



Mawsley Villagers Association Newsletter

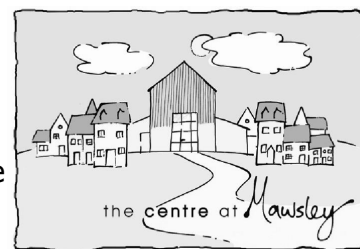
January 2008

Getting involved...

Oh, oh, Samantha's been asking me questions again.

"Just how is The Centre doing? What plans are there to take it forward over the next year or so?"

Well, there is an article on page 5, which outlines the first year's financial results. Whatever your views are on those results and on the way The Centre has developed, one thing is for sure: it is already a big and complex business, certainly for one run by volunteers.



We are blessed with fantastic and committed staff, but there is a mountain of work to do to grow and improve the business, in a way that meets the needs of the village. And, frankly, that mountain is a bit too big for the current volunteers to climb on their own. So, more people need to be directly involved; to take responsibility for various aspects of the business.

So, would you like to help? It's up to you whether you wish to become a Director of The Centre (with all the legal responsibilities that entails) or simply just to help with any particular aspect. The terms of the MVA's Constitution mean we are able to take on two more directors for The Centre.

What kinds of things need progressing? The heating system is very complex; keeping on top of Health & Safety is paramount; promoting The Centre will be a key focus over the next year; creating events for the village that bring business to The Centre; widening the range of services and facilities - the list goes on.

If you would like to help, just give me a call (791447).

And talking of help, **we need as a village to progress the children's play area.** You may recall where we were in the autumn; some outline plans and a bid for additional money. We didn't get the money, so we are almost back to square one. Almost, as the Borough Council have allocated a substantial sum for 2008. The issues are, though; what kinds of play equipment do we want; what other funds can we bring in (play equipment is very expensive; current funds will not go far) and how do we get the best possible value out of the total pot of money we end up with?



And... who's going to lead it?

I believe the best way forward would be to form a project team to push it through. There is a very large number of young children in the village, so by my reckoning that means a large number of parents who own them! If you want the best for them you need to help to get it. **Therefore there will be an informal get-together, to start the process, at The Centre at 3:00 on Sunday 27th January.** Just turn up. If you can't make that and want to help, please call me.

2008: New Year - new challenges!

BOB LITTLER
Chair, Parish Council and MVA

Mawsley Neighbourhood Watch

Happy New Year to you and I hope you all had a great Christmas. There have been a lot of scams going on over the festive period concerning credit cards so I hope everyone has been vigilant and will remain so during the sales. It's so easy to become flustered when rushed, so make it your priority.

There are also currently people going around pertaining to be from Anglian Water and showing a bogus card to gain entry to properties. Of course they are targeting the vulnerable and, although there have been no reported cases in Mawsley, you should be alert and ask for identity or ring the company to check, or of course contact the police if concerned.

As you are all aware Sergeant Tony Hopkins from the Community Team is now answering your queries and concerns by phone, email or via the Forum. This is a great way of getting problems sorted as soon as possible, so thanks to him for doing this.

Don't forget though that NHW is still here and you can contact Heather or myself at any time.

Thank you for your continued support making Mawsley a safe place to live.

BRENDA QUINN

Co-ordinator, NHW

799116 or brendaquinn@btinternet.com



Kettering Rural West Safer Community Team

Dear Mawsley,

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and can I wish you a Happy New Year.

Our new priorities have been set for the next three months. Mawsley is on our list, as anti-social behaviour has been given as a problem. To best tackle this please make sure that you report all incidents to us. We can only fight what we can see, as it were.

Should you have any problems with reporting issues through our control room, 08453 700700, then please email me directly and I will do my very best to look into issues for you. Tony.hopkins@northants.police.uk.

Mawsley still remains to be extremely low on crime and long shall it remain that way. If people are being upset by a minority causing problems then we will do what we can to stop this.

We will try to keep you updated with what we plan to do for the next three months, hopefully you will have more visits to schools and the community centre. We will look to attend Parish Council meetings.

