



Issue
Dec 23



Mawsley Newsletter

Santa is on his way to Mawsley Village



From the Editor

I hope you didn't miss the spectacular MVA firework display even if it was a bit damp! We now turn our attention to Christmas and this edition of the Newsletter contains details of numerous events and fund raising activities.

On the right is a short introduction to the letterbox toppers, we look forward with anticipation to their Christmas design – keep up the good work ladies they brighten up our days. Almost worth posting a letter!

If you are yet to visit TCAM, since the bar redecoration, then please make the effort, I think you will be impressed. Good chance to stop, have a drink and meet CJ the new bar manager. Details of the Christmas opening times are in this Newsletter along with the various planned events at the Centre.

If you ever wondered about the role of Mawsley Parish Council, then don't miss the article that gives a very clear explanation. There are details on what the councilors can do, don't do and must do, plus what you can do.

Every Newsletter edition I am impressed by the activities the scouts get up to. If I was a few years younger I'd sign-up myself. What a great range of skills the youngsters are developing, although I'm not sure about axe throwing!!

The Newsletter is produced by the village charity, the MVA, but local business adverts fund the publication and make it financially viable – thank you to all those who take up advertising space.

The next Newsletter will be around Easter time next year so if you have an article in mind or want to advertise please contact me at editor@mawsleyvillage.co.uk

Printed by:



Meet Debbie and Margaret Our infamous letterbox toppers!



Debbie Waters started the now much appreciated tradition of crocheting the amazing toppers over twelve months ago with Margaret adding the knitted elements shortly after. They work together to create the wonderful designs we are all now privileged to enjoy.

They are both members of our village Knit and Natter group who meet in the bar at The Centre on Tuesday mornings from 10.00 until 11.30.

Anyone wishing to join us would be more than welcome. We have a cuppa and plenty of laughs with a bit of knitting and crocheting.

Just pop in, we're a very friendly bunch.



TCAM - WHAT'S ON

DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

Children's Christmas Party

3.00pm to 5pm

Tickets £4.50 each on sale now

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Christmas Raffle from 7.00pm

KATIE ROSE will be singing in the bar. *Buy your tickets now*

MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER

"Mega Jackpot Bingo"

Guaranteed Jackpot for the final game £200

THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER

????Christmas Quiz????

8.00pm start

NEW YEARS EVE

Bar open from 6.00pm till late

What better excuse to celebrate!

CENTRE OPENING HOURS

DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON

Christmas Eve - 12 noon – 11pm

CHRISTMAS DAY - 12 noon – 2.30pm

Boxing Day - 2.00pm – 6.00pm

Wednesday 27th - 2.00pm – 8.00pm

Thursday 28th - 2.00pm – 8.00pm

Friday 29th - 2.00pm – 11.00pm

Saturday 30th - 2.00pm – 11pm

NEW YEAR EVE - 6.00pm – 1am

New Years Day CLOSED



Social Prescribing

Do you feel isolated, have financial worries, mental struggles, environmental worries, domestic abuse or issues causing depression.

Social Prescribing is a recently evolved way of resolving issues personal to you.

Consultations are confidential and non clinical. They can be done at your own home if you are unable to attend a surgery.

It gives you access to avenues of support you may not know about.

Mawsley surgery has a social prescriber, as does every surgery.

Do make an appointment at your surgery and speak with your social prescriber, it may help.

CONTACT

MOB:07477346796



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Thank you to everyone who supported the Village Act of Remembrance and Memorial at the Leonard Carrington Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Despite the rain, there was a brilliant turn out to remember the fallen, injured and bereaved.

With Christmas on its way, we've got a few extra services coming up:

Friday 8th December

Carol Singing The Three Cranes, Cransley. Father Christmas will be visiting at 6.30pm, with singing from 7pm.

Mulled wine and mince pies available.

Tuesday 19th December

Blue Christmas Service Cransley Church, 7.30pm.

