



Mawsley Villagers Association Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2009

Mawsley Villagers Association

I'm going to focus on the Mawsley Villagers Association (MVA) this time, so you know what it's about and up to. On page 3 there's an explanation of the organisational aspects, and some of you came along to the open meeting run by the MVA last Sunday (18th).

So what do we do? We organise, contribute to and encourage a whole range of social activities and facilities. Over the last 12 months this has included:

- Worked with the Borough Council to get the new play area paid for and now being built.
- Set up the Youth Club, with professional youth workers; the MVA also did all the work to get a £5,000 grant from the County Council.
- The entire organisation of Fun Day.
- The entire organisation of Fireworks Night.
- Running the Under 5's Group.
- Publishing this Newsletter.
- Publishing the Mawsley Advertiser; the prime source of funds.
- Run Quiz Night every month at The Centre.
- Planted thousands of daffodils.
- Cleared the pond; soon this will have a liner in to complete it.
- Given donations to villager Georgina Ashcroft for her VSO trip; to the UNICEF concert that Shez Syed organised, and to the imminent village pantomime.
- Facilitated the arrangement whereby the village is now part of a well organised and ambitious football club, which makes good use of the pitch.
- Facilitated the arrangement whereby the village is now part of a well organised and ambitious cricket club, which maintains the pitch.

****URGENT****

NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUIRED

Do you have a few hours to spare every six weeks or so?

Do you have PC / desk top publishing skills?

Would you like to become more involved in the community and ensure the continuity of the MVA newsletter?

If so, we need to hear from you!

After just over a year in the role, I am unfortunately moving away from Mawsley and we need someone else to take over as Newsletter Editor. I have thoroughly enjoyed editing the newsletter and found it a great way to get to know people when I first moved to the village. There is no need to attend any meetings and you don't need to write any articles yourself.

The new Editor could simply continue with the existing format or there is great scope to revamp it and make it your own.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Rebecca Thorpe for an informal chat on 07983 439730 or email RLThorpe@gmail.com.

Actually I think that's a pretty impressive list, though with more help there is much more we could do; and this is all done entirely by volunteers. The MVA also controls, indirectly, The Centre (see page 3).

That Sunday meeting also included the MVA's Annual General Meeting. The accounts were approved; all the Directors stood down for re-election and were re-elected; and officers were elected - i.e. myself as Chair; Tony Bagshaw as Vice-Chair; Lizzie Souter as Treasurer.

Mawsley is an enjoyable community; I'm sure we all want to make it even better. Hope you think the MVA helps!

Bob Littler

Chair of MVA and Parish Council
boblittler@btconnect.com

MVA Ltd. Accounts

The MVA has decided to publish their accounts in each newsletter, so you can see where money is coming from and going to.

Here are those for December:

Mawsley Villagers Association Ltd	
Management Accounts Report for December 08	
	£
Income	
December Mawsley Advertiser Income	1,033.00
Recipe Book Sales	6.00
Fireworks Night Ticket Sales & Necklaces	250.00
TOTAL	1,289.00
Expenditure	
December Mawsley Advertiser Expenses	42.00
Youth Worker for Youth Group	157.50
Youth Worker for Youth Group	210.00
Bonfire Night Expenses	112.91
Donation to St John Ambulance (Bonfire Night)	120.00
Fireworks Tickets	25.00
Bank Charges (to be refunded)	11.57
TOTAL	678.98
Profit for month	610.02
Reserves at 30 November 2008	
Bank balance	14,317.97
Petty cash	400.00
TOTAL	14,717.97
Notes: Most Fireworks Night receipts and expenses were recorded in previous months. Reserves include restricted funds of £3,134.89 ring fenced for the Youth Group.	

COMIC RELIEF RED NOSE DAY 2009 FUNDRAISING EVENT

Where: The Centre at Mawsley
When: Red Nose Day - Fri 13th March
Times: 8pm until 1am
What: A 70s, 80s and 90s Disco
 Ravi Shanki and the mid life crisis (village band)
 A seated finger buffet - maximum 80 people
 Raffle

Dress code: Wear red

Cost: £10.00 per person

Strictly adults only.



Information will be on posters around the village, at The Centre and on the village website.

For tickets please contact me on 790517.

