



Mawsley Villagers Association

Newsletter

September 2006

From the editor.....

Well here we are again after a summer break - looking forward to a new school term and a new round of village activities. Not as many activities as we would have hoped because there is still no where in the village to hold them.

There is a sense of deep frustration coming through many of the articles included this time but Mawsleyites are clearly a spirited bunch. You continue to plan events, classes and groups and to enjoy all the good things about living here. So while the Youth Group and Under 5s have to be out of action, and the Folk Group, pre-school and keep fit can't get started there is still plenty going on - both old favourite activities and new ones. So why not join in something this autumn, meet more of your fellow villagers and look on the bright side?

And why not have your say in the next newsletter? Reports, comments, pictures, jokes - anything to share with the village - would be welcome. **The next Newsletter is due out on 20th October. It would be good to see some fresh names included. Please let me have all newsletter items as soon as you like and by 13th October at the very latest.**

I look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Rowley.

791881. pat.rowley@tiscali.co.uk

The Centre at Mawsley

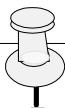
Over the last few weeks there has been a noted increase in activity with regard to transfer of the Community Centre building from the ownership of George Wimpey to the Parish Council. Given the complexities of taxation law and the need for clarity over what is being transferred, to whom and for how long, this is not an easy process. As has been advised in previous newsletters the initial transfer will be from George Wimpey to the Borough Council with a subsequent transfer to the Parish Council. The Parish Council is keen to ensure that it does not burden the village with onerous, and potentially costly, terms and conditions and is therefore looking for complete clarity in the transfer documents. We are now down to a few final details and are hopeful that the building will be transferred within the next few weeks. However, this cannot be guaranteed. The Parish Council remains confident that "The Centre at Mawsley" will be in use for Christmas; we just hope that the Christmas in question comes within the term of office of the present Councillors!

Richard Meredith
Clerk

Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association

have made a gift of £250 to the MVA. They have left it to us to decide what to spend the money on but would like it to be used for an identifiable project rather than be absorbed into our general funds.

No decision has yet been made. Have you any suggestions for a use for this gift? Contact Bob Littler on 791447 with your ideas.

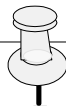


St Wimpey in the Fields

Extracts from the non-pc diary of a Parish Clerk

Monday

Deep depression! As a wet August unfolds I receive notification that a Drought Order may be imposed. This would involve the Clerk in confiscation of all hosepipes and the sealing of all outside taps in the Parish. (Cost to Parish - £1.75). Mrs Clerk not happy as any storage facility available at the Parish Office for the hosepipes is already full with detritus from numerous village events and various uninstalled Parish assets. Must seek alternative to imposition of Drought Order



Tuesday

Alternative found - by using freely available rain water collected across the Parish this can be shipped to those gardens suffering the worst effects of drought. Collection will be assisted by blocking all storm drains. In discussion with developer it transpires that all drains are blocked anyway! (Cost to Parish - £0.00). Morning post, arriving at 4.30pm, reveals that the Drought Order will not now be imposed

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 11th September at 7.30pm at Cransley Village Hall. Amongst other things it will be considering the planning application for the next phase of affordable housing on Nethertown Way and also considering the applications received for the position of Parish Clerk.

The meeting after this will be on 2nd October.

Playing Field

You may have noticed that work has now begun on the playing field behind The Centre. It is going to be levelled, drained and resurfaced and then laid out with cricket, football and other sports areas.

The MVA has tried to arrange for the basket ball hoops and small goals to be moved to an alternative site while this work is in progress but unfortunately this has not proved possible.

The only possible site would have been the open land behind Jibwood. Bob Littler had a site meeting there with KBC who said that the ground was in too poor a condition for it to be safe. It is very stoney and gets waterlogged quickly. The cost of putting this right would be prohibitive. So on health and safety grounds the basket ball hoops cannot be relocated.

Mawsley Allotment Association



Despite continuing to question and pursue the relevant authorities we still have no definite news on when allotments will be provided in Mawsley. The Association's Management Committee share the frustrations of all villagers who are keen to get growing. We are trying to get some clear information about the situation and will let everyone know as soon as we can. In the meantime anyone who is interested in having an allotment please phone Teresa (791777) or Tony (791162) for further information.



