

Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter

September/October 2020 – Autumn Edition

From the Editor

Well as 2020 proceeds towards the last quarter of the year, we are still dealing with the impact and aftermath of Coronavirus – aka Covid-19. At this time of year I usually publish a summary of Village Organisations to inform new residents, and to remind existing residents, about the 30+ organisations in our community. I then encourage folks to get involved with any of these local activities. Sadly, most of them have suspended their activities “until further notice” so although I have included the list, I recommend that you regard this as a reference list for the future and perhaps get involved as activities in the community pick up next year.

Greetings and welcome to any of our new residents that I have yet to encounter. You join this community at a difficult time. Our normal autumn and winter programme of activities usually means that this edition of the Newsletter has a very full “Diary of Forthcoming Events”. This time it’s just a list of things that will NOT be happening for the foreseeable future: Women’s Institute meetings, Film Club, Race Night, Dance for Fun classes, Harvest Supper, Bonfire Night firework display, Christmas Market, Senior Citizen’s Christmas lunch and various society AGM’s.

I hope and pray that 2021 will bring us some respite and recovery and a return to some semblance of normality – not to mention the return of a more interesting. Diary of Forthcoming Events in the Newsletter!!

We will try and organise a Christmas Card Delivery Service – more details regarding the practicalities in next edition.

A special welcome to our new Rector – Rev’d Diane Whittaker. Diane has written a letter to introduce herself to the community and we wish her well in her new “job” – More details inside.

If you are reading this as a printed hard copy, then you are in the very small but valued group of members of our community for whom I am happy to continue printing the newsletter. However, most of our community are now 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).

The next and final edition of this year’s newsletters will be the November/December 2020 edition and all material for that edition should be given to me by Saturday, 31st October 2020. The first edition of 2021 will be in January. We may not be organising events but I am always happy to publish any other news or articles of interest.

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

Winners of Village Hall ‘100 Club’ Lottery

August 2020	
Ric Harkin	20
Ashley Cartwright	67
Heather Hanson	155

Winners of the (newly announced) Village Hall ‘200 Club’ Lottery

Sept 2020	
Sara Pickering	178
Dennis & Linda Warf	73
Liz Carpenter	81
Jenni Liversidge	63

Owing to demand, as you can see, we have expanded the numbers available to 200

We are now offering 4 prizes - £25, £15, £10, £5.

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

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

We still have lottery numbers available so let us know if you would like to take part.

Thanks for everyone’s support.

Rachel Smith (01327 860626)

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

Weston & Lois Weedon Film Club

Memorable movies on your doorstep!

Please note, that as the new government regulations stand – “Rule of 6”, we regret that our new season as described below must be suspended until further notice. Watch this space!

[I have included the original letter, for information, Ed]

We (Alan Davies, Jhaden Shaler, Jane Pomeroy and Pete Templeman) have taken over the reins of Film Club. Mainly because it is such a difficult time, we have decided to organise things a little bit differently.

The Covid-19 Guidelines, as shown on the **Village Hall** page of the Parish Council web site, will be adhered to (see link below). We are currently limited to only 20 people in the hall at a time, so we are asking folk to book in advance for each film, on a first come first served basis.

Please e-mail Alan at wlfilmclub@hotmail.co.uk to secure your place(s)

We plan to have **three** showings before Christmas, starting with:

The Good Liar (Mirren and McKellen) on Oct 6th.

Prices will remain the same: **£5 membership**, then **£2 per film for members** and **£3 for others**.

Daniel Clark Memorial Cup Lois Weedon v Blakesley Cricket Match

As many of you will know, a cricket match has been played annually for the above cup since 2004. Unfortunately, owing to Covid-19 we have not been able to play this year and as many of Daniel’s friends now have busy families and one or two of the team are, unbelievably, in their 8th decade (Frank Hunter and Dave Clark!). We have decided after a lot of heart searching that it is time to call it a day.

Daniel would never have believed that we would still be playing for his cup after so many years. Although the game has always been taken seriously with both teams playing to win, we like to think a lot of fun has been had by all. Thank you to everyone who has played or supported this annual event.

Special thanks go to Jenni Liversidge who has been our scorer and has never missed a game. Despite suffering inclement weather, high winds, rain and lively banter from the opposing team, she always took it all in her stride and with good humour. It would not have been the same without her!

This year would have been the 17th game and despite many of them being very close, Lois Weedon has won two. The fact that we won last year has nothing to do with our decision to stop, ha ha!

The idea of playing for the Daniel Clark Memorial Cup originally came from Blakesley Cricket Club, as Daniel was one of their former players. It seems fitting that the cup should be kept in the pub at Blakesley.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dave, Maureen and Matthew Clark

News from the Rectory

So, my first contribution to the Lois Weedon Newsletter – and hopefully the first of many. Tess, my Briard dog and I been resident in the Rectory since 24th August, and although renovation work is still going on around me, hopefully all the work will be completed by the winter!

