



**THE MAWSLEY**

WINTER 2017

# VILLAGER

**NEW MVA CHAIRPERSON**

**MAD EVENTS**

**ALOT ABOUT ALLOTMENTS**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

**RAMBLINGS WITH LES & PAUL**

## DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

The Centre at Mawsley would personally like to thank Paul Marlow from the Northamptonshire Search & Rescue Team for kindly donating his time on a Saturday afternoon in January to teach some of the the Centre team how to ventilate a patient with cardiac arrest and use the Village Defibrillator.



Northamptonshire Search and Rescue (NorthantsSAR) are a group of trained volunteers who are on call 24hrs a day, 365 days a year. The team today is

extremely well trained and equipped and regularly assist Northamptonshire police and other statutory emergency services and use their wide and varied experience to also help in communities in areas such as the training we were lucky enough to receive.

NSAR are mainly called out to assist in the search for missing or vulnerable people across the county's 760 square miles (2,364 square km) in the varied terrain of Northamptonshire.

They are made up entirely of volunteers, and rely solely on fundraising and donations to be able to continue this valuable resource.

We hope to do some more work with NSAR to support them this year and we are also thinking of opening up this training to a wider audience later this year, which takes approx. 2 hours - please contact Jane at the Centre if you are interested and we will gauge interest and sort a further date.

**Simon Wisdom**

On behalf of TCAM

## THE MAWSLEY VILLAGER

Welcome to the Winter Edition of The Mawsley Villager and a Happy New Year to you all!

As a newbie to the village (just had my 1 year anniversary), I was so impressed with all of the traditional events since our autumn newsletter. Firstly, in October we celebrated Halloween with the children's party in the Centre and what can only be described as the spookiest village I have ever seen. There must have been 150 witches and monsters creeping around the misty streets that evening, with pumpkins glowing on doorsteps and cobwebs floating in the bushes.

In November we had Bonfire Night with the traditional 'Make a Guy' competition which saw those overstuffed gents hurled onto the fire before roasting under sparkling fireworks.



Father Christmas even came to visit festive Mawsley. He must have loved all the brightly lit decorations outside. Finally, we all welcomed in 2017 by dancing the night away in the Centre on New Year's Eve. It is our unique Mawsley community spirit that keeps these traditions alive.

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## STEVE THORPE IS NEW MVA CHAIR



**It's a pleasure to let you know that Steve Thorpe is now the new Chair of the Mawsley Villagers Association.**

I am stepping down after three and a half years but will continue my involvement with the MVA and TCAM, (the Centre at Mawsley).

Many villagers already know Steve in his various roles around the village: Bonfire Night Co-ordinator, groundsman, builder, maintenance man, occasional bartender – the list goes on. Steve's commitment to supporting the village has never wavered. If a community support job must be done, Steve is always the first to volunteer and he's also an expert in cajoling others to get involved.

These are qualities that I know will be absorbed into Steve's new role and he gets things done.

Some readers will recall that the 'trapeze' part of the zip wire mysteriously disappeared at the end of the summer. I spent several days trying to get hold of the right Kettering Borough Council department and then an individual to address the problem only to be told that the missing part had to be ordered and then an installation date arranged – a long wait apparently. I don't know how he did it, but Steve cut through all of that and a new trapeze appeared after only a few days.

There are countless other examples of Steve's commitment to completing the job and I know the village owes him a debt of gratitude for all the things

that he does around the Centre, the playing fields and the village in general to keep things on an even keel for all of us.

There are matters that constantly need addressing in Mawsley – from financial and practical maintenance to the management and oversight of the Centre with all its various user groups, not to mention the co-ordination of our marquee events like Family Fun Day and Bonfire Night. As ever, the more of us that can get involved in supporting these things the better. I know Steve is of the same mind, and no doubt that he will continue his efforts to recruit even more active membership of the MVA and the Centre.

With our Parish Council, (with which I like to think that we work in close harmony), we are also involved in an ongoing debate about the development of the Centre. We need ideas to reflect the feelings of the whole village. Look out for a meeting date soon.

So – it's a goodbye from me and a warm welcome to Steve. Thanks to all those who've given support over the last few years, I'm confident that it will continue.

**Rob Bailey**



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## THE MAWSLEY WI

The Mawsley WI Committee would like to thank everyone for supporting us in our first 6 months last year and we are pleased to see that we already have 32 members signed up for 2017.

