

Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2024 – Early Spring Edition

From the Editor

Greetings to one and all as we start the year with the first edition of the Newsletter. Slightly later than planned but earlier than last year – if you recall it became the March edition!!

Firstly, some sad news. We recently lost two members of our community: **John Maleham**, a long-time resident of Lois Weedon who passed away after a long illness, and **Bob Patching** of Middlethorpe, Lois Weedon.

We send our condolences to their families.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new vicar – **Reverend Hugh White** – Hugh has written a short introduction for this edition, and I look forward to persuading him to be a regular contributor.

After the success of “**Last Tango in Little Grimley**”, the **Drama Group** have been preparing a reprise of that play and its sequel – “**Last Panto in Little Grimley**” to be performed in the Village Hall over two nights – details below and on the back page. Tickets are on sale for £10. A licensed bar is available.

Tove Valley Broadband – Fibre to the Premises project - an update report from Frank Hunter is included on page 6. Congratulations to the team for a successful project and especially to Eric Malcolmson for his well-deserved award of the MBE. Eric was one of the founders of and principal organiser of the network implementation.

At this time of year, I publish an updated list of community organisations (page 7) – as a reminder to long standing residents as well as to new residents. I hope you find this information useful. If you need more information regarding any of these organisations please contact them directly, however if you are aware of any errors or omissions let me know and I will rectify the situation in the next edition.

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 be willing 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).

As both Newsletter Editor and a Parish Councillor, I receive a regular stream of information from sources such as West Northants Council (the new Unitary Authority), 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 and I’ll add you to the list. And for anyone who is active on Social Media, we also have a Facebook page.

The next edition of the newsletter will be in March 2024 and all material for that edition should with me by Sunday, 3rd March 2024.

Paul Smith, 8 Vicarage Rise (01327-860626)

Email: loisweedonpaul@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

Mon., Jan 29	Parish Council Meeting , 8:00 pm Lois Weedon Village Hall - see website for agenda
Fri., Feb 2	Village Coffee Morning . 10am-12pm, Lois Weedon Village Hall
Tue., Feb 6	Film Club “ Amelie ”. – 7:45pm Village Hall – doors open from 7:30pm – details on page 4
Wed., Feb 7	Lois Weedon & Weston WI . 7:30pm Lois Weedon Village Hall - details on page 3
Fri., Mar 2	Village Coffee Morning . 10am-12pm, Lois Weedon Village Hall
Fri/Sat., Mar 22 & 23	Drama Group Performance - “Last Tango in Little Grimley” AND “Last Panto in Little Grimley” - See page 8 for details
Mon., Mar 25	Parish Council Meeting , 8:00 pm Lois Weedon Village Hall - see website for agenda
Wed., April 10	Diocese of Peterborough Roadshow , Village Hall 6:45pm – 9:00pm – More details in next edition
Fri., April 19	Race Night , Village Hall – Details on page 4 and in Next edition

Village Hall Fundraising

The hall is open for hirers. We are fully licenced for the sale or supply of alcohol and for the performance of live and recorded music and provide free broadband – recently connected to the Tove Valley “fibre to the premises” service.

If you want to plan an event – private or public, contact us (details below)

This year we were able to run two Christmas events this year – a **Gift & Craft Fair** - with a delicious cooked breakfast available and then 2 weeks later a **Fruit & Veg Market** including the **Christmas Hamper Raffle** and **Christmas Card Delivery Service**. The events were very successful with many visitors and, in total, raised **£861** for hall funds. Congratulations to **Sally Neville** who won the hamper and to all the other prize winners. Thanks also to everyone who used our local Christmas Card Delivery service and kindly gave a donation.

A special thank you to **Towcester Mill Brewery** who provided enough stock for us to extend the sale of their beers and ales over both events (including additional sales in between time) and contributed £200 to our fund raising.

