



Mawsley Villagers Association

Newsletter

January 2006

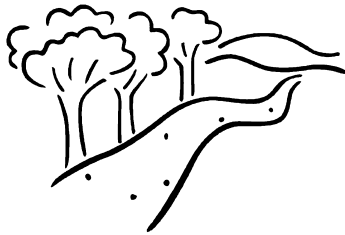
As the editor said, when chasing us for articles for this newsletter, "We really do seem to be poised at the moment on the brink of a completely new phase for the village".

I think that's right; poised to move from ideas, plans, delays beyond our control and endless meetings to actually having the facilities we all want.

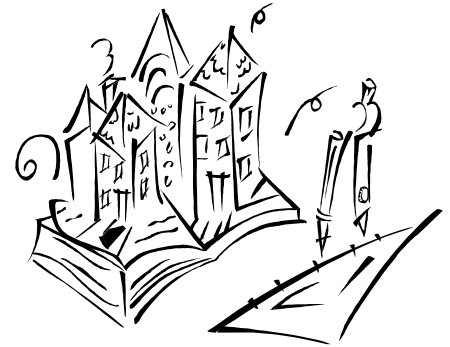
Not that we have got possession of The Centre yet (see Graham's article on page 3), but it will be open soon. And when it does it will be a real turning point; somewhere to meet, to dance, to chat, to sing, to aerobicise yourself (?), for sports, for parties, to paint, towell, to just enjoy yourself.

Plus we have now got the piece of news most waited for: the pub site has been sold !

By that I mean that the deal has been legally completed. Also the planning application to use a small part of the playing field to extend the pub site (to give sufficient car parking) has been agreed by the Borough Council. The Parish Council had agreed to this because otherwise we ran the risk of not getting a pub at all.



And you all thought we had forgotten the issue of looking after the hedgerows, didn't you? We hadn't, and have now



heard from the landscaping officer at the Borough Council that work on the first stage (along Loddington Way, from School Road, up to the first entrance) is scheduled to start in the week beginning 23rd January. The existing hedge will be properly laid and with replanting to follow to fill all the gaps in the new hedges. Similar work will extend across the village over the next couple of years or so.

So we move on; albeit not without cost as the following article sets out.

We are now faced with a new set of challenges; to make it all work and to meet the demands of all of us, but above all to really make this village work as a community; fun; vibrant, sociable and hugely enjoyable.

Can't wait !

Bob Littler
Chair of Parish Council and MVA

One of the issues that has been in the minds of the Parish Council lately has been:

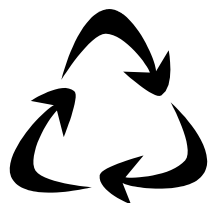
"How do we ensure The Centre at Mawsley stays in good condition over the years?".

It is a fantastic building, it gives Mawsley a range of facilities and it will become a focal point for village community activity, but it will also be an expensive building to run and maintain. A quick trip around some of the larger and indeed smaller halls in neighbouring villages shows what happens if money is not continually spent on maintenance and on replacement of worn-out facilities. It soon starts to spiral out of control: the building deteriorates and people are less inclined to use it, income falls and unattainable amounts of money are required to restore it to the standard everyone will expect. It is estimated that basic running costs for The Centre, before any staff costs, will be around £30,000 p.a., so that has to be found first before any maintenance or replacement costs.

Additionally, commercial buildings do not come with a 10 year NHBC guarantee in the way that your house does. After the first year the repair and replacement of everything is down to the owner or leaseholder.

The MVA has presented a full 5 year business plan to the Parish Council, which clearly highlights the problem of

(Continued on back page)



Recycling in Mawsley

At the Parish Council meeting on 9th January, John Bugby of the Borough Council provided an update on the introduction of the planned recycling initiative in Mawsley.

He advised that the scheme will be introduced at the latest for the collection in the week of the 10th April, however, with a fair wind (and the delivery of enough recycling bins) it could be with us for the week of the 26th February.

Four weeks before the scheme goes live in the village, each household will receive an information pack containing such things as a calendar of collection dates; what items go in which bins; and practical advice on how to reduce your rubbish, for example by cancelling junk mail. Some two weeks before the scheme goes live the recycling bins will be delivered - in addition to your existing black bin you will receive a grey wheelie bin for garden waste, a red bin for paper and a blue bin for plastics, glass and cans. After that - it's up to you to do your bit for the environment!

Whilst John was at the meeting there was a discussion about the possibility of "bring banks" being provided within the village. The problem with provision of such bins is that of location - currently Wimpey will not allow them to be placed on their land and the offered alternative sites do not appear feasible. Until such time as land is transferred to the ownership of the Borough or Parish Council it will prove difficult to make provision for additional recycling facilities within Mawsley.



Mawsley NHW Scheme

With the expansion of the Village there is a need for more Neighbourhood Watch Representatives. If anyone is interested can they please contact me for further details.

Keith Powell, Co-ordinator, 790439

Tree planted area near Loddington Way entrance

It's really nice to see the younger people out and about enjoying this area, but could I make a request to parents to ask them not to remove the tree protectors. When we get a bit nearer the spring, we'll be looking to form a posse to refit them - any volunteers?

