



Mawsley Villagers Association

Newsletter

June 2006

The dictionary defines “progress” as “movement towards a goal”. The goal for this village, shared by the Parish Council and the MVA, is to “create a vibrant, inclusive and fun community”.

But it can't happen without facilities for all the village to use, and progress of late towards getting them has been tortuous. Perhaps, therefore, all the more gratifying to be able now to report some real progress.

The weeks of hard work the Parish Council has put in lobbying senior people in the Borough Council – very much helped by our local Councillor Jim Hakewill – has started to pay off.

As you might have seen in the Evening Telegraph the Borough Council “has promised to resolve the situation about the stamp duty by the end of the month”. Doesn't sound like a massive step forward I know, but it is an indication that the Borough Council has committed to doing whatever is necessary to sort this stamp duty business out. Once that is out of the way, ownership of The Centre can be transferred to the Parish Council.

“Yes, but when?” I hear you say.

There is more good news to report – again arising from work “behind the scenes” by the Parish Council in trying to continually build good working relationships with all the various people and groups that affect the way the village develops. The developers who have bought the employment units land have shared with us their outline plans. They see shops, a takeaway, offices, work units and a nursery being there. A planning application is being prepared. Also the Parish Council has secured an agreement that we will be able to use the car park that will be there as overflow parking for The Centre at evenings and weekends. The developers also agreed to change their outline plans and put in a walkway to join the two car parks.

“Yes, but when?” I hear Samantha say.

It's not yet clear what the implication of this might be for the grasscrete overflow car parking we are obliged to have behind The Centre. Also there are issues re the car park surface, delivery vehicle access, pavements and landscaping to sort out. We need Wimpey to get these done ASAP. Until then we are not able to take on the building.

“Yes, but when?”

So, once we do get The Centre the ball passes to the MVA. They are itching to get going to finish off fitting it out – the lounge, storage racking, the bar, plus tables and chairs etc.. That will take a few weeks once they

get the go-ahead. Plans are in place but obviously they can't commit start dates to suppliers just yet. It will only take 3-4 weeks once they start work.

“Yes but when?”

The moment we know when, the Parish Council and MVA will let you know. The MVA is planning to have an open day so you can all see round The Centre, immediately after we take possession.

You will see elsewhere in this newsletter a debate about the playing fields. Another minefield. Provision of sports pitches is way behind schedule. I know we haven't talked about them in the newsletter recently but that does not mean that the Parish Council and MVA have ever stopped pushing Wimpey and the Borough Council to get work started.

“Yes but when?”

More good news - plans were submitted by Wimpey to the Borough Council three weeks ago. We are talking to both to ensure they meet our requirements as far as possible. On the assumption we don't find any more mines, analogous or real, we should be able use them fully from next Autumn.

Progress: perhaps also defined as “never give up”.

Bob Littler
Chair of Parish Council & MVA

Did you think you were ‘seeing things’ last week?

Did you see The Centre at Mawsley in full use?

Did you see the car park packed full of cars?

Did you see delegates spilling out of the lounge patio doors at lunchtime?

Did you see smart chairs and kitchen equipment being delivered and then all being taken away again two days later?

You were not hallucinating - Wimpey, who still own the building, were using it for an internal function of their own.

Dare we hope that the next people to enjoy its facilities will be us!

Editor

Annual Parish Meeting

The third Annual Parish Meeting since the creation of the Mawsley Parish was held on Monday, 22nd May and was by far the best attended meeting to date. The meeting provides an opportunity for representative groups to give an update on their activities in the previous twelve months and say where their activities will be focussed in the coming year.

This year's meeting heard reports from Christians in Mawsley, the Allotments Association; the Coffee Club; the Gardening Club; the Parish Council; Neighbourhood Watch; the Pre-School Group; the Walking Group; Mawsley Women's Institute and the Mawsley Villagers Association. In addition Northamptonshire Police and Kettering Borough Council were represented and short reports on their activities as they relate to Mawsley were given. Ward Councillor Jim Hakewill, in his report on the Borough Council, commented on how pleasing it was to see so many representative groups being established in Mawsley and how he was trying to ensure a greater focus of attention on matters relating to Mawsley within the Council.

The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked all those who attended for the efforts they have put in to developing a community feeling within the Parish and wished them well for the forthcoming year. He also noted a common theme that ran through the reports that all groups would be assisted by the opening of the Community Centre at the earliest opportunity. The meeting was advised of recent developments with regard to the transfer of the building to the Community and that both the builders and the Borough Council were now committed to enabling this at the earliest opportunity.

Richard Meredith, Parish Clerk, 791539



St Wimpey in the Fields

Extracts from the non – pc diary of a Parish Clerk.

Monday

Great excitement – the Mayor of the Borough is to pay a state visit to the Parish! Over three hours required completing the forms necessary to clear the way for a smooth visit - this includes providing advice on dress code for Parish Council Meetings. Realise I have the opportunity to make a fashion statement on behalf of the Council but am unable to secure free samples from Ralph Lauren; Calvin Klein; Yves St Laurent or Vivienne Westwood. Settle for "Chains of Office" to be worn and set about removing the one from my cistern for use by our Chairman.

