



Mawsley Villagers Association

Newsletter

October 2004

This and that

Samantha tells me we're due for a general round-up. Having the opportunity to cover things in this way allows me to talk about the Parish Council as well as the MVA. We are progressively allocating activities to one or the other (i.e. mainly moving them from the MVA).

As far as the MVA is concerned, one of the key areas of work is still the **Community Centre**. Stuart covers this in some detail on page 7 – all I will say that is that the next stage is to concentrate on fund-raising. Stu asks if you want to get involved to contact any of the MVA Committee. I would just add that we also need good, simple ideas – if there is anything you have helped with, or just experienced, which raised goodly sums of dosh without too much time or risk, please let us know. We'll copy good ideas off anyone.

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
Chair - Cllr. Bob Littler
Deputy Chair - Cllr. Chris Winter
Clerk: Richard Meredith (791539
or richard.meredith@eds.com)

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

The other main focus of the moment is **bonfire night**. This is going to be a cracker (sorry, couldn't resist it). There will be four times the number of fireworks we had last year, to make it a real spectacle for all the village. We will raise a tidy sum for village funds, too.

On the other hand some of the things the Parish Council has been considering include:

- We have received an enquiry from a company looking to set up a **day nursery**, in the school grounds. The planning conditions for the school site stipulate that space must be made available for a day nursery, but there is no requirement to provide one – it's up to the private sector to come forward. Early days, but the Parish Council supports the principle.
- As indeed we support the desire for a public enquiry on the provision of a **tarmac runway at Sywell Airport***, which would enable a far greater number of flights than currently permissible.
- And the Parish Council now has the responsibility for provision of **allotments for the village**. We are talking to a local farmer re use of his land.

Finally, Mawsley has been entered by the Council into the Deputy Prime Minister's Award for Sustainable Communities, and we've reached the short list. The assessor visited the village the other day; he was impressed with the way we work as a community.

Good.

Bob Littler - MVA & MPC Chair

** If you want to support the petition for a public enquiry or find out more about the effect that a tarmac runway is likely to have, go to www.stare.me.uk.
(Editors)*

This newsletter comes to you from the MVA and is printed for us, free of charge by KBC. The next one will be issued on 3rd December. Please have all items for inclusion to the editors by 26th November at the latest. The pages fill fast and late entries cannot be guaranteed space. We look forward to hearing from you.



Find out about
Neighbourhood Watch
Thursday 28th October
8pm Doctor's Surgery

Thank you to those who said after the last newsletter that they would like to attend a presentation to find out what Neighbourhood Watch is all about.

Kate Mulcahey, who runs the scheme in Walgrave, will explain how it is organised there, what is involved for individual members and the benefits to the village.

Philip Hollobone, the Kettering Councillor with responsibility for NW, who wishes to help set up a scheme in Mawsley, will also be in attendance.

The meeting is open to anyone who would like to know more and ask questions before volunteering themselves to join the team.

KBC Outreach Sessions

Kettering
Borough Council

Do you want your chance as a resident to express any views or concerns you have about the village to a representative from Kettering Borough Council? Somebody is available for you to talk to every Friday afternoon* between 3.30pm - 5.00pm at the Village surgery (no appointment needed).

These sessions will be attended by community support workers from KBC. If the issue that concerns you is a KBC matter, they will liaise with the appropriate department on your behalf. If it is not a borough council issue they will try to point you in the right direction. In either case they will keep the MVA informed and seek their assistance where appropriate.

They look forward to seeing you!

*Due to Community commitments there will be no session on Friday 22nd October, but normal service will resume on Friday 29th October.

Accident warning

Newcomers to the village need to be aware that the section of road (C31) between the two entrances to Mawsley is a well-known black spot for winter accidents.

No sun reaches the road surface during winter days, it is not on the County Council's gritting route and it is **very susceptible to black ice**.

Please take extra care in that area.



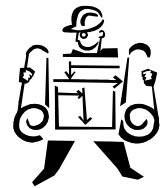
Future meetings - 8pm at the surgery:

Parish Council: Monday 1st November
MVA: Thursday 4th November

Mawsley Village Next Phase of Development

Those of you who were resident in the village on 1st April of this year will recall the plans submitted by George Wimpey for the final three phases of development of Mawsley. The plans showed an increase in proposed total numbers of houses from 750 to 888 achieved by increasing the density of housing in the remaining phases to be developed. A consultation with residents indicated an overwhelming majority were opposed to the plans and the villagers' views were made clear to the Borough Council Planning Department. Planning was refused and is now the subject of an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, a date for the hearing of that appeal has yet to be advised.

