



Mawsley Villagers Association Newsletter

July 2004

Wowie, zowie – have you seen inside the school?

It is just amazing; the space, and quality of fixtures and fittings is beyond belief – even to the point where every classroom has an interactive whiteboard. What a great asset for the village. First class staff, too.

I'm sending Samantha there as a mature student so she can learn how to count. I'm hoping to go too, so they can teach me PowerPoint (based on the expertise shown by my neighbour's 9 year old daughter, Eleanor, who learnt it at her school).

If you are still thinking about whether your children should go there, call in (after 9th August, when some staff will be there most of the time) and see for yourself. There are places in Reception, Years 3&4 and Years 5&6. The years 1&2 class is full.

And I do think the MVA can justifiably claim much of the credit for getting the school to open a year earlier than otherwise would have been the case.



The new school, showing main entrance in the centre with classrooms to each side and the tops of the sun tubes which light the central main hall clearly visible.

You will see from elsewhere in this newsletter that the Parish Council is now up and running, and also that we have some new members on the MVA Committee. It is especially pleasing to see a number of new people getting involved in both groups, and that they come from all over the village. My thanks to those MVA Committee members who have resigned for all your efforts and many contributions, and welcome to those joining.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public; you are entitled to speak for up to 5 minutes at the beginning of the meeting (and you don't have to stay thereafter if you don't want to !), although based on observations in other parishes regrettably very few people do. You have a right to be heard and to help push the Parish Council in a way you think best for the village. You can just turn up at the meeting at 8:00p.m. on the first Monday of each month at the Medical Centre without prior notice, though better still let the parish clerk Richard Meredith know (791539). The Council will debate the subject at the following meeting, but investigate things before then if need be.

A few weeks ago I had a trip round the new police control centre in Northampton, with other Cransley Parish Council Members. They use a sophisticated computer mapping system to direct officers to houses etc., however Mawsley is largely missing from it. Bit of an issue, not least because people who live here can't find their own front doors half the time as the street numbering is so confusing. So what chance have police officers got?

So I wrote to the Chief Constable to ask what contingency measures could be put in place and subsequently Inspector Jim Campbell called round to discuss it. He has promised to sort a way forward and get back to me. He is also going to check the situation re Fire and Ambulance. Will update you next time; in the meantime don't set fire to your house (or anybody else's), and I'll leave the dangerous jobs to Samantha.

Bob Littler
Chair, MVA

The serious stuff.....

MAWSLEY VILLAGERS ASSOCIATION AGM

The AGM, held at the Police Social Club in Kettering, was attended by about fifty villagers. The business was conducted expeditiously allowing plenty of time for chat.

Bob Littler's report of the year's activities was a reminder of just how much the MVA has taken on and achieved on our behalf. Reports were also received from the Youth Committee and Social Committee which both add considerably to the quality of life in Mawsley.

Following elections, the new Management Committee is:

Bob Littler (Chair)
Stuart Randle (Vice Chair)
Chris Winter (Treasurer)
Chair of the Youth Group (Anthony Grimmett)
Chair of Social Cttee (Tony Bagshaw - acting)
Garry Forsyth
Mary Rose Dolan-Holland
Glen Somerville
Kirsty Woods (New)
Victoria Bell (New)
Graham Leah (New)
David Porterfield
Michael Cawthorne (New)
Lizzie Souter (New)
Stephen Farthing (New)

Thanks for past services were given to Chris Cope; Gill Rivers; Kerry Piper; Chrissie Hardie and Liz Dobson who have now retired from the committee.

During any other business there was an update on village planning.

In April we reported that Wimpey had applied for planning permission to increase the number of houses in the next stage of the development. You were consulted about this by the MVA and overwhelmingly objected to the proposal. The MVA made representations on your behalf at the planning hearing in June and the application was rejected by KBC. It is not yet known whether Wimpey will appeal against this decision.

Membership

All villagers, aged 12 and over, are entitled to be members of the MVA. All you have to do is register your name and address with the secretary, Richard Meredith. Contact him on 791539 or richard.meredith@eds.com for an application form.