Again any information you have on this or any issue will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

Kind regards

TONY HOPKINS

PS494 Hopkins

Sergeant to the Kettering Rural West Safer Community Team



Council tax precept

For each of the last two years the Parish Council has levied a precept. This is a small additional payment on top of your Council Tax (approx. 50 pence per week for a Band D household), which this year raised £17,000 for the village. And note that, unlike the basic Council Tax, every penny of that £17,000 comes back into the village.

It has been decided to keep the total raised at the same level for 2008/9, so as there are more houses occupied than last year the cost per household will go down slightly. The reason for it remains the same: the village needs to build up a fund to cover any major repairs that may arise for The Centre (remember, the Parish Council owns The Centre, although the MVA runs it). Unlike your house, as The Centre is a commercial building it does not have the benefit of a 10 year NHBC guarantee. So, if any major problems were to arise, funds would have to be found to fix them. As in this year, £15,000 of the £17,000 will be ring-fenced to add to this fund, which is retained by the Parish Council.

The remaining £2,000 will be added to the small surplus we currently have and used to get more facilities for the village.

What does the Parish Council do?

Parish councils have a number of basic responsibilities, including: representing the whole electorate within the parish; delivering services to meet local needs; and striving to improve quality of life in the parish. Although Mawsley Parish Council is not yet responsible for community services such as street lighting, rights of way and recreation grounds, the responsibilities of the parish council will grow as the roads become adopted.

Residents may prefer to contact their parish council about local services provided by county and district councils because of their smaller, less intimidating size and because they may be more in touch with their community's needs.

The Parish Council is also the first point of contact for aspiring local projects. They may be able to help with providing funding to get schemes underway and agreeing for public space to be used for events.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Cllr. Bob Littler (Chair) - 12 Loddington Way, 791447
Cllr. Bob Holland (Vice Chair) - 28 Main St, 790349
Cllr. Richard Barnwell - Cransley Lodge, Gt Cransley, 790271

Cllr. Steve King - 15 Mawsley Chase, 790429
Cllr. John Hazell - 41 Loddington Way, 07748 931966
Cllr. Cliff Moreton - 43 Cransley Rise, 791730
Cllr. Vic Cope - 30 Long Breech, 799643
Elaine Cawthorne (Clerk) - 9 Fox Coverts, 791277

Kettering Borough Council's responsibilities include:

Abandoned vehicles, bins, council tax, dog warden services, environmental health, fire safety checks, grounds maintenance, health and safety, local tax collection, pest control, public transport, Shopmobility, Surestart, young people drop in services.

Your KBC representatives are:

Cllr. Victoria Perry 790711
victoriaperry@kettering.gov.uk

Cllr. Jim Hakewill 01858 467686
jimhakewill@kettering.gov.uk

Community Development Officer:
Tim Bellamy 534355, timbellamy@kettering.gov.uk

Northamptonshire County Council is responsible for:

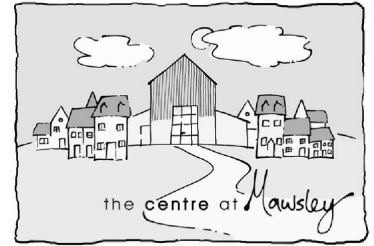
Customer protections, education, fire and rescue, highways, mineral and waste planning, refuse disposal (KBC is responsible for collection, the county council is responsible for disposal), social services, registration of births, deaths & marriages.

Your NCC representative is:

Cllr. Jim Harker 01536 742245
Jharker@northamptonshire.gov.uk

The Centre at Mawsley - 01536 799528

Wow, what a Christmas! Christmas parties, quiz night finale, Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, New Years Eve (and probably a whole lot more), all became good reasons for having a drink / social at The Centre. And why not, it's your Centre! It was great to see so many people taking advantage of this fabulous facility; I hope we will continue to see you throughout 2008.



