

Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter

March/April 2024 – Late Spring Edition

From the Editor

Firstly, some sad news. We recently said goodbye to long-time resident, Jean Mackaness who died at the age of 97. Her family has kindly agreed to let me publish the eulogy that was shared at her memorial service earlier this month.

In the last edition I shared the sad news of the death of Bob Patching. His daughter, Nicola, has written a poem as a tribute to her father and which I was glad to include in this edition on page 6.

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 will be available.

I’ve been approached to gauge the level of interest for first aid training: What to do when finding a casualty (Danger, Response, Airways, Breathing, Circulation), Recovery position, defibrillator use and general approach to first aid. Respond by email or phone – details below.

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, most 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.

On the subject of our Facebook page, this was originally set up as an extension of the regular (originally hard copy) newsletter and as editor/administrator I was able to limit access to just folks in the community – residents, relatives and friends. It has evolved into a general village chat page which is fine by me, however, since Facebook changed their algorithm, the page is now open to anyone to join. This is fine by me but more recently we are seeing an increasing number of businesses, not necessarily local, joining the page to promote their services. I have had feedback suggesting this is irritating to some of our readers so I would like to get some views on this “phenomenon”. I can’t guarantee to eliminate this entirely and, to be honest, some of these services are genuinely useful but not every other day !!

The next edition of the newsletter will be in May 2024 and all material for that edition should with me by Sunday, 4th May 2024.

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

Dates for your Diary

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
Mar 26 thru 31	Local Church Easter services and activities – details in the message from our Rector on page 6
Fri., Apr 5	Village Coffee Morning . 10am-12pm, Lois Weedon Village Hall
Wed., April 10	Diocese of Peterborough Roadshow , Village Hall 6:45pm – 9:00pm – Lois Weedon Village Hall
Fri., April 19	Race Night , Village Hall – Details on page 4
Sat., Aug 31	Horticultural Society Annual Show – More details inside and an advanced copy of the show programme in next edition

Village Hall Update

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)

New Hire Rates

As many in the community should be aware, the cost of electricity has risen dramatically over the last 12 months and along with other increases in running costs, the Village Hall Management Committee have had to take the difficult decision to increase the rates for hire for the hall.

The new rates are as follows:

- 1) **Clubs and Society rate** Previous rate: £6 per hour New rate: £8 per hour
Note: this is the first increase since April 2010.
- 2) **Public events & private hire:** Previous rate: £10 per hour New Rate: £12 per hour
For events needing extra time to set up we will offer a setup rate of £8 per hour.

Winners of the Village Hall ‘200 Club’ Lottery

February 2024		March 2024	
John Archard Jones	49	Ted Wilson	17
Sue Taylor	144	Jill Jones	64
Skip Sheppard	75	Silas Wilde	69
Veronica Seaman	117	Angie Gray	42

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

*If you wish to sponsor or order tickets contact: Diane Hunt (01327 350714) briarfurlong@yahoo.com
Rachel Smith (01327 860626) rachel.k.smith4@gmail.com*

Weston and Lois Weedon Drama Group

The next performance by our local drama group is coming up soon. All the details are on the flyer on page 8.

We previously performed "Last Tango in Little Grimley" last spring and it was so well received we thought we would try it again together with its sequel, "Last Panto in Little Grimley". Both plays are full of amusing dialogue and action and are great light entertainment. Each play is about 40 minutes long so, with an interval for a glass of wine it, will make an entertaining evening in your local Village Hall.

Tickets are still available so why not come and give us a try.

Jonathan Carpenter

Message from our local police.

The correct contact methods to report incidents to Northamptonshire Police for reference.

Report it Report a non-emergency minor crime in around 15 minutes using the online form within our website – <https://www.northants.police.uk> The online form is significantly less time consuming than phoning 101.

Only call 999 in an emergency where there is a danger to life, or a crime in progress.

When to call 101 You should call 101 when it is less urgent than 999 but you need to report crime or disorder.

For example:

- Your car has been stolen
- Your property has been damaged
- You wish to report drug dealing
- To report a minor traffic accident
- To speak to the police about a general enquiry

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 our current year's programme:

Date	Speaker	Subject
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.