Meeting dates

Parish Council

Mon 5th June and Mon 3rd July.

The 5th June meeting will probably be held at Cransley Village Hall at 7.30pm. Time and venue will be confirmed/advertised on the notice board and village website. (Apologies for this. We don't have anywhere to meet at the moment. Parish Council meetings are open meetings and therefore they have to be held in a public place. The old surgery portakabins are due to be dismantled and arrangements are not quite finalised for us to use the new Mawsley Medical.)

MVA

Tuesday 27th June.

For time and venue please check with Lizzie Souter on 799072 for similar reasons..

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)

Newsletter

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

Website: www.mawsleyvillage.co.uk

Mawsley Parish Council

pc@mawsleyvillage.co.uk

Cllr. Bob Littler (Chair)

Cllr. Chris Winter (Deputy Chair)

Clerk: Richard Meredith (791539)

Neighbourhood Watch

Co-ordinator

Keith Powell 790439

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 Tim Bellamy 534355

MP Philip Hollobone

0207 2198373 or 07979 850126
hollobonep@parliament.uk

MAWSLEY MEDICAL

New Building

Philip Hollobone officially opened our new premises on the 19th May and for once this month, the rain held off until he had completed the obligatory ribbon cutting exercise. It was so nice to see so many friends



and patients who turned out to support us and make it a very special day for Dr Oliver and the staff at the surgery.

Mawsley Dental Clinic is also up and running from our new premises and Claire Shields of Preview Ultrasound Ltd has now taken one of the consulting rooms in the Pharmacy building. Claire is up and running on her new swish state of the art equipment running 3 & 4D ultrasound scans. To contact Claire, please telephone 01536 790389.

We now have a vending machine in the dispensary building where you can buy confectionary, cans of drinks, crisps and cartons of fruit juice. Perhaps bread and milk to follow- watch this space.

We are looking for a cleaner to support Jean our housekeeper with some additional cleaning duties. Up to 10 hours per week working an afternoon shift pattern. If you are interested , please telephone the surgery on 01536 791300 for more information.

From our MP.....

Mawsley is a model of how a new, vibrant and successful village community can be established. The recent opening of the new village surgery premises is a wonderful example of this.

A combination of personal and corporate imagination, vision, initiative, enthusiasm and dedication has made Mawsley the success it is today. However, no-one would say that there haven't been and won't continue to be problems; the community centre saga is but just one example. There are now 600 houses in Mawsley; compare this with the 52,100 new houses the government is pushing to be built in our local area within the next 15 years. If it's been difficult to get the necessary community facilities for Mawsley, imagine how much more difficult it is going to be to deliver the same for a development over 85 times as big.

This is the dilemma that faces us in the wider area. Yes, there is a need for new and affordable homes for local people in search of better accommodation, but the construction of the vast new housing estates proposed, as opposed to new village communities, is too big a project to be successful. What our local area needs is smaller scale housing expansion designed to cater for local needs and with guarantees that the additional infrastructure will be provided up front. If we are to have some more development then our local area needs some new Mawsleys, but 85 of them would be development on far too great a scale.

Philip Hollobone, MP

Mawsley Dental Clinic has moved to the new Mawsley Medical building on School Road. If you have any difficulties finding us do not hesitate to call and speak to Stacey our receptionist on 01536 799210.

Our new opening times are:

Monday & Wednesday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tues, Thurs & Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

NHS appointments can be made from 8 a.m. to 3.45 p.m. After 4 p.m and occasional Saturdays are reserved for private patients.

We are now taking on new NHS patients, just come along and collect a form and we can make you your first appointment with Miss Simpson or Miss Bentley. We have three experienced dental nurses, Katie Piggott, Caroline Delaney and Yvonne West who will be able to make your visit as relaxed and pleasant as possible.

See The Mawsley Advertiser for information about private treatments. Should you have any queries our Practice Manager, Sarah Johnston, will be happy to help.

Dr Alison Simpson



Tuesday

Hedge laying well under way – seemingly being done professionally as a number of nests are being delivered to my door for relocation. Foster homes found within hours, many local residents finding them an effective way of plugging gaps between eaves and roof that have been missed by the builders.

MVA Under 5s Group

The group has had a busy month making tractors and buses. We then got messy painting and made some great playdoh shapes. We have received a donation of £50.00 from Kettering Borough Council which will be used to buy safety mats for the group.

On a more sober note, since Easter numbers attending the group have dropped. With the current numbers attending the group we are not covering our weekly costs. So unfortunately if this continues the planned move to The Centre at Mawsley upon its completion will not be financially viable. We need your feedback now !!!!

- Is it the current location of the group?
- The time of day?
- The day of the week?
- Or perhaps the format of the group?

Unless we know what everyone thinks we can not act upon it.

