



Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter



November/December 2024 – Winter Edition

From the Editor

Well we are getting ready for Christmas with the revival of several events leading up to the festive season including a Christmas Gifts and Craft Fayre, Christmas Hamper Raffle and Local Christmas Card delivery service.

There are no plans for carol singing in the villages of Weston and Lois Weedon this year but there will be a Christmas Carol Service in Lois Weedon Church at 5:30pm on Thursday 19th December. On Sunday 1st December at 6:00pm there will be an Advent Carol Service in Lois Weedon Church accompanied by the Benefice Choir and on Christmas Eve, starting at 11:30pm and into early Christmas Day, there will be a Holly Communion Service led by Rev'd Hugh.

The outside of the church will be lit throughout all these services. The Church invites parishioners to donate £25 to the Church for lights to be lit from 6.00pm till 11 during the Christmas festival season

This will be the last edition of the Village Newsletter for 2024. 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 and contributions I get.

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).

The next edition of the Lois Weedon & Weston Newsletter will be in January 2025 and so all material for that edition should be given to me by Monday, 6th January 2025. 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

Dates for your Diary

Sun., Nov 10	Remembrance Service – Lois Weedon Church – A short service of Remembrance starting at 10:50am
Sat., Nov 23	Christmas Craft & Gift Fair - 8:30am – 12:00pm in the Village Hall - Cooked breakfast, tea & coffee
Mon., Nov 25	Parish Council Meeting. 8:00pm in Lois Weedon Village Hall
Sun., Dec 1	Advent Carol Service, Lois Weedon Church 6:00pm – with the Benefice Choir
Tue., Dec 3	Film Club – December Meeting – “Red Dog” – details on page 6
Fri., Dec 6	Village Coffee Morning 10:00am – 12:00pm in the Village Hall (Christmas Card “Big Red Box” available)
Sat., Dec 14	Christmas Hamper Raffle Draw – 9am – 11am in the Village Hall – details on page 2
Sun., Dec 15	Christmas Card Delivery Service - Deadline for delivery 16th December – Details on page 3
Thu., Dec 19	Christmas Carol Service, Lois Weedon Church 5:30pm
Sun., Dec 22	Carol Service, Baptist Chapel, Weston 10:30am, followed by mince pies, coffee, etc
Tue., Dec 24	Midnight Service, Lois Weedon Church
Tue., Jan 7	Film Club – January Meeting – “Wicked Little Letters” – details on page 6

LOIS WEEDON & WESTON VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS GIFT & CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 23rd November.



“Full English” breakfast served from
8:30am to 12 midday by Pam Palmer



Stall holders include:

Trish Hughes (fine art embroidery and paper textiles)

Anna Steiner (“How to Make Kits” – animal & circus characters)

Penny Spademan, (Cards)

Sami Tutch, (Homeware, placemats & coasters)

Shirley Penfold, (Decoupage & Christmas gifts)

Pippa Geddes, (Paintings & Cards)

Ruth German, (Assorted jams & jewellery)

Towcester Mill Brewery (popular local beers)

Lois Weedon Church:

- Christmas cards of St Mary & St Peter
- Wreaths
- Historic maps

Lois Weedon & Weston WI

- Tombola & Children’s Tombola
- Toys & Jigsaws
- Bottle Tombola
- Cake Stall

Christmas Hamper Raffle (£1 per ticket – 6 for £5)

Draw will take place in the Village Hall – 14th December

LOIS WEEDON & WESTON VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE DRAW

Saturday 14th December – 9:00am – 11:00am

- Christmas Hamper Raffle
- 200-Club £50 bonus Draw
- Tea, coffee & mince pies
- Towcester Mill Brewery (second opportunity to stock up for Christmas)
- Big Red Post Box for Christmas Card local delivery (donations gratefully received)



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 Craft & Gift Fair on **Saturday 23rd November** or alternatively at the **Coffee Morning, 6th December** or at the **Hamper Raffle Draw on 14th December**

.... or just leave your cards for delivery in the white post box at: **8 Vicarage Rise, Lois Weedon by Sunday 15th December** (at the latest) for delivery on **Monday 16th December**.

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



LOIS WEEDON AND WESTON W.I.