MVA Secretary

The present Secretary will be standing down at the end of October. If you are interested in filling the role, or if you require more information on what the job entails, please contact Richard Meredith on 01536 791539 or email richard.meredith@eds.com.



So far no one in the village has come forward to organise or be involved in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Mawsley. There are villagers who obviously recognise the value of being in such a scheme, however, because they display the logo in their windows!

In case potential volunteers are being deterred by not knowing just what would be involved we would like to arrange a presentation by area organisers and volunteers in nearby villages. If you would be prepared to come to a presentation simply to find out more, with no obligation, please contact Richard Meredith on 791539 or the Newsletter editors.

Mawsley Parish Council

The inaugural meeting of your Parish Council took place on 5th July and, following the election of two councillors in June and the co-option of five more at that meeting, is now fully functioning.

Your seven Parish Councillors are:

Bob Littler (Chair), Chris Winter (Deputy Chair), Frank Quinn, Cliff Moreton, Richard Barnwell, Bob Holland and Glen Somerville.

Full contact details for each councillor will shortly be displayed on the noticeboard(s) in the village, which is also where you will be able to find details of forthcoming Parish Council meetings and other formal items that the council is required to make available to parishioners.

In addition to its statutory duties, the Parish Council will agree with the Villagers Association a split of responsibilities for village matters - once this is formally agreed you will be advised so that you are able to address any issues you may have to the appropriate organisation.

All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the general public (unless otherwise notified) and parishioners are entitled to speak at meetings on any issue for up to five minutes - time being set aside on the meeting agenda for this to take place.

The next meeting will combine the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council and will be held on 26th July at the Surgery in Nethertown Way. Subsequent Parish Council meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month, commencing in September.

The Annual Parish Meeting is the opportunity for registered local electors to raise issues relating to the parish for discussion by those present at the meeting and, where appropriate, to pass resolutions. Such resolutions could, in some circumstances, be legally binding upon the Parish Council but, in the majority of cases, would be persuasive only on how the Parish Council conducts business in the future. If you have any issues you feel worthy of discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting, please contact Richard Meredith - Clerk to Mawsley Parish Council.

MAWSLEY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am sure that many residents of Mawsley have noticed that our school building is now complete and ready to open in September. The building was handed over to Northamptonshire County Council on 2nd July. However, minor works and "snagging" problems are still in the process of being addressed.

Friday 9th July was a very important day in the life of our new school, as many children and parents were able to come and look around the building for the first time. The design and facilities received many favourable comments from our visitors. Although the school may have seemed fairly empty on this occasion it will soon be filled with resources and displays. The final piece in our "jigsaw" will be complete when the children enter for their first day of the autumn term on 6th September. Staff and governors are all looking forward to this date.

Many children have now received their school uniform. Many of the school items contain our school badge showing the new school building and the badger who lived on the land before the school was built. I would like to thank Claire Jones of Warren End for helping our governors, who formed the school uniform working party, by designing our school badge.



Unfortunately, we will not initially be able to provide a before and after school club that takes place on the school premises. Mrs Saeeda Shah has been trying to set this up over the last few months but found it very difficult to get appropriate staffing. Loddington School Club are however offering to help parents who require after school provision up to 6.00pm each day. Loddington School Club would arrange transportation from Mawsley to Loddington. The cost would be shared equally between parents. If you would like further details please contact Mrs Smith in the school office

During our first term I would like interested parents to form a Mawsley CP School Parents' Association. The purpose of this group would be to help raise additional funds for school projects and to organise social functions for both children and parents. Perhaps you might like to help by being part of this group?

Finally, I hope all children and parents have an enjoyable summer break. I look forward to seeing you all again to begin the new term and the beginning of our new village school.

Elaine Wright - Headteacher

Christians in Mawsley

It was good to see so many children take part in the colouring competition during the Fun Day, celebrating the Church's birthday, organised by Christians in Mawsley. The winner of the under 10's was Zoe Richardson of Cowslip Hill and Thomas Warburton of Chambers Hill won the over 10's. Their prizes, a children's book of prayers and an animated video, have now been delivered.