Sarah Hart

MAWSLEY (EARLY) SPRING CLEAN

**SUNDAY
8TH FEBRUARY**

**MEET AT 2PM
AT THE CENTRE**

**LET'S CLEAN UP OUR VILLAGE!
EQUIPMENT & GOOD
COMPANY PROVIDED**

**CALL 790140
FOR MORE DETAILS**



Mawsley church

New, or "newish, kind of", to the village?

Firstly Welcome; hope you are enjoying life here. You might think there's actually quite a lot goes on, that we have a strong and lively social side to the village, and that we are more of a community than many places.

You are probably aware of the Mawsley Villagers Association (MVA), and of The Centre at Mawsley, and that they are a key part of that social side. You may not be aware though of what these really are, how they are organised and who runs them etc..

The MVA is a registered charity and limited company whose prime purpose is to encourage social life in the village; and by encourage I mean to lay on events, to be a catalyst for activities and to get new facilities. You can see on the front page some of the things we have done in just the last 12 months.

It is run by a group of trustees (legally, directors - as we are a limited company), who are elected by Members of the MVA. (The Directors have to be Members). Anybody who lives in the village can be a Member; all you have to do is apply. Members are similar to shareholders in limited companies, except you don't have to buy any shares. We are obliged to file your details (just name and address) with Companies House though. Being a Member also implies an obligation to take an interest in the MVA's affairs; perhaps by helping at events etc.. Being a Member also gives you the right to vote on company business. Any Member can apply to become a Director.

The MVA also controls, indirectly, The Centre. Indirectly

because as a charity the MVA cannot run a licensed facility. The issue was how to have a unified approach to village social life whilst meeting this requirement. The answer was to set up The Centre (which is a Community Interest Company - a special form of limited company that has special safeguards for the community) such that Directors of The Centre must be drawn from Directors of the MVA. Charity regulations impose restrictions on the relative numbers of each; subject to that anybody who is a Member of the MVA can apply to become a Director of The Centre.

And just to be clear all Directors are volunteers, have no privileges and draw no personal expenses.

OK, this is a bit boring and maybe complex. However there two core messages; firstly there is democratic accountability to the village. Secondly if you want to help and influence the way in which the village's community life is developed all you have to do is say so.

Too few do too much at the moment; the directors of the MVA and of The Centre do actively encourage - and have always done so - more villagers to be involved. If you want to become a Member then please contact Lizzie Souter, who is the MVA's Treasurer and link to the Company Secretary (an independent - external - accountant). Contact Lizzie via andy.lizzie@tiscali.co.uk or 799072. If you just want to be involved and help generally, but not as a Member, then that is perfectly fine. Again please contact Lizzie initially.

Bob Littler

New children's play area for Mawsley

Kettering Borough Council has provided £45k towards a new play area in Mawsley village. Mawsley Parish Council, through their Community Fund, has added another £6k to complete the funding for the £51k project. The consultation process was open to and supported by village residents. Four options were finally agreed and were voted on by the children at the local school. Option 4 was the winner and included rock multi unit, yo yo swing, rota web, dice spinner, snakes and ladders game, and others including the re-location of the equipment from the existing play area.

Wicksteed Playscapes commenced the scheme on Tuesday 6th January and it is estimated to be completed by the end of March (to be confirmed). Look out for news of the opening event in the Spring.

Portfolio holder Cllr Russell Roberts said, "Yet again the team at Kettering has successfully brought the community together in a major play project. A thorough consultation has taken place, not least with the children in the area. With an excellent contribution from the community to the substantial grant from Kettering Borough Council, this play area I'm sure will be a great asset to the village."



Cllr Russell Roberts, Portfolio holder for Community

Letters to Editor

Bridge Club

Does anyone play Bridge or would like to start a club?

A lady who has recently moved to Walgrave would love to start a club or join an existing one. If anyone is interested or knows of one please call 799116.

Brenda Quinn

UNICEF Concert

It was a typical November's evening, cold, dark and miserable, yet people appeared to be in high spirits. Could it be that The Centre was giving away free beer? Nope! Perhaps it was because Mawsley's very own football team had been drawn against Chelsea FC in the opening round of the FA cup next season? Nope! Something even better was about to take place.

