



Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter



November/December 2021 – Winter Edition

From the Editor

Well as 2021 is heading for the end of another difficult year, is that a light at the end of the tunnel I can see?... or another train heading our way? Last year at this time I was listing all the usual end of year festivities that had featured in previous November/December editions but due to Covid they were cancelled or postponed.

Well we seem to be getting ready for Christmas with the revival of several events leading up to the festive season including the recent bonfire and fireworks display. Provisional planning has started for various Christmas events including the Village Hall Christmas Market and Christmas Hamper Raffle. And a new event on calendar is the WI Lois Weedon and Weston Christmas Trail (more details inside).

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome recent arrivals in the two villages. Firstly a warm welcome to Jamie Hunter and his mother Sue who have moved into Hilltops, Lois Weedon. Secondly please welcome the Kainth Family, Steven, Julia, Alexis and Isaac, who have moved into Kettle End, Lois Weedon. We hope you get settled soon and are able to get involved in all our community activities as we come out of the pandemic.

Just recently we have had some sad news: John Busby passed away after a long illness. We send our condolences to his wife Sylvia and all of his family and friends. John was a strong supporter of many of the village activities and a leading participant of many. He will be greatly missed.

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).

Our local community broadband service, offering fast internet access, installed and maintained by volunteers since the beginning of 2013, has the opportunity to be upgraded to even faster – fibre to the premises, to give it its technical term. A more detailed explanation

This will be the last edition of the Village Newsletter for 2021 and it's been another 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 grateful for the support.

The next edition of the Lois Weedon & Weston Newsletter will be in January 2022 and so all material for that edition should be given to me by Saturday, 8th January 2022. 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

Dates for your Diary

(Yes we are starting to advertise events !!)

Mon., Nov 29	Parish Council Meeting , 8:00 pm Lois Weedon Village Hall
Tue., Dec 7	Film Club "The Man Who Invented Christmas". – details on page 7
Sat., Dec 11	Christmas Market , Lois Weedon Village Hall – 9:00 till noon – details on page 2
Sat., Dec 18	WI "Lois Weedon & Weston Christmas Trail" Details on page 3
Tues., Jan 11	Film Club – see page 7 for appeal for suggestion for the next film
Wed., Jan 12	WI Celebration Dinner – Details to follow

Christmas Carol Singing

Details, dates and meeting arrangements to follow.

Village Hall Notes.

The hall is now open for hirers. We encourage users to wear face covering when entering or leaving the hall or when in confined spaces. Although padded chairs are available, these present a problem for cleaning after use. We ask that users spray the surfaces that they use (chairs, tables etc.) with disinfectant. The fabric padded chairs take a while to dry afterwards so we encourage users to use the plastic chairs.

Also please note that the wheelie bins (black, blue & green) are for hall users only.

Winners of Village Hall '200 Club' Lottery

October 2021		November 2021	
Sarah Webb	85	Jessica Smith	76
Ro & Claire Cutler	119	Sue James	82
Laura Johnson	151	Ursula Power	97
Frank & Maralynn Hunter	24	Elaine McAuliffe	148

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

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

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

There will be a special lottery draw at the Christmas Market for a £50 prize

Many thanks to all the members who are supporting the hall with their lottery membership

Rachel Smith (01327 860626)

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

LOIS WEEDON & WESTON VILLAGE HALL

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 11th December.



**“Full English” breakfast served from
9am to 12 midday by Pam Palmer & helpers**



Market stall holders include:

Annie's Pantry:

(Christmas cakes, mince pies, marmalade & chutney and other goodies)

Penny Spademan, (handmade cards)

Bee Happy Bug House

Fruit & Veg stall

Second hand book stall

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Towcester Mill Brewery

WI Wishing Well Lucky Dip

Lois Weedon Church:

- Christmas cards of St Mary & St Peter (see page 6)
- Wreaths



Christmas Card Delivery Service

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.