Bob Holland
MPC



Meeting dates

Parish Council

Mon 6th February & Mon 6th March at 7.30pm

MVA

Tuesday 31st January & Tuesday 28th February at 8pm (*but please check with Lizzie Souter, 799072, before attending*)

Both meet at the Doctor's Surgery.

100 Club Winners

The results of the last two draws have been as follows:

	December	January
1st £40	84 Roland Bell	86 Freddie & Cindy Rocks
2nd £15	66 Yvonne Winter	65 Jo Darnborough
3rd £10	60 Victoria Bell	64 Mick Cawthorne

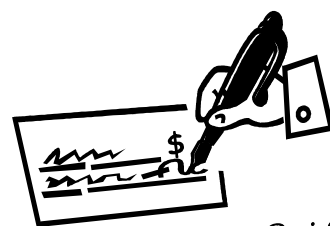
The next draw will take place at the PC meeting on 6th February.

Looking for Funding?

The **Awards for All** scheme aims to help local community/not for profit groups, schools, Parish or Town Councils to develop and engage in activities which help to strengthen local communities. Currently, they offer awards of £500 to £5000, and are encouraging any constituted groups in the East Midlands to consider applying. Application packs can be obtained by calling 0845 600 2040 and more information can be found at www.awardsforall.org.uk



IT COULD BE YOU



If you are a 'not-for-profit' group, School or Council - your name could be

Parish here!

£500 to £5000
100% funding available

Donations

The MVA is grateful for recent donations from villagers Victoria & Roland Bell and Yvonne Winter.

Here's the latest on The Centre at Mawsley

Progress (is it?)

As most of you are probably aware, the fabric of the building is now complete. However, there are significant additional works to be 'discussed' with the Borough Council and Wimpey, before we are content that The Centre is totally complete. For example; there should be additional parking provided down the edge of what will be the sports field; there should be footpath access to the main door. I suppose this represents large scale versions of the problems many of us have faced moving into new properties.

Stamp Duty

Discussions are *still* going on between the Borough Council and the Inland Revenue. Until this is resolved we won't get possession of the building. Regarding Stamp Duty: the latest position, we understand from the Council, is that this duty may not be payable. (Please cross your fingers for this)

Fitting Out

We have made the majority of plans to fit out the centre and are just waiting for the transfer of ownership to take place before we place any firm orders for equipment. We have made a licence application (saving about £1,000 by the DIY route rather than using a solicitor).

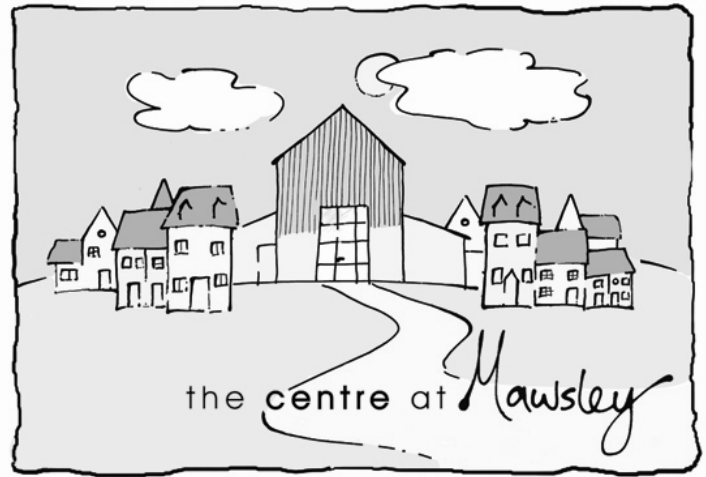
Usage

We have a working draft of a usage policy to ensure The Centre is able to offer the best facilities for the village as a whole. **WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM ALL GROUPS** that we know exist in the village that may wish to use The Centre. Thank you to the groups listed below for registering their interest:

Youth group
Pre-School group
Under 5's group
Scouts
Girl Guides
Mawsley Music Makers
WI
Christians in Mawsley
Tai Kwondo Lessons
Keep Fit (various flavours)

Meeting time for:

The Centre's Management Committee,
The Parish Council
The MVA Committee



It would be useful if you could let us know any preferred day/s and time/s you would like to use the building and what space and facilities you would need so we can plan to accommodate you.

At this stage it is impossible for us to guarantee meeting any group's specific requests. However, everyone is welcome and will get to use The Centre. Once we actually own the building, we will be in a better position to discuss with individual groups their particular requirements.

Open Day & OPENING

We also plan to hold an "open day" so you can all see inside the building. Unfortunately we can't fix a date for this until we know when we will get possession, however it will be as soon as possible, ideally before we start work on fitting out.

The leasing arrangements etc with the Parish Council are still in discussion. However, we still do not know when Wimpey will transfer The Centre to KBC and on to MPC.

It is impossible to be certain of any firm timescales when it comes to resolving issues with Wimpey & KBC. Our best guess is that we will not have The Centre fully operational before April.

The Centre STILL needs YOU !

We have received some response to the appeal for help and I thank those who have expressed interest. However, we still need more.