Friday 28th November 2008 proved to be a night to remember. The charity event, organised by Shez (a medical student and resident of Mawsley) proved to be a huge success. Two bands, a ventriloquist and comedy act, drawn mainly from local talent, all volunteered their time and effort to the raising of funds for UNICEF.

The bands were brilliant; The Ravi Shankis were superb. Many songs from their vast repertoire took me back to my younger days; a time where I could let my hair down and go wherever the music would take me. Far different from these days where now I have very little hair to let down. Still, the Ravis made me smile.

I can do little but offer praise for the Little Miss Loasbys. The band, named after a member of staff from Montsaye school, were just awesome. They played and played, jumped and pogo'd all through their routine, well at least the singer did. What is even more remarkable is that they are all under 18 years. This band could go along way.

But we should not forget the two young lads from Mawsley Youth Group who offered their services to the cause. They really made me smile as Sam introduced us to his ventriloquist's doll, (I think he said it was his uncle,) whilst Dan made fun of his nearest and dearest (aka family). Both their routines were well rehearsed and their jokes were spot on. Admittedly, both Sam and Dan have had very limited experience in performing in front of an audience, but they performed beautifully. Well done to Sam and Dan and to all who supported them.

Throughout the evening, other members of the Mawsley Youth Group helped to run the event. I myself tried to look really imposing as I managed the door. But it's hard to look menacing when you're wearing a great big fluorescent jacket... no one takes you seriously.... thankfully. Other young people helped collect money by shaking large buckets around The Centre. They did remarkably well in their efforts as they coaxed loose change from the pockets of the audience and those looking for a quiet evening at the bar.

All in all, it was a wonderful evening. Granted, it was loud, but with a well-behaved crowd of over a hundred, Mawsley was, once again, put squarely on the map of generosity. I do wonder how much was raised overall.

Brian McLaughlin

UNICEF Concert

We would like to give a big thank you to all the people that helped out at the Mawsley Village concert on the 28th; I would like to give a special thank you to the volunteers that helped out on the night at the door and on the tuck shop and to Vic Cope who helped with the organising and the running of the night so smoothly and all the youngsters at the youth club who helped raise a lot of money through selling raffle tickets and shaking charity buckets. This was helped by the efforts of Brian McLaughlin who helped greatly on the night and generating interest within the youth club.

I would like to give a special thank you to Sam and Danny who were absolutely fantastic up on stage - they showed great courage standing in front of all those people and knowing that the crowd absolutely loved their performances made it very special, keep up the good work guys. I would like to say thank you to the bands and all the people that helped in organising the night, especially with the setting up and taking down. Finally I would like to say thank to everyone that came on the night and contributed to this cause. In the end we raised a staggering £1,108.16p for UNICEF. All the money raised will go to a great cause and I hope we can continue supporting great causes like this in the future.

Shez

French for Beginners

Have you always wanted to have a go at learning French but are a little scared? Well here's your chance to have a go with like-minded people.

We are hoping to start a new daytime class in the New Year and would like to hear from anyone who is interested in coming along and having a go.

It will begin with an 8-week course starting on Friday 6th February, 10am to 11am at The Centre and then see how we want it to develop.

If you are interested please call 799116.

Brenda Quinn

Dance For Lily

We raised £558.86 for Lily which we presented to Helen and Neil at the Baby and Toddler meeting on Thursday 22nd January.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event - the people who helped set up and clear away, those who donated raffle prizes and gave donations and to everyone who attended on the evening.

Sarah Hart

Mawsley Medical

Flu Vaccines

During December we saw a higher than average number of patients coming to the surgery suffering with flu. A reminder that we are still giving flu vaccinations so if you require one, please telephone the surgery for an appointment. We are running low on stock so this is your last chance to get vaccinated.

Over 65's Event in January

The Over 65's event was run here at the practice on Thursday 15th January and it was extremely successful and well received by those attending. Patients enjoyed a Yoga massage from Rosemary, Indian Head massage, neck massage and Reflexology was offered free of charge by the students of Tresham College. On hand to give advice was the British Heart Foundation Nurse, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Kettering Borough Council and the NHS Podiatrist. A very big thank you to Mrs Maureen Quinn and The Ladies of the Mawsley WI for providing some very tasty cakes and tea throughout the event. Next year, we hope to see many more of our patients - remember this is your event so please come out and support it.