A quiet reflective Christmas service, including candles lit in memory of loved ones.

Christmas Eve

Nativity Service at Broughton Church, 3pm - dressing up optional!

Traditional Carol Service at Cransley Church, 6pm

Midnight Communion at Broughton Church, 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Christmas Communion at Cransley Church, 9am

Family-Friendly Christmas Celebration at TCAM, 10am - bring along your favourite present

Christmas Celebration at Broughton Church, 10.30am

We would love to welcome you to Mawsley Church one week. We meet at TCAM on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 11am for about an hour. Most weeks there is also Sunday Club with activities for children. Please note we are not meeting on Christmas Eve this year. We are linked to Cransley and Broughton Churches, so there are services you can attend every week.

There are plenty of other events happening too – so to be added to our email or postal list, please contact Revd Nicki Hobbs on **01536 799522** or revnicki@familyhobbs.org.uk.

And finally, if you would like prayer, a listening ear, or would like to book a Christening, wedding or funeral, please get in touch.

Website: churchesbmc.org **Facebook:** [cransleymawsleychurch](https://www.facebook.com/cransleymawsleychurch)



About your Parish Council

Who are we?

Mawsley Parish Council is the lowest level of local government and exists to help on local issues relating to the village and surroundings within the parish boundary.

We are a team of a maximum of 7 councillors, which are elected, but can also be co-opted where a vacancy may be filled by a direct appointment. Each year one of our councillors is elected as Chairman (Leader), this position is held by Richard Barnwell. All of the councillors are volunteers.

Our team includes the Parish Clerk, Fiona Young, who looks after the day to day running of the Council and administers its finances. Fiona keeps the team informed on matters of procedure. The next elections for both the Parish Council and North Northamptonshire councils are 2025.

What can we do?

Parish Councils are elected to help on a number of local issues, such as providing:

- Allotments
- Community centres
- Grants to help local organisations
- Bus shelters
- Play areas and play equipment
- Consultation on neighbourhood planning

To do this we are allowed to raise funds through local taxation via the Council Tax precept.

What must we do?

- We are responsible for ensuring that we attend meetings and undertake appropriate training
- We are obliged to give notice of meetings, record minutes and record decisions
- We must declare an interest on any issue where we have an interest outside our role as a Parish Councillor
- We have to abide by rules concerning areas such as financial regularity and data protection

Some of our most important responsibilities

- Working with the Mawsley Villagers Association (MVA) and TCAM to ensure that the centre remains a safe and sustainable community asset: This is because the village hall is an asset belonging to the Parish Council
- Making sure that village community facilities are safe, well-kept and fit for purpose
- Collaborating with our colleagues on the North Northamptonshire unitary authority on local topics such as planning, road maintenance and the environment

What we don't do

Some of the things that are not the responsibility of the Parish Council:

- Potholes, street lighting and pavements
- Outdoor play and gym areas and equipment
- Bin collections
- The Eco Meadow

What you can do

- Come along to meetings – usually every first Monday of the month, 7pm at TCAM
 - Raise questions, ideas or requests
 - Lodge an opinion, compliment or complaint
- Contact the Parish Clerk, Fiona, on 07746 138218 during normal office hours or email clerk@mawsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Keep up to date by accessing our website: <https://www.mawsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/> where there is a wealth of information regarding the community and useful contacts; try finding us on Facebook – search for Mawsley Parish Council

A MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT SWEEPED AWAY BY MODERN TIMES

Located on our doorstep

Walk the byway from Mill Lane and follow its course up the hill and you will find two inhabited properties on the site of what was the village of FAXTON. Stop awhile and ponder the view across the fields and woodlands, endeavour to imagine the peaceful rural scene of yesteryear. Then follow the byway to its junction with footpaths to Lamport in one direction and Faxton in the other. There is also a footpath to Old from within the boundary of Faxton. The settlement was located on relatively high ground for a rural, farming community.