December meeting – Wednesday 4th December @ 7:30pm, Lois Weedon Village Hall

Come and join us and have a go at making fun Christmas crafts with Rebekah and Samantha and to enjoy a Festive Evening – we hope you can join us. There will be wine, mulled wine and festive nibbles – cost £5 for non-WI members. Please let me know if you are interested: rachel.k.smith4@gmail.com

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

Rachel Smith, President.

. Winners of Village Hall ‘200 Club’ Lottery

October 2024		November 2024	
Sheila French	72	James Smith-Reynolds	7
Maureen Clark	8	Susanna Sitwell	133
Diane Archard-Jones	18	Skyler & Allison Beesinger	181
Claire Worrall	99	Colin Atkins	10

The lottery is usually drawn once per month 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 £50 prize draw at the Christmas Hamper Raffle on 14th December

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

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.

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

Clive Johnson (clivetjohnson@gmail.com; 07702 603421)

Christmas cards for sale

'Christmas Cards and Historic Village Maps will be on sale at the Village Hall Christmas Gifts & Crafts 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'



Rectory View

As we move into the darker days of Autumn and Winter, we carry some bright memories.

It was lovely to welcome Arabella Phipps into Christ's Church at her baptism – and very good that nothing untoward happened with what I think of as a rather dodgy (possibly potentially lethal) font cover mechanism!

Either side of that came fine Harvest celebrations in Village Hall and Church. The Harvest Supper was very special with a wonderful meal, live music and video of previous entertainments (for outsider me, that dip into the past was most illuminating). The Hall was packed and a serious sum was raised for the Church, for which thanks to everyone there. A particular thanks to the too-many-to-name cooks and entertainers. The Church Harvest Festival service was well-attended and it was good, as always, to welcome the School to St Mary and St Peter's for their Festival too.

The School has been involved in a big project for the time around Remembrance Day. The children have made poppies that will be part of a display to be hung at the west end of the Church over the Remembrance period. I'm told there will be over 300 poppies, crocheted, knitted and of felt. This will make a huge impact on people as they come through from Weston. Many thanks – especially to Terry Tyler, Louise King and Joy Kirkham - but to others involved also for this splendid enhancement of our remembering those who have given their lives for their country in war. Do come to the Remembrance Service on 10th November; it begins at 10.50.

At the end of November, on 29th, Bishop Debbie, from distant Peterborough, is visiting Brackley Deanery. Her visit begins in Lois Weedon with a 10.00am Confirmation service at which she will also bless the restored east window in the Church. If you'd like to meet her, you'd be most welcome at the service or to come along after, at about 10.45am.

Special things happening in December include a Benefice Advent Carol Service in the church on 1st at 6pm and a Christmas Carol Service on Thursday 19th December at 5.30 pm. There are Christmas Carols in Weston Chapel at 10.30am on 22nd. Then there's Midnight Mass in church on Christmas Eve beginning at 11.30pm. Nothing on Christmas morning in our church but there are services elsewhere in the Benefice, of course. Do let me know if next year you would like a Christmas morning service at Lois Weedon.

There's also a Wedding Blessing in the church on 5th December at 2.30 and I think Lucy and James would be delighted if you felt like gate-crashing that! I gather there will be mulled wine and mince pies, some carols and a general Christmassy feel.

Another occasion, to which you are all invited, is *Inspiration for the Future*, a discussion about the future of the Astwell Benefice, which will happen in Weston Chapel on the morning of Saturday 14th December starting at 9.30. We'd love to hear from people, especially those who don't come regularly to Church, about what they think the parish and the benefice should be attempting as 2024 passes into 2025.

One thing we shall be attempting is the Astwell Festival, which will run from Friday 30th May 2025 to June 8th. This will involve drama, art and craft workshops, music, sport, children's book events, worship, etc. and will raise money for children's charities. Do let me or Frank Hunter know if you'd like to be involved. Besides the money-raising, the Festival is intended to demonstrate that rural benefices such as Astwell can do big things for their communities and beyond and therefore need to be enthusiastically supported by the diocese rather than regarded as regrettable financial burdens. (And thanks to your generosity, and that of others elsewhere in benefice, we shall not this year be a burden to the diocese because we shall pay our share in full.)

So a lot going on and I'm sorry for ever having given the false impression that I might want to get away from it all. I absolutely don't want that and expect to be around for some years yet (if spared). I'd love to discuss with anyone who'd like to have a conversation whatever you'd like to talk about relating to the church. A labyrinth, herb garden and beehives at the Rectory, perhaps? – and surely someone wants to take further the question of pig-walking. I'll be a little disappointed if nobody responds on that one. But only a little.