Our current committee is made up of four people and these people run the group each week. If you would like to get more involved or bring new ideas to the group please get in touch.



Let us know your thoughts and feelings regarding the Under 5's group as the children and parents that currently attend have a great time and to lose this resource within the village would be a shame.

Please contact us by email on Simmonsmark6@aol.com or telephone Rebecca on 799311, Yvette on 799145 or Jo on 799122.

Just a reminder we meet every Thursday at Cransley Village Hall from 9.45am – 11.15am. There's lots for the children to do, great activities and a snack. The cost is £1.50 per child and 50p additional children.

We hope to see you there

Rebecca Simmons

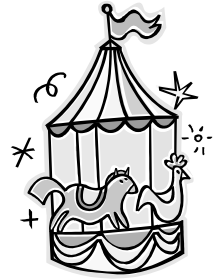
Secretary MVA under 5s committee
Simmonsmark6@aol.com

Mawsley Mini

Thanks to Yvette and Sarah for this month's recommendations

Cadbury World

A great place to take all the family. You will need to allow 3 hours for your visit which includes the main exhibition, museum, self service restaurant, two shops and play area. It is in Birmingham and you can check online for opening times as these vary week by week. Booking is essential. For more information on online at www.cadburyworld.co.uk or telephone 0121 451 4180 for ticket availability.



Twinlakes Park in Melton Mowbray

This has been highly recommended as a fantastic place to take the children. Packed with acres of action rides and indoor play centres for all the family as well as animals. For more information contact 01664 567777 or go online at www.twinlakespark.co.uk

National Childbirth Trust

This organisation was recommended in the last Mini Grapevine. Lizzie has also contacted the newsletter about their Antenatal classes and to say how tremendously helpful she has found them, especially the Rugby Branch. She says "They run classes over there either on a weekly evening basis or just over 2 Saturdays. They offered me a choice of Saturday dates - and said they are always willing to run as many classes as there is demand for. I thought this was really useful to know and wanted to pass this information on for all those potential Mums in Mawsley. And by the way, the classes in Rugby are cheaper than Northampton too!" Details are on the NCT website or give Lizzie a call (799072).

FIRST AID & LIFE SAVING COURSE FOR PARENTS

As a parent have you ever thought what you would do if your child had a serious accident, suddenly became very ill or had anaphylactic shock as a result of an insect sting/bite or food allergy – ringing 999 is the obvious answer, but with a little training you could be a life saver as well.

We are trying to set up a Basic First Aid Life Saving course, at Mawsley Medical, for parents of babies and young children. The course requires no previous knowledge or training and takes you through key basic first aid and resuscitation in a practical and relaxed way.

The course is 3hrs long and costs approximately £5 to attend. We need 8-15 people to put the course on so if you are interested and wish to register for the course please contact:

Colette Henshaw (Mawsley Music Makers)

Tel: 01536790421 / 07960 455616 / 6 Main Street

SUPPORTED BY:

**MAWSLEY MEDICAL CENTRE &
MAWSLEY MUSIC MAKERS**

Mawsley Events Team

Coming soon! ...

Open Day at The Centre

- Have a look around the building.
- Meet with MVA members involved with The Centre.
- Sign up to help with projects and events.

Firework Extravaganza!

Saturday 4th November 2006

We need volunteers to help with the event. If you think you could spare a couple of hours please



Recipe Book

Thank you for everyone who has sent in their orders for the recipe book. You haven't been forgotten!

I'd like to apologise for the delay with the printing and distribution. As you can all appreciate the events team is run solely by volunteers and sometimes there are just not enough hours in the day for us to get everything done. I can assure you we will be in possession of the recipe books at the beginning of June and will be distributing them to you then.

100 Club

Thank you to those of you who have responded to the new season of the 100 club draw. We will be in



Wednesday

Road safety issues to the fore!

During the night someone has removed the sleeping policemen that had so effectively damaged vehicles suspension over the last four years. Theft reported to the local police station 14 miles away. Later establish that removal had been sanctioned by the developers who, in return, will install a road sign for each man, woman, child, dog and cat in the Parish.

Mega Raffle

We are still very keen to put on a Mega Raffle for the village to raise funds and give everyone the opportunity to win some fabulous prizes. We need some really good, top quality prizes and we need you to help. The team have exhausted the contact list we have but we know lots of you work for or have connections with companies who could provide us with exactly what we are looking for. Please help if you can!!!

Contact Cheryl (799107) for more information.

Mawsley Harvest Ball Highgate House 14th October 2006 £50

The evening includes

- Arrival photograph
- Reception Drinks
- 4 course meal
- Two sessions of our Heads 'n' Tail game
- Music Entertainment
- Transport from Mawsley and back, leaving at 6.15pm returning 1am

This will be our 4th Harvest ball and is an evening not to be missed. Make this year your first time. We usually leave the village, with the weather against us, from two points in the village. On arrival at Highgate you may have your photo taken, then it's on for reception drinks and meeting up with your fellow



Mawsley School's Annual/ Summer Fete

Saturday 24 June

2.00 – 4.00 pm*

50p admission (children free)

Entry gives automatic entry to win a bottle of champagne

Raffle, Bouncy Castle, Beat the Goalie, Coconut Shy, Beer Tent,

Gallone's Ice Cream, Cake Stall, Confectionary Tombola, Surprise Jars, Wine Tasting, Refreshments, Virgin Vie, Bring Sand Buy Books and Toys, Spot the Ball, Games Galore and more!

