



Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter

May/June 2024 – Late Spring Edition



From the Editor

Well, May Day 2024 came and went without any celebration as a village event. For many of us this was a major undertaking firstly as a social community event but also as a significant fundraiser – in some years, the money raised for good causes in the village, on that one day, exceeded the then annual budget of the Parish Council by more than double !! As a village event it had been running since the early 1980’s. The only year we had to cancel was due to an outbreak of foot & mouth AND THEN along came Covid-19 and so there hasn’t been a May Day Country Fair since May 2019. Well that is going to change and myself and some keen volunteers are planning to resurrect the event, hopefully along the lines of our previous successes and restore it to its regular place in the Village calendar. Watch this space for more information and reserve May Day 2025 in your diary. If you would like to get involved get in touch or drop me a line.

I like to take this opportunity to welcome some recent additions to the village:

Firstly, welcome to baby Arabella and congratulations to new parents Hollie Stone and Charlie Phipps in Weston; Then welcome to Mark, Diane and Ben Gillett who recently moved to Lois Weedon; welcome to Katie and Max Daymond and their two children who moved into College Farm, Weston; welcome also to Nadia Robinson and Chavis Desouza along with Chaos Junior who are newly arrived in Middlethorpe, Lois Weedon; and finally, welcome Christopher, Diana and daughter Caitlin who have also moved into Middlethorpe. I hope you all enjoy living in our little community – it’s a very friendly place with (hopefully) lots going on so that you will soon settle in.

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 regular newsletter will be in July 2024. I would like all material for the next edition to be with me by **Sunday, 30th June 2024**.

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

Dates for your Diary

Fri., May 10	Astwell Benefice Quiz – Village Hall – 7:15pm for 7:30pm
Sat., May 11	Plants, Cake & Coffee Sale in aid of Friends of Lois Weedon Church, 10am -1pm in Weston Baptist Chapel, details page 2
Mon., May 13	Annual Parish Assembly. 7:30pm in Lois Weedon Village Hall followed by the Parish Council AGM
Fri., Jun 7	Village Coffee Morning. 10am-12pm, Lois Weedon Village Hall
Sat., Jun 15	Barn Dance: In aid of Astwell Benefice; 7pm at Manor Farm Wappenham – Details on page 6
Fri., Jul 5	Village Coffee Morning. 10am-12pm, Lois Weedon Village Hall
Sat., Aug 31	Weston & Weedon Horticultural Society, 82nd Annual Show from 2:00pm. More details on page 3
Fri., Oct 4	Church Harvest Supper – Village Hall – Details in later edition, nearer the time
Sat., Nov 23	Gifts & Craft Fair – Village Hall - Details in later edition, nearer the time

Flower & Vegetable Plant Sale

Saturday, 11th May

10am – 1pm

We are once again holding a flower and vegetable plant sale in (and outside) the Weston Baptist Hall. We hope you can join us again. The proceeds are in aid of the **Friends of Lois Weedon Church**.

Tea, coffee and delicious cakes will be available.

There will also be paintings for sale by the late Peter French. These paintings are mostly of the village and surrounding area but quite a few are from elsewhere. Peter was a longtime resident of Lois Weedon.

If you are growing any flower or vegetable plants or are splitting plants this spring and have any spare, all donations will be gratefully received. Thank you again for your support.

Donna Cooper, Middleton House, Weston (07989 542710)

Sarah Webb, The Farm, Weston (07772 873407)

Jill Jones, Home Close, Plumpton Road (01295 768221)

Village Hall News

The hall is open for hirers. We now have additional facilities including 4' and 5' round tables as well as the regular oblong trestle tables. 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)

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

April 2024		May 2024	
Shirley & Don Penfold	93	Tom & Pam Palmer	77
Danielle Sheppard	80	Graham & Linda Jardine	27
Doug Longley	26	Veronica Seaman	57
Ro & Claire Cuttler	119	Julie Elkington	65



LOIS WEEDON AND WESTON W.I.



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 forthcoming events:

Date	Speaker	Subject
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 and tea and cake !!	
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.

01327 860626. Email: Rachel.k.smith4@gmail.com



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)

Horse Race Night in aid of the Village Hall and Cancer Research

We would like to thank everyone who helped at Race Night and to thank everyone who supported the event so generously on the night. Thank you to all our sponsors and those who advertised in the Race Programme. Thank you to Clyde Burbidge for his excellent skills as an auctioneer, to Derek & Helena Boughton for running the Tote and to Paul Smith who was our master of ceremonies.