For the new villagers, Christians in Mawsley is an informal group of Christians from various denominations, who meet together both socially and for discussion. These activities take place separately on the first Thursday of each month for a social get-together and the third Thursday for bible study. These recommence in September and will be at 8 Fox Coverts in that month.

By the kind permission of the current School Governors and Head Teacher, Christians in Mawsley have permission to hold special monthly services there, until the Village Hall is complete. A Harvest event will be held

at 3pm on SATURDAY 25 September. There will be some children's creative activity first, followed by a cuppa and then a short informal service with villagers providing music and other items. All will be welcome.



Other similar activities are planned for All Saints weekend at the end of October. The Christingle event will be repeated (inside this year!) during the first weekend in December. Watch out for information leaflets.

The lamplight carolling, which so many villagers enjoyed being involved in last year, is to be an annual event. This year it will be on Tuesday 21 December, ending up as we did last year at Pat and Pat's house (our excellent editors) for some Christmas fare. We are looking for a local charity or worthy cause to support again this year and are putting a list together. If you have any ideas, let me know.

As always, for further information please contact Gerald or Mildred Peacock at 6 The Round or on 791496.



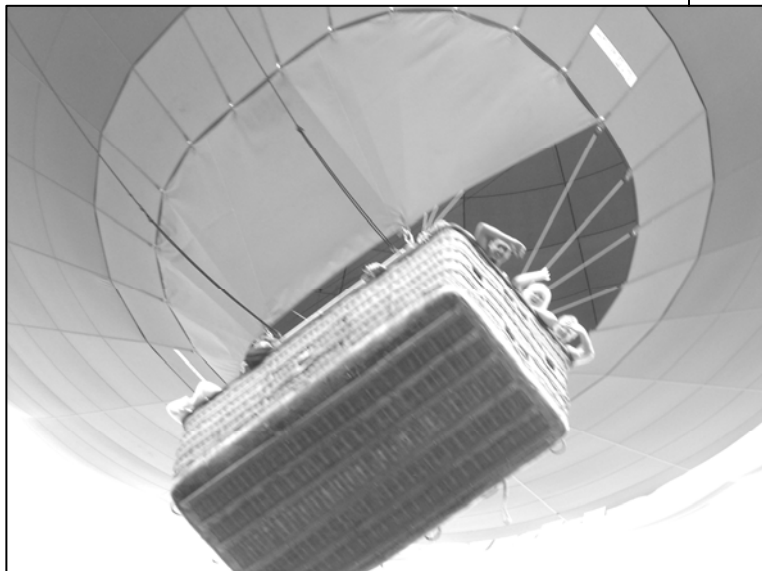
A little more hot air than usual over Nick & Sue Owen's house. View from Paddock End by Kevin Buckingham

A Quiet Night In

It was during the specialist round of Mastermind that I heard a tremendous hissing and roaring noise and rushed to check whether the boiler was about to blow up but saw instead, at **very** close quarters, a hot air balloon crossing the back garden and heading for Nick and Sue's roof.

I heard Nick and Sue enquire whether they were lost and offer them a cup of tea, calmly trusting that the driver knew what he was doing. The basket cleared the roof by a very slim margin and the balloon, now with a large audience following on foot and bicycle, passed over the school and landed in the field beyond.

Why were they so low? Speculation is that the driver was using an Ordnance Survey map and expected to find empty fields when he crossed the road from Broughton!



A bit close for comfort. Nick's photograph from his garden.

Youth Group News

Saturday Football will continue during the summer at Kettering Leisure Village on the Astro turf from 10 - 11am. Children of all ages are welcome.

Wednesday night at the Knibb Centre will start again in September at the beginning of term.

Ghost walk will take place on September 24th. See next newsletter for details.

We are planning a weekend away, whitewater rafting, rock climbing, canoeing, orienteering and as much more as we can fit in.

