



Mawsley Villagers Association Newsletter

April 2004

Contact Details

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

MVA Officers

mva@mawsleyvillage.net

Chair: Bob Littler (791447)

Vice-chair: Stuart Randle (791476)

Treas. Glen Somerville (790723)

Sec. Richard Meredith (791539)

Cransley Parish Council

cpc@mawsleyvillage.net

Mawsley members are:

Cllr. Bob Littler

Cllr. Chris Winter

Kettering Borough Council

Cllr. Jim Hakewill (01858 467686)

James.hakewill@btopenworld.com

Cllr. Michael Harrison

(01536 712888)

michaelharrison@kettering.gov.uk

Northants County Council

Cllr. Jim Harker (01536 742245)

jharker@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Newsletter Editors

Pat Downing and Pat Rowley

(791881)

newsletter@mawsleyvillage.net

Positive Thoughts

Samantha walked round the village the other day, and then commented to me just how well it is all coming on.

I think she's right – it is coming along really well. Sometimes, when we are stuck in the middle of mud or dust, contractors' lorries, piles of bricks etc., it's easy to lose sight of what Mawsley will be like in a few years time.

The open spaces, variety of housing styles, carefully tended gardens and beginnings of landscaping we see today will be added to with properly managed hedgerows and greens, mature trees, planted areas on the edge of the village and swathes of spring bulbs. These will attract a wide variety of birds and create a pleasant, relaxing environment. A cycle or stroll around the village will be an enjoyable hour or so.

The village hall as a lively village centre, the range of playing fields, the cycleway, the school, (probably) a shop, (possibly) a pub (not to mention many, many barbecues!) will all help to create a community that we enjoy being a part of.

Am I being a romantic? Of course; it's more fun. But I do think that Mawsley will be a modern village to be envied and enjoyed.

What do you have to do? Apart from plant a few trees if you wish, nothing – just enjoy it.

And thanks to all of you who were able to come along to the village open meeting. Hopefully you came away with not just a better view of what is happening, but also an understanding of *why* things are moving along (or not in some cases, true to say) in the way they are. A good social evening too!

Bob Littler - Chair, MVA

From the Editors.....

Welcome to Mawsley if you have just arrived and welcome to this edition of the newsletter. We hope you find it informative.

There are now between 380 and 400 homes in the village so we are forming a small team of deliverers for the newsletter. Thank you to those who we have already recruited. We need three more, please; someone to do The Green, Ellis Lane and Scholars Row, someone else for Chambers Hill, Padmans Close and The Jitty and another person for Main Street, Link

Lane and the top end of Loddington Way. The newsletter is delivered on a Friday every six weeks. Can you help?

The next newsletter will be distributed on Friday 11th June. Please let us have your articles, stories, letters to the editors, odd odes etc by Friday 4th June at the latest.

In the meantime enjoy Fun Day, get involved in the Parish Council elections and get writing.

Pat and Pat 791881

Toddlers' Play Area

The temporary toddlers' play area, close to the first entrance to the village, is now ready for use. It has been equipped with colourful, sturdy equipment and a safe ground surface. Have fun!

Just a reminder that it has been provided for children under 7 and is quite small. To keep it safe for them older children are asked not to play or gather there.

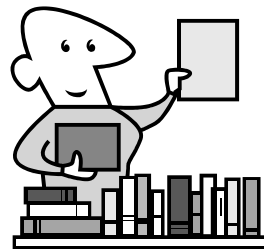


Thanks to Richard Barnwell, on whose farmland the playground is situated, and to Kettering Borough Council for providing this.

Watch out for notices about an official opening.

Mobile Library

The mobile library continues to visit Mawsley fortnightly on Mondays. It parks by the post box on School Lane from 3.40pm - 4.10pm.



The next visit will be on Monday May 17th. Please note there will be no visit on Bank Holiday Monday 31st May. Then 14th and 28th June.

www.mawsleyvillage.net

This address should be on your favourites list. Check it out for what's on, what's on people's minds and tips and advice from your neighbours. If you've lost your old newsletters or want a village map you'll find them on the website. Thank you to Ian Whittaker, webmaster, for maintaining all this.

