



# Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter



November/December 2022 – Winter Edition

## From the Editor

2022 has been, on balance, a better year than 2021. We have had our ups and downs but life in the community has seen a lot of revived activity and as we head into 2023 let's hope for a great year to come.

Well we are getting ready for Christmas with the revival of several events leading up to the festive season including the Village Hall Christmas Market, the Christmas Hamper Raffle and following the success of last year's event will be the WI Lois Weedon and Weston Christmas Trail. There will also be traditional Christmas Carols & Readings in the Church and Carol singing around the villages – more details to follow.

Sadly, we say farewell to the Reverend Diane Whittaker, Rector of the Astwell Benefice. Diane is retiring and moving "up North". We wish her well in her well-earned retirement. She has included a valedictory message on page 5.

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).

This will be the last edition of the Village Newsletter for 2022 and it's been another strange but interesting year. The Newsletter is normally published 6 times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November) and is funded by various donations. As editor, I am grateful for all the support.

The next edition of the Lois Weedon & Weston Newsletter will be in January 2023 and so all material for that edition should be given to me by Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023. 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](mailto:loisweedonpaul@gmail.com)*

## Dates for your Diary

Mon., Nov 28	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b> , 8:00 pm Lois Weedon Village Hall
Tue., Dec 6	<b>Film Club</b> - "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" – details on page 4
Wed., Dec 7	<b>Lois Weedon &amp; Weston WI</b> – Christmas Crafting with Rebekah - 7:30pm, Lois Weedon Village Hall
Sat., Dec 10	<b>Christmas Market</b> , Lois Weedon Village Hall – 8:30 till noon – details on page 2
Sat., Dec 17	<b>WI "Lois Weedon &amp; Weston Christmas Trail"</b> Details on page 3
Thu., Dec 22	<b>Christmas Carols &amp; Readings</b> with the Benefice Choir, 5:30pm, Lois Weedon Church. Mulled wine & mince pies to follow
Tue., Jan 10	<b>Film Club</b> - "Midnight in Paris" – details on page 4

There will be Carol Singing over 2 nights (TBD) in Lois Weedon & Weston; exact details will be published via email and on the Newsletter Facebook page



## Village Hall Notes.

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.

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

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

### Winners of Village Hall '200 Club' Lottery

<b>November 2022</b>	
Win Seaman	117
Richard & Emily Templeman	2
Mark & Sarah Williams	40
Gill Atkins	184

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](mailto:rachel.k.smith4@gmail.com)

# LOIS WEEDON & WESTON VILLAGE HALL

## CHRISTMAS MARKET

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December.



**“Full English” breakfast served from  
8:30am to 12 midday by Anne Marshall**



Market stall holders include:

#### **Annie's Pantry:**

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

**Just Beauty Essentials with Jess** – Body Shop Consultant

**Penny Spademan**, (cards, small boxes & stocking fillers)

**Shirley Penfold**, (Christmas gifts)

**Pauline Williams**, (British Made products)

- Thick socks, cotton socks
- Aprons, scarves & many other items

**Fruit & Veg stall**

**Towcester Mill Brewery**

**Christmas Hamper Raffle**

**Lois Weedon Church:**

- Christmas cards of St Mary & St Peter
- 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 10<sup>th</sup> December** or alternatively leave your cards for delivery in the white post box at: **8 Vicarage Rise, Lois Weedon by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** (at the latest) for delivery on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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*

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**LOIS WEEDON AND WESTON W.I.**



For our **November meeting** we had a very interesting local speaker. We were pleased to welcome **Philomena Liggins**, a social historian, author and speaker who focuses on the work of women between the Great and Second World Wars. Philomena gave a talk on the role of women in the **Special Operations Executive (SOE)**.

### **December meeting – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December @ 7:30pm, Lois Weedon Village Hall**

Come and join us and have a go at making fun Christmas crafts with Rebekah Morgan and to enjoy a Festive Evening – we hope you can join us. There will be mulled wine and festive nibbles.