Football coaching

For more than 4 years Simon Wren has given up his time nearly every Saturday morning to run a football coaching session for youngsters in the village. He has been helped by Mark Baird for the last 2 years.

We owe them both a mighty vote of thanks for their efforts and commitment.

However they are now moving on to do different things and ideally we would like to find someone to take over from them.

Can you help? Will you volunteer to take over? Or do you know someone who might?

We can't hide the fact it is a big a big commitment week in and week out. There is a core group of more than 20 children of ages ranging from 5-11, with mixed ability.

The new Coach ideally would be qualified to coach football by having a recognised FA coaching badge, but if someone is confident enough to take it over they should be fine. The other requirements are to be First Aid qualified and checked on the register for working with children.

Time? Arrive 9:45am at the school to set up, and then run the session 10-11am.

If you can help in any way please contact Bob Littler. 791447.

The Mawsley Villagers Association AGM was well attended, despite having to be held in Cransley. It heard reports from the MVA sub-groups and approved the annual accounts.

The restructuring of the MVA, as described in the last newsletter, was then agreed in principle. This was followed a month later by another well attended Special General Meeting at which the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the new Mawsley Villagers Association Ltd (a company limited by Guarantee) were approved and it was resolved to transfer the assets of the current MVA to it once it receives Charity Comm. approval as a charity.



Wednesday

Awoken at 8.00am by the sound of lawnmowers and strimmers – yes!, it is the annual visit of the grounds maintenance team. The constant hum of activity can be heard until lunchtime and thereafter intermittently until 4.00pm. Mental note: Must check who is responsible for removing the grass cuttings and for finishing off the areas left untended.

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

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Be part of the world's biggest coffee morning on
Friday 29th September.

Karen invites you to join her at **10 Main Street**
between 10am and 1pm

Help make a difference to people living with cancer.



Mawsley's 'Mums and Tots' group which meets at Kids Kingdom, Kettering Leisure Village on Monday mornings from 10.30 am will be restarting this week.

There is a special concessionary rate for us of £3.50 for parent and child (and 50p for each additional child) to include use of all the play equipment and drinks for all.

Because Kids Kingdom is very quiet on a Monday morning it is suitable for babies and children of all ages.

Come and join us! Just turn up or contact
Sue Owens 791514 for more information

The Dance Factory update

Miss Katy had a tremendous response to the flyer she distributed with the July Advertiser. 16 children attended her Dance Factory Summer School at Mawsley School and are now also signed up for classes from September.

But there has been a keen response from adults as well - the biggest surprise being the take-up for the adult tap class which is filling up fast. So any of you adult tappers out there - don't miss out! Katy is really looking forward to starting that class and promises that you are going to have a blast!

If you have booked a class please note that because The Centre will not be available for the start of term we will use a temporary alternative venue which will be the Loddington Village Hall.

For any bookings or enquiries you may have - Please call Miss Katy on 0777 2524 797 or email thedance.factory@hotmail.co.uk

MVA Under 5s Group

The MVA under 5s' Parent and Toddler group will not resume in Cransley Village Hall following the Summer Holidays. It is with regret that during the holidays one member of the committee has left which leaves two members to set up and run the playgroup. Holding the playgroup at Cransley does currently involve a lot of fetching and carrying and three cars are essential to ferry all items to the group.

We have unfortunately been left with no other option but to only resume the playgroup when The Centre at Mawsley is open as all toys, craft etc. will be stored on site and would make set up much easier.

Under 5s' committee

Our feelings are that the under 5s' committee will naturally evolve each year where new parents will take over the running of the playgroup and join the committee. The groundwork for the playgroup has been done and we have collected a large supply of toys and craft supplies. We will have a storage room at The Centre for all of the playgroups crafts and toys and members would not be responsible for providing teas/coffees and children's snack as we have been informed that these have to be purchased through the centre.