Rosemary has started to run the Yoga classes here on Tuesday and Friday mornings, if you are interested, please contact the surgery to put your name on the list. A small but reasonable charge is made for the class.

Patient Survey

The patient survey results will be presented to the members of the Parish Council on Monday 2nd February, 2009 by Dr Oliver. The results this year showed an overall 87% satisfaction with the service we provide and as we continue to grow, it is important to maintain and improve on how we deliver our services to our practice population. We are always happy to receive constructive comments from our patients.

Our practice list is still open for those patients wanting to join the surgery, please contact reception for an application form.

Angene Kane
Practice Manager

Panto is coming to Mawsley...

(oh no it's not.... oh YES IT IS!)

Mawsley is putting on a performance of Dick Whittington at the end of March, which we hope will be the first of many productions.

Please come along to laugh, boo, hiss and cheer loudly - an event for everyone.

Performances are planned for Fri 27th & Sat 28th March - so look out for flyers and watch notice boards for more details coming soon (N.B - the notice boards are usually BEHIND YOU!)

If you would like to be involved on or off stage we would love to hear from you.

Vic - 799643, Charlotte, 799375 or Alison 790134.

Mawsley Youth Group

On Wednesdays at The Centre a youth group is run from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Membership is required so with a parent or guardian come down with £5 and join. You can do sports like badminton or football or rounders. We had a Christmas party with a live band and food. The leaders are nice. You can stay with your friends or you can meet new people.

By Hannah & Molly

Mawsley Watercolour Painting Group

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

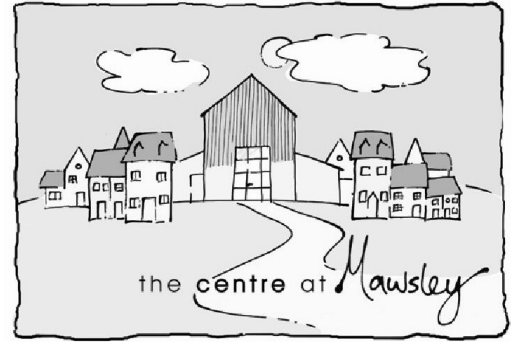
Phone Joan on 791661 for more details.



The Centre at Mawsley

Wow, what a Christmas! 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.

To top that, last Saturday was 'Dance for Lily', a black tie event to raise money for a very poorly little girl in the village. For those of you that came along, you all looked amazing, and I'm sure you all had a great night, I know I did! A huge thank you to Sarah Hart from the Mums and Tots Group who organised the evening and congratulations on raising over £500 for little Lily.



During 2009 we hope to hold not only the old favourites but also some new events, which we hope you will take advantage of. Please remember that The Centre is here for you, so if you have an event you want to run let me know.

Please also remember to take advantage of finding out all the news and dates first, by subscribing to our newsletter at www.thecentreatmawsley.co.uk.

Once again this Spring, we would like to offer you the opportunity to collect a bonus pint, by buying 5 pints and getting one for free, this time round it is the Carlsberg. Please collect your collector card from The Centre from 1st Feb. Valid until end of March 2009. Also, buy two 250ml glasses of wine and get the rest of the bottle for free, from 1st Feb to end of March 2009.

So here's to a prosperous New Year. As usual we have pencilled in the diary for 2009 - make a note on your calendar!

Cricket Club Race Night - 7th Feb

Ladies Night - 5th June

Fun Day - 4th July

Beer Festival - 11th, 12th and 13th Sept

Race Night - 10th Oct

Bonfire Night - 7th Nov

Quiz Nights - last Thursday of the month, probably the greatest night of the month, so don't miss out!

Adults Only - From 7pm every Sunday evening. Purely adult company.

Football and Cricket - all season.

Also, new for 2009:

Comedy Evening - 7th March

Red Nose Day event - 13th March

Ferret Racing - 21st March

Wine Festival - 24th, 25th and 26th April

Play Area

Ooh I'm so excited! Have you seen the new play area? I hope to have a grand opening very soon! So Children...watch this space!

Thanks goes out to everyone who used us in 2008, hope you will continue to support us throughout 2009.

Penny Feasy
TCAM Manager

Mawsley Community Primary School



School Admissions

If you have children of pre-school age and would like a place for your child at the school in the future please contact the school office on 01536 799182 or e-mail bursar@mawsley.northants-ecl.gov.uk to register their details.