In the meantime a new Planning Application has been submitted for the development of one of the remaining three phases showing plans for 42 houses. This is an increase of 22 houses from the plans which received outline approval early in Mawsley's history, and a decrease of 15 houses from the plans rejected earlier this year.



The MVA and the Parish Council are keen to reflect the views of residents when responding to such planning applications. The detailed plans are available for inspection at the Parish Office and any views or comments you may have will be gratefully received. The application will formally be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 1st November. If you wish to inspect the plans before that date, or would just like to express your views on the proposed development, please call Richard Meredith on 791539.

Mawsley Villagers Association Reg. charity no. 1106276

The MVA has been successful in its application to become a registered charity. This will make fund-raising easier and more effective, partly because it gives the MVA a legal status.

Congratulations to the committee members who saw this through and thanks for all the hard work that went into it.

Village Open Spaces

The Parish Council has been discussing the village open spaces with KBC Development Service in order to get them reinstated to the agreed standard by the developers.

& Notice boards

We have now been without our second notice board (by the David Wilson entrance) for almost a year. The two supplied were not up to the job. KBC took one away for repair - found it irreparable - destroyed it and so far have not managed to replace it. Meanwhile the other notice board (near the duck pond) is falling apart. The Parish Council is trying to get two weather proof notice boards reinstated. It's not rocket science!

We are pleased to report that Richard Meredith has been persuaded to stay on as MVA secretary for the time being.
Thank you Richard.

Mawsley Community Primary School

The school welcomed official visitors two weeks ago and subjected them to a gruelling! Regeneration Minister, Lord Rooker, accompanied by Kettering MP Phil Sawford toured the new school and they subjected themselves to serious questioning by members of the newly formed School Council.

Simon Dolan-Holland, who is Chair of the School Council said that the meeting was interesting. 'Lord Rooker didn't just answer yes or no, he gave quite long answers. Also it was good fun because there were lots of people taking photographs all the time'. (A report with photograph did appear in the Kettering Evening Telegraph the next day.)

Community Governors

The school governors are about to appoint three community governors. If you wish to be considered see the announcement on the village notice board or contact the school without delay on 799182.

Half term report from the Head

We are coming to the end of our first half term at Mawsley C.P. School. It has been a very successful time where staff, children and parents have all got to know each other and school routines have been put in place.

Our Reception Class (4 -5 year olds) began this term on a part time basis, and are now attending full time. They are all settling in well and enjoying learning through a variety of fun and practical activities. Many of these activities are based around nursery rhymes.

We have also been happy to show many prospective parents from Mawsley around our school and look forward to their children joining us next September.

After our first few weeks the children have settled in well and are enjoying their new school. Here are a few quotes:

Aidan: I'm enjoying it because the work is fun.

Rebecca: All the teachers are really nice.

Emily: I like playing with the equipment at playtimes, especially the skipping ropes.

Molly: We are all having a really fun time in our class.

Leah: All the children are really friendly at playtime.

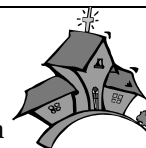
We hope the children will continue to enjoy their learning at Mawsley C.P. School.

Elaine Wright, Headteacher

Official Opening

Another important guest will formally open the school this week. The children, staff and parents are looking forward to meeting **Northampton Saints and England Rugby star, Paul Grayson**, when he opens the school this Friday.

CHRISTIANS IN MAWSLEY ANOTHER MAWSLEY FIRST



Recently the new school was used for a community event for the first time since it opened, by kind permission of the Head and Governors.

A Harvest Celebration for the village was organised by Christians in Mawsley and almost seventy children and adults attended. Children made harvest decorations, chocolate cakes and percussion 'shakers' to set the harvest atmosphere, ready for a short informal act of worship organised and led by Molly Shortt, one of the group members who is currently training as a Reader in the Church of England. Prayers written by the congregation were stuck to helium filled balloons and symbolically released at the end of the service. The cakes and other refreshments were shared before everyone went home.

The group is planning to hold a Saturday service in the school on a monthly basis, as a move towards the establishment of a different form of church, that meets the modern spiritual needs in the village.