Faxton is documented in the Domesday Book of 1086 as having just 21 inhabitants and it is believed was inhabited for several hundreds of years prior to this date. The main occupation for the local population was, as for much of England, agriculture. A small industrial community also existed and a pottery kiln, a local landmark, was in use in the 19th Century, producing Faxtonware. Pottery production gave way to brick making and this in turn ceased in 1893 when mass-production of bricks saw the demise of many small brickmakers throughout Northamptonshire, and the rest of the country.

During the Middle Ages Faxton was larger than Lamport and the changing fortunes of the settlement are reflected in these population figures:

1710	100	1851	95
1720	60	1861	77
1801	54	1871	73
1831	103	1891	46
1841*	108	1921	37

*date of the first official Census

Faxton had its own church to serve the village, dedicated to St. Denys, and for some time a resident Curate. From 1208 the church served as a chapel of ease to Lamport.



The bells from the church of St. Denys. The one on the left in the picture is, in fact a dummy, only one rang. The village declined and, in 1939, the church was closed by order of the Bishop. Unfortunately, the building suffered severely from vandalism. The roof was removed by the Curate and Churchwardens of Lamport and, in 1959 the remaining structure was demolished. The bells did not go to waste. They were recast as one bell and installed in the church of St. Laurence, Stanwick.

Why the decline of Faxton in the 20th Century? The village could not survive long in our modern world. There was no mains electricity, piped water or gas and no metalled road access, horse and cart being the only transport able to access the settlement. There was no school, shop or public house. The severely cold winter of 1947 drove most of the remaining inhabitants out. The last recorded resident was a Mrs Joan Bamford, a person who loved Faxton and the solitude it offered her. Joan finally left in the mid 1960's.

The site is listed by Historic England and is considered important as it has the potential to help increase our knowledge of the life and times of a rural settlement within the wider medieval landscape.



Part of the byway that passes through Faxton, seen from Mill Lane.

Mawsley Short Mat Bowls Club



We are a friendly club playing at TCAM on Monday afternoons. We have a 2 hour roll-up starting at 1pm with a short break for tea and finishing at 3pm. We also play a series of friendly fixtures against 8 local clubs both at home and away. These 16 matches are not only fun but also help in broadening our knowledge of the game.

Not every member wishes to take part in these fixtures some prefer to just come along to socialise at our weekly roll ups. If you would like to know a bit more about us either pop in on a Monday afternoon and have a chat or call us on 0779 338 6232.

You will be made very welcome

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Bonfire Night



I hope you didn't miss another spectacular MVA firework display. Despite the damp conditions over 2500 people turned up to watch the display, which is now becoming the premier local firework event.

Congratulations and thanks to the volunteers who organised the event and to all those who helped on the day.

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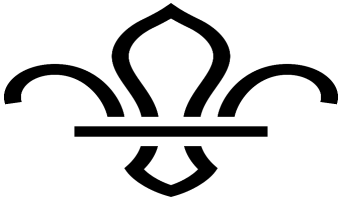
TCAM, 9 The Grn, Mawsley, Kettering NN14 1GY

THURSDAY - 5PM - 9PM

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1st Mawsley Scout Group

Who: 1st Mawsley Scout Group

What: Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Where: Meet in the Main Hall at TCAM

When: Tuesdays (term time) Beavers 17.45-18.45, Cubs 18.15-19.30hrs, Scouts 19.30-21.00hrs

Following a break over summer we were invited to a County Activity Day at the John Lowther Centre in Glendon where we were awarded the "Going for Growth Award" by the County Commissioner. Only six Scout groups were invited to this event, so we were spoilt for choice and had numerous goes at shooting, archery, axe throwing, go karting, assault course, low ropes, cooking on fires, bouldering and tunnelling. A great (free) day out and a great achievement for the group.

We have had a busy couple of months including hikes along Brampton Valley Way with wide games, learning emergency aid, knotting, navigational skills, learning about politics, carving pumpkins, village treasure hunt with clues, learning about recycling, cooking competition, fruit kebab making, new games and quiz night, and a joint team skills challenge session with the Scouts from 2nd Broughton.