If you are interested in joining the committee or wish to help out on the playgroup day to set up then please give us a call. **Rebecca on 799311 or simmonsmark6@aol.com or Yvette on 799145.**

Rebecca Simmons

Secretary MVA under 5's committee



You are very welcome to come along to

Little Lights

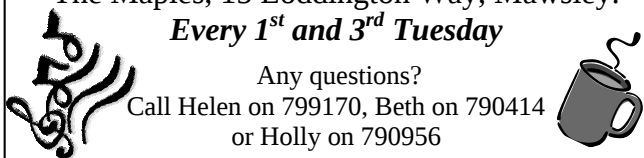
for parents & carers, under-5's and Mums-to-be with worship & action songs, fun and a chance to discuss parenting issues.

Tuesday 19th September
from around 1.30pm until 3pm at
The Maples, 15 Loddington Way, Mawsley.

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday

Any questions?
Call Helen on 799170, Beth on 790414
or Holly on 790956

Christians in Mawsley



Thursday

Great news – activity has been seen in the vicinity of the proposed playing field, at long last the development of the new sporting complex is under way. With a potential seating capacity of 75,000 I am forced to consider the arrangements that will need to be put in place for traffic movement and parking. Is it

too late to suggest that a more traditional playing field comprising cricket and football/rugby pitches would be more practical and probably get greater use than the state of the art stadium currently planned? For one thing, it would ensure residents were free to create their own congestion by parking in the streets and ignoring designated parking areas.....



Mawsley Events Team

You will find included with this newsletter a copy of the Suttons Bulb Catalogue 2006 with a good choice of Spring bulbs.

Please use it. The village will receive 20% cash back on every order placed.

Order forms should be returned with payment (cheques payable to MVA) to 7 Cransley Rise by **MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER.**

Orders will then be delivered direct to you from Suttons.

If your catalogue is missing ring Cheryl on 799107

Calling all Singles in Mawsley

Fancy a get together once a fortnight for a drink and a chat?
If you're interested call Jill, 791990



Walking group

Hi Walkers

Just a few lines to let you know details of the next three walks. They are:

Saturday 23rd September. Twywell Hills and Dales 4-5 miles.

Sunday 22nd October. Cransley, Loddington, Thorpe Malsor, Cransley. 5-6 miles.

Saturday 18th November Badsaddle Wood - Broughton - Badsaddle Wood - Pytchley. Pub en route. 6 - 7 miles.

I would like to thank all those villagers who have joined us this year so far. We have also been on many evening walks and still are until the light fades whereupon we will be adding further Saturday or Sunday walks to the programme. If anyone is thinking of joining us there are various vacancies due to us mislaying walkers over the summer period. We always know where we are but sometimes not in relation to the maps!!

If you want any further information or wish to contribute in some way feel free to contact Pam or myself any time.

Steve & Pam Draycott 791681 slduk @ f2s.com



Friday

Respond to an urgent call to represent the village in a cricket match. Despite it being several years since I played seriously I take this as being a reflection that certain skills are being recognised. Not called upon to bowl (sensible given only previous outing in x years and collapse of knees) and asked to bat middle order (sensible recognising my previous knock was even longer ago). Successfully break finger off first ball manage to get into double figures. After the match I realise the reason for the call up was that everyone else had declined and the skipper thought I may be able to field some questions on the status of Community Centre, pub, recycling, shop, take away etc. etc. Mrs Clerk not too happy with state of finger and ceremonially burns kit to avoid filling the washing machine with vast quantities of mud resulting from the damp conditions of play.

Mawsley Harvest Ball

14th October - COACH PICKUPS

On your invitation you have been placed on coach A or B depending on where you live and also on how late you bought your tickets.

- ♦ Bus A will pick up from the duck pond area
- ♦ Bus B will pick up from near the doctor's surgery.

So please check your ticket and be at the correct pickup point for 6.15pm ready for a good night out.

ALL PLACES FOR THE BALL HAVE NOW BEEN SOLD. I SHALL BE

Firework Extravaganza!

Saturday 4th November 2006

Tickets will be available very soon and details on how you can buy them will be advertised on

www.mawsleyvillage.co.uk &
www.mawsleyvillageforum.co.uk
the village notice board, at the school and at the doctor's surgery.