The WI is open to all ladies of all ages in the village (and surrounding villages for those that would like to come and join us too) and takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7.30-9.30pm in the Centre.

We have a full programme of speakers and demonstrators planned for this year, from craft and cooking to sport and education. Hopefully we have something to suit everyone. Each meeting we have a speaker/demonstrator, a raffle and refreshments and a fun competition, with time to get to know each other throughout the evening. We also talk about the good causes that the national WI is sponsoring, so that we can get involved too, as well as participate in any WI organised trips/events and Denman WI training courses. See our noticeboard in the Centre and find us on both Facebook and the village website.

Look out for more details on **The Mawsley WI Craft Fair, Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> located in the Centre**. We will be looking for stall holders to support this event at £10 a table, so get crafting if you would like to sell your wares!

For more information, please feel free to contact us via [www.facebook.com/mawsleywi/](http://www.facebook.com/mawsleywi/)

**Sandra Fernandes-Neto**  
President

## MAWSLEY SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Another New Year and our club gets more popular but there is always room for new players. We had a good 2016 playing friendlies (and winning some) but enjoying ourselves and making new friends.

The year ended on a high note: firstly a few of us went on a trip to Potter's the home of the 'World Championship Bowls'. If interested in bowls this is a great place and we had a fantastic 5 course meal and show but the top prize went to some who had a chance to play on the actual championship rinks!!

Then to end the year we had our Christmas meal at the 'White Horse' at Old. A lovely meal, a drink and good fun with friends and that's what it is all about. So if you would like to come along we meet on Mondays at 1pm and the first 3 weeks are free then £3 per week. We have spare woods so all you need is some flat soled shoes.

If you're new to the village don't be shy. It's a good way to make new friends. Look forward to meeting you. Call 799116 for more info.

## PUB SITE UPDATE

Following the recent sale of the pub site it has emerged that the boundary line between the site and the play area at the back of TCAM is different to what the Borough Council thought it was when they installed the play area.

We are currently in consultation with the Council about what this means for us and any action that may need to be taken to rectify the issue. It is likely that part of the play area will have to be moved, at the Borough Council's expense.

We will keep you updated with any developments.

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## **MAWSLEY AMATEUR DRAMATICS SOCIETY**

**A big thank you to everyone who supported MADS' Pantomime in December – we had three sell-out performances for Peter Pan which made all the hard work very worthwhile. The cast did a brilliant job and although we had doubled our "adult" contingent from 2 to 4 this year, the majority of the cast were under 16 which makes their performance even more impressive – well done! Your friends and family were very proud of you.**

Thank you to all those who helped backstage, setting up on the weekend, running the box office, selling ice creams, raffle tickets and programmes, helping with hair and make-up ... the list goes on but we couldn't have done it without you. A special thank you to Jane and Michael at the Centre for all their help over the pantomime weekend which was much appreciated. A final thank you to our sponsors:

- AMI Accounting
- Ian Ramsay Painting and Decorating
- Combi Nation
- Mawsley Opticians
- Jack Den-Drijver a.k.a. Mawsley Maintenance Man
- Sew Special
- Stefanie Jayne's

MADS had an eventful year in 2016 which started with our variety night in the summer. It was lovely to see so many people there and again it made all the preparation worthwhile. There was much laughter and hearty applause so everyone seemed to have a good time.

Well done too to all those performing - it truly was an evening of variety! We had dances, sketches, singing, comedy... It was quite amazing to see some of MADS' younger members taking to the stage on their own and impressing us with their dancing skills. What a long way you have come since your first appearances in our pantomimes. Eliot Beeby was our MC for the evening and did a great job - thank you for joining us at the end of your university term.

It was a really great night which people were talking about for some time afterwards. In the words of one of our performers, it was "all right..."



The year ended with MADS members joining Father Christmas on his annual visit to Mawsley on 15 and 16 December. Santa brought his new sleigh with him this year and it certainly was very bright with all those lights and some excellent paintwork. He has asked us to share the following message with you all:

Dear Boys and Girls,

Thank you for turning out on a very cold weekend to see me when I visited Mawsley in December - it was lovely to see so many of you. Your donations to charity raised £771 for the Lily Foundation which helps children suffering from Mitochondrial disease - what a fantastic effort, well done! I also had some lovely cards and chocolates so thank you very much for these. I was once again joined by many elves and helpers from MADS who helped me collect the money for charity.