Jean Mackaness

My Mother lived in Weston for nearly 50 years having moved here with Michael, her husband, a Chartered Surveyor; Christopher, my brother; and myself. She was a respected showing judge and highly accomplished equestrian who died on 5 February, aged 97. She was born in Dulwich, London, in 1926, she grew up in Salisbury, Wiltshire, where she attended the Godolphin School. Her mother, Irene, owned a riding school, and this is where Jean's' passion for horses began. She enjoyed eventing with her gelding Sandy Boy and based herself in Ireland as she prepared for the 1953 Badminton Horse Trials, but Sandy went lame however, the following year they were 10th at Badminton, and in 1955 they competed at the European Championships at Windsor where they finished in the top half of the field and then again competed at Badminton in 1956. In between these events, Jean and Sandy Boy were won or were placed in many other events including Horse of the Year Show. She finally competed in her last major three-day event in 1964 at Burghley Horse Trials after the birth of her children.

Mum met my father Michael, a farmer's son and point-to-point jockey. They were married in 1955, and Chris was born in 1957 and me a bit later. Mum later gave up eventing and took up judging, firstly ridden hunters and then ponies. Her judging appointments took her all over the UK, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand, for organisations including Ponies UK and the British Show Pony Society. She was on BSPS panel for more than 40 years and retired from judging at the 2014 Horse of the Year Show, aged 88. She was also a British Horse Society (BHS) and Pony Club instructor and taught her sons and four grandchildren to ride. Mum had a passion for hunting and dressage, and she continued to ride into her 80s and was the family "stable manager and instructor" for all those years down at Milthorpe Meadow. She loved the flower show, open gardens, dinner at the Crown pub and village activities.

"Jean was a wonderful person, who lived a full and rich life. She faced many challenges and difficulties, but she never gave up. She was an inspiration to us all determined, strong but also very kind," said a friend of our family.

She loved living in this village and thought that the community spirit was wonderful. She was very much a country person who would watch the passing of the seasons and wildlife with great pleasure. The village gave her friendship and support after my father died and she never wanted to move. It was only the bad fall she had trying to pick up a plastic plant pot that had the disastrous consequences that she had to leave the village for lengthy spells in hospital. We managed to enjoy some lovely family time together in between these hospital visits including a fun family Christmas in 2022 but she succumbed to illness again and died at Duncote Hall on 5th February 2024.

Thank you to all those who sent their best wishes and also to those who attended her Memorial Service.

Thank you to all those in Grove Lane who tended to Mum whilst waiting for hours in the bad weather for an ambulance on that fateful October day.

Sam Mackaness

Weston & Lois Weedon Film Club

Memorable movies on your doorstep!

Reminder of the great line-up of films for the 2024 season as shown below.

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 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 – April 2nd and May 7th

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.

Dates for the Autumn season will be announced in a future edition.

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

A message from our Parish Church of St Mary & St Peter

All properties (and therefore residents) of our parish will have received and (hopefully read) a short leaflet regarding the on-going financial needs of our local church and which is asking for your help to keep our church operating and open. If you didn't receive one - blame our treasurer/postman Clive! - a copy will be attached to a forthcoming Newsletter Update email.

This is an important issue for us all because the building is a central, valuable and historic part of our community.

We really hope that you will appreciate that our request is sent with the best intention and that you are then able to find a way, however small or large, to support and help maintain our historic building, not just for today but for future generations.

We have good news regarding the repair of the Chancel east wall! We have so far received £4,250 in grants from 3 providers and anticipate another grant from the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust, who visited our church this week to consider our application and the work required. Their view was very positive and we should hear by mid-April, fingers crossed! However, even better news - we are already in a position to start the work, given additional funds previously set aside from our own resources and the tremendous financial support offered by the Friends of Lois Weedon Church. We expect the work to begin imminently, using one of our local resident builders. Watch out for the scaffolding!

Finally, we are always looking for helpers to clean the church (a bit of polishing, dusting and vacuuming etc) and if you have a couple of hours to spare, no more than once a month and would like to volunteer, then please contact Clive Johnson (clivetjohnson@gmail.com) who will pass your details on to a member of the Church Council who looks after the rota.