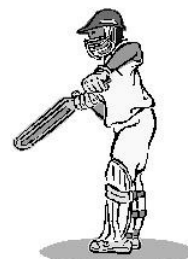
What have we been doing at school?

- In our class we have been learning about boats and how they move. In Gymnastics we have been trying to balance and make big and small shapes.
- I like playing on the bikes and scooters best.
- We have been learning about Christopher Columbus in our topic lessons. We have made a timeline about the things he did in his life.
- In our PE lessons we have been learning a dance to do with the story of Handa's Surprise. We have to dance with a bean bag on our head!
- Year 2 children from Mawsley School came first in the Gymnastics competition at Southfields School. I was excited taking part. Our school got gold medals.
- In History we have been learning about the Romans, Saxons and Vikings. We have made posters with fact boxes on them. We have been finding out about the weapons they used.
- In ICT we have been learning to build a city on the computer and create a world and protect it.
- In Drama Club we are going to put on a play about Cinderella. There is singing in it and I am a lady-in-waiting.
- We have been learning about how life is different for people in Mexico. We have been learning about their food and we made tortillas. We put hot sauce on them.
- In swimming we have been learning about life saving. We had to swim with our clothes on top of our swimming costumes. It was hard work!
- I've enjoyed learning about slavery in our linked learning lessons. We are finding out about the transatlantic triangle.
- In Science we have been finding out about dissolving, melting and changing materials.

Comments made by: Oliver Cane, Jessica Tucker, Kieran Long, Rebecca Russell, Alfie Castley, Sophie Richardson, Matilda Braithwaite, Jacob Baker, Mia Jacques, Harry Thomas, Pascale Cordell, Nicholas Wren, Zayna Shah and Chloe Dunn.

Loddington & Mawsley Cricket Club

The club held its AGM in early January and a healthy turn out of members saw the following posts elected:



Chairman - Richard Baker,
Secretary - Iain Holliday,
Treasurer - Ruth Connolly, Youth
Co-ordinator - Karl Sanders.

Captains: Ist XI - Andy Stanley, IInd XI - Simon Stapley, IIInd XI - Liam Flecknor, IIII XI - Nathan Coombs and Nick Williams, Sunday XI - Scott Sanders.

Chairman Baker gave a resume of the past season and hoped that the club would continue to go from strength to strength in the future. He praised the excellent work on the financial and sponsorship side undertaken by Ruth Connolly and the support he had received in his inaugural year from Iain Holliday who completed his 26th season as Club Secretary. The Northants Cricket League accepted the club's application for a 4th XI and they will be playing at Mawsley on alternate Saturdays under the guidance of Nathan Coombs and Nick Williams.

Both Coombs and Williams along with Mark Braithwaite were proposed and duly elected to the club committee. It was decided that match fees and subscriptions were to be looked at and a final decision made by the committee before registration night.

The club resumed net practice at Bishop Stopford School on Monday January 19th and will be netting every Monday until April at this venue. A Junior session is held between 7pm and 8pm and from 8pm it becomes under 15s and adults. Cost per session is just £2.00 - new members and trialists always welcome.

The 2009 Fund Raising Drive is aimed at providing an artificial wicket on the Mawsley square with several events planned. The first of these being a Race Night at TCAM on Saturday February 7th. Entry is £2.50 and a large turnout is expected. A raffle and auction will be held on the night and if you are able to donate a prize or wish to know more details about the club please contact Chairman Richard Baker on 07740 490297.

100 club winner for December - Dave Carter .
Membership £5 per month, contact Chairman for details.

Stuart Coles

Mawsley Day Nursery

& out of school club

We may be small but together
we make a BIG difference



Hello all and a Happy New Year! It's been a while since we have written a piece as we have been so busy. It's hard to know where to start but I think the best place is with the recent OFSTED inspection. We are thrilled to announce that we received GOOD across the board!! This is a very big achievement for a new nursery. The children, parents and staff are the reason for the great report and I'm so proud of how well the nursery has developed. We are so lucky to see the transition in children and changes in confidence, to be fair it's one of the hardest but most rewarding jobs I could wish for.

We have been busy raising money for The Breast Cancer Care and Barnardos by taking part in our very own Big Pink Toddle around The Centre field. We also had a fancy dress day for Children In Need and in total we have raised over £300 for the charities.