Doreen, Jo and family and Jade and family provided some lovely refreshments as we made our way round the village each night - thank you very much for these! Well done too to Mawsley's residents for parking considerately so that my sleigh could reach all parts of the village. Whilst in Mawsley I left my reindeer to rest ready for the return journey to the North Pole, but Jim did a super job of towing my sleigh around Mawsley - thank you, Jim!

I hope to be back in 2017 to see you again and find out what all you boys and girls would like for Christmas. I hope that you had a lovely Christmas this time and wish you all a very Happy New Year. Ho, ho, ho!

See you next year,

Father Christmas



We also look forward to seeing Father Christmas again at the end of the year. A final thank you to Izzy and Holly for driving this year's charity collection in memory of Catherine Horne. It was lovely to see Catherine's Mum and Sister on the Sunday and our thoughts are with them for 2017.

By the time you read this, MADS will have had their AGM and planned the forthcoming year, so watch out in the newsletter for details of what is coming next! It's our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year so let's make it an exciting year. In the meantime, if you would like to get involved in any of our activities, then please contact us as below or using our Facebook page.



# EVENTS CALENDAR

**Friday 21st April 2017, 7:30pm** **Murder Mystery Night**

Watch the action and question the suspects. Can you solve the crime?

**Friday 16th June 2017, 6:30pm** **Family Quiz Night**

Bring the whole family together to test yourselves against our Quiz Hosts

**Saturday 8th July 2017** **Mawsley Fun Day**

Games and challenges including our unique Human Fruit Machine!

**Saturday 9th Sept 2017** **Variety Night**

Come and watch a great evening of entertainment or perform yourself.

**Tuesday 31st October 2017** **Halloween**

MADS will be dressing up to Trick or Treat around the village for items for the Kettering Food Bank

**Saturday 9th Dec 2017, 2pm** **Christmas MADness**

Come and join us at TCAM for some Christmas fun and games.

**16th & 17th Dec, 2017** **Santa Sleigh**

MADS will help Santa on his tour of the village collecting for charity.

**3rd & 4th February, 2018** **Panto**

Save the date for our 10th Mawsley Panto!



# WHAT'S ON @ TCAM

March Quiz night will be hosted on the 30th. We are looking for volunteers to host the quiz any month from May through to November.

If you would like to take part in either of these events please contact Jane at the Centre - 01536 799528.

Back to School on April 1<sup>st</sup> Fancy Dress – prize for the best with Disco/Tuck Shop /Photo Booth Tickets £5.00

Our website is now fully up to date. Events and user group times and contact details can be found on there.

Dates for your diary June 10th is our music festival and July 8th is The Village Fun Day.

**Jane Twisleton**  
Centre Manager

## MAWSLEY SCHOOL

**A half-term is already under our belt at school and we now begin the run up to Easter! It is hard to believe we are nearly 1/4 of the way through 2017 already!**

### Year 1

The question that drove the children's learning was 'Why can't a meerkat live in the North Pole?' A very exciting end to the children's topic resulted in a visit to the MK Snozone where the children got to experience what it would be like to live in a gigantic freezer, and why a meerkat would not last very long!

### Year 2

Have been learning about fables and studying Little Red Riding Hood. The children have enjoyed writing their own versions focussing on developing their innovation and creative skills. They were exploring food from around the world and even managed to create and enjoy their own curry!

### Year 3

Also learning about fables from around the world, in particular they have been looking at Native American Indian stories from North America. The children enjoyed practising different creative techniques to produce pictures of The Grand Canyon, exploring depth and dimensions.

### Year 4

The children have been living through history this term and experiencing what life would be like in Anglo-Saxon times, exploring art, poetry, clothing and storytelling. We were fortunate to have a visitor from Gripping History who delivered a fantastic day of learning that culminated with a very enthusiastic battle!



### Year 5

The older children have been exploring river and mountains for their topic. Looking closely at the altitudes of the highest peaks around the world and how mountains are made. They have also been getting hands on in science and creating their own plastic using milk and white vinegar!

### Year 6

Have been debating global issues such as the refugee crisis. The children have been studying the situation in Afghanistan and on our doorstep in Calais. They have used their research and learning to write stories focusing on using speech and dialogue. Using their artistic skills the children have created some magnificent scale maps of Afghanistan – not an easy task!