A huge thank you to Santa (you know who you are!) for his huge efforts on the 23rd December at the Grotto. Also a huge thank you to the Holdenbery family for allowing Twinkle the Christmas pony to visit us on the same date. I know she was a real treat for everyone to see, and many of the children are still talking about her.

During 2008 we hope to hold not only the old favourites but also some new events, which we hope you will take advantage of. Please remember to take advantage of finding out all the news and dates first, please do subscribe to our email newsletter at www.mawsleyvillage.co.uk.

Once again we would like to offer you the opportunity to collect a bonus pint, by buying 6 pints and getting one for free, this time round it is the Old Brewery Bitter. Please collect your collector card from The Centre from 1st Feb 2008.

Ladies, buy three 250ml glasses of house wine, in one go, and get the rest of the bottle for free. This offer is available any time in February.

So, here's to a prosperous New Year.

PENNY FEASEY

TCAM Manager

2008 Events

Ladies Night - Friday 1st February

Quiz night - last Thursday of the month

Farmers Market - restarts in April, 1st Saturday every month

Top Gear and a beer - Sunday nights
- traditional lads night out (why not take advantage of our collector card offer?)

Not to mention...

Race Night - April 26th

Summer Fun Day - Saturday 5th July

BBQ Sizzles - Bank Holiday Mondays
5th May & 25th August - also Friday

1st August

Halloween Disco - TBA

70s night disco - TBA

Regular live band nights - TBA

Barn dance - TBA

Firework night - TBA

Christmas party week of 15th Dec

New Years Eve kids entertainment and live band.

Ladies Night

Friday 1st February 2008, 7.30pm

The Centre at Mawsley

Female friendly goods including Virgin V products, underwear from Purple Pleasure, hand made jewellery and much more. Raffle, bar and live entertainment. Just come along.



If you would like a stall at this event please contact Penny on 799528.

£2.00 entry

Cake sale

Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and biscuits for the cake sale when Santa visited the Centre. We managed to raise £22 for village funds.

Cheryl Buckle

The Centre at Mawsley - update

It has been an amazing year! From a standing start, The Centre at Mawsley (TCAM) has really become a superb, village wide facility. The huge efforts of many villagers and all the staff have finally paid off. To all those who have contributed so much, thank you!

Other good news: TCAM lost £23k over the past 12 months. You may well ask how that's good news. Well, the business plan anticipated a loss of about £50k. As a result of generating substantially more income and minimising costs, losses - which were always seen as inevitable and substantial in the early years - have been kept down to £23k (funded by the Community Fund and grants from the MVA).

Although TCAM is an expensive business to run, we believe that further efforts to both increase usage and reduce costs in 2008 should reduce losses significantly. Everyone in the village has a part to play in this..... by using TCAM even more.

Next steps (of which there are too many to list):

In the medium term, TCAM must continue to develop as a facility in line with the interests of the community.

New developments cost money which comes from a variety of sources, be it grants, donations or fundraising. In each case, there is considerable work involved.

Just a few suggestions have been:

- To extend the kitchen area to permit the regular provision of food at The Centre
- To add a conservatory (as a bar extension or eating area)
- To extend the building to provide a wider range of rooms
- More storage

In each case money, from £10k to £100k, will be needed and there is considerable work involved (recognise the theme?).

What is the highest priority? To get more people involved! The only effective way TCAM can develop to serve the village is if more people get involved in expressing their particular views, joining with others and working together to make them a reality! (just as some villagers did with the pond). *We look forward to hearing from you all.*

SAVE THE DATE!

**ON SATURDAY 5TH
JULY 2008**

Mawsley Villagers Association
will bring you another

**FANTASTIC FUN
DAY!**

If you would like to get involved with the event, maybe you have an idea for a stall or game, or have some contacts that we may find useful, then please join the Fun Day Team in the bar at The Centre on Tuesday 29th January at 8pm.

If you have some ideas or would like to volunteer to help but can't meet with us then, please contact me on 799107 or email Cheryl@thebuckles.co.uk

Let's work together to have another brilliant Fun Day this year.