We are still looking for volunteers to help with the event. If you can help in anyway please contact Cheryl on 799107.

Recipes from Mawsley

Have you got your copy of the MVA Recipe Book yet? If not, why not? It is only £3 and is packed full of recipes from villagers.

Please contact

Cheryl on 799107 or Victoria on 799196 to get hold of a copy.

A visit to Westminster

Philip Hollobone MP (Conservative, Kettering) who we met at the opening of the new Surgery (Mawsley Medical) invited Mawsley WI to Westminster.

It's the 24th July and very hot. 12 noon, having negotiated the first security checks of the day I report to the Reception Desk in the Central Lobby at Westminster – Mawsley Village Women's Institute for Mr Philip Hollobone (*the last of our party are just emerging from the 'facilities' – make a note – more ladies toilets needed at Westminster!*). Philip quickly comes to welcome us.

Our tour starts in the House of Lords Chamber, the red and the gold - so bold. We already have so many questions to ask. We move on through the corridors – to the Queen's Robing Room and then to a Commons Voting Corridor or Lobby (*are we Ayes to the right or Noes to the left?*) and each of us played our part of casting our vote - was my bow acceptable on leaving the Lobby? We now find ourselves in the House of Commons Chamber learning about the etiquette and procedures of the chamber and then, the opportunity that we have all been waiting for... It's my chance to stand at the dispatch box – a few seconds of imagining myself as Prime Minister engaged in a heated debate of national importance with the opposition (*perhaps the opening of Mawsley Village Hall!*).

After such an important moment we enjoy a sandwich lunch and chance to talk to Philip (*yes among other things about the problem of where to hold our WI meetings when the Village Hall has still not been opened*) and do a spot of 'people watching'. Then we join our host on the House of Commons Terrace for a cup of tea (*and the photograph below to prove that we really were there*).

Back to the Central Lobby and we respectfully line up for the Speaker's procession before we are quietly ushered up towards the House of Commons Gallery. Having deposited our handbags with 'security' and another body search (*no Lynn you were not supposed to enjoy it!*), we took up our reserved seats in the Gallery to listen to 'Defence Questions'.

3.30 p.m. - time for us to leave the Commons and meet up with Philip again to be taken to the House of Lords Gallery. We say our thanks and farewells to Philip in hushed tones as we slip through an ancient carved wooden door into the small Gallery of the House of Lords. Are we listening to a Lord or a Bishop speaking? (*I refer to my House of Lords seating plan to check*). At 5 p.m., we quietly leave the gallery, collect our handbags and leave Westminster.

5.30 p.m. - it's still so hot as we relax on the lawn outside Westminster Abby with an Ice Cream and a drink. We reflect on our day – the fascinating information and history that we have learned from our host and guide – thank you Philip we had a splendid day!

The next group is now eagerly anticipating their visit to Westminster on October 9th.

Gwenneth, Vice President



We have been wonderfully lucky to have received a Grant from the Lottery 'Awards for All' scheme which will enable all our members to attend courses at Denman College. The college, which is set in beautiful surroundings in Oxfordshire was bequeathed to the WI to provide Educational courses for its members.

We are all looking forward to attending next May as it will give us the opportunity to develop our friendships which have been formed since joining the WI and to build on teamwork and explore other avenues.

Our fantastic fundraising effort has now come to an end. We are delighted to say that the money raised has allowed us to buy a table tennis table with equipment for the 'Youth of the Village' to be used in the Hall or outside when we have 'The Grand Opening'. We would like to thank everyone involved in raising the cash needed, especially the School for raising £170 in the great 'Coin collection', all members of WI, family and friends who raised the rest via Coin collecting, coffee morning and hamper raffle.

We have an exciting programme of activities and events planned for the remainder of 2006 and throughout 2007 including outings and craft workshops.

12th September (Tuesday) – meet at the lay-by in Broughton Road (by the first entrance to the village) for a **Walk around Mawsley Village** with Pam and Steve from the Walking Club, finding all the places around the village that we don't always see. There will be Hot Soup and Rolls at Mawsley Medical afterwards.