Sat 30th October. All Saints Celebration.

3.15 - 4.30 pm to include children's activities, refreshments and celebration.

Sat 4th December. Christingle

This event was first held last December by the pond.

Christians in Mawsley is an informal group of Christians made up from members of a number of denominations that live in the village. The group meets in the evening, twice a month, on the first and third Thursdays. The first week is a social get together and the third week is a Bible Study, currently led by Major Gerald Peacock of The Salvation Army. Any interested villager would be made welcome.

The venue for November will be with Gerald & Mildred at 6 The Round . Tel. 791496 for details.

Message from Rev'd Brian Withington

Mawsley is situated in the Church of England Benefice of Four Spires Plus and residents are warmly invited to all services in Broughton, Cransley, Loddington & Thorpe Malsor – details are in the monthly edition of the Four Spires Newsletter delivered to every home.

For information about baptism, marriage, home communion and any other pastoral matters please contact Revd Brian Withington, Priest-in-Charge on 01536 791373 or email brian.andco@virgin.net

Youth Group News

The **ghost walk** was a great success with over 30 brave enough to venture out. We want to make this an annual event and thank all those parents who helped and joined in.

Youth web page design. We will be meeting on Thursdays at the Knibb centre to put together a youth page for the Mawsley web site. The first meeting will be on Thursday 14th October and it is anticipated that for the first couple of weeks we will be looking at what we want. There are still a couple of spaces left so give me a call.

The youth radio has just received funding so if you fancy yourself as a radio engineer, producer or DJ let me know. This is a great opportunity to get involved in developing your own radio station.

Football on Saturdays is no longer at KLV because hockey teams had a prior claim to the Astroturf. We plan to continue in Mawsley while we can. A new entrance to the playing field may be provided when Community Centre building work starts but we will lose the use of the playing fields altogether when drainage and levelling begins. We are looking for an alternative so keep in touch and we will let you know once we have something fixed up. In the meantime - 10 - 11am, coaching for boys and girls of all ages.

Wednesday evenings at the William Knibb centre will continue during term time. More females are attending so the lads no longer dominate the proceedings. This is great evening where you can either join in the sports, circus skills, playing instruments or just have a drink and chat among your friends, away from adult ears. We are looking to provide minibus transport. A number of villagers have already put themselves forward for the driver training but we do need some more so please give it a go - you will not be alone.



Motor bike rebuild. Giles and Daniel have kindly donated motor bikes for our group to rebuild under Giles's professional instruction. If you would like to have a go at this please call me.

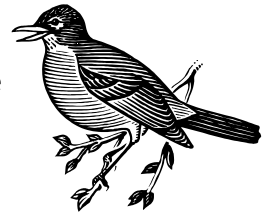


We are developing a **new programme for the winter** and welcome your suggestions. We are looking to do something different every month so call me and let me know what you would like to do.

For more information about any of these events or to offer help please call Aidan on 790419.

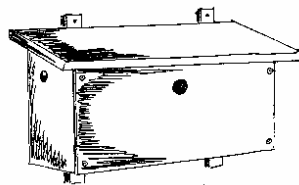
Bring back the birds

It was an exciting prospect, moving out into the sticks from the centre of Northampton. The thought of living back among the wildlife brought memories of my childhood rushing back. On a cold day in December we settled into our new home. The bird feeder was straight up in the garden. I couldn't wait to see how they would all flock onto it later in the day. Trouble was, that never happened, not for months. I changed the nuts twice as they had gone mouldy but still nothing. Finally after about 8 months a lone blue tit was seen on the feeder. That was just the start, now it's very busy all day every day.



I think that we forget how disturbing it must be for the local wildlife to endure the trauma of all the building work that is going on here. We need to do whatever we can to help encourage the birds back into their habitat as soon as possible so that this country village will really turn into just that.

We are currently trying to find volunteers to have bird and/or bat boxes mounted on their houses to allow the birds to nest there come the spring. The MVA have been kind enough to offer to pay one third the cost of the boxes, but first we need to know how many we are going to need.



We can help mount boxes if you need us to, so come on you lot it will only cost you just over a tenner to have a sparrow box on your house and roosting pockets (to hang in trees) will cost less.

