



Mawsley Villagers Association

Newsletter

February 2004

Getting things done

(some of the time)

The MVA has been asked to lead a workshop at a Northamptonshire 'Focus upon Neighbourhoods' conference, where Lord Rooker will be the keynote speaker. The objective is to talk about the way in which creating the Mawsley community was approached; what has worked well so far, what hasn't worked quite so well or experience suggests should have been approached differently.

This is all very well, but where are we on this road to a community Nirvana?

One of the cornerstones of our approach has been to form a partnership with Kettering Borough Council (KBC) and the developers; working together rather than trying to "take on" the developers, or indeed the Council,

I think it is true to say that this has worked well on the whole; the MVA is certainly seen to be an authoritative voice for the village by KBC. This had extended to the Terms of Reference of the Mawsley Liaison Forum, which we chair, being changed so that is now a Council committee. The great benefit of this is that we

can put papers requesting actions to the Council's Executive Committee, the key decision-making body. For example, as a result of this, we recently got agreement that interest payments on the Community Fund (the payments by the developers to support village facilities), which is paid to KBC, should be added to the fund and not retained by KBC. Incidentally we also discovered that these and other payments should be index linked, from a start point of 1995. Together these will generate an **additional £100,000** or so of income to the village over the next few years.

But on the other hand we are frustrated at some slow progress on sorting everyday village issues such as street lighting, footpaths, kerbs and hedges. We have been working behind the scenes to clarify responsibilities so, aided by the recent decision by Wimpey to focus a senior manager on these issues plus more pressure on KBC to chase up outstanding issues on our behalf via that project manager, we think we should now be able to get things done much more quickly.

So, as Samantha often says when keeping score, "it's 2 – 1, but a long way to go yet".

Bob Littler, Chair MVA

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

Northants County Council

Cllr. Jim Harker (01536 742245)

jharker@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Kettering Borough Council

Cllr. Jim Hakewill (01858 467686)

James.hakewill@bopenworld.com

Cllr. Michael Harrison

(01536 712888)

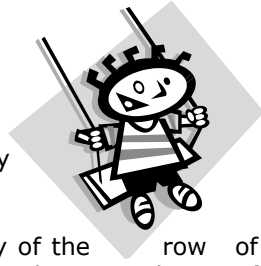
michaelharrison@kettering.gov.uk

Newsletter Editors Pat Rowley and Pat Downing (791881)

newsletter@mawsleyvillage.net

Toddlers Play Area

Planning permission has just been granted for the temporary under 7s play area.



This is being built in the vicinity of the row of cottages on Loddington Way pending completion of the Community Centre. The land being used has been kindly donated by Richard Barnwell (local farmer and Chair of Cransley PC) for the temporary facility. The play area will be properly surfaced and will contain swings and other outdoor play equipment for the younger members of our community. Kettering Borough Council has made available funds for the purchase of the play equipment and it is hoped that the play area will be ready for use in early spring.

Once the Community Centre is complete, the play equipment will be moved to a site adjacent to the centre and the temporary area returned to farm land.

Village Notice Boards



Apologies to those of you who rely on the village notice board up at the David Wilson end of the village. It has been taken away for refurbishment.

The two village notice boards have not weathered at all well.

They are made of oak and should have done better. The varnish has peeled off and the frames have swollen so much that they can only be opened with the aid of a screwdriver and crowbar. KBC is repairing and modifying them for us and to keep inconvenience to a minimum they are taking them away one at a time. The notice board up at the Wimpey end of Loddington Way is being kept up to date (courtesy of a crowbar!). It will be taken away when the other one comes back.

Mawsley Allotments

The Mawsley Gardening Club has approached KBC about the provision of allotments for residents who wish to grow their own vegetables. This request is being taken up and a bid has been put in for funding. The outcome is as yet unknown.



We have asked for allotments with a water supply and it could take a couple of years for them to become available. It would help the process, however, if we had an idea of how many residents were likely to want to take on an allotment. If you think this is for you please let us know. Telephone the editors at 791881 or email us at newsletter@mawsleyvillage.net. We are not looking for firm commitments at this stage but simply an indication of who might be interested.

Fouling of Public Areas

- a note for dog owners

For those of you who have been in the village for a while now, you may remember a notice that made a plea for all dog owners to "Pick up your Pooch's Pooh". A big thank you needs to be said to the majority of you who are extremely responsible and clear up any mess left by your dog.