Mawsley Parish Council

Mawsley Parish Council came into existence (in theory) on 1st April 2004. It will have 7 members. Until elections are held on 10th June 2004 Mawsley affairs will continue to be dealt with by Cransley Parish Council.

Have you thought about becoming a Parish Councillor? Full details of how to stand for election can be obtained from KBC's Electoral Services Unit on 01536 534200 or 534353 or by emailing elecereg@kettering.gov.uk.

Briefly the conditions are as follows:

- Candidates need to be 21 years or over, registered as electors in Mawsley or have lived, worked or owned property/land in Mawsley for 12 months. They are also eligible if they live within 3 miles of the boundary.
- Nominations have to be submitted by 4pm on Tuesday 11th May. They need to be made on an official form available by writing to the Council or by phoning 01536 534353 or 534200.
- A nomination requires one proposer and one seconder, both of whom have to be registered electors for Mawsley.

If an election is required it will coincide with the European Union Elections and will be postal. Your voting pack should be delivered to you by Friday 28th May.

Image was pasted in when originally printed

The new parish covers a much smaller area than that first proposed by KBC and it now excludes any Cransley residences or farm buildings.

Perhaps we should consider 'walking the bounds' to mark its establishment.

Break in at Old Gorse Way

There was an unpleasant burglary at a house in Old Gorse Way at the end of March. It happened at midnight when the residents were at home.

The burglars got into the garden through an unlocked gate and by torchlight saw keys on the kitchen worktop. They broke the patio door with a kerb stone and quickly grabbed the keys, a wallet and mobile phone.

The police responded extremely quickly and used dogs and a helicopter in the search but without success.

The police have suggested that the burglars may not have bothered with that house if the gate had been locked and they advise residents to shut curtains at night and never to leave car or house keys in view of a window.

Neighbourhood Watch

Would anyone out there like to organise Neighbourhood Watch for the village?

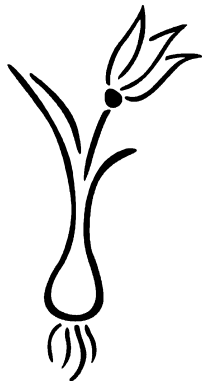
We would all benefit from a system for looking out for strangers and reporting suspicious sightings. It would be a team effort but someone is needed to take the lead. There is a lot of advice and support available from the police.

If this sounds like your kind of thing please contact Bob Littler on 791447 or email the MVA at mva@mawsleyvillage.net

Bulbs for the village

Not for the streetlights but for the open spaces!

Wimpey have given £500 to the MVA for the purchase of bulbs to be planted around the village. Some of this has already been spent on 2000 snowdrops; the remaining bulbs will be bought and planted in the autumn.



Dog Warden hits the Headlines

Steve Nurthen, the Kettering Dog Warden, was featured on an edition of Look East (BBC TV News) last week. The story was that Kettering Borough is taking dog fouling more seriously than other councils and is taking owners who do not clear up after their dogs to Court. Many successful prosecutions have taken place over the past year.

It will not be long before Mawsley becomes part of his territory and it is hoped that he will be able to deter the very few irresponsible owners here who are making life unpleasant for the rest of us. Dog fouling continues on the playing field despite our many requests to owners to clear up. In case it is the inconvenience of carrying the poo home that is the problem a bin is going to be placed near the field. Please use it!

This photograph of a rather explicit sign in Tenerife was sent to the editors by a recent visitor to Mawsley who was shocked by the amount of dog poo on our pavements.

George Wimpey Outline Planning Application

The MVA would like to thank all those who took the trouble to respond to the recent consultation on the plans submitted by Messrs. George Wimpey for the last phase of development of the village.