Our W.I is seeking new members to bring new ideas and new faces and friends into our group to enable us to advance positively into our new centenary. If you are interested, please contact us, or just come as a Visitor to one of our meetings. We have had some fantastic speakers so why not come and enjoy them too.

The meetings are held on the **first Wednesday** of every month and start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The current committee are:-

President and Village Hall Secretary/Treasurer – Rachel Smith, WI Treasurer - Edwina Kidd, Secretaries - Louise King, & Sally Neville, Meet & Greet, Door & Raffle - Peggie Clarke.

*Rachel Smith, President.*

### **Lois Weedon and Weston Christmas Trail**

Lois Weedon and Weston WI will be hosting another Christmas Trail, where we ask villagers to either decorate a window or the front of their house in December. On the afternoon of Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> December take a stroll around our two lovely villages with friends and family to admire the creativity.

Complete your walk by stopping off at the Village Hall for warm mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate served between 4:30 – 6:00pm (Sponsored by the Village Hall)

Please let Louise King, (Hill Cottage, 07856 201 944) know if you would like to take part (and also your house name/number).

Further details to follow and will be posted on Newsletter Facebook page



## Weston Chapel.

As the wheel of the year turns towards winter, the nights get longer, the endless summer evening are far behind us and darkness has come in their place, winds howl and leaves fall, the world rests.

What has been happening at Weston Chapel? Well, things now feel a lot more normal following the Covid pandemic. On Tuesdays the walkers walk the footpaths and bridle ways round Weston and Lois Weedon. Numbers vary, but the lovely weather in the summer saw several of them sitting outside enjoying their cake and coffee after their walk. They walk in all weathers, the one exception this year was when the Tuesday temperature reached just less than 40 degrees.

Tuesday morning coffee is from 10-12 - noon and not just for the walkers, anyone is welcome to call in and join us.

Bookings for use of the premises are starting to come in again, during recent months two coffee mornings have been held at the chapel, one a plant and cake sale the other a MacMillan coffee morning.

The Culworth Branch of Bell Ringers recently held their Annual Dinner at the Chapel and the local branch of WEA held a course there in the year and are planning on holding further courses next year.

We have joined with the Anglican Church at Lois Weedon for services, two at Lois Weedon and by the end of the year two at Weston; the next one December 4<sup>th</sup> at Weston.

We meet every Sunday at 10.30am at Weston for worship, followed by a time of fellowship over a cup of coffee, biscuits/cake. It's great to welcome residents and carers from William Blake House on Sunday mornings, a warm welcome awaits for anyone wanting to come and join us.

*Further information from Rosemary Gulliver, 01295 760720 email: [rosemarygulliver@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarygulliver@gmail.com).*

Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship, which is the result of amalgamation of Weston and Towcester Baptist Churches, welcomed a new Pastor in September, Revd Stuart Conway, who shared a few words below:

*"It has been a real privilege and honour to be invited to be minister at Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship, of which Weston Chapel is a big part of. It will take time for me settle into the role and I am looking forward to working with the team at Weston Chapel to show the love of Jesus to you and the surrounding communities as we look to see how we can serve and minister to you. Please get in touch, [pastor@tvbf.co.uk](mailto:pastor@tvbf.co.uk) if you need anything and I hope to get more involved in your community in 2023".*

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> and is a Christmas comedy,

**"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"**

A 1989 American Christmas Slapstick/comedy film.

Our first event in **2023** will be on **Tuesday 10th January 2023:**

**"Midnight in Paris"**

A 2011 film: While on a trip to Paris with his fiancée's family, a nostalgic screen writer finds himself mysteriously going back to the 1920's, every day at midnight. Directed by Woody Allen

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

*Jane Pomeroy, Alan Davies, Graham Jardine, Pete Templeman*

## News from the Rectory

This time of the year, I am reminded of that beautiful poem by John Keats – To Autumn. It begins:

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;*

The poem then continues to celebrate all of the signs and sounds of autumn, the leaves falling, the fruit in the hedgerows and apples on the trees, the sound of the robin singing – often the only bird you hear in autumn and through into winter. Autumn feels like a time to say goodbye – goodbye to the green of summer, the warmth of the sun, the flowers and bird song – and often to repeat our goodbyes to those we have loved and lost, through our season of remembrance at the beginning of November. On All Souls, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November we remembered those who have died and we continue to miss, then on Remembrance Sunday we honoured those who died in war.