The Group had a fantastic fundraiser at the Mawsley Fireworks selling glow wands and glow sticks. Many thanks to the MVA for allowing us to do this, and thank you so much to those of you that came to support us. We managed to sell over 200 glow wands, which goes a long way to boost funding our group so that we can continue to provide a wide variety of experiences to our local youth and of course pay our bills and overheads!

In November the Group spent a weekend in a wooden lodge at Overstone Scout Activity Centre: cooking on open fires, crafting, using grass sledges, bouldering wall, adventure playground, painting, exploring, cooking marshmallows on the fires, using knives and axes (older Scouts). On Sunday 12th the group supported the Mawsley Act of Remembrance Service as usual, providing readers and parading our flags.

As always if you have any children that wish to join our Group - Scout Troop (10¹/₂ -14 years), Cub Pack (8-10¹/₂ years of age) or Beaver Scout Colony (5³/₄-8 years of age) drop an email to mawsleyscoutgroupenquiries@gmail.com. We are always looking for adult supporters whether it be as a Leader, regular helper, or providing services as a Trustee. We would love to open a new Squirrels section (for boys and girls aged 4-5 years) but would need a leadership team of 3 adults to get this up and running. Any takers?



Photo: Some of our young people and adults preparing for Remembrance Service outside TCAM

Mawsley Amateur Dramatics Society



Since the last newsletter, we have been working towards our Christmas events and held our latest Murder Mystery evening. As we look ahead to 2024, we will be hosting another get together in the New Year to welcome any new members and bring together past and present members to participate in next year's activities.

Murder Mystery evening, November 2023

Our murder mystery evening was well received and we certainly had good fun on stage! It turned out that everybody was harbouring a guilty secret, but thanks to the efforts of the audience all was revealed before the evening ended. It was also the first rodeo for the new village stage that is available to all at TCAM – thank you to the Parish Council!

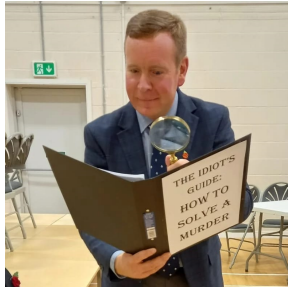


Christmas Show

Sadly, due to lack of interest from other groups, we won't be putting on our Christmas Show this year but hope to be back with other events in the New Year.

However, the **Christmas Lights Switch On** will still take place on **Saturday 2 December 2023**

outside the Centre at Mawsley at **5pm**, with Father Christmas coming down to see us from the North Pole to help with the big switch on. We hope to see you then!



Santa's Sleigh – coming to Mawsley on Sunday 17 December!

We are pleased to hear that Father Christmas is again planning to visit Mawsley on his sleigh on **Sunday 17 December** – the exact route is below, **starting at 3.30pm** with **STOPS shown in red**:

Long Breech (bottom end) - Hawthorn Ave - Badgers Lane STOP approx 3.50pm - Hares Run - Sloe Lane STOP approx 4pm - Rosehill Way - Mawsley Chase - The Green - Barnwell Court STOP approx 4.30pm - Main Street (lay by) STOP approx 4.45pm - Loddington way - Old Gorse Way (little roundabout) STOP approx 5.15pm - Old Gorse Way - Warren End (entrance) STOP approx 5.55pm - Birch Spinney (entrance) STOP approx 6.05pm - School Road - Chambers Hill - Netherton Way STOP approx 6.20pm - School Road - Cowslip Hill - Colseed (green) STOP approx 6.45pm - Cransley Rise - School Road - Mawsley Chase - Long Breech (top end)

Events for 2024

We are now looking ahead to events for 2024, so please do get in touch if you have ideas, would like to get involved or would like to help. We are also hoping to bring back our pantomime in December 2024 – oh yes we are!