As you will recall the proposal submitted is for an additional 138 houses which would be achieved by a greater density of housing in the only area remaining that requires planning permission. The subject obviously fired peoples' emotions as well over 200 responses were received, and, of those responses, 98.6% objected to the outline plan. The MVA has therefore lodged its strong objection to the outline planning application on, in summary, the following grounds:

1. The submitted plans are a significant variation from the original planning approval. We believe the plans fundamentally alter the design concept of Mawsley Village with greater density of housing in one area and the loss of green space.
2. Traffic volumes will increase dramatically and this will be to the detriment of the existing road network both within and external to Mawsley Village.
3. Sewage capacity is already known to be a problem in the area as there is insufficient capacity for expansion beyond already approved housing numbers.
4. The size of the proposed Village Hall is already an issue, the current design is for a hall of 750 sq. metres which the MVA believe is barely large enough for a village of 750 houses.
5. The village school that is currently under construction is not planned for a village in excess of 750 houses.
6. The houses proposed do not fall into the definition of "affordable" contained within the S106 agreement.

We await the outcome of deliberations from the Kettering Planning Authorities!

A full text of the letter of objection can be obtained from Richard Meredith (Tel: 791539 or email "richard.meredith@eds.com").



Mawsley Community Primary School



Information Update from the headteacher

Building work on the school is progressing rapidly and is on course to be completed by the end of the Summer Term.

The preparations for the opening of the school in September are going very well. Mrs Helen Smith (School Bursar) and I have taken up our appointments and are now working from Hall Meadow Primary School in Kettering in order to have everything in place for the start of the new academic year. We can be contacted for enquiries about the school on: **07876 130311**. This number will only be in use until August.

This has been a very exciting week in the development of the school as the Personnel Committee of the governing body has interviewed and appointed the first four members of the teaching staff, who will be taking up their new roles in September. We were delighted to receive over 70 applications for the four positions. We are pleased to have appointed, from a very strong selection of candidates:

- Miss Jeanette Barrie – Reception Teacher
(currently at Park Infant School, Raunds)
- Miss Anne Pestell – Year 1/2 Teacher
(Weston Favell Primary School)
- Miss Michelle Harris - Year 3/4 Teacher
(Grange Junior School, Daventry)
- Miss Amanda Jeffords - Year 5/6 Teacher
(Redbridge Junior School)

The teachers appointed all have previous experience of the year groups they will be teaching and are very keen to work with the governors to create a high quality learning environment at Mawsley C.P. School.

As mentioned in the last newsletter the governors have also been trying to help working parents by looking into provision for before and after school child care. Mrs Saeeda Shah, who is moving to Mawsley in the near future, has discussed the possibility of hiring a classroom and setting up this facility within the school with the governors. There may also be the possibility of running full time provision during the school holidays, if there is enough interest. At present Mrs Shah is following all the OfSTED regulations in order to get the provision set up for September. For further details she can be contacted on: 01527 510330. It is important that parents who are interested in this child care provision contact Mrs Shah as soon as possible so she is able to recruit the correct number of staff to comply with regulations.

All parents who have contacted Pupil Services at the LEA and have been allocated a place for admission to the school in September will shortly receive a uniform order form. Please could this be returned to either: Mrs Elaine Cawthorne, (School Uniform Working Party Governor) 9 Fox Coverts, Mawsley or Mrs Helen Smith (School Bursar) Mawsley C.P. School, C/o Hall Meadow Primary School, Packer Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 7JR by Monday

14th June. If you are unsure of sizes to order, samples will be available for parents to view on 27th and 31st May between 2.00p.m. – 4.00p.m. at 9 Fox Coverts, Mawsley. Once ordered the uniform will then be supplied by the end of the Summer Term. A full list of school uniform will be supplied with the order form.

Our uniform supplier will also be able to provide a dark green polo shirt as an alternative to the yellow polo shirt if required. During warmer weather our school uniform for girls will include a yellow striped or checked dress (that can be bought from many local stores or supermarkets) with a dark green cardigan.

We are pleased that the numbers for admission to our first four classes are steadily rising. However, if there are any parents who would still like their children to take up a place in September please phone Angela Brustenghi at Pupil Services, John Dryden House, Northampton on 01604 236221 as soon as possible. Our maximum intake for September 2004 will be 120, based on four classes of 30 pupils.