This year I will be saying goodbye to my fulltime ministry as a parish priest and moving on to retirement and, no doubt, a new life of a slightly gentler service to the Lord. So, it is a time of memories and goodbyes for me also. Although my time here in the Astwell Benefice has been short, I have enjoyed living here and serving you all as your parish priest. However, my body (and my mind!) is telling me it is time to slow down – the last few years have been very stressful; losing my husband at the start of Covid, moving home and jobs and dealing with all the issues around continuing a Christian presence during the lockdowns and afterwards, and I am finding it very difficult to maintain the full-on rate of work that is involved with running a Benefice of 5 parishes. So, I shall be leaving at the end of November and retiring to my home in Northumberland for a rest.

My last Sunday is on Advent Sunday – 27<sup>th</sup> November, where I will have two final services, a 10am Benefice Service at Helmdon and a 6pm Advent Carols Service at Lois Weedon. It is actually a fitting Sunday to end fulltime ministry as it marks the beginning of the new church year – when we look forward to remembering the birth of Jesus at Christmas. So a good time for new beginnings for me and the churches here in the Benefice.

God bless and good wishes to you all for the new chapter in the church life in this Benefice.

*Revd Diane Whiaker*

## Lois Weedon and Weston Village Trust

Did you know that "The Lois Weedon & Weston Village Trust" has existed, using a number of different names, for nearly 150 years? Or that the Trustees of the Charity are custodians of a portion of agricultural land to the west of Weston, which was bequeathed to provide an income to help those in need within the Parishes?

Recently "The Trust" has provided small gifts at Christmas time to those who are unwell and to the elderly, as well as helping to fund the Village Christmas Meal for the over 65s.

But it also exists to give financial help to anyone living in the parishes of Lois Weedon and Weston who find themselves in need. Resources are limited so this help can only be a one-off offer of assistance at the discretion of the Trustees.

If you need help yourself or know of someone who deserves to be considered, then do please make contact by phone or email to the Trustees.

Please be assured that this and any help the Trust can provide will be completely confidential.

Thank you.

*David Clarke ([davidjclarke9@gmail.com](mailto:davidjclarke9@gmail.com); 07831 398974)  
Frank Hunter ([frank.hunter@btinternet.com](mailto:frank.hunter@btinternet.com); 07919 348697)*

## Post Bash Summary

Well, where to start!!! Beforehand there was a little trepidation about if it was the right thing, how much money would we raise, would we sell enough tickets, would the running order work, did we get the right raffle prizes and so on. However, thanks have to go to Bob and Kate for their help in organising the band (thank you to the band for their great sets), and passing on wisdom about the catering - plus actually cooking as well. Discussions were had about how to decorate the room after I was told “no you can’t just put some chairs out, people need tables and they need to look nice”. That was done very kindly by Caroline and the accompanying music by Graham (thank you both). With the room set, food prepared it only left the bar for sorting out - up step the “blues brothers”, Ric and Ashley. Thank you to you for that solid service. However their bar was made skilfully by Don Penfold. It looked amazing, really appreciated you making that.

It’s gone to a good home for safe keeping for now (my house, cheers -



As people started coming in the anxiety increased but after a pint of two of Hooky, I relaxed, until I remembered I needed to say a few words - cue stopping drinking so I could still talk! Everything was running smoothly as Zoe stepped up to help explain her condition and how AEM helps her, which reduced several to tears. Then Dianne and her band of merry thieves (I mean raffle ticket sellers) sensed an opportunity and started encouraging people to part with their money, thank you to all sellers and buyers - sterling job.