10th October (Tuesday) will be our Annual Meeting and Harvest Supper

Members and Guests are welcome at all of our meetings. Call Lynn on 791691 or Brenda on 799116 for more information about the WI or any of our meetings or activities

Date, time and venue of all meetings can also be found on the Village Notice Board.



Mawsley Cricket Club

Summer Season 2006



As the last match of the season on a very gloomy August Friday night came to an end the general consensus was that all involved had enjoyed the first season.

A number of villagers donned their whites this season, some for the first time in a number of years. Some were a little rusty and took a while getting into the swing of things, others were more impressive but all involved gave a good account of themselves.

We played 4 matches in all with one other being cancelled due to the weather. We lost our first match against a strong East Haddon team. It was then that we realised that nets and fielding practice were a must for the coming season. The fielding was interesting to say the least. Catches went down, due apparently to the sun and admitted lack of skill. The ground fielding was particularly variable – whilst I am honour bound not to mention his name, this particular Cover fielder's impression of Bruce Lee as he valiantly tried to get out of the way of the ball was a sight to behold. The bowling was reasonable and whilst it was hardly fair for the ball to be viciously tonked into the adjoining field at regular intervals, the tactic of bowling beamers, followed by a full toss to bowl the batsman out was inspired. A loss at this point was disappointing but all in all understandable. We managed to reach 100 runs with some strong hitting down the order and looked forward to our next match.

This, against the Royal Oak from Walgrave, was more successful. They batted first and reached 144 in their 20 overs. This innings boasted the shortest over of the season – a stunning two balls which included a wicket from the first ball and a tendon tear with the second. Our top order gave a good account of themselves but with wickets falling things were looking tense. However, they were no match for the strong hitting of the Mawsley middle order. And despite an unauthorised and potentially rash retirement we managed to register our first win of the season. Again the middle and lower order finding the boundaries with some lusty blows.

Next in line was Loddington - they put out a youth side and I think we were possibly a little blasé about our chances after our previous win. That was before the little whatsits started to tear around the pitch scoring freely and then bowling with such rapidity that we were wondering what the hell was going on. However, I think the youngsters were taught a thing or two by us old timers. We were lucky to have excellent spirit in the team. None more so than shown by a new player in the ranks whose constant encouragement in the field was inspirational (and he could bat too). We provided an Umpire of impeccable understanding and judgment. Mind you after hitting the shot of the day first ball of the innings and then being bowled by a 12 year old I would have been upset too. Our young pup and star bowler showed that it was possible to be

young and talented and drop even the simplest of catches (a trait he went onto perfect for the rest of the season). Luckily for us he assured us that he regularly caught the ball for his other

team!! And lastly an assured 51 showed just how to build an innings.

Our last match was against an even stronger East Haddon team in what can only be described as soggy conditions. We managed to get them all out in our allotted overs and made a good fist of chasing the total but in the end were short. Again it was great to see some new players answering the call and agreeing to turn up for a match.

So far I have mentioned no names but some people need to be mentioned. Whilst the standard of cricket may not have reached the level of last year's Ashes it was pretty good. And despite the fact that some had not played in many years the team did well. There were moments in the season that deserve credit. To that end I am pleased to announce the following awards. Their prize - absolutely nothing but the satisfaction of basking in the glow of the village's admiration.

Most improved player – Andy Connolly

Bowling Award – Scott Ramsey

Fielding Award – Simon Harper

Catch of the season – Dave Richards

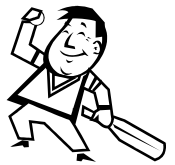
(an outstanding effort on the boundary)

Most runs scored in an over – Nick Owens (26)

Most runs scored off a Mawsley bowler in an over – Too many to mention

Dirtiest Whites – David Porterfield (diving around in the rain like an enraged Dolphin)

Champagne Moment – Ian Yates for his perfect header into the top corner whilst batting resulting in the biggest lump I have ever seen.