With house sparrows and starlings on the RSPB red list we can really make the village a place of natural beauty, but we need your help and support. The sparrow box is an innovative 'terrace' providing the perfect nesting environment for up to three pairs. Hang the box a minimum of two metres off the ground, avoid South facing locations if they receive full sunlight. Close to the eaves of the house is ideal as this would be the birds' natural choice of location. The box will attract Tree and House Sparrows but also, Coal Tits, Great Tits and Nuthatches.

If you would like one of these bird boxes, subsidised by the MVA, contact me, Giles Owen, via my website www.mawsleyvillage.com (please note this is not the village website which is atnet) or on 07764 473433.

And while you are waiting for your bird box how about this for a good start? The RSPB is asking you to fill a feeder for this year's **Feed The Birds Day on 30 October**. It marks the day the clocks go back and the winter nights draw in - it's the time when birds and other wildlife need a little extra help as the first frost looms. So please fill your feeders, clean your bird tables, put out some water and give a helping hand to the wild birds around you.

Bats are also losing roosting sites with the loss of mature trees and hedges. Access to roosts in buildings is also falling as decaying woodwork is replaced by uPVC, and barns and loft spaces are converted for human habitation.

Bats are nocturnal. During the day they need safe places to roost, out of reach of predators. You can help by putting up a bat box. Let me know if you would like one.

Ring 07764 473433

Giles Owen & Leigh Marsden

Social Committee News

BONFIRE NIGHT SPECTACULAR - 2004!

SAT. 6TH NOVEMBER

Remember, remember the sixth of November!!

Yes, it's happening again. The third Mawsley Bonfire Spectacular is being held on the playing field. Tickets will be on sale this week priced at **£10 per household**. Ticket sellers will call door to door so please don't ignore them – let them in and hand over some money!!!

The ticket price is the same as last year and we expect to have about 200 households attending. There will be four times more fireworks than last year.

There will be a **licensed bar** serving drinks & mulled wine and a **catering van** serving a variety of hot food. Make sure you are there at 6pm when the gates open to ensure that you don't miss the **"Best Guy" competition**. This year there are NO age restrictions so there will be prizes for Grannies and Grandads as well as kids!

We need volunteer Stewards and first aiders so please contact me on 01536 790967 or email tony@bagshaw.me.uk to offer your services.

Stallholders will also be welcome to sell traditional fare (toffee apples, parkin, etc) so if you wish to organise and **run a stall** please contact us NOW!

And don't forget to bring all your burnable rubbish (no sofas, plastics, aerosols etc please!) to the **"Big Bonfire Build" at 1pm** on Saturday 6th.

As with last year we are restricted by the insurance cover as follows:

- Villagers only – tickets can only be sold to households within the village
- No Sparklers - so please don't bring them - we don't want to have to send you away!

Tony Bagshaw – MVASC

Social Committee Helpers

Thank you to all of you who have now offered to go on to the Social Committee Helpers' List. We will contact you when we need you. If that little reply sheet is still in your house because I've missed you when I've called, don't throw it away – drop it into my letter box. The last two remaining areas of the village are being surveyed in this issue of the newsletter. See if you too can spare just a little of your time to help. Remember, many hands make light work and joining in is a great way of meeting people and making new friends.

Pat Downing

Boules Champions

The winners of the Boules Championship were Karen & Neil from Old Gorse Way seen here receiving the trophy from last year's winners, Elizabeth and Simon.



The embarrassing thing for everyone who took part was that Neil and Karen had never played Boules before but still managed to win every one of their matches. They are threatening to practise before next year's tournament! The runners up were father and daughter team, Russell and Kerry, from School Road. Thanks to Russell for the photo.

!!! HARVEST BALL COACHES !!!

Don't forget to check your tickets for your pick up point, marked A,B or C.

All coaches will leave at 6.15pm.

- * Coach A from the corner of Main Street & Loddington Way (The Duck Pond)
- * Coach B - corner of Loddington Way & Birch Spinney
- * Coach C - the top of Cowslip Hill

Events Calendar 2005

We are currently planning the calendar for next year. We have already contacted all the clubs and groups in the village that we are aware of to ask about any events they are planning and also whether they wish to contribute an event to next year's Fun Day. Is there anyone else out there who would like to organise a village event or to join the Social Committee? Just call me on 790085. Simon Redgrave, Soc. Com. Chair

We are always looking for raffle prizes for social events.

