



Lois Weedon and Weston Newsletter



November/December 2016 – Winter Edition

From the Editor

In a few weeks we will be starting to get ready for Christmas. There will be several events leading up to the festive season including carol singing, Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch, Village Hall Christmas Market including a special Christmas Hamper Raffle and of course the local Christmas Card delivery service.

This will be the last edition of the Village Newsletter for 2016 and it's been a very busy year.

The Newsletter is published 6 times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November) and is funded by the May Day Committee, the Parish Council and by private donation and as editor, I am very grateful for that support. 165 printed copies are delivered by hand and a further 50 (approximately) by email... and that community is growing. Each edition is between 8 and 10 pages and often more, resulting in over 2000 copied sheets each time. To do this I rely on an "office-class" copier, which was originally purchased with a grant from the Parish Council. It is available to make copies for any organisation or individual in the Village for a small charge to cover the cost of materials.

I'd like to officially welcome the following people to the village: Chris & Lorna Brough with their sons Freddie and Henry who have moved into Pear Tree Cottage Weston; Charles and Sarah Jarman and their family – Charlie, Ella, Gretel and Harry who have recently moved into Armada House and finally, welcome to Tiffany and Jack, new residents in Kettle End. If I've missed anyone, I apologise – I'll get you next time !!!

The next edition of the Lois Weedon & Weston Newsletter will be in January 2017 and all material for that edition should be given to me by Tuesday, 3rd January 2016. For contributions to be published I will take them in any format but I generally appreciate them either as MS Word documents or as emails. Pictures or photos are good but I print in black & white so colour pictures don't always reproduce that well. And keep me posted about new or relocating residents – I always like to welcome them in the Newsletter.

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

(For details of some events such as church services, etc. – see inside the newsletter)

Mon., 28 Nov	Parish Council Meeting, Baptist Chapel, 8:00 pm
Wed., 7 Dec	Art Work Shop At Catanger Llama Farm 10.30am – 3pm – details on page 7
Sat., 10 Dec	Nativity in the Barn (Manor Farm, Lois Weedon Rd, Wappenham) – 3pm
Wed, 14 Dec	Carol Singing, Lois Weedon; Meet at the lay-by near the Church at 6:30pm
Thu., 15 Dec	Carol Singing, Weston; Meet at the Crown Inn at 6:30pm
Fri., 16 Dec	Senior Citizens Christmas Party – Details below
Sat., 17 Dec	Village Hall Christmas Market and Hamper Raffle – Refreshments and craft stalls from 9-12. Details on back page.
Wed., 11Jan	WI New Year Dinner, Village Hall – details to follow
Fri/Sat 3/4 Feb	Drama Group Production "The Factory Children" – Details in next edition

Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch

This has been booked for Friday Dec 16th in the **Village Hall, Lois Weedon**. A letter will go out soon

If new members would like to attend they should contact Ivor Jones (01327 860675).

Men aged 65 or older and women of 60 or older are eligible as members and can be accompanied by their partner, irrespective of their partner's age.

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning

Thanks to everyone who came to my Coffee Morning in September. I was able to send £315 to Macmillan, to be used in Northamptonshire.

Jenni Liversidge

Parish Council News

Edited notes from the Parish Council meeting held on September 26th, 2016 at 8:00 pm in Weston Baptist Chapel. Detailed minutes are published and posted on the Village notice boards and also available from the Clerk to the Council. Councillors in attendance: 5 + the Clerk + 2 apologies.

Items discussed in the meeting included:

New building at Barlye Furlong. Concerns have been raised by local residents about the size of the new building that has been constructed. The Clerk was asked to contact SNC Planning to ask if the building has been checked for compliance with the plans approved in 1994.

Planning and Licensing Matters. Application S/2016/2310/LBC – 4, Helmdon Road, Weston. The Council agreed unanimously that it has no objection to the proposed amendment to the original plan.