* If England qualify and are playing a World Cup match on the afternoon of 24 June, the time of the Summer Fete will change to 12 noon - 2 pm. Please see the noticeboards for confirmation nearer the time.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR LIFE ACTIVE HEALTHY LIVING IN MAWSLEY VILLAGE!!

Want to get fit, lose a few pounds, exercise in a fun and supportive environment or take on the challenge of a charity walk, run, the London Marathon or Triathlon! Whatever your current ability, activity or aspirations we are planning to set up a village multi-activity/sports group that will bring like minded people together, offer support, advice and training plans, group activities and events.

The group is likely to range from those who want to power walk with company and have no competitive aspirations to those who want to race competitively in running and multi-sport events such as adventure racing, mountain biking and triathlon. At present the idea would be to meet one evening a week (circuit training indoors in the winter) and outdoor activity training in the summer and one weekend morning, plus enter a range of individual and team activities/events throughout the year. In addition we are looking to submit a proposal to the MVA/KBC for funding towards a trim trail around the village with various multi-activity stations and challenges.

We have some ideas, a proposed name and logo, we just need some likeminded people to get this group up and running!

If you are interested joining in the fun and challenge please contact:

Richard Smith 01536 790421 / 6 Main Street

Money 4 Nothing!!!

If like millions of other people you shop over the internet for books, music, electrical items etc then you could be raising money for the village as you spend.

If you shop at **TESCO.COM**, **AMAZON.CO.UK** or **CD-WOW.CO.UK** then you could help raise money for the village by using one of the links below and it won't cost you a penny extra!

- **AMAZON.CO.UK** use
www.mawsleyvillageforum.co.uk/amazon
- **CD-WOW.CO.UK** use
www.mawsleyvillageforum.co.uk/cd-wow
- **TESCO.COM** use
www.mawsleyvillageforum.co.uk/tesco

As a member of the associate schemes of these companies we are able to receive referral fees on items that you purchase via these links and all this money will go to the village. So the next time you go online to buy those Christmas or birthday presents or even if you just want to treat yourself, please remember to use the links shown above.

Further details and additional sites can be found by going to:

www.mawsleyvillageforum.co.uk/shopping

Jason – Mawsley Village Forum Administrator

☎ **01536 791305**

✉ jason@mawsleyvillageforum.co.uk

Gardening Club Forthcoming events

Our June meeting, on 7th at 6.30pm, will take the form of a preview tour of the village Open Gardens for those who will be opening theirs on the Sunday and would otherwise not see them all.

Sunday 11th June, Mawsley Open Gardens.

2 - 6pm. See back page for more details and centre page of Mawsley Advertiser for map.

Sunday 2nd July. Visit to Harpole Open Gardens. 8 gardens will be open from 12 - 6 pm. Meet other Mawsley gardeners there at approx. 2pm. Harpole is 4 miles west of Northampton and can be approached from the A45 from Northampton or via Pitsford, Harlestone and Duston from Mawsley.

For details of the rest of the Gardening programme for 2006 **contact Marisa on 790748.** All are welcome.



~~MAWSLEY~~
~~WOMEN'S INSTITUTE~~

Hello Ladies

Gosh, where are these months going!! June will see Mawsley Village WI bursting out all over. Our June meeting will be on a tractor, courtesy of David Pain in Rushton. He will be showing us the spoils of his labours in the form of artefacts found on his farm bordering the Triangular Lodge. We will then finish with a meal at the Thornhill Arms in Rushton.

Sadly, our 1st Birthday Garden Party looks like being postponed due to our inactive Mawsley Centre. We aim to have a **fundraising Coffee Morning** in the President's garden at 41 Loddington Way on **July 11th from 9.30-12 ish.** We hope to sell cakes, bric-a-brac and flower baskets so please come along for a coffee and a chat. Everyone is welcome.

We are at present raising funds for the **Youth of our Village** in the form of a **Coin Collection** (loose change) in 'pro-biotic' bottles. If you wish to donate please give us a ring on 791691 or bring them along to the Coffee morning.

August is a holiday break and we will return fresh for our **September 12th** evening jaunt with our guides Steve and Pam for a walk around the village followed by soup and rolls. Watch the notice board for details.

New members and visitors are always welcome. Please call Lynn on 791691 or Brenda on 799116 for any more information on our Agenda for Autumn/Winter and 2007.

Hope to see you soon.