We celebrated our first Christmas and had a visit from Santa followed by roast turkey and all the trimmings, the preschool children had a preview of the school play which was FANTASTIC so a huge well done to all the reception children who were so brave to take part. I have to say I had a few tears watching children who had been some of the very first nursery children through my door, they were wonderful and the teachers did a tremendous job in organising it.

We are very excited that the link with the school is helping us develop our garden. We had a group of children who have chosen the nursery garden as a topic to cover, the children were very excited and full of excellent questions for the staff and children as to what we might need so watch this space for future developments.

We are also very excited to announce we have just received our HEARTBEAT AWARD confirming how great our menus are. The award focuses on ingredients used in cooking, preparation of food and quality of food so I'm thrilled to have confirmation that we are providing a very good balance of nutritionally prepared meals and snacks for the children.

We are happy to have anyone in to nursery as a visitor with a particular talent or even a regular visitor who may want to read stories etc. in their spare time. We like to try and involve the community as much as possible.

We will be celebrating a year's anniversary in March and already our nursery is bursting at the seams. We have happy children and happy staff - what more could we ask for??!!!

Katrina and the gang

Mawsley Baby and Toddler Group

We meet at The Centre on a Thursday morning from 9.30am until 11.00am. The cost is £1.50 for the 1st child in the family and 50p for each additional child.



We have toys, books, a craft activity, playdoh and a snack and drink for the children. We finish each week with a singing session.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME - from 1 day old babies until the children start school.

Since the last newsletter the children have enjoyed their Christmas party. Mr Crumble entertained them and Father Christmas arrived to give them all a present.

On Saturday 3rd January 38 of us thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime Cinderella at the Derngate.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 5th February

Helen from Forever Living. Natural remedies for health conditions - products for sale and advice.

Thursday 12th February

Valentines Day party - craft activities, party food, party games.

Thursday 19th February

School half term week - we meet as usual. You are welcome to bring older brothers and sisters.

If you would like to help set up, you would be made more than welcome - we set up from 9.00am.

If you would like any further information, please contact me.

Sarah Hart
Tel: 790517



We love our village and care about this amazing planet God's given us. Every year we organise a village LITTER PICK and our next one will take place on SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY, meeting at 2pm outside The Centre. Lots of people from across Mawsley have made this great fun in the past, so come and do your bit!

Our DISCUSSION GROUP on Mondays is thriving and open to everyone - a real chance to ask questions and learn more about the Bible and what it's got to do with real life. Our under-5's group LITTLE LIGHTS resumes on Tuesday 27th January, 1.30pm-3pm at 15 Loddington Way, and meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoon during school term time (we're looking forward to pancakes soon).

We're pleased to report that villagers can now worship every week, as services now alternate between our sister church, ST ANDREW'S, CRANSLEY and worship at The Centre, Mawsley. Whether it's at an 800 year old building or a 3 year old building, you'll find a warm welcome. Our services over the coming weeks will be held on:

Sunday 1st Feb - All age Cransley Praise, Cransley (10.30am)
Sunday 8th Feb - Celebration, The Centre, Mawsley (11am)
Sunday 15th Feb - Holy Communion, Cransley (9.30am)
Sunday 22nd Feb - Celebration & Communion, Mawsley (11am)
Ash Wednesday 10.30am Thorpe Church & 7.30pm Broughton

We have supervised children's groups during our services at Mawsley: LITTLE DOVES (up to Year 2) and EAGLES (primary school Years 3-6).

*** Coming back later in the Spring... Messy Church! ***

For further information, including information about Weddings, Thanksgivings for the birth of a child or Baptism or House Blessings please contact me on 790140.

Rev'd Paul Seaton-Burn
www.mawsleychurch.net

Messy Church

Messy Church was held in the School rooms at Mawsley on December 14th. It was a fun event organised and run by Mawsley Church. Lots of village children had great fun. Here are some photos. If anyone would like to see all the photos to see if their little boy or girl is in one, please email me with who you are and I will send you some pics of your child.

Bev Lloyd-Roberts
Bevjoneslr@aol.com



Mawsley Village WI

A Happy New Year to everyone from Mawsley Village WI, let's all hope for a peaceful and happy one. Hope you all had a good Christmas, the village certainly looked festive with all the lights and trees outside. Thank you for your cards and good wishes.