Blessings,

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



Wappenham and District Royal British Legion

Poppy Appeal 2024 – Thursday 24th October 2024 to 9th November 2024

The launch date for this year's Poppy Appeal is on Thursday 24th October. This will carry through until Saturday 9th November 2024. Our Poppy Appeal collectors will be able to start their collections from Friday 25th October.

Hand held payment devices are not available for our collectors so it would help if you do have some cash available if you wish to donate when they call.

There is also a 'QR code' on the collector's box if you wish to donate electronically.

Online donations can be made at The Royal British Legion website:

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

Other collections and donation will be greatly appreciated to support the appeal. Cheques can be made payable to 'The Poppy Appeal'.

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.

RBL Wappenham & District includes: Abthorpe, Slapton, Wappenham, Lois Weedon, Weston, Sulgrave, Thorpe Mandeville, Greatworth and Marston St Lawrence.

**Poppy Appeal Organiser
Bob Devey**

Weston & Lois Weedon Film Club

Memorable movies on your doorstep!

All films are screened at **Lois Weedon Village Hall**. Doors open on our regular Tuesday evening events at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm film start.

Tuesday December 3rd Red Dog 2011 Family/Comedy

Based on the legendary true story of the Red Dog who united a disparate local community while roaming the Australian outback in search of his long-lost master.

At the 2011 Inside Film Awards, *Red Dog* was nominated in nine categories and won seven, including best feature film... *Starring Josh Lucas*

Tuesday January 7th 2025 Wicked Little Letters 2023 Comedy / Mystery

When residents begin to receive wicked letters full of hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. However, as the town's women investigate, they suspect that something is amiss, and that Rose may not be the culprit after all. *Starring Jessie Buckley, Olivia Colmer, Timothy Spall*

We really hope you will join us.

The Film Club Team – *Jane Pomeroy, Alan Davies, Graham Jardine, Pete Templeman*

A message of thanks from the Lois Weedon Parochial Church Council for St Mary & St Peter

As we draw towards the end of the year, we wanted to tell you how your generous gifts, donations and support for fund raising events throughout 2024 have helped to strengthen our finances and put us in a better position, ready for 2025.

In April this year, you may recall that we embarked on a fund-raising mission to help with the on-going and day to day financial needs of our parish church. We were overjoyed with your response!

From that request, we received one-off donations totalling more than £1,000, and individual increases and additional regular giving amounting to more than £120 per month. We now also receive a regular monthly donation from ABbA (Tove Valley Broadband) in recognition of their equipment being sited on the church tower.

Turning now to fund raising events, including the monthly Village Coffee Mornings, a summer garden party, an afternoon tea party and the Harvest Supper evening, your support has contributed £3,155.21 to church funds so far this year. We are sure that you'll be pleased to learn that this amount has been 'ring-fenced' and added to our Restoration & Fabric fund for use solely on the repair and maintenance of the building.

In September, the significant repair to the Chancel East wall was completed. Scaffolding has been removed and it is lovely to see the window in all its glory again! We received grants and individual donations totalling £10,800 plus £2,500 VAT refund to help pay for the repair and all associated costs totalling £15,400. We are especially grateful for the individual grants from 4 organisations, as well as the strong financial support from The Friends of Lois Weedon Church. Some additional but minor works are now being undertaken to repair some of the glass and mortar fixings within the chancel window, which will then fully weatherproof and secure the lead frames.

We expect to reach 100% of our target Parish Share this year, which is a phenomenal achievement when compared to only reaching 50% of the same target in 2023. You have helped us to make a difference! Indeed, the whole Benefice is on track to meet its full target in 2024.

Going forward, given that we are currently able to cover our day-to-day general expenses, we do hope in the new year to be able to share some financial gifts from our operating fund to other local and/or national charities. This has always been a key mission of ours and we are glad that through your help we are once again able to do this. We will let you know the details once completed.

Overall, our financial position is much improved compared to the start of the year and we are definitely on the right road. But as always, that road has many potholes and there is more to be done.

We currently face a new challenge where a 3-metre section of the high parapet above the north wall has collapsed inwards to the roof. This will require repair/rebuild and we are in the process of obtaining quotes before looking at funding options. We also want to look at fixing the significant damp areas within the church before then moving on to redecoration in 2025. Much is to be done and we give thanks to every one of you that continue to support your church.