However, the problem still exists both on the streets and, more worryingly, on the playing field/recreational area. Simon Wren, who gives up his free time and does a fantastic job of running a football club for youngsters on Saturdays, often has to go around the playing area with other parents before the morning session clearing up dog faeces. The dangers of the accidental ingestion of parasitic worms from canine excreta are well known and affect both children and adults alike. It is unfortunate that an irresponsible few should expose others to such danger.

In the next few months Mawsley Village and its environs will be "adopted" under the dog byelaws by Kettering Borough Council and the local Dog Warden will start enforcing the Council's "zero tolerance" policy to the fouling of public areas by dogs. So far nearly 100 convictions have been obtained by the Council with fines in the order of £100 pounds, plus costs, being imposed. The Dog Warden is an enthusiastic and dedicated person who has let it be known that there is no leniency in his enforcement of the law - let us hope he does not find reason in the future to demonstrate his enthusiasm in Mawsley!



To those who are responsible owners, again, your on going efforts are appreciated. To those who are not, is now the time to change before it is too late?

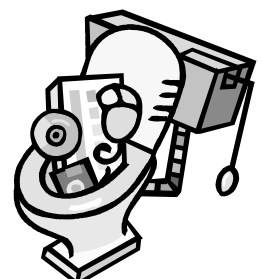
.....and other unmentionables

While on the subject of 'waste' we have been asked to draw your attention to problems being caused to the village sewage system by the disposal of non-dissolvable matter into the system.

Because of the level nature of the land surrounding the village our waste has to be pumped away. The pumping station is equipped with two state of the art pumps operating automatically on an ultrasonic system. From time to time the pumps become blocked with items such as wet wipes and nappies with most unfortunate consequences for the houses nearby.

Faults and blockages are relayed automatically to the service depot but these can be avoided altogether if we only use the sewage system for sewage.

Please think before you flush!



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it a dry ski slope? No..... it's the new school!

Dear Parents,

School Opening - September 2004

As the newly appointed Headteacher of Mawsley C.P. School I am writing to give you information about the new school that is opening in the village in September 2004 and to explain about the admissions process.

Mawsley Community Primary School is on schedule to be completed by the builders at the end of July 2004. The school will provide first class facilities and equipment to ensure children are provided with an excellent education, appropriate for the 21st century. The architects have created a modern circular design which will reflect the school's inclusive nature.

The school building will have seven classrooms providing class bases for Reception up to Year 6. Adjacent to the Reception class there will be a covered outdoor play area. In addition to the classrooms there will be a large hall, food technology area, Special Educational Needs room, music room/group room, library and practical areas. The hall and central areas will be air-conditioned and classrooms will have under floor heating. The school will benefit from the latest technology with interactive whiteboards in each classroom and class laptop computers to be used across the school. Outside there will be paved areas for each classroom, a playground, netball court and football pitch.

For the academic year September 2004 - July 2005 Northamptonshire County Council will provide funding for the school to open with four classes. These will be Reception, Year 1 and 2, Year 3 and 4, and Year 5 and 6. Having previously been Head of a school which was organised into mixed age classes, I am aware of the benefits of organising the curriculum to meet the needs of children's abilities rather than their age. As pupil numbers rise it is hoped that the school can quickly move to having seven single age classes. The school is being built to accommodate 210 children organised into seven classes.

If you would like an application form for admission to the school, they can be obtained from:

Pupil Services, Schools Services, PO Box 216, John Dryden House,
8 - 10 The Lakes, Northampton, NN4 7DD

I will be taking up my position as Headteacher of Mawsley C.P. School from the beginning of the Summer Term (April 19th 2004). For the first term I will be based at Hall Meadow Primary School in Kettering, where parents can contact me to discuss any aspect of the school.

I hope to continue to keep parents informed of developments prior to the opening of the school. I look forward to the exciting prospect of working in partnership with you to create an innovative school at the heart of the community, where high standards, enjoyment and learning go hand in hand.

Yours Sincerely

Elaine Wright

You could be forgiven for wondering just what is being built between School Road and Scholars Row if the street names didn't give you a clue.