The band played again, all the prizes were drawn for the raffle and I’m sure Ivor will love the “2 VIP tickets to the National Running Show” in January, or Peggy Clark having a taster “learn to sail” session at Banbury Cross Sailing Club.

Then as people drifted away into the night, the “cleaning brigade” stepped in - don’t worry I noticed a few of you like Jane, Jonathon and many others. It meant by 1230 it was all done and the hall was locked up.

It was a great night and one that with hindsight I needn’t have worried. I say a great night, I enjoyed it and got the impression most others did.

In total, we raised approximately **£1700** for **Autism East Midlands**, bringing the total raised to **£2800**.

Finally, thank you to Mum, Dad, Naomi and the kids for their support before and during the event, and putting up with me moaning about running and injuries etc. So, whose hosting the next one?

*Luke Longley*



## Wappenham and District Royal British Legion

**Poppy Appeal 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

After receiving all the expected contributions and completing the paperwork for the last Poppy Appeal, I am pleased to inform you that the amount collected is **£4,396.69**. This is just below last year’s total of **£4,578.08**.

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)

## 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 French's paintings have been reproduced by kind permission of the late 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](mailto:frank.hunter@btinternet.com)'



[St Loys CEVA Primary Academy](http://www.stloysceva.com)



### Our next Whole School Open Day: 29th November 2022, from 9:30 am ...

To get the best feel for our school, we recommend joining one of our open days or visiting us for a personal tour. We can offer tours of the school on a date to suit you and your family, where our Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership team will walk with you around the school, visiting classrooms, giving you the best opportunity to see the children and teachers as they go about daily learning and routines, as well as opportunities to view our learning environment and facilities.

Our friendly and experienced admissions team are available throughout the school day for any questions or concerns and will be pleased to guide you through each stage of the application process, from arranging a visit to our school to answering any questions you may have regarding life and learning at St.Loys.

Please [contact us](#) to discuss any further questions you may have or to book a time for your visit. You are assured of a warm, St Loys welcome and we look forward to seeing you soon.

## Update from Canons Ashby

Apologies for the slightly late updates. It has been all hands on deck behind the scenes getting the house ready for Christmas. I'm going to wish you all a very Merry Christmas for the season ahead now, as no doubt it will be here before we know it!

Below is a brief overview from our House and Collections Manager Ellie about the latest conservation work from the house.

During November, the house team and conservators have been able to take a look at a project we have been working on for a while, namely conserving and protecting the Great Hall floor which is gradually sinking. There are a number of options; the current one is to trial a grouting solution in a small area. Our advisors believe that we will ultimately have to relay the slabs, but the West Northamptonshire Council and Historic England Heritage Officers (from whom we need planning permission) want to make sure we've tried less invasive treatment first.

After this work has been carried out, we'll monitor the footfall and how well the repairs are holding. If they're successful, we'll look to roll this treatment out in all of the affected areas, if not we'll apply for planning permission to lift the slabs and reinstate a stable substrate below.

Assessment of the mould in the cellars below also continues. We're carrying out regular monitoring to ascertain whether the area is getting damper, drier or staying the same. Advice on how to remove the algae that's already there is the next step, and then we can monitor whether it returns. You may have noticed that we're keeping the door to the Kitchen and to the Pebble Court open during the day to increase airflow. We're also commissioning a new door from the cellar to the Pebble Court with ventilation to permanently improve the conditions in the cellar.

Keep an eye on our social media over the coming months, and if we can, we will share some images and updates.

What's on? To find out about any of these events, or to book, please visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/canons-ashby](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/canons-ashby) where the latest information is updated

### Summary of events – details and booking information on the website

26 November, 5.30pm-7pm	A Musical Christmas with Eboracum Baroque
1 December – 24 December, All Day	The Magical Wood Trail
1 December – 24 December, 11-2.30pm	A Christmas Quest
3 December, 11.30am - 12.15pm	Festive Handbell Ringing in the church
9 December, 7.30 – 8.40pm	The Knight Before Christmas: Candlelit after-dark tour