Mawsley Cricket Club

Firstly I would like to thank the MVA for their very kind donation to the cricketers of the village of £200. This will go towards much needed match kit for the games we will be playing this season. By the time this newsletter has gone out we will have had our first nets session which, rain permitting, will have blown away some of the cobwebs from those who have not played for a while.



We also have our first Cricket Match on the 2nd June at East Haddon. The match will start at 1800 so if you are at a loose end and have nothing better to do please come along and lend your support.

Dates for further matches will be posted on the village website. For further information **please contact me on ndo@maidwellhall.co.uk or call me on 07801018979**

Nick Owens

Mawsley Walking Group

Hi folks

Thank you to all those who braved the full circuit of Grafham Water on 7th May. I thought there would have been our group there plus a couple of dozen others walkers but there was a charity walk on and it felt like Wembley Stadium for the first half but then they all cleared away and left us to continue the full walk. We met some really nice people and passed the time of day with them as we walked around, stopping for refreshments as we went.



As to the next walk on **Saturday 3rd June**, this is a local circular walk of 4 or 5 miles from Mawsley via Mawsley Lodge to Old and back so we will not need cars. We will have a stop at The White Horse pub in Old. The walk on **Sunday 2nd July** will take us to Sywell Country Park and surrounding area. We will meet at the usual place & drive to the Worlds End pub at Ecton then walk across country to Sywell and then back to the pub.

Do come and join us. We look forward to seeing you there. Latest details are on both the village website and the village forum.

The usual meeting place is the lay-by in Broughton Road, just inside the first entrance to the village at 10.30am.

Steve & Pam Draycott 791681 slduk@f2s.com



Mawsley Coffee Club

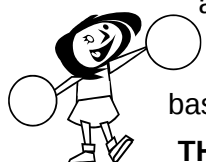
A Club for Seniors from the Village. We meet regularly for coffee mornings and join in planned activities. Those who have retired, or who are coming up to retirement are very welcome to join. If you are new to the village and would like to get to know others of a similar age – this is the place to do it.

Enquiries please to Pat Ellis on 01536 790991.

Youth News

From Aidan Piper

Simon's Saturday Morning Football Club now attracts more than 20 youngsters for coaching and games which is fantastic. Simon has done this without a break and without any recognition really. I have only had to cover him once since he started almost three years ago and he gives a couple of hours every Saturday morning, which I think is amazing. He also used to give me a hand at the Knibb Centre with the older ones on a Wednesday, and he is wicked at basketball as well. So:



**THANK YOU SIMON WREN.
YOUR FOOTIE CLUB REALLY IS
APPRECIATED.**



If you want to join in the footie it's on Saturday mornings from 10 - 11am on the school field. The charge is £1 and it's for boys and girls from 6 - 16 years old. Contact Simon on 791973

The youngsters have great plans for The Centre when it opens its doors, with a local bands night proving a popular idea. We also want a monthly disco and table tennis evening (which the Mawsley WI are helping us with).

Don't forget girl guides whose numbers I hear are more than twenty and who hope to use The Centre, if they can afford the rates, as will the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who currently meet in Broughton.

One young villager has taken on the task of us getting a skate ramp and I'm sure we will soon have more info on that, once he has finished his exams. I have only had one parent offering help with fundraising so far and she has come up with a couple of cracking ideas, both of which involve alcohol. One of them is a slight change in the Wine Safari format, which sold out last year, so watch this space. Another couple of people have let me know they will give of their time once the centre is open so this is encouraging.

If you don't want to see youngsters playing ball games around the village then dog owners need to be respectful of the playing field area which is supposed to be for ball games not DOGS' MESS. I am also surprised that dog owners do not put their dogs on leads in such places. Some seem to think it OK for their dogs to chase the youngsters' balls. I approached a few young lads a couple of weeks ago and asked why they were playing football in the road and they took me to the playing field to show me what a disgraceful state it was in. Remember you may love your dog, others probably don't.

It would also be useful if the playing area could be rolled and the grass kept short, and since the digging up and drainage isn't due to start yet, this could be given a priority. We would then be able to invite the Borough Sports Bus to the village during the summer months and arrange Friday sports nights. It doesn't take much to solve a big problem.

If you would like to become involved with the Youth Group I

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Ist Mawsley Guides



I am pleased to report that we now have 20 Guides in our Unit and with those who have put their names down to join in September the Unit will be full. If anyone wants to put their name on the waiting list, please contact Anne on 791163 or Danielle on 791541.

We would very much like someone who could spare an hour and a half on a Thursday evening to become a Unit Helper. This can be anyone aged 18 to 65. Again, please contact Anne or Danielle for more details.

We are still meeting at Loddington Primary School at present. We have already been involved in a lot of activities including a wide range of crafts and looking at the traditions of guiding. One very popular activity was working to achieve a chocolate badge which involved a chocolate quiz, making chocolate fondues and testing lots of chocolate products.



We do not have Brownie or Rainbow groups in Mawsley at present but for anyone wanting to join there are groups in Broughton and Loddington.