Also a request: Please note that the Village Hall wheelie bins (black, blue & green) are intended for **hall users only**. They are not a facility for the waste disposal of other houses in the community – domestic or animal. If the hall has not been in use, we will assume that the bins are empty and will not put them out for collection.

Thank you for your consideration.

Winners of the Village Hall ‘200 Club’ Lottery

December 2023		January 2023	
David Isaac	59	James Smith	7
Peter Oliver	16	Ivor Jones	94
Sheila French	78	Clive Johnson	44
Steven & Julia Kainth	182	Dave Abbott	90

The **Special Christmas lottery** draw for the **£50** prize took place on December 16th and was won by Claire Worrall.

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

Race Night Returns – Save the Date !!! Friday April 19th, Lois Weedon Village Hall

The popular Race Night fundraiser is being resurrected.

The event will raise funds for both the Village Hall and Cancer Research.

Tickets £10 to include supper

More details will be published in future editions of the Newsletter

If you wish to sponsor or order tickets contact: Rachel Smith (01327 860626)

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

Poppy Appeal 26th October 2023 to 11th November 2023

After processing all the boxes and with some other donations for the Poppy Appeal, I am pleased to inform you that the amount collected to date is **£4,728.88**. This is up on last year’s total of **£4,396.69**. This includes £91.00 that was collected across the district for donations made using the QR code.

A big thank you to all my Poppy Appeal collectors who turn out every year to knock on doors and encourage more contributions in all weathers, to the Parochial Church Councils in our district who have contributed their Remembrance Service collections to our appeal, the schools and the many personal donations and to you for making your personal contribution.

The Poppy Appeal is a great cause providing social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants in times of need.

Thank You.

Bob Devey

District Poppy Appeal Coordinator

Wappenham & District Royal British Legion.

(District includes: Abthorpe, Slapton, Wappenham, Lois Weedon, Weston, Thorpe Mandeville, Sulgrave, Greatworth & Marston St Lawrence)

We meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month, in the village hall, at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

Visitors are always welcome.

Here is a summary of this year's programme:

Date	Speaker	Subject
10/01/24	WI Dinner	
07/02/24	Jane Isaac	'Murder & Mayhem' – local novelist speaks about the trials & tribulations of writing detective fiction in the modern age
06/03/24	AGM	
03/04/24	John Tearne	'Art of the Monologue' – history, anecdotes & examples of 20 th century variety theatre
01/05/24	Resolutions & Fish & Chips Supper (7.15 start, 7.45 supper)	
05/06/24	Steven Barker	'Warrior Women of the English Civil War, 1642 – 1651' – about six women who took part in the fighting, undertook spying missions & negotiated deals with politicians
03/07/24	Outing – 'Pink Wellie Posies', Eastcote – visit to a flower farm, including a workshop	
07/08/24	An Evening of Drinks & Nibbles, Shirley Penfold's Lois Weedon starting at 6.30	
04/09/24	Deborah Jones	Willow Basketry & opportunity to 'craft' a small item!
02/10/24	Shirley Penfold	Create your own decoupage candle
06/11/24	Philomena Liggins	Mata Hari – 'A Spy or a Scapegoat?'
04/12/24	Rebekah & Samantha	Christmas Crafting

Rachel Smith, President.

Speeding through the Village !!

The loan of a car speed detector has been offered by the Police for a short period. The use of it requires a team of **two** - one to operate the speed gun and one to write down the car registration number and time of day.

Anyone wishing to assist in this project please contact **Mike Streten** email: stretenmichael@yahoo.com - Please include your telephone number. If enough volunteers come forward we will make the necessary arrangements.

Offenders will be sent a cautionary warning in the first instance.

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Weston & Lois Weedon Film Club

Memorable movies on your doorstep!

Our members have come up with a great line-up of films to start the 2024 year as shown below. Some of your nominated films will be carried over into the next season.