Now that the roof is almost complete the impressive and graceful bird like shape is becoming clear and there is no doubt that the school is coming on at great speed. It is a year ahead of schedule because we have many more children in the village than the planners expected.

It will be a tremendous facility for them and for the whole community; altogether a very welcome prospect.

Editor

Open School Meeting 29th February

I am sure you will all agree from reading Elaine's letter that we will have a first class school in the village come September. However, I know that there are some of you with some reservations about sending your children to Mawsley Community Primary School. Therefore Elaine Wright, the Governors and some members of Northamptonshire County Council will be available to answer any questions on the 29th February.

We plan to give a brief presentation, followed by a question and answer session in Broughton Village Hall at 2pm. If you have any worries or queries regarding the school and are still uncertain as to whether you wish to send your children to the school then please join us.

In the mean time if you have any questions that you would like to ask then you can contact me via e-mail – ndo@maidwellhall.co.uk

Nick Owens
Chair of Governors

Cransley Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Cransley Parish Council which, at the moment, includes Mawsley, will be held here at the Medical Centre at 7pm on Thursday 12th February.

It is an open public meeting, so any resident of Mawsley can attend. Furthermore residents are allowed up to five minutes at the start of the meeting to raise any issue they feel the Parish Council should address. However, they cannot speak in the meeting, except by invitation of the Chair. If you want to come along, just turn up - there is no need to advise in advance if you want to raise any issue.

Bob Littler
Vice Chair, Cransley Parish Council

News from the Surgery

Firstly, a very Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone. I am happy to report that December and January have been relatively quiet months with regards to flu and colds.

The New Year started with a large number of patient registrations bringing the total number of patients registered with the practice to 680 at the time of writing this article.

In the December issue of the newsletter we made an appeal for your help in raising funds for a defibrillator for the surgery. To date, we have raised £759.22 and still hope that £1500 will be donated by the British Heart Foundation.

A very big thank you to:

Mr Peacock and all the carol singers for donating	£102.02
Mr Eke's employers Medi UK	£100.00
Mawsley Village Association	£100.00
Surgery festivities	£277.20
Surgery suppliers	£150.00
Co-Op supermarket	£30.00

Finally, thank you to everyone who donated the superb raffle prizes and to our patient Mrs Mogridge who worked extremely hard in getting the whole fund raising event off to a good start.

There is still some way to go but we are hopeful!

Angene Kane
Practice Manager

LOST

A gold signet ring with the initials 'G W'

Likely to be lost somewhere along the route from Kemps Close along Old Gorse way to Loddington Way past the post box and the pond onto Broughton Road to the first entrance to the village (from the A43) and back along the lane to the David Wilson entrance.

The ring is of great sentimental value. Please keep an eye out for it.

If you have found it please ring Chrissie on 791337

Power to the people!

Mawsley Parish Boundary revised

We reported in the last newsletter that, despite an overwhelming local vote in favour of a parish boundary close to the Mawsley building line (option D), KBC had chosen to recommend a boundary as far from that line as was possible (option A) and that the office of the Deputy Prime Minister had accepted this.

This proposed boundary meant that Cransley farmers would have their land split between the two parishes, responsibility for a stretch of footpath would be shared and one lifelong Cransley resident would suddenly find herself living in Mawsley. So Cransley Parish Council kept up the fight to have the democratic choice adopted and, with the assistance of Phil Sawford our MP, have managed to persuade KBC to change its recommendation to option C (giving a boundary close to the building line) and all indications are that this will be accepted.

There is still a further period for consultation but there appears to be no reason for any objections. It is still expected that the new Mawsley Parish will come into existence on 1st April 2004 and elections for 7 Mawsley Parish Councillors will probably take place on 10th June.

From the editors

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter in 2004. Some of you started to panic when it didn't arrive in January and we are very flattered that you missed it. We took a slightly longer break than usual to take account of Christmas and New Year but are now back to our usual 6 weekly cycle.

We hope that you feel that we keep you informed. Tell us what else you want to know about, what else you want the MVA to do, what you are doing in your part of the village and anything, in fact, that you think would interest, amuse or inform your village neighbours.

The next edition will be distributed on 19th March. Please let us have your contributions as early as possible and by Friday 12th March at the very latest. The Mawsley Advertiser will go out on the same day but copy date for that is a week earlier, 5th March.