## **MAWSLEY PARISH COUNCIL HAVE A VACANCY**

**If you are interested in representing your local community as Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk.**

You can stand if you are a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union, and 18 years or older and:

- You are registered as a local government elector for the parish for which you want to stand; **or**
- You have, for the whole 12 month period up to the date of the election, occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish; **or**
- Your principal or only place of work during that same 12 months period has been in the parish; **or**
- You have during the whole of that same 12 month period resided in the parish or within 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) of it.

You cannot be a candidate if:

- You are employed by the parish or town council or hold a paid office under the council (including employment by any joint boards or committees of the council).
- You are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order.
- You have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a prison sentence (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine.
- You have been disqualified under Part III of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which relates to donations and other offences) or under the Audit Commission Act 1998.

## **WHAT DOES A PARISH COUNCILLOR DO?**

Councillors represent the electors in their parish ward. They are accessible to residents, listen to their concerns and to deal with them or to pass them for action to the appropriate authorities directly or via the Parish Clerk. Councillors may represent the Council on local bodies and in meetings with other authorities. They help formulate responses to county or national consultations when relevant local issues are involved and provide leadership on local initiatives.

The championing of local projects and providing leadership over local issues is an important, and rewarding, aspect of a councillor's role. Persistence in dealing with the authorities and utilities is an essential virtue. In everything they do, councillors need to bring integrity and common sense to their approach and look for viable, pragmatic outcomes that can be achieved.

All this work involves time, of course. Meetings have to be attended. Planning applications and other documents have to be reviewed. The work load varies, but an average weekly estimate of 3 hours would be reasonable. In return is the immense satisfaction of putting something back into the community. Councillors have substantial support in performing their duties. First of all there is the Parish Clerk. This is a paid position, and provides an experienced person to look after the administration of the council as well as to be on hand to offer advice and guidance to the councillors.

Training is available to the new councillor which is of high quality and covers all aspects of the role. The Council acts very much as a team and fellow councillors are always there to support each other. Help is also available from organisations such as NCalc (Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils).

## BUMPS AND BUGGIES

To all mums, dads, expectant parents and grandparents, nannies, child minders / carers, anyone who has children - birth to pre-school age!

Bumps and Buggies runs on Monday mornings during term time at the Centre at Mawsley - 9.15am to 10.15am in the little room near the bar area.

We have tea & coffee available for 50p and light snacks (some homemade baking on occasion)

There's always a friendly face to greet you!

Please contact Preti Mistry-Preston on 07949 320372 or Kellie Ormond 07989 405042 if you require any further information

We look forward to seeing you!

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**Friday 9am to 6.30pm**

**Saturday 9am to 2pm**

If you would like us to keep an item in stock, let us know and we will do our best to keep it in stock for you.

We also dispense veterinary prescriptions.





Mawsley Church meets at 10.30am on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at the Centre for either a Celebration Service or Communion.

There is generally Sunday Club for children at both of these, but there are always activities for all ages. There is also a Communion service at 8am at Cransley Church every Sunday.

### Services and Events February - April

12th February	10.30am Celebration Service and Sunday Club
26th February	10.30am Communion Service and Sunday Club
1st March	7.30pm Ash Wednesday Communion at Cransley Church
12th March	10.30am Celebration Service and Sunday Club
26th March	10.30am Mothering Sunday, Communion and Sunday Club
6th April	10am-12noon Easter Craft Morning at the Centre
9th April	10.30am Palm Sunday Celebration and Sunday Club
16th April	10.30am Easter Celebration - Easter eggs included!
23rd April	10.30am Communion and Sunday Club

If you would like to find out more about our services, or would like to book a wedding or christening, please contact either:

Canon Brian Withington (01536 791373) [revdbrian@uwclub.net](mailto:revdbrian@uwclub.net) or Revd Nicki Hobbs (01536 799522) [revnicki@familyhobbs.org.uk](mailto:revnicki@familyhobbs.org.uk)



## TOUCH RUGBY

**It's that time of year again, where we all start thinking about shifting a few pounds and getting ourselves fit and healthy. Well forget the gym, with expensive monthly fees and instead get involved in one of the fastest growing sports in the country.**

Mawsley Touch Rugby Club play touch rugby, a non-contact version of the sport, that's great for fitness and suitable for players of all ages and abilities. We are a friendly village team with both male and female players, experienced members and complete novices.