Entry prices are pegged at last years rates and offer great value for money. It's just £5 to join the Club each year and watch your first film, £2 admission thereafter. You're welcome to bring along a friend for a further £3 each. The club is open to anyone in Weston, Lois Weedon and the surrounding villages

Please bring your own refreshments, except for the December screening when Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

All films are screened at Lois Weedon Village Hall. Doors open on our regular Tuesday evening events at 7.30 for a 7.45 film start.

FILM CLUB EVENTS DIARY – January 9th to May 7th

Tuesday January 9th Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (Adventure) (2023)

Daredevil archaeologist Indiana Jones races against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history. Accompanied by his goddaughter, he soon finds himself squaring off against Jürgen Voller, a former Nazi who works for NASA

Tuesday February 6th Amelie (Comedy / Romance) 2001

Despite being caught in her imaginative world, Amelie, a young waitress, decides to help people find happiness. Her quest to spread joy leads her on a journey where she finds true love.

Tuesday March 5th The Long Good Friday (Crime/Thriller) (1980)

In the late 1970s, Cockney crime boss Harold Shand (Bob Hoskins), a gangster trying to become a legitimate property mogul, has big plans to get the American Mafia to bankroll his transformation of a derelict area of London into the possible venue for a future Olympic Games. However, a series of bombings targets his empire on the very weekend the Americans are in town. Shand is convinced there is a traitor in his organization, and sets out to eliminate the rat in typically ruthless fashion.

Tuesday April 2nd Clockwise (Comedy / Drama) (1986)

Clockwise is an absurdist 1986 British comedy road film starring John Cleese.

Brian Stimpson, an English high school principal, finds his life faltering when he is plagued by disastrous situations one after the other

Tuesday May 7th Napoleon (War /Action) (2023)

A look at the military commander's origins and his swift, ruthless climb to emperor, viewed through the prism of his addictive and often volatile relationship with his wife and one true love, Josephine.

The Film Club Team – Jane, Graham, Pete, and Alan

Parish Council

Edited notes from the Parish Council meeting held on **November 27th 2023** in the Village Hall. Full minutes of council meetings are posted on the Village Notice Boards and on the Parish Council website. If anyone would like more information on any matter, please contact the Clerk, Ken Power.

William Blake House - Before the meeting, messages had been received from two neighbours of WBH saying that during the summer the situation has improved considerably, and problems which did occur were mostly dealt with quickly and effectively. It was agreed that the Clerk will again circulate contact details of WBH to local residents so that any problems can be dealt with quickly. It has been suggested that there could be regular meetings between neighbours and Ms Castle during the summer to resolve any issues. Ms Other is planning to invite local residents to WBH before Christmas, so that they can better understand the excellent work that is being done there.

Finance Matters: Accounts 2023/24 to-date and budget performance to date were reviewed and approved. It was noted that claims to be submitted to HMRC will be delayed until the outstanding amount of VAT exceeds £200.

2024 / 2025 Budget and Precept preliminary discussion - The budget and precept for next year was discussed. Final decisions will be taken at the January meeting.

Payments were approved for CGM (Churchyard and Millennium Field mowing), Clerk's salary and expenses, NPower (electricity supply for street lights), E.ON (Street-lighting maintenance)

Planning Matters: There were none for consideration at this meeting

Climate and Ecology Bill - In response to correspondence received by the Parish Council from the Zero Hour organisation, it was proposed that the Council should debate the issue and officially express its support for this Private Member's Bill under consideration in Parliament. After a lengthy debate there was a majority decision by the Councillors not to do so officially as a Council, but the Council fully respects the right of councillors and local residents to do so as individuals.

Millennium Field - The current contract for the Parish Council to rent the field from the Horticultural Society will expire in March 2024. Discussions have been started with the trustees of the field about future arrangements for its upkeep and use. Local organisations who use the field will be contacted about their future intentions.

Castle Mound – Members of the public attending the meeting praised the appearance and accessibility of the Mound since the work done recently by Cllr. Elkington. Photographs of the Mound have been sent to Historic England so that they are aware of its current much improved condition. The Management Plan for ground cover will be revised to take account of suggestions from Historic England. It was agreed that St. Loys school should be invited to use the Mound for school activities.