Cheryl Buckle

December Quiz Night

Thank you to all the fabulous teams who joined in the fun for the Christmas Quiz Night. Great fun was had by all and lots of prizes were given away. Huge congratulations to NHS Finest who scooped the huge cash Roll Over Round Prize. Santa's Here, A Bag of Hairy Fat and the CCs were involved in a tie-break for the bar voucher. There was a tie-break tie, and after a second question A Bag of Hairy Fat won 1st prize. It was a great evening, made even better by raising £144 for village funds.

We would both like to thank everyone who has supported the quiz during 2007 and we look forward to seeing you all at Quiz Night's 1st Birthday on Thursday 31st January.

We would also like to say thank you to the Bedfordshire Pilgrims and The Trading Post who kindly supplied us with raffle prizes in December.

Quiz Nights are on the last Thursday of every month at The Centre starting at 8pm. Entry is just £5 per team, with a maximum of 4 people. The winning team receives a bar voucher and there is a chance to win cash in the Roll Over Round.

Future Dates: 31st January, 28th February, 27th March, 24th April.

STEVE AND CHERYL BUCKLE
Aka The Quiz Master and his Mrs!

Mawsley Village WI



Happy New Year to you all from the members of the WI. We hope you all had a great Christmas and lots of joy with your families.

Our members enjoyed a great Christmas party, an event that we all helped with. Friendship and joining together to hold enjoyable evenings are what it's all about. We started our party by making our own Christmas cracker, which had been demonstrated by Gill Dee, and then enjoyed our meal and a lovely evening.

Our first meeting of the year found us having an hilarious time 'Line Dancing'. Those who didn't make it missed a great night, what good exercise whilst having a good time. It was a brilliant turn-out and we even had a gentleman join us, very brave indeed, he didn't turn a hair at a hall full of women and he thoroughly enjoyed himself. We also had some new people who had not long moved into the Village and it was great to see them, so welcome to you and hope to see you again.

Next month's meeting will be Colour Analysis and Accessorising. It's amazing to see what wearing the right colour can do for you (men included)! There will also be Italian leather handbags for sale - what more encouragement do you need! Look for the posters.

If you would just like to come along and see what the WI is all about call any of the numbers below and we can let you have the info or just our annual programme.

The WI is not just about a few ladies meeting once a month but is a massive organisation that helps promote awareness of issues that affect us all and the Government does listen to us. Last year we held debates all over the country on the price of milk and the plight of the farmers and because of this the supermarkets are now helping local farmers with not just milk but other products as well. The issues are diverse, from milk prices to child trafficking, so by joining you can help with addressing these problems.

So come along and give us a try. It only costs £2.50 and refreshments are available.

Best Wishes

BRENDA QUINN
President

For more info call 799116, 791186 or 799152



WI members have a go at line dancing at their January meeting

Mawsley watercolour painting group

Small, friendly group.
Beginners very welcome.
Thursdays, 10am - 12 noon.

Phone Joan on 791661 for more details.



Village coffee morning

Tuesday 5th February 9.00-11.00

This coffee morning will be held at The Centre on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

Come and socialise, meet new friends and neighbours.

Tea, coffee and cakes available to purchase.

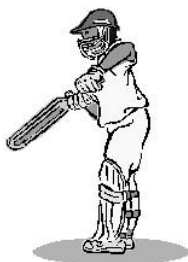
All age groups are welcome.

Loddington and Mawsley Cricket Club News

The newly formed committee held its inaugural meeting at The Centre on December 12th. Chairman Richard Baker ran through the varied agenda and many positive outcomes were achieved with several dates set for a raft of fund raising activities.

Diary dates:

From Tuesday 15th January 2008 - Junior (Under 11) and girls coaching commence at Bishop Stopford School 6-7 pm. Cost £1.50.



From Monday 21st January 2008 - Junior Net/Coaching 7-8pm. Cost £1.50. Youth and Senior session 8-9pm. Cost £2.00. Bishop Stopford School, The Headlands, Kettering.