Once again, thank you! And we take this opportunity to wish you, your families and your friends a very happy Christmas and 2025!

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News from the Astwell Benefice

You may like to know that the **Astwell Benefice Fund Raising Committee** are in the process of organising a week-long Festival across our villages. This will incorporate several events including drama evenings, a music festival, a cricket match and a fete with stalls and craft workshops. All this to raise money for national and local charities. The events will be held between the **30th May** and **7th June 2025**.

Watch out for more details to come!

Clive Johnson, Treasurer
For and on behalf of LWPC



Weston & Weedon Horticultural Society

Weston and Weedon Horticultural Society 83rd Annual Show - 2025

In each year's Show there are Photography entry classes – Here is a list of the proposed topics for the various classes in next year's show.... More details of which will be available in future editions of the Newsletter.

- **My Best Photo**
- **Garden Colours**
- **Oh, what a surprise!!**
- **Funny Animal**
- **Northamptonshire Village Building**

*Ivor Jones, Chairman
Weston & Weedon Horticultural Society*

Parish Council

Here is a summary of the most recent Parish Council meeting held on **October 15th** in the Village Hall. The meeting was attended by 5 councillors, the Clerk, West Northants Councilor, Charles Manners and several members of the public. Full minutes of council meetings are posted on the Village Notice Boards and on the Parish Council website. If anyone would like more on any matter, please contact the Clerk, Ken Power.

Cllr Charles Manners (WNC)

Cllr. Manners gave an up-date on WNC matters:

- Northampton market is re-opening after renovation.
- Social services care for adults and children is putting pressure on WNC finance. Of WNC's budget of £400m, 60% is consumed by social services care. Adult care is overspent by £9m and children's by £3-4m.
- The Local Plan has been delayed by the election of the new government. It needs to be ready by the end of 2025
- The government wishes to devolve more power to the regions. There is a proposal to link West Northants with North Northants, Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire.

Finance Matters: The accounts 2024 / 2025 to date and progress against budget were reviewed and approved. It was noted that both tranches of the precept had been received and that VAT claims are up to date.

Under HMRC rules no further claim can be made until the amount to be claimed exceeds £100.00.

Payments were approved for CGM (Churchyard mowing and Millennium Field mowing), Clerk's salary and expenses, E.ON (Street lighting maintenance), Npower (Electricity Supply for street lighting in Milthorpe)

Planning Matters:

- **Application 2024/4433/PA.** Land south of Banbury Lane, Weston. Prior approval for conversion of an existing agricultural building to a single dwelling. **Support**
- **Application 2024/4793/TPO.** Tree work at The Old Manse, High Street, Weston. **Support.**

Correspondence:

- Email from **Homestart** requesting financial support. It was agreed that a charitable donation of this kind would be outside the council's remit.

Millennium Field.

The Chairman thanked all those who responded to the recent survey about the future of the field with positive and constructive comments. Given the strong local support in the survey and petition for maintaining the Millennium Field as a public amenity, with support from the Parish Council, it was agreed that the council will propose to the Horticultural Society the following new arrangement:

- A new agreement backdated to the expiry date of the old contract on 1st March 2024.
- The PC to pay rent of £535.00 per year, fixed for 5 years.
- The PC to continue to pay for mowing of the field, but no other maintenance.
- Public liability insurance for the field will be covered by the council's insurance policy, so it will not be necessary for the Horticultural Society to pay for insurance cover.
- The agreement to be reviewed after 5 years.
- The Horticultural Society will arrange for a new lease to be drawn up. It was further agreed that a Millennium Field Committee should be set up, with representatives from the council and the Horticultural Society, and others from the community

Castle Mound - It was agreed that Cllr. Elkington will arrange the purchase of bulbs at a cost of up to £300.00. A date will be agreed with St. Loys school for the children to help with planting.