AOB - Requests for the following problems to be reported to West Northants Fix my Street:

- Faulty village signs at the approaches to Weedon Lois from Culworth and Wappenham.
- Blocked drain at the bus stop in Weston

Date and time of next meeting Monday 29th January 2024, at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Lois Weedon

Ken Power, Parish Clerk,
Tel: 01327 860054;

E-mail: wlwparishclerk@outlook.com www.westonandweedonloispc.org.uk

Rectory View

Happy 2024, everyone!

It's been wonderful to find myself a resident of South Northamptonshire (or semi-resident - I won't be relinquishing North Oxfordshire entirely). I didn't realise this part of the country was so beautiful and so far, seemingly, from the madding crowd. The views from the Rectory bedrooms are splendid. And it's been even more wonderful to be welcomed so warmly and generously. Many thanks!

Christmas was a good time to come in with a lot going on in St Mary and St Peter and Lois Weedon and Weston villages. I've been delighted to meet so many people in the Village Hall and The Crown as well as the Church. It's been a bit of a blur of faces and a whirl of names so far but I'm hoping it won't be too long before I can recognise and greet by name a lot of people, as a lot of people are already able to recognise and greet me. Please forgive me for a while yet for my failures in this respect before giving up on me entirely.

It's good to come into a parish and benefice where things have been operating very efficiently in the absence a Rector. Thanks to all those who have been part of this effort. I hope these people will want to continue to be thoroughly involved and that others may wish to join them.

One big thing that needs doing in St M&P is the repair of the East window, and I'm glad to be able say that, with some grants coming in and a very generous contribution promised by the Friends of the Church, we are not far off from being able to start work (fingers crossed, obviously) and that there is reason to hope we shall have the window back in good order and letting light into the church in the second half of the year. That, of course, will not be the end of the works; they don't end – there's always a next thing that needs fixing. The Church has a problem with damp, remedying which may turn out to be a major affair, but such a fine building with a long history deserves to be looked after.

I wonder whether anyone would like to take on the repair of the vestments that are currently lurking, a little ashamed of their condition, I think, in a vestry cupboard in the Church. I'm not sure how big a job this would be, but it would be nice to be able to use them, at least occasionally.

Please feel free to be in touch anytime.

Rev'd Hugh White
rectorastwell@gmail.com; 01869 347889

Progress Report on “Fibre to the Premises” (FTTP) Project

The Project was given the ‘Go Ahead’ by Government in the middle of 2022. We had hoped to get started in the early spring but there you go. Our application was to connect 125 Residential Properties and 25 SME/Sole Traders to Fibre Optic Cable. We calculated the cost would be £228,925 and we were awarded funding which worked out at a grant of £1249 for a Residential and £2912 for a Business premise. A condition of the grant was that we should allow for future connections where residents did not at that time want fibre to be installed. These were places where no internet was in use or the property was vacant.

The scope of the project was not confined to our two villages and connections were made between us and Wappenham and Helmdon, and eventually to Plumpton and Woodend. The aim is to have two independent feeds from the ‘Worldwide Web’ and the ability to reroute signals if ‘heaven forefend’ someone manages to dig up one of our fibres.