Pat Rowley and Pat Downing
34 Main Street
791881
newsletter@mawsleyvillage.net

YOUTH NEWS *from Aidan Piper*

New Youth Committee

Since the last news letter the youth group have held their first AGM, formed a committee and agreed a constitution. A committee of 6 adults and 10 youths will begin to shape the provision for youth in Mawsley. The first job for this new committee will be to provide a calendar of activities for the coming year so give us a call and let us know what you want to do so we can provide it for you.

The Youth Committee is represented on the main MVA committee so that the youngsters' viewpoint can now be taken into account on all village issues.

Please contact Anthony Grimmitt, Chair, on 07771 927088

Website Skills

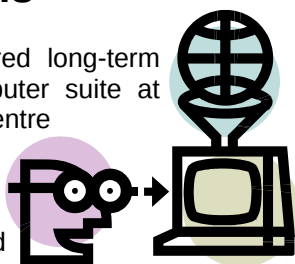
We have just secured long-term access to the computer suite at the William Knibb Centre

on Tuesday evenings. We are now looking for youngsters interested in learning how to

design and maintain websites, beginning with a Mawsley Youth section on the Mawsley Village website with links to other youth provision in the area.

We also need some adult input in this area and are desperate for a couple of you computer buffs to help, so give us a call.

Ring Aidan on 790419.



Radio Call

Two villagers Liam Tuite and Ian Claydon start their DJ training on Weds 14th Jan and soon will be presenting their own radio show which is broadcast

from the Knibb Centre. We will keep you posted as to when they are on air so you can tune in and get your requests played or make

comment and have debate on line.

Wednesday Night is Mawsley Night

at the

William Knibb Centre

7.30-9.30pm

(or whatever suits)

Our Wednesday evening sessions at **The Zone** continue to grow as more youngsters move into the village. This is a great opportunity just to chill-out in the internet café or play a bit of ball. Circus Skills and musical instruments are also available. This is aimed at the 11+ age group but, don't worry, we are also looking at provision for the younger ones as long as we get some ideas from villagers and adult help.

Saturday Morning Football Club

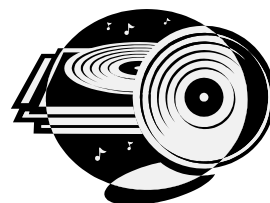
After the Christmas festivities the youngsters will need to run off all that turkey and those lovely brussel sprouts. We will continue to use the playing fields from 10 - 11am but are also looking at indoor venues for these cold mornings. We've heard there are some city woosies who don't like the frost and wet!

Simon Wren, our professional football coach, also now has two more assistants to help with the coaching so the youngsters are going to be split into age and ability groups.

So don't forget - Saturday morning football club, for fun and improvement of your footie skills, is for both boys and girls from 6 years and up, but now you will be grouped with others of your own age - so come on you

big scratch

Twin decks and loads of vinyl. A decks project for people wanting to try their hand at DJing and turntablism.



8 young people per session, 6.30 - 8pm

Mondays and Thursdays
At the William Knibb Centre

Free

Open to any young people in the vil-

Social Committee News

1st January - Walk to Cransley. 12 stalwarts worked off their hangovers on a damp and chilly morning and were rewarded by the hospitality of the Three Cranes Pub. Good food and a warm welcome made the walk home much easier although many (who shall remain nameless) managed to get a lift back to the village!

The carol singing on 23rd December attracted a goodly number of fine voices which became even more mellow after the mulled wine and mince pies. £102 was collected for the village defibrillator fund. Thanks to all involved.

NOTICEBOARD

Mums and Tots

Mondays 10.30am at Kids Kingdom, KLV.

Fridays 10.30 am at Barney Berzerk, Moulton Park.

Contact Sue Owens on 791514



Mobile Library

By Post Box. Fortnightly 3.40 - 4.10pm.
Next visits 9th and 23rd February,
8th March.



Gardening Club

Last Wednesday in the month.
Next meeting on 25th February, 8pm at 31
Main Street.