Players representing the village this season:

Biswas, Richardson, Wilkins, Powell, Owens, Richards, Harper, Ramsey, Smith, Connolly, Yates, Porterfield, Eaves, Eldershaw, Aldwinckle, Duck, Meredith, Jones. (Apologies if I have missed you.)

As you may know work has begun on the playing fields by the Centre. Cricket pitches and Nets are catered for but a lot of work is required to get these facilities up and running so they are usable. Money needs to be raised and committees need to be put into place in order for the pitches to be in good order as soon as possible. Pitches will need to be looked after; funds need to be raised to buy Nets etc. A number of people have expressed an interest in being a part of this. There must, however, be more people out there who have experience in these areas and are willing to help. If you have and are willing to help out then please let me know – ndo@maidwellhall.co.uk or 07801018979.

Nick Owens

Letters to the Editor

 **Mawsley – What a place!**

 Dear Editor

In July when we read the latest newsletter we got ready to voice an opinion on several topics covered, but isn't time a wonderful thing?

Here we are in late August and our concerns about progress on the Centre and the OFSTED Inspector's comments on lack of multicultural experience in the village environment seem less urgent, like our annoyance at those people who will keep ignoring the island on School Road.

What has matured is the realisation of how wonderful it is to live in Mawsley. With the school holidays nearly over hasn't it been nice to see groups of children out enjoying themselves and never an issue about their behaviour. We walk around and see things that could be better but more and more we notice those things that are already better than in many other communities.

The future is bright when you consider all those things we will definitely have in our village. We are not looking at a shrinking community, loss of amenities or uncontrolled disorder. We will have a new Centre, new shops, new sports facilities and a new pub that will be added to the doctors, dentist, bus service, mobile library and numerous thriving interest groups we already enjoy.

It's been a wonderful summer spent in a wonderful place. It's not in Mawsley is it?

Jan and John, Cowslip Hill

The Curate Has Landed

It's nice here, isn't it?

Having moved to Mawsley in late June we're settling in and most of the boxes have gone, if only to the garage. Thanks so much to the many people who have been so welcoming since our arrival, including the staff at our excellent village school.

I work with Revd Brian Withington, looking after the five villages of Mawsley, Broughton, Loddington, Gt Cransley & Thorpe Malsor. Helen and I are the proud owners of four boys: Edward (14), Will (7), James (6) and Charles (3). We used to live in Great Doddington, a village near Wellingborough, when I used to work in London for a major investment management firm. Originally from the North East I, along with my boys, am a long-suffering supporter of Newcastle United.

Like a lot of other people we're looking forward to the opening of the village centre & will be in touch soon about regular worship there. In the meantime, there are plenty of new things happening: Little Lights, a group for under-5s and their parents, carers & mums-to-be begins on 19th September and family-friendly Cransley Praise starts on 1st October.

I'd loved to hear from you if I can be of any help, or just to say hello.

Paul

Revd Paul Seaton-Burn
15 Loddington Way T: 01536 790140
seaton-burn@tiscali.co.uk



I simply don't believe it! In October 2006 the magnificent, very expensive and essential Centre at Mawsley will have stood finished and empty for twelve months. I have seen inside and I know how brilliant it is. Each evening, from my house I can see how well lit it is.

When the first people came to live in Mawsley **over five years ago**, every developer then working here and every Kettering Borough councillor knew that this village was special and unique. They all knew it was essential to create a vibrant community. So how are we doing?

We have our own hard working Parish Council and Mawsley Village Association. We circulate our own village newsletter and advertiser. We have our own fantastic school and the following organisations and groups exist in our village:

Mums and Tots	Walking Group
The Under 5s	W.I.
The Youth Group	Christians in Mawsley
Saturday Football Club	Coffee Club
Allotments Society	Cricket Club
Girl Guides	Football Club
Gardening Club	Reading Group

Many of these have to meet outside the village or in people's homes. For years we've run social events – often outside - and fund raising activities and have longed for the time when we would be able to use our own village hall and essential playing fields. There are now at least 620 occupied homes here. We need a place where we can meet and there is one **but we just can't get into it.**

I know that this newsletter reaches every borough councillor and key personnel at Wimpey. I say to everyone involved in getting our centre open, 'An extremely valuable asset is sitting empty and it is a scandal that this is so. Whatever it is that is holding things up, please sort it out as a matter of urgency. This village, this community deserves better from you.'