St. Loys School Parking and Traffic Problems . A meeting has been arranged on 8th November between the Parish Council and the School Governors, to discuss how the safety of the children can be improved and inconvenience to local residents and businesses reduced. It was agreed that Jay Shah, of Safer Routes to School, should be invited to the meeting.

Finance: Income and expenditure budget was reviewed and acknowledged to be on track. The report from external auditors, BDO, was reviewed and accepted. Specific attention was paid to the New Hones Bonus. Planned expenditure from this fund include a new marque for use by village organisations. It was noted that the Village Hall Management Committee is seeking advice and costings for possible improvements to the kitchen facilities at the Village Hall. When plans and costings are available the Parish Council will consider a donation to cover part of the cost, to be reclaimed from the NHB

Payments were approved for CGM (grass cutting), E.On (street lighting maintenance – lane at end of Milthorpe), Streetmaster (replacement benches) BDO (audit fees), Davis Clarke (maintenance) Tower Mint (Queens 90th commemorative medals) and Clerk's salary, tax & expenses. Advance payments were agreed for fireworks and E.On electricity supply for street lighting in Milthorpe

Defibrillators: Cllr. Ellis reported that an application needs to be made as soon as possible to Northants Community Foundation for funding for two defibrillators. NCF will not accept an application from the Parish Council. This needs to come from another village organisation. Cllr. Ellis and Cllr. Smith will contact the Village Hall Management Committee to agree an application.

Middlethorpe Street Sign Cllr. Sheppard reported that she has received a complaint that the Middlethorpe street sign, because it is attached to the bus shelter, is not visible to anyone approaching from the Lois Weedon direction. The Clerk was asked to ask SNC whether the sign can be re-positioned to be more visible.

Condition of local roads: SNC Highways were contacted following concerns expressed during the July Parish Council meeting. There has now been an improvement in the condition of the road from Wappenham to Lois Weedon. The Clerk was asked to contact SNC again about the flooding caused regularly by problems with a damaged drain on Milthorpe.

The next meeting will be held at 8.00 p.m. on Monday 28th November, 2016 in the Baptist Chapel. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Queen's Birthday Medals:

The Parish Council purchased commemorative medals for each of the school age children in the Parish and our Clerk has been valiantly distributing them. If you've not received your medal yet, please contact Ken Power on wlwparishclerk@outlook.com or 01327 850054

BIRD CORNER - Ashley Cartwright

When I returned late the other night I was surprised to see a bird rise up from along the drive-side and disappear. At first just thinking it was pheasant I suddenly realised that it was much a more interesting sighting. It was a woodcock. For the non ornathologically minded this may be simply of little interest but keep your eyes open when on your next ramble because the woodcock is amongst us.

This late night sighting has just been confirmed because when mooching around the wooded area near the house, the said bird arose from right under my feet, with its' unmistakable long bill and strangely positioned eyes.

They say that if you could shoot a woodcock you were indeed a fine shot as the bird only gets up when virtually trodden on and then rises vertically and with great speed before dropping into undergrowth. That said if any of you shooters sees a woodcock DO NOT attempt to show your prowess as a gun because they are lovely shy birds that give such joy should you be lucky enough to see one. And you might see one now because they are definitely in the Parish.



From the Rectory

As I write this letter, America has elected a new President and the world waits with baited breath to see how that turns out! It seems, as with the British electorate and Brexit, the American people have voted for a change.

Society itself is changing and sadly for us the Church no longer seems to be at the centre of our Community, even if, as here in Lois Weedon and Weston, it is not for want of us trying.

At St Mary and St Peter we try to offer a host of services and social events all of which are you more than welcome to attend. So why not make your Christmas a little bit more special this year and go back to where it all began – to a manger, in a stable.

And that's why in the coming weeks our Church is offering whole host of ways to journey to Christmas and once we arrive -ways of celebrating Christ's birth that are traditional, fun and make it feel like Christmas is truly here.

