the Newsletter, we briefly managed to restart Holy Communion services in the churches of the Benefice, with the first Holy Communion service at Lois Weedon being a Harvest Festival Service, which was a lovely occasion. Thanks go to the ladies, Margaret Seckington, Iris Gregory, Vicki Streten, Caroline Raven, Jane Kirtley and Sue Greenaway who decorated the church so beautifully. The intention was to have a Holy Communion every third Sunday at Lois Weedon, but as often happens, we can plan but events get in the way. I am still keen to get to know folks, given the restrictions, so I have come up with a cunning plan! We can meet one other person outdoors, so if you would like to come for a walk with me and get to know me that way, that would be wonderful. It would also serve to introduce me to more walks in the area.

As you have heard in the news, the churches have been closed again for public worship, but they do remain open for private prayer at the advertised days and times used in the last lockdown. Also, the Archbishops are planning a National Day of Prayer each Thursday for the lockdown period, if not longer. Information will appear on the Church of England website before Thursday 5th November. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Within the Benefice, we are intending to use Zoom to meet for worship online each Sunday, the joining information and times will be on our website and on our weekly Pews News. The services will also be livestreamed to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/astwellbenefice> and will be available for viewing there if you cannot join us at the advertised times.

Despite the church closures, we are still very much present as a Christian community within the villages of the Parish and welcome all you can do to help us to keep paying our way to maintain the church fabric and also pay the ministry costs allocated to Lois Weedon and Weston. To that end, there will be some fundraising events arranged for the next couple of months, please watch out for announcements.

We are still in such uncertain times, and the pandemic does not seem to want to go away any time soon and there are many upheavals in our lives as we get used to new ways of living and mourn the loss of the many social events that cannot currently be held, especially leading up to Christmas, not to mention the fact that many of us are separated from loved ones yet again by the new rules.

As we enter the lockdown and the darker days draw in, please remember that God always is present, even if life seems bleak – I offer a prayer for you to use for the coming days.

*O Lord our God, source of all goodness and love, accept the fervent prayers of your people;
In the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon all who turn to you for help;
For you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Now and for ever. Amen.*

God Bless, Revd Diane

Here are some images of the decorations from the Harvest Festival Service





Weston & Weedon Horticultural Society

5 for the garden During challenging times



- Keeping fit and healthy is important at any time, but more so during the coronavirus pandemic. If you have a garden or outdoor space, then you have a place that you can use to maintain your health and well-being even in the winter months.
- Gardens provide a place for experiencing nature which is proven to benefit mental health, cognitive functioning and emotional well-being.
- Merely looking at gardens can reduce stress, blood pressure and muscle tension.
- Garden centres are open and you can buy plants online. Use the time to prepare the garden for when you can re-stock for the New Year.
- This year millions more people have gone online to find out what they can grow. Indoors also has much potential for growing. Now is the time to make those plans and prepare the space!

STAY SAFE

See you all in 2021 for the 80th WWHS Annual Show

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

LOIS WEEDON AND WESTON W.I.

On November 27th 2020 our W.I. will be 100!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Not many W.I.'s have lasted this long, although W.I. was only started in the UK in 1915.

This year has been a real disappointment as we had a lot of things planned to celebrate our centenary year, and many have had to be either cancelled or postponed until next year when we will have passed the exact date.

Because of Covid 19 we have not been able to hold a meeting since March, and this will most likely be the case until the New Year. We were going to hold a party on the actual day in the Village Hall on the Saturday November 28th which would have been an open event with a small exhibition of the things we have done over the last 100 years; Of course this cannot now happen.

Our Committee for the coming twelve months is working on a way for our members to celebrate the event without mixing with each other.

I would like to wish all our members, past and present, a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sue Taylor, President.

Church Lights

In these testing times would it not cheer us all up if we lit the Church these dark evenings? The spring evenings meant I couldn't continue the blue NHS lighting to accompany the "clapathon" but I would like to offer the opportunity for people to make a modest donation to church funds and I will turn on our newly repaired floodlights from dusk for a number of hours for as many evenings as you wish. Those of you who were out and about last Sunday evening would have noticed the illuminations which accompanied our Evensong service. It is a fine sight particularly as the Church is more visible after removing some of the trees and has a full set of lights.

Please contact me to discuss timings and donations at frank.hunter@btinternet.com or telephone 01327 860597 or Mobile: 07919 348697. Donations should be sent to Terry Tyler at Primrose Hill, High Street, Lois Weedon.

Cash, cheque or Internet payment would be appreciated. We can supply you with the church's account details.

Thank you



*Frank Hunter
Churchwarden'*

Looking After Your Pets

Similar to the previous Lockdown our good friend and neighbour – **Melvin Bramer**, who works at Crofts in Banbury is happy to extend the following offer to help those of us in need of pet supplies:-

If anyone in Weston/ Lois Weedon (or nearby villages e.g. Plumpton & Woodend) needs pet food, Melvin will drop off any pet food that Crofts supply.

The process ? Same as before, phone the shop (**01295 250131**), pay over phone by card explaining that Melvin Bramer has agreed to pick-up and deliver and then he will drop off the supplies on his way home.

Crofts Website: <https://www.croftpetfoods.co.uk/>



Suggestion from Allison Harding, Milthorpe, Lois Weedon



On Christmas Eve at 6m it's been suggested that we all go outside to our doorsteps and ring a bell for 2 minutes to spread the Christmas spirit and to help Santa fly his sleigh

*After a tough year it would be an amazing memory for the kids and the community.
Ending 2020 with a sparkle of magic, hope and togetherness.*





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Website: www.stloys.co.uk
Head Teacher: Miss Kathryn Crawford BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH



St Loys Pre School

Sessions currently available at St Loys Pre School
Open every day 8.50 – 3.30pm