If you would like to join MADS or find out more about us and what we do, then please get in touch:

mawsleymads@gmail.com or contact Gareth: **07887 984068** (evenings and weekends) or garethn@hotmail.fr





Hello lovely ladies – Season's Greetings from Mawsley WI



We are a friendly, sociable bunch who meet at The Village Centre in Mawsley on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. We usually have inspirational speakers whetting our appetite about interesting subjects, but this December we are letting our hair down and having a party - with lots of fun and games. No, it's not a cackle of hyenas roaming the streets of Mawsley on 13th December- just us having a laugh. Visitors are very welcome to come along and join in the fun. There is also a Christmas raffle and free buffet - all for £5.

Our calendar for the new year ahead is publicised at this meeting so come along and be among the first to learn what we have in store for 2024. Our calendar can be viewed on the Village website, or you can follow us on Facebook [@mawsleywi](https://www.facebook.com/mawsleywi) or check out our noticeboard inside The Centre. We also arrange additional events throughout the year. So, don't be shy come along and give Mawsley WI a try!

Our 3 keys to happiness

- **Pleasure** Do things you enjoy.
- **Engagement** Feel interested in activities and connected to others.
- **Meaning** Feeling what you do matters.

The WI is an influential national organisation offering women the opportunity to socialise, make new friends and make a difference in your local community. We also campaign nationally on a wide range of issues and provide life-long learning and self-development opportunities. Membership gives you room to contribute your own ideas for speakers, activities, events, and organising voluntary work. We hope to see you soon.

"Finally, thank you to all our lovely visitors for coming along to our meetings and supporting our events throughout the year – you are amazing! We look forward to welcoming you all again next year - giving us much happiness."

Mawsley WI x



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NEWS FROM TEAM TCAM

The team is delighted to announce that the long-awaited bar refurbishment is almost complete. At copy deadline for this edition of the Mawsley Newsletter we are awaiting delivery of the last three easy chairs.

Works behind the bar were finalised in the early spring. We had hoped to complete the remainder of the main bar and pool room areas during the quieter August period but, due to delays in fabrics and other issues outside our control, we were obliged to wait until after the Mawsley Fireworks to complete the redecoration, which was then followed by the installation of the new furniture.

The team are delighted with the work and feel it has had the effect of making a far more comfortable, inviting place in which to socialise, and hope that our customers will agree. If you have not visited the Centre for a while, please come and take a look, we are sure you will not be disappointed.

The team were sorry to lose Claire, who, together with Nicola formed what can only be described as an almost unique working partnership, running the Centre as Office Managers. Claire has put an amazing amount of energy, work and soul into her role for the benefit of the Centre, all its user groups and customers. We wish Claire the best of luck and good fortune in her new position.

Around the same time that Claire gave her notice, Grace announced that she would be leaving the Centre's employ to pursue a new career. Grace joined us as Bar Supervisor on the understanding that her's would be a temporary position, probably around four months. Eighteen months later Grace gave her notice. Grace proved to be a great host, and very popular with both the Centre's customers and the TCAM team. Again, we wish Grace all the very best in her future endeavours.

With the departure of Claire and Grace, Nicola has stepped up to take complete overall management of the Centre. We now extend a warm welcome to Conner Harrison who has joined us as Bar Manager and Nicola's deputy. Conner, or CJ, as he prefers to be called, lives in Great Cransley and has worked in the hospitality industry, much of the time in Cornwall, gaining experience in bar work, restaurant service, and is a trained Barista. CJ has also worked as a Cocktail Barman, so we look forward to some interesting evenings of great Mixology!

A change in personnel and a change in the bar.....



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Let's be social

WASSAIL 2023
presented by
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A FUN EVENING OF SEASONAL SONGS AND MERRIMENT TO KICK OF THE FESTIVE CHEER
SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER
7:30pm
THE CENTRE at MAWSLEY
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contact us on 07787 404 435 to purchase tickets

Mawsley Coffee Club

Mawsley Coffee Club is for folk who live in the village and have retired or are approaching retirement. We meet once a month in the bar area at The Centre, mostly on Thursday mornings. We aim to have some fun and seek out speakers who can share with us various topics of interest.