Thank you for your continued interest in the school. I look forward to giving you more information on future developments within the school in the next newsletter. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number above for any further information.

Elaine Wright, Headteacher

After school it's Playtime at Kidsville Childcare ...

Mrs Saeeda Shah's daughter, Zanya, so enjoys the after school nursery she currently attends that her mother was hoping to find a similar provision in Mawsley. When she discovered that this was not available she decided to set it up herself. Through the medium of a limited company, and in full compliance with Ofsted regulations, she will be running pre- and post-school care sessions in a classroom kindly made available by the school.

She is currently recruiting two members of staff for the children already registered. She will engage a third carer if the numbers go over 16. The maximum number of children she can take in the first year is 24.

For more information see the advertisement in the Mawsley Advertiser or contact Mrs Shah direct.

Village Open Meeting

Last week's Open Village Meeting was well attended and it was good to see many new faces there. The purpose of the meeting was to update residents on progress on the various village projects and to provide background information for newcomers.

Bob Littler reminded us of the original village concept and structure.

There is an overall Master plan which sets out in general terms the style of the village and that it was to be designed as a community and to replicate as far as possible a typical Northamptonshire village.

Then there is the detail, contained in the 'section 106 agreement' which is a legal agreement between KBC and the developers. Among other things the S106 agreement requires that the developers are to provide a school, village hall, playing fields, shop and also a bus subsidy.

There is no legal requirement for them to provide a pub or employment units.

Shop

The developers are obliged to provide a shop building ready for purchase or renting when 700 houses are occupied. Apparently Wimpey are now actively marketing the shop.

During the open session at the end of the meeting topics raised included:

Hedges and landscaping

The hedges are protected and the developers will replace any sections which have been damaged during building works. KBC planners are not satisfied that all the planting in the open spaces is appropriate for a village and some of this may be replaced.

There is concern that planting, signs and noticeboards at the two village entrances is obstructing visibility onto the main road. This will be taken up with the culprits.

Speeding traffic

The temporary removal of the islands at the David Wilson end of Loddington Way has resulted in more speeding traffic. Main Street continues to be a race track. Some residents are driving much too fast in the village but the main offenders are thought to be contractors. The developers will be contacted again with a request to warn all their employees, contractors and visitors. Until our roads are 'adopted' by the County Council' charges of speeding cannot be brought but 'dangerous driving charges' can.

Bus Route

There has been a delay in implementing the new bus routes round the village. It has been held up by franchising negotiations. In the meantime it may be possible to move the current bus-stop to avoid the bus blocking the route out of the village.

Cycle routes into Kettering

These would need to be part of a county wide plan and there are serious cost implications.

Community Centre/village hall/playing fields

Stuart Randle provided an update.

The S106 agreement provides that this would be built in stages as the village grew with completion at 700 houses. This was going to result in a rather piecemeal building that the MVA regarded as unsatisfactory. They have negotiated with Wimpey to bring the complete build forward to coincide with the completion of 400 houses in exchange for a slightly reduced size. Provision of the playing fields has also been brought forward.

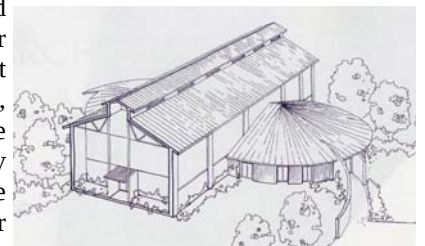
The current position is that agreement is awaited from Wimpey on a couple of internal design changes requested by the CC Steering Group. One of these is to make the bar area more suitable and the other is to reorganise meeting rooms in order to provide an office for a Centre Manager. The combined changes are likely to be cost neutral.

The issues the steering group is currently considering are:

1. Who will manage and who will own the centre? The current thinking is that it will be handed over to the Parish Council which will pass the management on to the MVA. It will need to be run as a business probably with a salaried manager being employed.