Saturday 9th February 2008 - Race Night and Auction at The Centre. Tickets available from The Centre or persons mentioned. This event is to raise funds for a motorised roller for the Mawsley wicket.

Early April, Cricket Force comes to Mawsley. Volunteers wanted to assist with pre-season preparation of the facilities. This event is run in conjunction with Northants Cricket Board and NatWest. A visit will be made by some of the current crop of Northants first class staff, a chance to meet some of Monty Panesar's team mates.

Still wanted - we are still on the look out for a Team Captain to lead the Third XI. We know that out there in Mawsley is the ideal candidate itching to grasp the chalice. Please contact Vice Chairman Andy Connolly 07770 435107 for an informal chat.

Volunteers are needed to get involved with all aspects of the club - if you are interested please come and join us.

The club will again be running a 100 club draw which is £5 per month with some large cash prizes. Please contact either Richard Baker 07946 406055 or Sid Reynolds 791012 if you wish to join.

Club Youth Development Officer, Karl Sanders, will be arranging for several of the County Board cricket coaches to attend the sessions at Bishop Stopford with a view to improving players' skills. If you wish to know more about this initiative please contact Karl on 07903 594360.

Mawsley Gardening Club



Hi Gardeners

Well, how's everything looking? A little untidy, maybe, but nothing we can't handle. Don't forget our wildlife wind down feeding towards Spring and watch out for hibernating creatures.

For those of us with allotments, the hard work was done, ground prepared and ready to go. Broad beans, early toms and leeks already on the go plus anything that likes warmth and frost free conditions. I've even tried a home grown mushroom pack - I'll keep you all posted!

November's meeting went well and we planted over 600 bulbs in various locations around the village. Many thanks to Anthea, Martin and Mark for their kind assistance. We should soon be seeing the fruits of our labours!

December's meeting, as you know, was a pre-Christmas bash at our house. Thank you all for coming and for your continued support.

Our first meeting of the year is at The Centre on 28th January at 7pm. All are welcome, do come along - we need your input, knowledge and ideas for the village. As before there will be a small charge of 50p each to cover Centre costs - extra monies will go to funds.

STEVE AND PAM DRAYCOTT

791681 or slduk@f2s.com

Coffee Club visits Bruges

Six intrepid Coffee Clubbers went to the Bruges/Ghent Christmas Markets and more importantly the 'Chocolate Shops'. Although the weather was against us (it teemed down) it didn't dampen the shopping spirit. Drenched through, we sat in a coffee shop and treated ourselves to the special hot chocolate - a cup of steaming milk with a chunk of chocolate on a stick to melt in it, sheer heaven!! The Christmas markets were beautiful; the Continentals really know how to do Christmas.

Sunday saw us shopping again at 'Cite Europe', French bread, cheese and wine, we did it all. Only then did we find out that the ferries had been cancelled on Saturday because of stormy weather and were running two hours late, so there we sat dreading the crossing back, but fortunately it wasn't too bad. The Captain assured us the stabilisers were on, but having 'Duty Free' helped. The time soon went and there were the white cliffs and home. We were tired and very weary but all agreed we had had a great time, a good laugh and lots of chocolate, so thank you Pat for arranging it all and where are we going next? Eurostar to Paris for lunch!!!



Mawsley Walking Group

Hi walkers

Another year, yet another programme... This year we have 14 walks to enjoy, plus a couple of extras. It's always easy for Pam and I to produce a programme of OUR ideas, simply because we love it so much, but most members have contributed their own favourite walks to this programme and will lead or help to lead them.



Our usual New Year's Day hike went well. A couple of dozen villagers turned out for a stroll to Cransley and a social drink. Thank you all very much - we know you enjoyed it by the footprints in the mud!