Brownies meet on Mondays in Broughton (contact Angela on 790742) and Tuesdays in Loddington (contact Kate on 710596).

Rainbows meet on Mondays in Broughton (contact Stacey on 520489).



Thursday

Mayor's visit a great success – he was particularly impressed by the ticker-tape parade!

Did not have the heart to point out that the ticker tape was nothing more than builders waste blowing about in the famous Wind of St Wimpey. Anticipate calls from adjoining parishes for me to come and collect our unwanted waste.

Friday

As rain continues to fall an application is received for a grant from Community Funds for the building of an ark. The applicant, a Mr N. O. Ah (obviously from the east), believes such a facility would be of great benefit for the community as a storage point for pets in the event of a Great Flood. Point out to applicant that we are officially suffering a drought and go back to watching the lake form in my garden.

Letter to the Editor

FORGET THE PUB & THE CENTRE BAR – WHERE IS OUR PLAYING FIELD?!!

For the last two years I have read in this Newsletter all the enquiries, requests and demands as to “where is our village pub?” and “when is the village Centre opening?” along with a very long list of reasons as to why neither of these facilities is available to the community yet. Although the wait is frustrating these facilities will eventually be in place; the village pub when commercial viability permits, and the village Centre when the dispute over stamp duty is sorted out.

This will be great for us adults and the real ale drinkers in the village but what about the silent but rapidly growing child and youth population of Mawsley Village and those who enjoy the ‘green and pleasant land’? What about their meeting and play area? **Where are our playing fields?**

Two years ago the MVA had detailed plans drawn up and agreed with both KBC and Wimpey to properly level, drain, seed and prepare the playing field area adjacent to the Mawsley Centre site. These plans, which included professional land surveys and planning approval, provided for a proper cricket pitch, outfield and netting area, senior and junior football/rugby pitches, a trim trail and grass athletics track, an area that could be developed into a hard surface multi-use floodlit sports/play/activity area, a children’s play area, a Petanque piste/BBQ area and garden, and landscaping linking the playing field to the Centre’s changing facilities and village cycle path. These plans linked into KBC’s strategic plan for recreational and sports facilities (hence opening up opportunities for grant aid applications), and raised the standard of provision from a mown field to a high specification grass sports playing field.

So where are our playing fields? and, what has happened in the last two years? Well thus far all you can see is that we have, an over grown field dotted with dog poo and builders’ rubbish. Obviously the work has not been carried out. But dig a little deeper and it gets worse – in the two years the MVA/Parish Council has agreed to allow ‘grasscrete’ (basically concrete) for additional car park space for the Centre on allocated playing field land and has also given up further allocated Playing Field land to the Village Pub site for additional tarmac car parking! The consequences of giving up this land are the promotion of drink driving, street football, and bored kids/teenagers with no where to go, play safely or hangout!

Solutions?

We have a one off opportunity to maximize the village’s only significant open space and safe play area. Recognising some need for parking, common

sense suggests that with creative ‘joined up’ thinking and co-operation it should be possible for the car park space at The Centre, the pub, the employment units and Mawsley Medical to be ‘pooled’ and provide sufficient capacity without having to encroach on the precious playing field land. Surely an attractive shared garden/BBQ/ play area and Petanque piste that could join the Village Pub and Playing field might a) attract support and some funding from the Brewery and b) support other shared usage including parking. And what about developing the giant roundabout at the bottom of Main Street into a really attractive proper village Green which is both attractive to look at and functional e.g. with cobbled diagonal parking, paths, trees, seating, a fountain etc.?

I would like to challenge the MVA/Parish Council to seriously consider these issues/proposals and Mawsley villagers young and old who share similar views and/or vision to get in touch with me so that we can join forces to ask **‘WHERE ARE OUR PLAYING FIELDS?’**

Richard Smith, 6 Main Street
(richard.smith@ecb.co.uk)

Response from the MVA

First of all, although I fully understand Richard’s frustration at there being no sign yet of playing fields – as I’m sure do most villagers, we need to be clear that this is a contractual matter between G Wimpey and the Borough Council. Village organisations were able to influence the original proposals and have tried many times since to get some action going, but simply cannot force things to happen. We are not sure, though we have some suspicions, why things are taking so long; however as you will have seen on the front page it looks as though we are finally getting there.

Car parking has always been an issue. From the very beginning the desire has been to use the work units parking as overflow. During the process of Wimpey getting planning permission for the building the Borough Council Planning Committee felt that the 12 or so spaces in front of the building was woefully inadequate. It would lead to people parking on the narrow roads around the area causing a nuisance to residents. Planning consent was dependent on there being more parking.

As neither the pub site nor the employment units land had been sold at that time, the Planning Committee could not consider use of that land as potential solutions without the agreement of the eventual owners – which by definition was impossible to obtain.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

The only practicable solution was grasscrete; with the probability it could be removed if use of the work units car park turned out to be feasible.

As the front page article mentions, it now looks as though use of the work units for parking may in fact be feasible; I'm sure this option will be pursued.