Once again, thank you for your continuing support and please do come visit the church -it's an interesting place and always open!

Lois Weedon Church Council

Parish Council

Edited notes from the Parish Council meeting held on **January 29th 2024** 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.

Finance Matters: Accounts 2023/24 to-date and budget performance to date were reviewed and approved. It was noted that a claim will be submitted to HMRC for approximately £127.

Interim Audit 2023 / 2024

The council approved the successful NCALC Interim Audit conducted on 18th January.

2024 / 2025 Budget and Precept - The proposed budget and precept for the next financial next year was unanimously approved. The parish precept for 2024 / 2025 will be unchanged at £8000.00.

Payments were approved for Clerk's salary and expenses, NPower (electricity supply for street lights), E.ON (Street-lighting maintenance), NCALC (training), P. Smith (Defibrillator maintenance)

Planning Matters

Application 2023/8035/OUT. Land west of Ashwell Road, Weedon Lois. One self-build dwelling. **Supported.**

Application 2024/0263/TCA. 25, High Street, Weston. Application to fell one Lawson Cypress tree. **Supported.**

Correspondence:

- Letter from Senbotex textile recycling. (The council decided on no further action.)
- Email from Iris Gregory about Castle Mound. (See item below)
- Emails from Louisa Richards and Ashley Cartwright about damage to the SD3 footpath by Grafton hunt. (Grafton hunt have promised to repair the damage and not to use the footpath again in future.)

Parish Council Website.

Our website service provider for many years, 2Commune, is no longer able to support the website. Cllr. Smith will liaise with Frank Hunter and report back to the council with a recommendation for a replacement provider before the next meeting.

Electricity Supply

Following a significant increase in charges levied by the current supplier, Npower, the Clerk has investigated possible alternative suppliers through NCALC and its partnership with Clear Utility Solutions. The best alternative was only £6.00 per year cheaper, so the council has decided to remain with Npower. If Npower costs increase again, the Clerk will again look at possible alternatives.

Millennium Field

The contract under which the Parish Council rents the field from the Horticultural Society expires in March. The Parish Council is continuing to discuss with the Society future arrangements for use and maintenance of the field.

Castle Mound

Members of the public, Mrs. Iris Gregory and Mr. Mike Streten praised the appearance and accessibility of the Mound since the work done by Cllr. Elkington. They hoped that the council had a plan for keeping the site in its current excellent condition. Cllr. Elkington explained that a revised management plan, incorporating suggestions by Historic England, is being finalised to ensure this. The council is considering planting Spring flower bulbs on the Mound, and it was agreed that the school should be approached to ask if the children would like to help with planting.

AOB

- The councillors asked the Clerk to contact Eric Malcomson to congratulate him on being awarded the MBE, and to thank him and the team for all their work in installing broadband in the parish.
- Member of the public, Mike Streten explained his intention to borrow a speed gun from the police to discourage excessive speed through the villages. Volunteers who wish to help him with this should contact him at stretenmichael@yahoo.co.uk.

Date and time of next meeting Monday 25th March 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

In this six-church benefice scuttling about from place to place is an occupational necessity and timings can be tricky. How long does it take, say, to get to Radstone from Lois Weedon on any particular day, given HS2 (and other) closures? I've found that I need to factor floods and horses as well as the road blocks into my calculations; there seem to be more floods and horses on the roads in South Northamptonshire than I'm used to over the river in Oxfordshire! And then there's the curious way in which Wappenham moves further east every week. Have you noticed?

The rain in the months since I arrived in the benefice has been truly apocalyptic, though I don't think it's my fault. Is this world-as-we-know-it-ending climate change? Or just South Northants? Either way, I imagine the wet is causing serious difficulties for our farmers, so spare a thought or a prayer for them. And then there is the Rectory Garden – acres of it, it seems – now beginning, with all the water, to come forth in abundance and splendour and terrifying me as to how I am meant to tame it. The Diocese did a good job of slashing and hacking before I came but I think it's over to me now. What would you think about a Quiet Garden at the Rectory that you could come to for some peace, maybe with a labyrinth to walk, if you felt like it – and no obligation to take a lawnmower to the vegetation?