You may have a business and could give us a cash donation for a prize in return for a mention in the event programme or newsletter ...

OR...You may be able to donate a voucher from your business to use for goods or services ...

OR... You may just be a kind and generous villager who has a new item they would like to donate to a good cause.

If you can help, we would like to hear from you.

Phone Andrea Lucas on 799066

And also, socially....



"A Bit of A Christmas Do"
Friday 17th December
Ralph Davis is organising, for the 3rd year running, a superb meal and Christmas party

This year it's at Sedgebrook Hall and the cost is £35 per head to include meal, Champagne reception and coach travel, leaving Mawsley at 7pm, returning by 12.30am.

Tickets available on first come, first served basis.

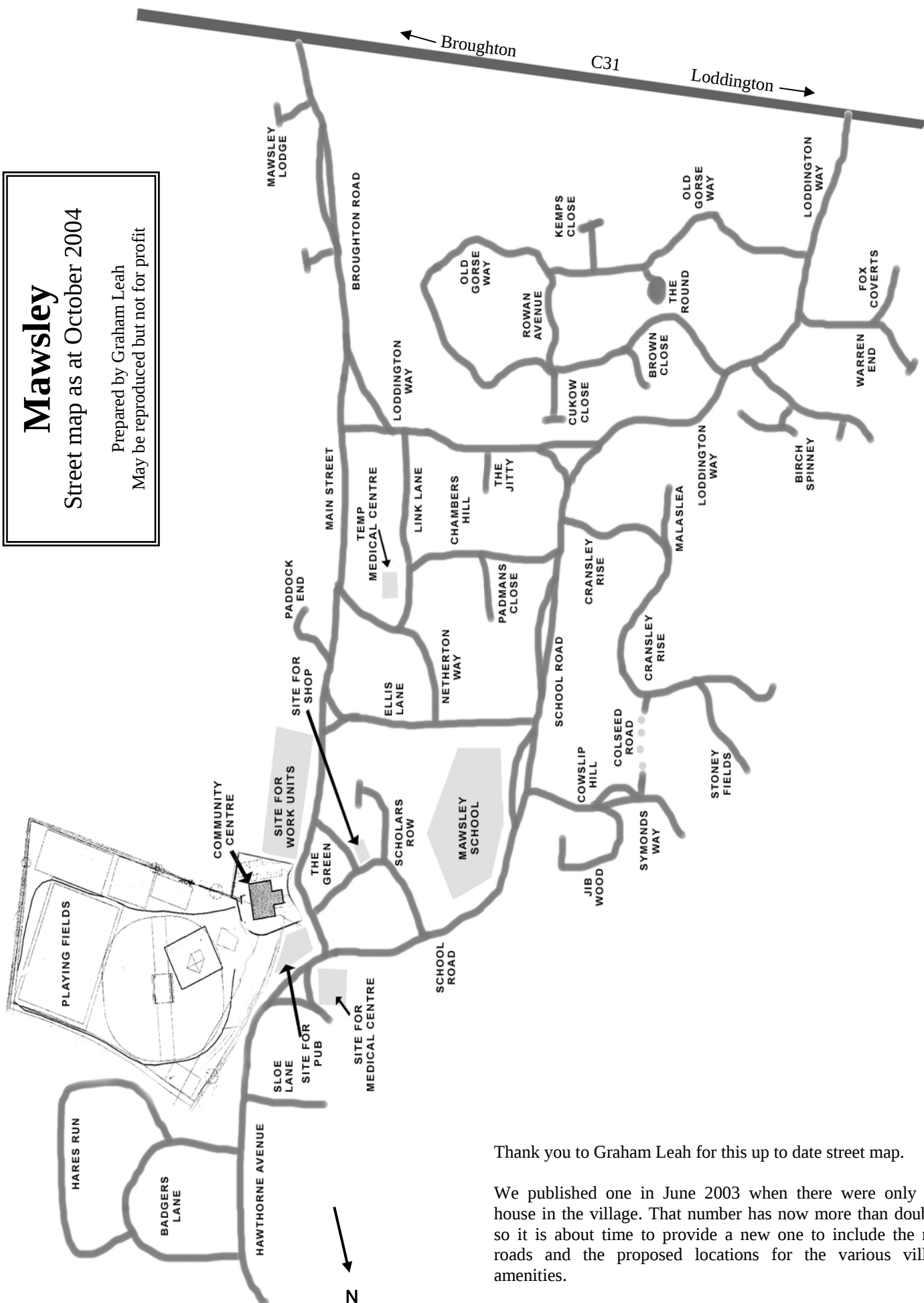
Contact Ralph & Caroline, Valley View House, Warren End on 790743 or 07792 434645, or Eloise on 791641.