As Frank wrote in his letter in the last newsletter, I have been working as Rector in the South Cleley Benefice, which is based around Potterspury, in the south of Northamptonshire. I was there for eight years, so I have a fair amount of experience working and living in a rural area with several parishes to care for. Before then, I trained and worked as a Curate in the St Albans Diocese, but my roots are in the Midlands, as I was born in Coventry and lived in Braunston until I was 10, then my family moved to Hertfordshire for my Dad's work at British Aerospace.

I am really pleased to be here and very much looking forward to beginning working among you after my licensing on 19th September. At some point the licensing, which will be online using zoom, as we cannot meet together yet, will be followed by a big service to welcome me properly into the Benefice – with the traditional induction carried out by the Archdeacon. Until then, I plan to get to know you as best I can, given the current lockdown rules. I am always happy to accept invites to a 'socially distanced' cup of coffee and will be pleased to welcome you if you knock on the door. I will of course also be available at church services when I can, given the demands of Benefice life. We will be beginning to have Holy Communion services at Lois Weedon again in October, the details will be published when the Worship Committee have met and decided how we can do this safely.

We are still in such uncertain times, adding to the usual stress of changes and new beginnings that almost inevitably come in September, with children moving to new schools or classes and teenagers going through all the recent ups and downs concerning exam results and planning their future courses and work options. As many of you will be aware, my life was also turned upside down when my husband Jon died suddenly in June, changing all my plans and hopes for the future together in our new venture. However, whatever the world throws at us, in the end all we can do is pick ourselves up, dust ourselves down and try to map out a life for ourselves. Easier said than done, I know, but I have managed to draw some strength from a daily prayer time, and I recommend it to you, even if you just light a candle and sit quietly for a short while.

Over the last year, I have begun to use and value a morning service produced by the Northumbria Community, it has a prayer that gives me courage and support no matter what – it goes:

Christ, as a light, illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield, overshadow me.

Christ under me; Christ over me; Christ beside me, on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak; in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Christ as a light; Christ as a shield; Christ beside me, on my left and my right.

God Bless, Revd Diane

Parish Council

The last Parish Council meeting was held on **July 27th** on-line & email due to Covid-19 restrictions. A summary of that meeting was included in the July/August edition of the Newsletter. Full details are available on the Parish website.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 28th September 2020 and will most likely be held on-line & email under the most recent Government guidelines. All details, agenda etc. are published on the parish website and noticeboards.

The Parish Council also has an email distribution list which is GDPR compliant. Contact me if you wish to be included.

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

Summary of Village Organisations and Key Events (2019)

For such a small community, there is always a wealth of activity going on. I publish this list each year for the benefit of newcomers to the Village (and those who have short memories). Let me know if I've forgotten anyone. See caveat on page 1. [Ed].

Parish Council. The elected representatives of our local government meet every two months in the Weston Community Project to deal with any planning applications or local issues relating to the management of parish. There are 7 councillors and their proceedings are summarised in this Newsletter. Chairman: David Elkington (01327 860886); Clerk: Ken Power (01327 860054)

Parish Website: Up to date source of all Village Information. www.westonandweedonloispc.org.uk . Webmaster: Frank Hunter

Parish Church. Part of the Astwell Group of parishes along with Helmdon, Wappenham, Whitfield, Syresham and Radstone. Church Warden: Frank Hunter (01327 860597)

Friends of Lois Weedon Church. An organisation devoted to the support and upkeep of the local church. Contact: Lady Sue Greenaway, Chairman. (01327 860472)

Weston Congregation of the Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship. The Weston Baptists are combined with Helmdon and Towcester in the Tove Valley Fellowship. Contact Rosemary Gulliver (01295 760720). <https://www.tvbf.co.uk/whats-on/weston-activities/>

The Plumpton Trust - An organisation devoted to the support and upkeep of Plumpton church. (William Sitwell (01327 860011)

Neighbourhood Watch. Coordinated by Colin Atkins (01295 768769)

Voluntary Car Scheme. A group of volunteer drivers who take locals to various appointments by arrangement. The costs are subsidised by donations, grants and local fund raising. Contact: Mrs Jenny Wilde (01327 860487)

May Day Committee. A group of volunteers from within the Village who organise and run the annual country fair each May Day Bank Holiday. The funds from this event are shared out among village organisations, according to need. If you would like to get involved, contact Paul Smith (01327 860626)

Weston and Weedon Drama Club. A group whose numbers vary with each successive production. Having started in 1998, they have successfully produced over 40 "theatrical events" including pantomime, comedy, drama, murder mysteries and musicals. Contact: Jonathan Carpenter (01295 768120). www.wlwdrama.co.uk