Thanks to a County Council grant obtained with the support of our local Councillor Jim Hakewill, we have recently purchased our very own floodlights, so we can continue to play on the sports field, all year round. We're always looking for new players to join us. Our sessions take place on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm, with warm ups, skills practice and an explanation of the rules followed by a friendly game.

We charge a low annual fee to join and your first few sessions are free, to see if it's a sport for you.

If you're interested in joining us, visit our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/mawsleytouchrugby](https://www.facebook.com/mawsleytouchrugby) or pop along to the sports field on a Tuesday evening to see what it's all about - just follow the lights.



The first term at school was a busy and exciting one for everyone including FOMS.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November we held a movie night showing the very popular Disney Pixar film "Finding Dory". The children really enjoyed watching the long anticipated sequel to Finding Nemo and both the key stage 1 and 2 showings were well attended raising £933.70.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November saw the culmination of lots of hard work on behalf of the FOMS volunteers and school staff with our annual Christmas Fayre (including the Christmas raffle).

The event was a great success with families from the village enjoying the wide variety of stalls, visiting Santas' grotto, seeing the

tractors and partaking in the food and drink on offer. The Fayre raised a massive £5510.95 and got everyone into the Christmas spirit.

In partnership with the School and Mawsley Day Nursery, we supported the "Save the Children" Christmas jumper day on 16<sup>th</sup> December. This event raised £363.35 for the charity and we loved seeing teachers and students in colourful Christmas jumpers.

Working with FOMS, Cauliflower Cards provided a wonderful opportunity for children to design their own Christmas cards and for parents to order these special memories to send to family and friends. We know many parents have treasured these during the festive period.

Lastly, on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December we hosted a cake and tuck shop after school to celebrate the end of term. We raised a further £70.51 towards our total.

Looking forward to January and February we hope to work with children in each year group to identify what they would like to spend the money we raise on within the school.

We are also busy planning lots of events and activities for the spring and summer terms for the children, and their families, to enjoy and want to thank everyone for their continued support including our sponsors Horts Estate Agents and Mawsley Maintenance Man.

If anyone would like to get in touch with ideas or to offer support towards our events please contact us on [friendsofmawsleyschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:friendsofmawsleyschool@hotmail.co.uk)



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# Gardening For All

**Tips for Early February – Now is a good time of year to mulch the borders with a thick layer of compost or well-rotted manure to give nourishment throughout the year and aid water retention in the soil. In mild weather you can plant deciduous trees and shrubs. Indoor bulbs that have finished flowering can be planted out in the odd corners of your garden.**

As usual it has been a busy time for Gardening for All since the last edition of 'The Villager'.

At the September meeting Pat Rowley gave us an interesting insight into her experiences over the last 6 months or so working as a volunteer in the gardens of Kelmarsh Hall. James also gave an amusing and informative introduction to Figs and how to grow them.

In October we welcomed Liz Taylor of the 'Woodland Trust' who opened our eyes to the 8 different types of woodland found in the UK and the accompanying flora and fungi that thrives in them.

The November meeting was one of our 'Home Grown' meetings. Our steering team put together an eclectic mix of different features, facts, hints and tips. Including Les's unusual gardening tools and a feature on growing Cyclamens.

We celebrated the end of the year in December with a seasonal light hearted quiz and Bring and Share supper. James set the questions – a most enjoyable evening with lots of laughter to end the gardening year.

We welcomed 2017 in with a very quick AGM followed by a beautiful presentation by our lady steering team members of 'Gardens we have Enjoyed'

## Forthcoming Meetings Winter and Spring 2017 All Welcome

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 7:30 pm at the Centre  
Orchid growing and Water gardening

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 at the Centre  
Speaker to be confirmed

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 7:30 at the Centre  
'Home Grown'  
various hints, facts and a variety of gardening  
obscurities.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May meet 7:15 at the Centre  
Walk round 3 Mawsley gardens

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## **MAWSLEY COFFEE CLUB**

January always seems to be a long, dark and cold month! Over thirty of our members blew away the January 'blues' and enjoyed a tasty New Year lunch at The Thornhill Arms at Rushton, followed by a fun quiz organised by Tricia and Les.