We will hold a **Youth Group meeting** on 20th September at 7.30 in the doctor's surgery to elect a new chairperson. Old and new members are welcome.

It is the aim of the Youth Group Committee to organise one event a month in addition to the regular weekly activities. Help is needed with these extra events. Parents - could you suggest and/or organise one event or outing in the next year for our youngsters? Both the bowling and ice skating were a great success. If 12 parents each took on one event we would have a full programme for a whole year.

For more information or to offer your help please contact Aidan Piper on 790419.

www.mawsleyvillage.net

The village web site provides a forum for discussion about village issues and a list of events, groups and committees.

We have only one village noticeboard at the moment and this newsletter is produced at six weekly intervals - so check the website for up to date news.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

will be issued on 10th September

Please think what you could contribute to make its contents representative of the whole village. Please send your articles, pictures, group news and odd odes to the editors by 3rd September. Thanks.

Pat and Pat. 791881
newsletter@mawsleyvillage.net

Social Committee News

Out and About around Mawsley – Top Tips Number 3

- **Ideas for walks, bike rides and days out**

Bike riders and walkers are recommending The Brampton Valley Railway Line. Drive to Draughton along the single track road and park at the bottom of the hill. You can walk or ride either way but if you go north, there's a very long tunnel at Kelmarsh for the braver kids!!

More serious walkers could log onto www.rockingham-forestwalkers.com for details of the 10k 'Maidwell Meander'.

Where have you been on your rambles? Please let me know if you've found a good 'un.

- **Good pubs and restaurants for eating and drinking**

'The George' at Great Oxenden, 'The Hare' at Loddington and 'The White Horse' in Old are receiving consistently good reports. They all offer a very different type of eating experience but all come recommended by villagers.

I'd love to compile a Top 10, so please let me know your recommendations.

By the way, the Chinese Take Away Van which parks in Walgrave, outside the school, on Saturday evenings has come up trumps for food and excellent value for money. It's called The Golden Chef and we've tried it twice now and have had very good take-out at a very good price, on both occasions! It arrives about 6pm until 11pm and the phone number is: 07710 431859

- **Garden Centres**

Debbie, from Old Gorse Way has been raving about Coveys near Pitsford and The Wyvale Garden Centre on The Queen Eleanor Roundabout in Northampton. Covey's is a nursery open to members of the public who spend a minimum of £25.00 on plants. Their range of variety and size is fabulous. If you want to spend more than £250.00 ... they'll deliver FREE. The Wyvale Garden Centre is 'a nice place for a mooch' according to Debbie. There's a lot to see and buy from plants to gifts and it's a great place for lunch. Debbie recommends the baguettes with homemade coleslaw and the 5 piece kids' lunch boxes.

Finally – if you've been to the Garden Centre at Poddington, please let me know what you think for the next edition. To date ... reports are very good even if it is a trek to get there

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.

MAWSLEY HARVEST BALL 23rd OCTOBER 2004

110 tickets sold - only 40 left

*Do you really want to miss Mawsley's
main social event of the year?*

*Just moved in? Welcome. Join us at the
ball and get to know your neighbours.
Been here awhile? Why have you not
got your tickets?*

*£45 per head to include: Transport
Reception drinks
3 course meal
Good night out!*

Call Karen on 790085

The Barn Dance was great fun with a good family atmosphere. The caller and his band kept everyone on their toes, Garry, the Mawsley Caterer, provided non-stop hot food and the raffle prizes were excellent. Thank you to everyone involved in organising it. Hopefully we will be able to hold next year's event in our own hall.



Helpers' List

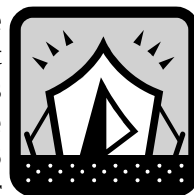
The Social Committee has recently updated its list of helpers, identifying just what kind of help people are able to offer - from baking a cake to helping set up or clear away an event.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL who have offered to help with future events. We will be in touch when we need you.