Lois Weedon Flower Club. Meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the village hall. Meetings include demonstrations and visits. New members are always welcome. Contact: Margaret Seckington (01295 760487)

Weston and Weedon Horticultural Society. The Society organise the annual flower and produce show in Lois Weedon,. Details of show in Summer Newsletter – for other events see diary. Contact: Graham Ellis (01295 768570)

Lois Weedon and Weston Women's Institute. (W.I.) is a very active group, meeting on the first Wednesday of every month with guest speaker and other special events. Contact: Sue Taylor, President (01327 261212)

Lois Weedon & Weston Village Hall. This amenity is central to both villages within the community and is used for many of the events and providing facilities for many of the clubs and organisations within the Village. It is run by Village Hall Trustees whose Management Committee comprises members of the WI committee. Bookings contact Administrator, Paul Smith (01327 860626).

Weston & Lois Weedon Film Club. Meets every 2nd Tuesday in the Village Hall to show a range of contemporary or classic films. Contact: Jonathan Staples (01295 768908) or Trevor George (01295 768699)

St Loys Pre School is located in St Loys School. Contact: School for details (01327 860539)

St Loys CE Primary School. A recently extended facility with a very popular and successful staff. Also **Friends of St Loys** who run fund-raising events in support of the School. (For either organisations contact the School: 01327 860539)

Bell-Ringers. A keen bunch of ringers practice on Wednesdays and then perform Sunday mornings and on special occasions and are always looking for new recruits. Contact: Dave & Joy Kirkham (01327 860372)

Village Newsletter. Produced once every two months and funded purely by donation. Printed copies delivered in Weston, Lois Weedon and Plumpton. There is also a lengthy list of email recipients – typically living elsewhere, eager to keep in touch. Contributions (written or financial) are always welcome. Contact: Paul Smith (01327 860626)

Bonfire Night – November 5th celebration with fireworks, hot dogs, hot soup and a **big** bonfire! (Always on Nov 5, it's the law.)

Open Gardens – in the Summer, some of the most beautiful and prolific gardens are open for public view

Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch – A regular event in December each year for women over 60 and men over 65 (partners are invited as well). Contact Ivor Jones for details (01327 860675)

Tove Valley Superfast Broadband – Community Broadband system, installed and supported by local volunteers and serving the villages of Abthorpe, Bradden, Slapton, Wappenham, Lois Weedon, Weston, parts of Helmdon and gradually extending to other communities. For details on how to register, check website www.tovevalley.com

WEA - information about courses contact Secretary: Mrs Peggie Clarke (Tel.01295 768133, Email. Peggieclarke26@gmail.com)

Weston & Lois Weedon Wine Club - Meet in the Baptist Chapel on the second Thursday of the month at 8pm (except August). Contact Derek Boughton for details, 01327 860006 (No prior experience required!!)

Crown Inn. Our local hostelry and B&B (01295 760310)

Village Marquee: The Parish Council assets include a large (6m x 12m) marquee for the use by the community – a reduced size canopy is available. This was part funded by a grant from South Northants Council and is available for hire by individuals or organisations. Contact Frank & Maralynn Hunter, 01327 860597 for details.

Autumn at Canons Ashby

What's going on at Canons Ashby?

As the gardens look neater and tidier every day, and we carefully reopen selected parts of the site, it's fantastic to see visitors enjoying the open spaces or just having a catch up in the tea-garden.

Behind the scenes the garden team are working incredibly hard. Recently they had a very pleasant surprise in their growing and potting area: Great Crested Newts hiding under the seed trays! There is a small pond nearby and plenty of yummy insects to eat, as well as lots of shade and damp places to hide. We hope they'll stay for a long time!



As well as newts, hedgehogs have moved in as well! We thought we would not get hedgehogs on this site as we have badgers nearby, which predate hedgehogs, but they're here anyway. Hopefully they'll do well and keep safe from the badgers.

All the information about what you can see at Canons Ashby, and how to book a ticket, can be found on our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/canons-ashby. The page called "What to expect when visiting Canons Ashby" gives you plenty of information. Currently you need to book a ticket before 3pm the previous day to come in: do this in the "what's on" section.

You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram at @CanonsAshbyNT



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Sadly we have had to cancel our plans for the Coffee Morning which we were hoping to hold on Saturday 26th September to raise funds in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Owing to the revised Government guidelines and imposition of the "Rule of Six", we have decided it will be safest to cancel the event. If you would still like to support this worthy charity, as you might have done by attending the Coffee Morning, Jenni Liversidge and Jill Jones will be happy to accept any donations.

*Jenni Liversidge, 18 Middlethorpe, Lois Weedon
Jill Jones, Home Farm, Weston*