If you would like us to deliver your cards please deposit them (with your donation) in the “**Big Red Post Box**” at the Christmas Market on **Saturday 11th December** or alternatively leave your cards for delivery in the white post box at: **8 Vicarage Rise, Lois Weedon** by **Sunday 12th December** (at the latest) for delivery on **Friday 17th 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*

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

LOIS WEEDON AND WESTON W.I.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

At the **September meeting**, Mr Wood, our speaker, gave a very interesting talk entitled “Vintage Comedy Plays” – extracts from live performances on radio.

October was time for our **AGM**: Following a welcome from our retiring President, Sue Taylor, we began by singing “Jerusalem”, accompanied by Bridget Anderson, and then various items of formal business were conducted. Our new committee was elected: Rachel Smith (President), Sally Neville (Vice President), Edwina Kidd (Treasurer), Peggie Clarke (committee member), joint secretary: Sally Neville & Louise Marwick

On Saturday, October 30th we held the WI Harvest Supper, in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The event was entitled a “Poppy Supper” and was a great success.

Our **November** speaker was Christine Farmer from Preston Capes who gave a talk entitled “Where there’s a quill there’s a play”.

December meeting – Wednesday 1st December @ 7:30pm, Lois Weedon Village Hall

Come and join us and have a go at hand bell ringing and making fun Christmas wreaths. There will be mulled wine and festive nibbles. Please wear masks until seated.

Rachel Smith, President.

Lois Weedon and Weston Christmas Trail

For a bit of extra Christmas fun the WI are inviting villagers to decorate a window (or front of house). On the afternoon of Saturday, 18th December take a stroll around our two lovely villages with friends and family to admire the creativity (a map of houses taking part will be available at the Village Hall Christmas Market). Complete your walk by stopping off at the village hall for warm mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate (times to be confirmed).

Please let Louise King, (Hill Cottage, 07856 201 944) know if you are decorating your window/house so they can be included on the map. Further details to follow and will be posted on Newsletter Facebook page.



Lois Weedon and Weston WI Kneeler Project.

As, no doubt, most of you will remember that our W.I. started our Kneeler Project at the beginning of 2019, in the hopes that we would finish them by October 2020 when we would be celebrating our 100 Year Anniversary.

We asked for volunteers and/or donations from our members and from other organisations in our two Villages and invited the School to participate. The response was very good! Seven people from outside the W.I., together with most of our members, joined in. Some chose the design they liked, paid for it and made that kneeler, some donated money for a kneeler, chose the design, and dedicated it to the memory of somebody or an occasion from their family and we found a volunteer to do the work. Others simply donated money. This was put towards the cost of the kneelers that the school were to make, the large Wedding Kneeler and to replace the three large kneelers at the Altar Rail. The kits were ordered and we had a few meetings to discuss any problems, and compare our progress!

The school was asked to draw some pictures of "What School means to you"! We had 14 children in the top three classes. Their ideas were varied, to say the least! We had a Book, Church, Chickens, Football,(twice), Sports Day, D-Day, Playing with Teddies in the playground, Tractor, Allotment Garden, a Cross on a Hill, Day and Night, Earth Wind and Fire, St George's Flag, NHS Rainbow, and we added the School Badge and a picture of the School. We therefore had 16 different designs one for each quarter and one for each side of two kneelers. Each design was transferred to some embroidery canvas, and the work started. Each week some of the W.I. members (Paddy, Pam, Rachel, Sally and Sue) went to the school for an afternoon and oversaw/helped/explained how to do it/unpicked/ etc.

Enthusiasm varied! Some enjoyed the experience and sat and sewed quietly, others found it very difficult. One small boy loved it and was going to make his Granny one for her Birthday! Our weekly trips to school started in mid-January 2020, and continued until Covid 19 hit us in March. Then if you take out half term we only had about 5 weeks in school. Not a lot had been achieved and it fell to me to finish them. I was also doing the Large Wedding kneeler, and three Altar Rail ones too. That was my Covid Lockdown Occupation!!