We are keen to add to the list of helpers because many hands make light work. Watch out for the mail shot coming your way. Thank you.

The Social Committee owns a large party/beer tent/marquee which it uses for outdoor village events. This tent is available for hire within the village for £10 a day. It measures 3 metres by 9 metres (so measure your garden first!)

To hire it please contact Simon or Karen on 790085.



Community Centre and Playing Fields

Community Centre

Progress so far

- The amended plans have been approved.
- A contractor, Marriots, has been appointed and the building work will begin in September 2004 and is scheduled to take 38 weeks, that is until June 2005.
- Some new volunteers have joined the steering group providing fresh energy and new ideas.
- At the next meeting the architects will be displaying and discussing finish materials.

Playing Fields

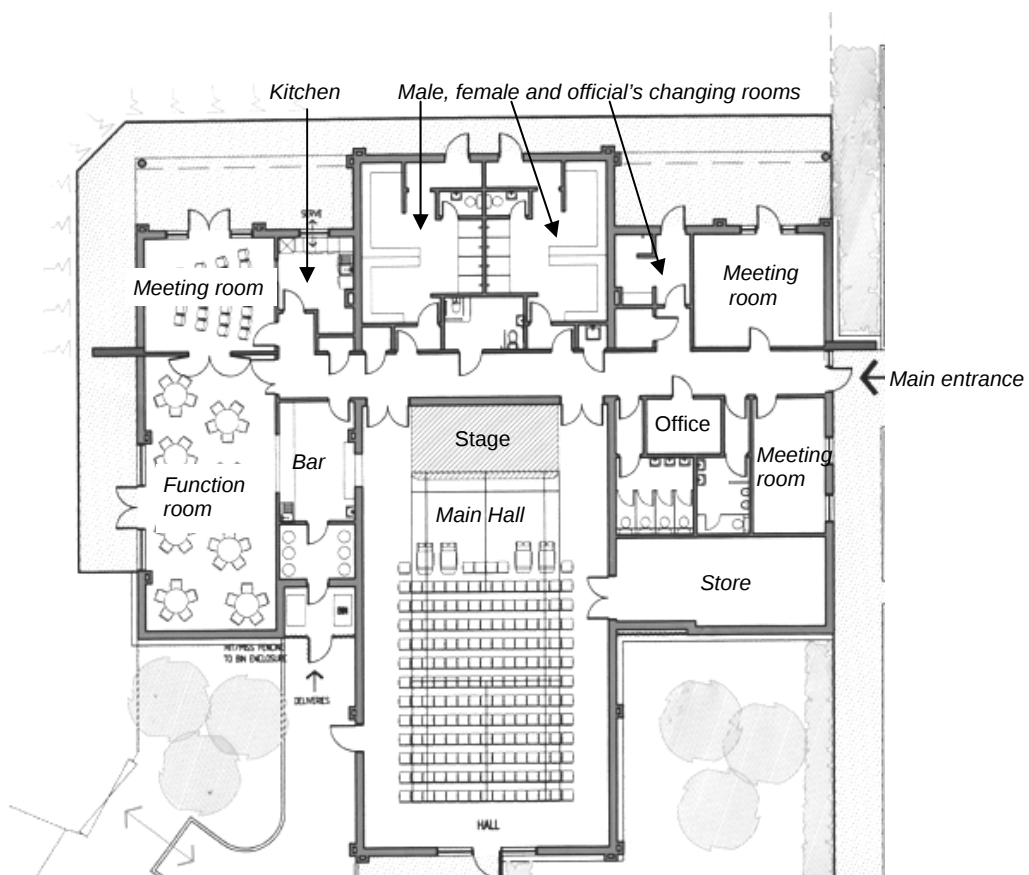
Progress so far

- Turftrax have reported on their survey of the playing field and made recommendations for layout of pitches and play areas.
- They have made recommendations for levelling, draining and re-turfing the field and estimate the cost to be in the region of £100,000. The work needs to be started in the autumn of this year if the winter pitches are to be ready for 2005.
- KBC has accepted those recommendations as setting the necessary standard of provision and has passed them on to Wimpey who are obliged by their contract to provide the playing field.