Well we've started the year in fine form with a great evening learning the 'Ceroc' dance and we certainly shed some of those extra calories! It was good to have so many guests, especially the chaps who came along, well done and thank you for your support. It was a tiring evening but good fun.

At our February meeting, we will be entertained by PC Bull who will be showing us 'His Equipment'! Intrigued? Well come along and find out what it's all about.

We have a great programme for 2009 plus an outing to Windsor and two Fairs, following the success of our autumn one. If you would like any information, either come along to a meeting or call the number below.

Brenda Quinn



QUIZ NIGHT AT THE CENTRE



Last Thursday of the month

Thursday 26th February

8pm start
£5 entry per team

Mawsley Coffee Club



The Coffee Club is a group for retired people in the village to meet others of a similar age and our main aim in life is to get out and about and enjoy ourselves!

The programme for 2008 finished with a group of us having a super weekend away in North Yorkshire visiting Harrogate and Haworth, where we saw an event called Scroggling the Holly, which involved 'bringing in the Spirit of Christmas' and crowning of the Holly Queen. We did also of course visit the Bronte Museum in the Parsonage at Haworth. The weather was extremely kind to us and we had a wonderful time. The Yorkshire food must be recommended and the Yorkshire puddings were three inches tall!!

2009 began with a great cheese and wine event at Jean and David's house, very grateful thanks to Jean for organising such a lovely event. Our new programme is out now and we shall be having regular coffee mornings and be visiting local places of interest throughout the year, with a few Sunday Lunches included. Most of our trips include food of one sort or another, a pub meal here, or a cream tea there!

Our current membership list stands at 30 (if we include the boys!) but new members are always welcome.

For information please telephone me on 790991.

Pat Ellis

Northamptonshire County Council

2008 will undoubtedly be remembered as a year of great economic upheaval with the effects of the credit crisis and a looming recession being felt across the County, and across the Country. We have been fortunate however that because we have dramatically improved the way the council spends and invests taxpayer's money, the County Council is in a better position to respond to the uncertain economic times that lie ahead of us.

As part of our ongoing drive to improve and modernise, we established a 'Star Chamber' process at County Hall to fully explore and challenge each Council Department's budget and how they deliver services to you. This 'root and branch' way of working allows us to challenge inefficient and out of date working practices that hindered the delivery of quality services. These 'star chamber' sessions were very illuminating and helped us put together our budget which puts money into key areas whilst keeping the rate of council tax low. Our recently published draft budget in December, proposed a rise of just 3.9 per cent which means that for the fourth year running, this was less than the rate of inflation and maintains our position of having the lowest County Council tax rate in the country.

Central to our success has been the restructuring of our senior management team, which is now almost complete. It has been very gratifying to see our new directors bringing a wealth of experience and new ideas to Northamptonshire which has meant they have already contributed a huge amount to the improvements and efficiencies we have been able to implement.

This work has also been recognised and rewarded, as the County Council has won various awards over the year. These awards not only vindicate the tough decisions we have made, but also reflect all the hard work and dedication of our staff. From innovative care for vulnerable adults to excellence in our libraries, we can all be proud of these achievements and I look forward to achieving more in 2009.

We have made a great deal of progress in improving the services we deliver to residents. It is not by chance or good luck that we have won numerous awards that have recognised the improvements and innovations we have implemented. Whilst we have delivered on our promises, but the downturn in the nation's economy will undoubtedly have an impact on local government. We are determined to ensure that the County Council is best placed to deal with the uncertain times that lie ahead of us. It is important that we continue our efforts to lobby Central Government to provide a fair and equitable settlement that recognises the growth of our County which will allow us to invest more money in those services that you tell us are important.

Our Empowering Councillors scheme continues to deliver excellent schemes across the County and I have continued to spend money across my Division. This year I have been able to give £300 towards Mawsley Allotment Association, which I am sure will be a great help to them. This scheme has been a great success and has helped to make a real difference to towns and villages across the County by giving local people a real say in how their money is spent.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous 2009 and as ever, despite the many challenges we face as a council, I am, as always, also keen to try to help with any individual problems or issues you may have with County services. Please get in touch and I will try to help to get them resolved.