We raised over £1,100 which was shared between the Village Hall and Cancer Research.

Rachel Smith & Diane Hunt

In addition, I would like to thank all the people who attended and contributed to the Coffee Morning on Friday 3rd May which was also in aid of Cancer Research and which raised a further £326

My daughter-in-law, Caroline would also like to say “thank you “ to everyone who has helped her through her difficult days.

Diane Hunt

Rectory View

Much as I have enjoyed my few months in the Astwell Benefice and my occupancy of the Lois Weedon Rectory, I may shortly be on my way out.

My possible exit will occur for one of the three following reasons:

1. I may perish on the pilgrimage round the Astwell Benefice on 19th May, Whitsun or Pentecost. It's an 18 mile + circuit of the seven churches, a revival of an ancient Astwell tradition. 18 miles is not a distance I often walk in a day and who knows whether the body will take it. But don't let me put you off: everyone knows that walking, if it doesn't kill you, is very good for you in various ways – and if the pilgrimage kills me, your being an eye-witness to that will give you a tale to tell for years to come. We start at 8.00am at Lois Weedon Church but if you want to catch up with us later, please ask me for a timetable of where we shall be when. The Communion service for the Benefice during the pilgrimage will be at Syresham at 11.15, with a Baptism – fittingly for a day on which we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Church.
2. I may take the view that the eye-watering cost of maintaining the Rectory Garden is not something I'm prepared to pay – receiving the quotation nearly gave me a heart attack. 'Mow it yourself,' you say – to which I reply: 'See above under 1 and, besides, I do have another job!' I've been researching alternatives to mowing and it's been fascinating to find out what you have to do, bureaucracy-wise to keep a pig, for instance - and to take it for a walk. So, before I perhaps go after the licenses required to keep and walk pigs, I'd like to consult you as to whether a pig walking regularly from the Rectory to, say, the Chapel in Weston and back would be good for the village. Maybe you would like to do a bit of pig-walking. Let me know.
3. Crow incursion. As you can see from 2 above, I'm not averse to an embrace of the animal creation. I'm not St Francis, though, and I do draw a line at crows coming down the Rectory chimney and arriving, unbidden, in the sitting-room. I expect most of us find birds in the house unnerving and so it was for me on 2nd May. Woken by sounds behind the bedroom wall, I turned over in bed and tried to ignore them. But they didn't stop and there was undeniably an issue in the chimney; maybe rodents, maybe birds. My first decision was to prevent any access to the sitting room from the chimney by blocking an alarming hole in the hearth screen; any bird could find its own way out. Or not. And the 'or not' stirred my pity lest the thing *couldn't* find its own way out (and how do dead birds in chimneys smell?), so I unblocked the hole and went off to Choir practice, taking care to close the sitting room door to avoid having to chase a bird all around the Rectory should one appear. On my return, I looked in on the sitting room and there it was – a sleek, slightly reptilian crow. After a bit of a scuffle I got hold of it (disgusting!) and chucked it out and off it flew. But if this happens again (and if I survive the pilgrimage and the pig), I'm off!

But whether I'm off or not, there will from June onwards be a third service each month at our Church. So you're very welcome at 9.30am on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. And, indeed, in June we also have our Patronal Festival On the 5th Sunday (30th) at 10.00am. Do come!

Hugh White
rectorastwell@gmail.com; 01869 347889

Lois Weedon Flower Club

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

Our next meeting is on the evening of May 21st at 7.30pm where we will have a presentation from Emma Remington who will demonstrate some '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, visitors are very welcome.

We always end the meetings with a cuppa & cake!!

For more information call Kate Isaac 07585 508734 or Caroline Bond 07826 839280

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Thursday 6 June 2024 at 6.30 – 7.30pm

Towcester Mill Brewery, Chantry Lane, NN12 6YY

A talk by **Philomena Liggins**

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TO PRE-BOOK YOUR TICKETS AND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

LOIS WEEDON - FRANK HUNTER - FRANK.HUNTER@BTINTERNET.COM

WAPPENHAM - SHEENA WARREN - SHEENA.WARREN@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

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IN AID OF ASTWELL BENEFICE