Still to be done

- The licensing issue, i.e. occasional v full on-licence, has not been resolved but is being pursued with KBC.
- Once the status of the licence is known detailed business plans can be drawn up and funding applications made. In the meantime the group is preparing outline alternative business plans.
- The committee will deal with the Community Centre and Playing Fields as two separate projects.
- The committee will renew its efforts to identify and recruit more volunteers from the village, with relevant business experience, to help with the project. If you could help please contact Gail Randle on 791476.

Mawsley Community Building - approved design



Book Club

The book group have had four very enjoyable meetings. We have read 'Lovely Bones', 'Brick Lane' and 'Rebecca'. This month we are reading the new Zoe Heller book called 'Notes on a Scandal'.

The meetings are very informal, we have a chat about the book and consume a fair amount of wine!. After we've put the world to rights we choose the next book to be read. We take it turns to choose the book and host the meetings to ensure a really varied selection.

We would love to see some new faces. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month, the next meeting to be held at 8pm on Wednesday August 11th. Please call or email Elaine Cawthorne for details. 791277 or Cawthorne@tesco.net



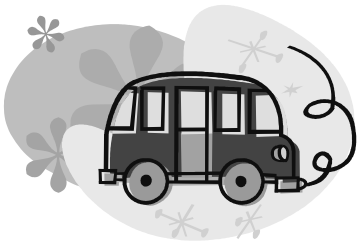
Spit and Polish

There has been quite a flurry of landscaping work and general tidying of the village in the last week or two, all in honour of Wimpey Directors and other visitors who attended a lunch in the new show houses yesterday. It would be good if our verges and planted areas could always be this well cared for - but at least we can enjoy the results of this temporary sprucing up for a little while.

The new phase of buildings is just beyond The Green and the site for the Community Centre and already 5 of those houses are occupied. The new medical centre will also be in this area of the village.

Wimpey East Midlands are calling their new area "The Copse", and the Wimpey South part is called "The Leas".

Gardening Club



17 members and friends of the Gardening Club went to Burton Latimer on a garden visit for their June meeting and rounded off the evening with a glass of wine and chat in a Mawsley garden. A

smaller group had done something similar a fortnight earlier, this time visiting a garden at Great Harrowden before returning to Mawsley to compare notes in one of our own gardens.

We intend to continue with outdoor visits during the summer and you are very welcome to join us on the last Wednesday of the month. Our next outing will be a private visit to Coton Lodge, Guilsborough, on Wed. 28th July leaving Mawsley at 7pm. This is a 2 acre garden with herbaceous borders, vegetable garden, woodland walk with stream and beautiful views. If you would like to come along please contact Pat Rowley (791881) so that lifts can be arranged. Cost £3.50 including refreshments.

We are planning a 'Mawsley Garden Crawl' for our August meeting to visit several gardens in the village to admire, commiserate, learn or give advice as requested. If you have a garden you are proud of or hate or don't know what to do with please invite us - we would love to include you on our itinerary!

Contact Marisa on 790748 with general gardening queries or about future meetings.

Is your home Energy Efficient?

The Northants Energy Efficiency Partnership (a consortium of all Northamptonshire Authorities) are offering all homeowners in Northamptonshire the chance to win a Home Energy Makeover worth up to the value of £5,000. Prizes include solar panels; high efficiency boiler; loft and cavity wall insulation and other energy efficient domestic appliances. Entry forms are available at local Council Offices or by calling freephone 0800 731 8976, the closing date for entries is 31st August 2004.

House Alarms

The holiday season is upon us again and with it the incessant drone of incorrectly set or faulty household alarms.

If you set your alarm prior to locking up your house and departing the delightful English weather for hotter climes, have you left a neighbour a spare key and instructions on how to re-set your alarm? If not, and your alarm goes off without signs of a forced entry, you may well return to find your alarm disconnected externally and a bill from Environmental Health for the privilege of carrying out the disconnection.