A list of all our services through this season and well into the New Year will be coming through your door very soon, but just to mention a few dates here:

Our proper "Countdown to Christmas" starts on Sunday November 27th at 6pm with a special Candle lit Service featuring the words and music of the popular Taize tradition, if you haven't experienced the beauty of these French chants, it is definitely worth a visit.

On Saturday December 10th we are holding our popular and not to missed "Nativity in the Barn" at Manor Farm, (on the road from Wappenham to Lois Weedon). Bring the whole family to see the Christmas story told with real animals – Who could forget last year's "I'm sitting down" Alpaca or our wonderfully cute donkeys.

All are welcome, mulled wine and mice pies are on offer to keep away the winter chill.

Our candlelit and sweet filled **Messy Christingle** in aid of the children's society **takes place on Sunday 18th of December at 3:30pm** (*to come along and make your Christingles*) and then 4pm for the Service itself.

Carols by Candlelight on December 19th at 7.30pm is bound to get you in the Christmas mood and we start your actual Christmas off with our traditional on **Christmas Eve at 2pm Join in Nativity by Candlelight for Christmas** .

And if you want to join us **for Communion on Christmas Night** we have services at **9.30pm at St James the Great, Syresham and 11.30pm at St Mary Magdalene, Helmdon**.

But while the Christmas lights are still merely promising to sparkle, the falling leaves remind us that Autumn gives us a chance to look back over the year to take stock of all that has happened and 2016 has been a mixed year for us at St Mary and St Peter.

Our new "Harvest in the Barn" proved to be a wonderful and very popular way to celebrate Harvest in the way villages use to do, with food and drink and a fiddlers tunes and back at the start of the year, our Celebration of Marriage and Valentine's Dinner brought some old friends back to the Village.

But this year has also seen us struggle, we are some £9,000 short of meeting our outgoings and the future of a worshipping community that goes back to the Middle Ages is seriously threatened. Simply put, without your support our Church, like a great many other rural English churches, could face closure.

But it isn't an impossible task to keep us going - we are planning a whole host of events to raise funds. In February our increasingly popular "Bingo Night" with our comedy caller Frank is back on the second Wednesday of the month as well as our **Benefice Car Boot sale on Saturday February 4th**. Do support us and help keep your church open!

You are also most welcome at any of our services and the Church is open all day for quiet prayer.

Because as we head towards Christmas night, at the end of the day we are all waiting, waiting for the same thing – for Christmas. Waiting for the child that is the Light of the World to come and shine forever.

So enjoy the wait and have a very Holy and Happy Christmas full of God's blessings and please remember...

Your Church is for life not just for Christmas!

Reverend Carole

The Rectory, The Green, Lois Weedon, NN12 8PN

01327 860798

carolepeters@aol.com

Services at St Mary and St Peter in November/December/January

Sunday Nov 27 th Advent Sunday	11am Benefice Service for Advent: Syresham 6pm Candle-lit service – Taize for Advent
Sunday Dec 4 th Second Sunday of Advent	9:30am Holy Communion
Saturday Dec 10 th	3pm Nativity in the Barn (Manor Farm, Lois Weedon Rd, Wappenham)
Sunday Dec 11 th Third Sunday of Advent	9:30am: Village Praise & Prayer – Favourite Carols
Sunday Dec 18 th Fourth Sunday of Advent	9:30am Mattins 3:30pm Christingle
Monday Dec 19 th	7pm Carols by Candlelight
Saturday Dec 24 th Christmas Eve	2pm Join in Nativity by Candlelight for Christmas 9:30pm Communion for Christmas Night , Syresham 11:30pm Midnight Mass, Helmdon
Sunday Dec 25 th Christmas Day	9.30am: Communion for Christmas Morning
Sunday January 1 st 2nd Sunday of Christmas	11am Benefice Communion for New Year's Day, <i>Syresham</i>
Sunday January 8 th Epiphany	11am Benefice Communion for Epiphany, <i>Wappenham</i>
Sunday January 15 th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am Mattins 3:30pm Messy Church Party
Sunday January 15 th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am Parish Communion,
Sunday January 15 th 4th Candlemas	11am Benefice Candlemas Service,

SING CAROLS AROUND LOIS & WESTON

There will be **two** consecutive nights' carol singing in Lois Weedon and Weston on the **14th and 15th December**. We would love you to join us on one or both nights, you will be most welcome. We will be collecting money for our parish church.