I do seriously wonder whether an open Rectory Garden could become a community asset. Maybe our school would like to be involved in its development. It's been a great delight for me to start taking assemblies at the school and so to begin to become part of the school community. The school will be a part of our Holy Week celebrations at the Church. They will come to the Church for a pre-Thursday-Maundy ceremony at 9.30am on Wednesday 27th March (ah, the timings! I have to be in Peterborough for the Maundy ceremony on the Thursday itself.) That occasion will follow the Reflections service in the Church on Tuesday 26th March at 7.00 pm with the Benefice Choir. Then on Good Friday (29th March) there will be a service at 1.00pm. On Easter Day, 31st March we shall celebrate the Resurrection at 9.30am. If that's a bit late for you, do join us at Radstone at 6.00am for a Dawn Celebration (get your timing right – the clocks go forward!) or even earlier at 9.00pm on Saturday 30th for the Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter at Plumpton Church.

It would be great to see you in Church over the Easter period (floods and horses permitting) but do feel free to be in touch anytime.

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

Dad

I wrote this poem with honour in my heart to a man whose existence played a pivotal part – Nicola Patching

*He was a husband, a grandfather,
And much much more to us.
An honest kind dependable man
With my life I could trust.
He loved living in this village,
And that amazing endless view.
For no houses being built,
It was certainly a dream come true.
My father was a veteran,
A soldier he was proud to be.
For he followed in his father's footsteps
Which I really loved to see.
He loved his family,
And cherished those fun packed days.
For moments with his loved ones,
To laugh, chat and play.
His teachings and his guidance,
Will be with me for ever more.
This man of morals has left a legacy,
That fills me to my core,
On behalf of all my family,
A final few words to say.
Dad, you are our hero,
And we will miss you every day.*

82nd Annual Horticultural Show
At Home Close, Lois Weedon
(By kind permission of Clyde Burbidge)

Saturday 31st August 2024

2.00 – 4.00 pm

Afternoon teas available

Advance notice of classes – more details, quantities and how to present them in future editions.

VEGETABLES: Potatoes, Runner Beans Onions Beetroot, Carrots, Shallots, Marrows, Pumpkin, Leeks, Tomatoes, Celery, Courgettes, Squash, Chilli Plant

FRUIT: Apples, Plums, Raspberries

FLOWERS: Chrysanthemums, Dahlias, Sweet Peas, Gladioli, Roses,

COOKERY: Chutney, Jam, Cheese straws, Guinness Cake, Fruit pie, Tea Loaf , Victoria Sandwich Cake, Vanilla Swiss Roll, Lemon Drizzle Cake, fruit scones, Rainbow jelly in a glass

FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE: Garden Flowers in a jug and others

PHOTOGRAPHY: Based on the following topics: “A sporting event”; “An eye-catching view”; “Village Life”; “Garden Birds”, and “Three”

Photography–to be taken by exhibitor – size A5 maximum – no captions – unmounted. Images can be cropped either before or after printing and digital images can be colour balanced but no other manipulation should be used.

HOMEMADE ALCOHOL: One Bottle of flavoured spirit

CHILDREN: Aged six and under

Tallest sunflower – enter the photograph and height

Homemade necklace

Decorated hard boiled egg

3 decorated cup cakes

Aged seven and over

Miniature garden in a seed tray

Lego Model

Tallest sunflower – enter the photograph and height

Decorated cup cakes

The Horticultural Society would like you to know that there are allotments available for rent from mid April – Contact Ivor Jones for details (01327 860675)

Lois Weedon Flower Club.

The Lois Weedon Flower Club meets every 3rd Tuesday at Moreton Pinkney Village Hall at 2pm, where we have a variety of demonstrations and workshops.

The meeting in April is a workshop to produce a hand tied arrangement with help from Pink Wellies, followed in May with an evening demonstration to learn Tricks of the Trade.

Our June meeting is a visit to Waterperry Gardens near Wheatley, Oxon.

The meetings are great fun and open to everyone from absolute beginners to experienced flower arrangers. We always end with a cuppa & cake!!

For more information call Kate Isaac 07585508734 or Caroline Bond 07826839280



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