Pat Downing, Main Street.

Saturday

Am advised that there is a compulsory retirement age for Parish Clerks and that I am some thirty years away from it, but, given my accrued pension rights, I can retire early and still collect a modest stipend (equivalent to one hour at the national minimum wage averaged out over a twelve month period). Maths was never my strong point but consider that such an offer is not to be sniffed at. Mrs Clerk appears delighted, so I accept the offer to take early retirement. Note: Must check if Mrs Clerk's delight had more to do with a horse called "Puggy" at Salisbury than my pending idleness.

New WEA branch for Mawsley?



The Workers' Educational Association (WEA) is one of the UK's biggest charities, whose purpose is to interest people in their own education throughout their lives.

There are currently 21 WEA branches in Northamptonshire towns and villages, run by enthusiastic committees of volunteers. Branch committees and students have considerable input into the choice of courses, which cover a very wide range of topics. The programme for 2006/07 includes such topics as archaeology, gardening, history of art, antiques, geology, landscape history, comparative religions, local history, astronomy, the weather, English literature, music and poetry. Programmes in other years have also included languages, such as holiday Spanish/French or computing courses. A programme of walks, short courses and visits is also organised by the WEA Forum. Courses are open to anyone over 16 and most are suitable for beginners or those with some knowledge of the subject.

Would Mawsley like to be WEA branch 22?

If so it would be helpful to have a small group of local people, or even one or two enthusiastic individuals, to help get the branch up and running.

If you are interested in this project, either to help get it off the ground, or to attend courses when it is running please contact Bridget Chapman on 01604 813445 or email bchapman@wea.org.uk.

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.

We are well into our summer programme now and have had a very enjoyable day out at Sulgrave Manor on an extremely hot day. The guided tour was very interesting and it was cool inside the old house. We all had a lovely time at Podington Garden Centre with lunch in the café, some came away with free rose bushes, and we stopped at Cranberry House in Higham Ferrers on the way back for some interesting gifts.

The fruit picking at Dovecote Farm was a little later this year than last and, due to the very hot weather in July, there wasn't a lot of selection of fruit to be picked, but we came away with punnets of blackberries and raspberries. The jam with the cream tea afterwards took some believing, the strawberries in the jam were so enormous they covered the top of the scones! So a good time was had by all. We will shortly be joining together for our end of season Sunday Lunch but before that a final summer trip out to Boughton House and lunch at Jessica's at Weekly on the way over.

New Members very welcome
Enquiries please to Pat Ellis on 01536 790991.

Quiz

Where have you seen this sign?

What do you think about it?

Answers and any other relevant comments to the Editor, please.

Gardening Club

Wed. 27th Sept. 8pm. Gardening Quiz at 31 Main Street.

Enquiries to Marisa on 790748 or Joan on 791661

LOST

That darn wind!!

Craig Pashler is appealing for the return of his BBQ cover. 'The wind lifted it off our BBQ today (it was being held down by a brick, which I thought would be enough !?). By the time I had a chance to get my trainers on it had vanished. It was last seen by another resident working its way down the road, but I was unable to find it. It's fairly big and green, so not easy to miss if, for example, it is sitting in somebody's garden or blown into their drive.' You can contact Craig on 799177 or Cdpash@aol.com

FOUND

In the last week of July I found a silver charm type bracelet near the Duck Pond, where the school pick up is. If this belongs to you please call to be re-united with your bracelet.

Karen 790085

Sunday

Contemplate retirement with a swift half at the new local (not the one in the village unfortunately) but the recently refurbished "Guppy and Horseradish", which advertises food all day, every day, except lunchtimes and when the kitchen is closed. Visions of putting my feet up and soaking up the occasional glimpses of sun are dashed when I am accosted by a large group of parishioners asking what the status is of the Community Centre, pub, recycling, shop, take away etc. etc. Oh to be able to say "I don't know"!