2. S106 does not stipulate any particular standard for the playing fields. It is important for the village that they are of a high standard, level and properly drained to enable sports to be played safely and teams to participate in leagues.

3. The Kettering Planners had envisaged that an occasional license would be required, the bar only being needed when the building was open for functions. The steering group believe that the bar can serve a very useful social function for the village and generate income for running the centre if it is open regularly, particularly while we have no pub, and they are pursuing the necessary licensing for this.



Charitable status

Chris Winter reported that the MVA has voted in favour of becoming a charity and the application is now being submitted to the Charity Commissioners. Trustees will be required; anyone wishing to volunteer for this role should contact Chris Winter (790375) for more information.

The organising structure for the village will then consist of:

1. the Parish Council, which like all other PCs will have a well defined but rather limited role and limited funds,
2. the MVA, constituted as a charity and managing the community fund provided by the developers,
3. and then, possibly, a limited trading company set up by the MVA to run the community centre and playing fields.

Social Committee News

Fun Day Saturday 29th May

This is the biggest Mawsley event of the year and not to be missed.

The Fun Runs will take place round the village in the morning, the bar and burger van will open at noon, with all the stalls and competitions following at 1pm. Throughout the afternoon there will be kids races, tug of war, penalty shoot out and plenty more. BBQ lighting up time is 6pm with karaoke well into the night.

A detailed timetable will be delivered to your door before the event.

Thank you to everyone who has already offered their assistance for the day (and clearing up the next day). If you would like to be involved please contact Mark Jones on 790604 or Tony Bagshaw on 791837.

The gardening club will be running a plant stall at the Fun Day. Come and stock up and have a chat about your garden or sign up for an allotment.

Also, children are invited to enter our
Miniature Garden Competition

Make a miniature garden on a plate, meat dish or tray. You can use sand, pebbles, petals and buds, coloured shapes or whatever takes your fancy.

Bring your garden to the Gardening Club stall between 1.15 and 1.45 pm. There will be prizes for under 6s and for 6 years and over.



Mawsley Village Barn Dance

10th July 2004 7.30pm till 11pm

Broughton Village Hall

Tickets priced at £4 per head

Dance caller and live band for an evening of frivolity & great entertainment!!

Reminder

Tesco 'Computers for Schools' vouchers

We will be collecting these together with the vouchers off Nestle cereal packets for the community school. Can you all please save these vouchers for us and drop them off at the doctor's surgery.

Thank you.

Elaine Cawthorne

Out and About around Mawsley – Top Tips

The Social Committee would like to include a column in the Mawsley Newsletter which gives villagers tips and ideas of where to go in and around the local area.

What have you discovered since you've moved in? Have you some 'Top Tips' for fellow villagers?

We are looking for:

- Ideas for walks and bike rides
- Good pubs for eating and drinking
- Good restaurants
- Cheap and reliable taxis
- Places of interest or local events to visit

If you have tried and tested somewhere recently and would be willing to share your find, please email or telephone Andrea Lucas on andrea.lucas@virgin.net or on 01536 799066.

I look forward to hearing from you but in the meantime, here are a few to start with ...

Ideas for walks and bike rides

Drive to Harrington and take the circular walk via Arthingworth. Use an OS Map and if you've got young children, just do the first bit and take in the Historical Manorial site at the back of the pub. If you do the whole walk, there's a pub in Arthingworth, called The Bull, for a half way stop.



Good pubs for eating and drinking

The landlord at The White Horse in Old (01536 781297) is doing a Thursday Fish and Chip Night. Reports are excellent. You can eat in or take out but, whichever you decide to do, our advice is to ring early and book your supper to avoid disappointment – it's getting popular!

Good restaurants

For a special occasion and a personal favourite – The Horse and Trumpet at Medbourne near Market Harborough serves fabulous food. Go online to find out more ... www.thehorseandtrumpet.co.uk

Cheap and reliable taxis

Has anyone discovered one?

Places of interest or local events to visit

The Easter Countryman Fair at Kelmarsh Hall was an interesting day out. Reports are varied. General consensus is that it was expensive but very interesting and good family fun.