Mawsley

Street map as at October 2004

Prepared by Graham Leah

May be reproduced but not for profit



Thank you to Graham Leah for this up to date street map.

We published one in June 2003 when there were only 220 house in the village. That number has now more than doubled so it is about time to provide a new one to include the new roads and the proposed locations for the various village amenities.

Community Centre update Planning Application on 19th October 2004

As you may know the initial Planning Application for the Community Centre was rejected by the Planning Committee of the Kettering Borough Council - much to everyone's surprise. The reason for the rejection was simply a perceived lack of parking by the Committee when they were informed of the 'vision' the MVA has for the Community Centre.

Since this planning rejection the MVA has been involved tirelessly in establishing that there is a car parking need and where and what it should be. There have been many hours of meetings, discussions (and disagreements) between the MVA, KBC and Wimpey.

We are all now agreed that the only viable option is to provide additional car parking at the rear of the Community Centre on 'Grass crete'. The Planning Application proposal will allow the MVA, Wimpey and KBC flexibility to site this additional parking in a position to minimise any interference with the leisure and social activity planned for the rear of the building.

We are now hopeful that planning will be passed on 19th October (the day this newsletter goes to print) and that the first earth mover will arrive in the days following to start the building process. The completion date was envisaged to be next Spring and the MVA will be doing all that it can to keep the build on track.

You may also recall that the 'licence use' of the building has caused concern in the past. We are assured by KBC that the Planning Application, if passed, will enable the MVA to continue with its proposal to apply for a full on licence.

The MVA has now established charitable status from 12th October 2004. This will greatly assist us to raise funds for the Community Centre. Talking of funds - the MVA Community Centre Steering group is now forming a fund raising group. We need to really start thinking about raising funds to buy all sorts of things for the Community Centre. If you imagine buying a house from Wimpey (careful!!) - with curtains and carpets provided!! - that is similar to what the Parish Council will acquire when the freehold is passed to it on completion of the building. There will be no tables, chairs, cleaning or sports equipment, televisions, computers or music systems, fridges, freezers, cookers.....

So if you want to get involved in the fund raising please contact any of the MVA committee; you will be most welcome.

The priority for the Steering Group now is to establish the Business Plan and to work up costings for the purchase of basic equipment needed to open the Community Centre when it is finally completed busy times ahead!

If you have suggestions to make or want to get involved please contact Stuart Randle on 791476 or any other member of the MVA.

OUT & ABOUT AROUND MAWSLEY TOP TIPS NUMBER 5

Due to limited space in this edition Andrea's Top Tips have been severely curtailed. Hope to include Garden Centres, walks and bike rides and a feature on Market Harborough next time.

Mawsley Merited - A selection of pubs or restaurants that you say are really good!

- The Hare at Loddington – *for a special occasion serving huge portions*
- The Snooty Fox at Lowick – *Lynne likes this place for special occasions. The 'fat chips' are superb!*
- The Pheasant at Keyston – *can be expensive but very special food with friendly, efficient service*
- Bill Bennets at Bythorn – *recommended by Lynne and my husband's friend!*
- The Griffin at Pitsford – *Glen says it's a very nice place to eat a la carte at pub prices!*
- The 'Three Cranes' at Great Cransley – *walk across the fields in less than an hour. Recommended by Debra.*
- The George at Great Oxenden – *under new management from October and so far, so good*
- The Red Lion at Broughton – *owned by Brian, a fellow villager!!*
- The Old Barn at Glooston – *in the Welland Valley picturesque drive and good ale*
- The Woolpack in Islip – *Mark says they do a good kids menu.*

Don't forget, 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.

Pink Aerobics raise £1600

Congratulations to the team of 16 from Mawsley and Broughton who took part in the Aerobathon to raise money for Breast Cancer Care. Wendy Osborne (with the mike) who organised the event said it was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a massive £1,600 was raised for this worthy cause.