Wednesday 14th December 2016: Carol singing in Lois Weedon

Meet: 6.30pm in the Lay-by below the church (or you may wish to join us on our way round). We will make our way up to Lois Weedon House for a welcome glass to 'wet our whistles!' and then down to Lois Weedon Farm for hot punch. Mince pies etc. will be served at one or both places before we set off into the night singing about the joy of Christmas. Please remember to bring torches, dress warmly and try and wear something bright since we will be walking from time-to-time along the roads.

Thursday 15th December 2016: Carol singing in Weston

Meet: In the Crown at 6.30pm and then set off around Weston singing carols and collecting. Back to the Crown for 8.30 for mince pies and punch courtesy of the Landlord. We shall have some readings as well as those carols/Christmas songs that everyone can join in. It promises to be great fun and will get us ready for the great festival of Christmas. Once again you may of course wish to join us on our way round.

Any queries: please ring Mike Streten on 01327 860202 or Frank Hunter 01327 860597

Village Hall Notes.

ANNUAL MEETING – As a registered charity, the Village Hall Management Trustees must hold an annual general meeting. This was held on the 20th October. Attendance was ‘light’; the finance accounts were reported as solid and positive; no major issues were raised. The change of management committee was noted

Recent Winners of Village Hall ‘100 Club’ Lottery

October 2016		November 2016	
Sarah Webb	85	Maureen Clarke	8
Sue Taylor	41	Pete Parmenter	96
Sarah Pickering	22	Sarah & Mark Williams	40

Christmas Card Delivery Service

As a service to our fellow villagers and in order to raise funds for the Village Hall we are repeating 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.

The “Big Red Post Box” will be at the Christmas Market on Saturday 17th December. Alternatively you could leave your cards for delivery (including any donation) in the white post box at:

8 Vicarage Rise, Lois Weedon by Saturday 17th (at the latest) for delivery on Sunday 18th December

Please could you clearly address the envelopes. Thank you.

Rachel Smith (01327 860626), On behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee

Horse Race Night in aid of the Village Hall, Lois Weedon Church and Children’s Diabetes Ward

This event raised over £1,000 to be shared between the three organisations. The organisers would like to thank everyone who was involved making this a very successful event.

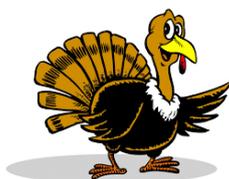
Firstly our race sponsors – Vicky & Craig Poole, Mike & Vicki Streten, Vanessa & Gary Somerton (Fizzy Flowers), Sam and Simon Clarke (Ask Simon), Towcester Ladies Skittles, Skip & Danielle Sheppard, Andrew, Jordan & theDiabetes Nurses

A special thank you to our caterers, Jill Jones, Sarah Webb – Diane & Rachel too !!!

Many thanks also to our auctioneer for the evening, Clyde Burbidge, our Tote Managers Sue and Gavin Bridge, our video operator, Jonathan Staples and our MC, Paul Smith.

And finally a warm thank you to everyone who came and supported the event and joined in all the fun. We hope you had a really enjoyable evening.

Rachel Smith & Diane Hunt



Christmas Turkeys

Have you ordered your Christmas turkey yet? If not try our free range turkeys grown in the village at Home Close, Plumpton Rd, Weston.