For paid and volunteer cleaning and caretaking work or to simply help us through the 'setting-up' period contact

Graham Leah (799200) (graham@tuitus.com),
Bob Littler (791447) (boblittler@btconnect.com) or
Chris Winter (790375) (Chriswinter@btinternet.com).



MAWSLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children in Year 3 (7-8 years) have been thinking about the village.

Here are some of their comments:

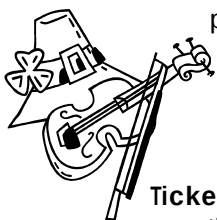
- Mawsley is a lovely place. There is grass, trees and fields.
- You can hear builders and the wind.
- In Mawsley you can go to school, go on your bike, play with your friends and play in the woods.
- There is lots of noise and I can hear workmen.
- You can go on long walks around Mawsley.
- You can go on bike rides with your family around Mawsley.
- In the school there are lots of lovely children and super teachers.
- Mawsley is a big, big village.
- It has a magnificent park with a roundabout, swings and a slide.
- There is a pond where ducks swim in the summer.
- You will make lots of friends in Mawsley.
- I think you should come to Mawsley and live here because it is a lovely place!

Elaine Wright, Head Teacher

The Big Fiddle Band

will perform at
St Andrews Church, Great Cransley
on Friday 24th February at 7pm

The band is a Milton Keynes based community project with between 18 and 25 fiddle players of varying ages and ability. They will play traditional music from a wide range of countries.



Tickets £8, including buffet and raffle ticket, available from John Stevenson, 791307.

All proceeds go towards Rotary Club Charities

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF MAWSLEY SCHOOL

Although we reached our goal to raise funds to purchase a basic shaded structure at the Christmas Fayre we are still fundraising to enable us to purchase seating, plants and shrubs for the new shaded area. It gives us great pleasure to invite you to our Spring/Summer events as follows:

Easter 'Eggstravaganza'

Wednesday 29 March 2006 3.00 – 4.30 pm

Easter Egg Tombola, Raffle, Cake stall, Win an Easter Cake, 'Guess how many Easter eggs in the jar', 'Guess the name of the Easter Bunny', other games and refreshments. Come and indulge in a Chocolate Festival!!

Ladies Night

Thursday 4 May 2006 7.00 pm – late

Back by popular demand! Relax and pamper yourself and enjoy a glass of wine and refreshments amongst friends. There will be beauty, fashion, lifestyle and homestyle products on offer. If you have a company which you think would be appropriate at this event please contact Kathryn Berrill, Chairperson, on 01536 799318. There is no charge to have a stall at this event – we just ask that you provide a raffle prize.*

Children's Fashion Show

Thursday 25 May 2006 (early evening - times to be confirmed)

A chance to purchase a range of children's clothes from the 'George at ASDA' range. The models will be the school children themselves!

Summer Fete

Saturday 24 June 2006

A family fun and games afternoon. Bouncy Castle, Beat the Goalie, Coconut Shy, Surprise Jars, Tombola, Raffle, Lucky Dip, Cakes, refreshments and lots and lots of Games to test your skills and luck! *(Please note we will not be having any trade stalls at this event).*

All events take place at the School.

***NOW THE SMALL PRINT!**

Taking a stall at FOMS events is entirely at your own risk and the FOMS cannot take responsibility for poor sales should that occur.

OTHER NEWS

We still have some unclaimed prizes from the Christmas Fayre, as follows:

Lucky Programme:	No 33
Guess Sweets in Jar:	Winner – Mr F Valentine
Film Quiz:	Peter Darling.

Please contact Kathryn Berrill on 799318 to claim

MVA Under 5s Group

Christmas Party

Thanks to everyone who attended the MVA Under 5s Christmas party at West Lodge Rural Centre it was a great success and all the children had a fabulous time.

MVA Parent & Toddler Group

FANTASTIC NEWS

The MVA Parent and Toddler group will commence on Thursday the 2nd February 2006 at Cransley Village Hall.

The session will last from 9.45am – 11.15am.

There will be refreshments for all plus lots of great activities and a dedicated baby area for play.

Please come and join us; this will be the group that moves to The Centre at Mawsley upon its completion.

The cost will be £1.50 per child per session: additional children will be 50p each. The group will run ALL Year so during the holidays older siblings are welcome.

For more details or directions to Cransley please contact Rebecca 799311 or email

Simmonsmark6@aol.com

Harrington Family Fun Time

We are all welcome at Harrington Village Hall every Wednesday during term time at 10.15am to 11.30am. It's a craft activity based group with refreshments for all. The children enjoy the craft activity and the singing, especially the parachute. Interested? Please come along! For directions to Harrington email Simmonsmark6@aol.com or telephone 799311

Committee Meeting

We currently meet once a month at Harrington village hall for an update on how the Under 5s group is progressing and to plan group activities. Interested, please come along. Contact Rebecca on 799311 for confirmation of the date and venue.

Mini Mawsley Grapevine

If you have any recommendations for the Mini Mawsley Grapevine then please let us know.

Contact Rebecca at Simmonsmark6@aol.com or 799311.

Rebecca Simmons

Secretary MVA Under 5s group

Mawsley Mini



Here are some recommended places to take children whilst the weather is wet and cold.

HULLABALOO

Play and Party Centre in Northampton.