The next three walks are:

Sat 19th January - a full circle of Grafham Water. 8 - 9 miles, good and easy underfoot, gravel paths all the way. (Steve and Pam)

Sun 17th February - a Rita surprise venue. Distance TBA, only Rita knows, but going on past years should be good! (Rita)

Sat 15th March - Fineshade and Blatherwycke woodland meadows - 9 miles. (Mark)

There will be programmes posted on the notice boards and at The Centre, but if you want one please contact us.

STEVE AND PAM DRAYCOTT

791681 or slduk@f2s.com

Allotment Association



We are hopeful that very soon we shall be able to announce that an allotment site has been established for Mawsley. We are not quite there yet and these details are liable to change, but the Committee of the Allotment Association is keen to keep members informed and believes the current situation to be as follows.

The Parish Council is close to concluding the required legal arrangements that will secure the land at Willows for our use. We are confident that any additional agreements between the Parish Council and ourselves that may be needed can be made with negligible further delay. A major and practical consideration, however, is the need to prepare the site for use including ground clearance, demarcation of boundaries etc. We believe that the Parish Council are aiming to have all this done by April, which should still allow for a reasonable growing season for those who wish to get straight on with things. This will not be a trivial job and we may need to muck in with a few manual tasks such as uprooting dogwoods, pushing wheelbarrows, knocking in fence posts and holding one end of a tape measure. The more help we can provide, the greater the likelihood of things getting finished on time (*Ignis aurum probat*). Details as soon as we have them.

The Allotment Association is likely to have the responsibility of allocating plots. We anticipate that individual plots of approximately 80 meters squared will be available at an overall annual cost (inclusive of rent, water, insurance and membership fees) in the region of £30. Such plots are about one third of the area of a traditional 10-pole allotment. It seems likely that we will be oversubscribed and that we may not have sufficient land to offer every member a plot straight away. Things should become clearer over the next few weeks and hopefully everything will be sorted by the time of the AGM, which we are delaying until March when, with any luck, we will finally have allotments to distribute.

If you have any questions or comments please phone Tony on 791162 where the usual sympathetic hearing will be the least (and perhaps the most) you can expect.

TONY HORNE

Mawsley Primary School



The staff, governors and children of Mawsley Primary School would like to wish all Mawsley residents a very happy new year.

The term before Christmas was a very busy one for everyone involved with the school. Our curriculum has been reorganised to include more opportunities to link work in different subjects based around our History and Geography topics. Children in the Foundation Stage classes have been learning about a variety of celebrations. In Key Stage 1 the children have really enjoyed learning about The Seven Continents. As part of their work they have taken part in a South American carnival and cooked and sampled Asian food. In lower Key Stage 2 the children have learnt about the Tudors and organised and held a Tudor banquet. In upper Key Stage 2 the children have learnt about Ancient Egypt and thought about the lives of people in Afghanistan.

Just before the Christmas break our younger children entertained their parents with a traditional nativity play. Children in Year 1 and 2 performed a more modern interpretation of the Christmas story in the form of "Mend the Manger".

Following our Christmas break, we are now ready to start our new projects and learning.

In line with the growth of Mawsley village our number of pupils on roll has now risen to 223. Our children are now organised into 9 classes (2 Foundation, 3 Key Stage 1, 4 Key Stage 2).

If you would like your child to attend our village school and have pre-school children, please make sure that you have given your child's details to the school office (01536 799182) to be added to our future admissions list.

ELAINE WRIGHT
Headteacher

Up to date village map

Finding it difficult to keep up with the addition of new streets in the village? Pat Rowley has kindly produced an 'unofficial' map of Mawsley for the convenience of residents. See centre page of this month's Advertiser.

1st Mawsley Scout Group

Our Scout Group has been running for nearly a year and we now have sections for Scouts, Cub Scouts and Beaver Scouts. The leaders have been busy planning their programmes for the next term which will include badge work as well as fun outdoors and scouting skills. We are very lucky to have a team of committed leaders and we are still looking to recruit some more!