Call Jill Jones on: 01295 768221

May Day 2016

As was explained in the last edition of the Newsletter, each year we invite all of our local organisations in need of support to write to the committee to explain how much support they need and what the money will be used for.

The committee met recently to review the various requests for support and, after reserving sufficient funds to run subsequent events, we agreed to make the following donations:

Village Group requesting support	Amount donated	Reason for request/Project
Village Newsletter	£350	Newsletter printing & maintenance costs
Village Hall	£300	Upgrade of kitchen - contribution
Lois Weedon Church (PCC)	£300	Upkeep of churchyard
Senior Citizen's Fund	£400	Senior Citizen Christmas Lunch contribution
Car Scheme	£100	Running funds
St Loys School/Friends of School	£200	Repainting of playground markings
Parish Council	£150	Maintenance of Millennium Playing Field
Fireworks	£400	Donation towards village firework display
Horticultural Society	£300	Support for Annual Show

Comparison of May Day Funds shared over the past 6 years

2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
£2,500	£3,200	£4,400	£4,675	£2,500	£5,800	£4,076

Police Update November 2016

As we quickly approach Christmas and are experiencing darker evenings now would be a good time to review your home security. You can obtain useful advice to support this process via our website using the following direct link:

<http://northants.police.uk/page/home-security>

Improving home security can be expensive; however, many burglaries are committed by opportunistic thieves exploiting the fact that many people still do not secure doors, windows and gates. The above link will help you make some changes that will not cost the earth and protect you and your property.

It is also worth joining or following local Facebook sites set up by the local community to assist in providing you with relevant information about crime in your area and facilities available to help you to help yourself. Existing sites include: 'Brackley Burglary Crime and Prevention' and 'Charlton and Newbottle Crime Prevention group'. If anyone is interested in starting a similar site for their own village then please contact us via the email below for guidelines and advice.

Over the last month there have been a number of reports of persons attempting to pass fake £20 notes in both Brackley and Towcester. Two local men have been identified and remain on Police bail whilst all offences are investigated.

We still receive reports of concerns over rising crime in the area. Please be reassured that Brackley and surrounding villages do not show any trends over and above any other similar size areas. This part of South Northants has many social media networks that actively bring you timely and relevant information about what is happening. This can cause fear but also provides you with detailed information that can help you in preventing yourself becoming a victim. It also has the effect of increasing vigilance in the area and reports to Police of suspicious behaviour have increased significantly. Essentially many of you, whether part of an organised group like Street Watch, Neighbourhood Watch etc. or just as an interested private individual, are looking out for each other and that is great for Community spirit.

We often hear of people undertaking random acts of kindness. In the lead up to Christmas think about how you can apply this to crime prevention? Reminding a person to secure their handbag in a supermarket to prevent purse theft, helping a less able neighbour to keep hedges and gardens tidy to reduce the chances of being targeted by rogue traders, offering your skills free of charge to persons less fortunate to assist installing security features. Just a thought!

Please contact us in confidence via 999 in an emergency, 101 for non-emergency or to arrange to speak directly to a local Brackley officer then via our email address SCT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@northants.police.uk

Brackley Police operate a Twitter accounts @BrackleySctSgt & @Gezshillito105 where we place updates as to our daily activities. This can give you information but are operated by Brackley officers and incidents will take priority. As such the accounts will not be monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We cannot take crime reports via Twitter. If you require more urgent information regarding an incident then please contact us via 101.

Visit our website for more information and updates:

<http://www.northants.police.uk/neighbourhood/south-northants-brackley>

Sergeant Michaela SIMONS, Brackley Police Station

ART WORK SHOP AT CATANGER LLAMA FARM ON WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 10.30AM – 3PM

Professional portrait artist, Louise Brown, is running a one-day workshop, teaching how to get the most out of charcoal. Ideal for complete beginners as well as for people who already love to paint and draw, this workshop will cover the various ways of drawing with charcoal and help to encourage a style that suits the individual.

Louise will give any beginners complete attention and guidance, to get them started with confidence.