Clean and safe it has a main play frame with 3 slides and masses of activities, a dedicated area for under 3's with a slide, rope bridge and ball pool.

It is a safe controlled environment. There's delicious food and drink available to purchase for all the family and a great pocket money shop for the kids. Available to be booked for parties.

For more details contact 01604 595530

LAZER ZONE

This can be found on the same site as Hullabaloo. A great game for the children. Prices vary depending on the type and number of games required. This is also available for parties.

For more details contact 01604 595535 or go online and check out Hullabaloo and Lazer Zone on www.indooradventure.co.uk

KIDS PLAY

(Kids Kingdom)

Kettering Leisure Village.

Not too far from home and a great place to take the children on a rainy day.

Masses of things for them to do - climbing frames, trampolines, fair ground rides (2) slides, plus a dedicated section for the younger children including ball pool. Food and drinks available to be purchased. Available for parties.

Normal prices: under 1month £3.95 over 1month £5.50 adults entry fee 75p.

But come on a Monday morning from 10.30am to enjoy a special Mawsley discount for 'Mums and Tots' - just £3.50 for parent and child (and 50p for each extra child) to include drinks for all . For more info about the Mums & Tots ring Sue Owens on 791514.

For more details about Kids Play contact 01536 484838 or go online at www.wherekidsplay.co.uk

MEGABOWL

Sixfields Leisure in Northampton.

Bowling: a great game for all the family. This site comes highly recommended especially for the great children's parties.

For more details contact 0871 550 1010 or www.megabowl.co.uk

Mawsley Events Team

We have had a positive start to the year with some new people joining our team. We have lots of exciting ideas and events in the pipeline. So here is a taster of some of the things we have planned for the village over the next few months.

- **Events** - We have lots of exciting events planned for this year. Here are some of the things we hope to bring you -

Harvest Ball - booked for 14th October at Highgate House	Fun Day
Pudding Tasting Night	Adult School Disco
Easter Egg Hunt	Wine Tasting Night
	Trash and Treasure Sale

If you have any other ideas for events, or would like to help then please let us know.

- **Mega Raffle** - We are still looking for prizes for this and unfortunately the response so far has been disappointing. So..., if you think you can help please do. If you have any unwanted Christmas presents you would like to donate, or work for a company who may donate a prize, or have a contact name for someone at a company who may be able to donate a prize then please contact me. I am prepared to ask companies but I will need the name of a person to contact to get any results. This raffle could make a lot of money for the village and until we have enough good quality prizes then it will have to be put on hold.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** - This has been a favourite event over the past few years, enjoyed by both children and adults. We have a well planned resource pack for running the event and we need a new group or individual to volunteer to take it over for us. An enthusiastic group of Mums and Dads could have a great time organising easter bunnies, eggs and bonnets. So if you think you can help and would like some more information please contact me.
- **Recipe Book** - This will be available very soon. If you would like to help sell it please get in touch
- **Yellow Moon Catalogues** - Thank you to everyone who did their Christmas shopping from the catalogues we delivered. We have just received a cheque for the MVA for £75.05.

Next Meeting - Our next meeting is on Tuesday 21st February, 8pm at 7 Cransley Rise. Everyone is welcome.

Cheryl Buckle ~ 799107 ~ buckle@tesco.net

Delivery team wanted

Can you give an hour or two at a weekend at the end of each month to deliver magazines in your part of the village?

From the end of March Mawsley is being included in the circulation area of an advertising magazine called Village Connect. We can earn regular money for MVA funds if we deliver it ourselves.

To begin with we will need about 9 or 10 people to deliver to 60 houses each. Steve Buckle has already volunteered to organise the distribution in Mawsley.

This is clean, regular and easy work that will get you out of the house, that anyone in your family could do and which will contribute to MVA funds. Please help.

Please contact Pat Rowley on 791881 or pat.rowley@tiscali.co.uk, or Steve Buckle on 799107.

FASHION AUCTION

Have you an old ball gown or evening dress to donate for a Fashion Show Auction? If you would like to help with our stock, please could you drop your dresses off to either of the addresses below.

Lottie
Valentine Cottage
60 Hawthorn Ave
Mawsley
799375

Or

Karen Redgrave
Poppy Cottage
10 Main Street
Mawsley
790085



MAWLSEY TRASH 'N' TREASURE SUNDAY 21st MAY 2006 2 - 4.30PM

- DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS IN YOUR GARAGE OR LOFT?
- CAN YOU BE BOTHERED TO SELL 'STUFF' AT CAR BOOTS?
- DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE EBAY?

IF YOU CAN ANSWER 'NO' TO ANY ONE OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, THEN **MAWLSEY TRASH 'N' TREASURE** IS FOR YOU!

PUT THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR ... NOW!

Is skateboarding causing a problem for you? Either as a boarder or as a resident?

Well, help me do something about it.

I am looking for a number of people who can give us a little time to solve a problem and provide boarders with a proper facility to carry out this activity.

- If you like skateboarding and are moaning about nowhere to do it - then this means you!
- If you're a parent of a boarder who you think should have this facility - then we need you!
- If you are a resident who wishes they would do it somewhere else - then you could help!