Seed swap, bulk order of bedding and summer plants and 'topical tips'
Contact Marisa on 790748



Youth group

Wednesday evening at The Zone
(Knibb Centre) Kettering
See page 5. Contact Aidan Piper on 790419

Christians in Mawsley

1st Thursday in the month.
Informal interdenominational evening meeting.
Contact Gerald or Mildred Peacock for venue on
791496



Saturday Morning Football Club

10 - 11am on the playing field for aged 6 upwards.
Contact Simon Wren on 791973

Forthcoming Events

The Social Committee has planned a full programme of events for 2004. Details will follow as appropriate but please put these dates in your diary now if you do not want to miss out

Last few tickets remaining....

14th February Valentines Party at Wicksteed Park.

It's not a posh ball (we're saving that for October) but it's going to be a great night (and great value).

We are taking a coach from Mawsley to this party featuring Boney M. There are still a few seats left on the coach but you need to telephone Karen immediately on 790085 if you would like to join us. £20 covers transport there and back, the party and a basket meal.

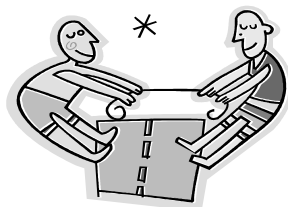


12th April. Easter Bonnet competition (for all) and **Easter Egg Hunt** (for the youngsters).

Details to follow in the next newsletter but be sure to keep the morning free for an appointment with the Easter Bunny.

29th May. Mawsley Fun Day. This programme of family entertainment will fill the whole day and feature the usual Fun Run, children's races, competitions, tug of war, penalty shoot out, food, bar and barbeques all over the village.

Villagers are also invited to organise their own stalls - please contact Mark Jones on 790604 or email mvasc@mawsleyvillage.net with any suggestions.



10th July - Provided that we still have an accessible playing field, we will be having a good old shin dig **Barn Dance**. All we need to do now is build a barn!!!

4th September - Probably the last chance of the summer for picnicking & games on the playing field.



2nd October - Mawsley's second **Harvest Ball** is being planned as we write. We will keep you posted as to the venue and form for this year's society event.

Tony Bagshaw - Chair, MVA Social Committee

Community Centre News

Firstly - what are we going to call it?

Community Centre sounds rather urban, Village Hall doesn't do justice to the range of facilities it will contain and Village Centre could be misleading in view of the fact that it will be right on the edge of the village.

Any suggestions?

Secondly - what is happening?

There are not many visible signs of progress – but much work is going on behind the scenes!

Just like the building itself, the quality of what is finally produced will depend upon the foundations that are laid and the groundwork that is done in the early stages by the various working groups. Specific working groups have been organized and at the moment their various tasks are being rolled into one effective and professional project plan. It has been agreed that with so many interlinked issues to deal with a professional approach to the project is required. Gail Randle who has experience as a project manager is now working with Chris Cope, the Steering Group Chair, to prepare and manage this plan.

The working groups are:

1. Business plan and fund raising
2. Interior procurement fit and finish
3. Religious groups
4. Management and maintenance
5. Community fund
6. Playing Field and pitches
7. Bar and catering.



This is a massive project for those of us already involved and the more we think about it the more we realise how important it is that our village has a focal point and facility to be proud of.

We need more volunteers. We need more villagers to contribute, even if it is only with a little time to give ideas or encouragement. We need to use the skills of the people who live in the village. So please don't think that because work has already begun that 'it's all being sorted'. If you want to get involved we will welcome you with open arms!

Thirdly - how will the Community Centre affect the playing field?

Meetings are now being held with KBC and Wimpy to ensure that work on the playing fields and the

buildings is properly co-ordinated. We will be establishing any drainage and levelling needs for the land as well as considering if we are able to use some of the earth removed for the building foundations for 'raised banks' for the pitches to create a 'bowl' effect.

We will be establishing from KBC their responsibilities to provide and maintain the playing fields and pitches and then assessing if we need funding to raise the quality of the surfaces to meet our needs and expectations.

We will also be discussing what provisions Wimpy and KBC intend to make for landscaping and planting around the building and playing fields.

Another important factor will be the timing of the closure of the playing field whilst building work and drainage, etc. takes place. We are trying to sort out the timetable for this so that the social functions planned for the summer on the playing field are either catered for or that alternative sites are found.

You will receive with this newsletter a questionnaire about the playing fields. Please take the time to fill it in and return it to me. Your views are what really count when we come to decide on the priorities for the first few years.

Fourthly - any progress on internal spaces?