Jim Harker

County Councillor, Kettering Rural
01604 236982, jharker@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Message from Philip Hollobone MP



I always do my best to ensure that the concerns that affect all of us who live in the Kettering constituency get as much Parliamentary airtime as possible.

Ensuring that local concerns are raised with Government Ministers at Westminster is the essential part of being an effective MP. In this regard I was delighted at the end of January to win the right to initiate a 1½ hour Parliamentary debate entitled 'Assistance to Small Businesses in the Current Economic Situation'. Present in the debate was the Minister for Business and whether he liked it or not he had to sit there for 30 minutes whilst I ran through many examples of local businesses which had drawn to my attention difficulties they were encountering in the present recession.

This is an extract of what I said and I hope it represents the views of local residents:

I am grateful to Mr. Speaker for granting me this debate. It is perhaps on the most important subject for our country at this time. Small businesses are in real trouble. They form an important part of our national and local economies. The Government's actions could make a lot of difference to whether they survive. Every day on television and radio news programmes, Government announcements cite figures of billions, tens of billions and hundreds of billions of pounds. For many small businesses, however, the difference between success and failure, between life and death, can come down to £50 or £100 a week, or a bill for £1,000 not being paid on time. It is important that the Minister and his officials understand that. For many people, figures quoted in billions are almost meaningless when it comes to the front line of business survival at local level.

The Minister may be interested to hear that there are 26,000 jobs in the borough of Kettering. Of those, 10,000 are in small businesses. The borough has 3,377 businesses, of which 2,367 employ between one and four people. An additional 501 businesses employ between five and 10 people. It can be seen that 85% of businesses in my constituency employ fewer than 10 people. Putting it bluntly, if the small business sector in Kettering goes under, so will the local economy. My job as a Back-Bench Member is to canvass and to gauge local opinion and to present it as best I can to those who make the decisions. Today, I want to make clear the experiences of a number of businesses in my constituency.

A small coach company tells me that £5,000 is still owed to it by a far larger coach company. It has tried everything to get the bill settled. The payment terms were 90 days, which was difficult enough, but it still has not been paid. If it remains unpaid, 15 jobs will go.

A nursery owner contacted me to say: "As the owner of a small, family run business in a rural setting I have to say that one of the biggest drains on our resources is the Business Rate. We pay almost £9,000 per annum and for that large sum get very little in return. If the government really are serious in their wish to help us then a reduction in rates would be a start!"

On the front line, with local small businesses, the difference between success and failure is often a few pounds a week. If the Government can get down to the nitty-gritty of business survival and get away from the idea that all they have to do is throw £10 billion at this and £100 billion at that, and look instead at targeted, practical help, many thousands more local businesses will survive the recession than would otherwise be the case.

Local residents are able to keep a track of what I am trying to do at Westminster on behalf of local residents via the independent website www.theyworkforyou.com. As always, if any resident in Mawsley feels that I may be able to help with a particular issue, please do let me know via 01536 414715 or 020 7219 8373 or 07979 850126 or hollobonep@parliament.uk or at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Philip Hollobone MP

February 2009	
Sunday 1st February	Cransley Praise Cransley Church 10.30am
Saturday 7th February	Cricket Club Race Night The Centre
Sunday 8th February	Village Spring Clean Meet at The Centre 2pm
Sunday 8th February	Mawsley Church - Celebration The Centre 11am
Sunday 15th February	Holy Communion Cransley Church 9.30am
Sunday 22nd February	Mawsley Church - Celebration & Communion The Centre 11am
Thursday 26th February	Quiz Night The Centre 8pm
March 2009	
Saturday 7th March	Comedy Evening The Centre
Friday 13th March	Comic Relief Fundraising Event The Centre
Saturday 21st March	Ferret Racing The Centre
Thursday 26th March	Quiz Night The Centre 8pm
Friday 27th & Saturday 28th March	Mawsley Panto
April 2009	
24th - 26th April	Wine Festival The Centre
Thursday 30th April	Quiz Night The Centre 8pm

Next newsletter issue

The next newsletter will be issued on 14th March. Please consider submitting an article - we would love to hear from you.

Please forward any contributions as soon as possible and by Thursday 5th March at the latest to our temporary Editor:

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pat.rowley@tiscali.co.uk

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

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