Without your help there will be no facility of a skateboard ramp within the village. With you this will easily be achieved. So please get out of that armchair and do something.

We are also wanting to provide a **large tarmac area** in a secluded spot behind The Centre with kickwall/tennis/basketball/netball. This will be a widely used area. I can remember seeing my boys take their first bike rides and learn to skate on such an area. These areas are also great for remote control cars, baby buggies, all ball games and especially as a non muddy play area on a wet day. Again this won't happen without you and we need funds raising in order to do this. **I need 6 people to make a couple of phone calls/emails each to research possible grant funding and then fill in an application form.** If that is too much to ask, then you have no right to complain about any youth problem in the village.

With the imminent opening of the village centre we are looking to transfer our Wednesday activity evening and Thursday computer club asap from the Knibb Centre (which will close in March) to the village. By opening time we are looking at purchasing 2 table tennis tables and a badminton kit and we also need 4 more laptops for our Thursday club. In order to provide activities we will need a rota of volunteers, so if you can help with this please call me.

Now, at last, we are looking at a provision for youth within the confines of the village and if you have anything to offer whether it be time, experience or just advice and pointing us in the right direction, please call me.

Simon Wren continues his excellent football coaching on a Saturday from 10am and we thank the school for the help they give us with this.

Aidan Piper, 790419

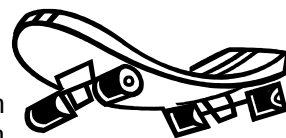
1st Mawsley Girl Guides

I am very pleased to report that the Girl Guide unit is now up and running and we have just had our second meeting. We have welcomed 11 guides into the unit, with more on our waiting list ready to join when they are 10 years old. Our temporary home is Loddington Primary School and we meet on Thursdays from 6.45pm to 8pm.

If any girls aged 10 to 14 want to join the unit, please contact Anne on 791163. Also it would be good to hear from anyone wishing to become an Assistant Guider or Unit Helper.



In June 2003 there was a letter in the Mawsley Newsletter from 10 youngsters with their long term 'wish list' for the facilities they would like on the playing fields. At the top of the list was a Skate Board Ramp, specifically a 'half pipe'. Much more recently a new set of youngsters have been organising a petition in the village - what for? A 'half pipe' skateboard ramp!



Scouts

Broughton and the surrounding five villages have a successful and vibrant Scout group, which is comprised of a newly formed Beavers group, Cubs, and Scouts. In total about 60 children of both sexes benefit from the experience of Scouts. Beavers meet on a Wednesday, with Cubs and Scouts on a Tuesday during term time, all at Broughton Village Hall.

Beaver Scouts the first and youngest Section in the Scouting family, is for young people usually aged between six and eight years old. They operate with the following ethos:

I promise to do my best:

To be kind and helpful:

And to love God.

They can move to the next Section, **Cub Scouts**, between eight and eight years six months. There are loads of fun things that children can do as a Cub Scout like swimming, music, exploring, computing, and collecting. When the activities are completed, the children get a badge, which is worn on their uniform.

Cub Scouts also get to go on trips and days out, to places like the zoo, theme parks or a farm or go camping with the rest of the Pack. This will mean sleeping in a tent and doing loads of outdoor activities!

The **Scout Section**, the third and final Section in the Scout Group, is for young people, usually aged between 10½ and 14 years. Scouts are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities. "Participation" rather than meeting set standards is the key approach and for the Scout who wants to be recognised for his or her achievements there are a number of Challenges, Awards and Activity

(Continued on page 11)

2ND BROUGHTON BEAVER GROUP HAVE VACANCIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED BETWEEN 6 AND 8 YEARS OLD THE GROUP MEET ON WEDNESDAYS AT BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL 01536 791063**

A Very Happy New Year to everyone.

New Building

Firstly, news on the new surgery - the build is progressing very well and the latest on the completion date is that it is **on target to complete at the end of March which means we will be able to move in towards the end of April** once the internal fit out has been completed. Both the dentistry and pharmacy internal fit out will take a bit longer than the main surgery but again on target for occupancy in April.

The building will be named Mawsley Medical which is representative of the activities in the building i.e. doctors, dispensary and dentist but both the dentist and doctor will continue to 'trade' under their current names i.e. Mawsley Surgery and Mawsley Dental Clinic.

I have been asked by several patients whether the pharmacy will be stocking more general products. We will continue to run as a dispensary for now so we won't be able to immediately sell 'over the counter medicines' and toiletries until such time as we exercise our pharmacy licence.

We plan to run a couple of open days over two Saturdays when patients will be given an opportunity to have a look around the entire building. More news on that to follow....

Recent Patient Survey

As part of the new GP contract the Department of Health expect GPs to undertake a patient survey each year and the results are measured against national bench figures. This year the practice has scored very well in the defined categories of access, receptionists, continuity of care, communication, enablement and overall satisfaction.. The results were shared at the recent Parish Council Meeting.

Richard Pullar continues to run his private chiropody clinics here each Wednesday afternoon, please telephone the surgery for further information.