Anyone who has a desire to start drawing or to get fired up again, will enjoy this fun and creative day!

The location will be at Catanger Llama farm [on Wednesday 7th December](#) from [10.30am - 3pm](#) and while there is the natural surrounding countryside, plus the beautiful Llamas to sketch and draw, Louise will also provide pictures, ideas, and a still life. There will certainly be no shortage of inspiration to work with.



Wednesday 7th December from 10.30am - 3pm - £40 per person - Bring a packed lunch

To book your place please phone Louise on 07817609617 or email louisesgallery@hotmail.com

Catanger Llamas, Wappenham Road, Weedon Lois, NN12 8FN
www.llamatrekking.co.uk

Parish News

As both Newsletter Editor and a Parish Councillor, I receive a regular stream of information from sources such as South Northants Council, Northamptonshire County Council, 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. Although I try and include some of the most relevant items in the Newsletter, because the Newsletter is only published once every 2 months and has limited space, much of the information is no longer relevant by the time I come to publish so I send it out by email, but not everyone is on my email distribution list.

If you would like to receive this information and you are not already on my “News for the Parish” distribution list or you know of anyone who would like the updates then email me loisweedonpaul@gmail.com and I’ll update the list

Paul Smith

High Speed Community Broadband.

This service is based on a high-speed private fibre-optic connection to a central hub and distributed by WiFi around each of the participating villages in the Tove Valley. The system is installed and maintained by teams of volunteers. Each of the member households are now benefiting from a stable and consistent service of at least 30Mbit/s – that’s about 50 to 60 times faster than the equivalent service from a well known telecom company.

There are currently over 450 users on this system across the valley and in Lois Weedon, Weston & Plumpton we have 120 homes connected (or registered and soon to be connected) – that’s about 75% coverage, by the way.

Anyone interested in joining the system or to find out more about it go to www.tovevalley.com and register.

Paul Smith

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE – Following the success of previous year’s efforts, we are running the Christmas Hamper raffle again this year. The Hamper will be loaded with Christmas goodies and there will be other prizes. Tickets are £1 each (or 6 for £5) from Rachel Smith.

The draw will take place on at 12 midday on **Saturday 17th December** at the close of the Christmas Market.

Village Hall Christmas Market

There will be a Village Hall Fundraiser Christmas Market on **Saturday 17th December** in the hall from 9:00am till 12 midday. Breakfast will be prepared and served by Anne Marshall from 9:00am.

Stall holders include:

David Jarrett	Bee Happy Bug Houses
Anne Marshall	Lemon Drizzle, Fruit Cake, Marmalade, Chutney
Dottie Owen	Jamberry – nail transfers
Napton Buffalo	Meat, Cheese, Ice Cream
Penny Spademan	Handmade cards and gifts for all occasions
Carole Dodds	Carole's Colour Boutique – handbags and scarves
Sally Neville	Farm eggs
Jill Jones & Sarah Webb	Cake stall
Paul Smith	Fruit & Veg. If you would like to order fruit & veg and collect on the day, ring Rachel on 01327 860626. <i>May Day Book Stall will be there too</i>



The Crown Inn

Weston

Pensioners Lunch Every Friday at the Crown Inn, Weston 12 Midday-2pm

01295 760 310

2 Courses £10

Lunch Time Menu

Mains

Pie of the Week with Chips or Mash & Seasonal Veg

Sausage & Mash & Onion Gravy

Burger, Lettice, Tomato, Mayo, Triple Cooked Chips & Coleslaw

Tomato & Basil Spaghetti

Desserts

Sticky Toffee Pudding, Butterscotch Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream

Fruit Crumble & Custard

Selection of Ice Creams

Book your Table or just turn up. We look forward to welcoming our Local Residents

Christmas Lunch Available throughout December

Why not try our Delicious Sunday Roast – 3 Courses £20

Best Wishes

Hannah & Mike