The rest of the kneelers were duly completed. The embroidery done, they then had to be wrapped around their squab and backed. This proved more difficult than we thought, and Jenni Liversidge came to people's aid and finished many off. Each has a label on the back telling who did the work, who donated the money, and the person or occasion it is commemorating

Our Celebration had to be postponed, and so these kneelers were taken to Church and a Service held as we were just about to hit our 101st Birthday. This was held on Sunday, October 24th, followed by tea and cake, giving everyone a chance to study our efforts. We had the Bells Ringing and Floodlights on the Church. I must mention that Joy Kirkham not only made a kneeler but also designed and made a special one for the Bellringers.

Forty two people attended the service, including Ann Seckington who was County Chairman when we started the project, and Christine Farmer from W.I. House Northampton.

I would like to thank all those involved, including Penny who is Claire Worrall's 6 year old Granddaughter who was staying with her during Covid and did a lot of work on the Unicorn Kneeler, and Susannah Sitwell for playing the organ during the Service.

Sue Taylor.

Brave the Shave to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support

My family's life has been personally touched several times by cancer. Over a year ago, as I approached my 40th, I decided I wanted to do something about it and grew my hair, so I could donate it for someone else to have my hair made into a wig. Now I find myself facing *Brave the Shave* for the wonderful MacMillan Cancer Support, who have provided my family and so many others with the support they needed at such a difficult time.

Please give if you can and I will keep you updated with pictures and videos of cut day. Thank you

Please support me and check out my shave page. <https://bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/naomi-longley>

Naomi Longley

Parish Council

Here is a summary of the most recent Parish Council meeting held on **September 27th** in the Village Hall under Covid-19 restrictions. The meeting was attended by 5 councillors and 1 member of the public. We were also visited by P.C. Mel Carter and P.C.S.O. Danni Morgan (Neighbourhood Policing Team 3.)

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.

PC Mel Carter and PCSO Danni Morgan

The visiting officers from Neighbourhood Policing Team 3 based in Brackley explained their role as part of a team of four responsible for policing our part of the county. They gave direct contact details for each of the team and these will be circulated to residents. The councillors raised some of their concerns, particularly about standards of driving in the area, and these were noted.

Finance Matters: Accounts 2020/21 to-date and budget performance to date were reviewed and approved. It was noted that a claim for £236.76 of VAT paid will be submitted

Castle Mound Tree Works: It was noted that the current estimate for work to be done was approximately £4,000. Given the limited Parish Council budget in this financial year a payment plan was agreed with the contractor. All work done so far will be paid for immediately and the most urgent of the remainder will be completed and also paid for in this financial year. The remaining, less urgent, tree work will be scheduled for early 2022 and paid for out of the next year's budget. It was further acknowledged that Castle Mound maintenance will be an on-going requirement and the Parish Council budget should be increased to anticipate those costs.

Additional sources of funding should be sought, such as Historic England

Payments were approved for Ground Care Company (Churchyard mowing), CGM (Millennium Field mowing), Clerk's salary and expenses, WNC (Charges for uncontested election), E.On (maintenance of street lights)

Planning Matters: Two planning applications were presented

- **WNS/2021/0907/FUL.** Development of five houses at Stonehouse Farmyard, Helmdon Road, Weston. It was noted that all points raised at the last meeting were met. **No Objection**

Correspondence:

- E.On informing the council of a 15% increase in cost of electricity supply
- Local resident explaining the historical significance of Castle Mound and offering guidance

Oxford Cambridge Arc: The council will formulate a response to the proposed plans

Plant a Tree for Jubilee: As the project does not provide funding for new trees, the current budget restrictions make it difficult for the council to participate.

Fireworks: It was agreed that if private funds could be raised for a fireworks display this year, the Council will administer the purchase of fireworks in the usual way.

Next Meeting: Monday 29th November, at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Weedon Lois.

Ken Power, Parish Clerk,
Tel: 01327 860054 (E-mail: wlwparishclerk@outlook.com)
<https://www.westonandweedonloispc.org.uk/>

Bonfire Night

You will all be pleased to know that your generosity has saved my bacon and bank balance. I received over £230 from donations prior to the 5th November and nearly all of the £370 to make the £600 target. There are a couple of promises still to come which will be carried forward to next year. Thanks to my able assistants Clive Johnson and Mike Streten and to John Jones and David Webb and their families for the bonfire and kitchen equipment and Sarah Bougard's team producing the Hot Dogs

Here's to next year.