Regarding the pub; independent advice confirmed the view presented to the village that the original pub site was too small and it was unlikely the land could be sold for a pub unless it was increased to allow more car parking area. The general view was that this was an unwelcome but necessary trade off. However one should note that Wimpey owned both pieces of land and could apply for planning permission for the swap whatever the village felt, and the decision would be taken by the Borough Council.

Where now? Richard invites people to join with him with his questions of "So where are our playing fields?" and "what has happened in the last two years?". Well now you have the answer. But more to the point we should all be working together to get the best we can for this village. There has been little opportunity to do anything constructive re sports facilities until we have known when we might get the pitches. Now we know they are about 18 months away, if landscaping starts now; plenty of time to get organised and raise funds etc..

I know that members of the MVA's The Centre Steering Group feel that Richard's letter does not adequately recognise the massive efforts they have all put in, on behalf of all of you. Too much work is being done by too few people at the moment; the opportunity and timing is there to change that.

Bob Littler
Chair, MVA

Mawsley's Mums and Tots group continues to have fun every Monday morning from 10.30 am at Kids Kingdom, KLV, for a specially negotiated price of £3.50 for parent and child (50p for extra child) to include drinks for all.

Contact Sue Owens 791514

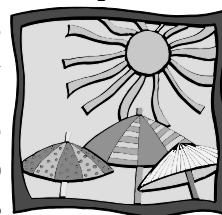


Saturday

Assess potential venues for forthcoming meetings. Complication in all of this is that Parish Meetings must be in the Parish – realise that St Wimpey really does need a Community Centre. Spot a site that would be ideally suited for use as a Community Centre as it is alongside the designated playing fields – however a large building is already "in situ". Must establish with the developers what this large building is for and whether it could be pulled down and replaced by a more traditional Village Hall built of wood and tin.

News from The Friends of Mawsley School

Thank you to all those who supported and helped at the Easter Eggstravaganza in March and the Ladies Night in May. They were both very well supported and extremely enjoyable. The children enjoyed seeing their school hall covered in Easter Eggs and their Mums enjoyed an evening of pampering and relaxing! The two events raised £600.00. We have also taken part in the 'phones4schools' recycling campaign and that has raised £300.00 We will be using this money to buy benches for the playground and gazebos to shade the children at sports days and other outside events.



We are currently going through the process of gaining charity status – but the paperwork is lengthy and on going so watch this space for more news!

Our development of the outside playing area continues. With the money raised at the summer fete we hope to purchase more play equipment for the playground. We are also working with the School Council to try and develop a garden area around the site of the shaded seating area

It is a very exciting time in the development of the school and we offer our grateful thanks to the parents, teachers and friends of the school who are helping us to achieve these goals.

Kathryn Merrill
Chair 799318



Welcome Packs

The MVA has a policy of welcoming new residents to the village. They have developed a Welcome Pack in conjunction with KBC. Mary Rose is kept incredibly busy getting these packs out to new arrivals. If you have recently moved in and would like a pack please contact her on 790349.

News from Mawsley Community Primary School

Pupils have sent me four pages of reports of their recent residential visits and I have had the unenviable task of editing them down to one page. I hope you enjoy the bits I have chosen as much as I did. Editor

Year 2's residential to Beaumanor Hall



We arrived at school with very heavy bags; we gave our Mum's and Dad's one last cuddle and then got onto the coach.

Sean and Kallum impressed Miss Pestell and Mrs Brown all the way there as they were telling the time every minute by looking at the digital clock on the coach!!

Wendy explained how to play the mini beast sorting game. Miss Pestell, Mrs Brown, Mr Wilkins and Mr Nash stood far away on the field holding buckets with mini beast pictures on. We all had lots of small cards showing the mini beasts. Our team leaders gave us a card and we had to run and put it into the right bucket then run back as fast as we could for another.

Next we stood with our partners and walked to the pond. This was the most exciting thing of the day - we went pond dipping! Nearly everyone caught a frog! Other creatures that were caught were, fish, pond snails and newts... lots of us found frog spawn and gave it a stroke. It felt like jelly. Amy thought she had found her prince but she decided not to kiss it to find out!

After the pond dipping we went back to our cabins washed our hands and ate our lunch. When we had finished our lunch we went and met a man called Gareth. He took us into the woods. He told us about mini beasts and where to find them. We used special pieces of equipment to find them under logs, near trees and under rocks.

Next we went back to the nature hut and gave our hands a very good scrub with very smelly soap!

At 8:30 at night we got ourselves wrapped up warm and found our torch. We got onto a coach with Gareth and went to the Beacon. We could see for miles around, as we were really high in the sky. Our high visibility jackets really glowed because of our torches shining on them.



Every one had super Pyjamas; Luke's were so amazing they glowed in the dark so he won the best PJ competition.

Year 4's residential to Kingswood

We were all very excited on the day but we weren't subtle about it. We showed our emotions ever so much! You should have seen all of the girl's suitcases; they were about the same size of the coach boot!