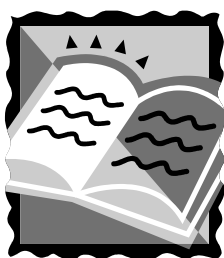
It's all in a name - from Jan Winfield

As you walk round the village you can't help but notice the array of imaginative house names. Our home is called 'Poachers Rest', so called not only because we like it but because it reflects the countryside in which we live. Once this land was poached by the locals and serving soldiers needing to provide for their families or make a living. The local regiment, The Royal Anglians, is made up of men from three regions, Northants, Lincs and Leics, and is known as The Poachers because they poached the land. My brother served with the Royal Anglians in various places including Ireland, Germany and The Gulf. We have used the Anglian badge as part of our name plate. I'm sure he would have been proud.

(In memory of Tony 1968 - 1998)

Any other House Name stories? Editors

Found at the surgery - child's bangle. Ring 791300



The book group continues to meet on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on 10th November to discuss 'Girl in hyacinth blue' by Susan Vreeland.

This meeting will be facilitated by a representative from Kettering Library - to show us

how it should be done!

For further information please contact Elaine Cawthorne on 791277 or Cawthorne@tesco.net

Gardening Club

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th October at 8pm at 31 Main Street and is open to anyone. Our speaker will be David Sanders from Green Patch, a community agricultural project in Kettering which is supported by KBC. (See www.thegreenpatch.org.uk)

He will tell us about that project and their vegetable box scheme but also give practical advice about vegetable growing on a plot or managing an allotment. If you are hoping to have an allotment in Mawsley you may find his talk useful.



For further information contact Marisa on 790748 or Pat on 791881.

Alison Cope, from the village, will be appearing in the next production by the Broughton Players. It's a comedy drama about a village fete committee and the associated 'goings on'.

Should all seem familiar to village 'organisers'.

Broughton Players Present:
'DAY OF RECKONING'

Written by Pam Valentine. Directed by Karen Wood
Friday 29th October & Saturday 30th October
8pm at Broughton School
£5/£4 concessions
Licensed bar
Ring Karen 791120

Why I like living in Mawsley

Last time we asked you for one sentence on 'Why I like living in Mawsley'. Here are some received so far. Keep them coming and we will print a selection in future editions.

I like living in Mawsley because...

.....every time I go out I meet someone to talk to and that makes me feel at home. Mary Rose

..... it's in the country. Daniel

..... I can get involved in things. Pat

..... it's where my house is and saves me having to live in a tent. Richard (typical!)

..... even after 2 years it still feels like driving back to my holiday home. Ralph

..... it's in the countryside, has attractive house styles, has fresh air and good cycling. Ute

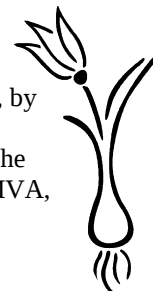
.....the people are so friendly and it is nice to cycle. Anna (temporarily from Poland)

Village shop

KBC has agreed a change of design request by Wimpey to permit a flat over the proposed shop building. It is thought that this will make it more attractive to potential purchasers of the site.

Snowdrops at last!

Many months after they were provided by KBC the snowdrop bulbs have been planted, by volunteers, at the entrance to the woodland planting near the David Wilson entrance to the village. Thank you to Victoria Bell, of the MVA, for organising this.



AROUND THE ROUND

Prompted by the snowdrop planting Gill and John, with Clare and Lee invited their neighbours 'around The Round' in for a drink and a chat to discuss their idea to plant extra bulbs in The Round to welcome Spring Time with a blaze of colour.

Many neighbours accepted the invitation; enthusiasm ran high and those present agreed for everyone to chip in 'a tenner' so that six or more large bags of bulbs could be obtained wholesale at the Wisbech market, ready for planting on Sunday 24 October.

If you are passing by The Round this coming Sunday, you may see us planting away.

The winter blues will certainly be firmly banished by the riot of colours anticipated next spring.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING 10 MAIN STREET

My morning went well after a doubtful start. I was up early and baked cakes (all turned out well). Then I set up the coffee machine and turned it on just before my first guests were due to arrive. It exploded!! I had coffee and water everywhere, not the relaxed morning I had planned. But it all went well and we managed to raise £107. Thanks to all and my Mum who did an outstanding job selling raffle tickets.

Bonus - we now have a new coffee machine which seems to be the latest boys' toy and I don't have to make the coffee any more!

Thanks again, Karen.