Andrea Lucas, Social Committee Secretary

Easter Egg Hunt and Bonnet Parade

The sun shone and there was no twitching of curtains as the eggs were laid. The Easter Bonnets looked beautiful and all but 6 of the eggs were found.

Thank you Easter Bunny for coming, thanks to Sarah, Bob and Adam for helping and a big thank you to Bryant Homes for their £200 donation which meant that we did not need to call on village funds but actually added to them.

Letters to the editors...



The Shop & Pub (If you want something doing...)

Hello to the residents of Mawsley, my name is Mick Cawthorne, and I and my family moved into one of the Barratt 'built' properties in the village in October of last year. Having made it through our first winter in the wilds, spring & summer are now approaching (I hope), and thoughts turn to somewhere to socialise...

The village is now becoming sufficiently large that it needs some facilities of its own in the form of a shop and a pub. During a social evening with neighbours we hit on the idea of a 'do-it-yourself' approach. A contribution from each household could be used to fund the village buying the lands allotted for the shop & pub and project managing having the facilities built, and then run them as a sort of co-operative venture.

At the moment we have no real feel for the size of contribution that would be required, but before beginning any major investigations, it would be good to get an idea of the level of support within the village for getting any such project off the ground. We'll probably be putting together some flyers with a bit more detail in the near future, coupled with some door banging. In the interim it would be good if anyone who thinks this idea is half decent would contact us. There is a thread for the Pub & Shop on the village web site (under forums at www.mawsleyvillage.net), or I can be e-mailed directly at 'mcawthor@cosworth-racing.com'. If you're not on the web you could always break out the good old writing stick & paper and stuff a note through the door of 18 Cransley Rise.

The pub and shop (or lack thereof) seem to be a favourite topic for conversation. This could be our opportunity to make them a reality.

Mick Cawthorne

Any self help in the village is to be encouraged, but take a look at our report of the village meeting on page 5. It seems that a shop building will be provided within a couple of years (but will still need someone to run it!) and the community centre bar might make a good substitute for a pub. Editors.

Hello Pats

Now that Mawsley has its own parish, and will have its own parish council soon, how about a light-hearted, tongue in cheek competition for an appropriate motto and/or coat of arms. Or perhaps nominations for an appropriate community anthem - such as "Road to Nowhere" by Talking Heads - just kidding.

Selwyn Poole

Economic & Community Development Officer, KBC

Any suggestions? Ed.

Open Meeting

I would like to commend Bob Littler and the MVA committee for the recent open meeting. The fact that most of the questions were answered before they were even asked confirmed that they are in touch with all the issues that could concern us and doing a good job. Thanks all of you.

Gerald Peacock

Youth News

Youth Group Calendar

Friday 28th May, 7.30pm

Bowling at Rock n Bowl in Kettering.

We have only four lanes booked so reserve your place early with a £5 deposit.



June will be swimming or ice-skating.

July is skiing/snowboarding and Radio 1 Big Fun Day.

September 4th to 5th.

Overnight ghost walk and BBQ.



From May and throughout the summer we intend to have a regular Friday evening sports and games night on the playing fields so look out for information on the starting date.

The Zone

Don't forget our regular Wednesday sessions from 7.30 - 9.00pm at The Zone (William Knibb Centre in Kettering) for football, basket ball, internet café, and DJ training, and Tuesday evenings for Web Design.

Beavers News

We will be starting a group very soon linked to the Broughton Scout Group and moving to Mawsley later when we have the facilities. You need to register your young ones now as we will not have sufficient room for all. We also need helpers to get this started so please show willing to support this group. Without you it won't happen.



For more information on all these events, to reserve places or offer help please contact Aidan Piper on 790419.

Book Group - come and join us!



The Book Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (12th May) and is currently reading 'The Lovely Bones' by Alice Sebold.

Contact Elaine on 791277.