Frank Hunter

News from the Rectory

I always have mixed feelings about this time of year – I love the beautiful autumn colours, but definitely do not like the dark mornings and evenings. One compensation, I suppose is that the dawns and sunsets are often quite spectacular. So, a mix of delight in the natural beauty all around us and a dread of the long dark nights ahead until the return of the sun in Spring next year. As I write this, the COP26 Conference is drawing to a close, and I along with many other Christians and people of faith have been praying daily for the attendees and for the negotiations to result in a renewed effort to preserve our beautiful world – after all it is the only one we have!

Two years ago, at about this time of the year, I flew back to England having been on an extended break in Fiji and Australia as part of my sabbatical – the theme of the sabbatical was looking at climate change and how it was affecting the people of the Pacific Islands and also Australia and also how the churches were responding to the challenges in terms of what they taught and how they encouraged action to look after the environment. At that time, Australia was in the grip of a drought – which broke shortly after I arrived home. The Fijians were and still are coping with more frequent severe storms and rising sea levels. I am still in touch with people I met, and life isn't getting any easier for them – not helped by having to deal with the Covid pandemic as well.

With all the news coming out of the COP26 Conference and the ever-present problems caused by the pandemic, climate change, warfare, unjust regimes and so on it is difficult to find hope, especially as we approach the season of Remembrance again and remember how many people sacrificed their lives for a vision of a peaceful world which we still haven't achieved. However, we are also approaching Christmas, where we can find our hope in the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God on that first Christmas Day. Our hope is in the love of God, who loved the world so much that he entered it in the form of a human – a baby boy to bring us back to a relationship with him. As that beautiful passage in John's gospel goes - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Please do join us for our Christmas worship. A card will shortly be delivered to every home in the Benefice giving details of our Christmas services across the Benefice. At Lois Weedon, on 28th November at 4pm we will be celebrating the beginning of Advent (a four week period where we prepare for Christmas – and not just by shopping!) with an Advent Carol Service and on Christmas Morning there is a Christmas Communion Service at 9.30am.

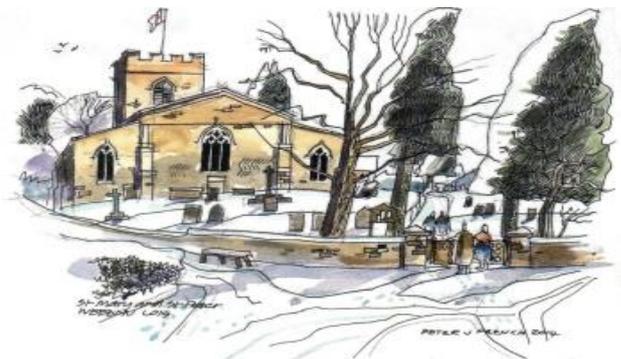
God Bless,

Revd Diane Whittaker, (01327 226245) diane.whittaker@me.com

Christmas cards for sale

'Christmas Cards and Christmas Wreaths will be on sale at the Village Hall Christmas Market in aid of church funds. Peter's paintings are reproduced by kind permission of Tricia French.

If you wish to purchase the cards, a pack of 10 for £5. Please contact Frank or Maralynn Hunter at 01327 860597 or email frank.hunter@btinternet.com'



Fibre is coming to Lois Weedon, Weston and Plumpton

We have all benefitted from the remarkable Community Project we know as Tove Valley Broadband (TVB). You are all aware that the Abthorpe Broadband Association (aka Tove Valley Broadband) is constantly looking at ways to keep ahead technologically with the increasing demand for its services. Most recently we have seen a huge increase in capacity with the faster links, anticipating the continued growth in demand.

The next major improvement is the replacement of the radio transmission system by direct Fibre connection to the premises, known as FTTP. The grapevine will have alerted many of you to the Wappenham Project which commenced almost 12 months ago and is now bearing fruit and is close to completion. This is being funded entirely from government grants and will see every household, small business and remote farm connected for no cost.