Advice from Environmental Health is to notify them of any key holders for your property. They will maintain FREE OF CHARGE a register of these key holders whom they will contact in the event that they receive a report of an alarm causing a nuisance. If they are able to get a key holder to your property it will save you time and money on your return.



Mawsley Drains

The MVA have been receiving reports of offensive odours emanating from drains (both internal and external) around the village and we would like to establish which areas are suffering most from this "phenomenon". If you have noticed these odours whilst walking around the village, or are finding that no

matter how many times you clean and bleach your sinks you are still getting smells from your plug holes, please let Richard Meredith know (791539) as he will be taking this up with the appropriate authorities as a matter of urgency.



Adult Education Classes come to Broughton

You can now enrol on adult learning courses starting in September. Subjects include languages, psychology, computers, art, crafts, yoga and dance.

Saturday schools are on 13th and 20th November 2004 and 22nd January 2005 at Montsaye Community College, Rothwell. At these classes you can learn about digital photography, tracing your family history, antiques, garden design, Indian and Thai cookery, massage, reflexology, sugar flowers, Spanish, French and playing the guitar.

New courses in tai chi. Painting and drawing, sign language, Spanish, computers and French for families are on offer at Broughton Primary School.

To find out more telephone 01536 712623.

Dear Pat and Pat,

Could you please say a big thank to everyone in the village who sponsored my daughter Jessica Issitt and her friend Sophie Robinson.

They went out and about, knocking on doors in Mawsley and Broughton to get sponsorship for an eight mile bike ride around Pitsford Reservoir. They managed to raise the fantastic sum of £400 for the Cransley Hospice in Kettering. Both sets of parents are extremely proud; the girls took it upon themselves to arrange the event as they felt they wanted to do their bit and give something back.



So again, please thank everyone for their generosity.

Kind Regards
Michelle Issitt

Christian Aid

Many thanks to everyone who made a donation through the envelopes during Christian Aid week in May. I was able to send £275.20 from Mawsley - fantastic! Which made the contribution from our benefice come to just over £1000.

My appreciation and thanks also to the mini band of collectors who made it all possible. It will happen again next year, so if you would like to help.....please get in touch.

Kerry Piper 790419

Well I never!

What do the Amazon Rainforest, Hurricane Floyd, the River Yangtze Dams and Mawsley have in common?

Give in? Well, they all appear as geography case studies in a new school text book published by Heinemann. The chapter on Mawsley is concerned with 'counter-urbanisation' in the UK and this is contrasted with the opposite phenomenon of urbanisation taking place in Brazil. Well I never!

(The book is *Problem Solving Practice* by Paul Brooker, Geoff Brookes & Andy Leader in the series Heinemann Geography for Avery Hill.)

Wildlife in Mawsley

We regularly now see a hare walking or running (haring) along Main Street during the evening.



To Garry who asked why his garden is full of spiders and how to get rid of them - you can't. We have them as well and it's one of the joys of living in the countryside surrounded by fields (which also explains the little black flies and thrips.)

Poor Chrissie in Loddington Way has had her twisted willow tree completely denuded of leaves in the course of a couple of hours by caterpillars as yet unidentified.

Wildlife isn't always welcome!

And finally.....welcome

to all new residents. We hope you are settling in and enjoying being in Mawsley. KBC and the MVA have produced a Welcome Pack full of local information and this is delivered to each new home by Mary-Rose Dolan Holland on behalf of the MVA. If you have moved in recently and have not received a pack please call her on 790349.

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. Chris Winter (790375)
Sec. Richard Meredith (791539)

Mawsley Parish Council

mpc@mawsleyvillage.net
Cllr. Bob Littler (Chair)
Cllr. Chris Winter (Deputy Chair)
See page 2 for other councillors

Northants County Council

Cllr. Jim Harker (01536 742245)
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Kettering Borough Council
Cllr. Jim Hakewill (01858 467686)
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Cllr. Michael Harrison
(01536 712888)
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