AOB

- Cllr. Sheppard suggested that a war memorial plaque or bench could be set up on the Millennium Field. Representatives of the Horticultural Society said they would also be happy for this to be on the allotments. Cllr Sheppard will investigate the possibilities.
- Ashley Cartwright asked if May Day will be brought back. Cllr. Smith confirmed that there will be a May Day celebration again on 6th May 2025.
- Clive Johnson expressed concern about the weeds on Ladies Walk and the condition of the tarmac. Cllr. Elkington regularly sprays the weeds and moss and will continue to do so. He has inspected the path and reported that there currently appear to be no trip hazards.
- Clive Johnson asked about who owns, and is responsible for maintaining, the extension graveyard. Since the meeting, Cllr. Sheppard has investigated and established that the land belongs to the Diocese of Peterborough.
- The PCC is concerned about the quality of mowing and clearing of grass cuttings in both churchyards. Cllr. Elkington will arrange with CGM that they will be mowed regularly at 10-14 days intervals. It was agreed that it is not practical to collect and remove grass cuttings, but the visual impact of these will be less if mowing is more frequent.
- Cllr. Brough announced his intention to resign from the Parish Council after the November meeting because of work commitments. Cllr. Elkington thanked him for his service to the council and announced that the council would welcome applications from potential new councillors.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 25th November, at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Weedon Lois.

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



Message from St Loys CEVA Primary Academy

The pupils in Key Stage two during 2023 and 2024 took part in a national writing competition and we are thrilled to announce that several of our children have now become published authors.

Our young people were asked to write poetry, in a style of their choice on a theme of 'dreams.'

The following pieces were all selected nationally as winners and their fabulous writing has now been published in a wonderful poetry anthology available to purchase. All of the winning poets live in Lois Weedon and the surrounding villages so we wanted to share their talents with the wider community, we hope you enjoy their work as much as we do!

Best Wishes, *Kathryn Crawford, Head Teacher*

Candy Land

I woke up one morning,
And looked out of my window.
A day like no other.
There were candyfloss clouds
And candyfloss trees,
A peppermint bush
And a stack of fruit-flavoured Mentos,
My favourite kind.
Also, a blue rolling stream.
I woke up in my bed,
Then I heard my mum shouting,
"Time for school!"
I wish I hadn't woken up.

Grace Bougourd (7)
St Loys Primary Academy, Weedon Lois

Lost In Tesco

Once upon a dream,
As I shut my eyes awaiting morning,
I realised that this night
Was not going by so quickly.
As I found myself lying down
On the hard supermarket floor.
I got up and started to walk.
I seem to have lost my parents.
I scanned aisle after aisle,
They were nowhere to be seen.
I began to panic.
As I began to lose hope,
I heard a strange noise,
A creepy noise.
I went closer and closer...
It got louder and louder...
Then it stopped!
And suddenly, it was all over.
I woke up,
And heard my dad shouting,
"Get ready for school!"
It ended.
I was safe, I made it.

Jacob (10)
St Loys Primary Academy, Weedon Lois

Plane World: Forever Lost In WWII

I was on a flight to Fuerteventura,
The sun was shining,
But then it all changed in the blink of an eye.
The storm, the guns and the shouting,
I was scared!
Then there was a bang;
A noise I hated and will never forget.
The left wing was shot,
The flames were like demons haunting me.
So I closed my eyes,
I thought I was going to die...
But the pilot said, "We're out!"
I looked out of the window,
And that sight, I'll remember.
There was no damage,
It was like nothing had happened.

Douglas Spence (10)
St Loys Primary Academy, Weedon Lois

Drowning

D own into the water, I go
R esisting against the currents of the Atlantic
O n me are ropes that bind me
W ill I survive?
N ow, my breath is running out
I realise that these are my last few moments
N ext, I pray that the ropes will break apart
G one is my nightmare, replaced by my phone ringing...

Barbara Anaszewicz (10)
St Loys Primary Academy, Weedon Lois

Candyland

C andyland is so sunny
A nd there are candy canes for trees!
N ow, I see a chocolate river, yummy!
D ogs over there; oh look, they're made of bananas
Y ellow clouds made of soft cotton candy that smells like cheese!
L aughing everywhere I go
A nything you wish for comes true!
N othing is more fun than Candyland
D o please come to Candyland in your dreams, it's so fun!

Lilly Birkenhead (10)
St Loys Primary Academy, Weedon Lois

Game World

One morning, I woke up and went outside. I closed my eyes and dreamt about a big game of tennis. It was me against an astronaut. We battled it out and I hit the ball again and again. He was good but he was no competition for me! It was a challenge and we could win a big trophy. It was really hard, but in the end, I won, of course. Then I had a game against a pirate. But this time, it was badminton. It was tricky, but I won! Suddenly, I got woken up by lots of birds, so I ran inside the house. It was dinner time!

Lara Trevatt (8)
St Loys Primary Academy, Weedon Lois