Our next coffee morning will be held at The Centre on Tuesday 12th December, and will include an opportunity to choose and sing some of our favourite Christmas carols, whilst enjoying a cup of coffee and some mince pies. We look forward to welcoming Rev Nicki Hobbs to share the Christmas story with us.



In past years we have made good use of Santa's sack at our December coffee mornings, but this year we have become aware that Santa feels he deserves a rest. He calls it 'taking a gap year' (only from the Coffee Club) and has asked if our members would prefer to donate some Christmas treats, i.e. tins and boxes of biscuits and chocolates etc, which we will take to Homestart in Kettering. These will contribute to Christmas hampers to be distributed before Christmas to young families in need in Kettering and the surrounding villages. Please bring any contributions, (unwrapped please) to our coffee morning in December. Thank you.

New Year Lunch – Thursday, 11th January. Members are invited to arrive at the bar area at The Centre around 11:30am. Lunch at 12 noon. Please bring a plate or a dish of savoury or sweet finger food to share.

A programme for 2024 is currently being organised and there's also a **Walking for Fun Group** planned to start sometime in the New Year – more details shortly, so watch this space! We wish all our members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Further details of Coffee Club events available from Molly Shortt Ph:790 781, and Jean and David Wilson Ph:799 490

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Mawsley Sunset



Nature on your Doorstep – WINTER

When I think of moths I typically associate them with balmy summer evenings gathering round a light left on in the house or garden. However, there are a group of moths known as the winter moths.

Many of us would have spotted them fluttering in car headlights as we drive down local lanes at this time of year. Even on a frosty night they can be seen on the wing. These clever little insects have evolved the use of a special “anti-freeze” chemical to stop themselves from freezing by preventing ice-crystals forming inside their little bodies. In order to become active they will vibrate their wings to generate their own body heat, allowing them to fly on cold nights.

Because of the lack of food in December to February these winter moths are unable to feed. As a result once they emerge from the pupae stage they are on borrowed time, using the energy stored when feeding as a larva, their sole purpose is to find a mate.

Interestingly the females are unable to fly so they climb up tree trunks and give off pheromones to attract the flying males. Their eggs will not hatch till spring when little green caterpillars appear often seen hanging on threads of silk from trees and bushes. The caterpillars feed on the leaves of trees and bushes. Amazingly blue tits and great tits time the hatching of their young to coincide with this time of year. How do they do that?

Winter Moth



Caterpillar of the Winter Moth



Talking of lack of food for birds and insects at this time of year one plant that is very important is good old common Ivy.

We are all familiar with Ivy, its dark green glossy evergreen leaves and climbing nature make it a feature of any local wintery woodland walk. Mature Common Ivy produces small flowers, which are yellowish green and appear in dome shaped clusters. These flowers bloom in Autumn, from September to November, and its fruits ripen between November and January.

Nectar, pollen and berries of Ivy are essential food sources for insects and birds, especially during late autumn and winter when little else is about. The plant also provides shelter for insects, birds, bats and other small mammals. The berries are luscious (though not for us as they are poisonous) and have a high fat content giving birds such as the thrushes, blackcaps, wood pigeons and blackbirds a nutritious meal. Furthermore Ivy is very important to many insects before settling down for hibernation with species such as bees, hover flies and common wasps foraging on the nectar and pollen. Ivy is also the food plant for some butterfly and moth larvae.

Ivy has had a bad reputation over the years for strangling trees but it doesn't harm trees at all. In fact Ivy is not a parasitic plant, it has its own root system in the soil to absorb its own nutrients and water. Furthermore Ivy supports at least 50 species of wildlife.





Seasons Greetings *from* Ray & Emma



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