Miss Harris' group did fencing first and they had loads of fun learning all the moves and at the end we asked our partners for a dual and that was the most enjoyable bit of all.

That night we played the trail of mystery. And we caught Mrs W. spoon in the act.

Then there was the Zip line. It was really fun. Anna was doing really well, she went down and when she went to let herself down and tried to pull the lever it got jammed! so she had to get pulled up. She said it was great it was like a second go. And in the other group Aidan got up there and was absolutely terrified so he came back down, But when he came down he realised that he could do it so he went up and he got a round of applause!!



Miss Harris' group did team tech. In team Tech we had to make a bike out of plastic pieces. There were certain extras that had to be included like a cup holder, a luggage holder, a baby seat, and adult seat and a CD player.

Then there was the team challenge. It was really hard. First of all we had to crawl under a net touching each other to create a human chain. The next one we had to do included walking over planks of wood. We had to get to the other side of the bridge having touched every plank of wood. Then because Miss Harris' group was out of time we just had to crawl through the tyres. The other group had to do all of the other activities but they can't remember them.

That night we had a disco. The girls were up all night and dancing. Some of the boys were dancing on one particular dance. Some of the girls wanted Jessica Price to be there, but we can not perform miracles. At the end of the disco we heard some jokes then we went to have some hot chocolate.



We also did caving which was really fun. We got really dirty, especially Anna, who was wearing white. Anna's mum said that it was old, so it was ok. Then the next day was the quad bikes. In Miss Harris' group, Holly was really scared about going on them, Rosie had told her some scary stories, she didn't mean to but Holly is frightened easily. It really put her off, so Miss Harris said to take it step by step. First of all she put on the equipment then we walked down to the quad then we sat on the quad then we couldn't get her off the quad bike.

By Holly Mahoney, Emily Berrill & Rosie Masterman

Mawsley's 2nd Open Gardens

Sunday 11th June 2 - 6 pm

£2 per adult for entrance to all the gardens. Children free.

- Are you looking for ideas for your own garden?
- Do you think nothing will grow in your clay soil?
- Do you just like looking at gardens?

Whatever your reason don't miss this chance to see what your neighbours have done.

Refreshments available and plants for sale in some gardens.

Meadow Lane Garden Centre (Cransley) will have a Plant Stall in Hawthorn Ave

Detailed programmes and maps will be available on the day from any of the open gardens or the Information Point. To help you plan your route there is a map in the middle of the Mawsley Advertiser showing the location of the eleven gardens which have already signed up.



From the editor.....

It is always an interesting experience putting together an edition of the newsletter. The various contributions come in over a one week period and during that time I slowly begin to get a feel about what is going on in the village, what the mood is, what matters to people and who is doing what.

So what has impressed me this time? Well, how about Jason Wallace's scheme for tapping into referral fees from Amazon, Tesco, CD-Wow and the like simply by placing our orders via the Village Forum? (Page 6) Brilliant idea, already up and running. All we have to do is to remember to use it.

Enthusiasm and passion really come through this time. It is quite clear from reading the various articles that no one has written a piece because they thought they ought to. The writers are keen about what they are doing and want to share it with us.

Hard work is the other theme, with a lot of it being done by the same few people. Because we don't say 'Thank you' often enough, I would like to do so here on behalf of all of us to the officers of the MVA and the PC, some of whom have given up most of their spare time for the last four and a half years to secure the best facilities possible for the village. You know who you are. Thank you.

Briefly, the next newsletter will come out on 14th July. Help to make it interesting, controversial, amusing by writing to me by 7th July at the very latest. I look forward to hearing from you.

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



Sunday

Word of the "Trout and Parsnip" has spread – nearly four Parishioners in attendance at lunchtime bemoaning just about everything to do with St Wimpey and a shortage of facilities. Luckily, as no-one attends Parish Council meetings, I can pass incognito amongst them and nod in agreement with their comments.

Have your say!

Plans for the development of the site on Nethertown Way, where the temporary doctor's surgery used to stand, are being put on display for your comments.

Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association is exhibiting the plans at the school on **Monday 19th June from 3.30 to 7pm.** See separate flier.

Their previous development between Cransley Rise, Colseed Road and Symonds Way is now complete and almost fully occupied so they are ready to move onto this new area.

**A Fund Raising Day
at Thorpe Malsor Reservoir
for All Saints Church, Thorpe Malsor**

Sunday 18th June

11.30am Family Service

Picnic Lunch: some finger foods provided
Sponsored Walk around the Reservoir - mown path - approx. 1 mile. Dogs welcome but strictly on leads as there are ground nesting birds.

Any contributions welcome - Raffle
More details from 01536 513924

THE SWARBRICK SINGERS IN CONCERT

St. Andrews Church, CRANSLEY on
Friday 30th. JUNE 2006 at 7.30p.m.

Tickets £8.00 includes
Strawberries & Cream with a glass of wine

To reserve your tickets call 790781