We have a waiting list for Beaver Scouts and over the next couple of terms are struggling to offer places to children who are 6 years old. As a Group we are looking for ways to alleviate this situation but can only do so if we have volunteers to be part of the uniformed team of leaders in the Beaver Colony. If you have a child on the waiting list and could offer help in this way please contact Shaun or myself. We also need additional Cub Leaders as our present leaders have work commitments and cannot always make the Tuesday evening. If we have more it takes the pressure off the existing leaders. Shaun and I are willing to talk further with anyone who is interested in helping in this way.

We are very grateful to The Maud Elkington Trust and The Community Fund for grants which will enable us to order our camping equipment. I can't wait to go camping again!

MARY FINDLAY

Group Scout Leader, 791228

*Assistant Group Scout Leader -
Shaun Thompstone 791567*



Letters to

Dear Editor

My daughter Holly, aged 7 years, has been so inspired by a lesson at school about the RSPCA and animals we can help, that she has come up with an idea for the village. It's really simple, and a message for all dog walkers! She wants to put a dog bowl out with fresh water each day, at the post box on School Road, where she will put a donation tin. She will take all money raised into school for the class to count and then take to the nearest RSPCA shelter.

Yvette Sanderson

Dear Santa,

Thank you for coming to the Centre and giving me and my sister a present. The story was funny that you read to us about your bottom!

I loved having a ride on Twinkle the Christmas Pony, it was really good fun.

Love from Isabel, aged 3.



'Community spirit?'

Dear Editor

I would like to respond to the front page article of the December 2007 issue of the newsletter.

Bob Littler responds to a question asked by Samantha as to whether Mawsley is a community and Bob defends that by citing a number of events that have taken place in the village that help to prove that we have a village community.

Quite rightly, he goes on to thank 'lots' of people that have helped in making a number of events happen. Further on in the same newsletter we hear that there are 680 occupied homes in Mawsley. Working on a theory that on average there are 2 adults per house, we have 1360 adults in the village. Why then is it, that whenever people are either asked to help set up or dismantle equipment before and after or help run an event or get involved in great work such as pond clearance, etc., it is invariably the same nucleus of people, that number about a dozen, that are willing to give up their free time to help? Where are the other 1348 villagers?!!!

What has been achieved is fantastic, and is worthy of praise, but it could be so much more. My experience is that people tend to either turn up for these events and complain about minutia (such as the gaps between the fireworks being too long!) or don't turn up at all, but are not willing to 'muck in'.

I don't do much, I only help out at a couple of events and I am a newsletter delivery boy, it's not much but is something, and if more people were prepared to do something, perhaps that community spirit Bob refers to could be more widespread throughout the village. But at the moment I would question Bob's defence that Mawsley is a community, and if it is, then suggest that only a very few within it are community minded and that Mawsley is not a community, not even a village (a pub & a church would help) and that actually Mawsley is a collection of houses in a big field and no more.

Gary Eldershaw

From the Editor:

What do you think?

Is being a community all about counting how many people volunteer to help with events? Or is it about sharing a sense of identity and belonging, and looking out for your neighbours?

Are we simply a collection of houses in a big field?

Why do **you** choose to live here?

Please consider sending your views for publication in the next issue to rlthorpe@gmail.com

o Editor



Mawsley residents running for charity

Dear Editor

For the past few years I have had this strange desire to do something that no 30 something carrying slightly too much weight should ever contemplate, running the London marathon. It has always been there in the back of my mind and every now and then I get motivated and start doing a bit of jogging before finding some excuse to stop and give up.

Last year my best mate challenged the both of us to do the Silverstone half marathon in March this year, with the intention of taking part in the full length version in London in 2009. This was the best form of motivation I needed as having a friend to encourage or more likely abuse me if I didn't do a run would keep me going. We find ourselves 2 months away from the main event, following a hard training plan which, during these cold wet nights, is far from appealing. I am amazed at how quickly my fitness has improved, though the weight problem is still a slight issue, mainly because Christmas has a tendency to destroy all good intentions!!!

My original intention was to run purely to see if I could do it, but now as an extra motivator we are raising money for the British Heart Foundation, a charity which is close to both of our hearts (excuse the pun). Good luck if you too are running in any event this year.