It is now the turn of Lois Weedon, Weston and Plumpton. If you thought your Tove Valley Broadband was quick then be prepared to be blown away by a fibre connection. If you know people in Wappenham speak to someone who is now connected via fibre.

In order to qualify for a government grant we must have a commitment from a majority of users that they will connect to the fibre. Currently a residential property is entitled to a grant of £1,500 and a small business £3,500. There are 131 TVB members in the parish. Eleven are already connected by fibre. There are a further 42 properties that have no internet or an alternative supplier or are unoccupied or awaiting connection. There may be up to 25 businesses. You can do the maths.

We need a commitment from a majority of premises to cover the cost of the complete project. It is an important and significant objective to provide every property with the means to connect even if they choose not to avail themselves of the facility. Go to the [Tove Valley Page to Sign Up](#). As of Sunday 21st November there are 77 members already registered. That's more than half of the existing members in our community.

If you would like to join and get connected, please sign up at the appropriate link i.e. member or non-member. Those who qualify as a small business or sole trader will need to confirm their eligibility.

If you would like more details or would like to volunteer, I will be posting details on the village Website as well as this article in the newsletter. Once we have contacted every potential member and we have a significant majority that wish to participate we will work out the required network of connections and the cost of equipment, cables and contracting. We will submit our application for grants to the Department of Culture Media and Sport. We must do this before the end of this year or we will miss the boat.

This is a community project which will require significant involvement of as many volunteers as we can muster. Each household will be expected to arrange for equipment to be installed and cable to be laid to a nearby connecting point. If Wappenham can do it then so can we. Wappenham have 110-120 connections which cost around £150,000. Well within their grant entitlement.

*Frank Hunter
Representing Tove Valley Broadband*

WLW FILM CLUB

To Members and anyone else who would like to join us.

Dear Film-lovers!

Our last showing of the year will be on December 7th and is a Christmas film,

"The Man Who Invented Christmas".

A 2017 release, it is based on the magical true story of how Dickens wrote "A Christmas Carol".

Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45 film start at Lois Weedon Village Hall.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served from 7.15pm.

Also: We invite you to send your nominations for films to be shown between January and March 22nd,

Please send by email to wlwfilmclub@hotmail.co.uk

Jane, Alan, Graham and Pete

Towcester Choral Society presents

On Christmas Night

Featuring eight seasonal carol settings following the sequence of the Christmas story

Composed by Bob Chilcott

Plus, other seasonal songs and traditional carols

Saturday 11th December 2021

St. Lawrence Church Towcester 7.30pm

Musical Director - Helen Swift

Accompanist/Répétiteur - Rowena Gibbons

Admission: Adult £15; Under 16s £7.50

For tickets contact:

Email: tickets@towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk or telephone 01908542815

Update from Canons Ashby

The house and collections team are doing the yearly deep clean and conservation work. Although we are now still open during part of the winter, this is the time where more intensive work can be carried out including the deep clean in the Tapestry Room.

The team are starting to get into the Christmas spirit with the latest crafting and planning for the traditional Christmas decorations. The Coach House shop and Tea Rooms are also open with festive tasty treats and seasonal gift inspiration ideas. If you fancy a crisp winter walk and getting into the festive spirit, from 2 December the doors are open, (check our main website for the latest on opening times <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/canons-ashby>).

For the little ones, we have the Percy the Park Keepers winter wander trail (details below), ideal to let the little ones blow off some steam and get outside.

Thursday 2 December – 24 December	11-2.30 (3pm closed)	Christmas at Canons Ashby	Feast your eyes on a traditional Christmas in historic Canons Ashby. Explore a fascinating house dressed with festive cheer or enjoy a fresh winter stroll outside. Normal admission prices apply.
4 December – 3 January (property closed 24 December - 31 December)	10-3pm	Percy the Park Keeper winter wander trail	This winter, treat your little ones to a world of adventures on the Percy the Park Keeper's winter wander trail at Canons Ashby. Join in the fun with Percy and his animal friends and give nature a helping hand. so come along and explore the beautiful grounds of Canons Ashby. £2 per trail and normal admission prices apply