Angene Kane
Practice Manager

MAWSLEY VILLAGE SURGERY

Nethertown way

Mawsley

NN14 1SP

Telephone: 01536 791300

Mawsley Village Surgery has been opened for 2 ½ years and is able to take on new patients. Dr Keith Oliver who trained at St Bart's London is the principal GP. Additionally, Dr Orpelli a female GP runs 4 sessions on Mondays and Tuesday. The trainee Nurse practitioner- Helen is able to see patients and prescribe medicines. Our practice nurse and health care assistant also run various clinics and phlebotomy sessions.

We also have a health visitor and midwife at the practice.

There is an onsite dispensary and we are able to deliver medicines to your home for anyone aged over 65.

These are some of the services we offer:

Minor surgery clinics
Antenatal and post - natal care
Contraception advice
Medicals
Health visitors
Specialist clinics for:
Asthma/ Diabetes/Heart Disease
Weight management advice
Smoking cessation advice
Wound care clinics
Dispensing of medicines

If you would like to become a patient with this practice, please telephone 01536 791300 for more information and a new patient pack.

Vacancy

We are currently looking to recruit a cleaner / housekeeper for the surgery, if you are interested then please contact Angene Kane on 01536 799224



The new Mawsley Medical, with the Pharmacy on the far right.



THE COFFEE CLUB

A Club for Seniors from the Village. We meet regularly for coffee mornings and join in planned activities.

A very successful Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by seventeen members in December, this then was continued into the afternoon with 'after dinner drinks' at the home of one of the members. A fitting end to a very successful year.

Our first coffee morning of the new year was held with demonstrations of card making equipment and discussions about what we would like to do in 2006.

The new programme is being put together at the moment which will include trips to farmers markets, garden centres, a shopping trip to the new IKEA, summer picnics and maybe a weekend away, also pub lunches and hopefully a trip to a German Christmas Market.

Enquiries please to Pat Ellis on 01536 790991.

Mawsley Open Gardens 2006

Will take place during the weekend of 10th/11th June. Please keep the dates free and think about opening your garden this year. Details to follow.

Enquiries to Pat Rowley. 791881.
pat.rowley@tiscali.co.uk



Mawsley Women's Institute

This is a thriving group that meets once a month, usually on a Tuesday.

At our February meeting (check noticeboards or telephone for date) our speaker will be Johnnie Amos, runner up in BBC's Gardener of the Year 2004 competition. He will talk about garden design and answer questions.

On March 14th our speaker will be Mark Churcher, a designer goldsmith who will speak about designer jewellery.

Contact Lynn on 791691 or Brenda on 799116.



It was 'all eyes down' to negotiate the muddy field on New Year's Day. More than 20 residents walked from Mawsley to Cransley and were joined at the pub there by quite a few more who took the easy way out and went by car instead!

Allotments

After a very positive and informative meeting with landowner and Parish Councillor Richard Barnwell we are poised to initiate the formation of a **Mawsley Allotment Association**. Such an association is likely to be our most effective way forward. Within the next few weeks, and as soon as we have a bright idea about a suitable venue, notices should appear around Mawsley to publicize the details.

Everyone who has contacted us previously will receive the information personally. Anyone else who wants to be kept informed in this way is welcome to contact either:

Tony (791162, tony.horne@virgin.net) or
Teresa (teresagable@hotmail.com)

Please feel free to forward any other comments and suggestions there are also.

Gardening Club will resume on Wednesday 29th March, in the evening. Venue and topic will be announced in the next Mawsley Newsletter.

Mawsley Walking Group

Hi Fellow Walkers.

This year's programme is out!

14 walks to keep us healthy, to enjoy the local countryside and good company.



There are copies on the village noticeboard and in the surgery. If you would like your own copy please give me a call.

This year we have a varied programme from local strolls to a full circular of Grafham Water. All the walks are in print locally although I am considering a personalised version for Mawsley as a natural progression for interested parties.

Walks coming up soon are:

Sat. 11th Feb Circular walk of Cransley Reservoir to include Thorpe Malsor. 4 miles

Sun 12th March Across country - Mawsley/Faxton/Old/home to include pub stop at The White Horse, Old. Approx. 5 miles

There will also be evening walks when the light becomes available or when we fancy an extra stroll.

Meet at the usual place - the lay-by in Broughton Road by the first entrance to the village but please note the change of time to 10.30am (to accommodate some of our late risers!)

If you have any ideas or favourite walks to add please contact us. In the meantime happy hiking.

Steve & Pam Draycott 791681 slduk@f2s.com



Dear Editor

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the MVA Newsletter which I enjoy reading regularly.

Readers may have seen me being interviewed earlier this month for TV news on the topic of NHS dentists. This was the subject of the fourth Adjournment Debate I have managed to secure in my name for the benefit of Kettering constituents since becoming your MP. I know that in Mawsley you are fortunate in having an NHS dentist with capacity for you all, but this is quite a rarity these days and I used the debate to ensure that the Department of Health is left in no doubt that urgent steps have to be taken in our area to increase NHS dental provision. The other subjects I have addressed in this way are family matters, building development in Northamptonshire and local policing.

I shall continue to enter the weekly ballot for Adjournment Debates because they are an effective way of ensuring that the relevant government minister and department is made aware of, and has to respond to, the strength of feeling on any particular local issue.