Gerald Peacock and his team are now working on the Religious Groups aspects of the provision of a place of worship in the building. They are considering the need for consecration, what carpeting and furnishings they require, what specialist worship furnishings will be needed and who will pay for these. Gerald is also trying to establish the estimates of usage for all denominations.

And finally - anyone for cricket?

Although the cricket pitch won't be ready for a while (if you decide we need one!) I'm sure that we could get together the 'Mawsley nomads' and we ought to be able to challenge some of the local villages to a game.

Let me know if you fancy a game. Roll on those summer evenings!!

*Stuart Randle
MVA Vice Chair.*

Christmas Trivia Quiz

Many thanks to those who participated in the Christmas Quiz all of whom have received a copy of the correct answers. The overall winners were Pat & Pat (no relation to the editors..... honest) who received their champagne in time for Christmas lunch. A "Special Merit" prize was awarded to Mary Rose Dolan Holland who single-handedly attempted each question and provided some interesting(?) answers.

Thanks to Richard Meredith for setting the quiz and providing the prizes.

The hunt is on to find Mawsley's first millionaire (well celebdaq one, anyway).

"Celebdaq". Those in the know will recognise the word immediately, those who don't should visit www.bbc.co.uk/entertainment and sign up to the intriguing, entertaining and FREE game of Celebrity Stocks and Shares. It revolves around purchasing shares in celebrities listed on the site. Their price varies depending on their demand, a dividend is paid depending on the amount of media coverage in the previous week and you can trade to make a profit. You start out with £10,000 (unfortunately not real) and you take it from there.



If you are already playing the game (or if you sign up in the near future) and would be interested in comparing your skills with those of other Mawsley residents, we have established a "Mawsley Mini League". If you would like to join the league and have your performance regularly measured, please send your Player ID Number to Garryforsyth@aol.com who will register you without delay.

If this proves popular we could run a regular update in the newsletter. (Under the title 'Anorak Corner'? Ed.)



Cheltenham Festival Wednesday 17th March

Darren Wilkins is organising a minibus or coach trip, depending on numbers, from Mawsley to the Cheltenham Festival.

Please contact him by Sunday 15th February at the very latest for more information or to be included.

A lot of fence!

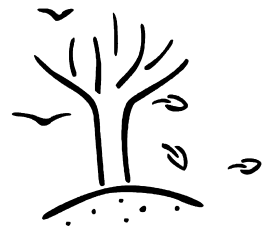
237 metres of new wooden fencing has been erected around the waste land along one side of The Green by the playing field. It encloses the land on which both the Community Centre and employment units will be built in due course. The developers have put it there to improve the appearance of the site.

Ash Tree

It is with sadness that we report that one of the old Ash Trees in the hedge behind Main Street and Paddock End came down in the high winds in early January.

The tree had been home to hundreds of birds including Little Owls and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers. It fell into a back garden, which it now fills, but fortunately it did not cause any damage to the house.

These trees form an attractive eastern boundary to the village but they are old and weak and it is possible that the landowner may now consider felling them to avoid the risk of injury or structural damage.



Planning - what planning?

"Good morning, I have a delivery of bricks and sand for you".

"Really?" I said, "I haven't ordered anything".

"This is number 9 Loddington Way?"

"Well we were, but now we are number 43"

Six weeks after moving into our new home and our new home had an identity crisis! A letter through the door from Kettering Borough Council informed us that, with immediate effect, we were now number 43 Loddington Way. After a number of phone calls to the council to find out what had happened, I was assured that it really was true and that when Loddington Way was first numbered, not all the houses had been included!



So, having just completed all the changes of address notifications relating to moving house, including driving licences, we have had to do it all again at our own expense. Most people I've spoken to think that we have moved again, and need reassuring that the rest of the address is the same.

Needless to say, we have met the occupants of the new number 9: they have had our post; we have had their post and we nearly had their bricks and sand! The confusion seems to have receded a little now, although for our neighbours who have been in Mawsley much longer than us, I'm sure it is only just beginning. How will they answer the frequently asked security question, 'How long have you lived at that address?'

Sarah Bence

We are aware of some pretty odd house numbering around the village - for example we are number 34 sitting between number 28 and 32 - but we think that Loddington Way must be the oddest. Or do you know better? Editor.