So where are we today? To give you an idea of the scope, there are 183 possible connections to existing premises within our project area. We have allowed for the New Houses in Weston and two or three other possible plans. There are 24 premises that are either vacant or non-subscribers leaving a target of 159 (9 more than we thought). As of today 126 are connected to fibre. To be fair 14 of those were connected when we first brought fibre in to the villages - E.g. The School and it's near neighbours, the Kilgallons, Green Farm and Lois Weedon House. Everybody else has been connected by our volunteers. I would like to mention in particular those who have mastered the black art of splicing, (fusing minute strands of glass fibre together). John Archard Jones in Weston, Doug Abrams, Graham Jardine and Clive Johnson in Lois Weedon. There are bands of ‘helpers’ who have supported them and helped organise cable laying gangs. However, special credit goes to Eric Malcomson and Tim Newton. Every connection requires 2 ends. The obvious ones are those at each house. Eric and Tim have done all the other ends. They live in Abthorpe but have helped Wappenham, Woodend, Slapton, Helmdon, Moreton Pinkney, Blakesley, Bradden, Slapton. Aussie Doug, Tim and Graham Burnett have trenched roughly 12 kilometres of fibre across fields, Jonny Bougourd and his boys have laid conduit and cables and an estimated 5 kilometres was laid in gardens by volunteers. There are approximately 750 users of Tove Valley Broadband. Fibre speeds are 600 to 800+Mbps, Radio connection (the little white box on your wall) go at 50+, and all for £15 a month. Oh and Eric's been awarded an MBE.

Thank you everyone who has contributed. You can be proud of yourselves and what a story for your grandchildren.

Cheers

Frank Hunter

Summary of Village Organisations and Key Events (2024)

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). Following a hiatus during the “Covid Years”, most are becoming very active again and some never stopped !!

Parish Council. The elected representatives of our local government meet every two months in the Village Hall to deal with any planning applications or local issues relating to the parish. There are 7 councillors and their proceedings are summarised in this Newsletter and on the website. 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. Revd Hugh White, rectorastwell@gmail.com; 01869 347889

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). See www.tvbf.co.uk for “What’s On” at the Weston Chapel

The Plumpton Trust - An organisation devoted to the upkeep of Plumpton church. Contact: James Miller (01327 861159)

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

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 speakers and other special events. Contact: Rachel Smith, President (01327 860626)

Lois Weedon & Weston Village Hall. This amenity is central to both villages within the community and is used for many of the events and provides facilities for many of the clubs and organisations within the Village. It is run by the Village Hall Trustees whose Management Committee comprises members of the WI committee.

To book the hall for events, contact Administrator, Paul Smith (01327 860626).

Weston & Lois Weedon Film Club. Meets monthly in the Village Hall to show a range of contemporary or classic films. Contact: Pete Templeman (01327 860551), www.wlwfilmclub.co.uk

St Loys Pre School is located in St Loys School. Contact the School: 01327 860539

St Loys CEVA 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 organisation 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)

Lois Weedon & Weston Newsletter. Produced once every two months and funded purely by donation. Emailed and (limited) printed copies delivered in Weston, Lois Weedon and Plumpton. There is also a list of email “export” recipients, typically living elsewhere, keen to keep in touch. Contributions (written or financial) are always welcome. Contact: Paul Smith (01327 860626)

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

Tove Valley 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 now including Fibre to the Premises. For details on how to register, check website www.tovevalley.com - Support service number: **08432 898350**

Weston & Weedon Wine Club - Meet in various locations on the second Thursday of the month at 8pm. For more details ring Derek Boughton (01327 860006) or contact Edwina Kidd, nsh-weston@tiscali.co.uk (No prior experience required)

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



SAVE THE DATE!!
Weston and Lois Weedon Drama Group Present
Two One Act Plays

Last Tango in Little Grimley
(If you missed this last time now is your opportunity to see it)
Repeat performance due to high demand!!

Followed by the sequel

Last Panto in Little Grimley
By David Tristram

Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd March 2024

Both plays will be performed each night with an interval

Come along and support your local cast members
From Wappenham - Andrew Kirkpatrick, Sara Pickering & Kathryn Oliver
From Lois Weedon – Paul Smith

Arrive 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start
Lois Weedon Village Hall
Tickets £10

For tickets please contact:
Jonathan Carpenter JWCWeston@outlook.com Mobile: 07860 204 286
or Kathryn Oliver kathryndaw@hotmail.co.uk Mobile: 07972 000 110

Licensed Bar