If any resident in Mawsley feels that I may be able to help with a particular issue, please do let me know by contacting me by any of the methods listed below.

Thank you.

Philip Hollobone MP

Address: The House of Commons, LONDON, SW1 0AA

Email: hollobonep@parliament.uk **Tel:** 0207 219 8373 / 07979 850126

The editor invites your letters on any topics that would be of interest to other villagers. Please keep them short and provide your name and contact details.

The next newsletter will be out on 10th March and items to be included should be submitted by 3rd March at the very latest.

As well as keeping you informed of developments in the village the newsletter can be used for debate, the exchange of views and for entertainment. If you have anything to share with the rest of us please put pen to paper or pick up the phone or email.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Rowley, 791881
pat.rowley@tiscali.co.uk

Dear Editor

The "tongue in cheek" mention of Upper and Lower Mawsley in the December Newsletter started a train of thought – that somehow got side tracked during the seasonal festivities – but has now emerged.

If Midsomer can do it why not Mawsley? No not the murders! rather the multitude of picturesque villages all managing to retain Midsomer in their titles.

So here in the spirit of pantomime (or should that be soaps?) are possible places to provide scope for any plot; does anyone know a TV producer looking for a new series?

Mawsley cum Old
Mawsley by Cransley
Middleton Mawsley

middle class, old money. Site of the Grange
full of character, rows of old miner's cottages, huge green and best cricket team.
created with stage coaching, now has the country house hotel, the railway station
and weekly market.

Mawsley Old Poor's
Mawsley Marsh
Mawsley on Nene
Greater Mawsley
Mawsley Minor
Mawsley Grange

wooded estate with clutch of 1920's desirable residences.
watercress and duck farms an old derelict water mill but not much else.
marina, rowing club, two good pubs, next big development?
the whole area, returns an MP and includes hospital.
½ dozen farm cottages and a derelict hall
the Squires pad, grand and elegant dominates Mawsley cum Old, but they wouldn't
have it any other way.

Mawsley Mede
Mawsley Underwood
Mawsley Overstone
Maid's Mawsley
Mawsley le Fen

orchards as far as the eye can see
modern 1950's estate originally built around opencast mining industry (long gone)
a true farm community, two farms, eight farm cottages and a beautiful church.
quaint 18th Century hamlet with views over Mawsley Vale
hard by Mawsley Marsh and noted for heavy mists and footpaths that lead nowhere.

Any resemblance to anyone or anywhere is purely accidental and not intentional.

Which Mawsley would you like to live in? What's that you say – it's only make believe on the telly! Midsomer doesn't exist!! Well really – then it's back to the Sudoku for me.

John Stevenson 31 Dec 2005

Mawsley Birds

It's great to see so many bird feeding stations around Mawsley. Thanks to the people who live near the children's play area, those in Hawthorn Avenue and on Cowslip Hill, lots of birds are returning to the village.

In our garden I have seven feeding stations and four watering places. Yes okay, this is completely over the top and you don't need to go this far but by putting out some food and most importantly, some water, you will see birds in your garden and especially at this time of year you will help them to survive and prepare for nesting and rearing.

Over three years ago the only birds we saw were those flying over. Now we have gold finches feeding two metres from the kitchen window. They are as small as blue tits and very colourful. They have red faces, a gold stripe across their wings and white spots on the tips of their wings. In the wild they eat thistle



Goldfinch

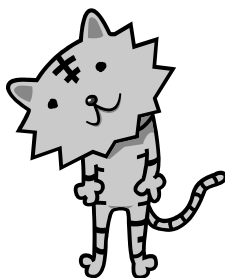
seeds. You can buy these as Niger seed which needs to be dispensed from a special bird feeder which has tiny slits in its side. They also love sunflower seed hearts. We have fifty or sixty green and other finches who call daily as well as blue tits, great tits, black caps, dunnocks, starlings, blackbirds, a robin, two wrens and lots of collar doves. Perhaps our most spectacular visitor is the great spotted woodpecker.

You'll get hours of enjoyment just watching the birds which will come into your garden so join the bird feeders! Start with a few peanuts in a feeder or mesh bag, save the fat from your kitchen, let it solidify in an old margarine/butter container, add a few seed while it sets and then see the birds enjoy it. And please don't forget the water.

Pat Downing

Lost kitten

If you saw the 'kitten found' notice on the village website or had a 'cat lost' note put through your door you will be pleased to hear that Kizzie has now been reunited with the Durrant family.



Sue and Andrew Woods who have been feeding Kizzie and giving her shelter while she was lost thought she was a disorientated young kitten. In fact she is an old lady - 18 years old! Gemma Durrant says she has developed a real wander-lust in her old age.

CHRISTIANS IN MAWSLEY

The group can be described as an ecumenical group which means it is made up of villagers from a number of different denominations such as Anglican, Baptist, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic and Salvation Army, who come together for fellowship, Christian worship and study.

The group is growing and evolving into a united worshipping community within the village. In other words, the church. But not of one particular denomination. As such it wants to be able to supply the spiritual needs of the village and is always open to hear what you would like it to provide.

In the past few days, the whole church has been holding a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and in many ways, the group is a result of such prayers, churches working together for the development of the whole, rather than one part.