If you would like to sponsor me for the Silverstone Half Marathon please visit www.justgiving.com/stevebuckle to make a donation.

Steve Buckle

Dear Editor



On the 13th of April this year I will be taking part in the Flora London Marathon. My aim is to complete it with a smile in less than 5 hours. I ran the marathon in 2005 in 5 hours 10 minutes and would like to break the 5 hour mark. I have been training four times a week

since the start of November and so far training has gone well.

I am hoping to raise £1500 for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation. CLDF provide practical and emotional support to families affected by childhood liver disease as well as funding research and educating medical professionals.

If anyone would like to sponsor me please visit www.justgiving.com/katybriggs to make a donation.

Katy Briggs



Gnomes at large!

In case you thought you may have overdone the Christmas and New Year alcohol intake when you pass by the village pond, don't worry, but take care if you are driving!

The little people are in fact garden gnomes and it is possible that they have reclaimed their territory following the recent work carried out by our village volunteers.

Whilst we accept that they have left their garden homes and have got together to celebrate, we trust they are not responsible for throwing the cones and empty beer cans into the pond. If this is the case we would request that residents check if they have any responsibility for them and their anti-social behaviour.

Tom Sanders

Mawsley Church

Mawsley Church meets in The Centre at 11am on the first and third Sunday every month and in homes in the village every week. All are welcome.

It was great to welcome so many people at our village Christingle just before Christmas. Thanks to those brave souls who came carol-singing just before Christmas and collected over £85 for The Children's Society.

NEW! We're really pleased that our two children's groups start this month: *Little Doves* for 0 - Reception aged children and *Eagles* for primary school Years 1-6. These supervised activities will be held in The Centre during our two monthly services. Everybody's welcome to come along and there is no charge.

It's musical, it's homely, it's interactive and it's free! Our pre-school group *Little Lights* has resumed after the Christmas break and will be held, as usual, every 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoon from 1.30pm at 15 Loddington Way, Mawsley. It seeks to show God's love to children in Mawsley. Next one is Tuesday 15th January. Call Helen on 790140 for more info.

If you've been wondering about what it's like 'going to church' in The Centre, why not come along and find out. Or get in touch if you're interested in one of our small groups which meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Our services over the coming weeks will be held on:

13th January - Sunday Celebration
27th January - Sunday Celebration & Holy Communion
10th February - Sunday Celebration
24th February - Celebration & Holy Communion

All starting at 11am, including children's groups.

www.mawsleychurch.net



Next newsletter issue

The next newsletter will be issued on 7th March. Please consider submitting an article - we would love to hear from you.

Please forward any contributions as soon as possible and by 29th February at the latest to:

Rebecca Thorpe, 799650, rlthorpe@gmail.com

Barnwell Court update

As some of you will be aware, the convenience store has been let to the 'One Stop' chain. In addition to the estate agent and day nursery, two of the three small retail units are now under offer - watch this space. A good level of interest is being received in the third unit. No news on the takeaway unit as yet. The site is expected to be completed by the middle of February.

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
Treasurer: Chris Winter 790375
Sec: Amanda Harris 07979 331684

The Centre @ Mawsley
799528

www.mawsleyvillage.co.uk

Mawsley Parish Council

pc@mawsleyvillage.co.uk
Chair: Cllr. Bob Littler
Deputy Chair: Cllr. Bob Holland
Clerk: Elaine Cawthorne 791277

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Brenda Quinn 799116

Newsletter

Rebecca Thorpe 799650
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Kettering Borough Council

Cllr. Jim Hakewill 01858 467686
jmhakewill@kettering.gov.uk
Cllr. Victoria Perry 790711
victoriaperry@kettering.gov.uk

Our Community Dvpt Officer at KBC is Tim Bellamy 534355
timbellamy@kettering.gov.uk

MP Philip Hollobone
020 7219 8373 or 07979 850126
hollobonep@parliament.uk