Gardening Club

Last Wednesday of the month at 8pm at 31 Main Street.
Next meeting 26th May. Contact Marisa on 790748

Mums and Tots

Mondays 10.30 am at Kids Kingdom, KLV
Fridays 10.30am at Barney Berzerk, Moulton Park.
Contact Sue Owens on 791514

WILDLIFE WATCH



With evenings now drawing out we are able to take the odd stroll about and wind down from a hectic day at work. This could be a walk around the village or you may wish to branch out further and do some of the walks along the bridle paths.

Whatever you choose you will see wildlife activity.

One walk to take is along the bridle path to Cransley Woods where you will see primroses and bluebells and, if you are lucky, as two villagers were recently, you may come across hares and monkjack deer. These two people saw four hares playing in the fields, a monkjack on the main road outside the village and another in the woods and they also spotted a wheatear, obviously resting after a long flight.

A wheatear is a particularly beautiful and graceful small thrush, slightly larger than the stonechat and the robin with a buff breast, a black eye stripe, grey back and white rump. It is still a fairly common summer visitor to open grassy areas of the north and west and is one of the earliest summer migrants.

Also starting to appear in our gardens is the goldfinch - now regularly feeding in a garden in Main Street.

A lady from Loddington Way heard a cuckoo early on 24th April in Mawsley Wood. Was this the first of spring?

If you have anything of interest on the wildlife scene to share with the rest of us, or if there is any wildlife matter you would like me to raise then please contact me, Keith Powell, on 01536 790439 or email williamsjea@aol.com.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Keith Powell

Times past...

Last year we suggested (as a joke) including a 'history of Mawsley' section in the newsletter. Chris Cope took us at our word then and provided some very interesting background information. Now we have Shenaz Bagshaw to thank for this extract from an out of print book which provides a fascinating explanation for the demise of the old village of Mawsley. It will strike a chord with all gardeners and may persuade those of us who are pressing for allotments to think twice about it.

Extract from "Portrait of Northamptonshire" by Peter Gorham-Webb,

Published by Robert Hale, 1977

"The County between Loddington and Walgrave contains no village, the only habitation being an occasional farmhouse. Moreover, the main Northamptonshire-Kettering road, built in 1891 to provide an easier means of communication with Stamford than the roundabout way via Thrapston and Oundle, passes no village between Moulton and Broughton, a distance of 8 miles. Before 1819 only the narrow lanes we still use crossed this area; they were unmetalled and impassable in winter. Yet the country is quite fertile, while the fields east of Lamport formed part of the Isham's prosperous sheep pastures in the sixteenth century. In fact there were villages here in the Middle Ages: Wythemail and Badsaddle east of the A43, Faxton and Mawsley on the high ground west of it. Their names can still be found on the ordnance map. The clue to the depopulation probably lies in the heavy nature of the boulder clay soil which, in a period of climatic deterioration, made it difficult to cultivate so that lack of food led to malnutrition; this, in turn, made the people liable to disease and particularly to the plague known as the Black Death. A combination of such factors almost certainly accounts for the virtual desertion of these villages before the end of the sixteenth century. Only Faxton survived, as a hamlet, into the 19th century."

Christian Aid Week, 9-15 May 2004

We believe in life before death

Help people in the Third World stand on their own two feet. By supporting Christian Aid Week, you are among millions of people who think poverty is a scandal we do not have to accept. Your actions, commitment and contributions will bring about a better life for people in poor communities all over the world.

Christian Aid's red envelopes will be appearing through your letter box very soon! Donations will be collected by volunteers by May 15th. Collectors will have a completed booklet with them permitting collection, don't hesitate to ask if in doubt.

It would be great if you are able to make a donation and if you'd like to help with the collections- even better! Give me a call.

There is more information about Christian Aid at www.christianaid.org.uk alternatively look out for general details which will be available on the Mawsley Fun Day.

*Kerry Piper
790419*

Christians in Mawsley

I mentioned last time about an event to mark the Church's birthday at Whitsun.

This coincides with the great village Fun Day, so we will have one of the activity places that day, with a colouring/ drawing competition for the children and maybe even a piece of birthday cake!

See you on the 29th!
*Gerald Peacock
791496*