Currently it meets in small groups in people's homes and also comes together for regular worship. These services take different styles from the informal to a more structured form and are open to anyone, believer or enquirer alike.

You can get more details from Gerald on 791496 or Brian on 791373

(Continued from page 7)

Badges. Scouts take part in a programme that helps them to find out about the world in which they live, encourages them to know their own abilities and the importance of keeping fit and helps develop their creative talents. It also provides opportunities to explore their own values and personal attitudes. Being outdoors is important and half the Programme is given over to both the traditional Scouting skills, such as camping, survival and cooking as well as a wide range of adventurous activities, from abseiling to yachting.

There are a huge range of events for both scouts and parents, including camps, firework displays, BBQ's, night walks, ten-pin bowling, as well as all the classic 'stuff' of scouts. We have access to the John Lowther Centre, as well as other specialised campsites, which provide a safe but challenging environment.

The group has six uniformed leaders, and a support group of about a dozen parents or past leaders. A training programme is provided for leaders, and the National Scout Group Association supports the group. The group is lead by Richard Clarke (01536 625827), and supported by an executive lead by Simon Mead as Chairman (01604 780064). **The group is open to more children, and indeed, we are very keen to have more helpers or leaders. To get more local information or to help with running the group, please contact either Richard or Simon.**

For more information of a general nature concerning Scouting, please go to www.scoutbase.org.uk

Aidan Piper

(Continued from page 1)

generating sufficient surplus to ensure that maintenance and replacement costs can be met. The plan explores various ways this issue could be addressed:

1. Set usage charges as high as possible: very reluctant to do this, as it will obviously discourage use of the building, contrary to the basic objective of it being used as much as possible. (And it would lead to reduced bar / lounge receipts, compounding the problem). However higher fees will apply to hirers from outside the village.
2. Hire the rooms out to external organisations as often as possible: also very reluctant to do this, even though it would be a good source of income. (Some larger centres hold weddings up to 25 times a year). The Centre is primarily for villagers and therefore hire by external groups will be restricted, however income from external groups' events may be vital.
3. Keep running costs to an absolute minimum by staffing The Centre only by volunteers: totally impractical. Are you prepared to open up at 8:00 a.m., and then clean up from the night before if the cleaner doesn't turn up? Then close it at night? Will you manage the bar, including stock control? Will you take bookings for room hire? Will you monitor users to ensure usage conditions are being met?

Even if all of these routes were to be adopted they would not generate sufficient funds; and indeed getting such funds to an adequate amount would take a long time. Any problems arising in the next few years would therefore be difficult to resolve. So what can be done?

The Parish Council will soon own The Centre and therefore has the responsibility for ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of the village and is not allowed to fall into disrepair.

The Parish Council has therefore decided to set up a fund to accrue over time to cover, principally, maintenance of the exterior of the building and replacement of fixed assets (e.g. the heating system). We say principally because it can also be used to help improve village facilities generally. The only way the Parish Council can raise that money is to set a precept – in other words add a **small** amount to your Council Tax. The Parish Council stresses the word **small**, on an average property (i.e. band D) in Mawsley this precept will amount to less than 50 pence per week.

The Parish Council do not suppose this will be universally popular, however, it has to be said that from talking to many people over the past year or so there has been a recognition that something like this will be essential and an acceptance of the need to pay it.

Note also that unlike the rest of your Council Tax every last penny of that money raised by the precept will be spent in the village, on village facilities. There are no expenses coming out of it, or monies being diverted elsewhere.

"We won't use The Centre and therefore don't want to pay the precept" some will say. The same principle applies to education, to defence, to social security, to public transport subsidies, housing benefit etc. etc. – all funded by taxes that all have to pay but not all directly benefit from. However that is why the Parish Council have kept the precept to what is believed to be a reasonable level; and on the other side of the equation the MVA business plan shows usage charges at a fair rather than minimal level.

The Centre will be the social centre of the village. It is likely to be very intensively used, by all kinds of groups, leading to heavy wear and tear. It is a beacon of excellence, for us all to be proud of. Let's keep it that way.

Mawsley Parish Council

Contact Details

Please contact any of the following to make suggestions, ask questions or discuss current issues

MVA Officers

mva@mawsleyvillage.co.uk

Chair: Bob Littler (791447)

Dep.Chair:Graham Leah (799200)

Treas. Chris Winter (790375)

Sec. Lizzie Souter (799072)

Mawsley Parish Council

pc@mawsleyvillage.co.uk

Cllr. Bob Littler (Chair)

Cllr. Chris Winter (Deputy Chair)

Clerk: Richard Meredith (791539)

Kettering Borough Council

Cllr. Jim Hakewill (01858 467686)

jimhakewill@kettering.gov.uk

Cllr. Michael Harrison (K 712888)

michaelharrison@kettering.gov.uk

Our Community Development
Officer at KBC is Collette Lilley
534358

Newsletter

Pat Rowley, 791881,

pat.rowley@tiscali.co.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Co-ordinator

Keith Powell 790439

MP Philip Hollobone

0207 2198373 or 07979 850126

hollobonep@parliament.uk

Website: www.mawsleyvillage.co.uk