Later in the month we organised a coffee morning at the Centre, where Molly set the scene by entertaining us with a humorous poem, as a prelude to a unique presentation of 'Cinderella'. Thanks to Vic, Denise, Glyn, Jane and Les' brilliant acting skills there was not a dry eye in the house! It makes us smile just to recall this memorable performance. We are so very fortunate to have such generous, talented and community minded members in our midst.

Our next coffee morning will include a visit from a local solicitor who has been invited to talk about 'Making a Will', and in March we plan to have our annual 'bring and buy' stall – an opportunity to have a spring clean and in the process, raise funds for a charity.

In the next few months we look forward to a Chinese buffet lunch to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Rooster (any excuse to enjoy a meal out with friends will do), and also coach outings to Stratford upon Avon and Lichfield.

Mawsley Coffee Club is a friendly group of fun loving folk who have retired or are approaching retirement. A warm welcome at our meetings is assured. Come and enjoy a brew and a chat.

Further details and dates can be obtained by phoning Molly on 790781 or Jean and David on 799490.



## **HOME & GARDEN**

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## POND CONSERVATION 2007 TO 2017



This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of our Conservation Group in the interest of the protection of our ancient pond, rural environment and the on-going involvement of the village community.

Last year's maintenance included extra clearance work and this was carried out by the Trust for Conservation Volunteers UK. This year we are very pleased and grateful to announce that Emma and Ray Jacobs have



again extended sponsorship on behalf of Horts Estate Agents and this will cover the cost of TCV's expenses to carry out this winter's clearance work, which is scheduled for Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February.

Additional and on-going conservation is subject to sponsorship and a potential grant acceptance....plus the support of our village volunteers and other members of our community who can join us during the spring and summer work.

Tom Sanders



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## MAWSLEY VILLAGE SURGERY

Our opening hours for the surgery are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8am to 6pm and we provide a late clinic on a Thursday 8am to 7.30pm. Due to feedback, the late clinic has been extended to include Doctor, Nurse and Health Care appointments.

The dispensary has extended its hours and now opens:

Monday to Friday 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 6pm only closing for 1 hour at lunch time and opening around clinic times for your convenience and this will continue. The Pharmacy is now open in the Village but our services we provide will not change. The dispensary will still be dispensing medication as before.

We are continuing with all the existing services we provide which include Minor Injury, Minor Surgery, Ante-natal and Post-natal care, Contraception advice, Insurance Medicals, HGV and Taxi Medicals, Dispensing of medication, Phlebotomy, Asthma/Diabetes/Heart Disease, vaccinations (travel and routine), Cervical smears, Child Health Surveillance, Weight management and wound care. In addition to this we have been offering National Health checks.

We have also been offering extra on the day appointment over the winter period to help with Same Day demand. We will be offering extra Health Reviews of our elderly population from April.

Jane Evans

Practice Manager

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the strongest forces operating in the country today to bind local communities and get them pulling together to fight crime and anti-social behaviour.



- Is there a need to reduce crime and the fear of it?
- Are you a community minded person?
- Do you have some spare time and like a challenge?
- Would you like the opportunity to reintroduce many of the traditional social bonds and values back into your Neighbourhood?



If the answer to any of these questions is **YES!** Neighbourhood Watch is a popular way for people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved in preventing and detecting crime and disorder in the community.

If you are serious about getting involved and would like more information about Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, please contact your local NHW Watch Liaison Officer:

Jane Calcott on 101 ext. 343472 or e-mail [jane.calcott@northants.police.uk](mailto:jane.calcott@northants.police.uk)



# Mawsley Maintenance Man

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Jack

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### Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support Drop in Surgery on:



**Next dates:**  
**28<sup>th</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup> April**

**11.00 am to 12.00 noon**

**In the Bar Lounge, The Centre  
Mawsley**

**Advice given on Welfare Reform and how it may affect  
your household, how to claim, benefit entitlement, reporting  
changes in circumstances and any other  
council issues**

## MAWSLEY TODDLERS



Looking for a fun, friendly group for children from birth to 4 years old?

Looking for parents, grandparents and carers to talk to?

Then look no further than our wonderful group, "Mawsley Toddlers" which is based in the village at the Centre. Every term we have a different theme and every week includes craft and sensory play, based on that theme. Currently, we are looking at the various Mr Men and Little Miss Characters.

At the start of this term we looked at Mr Happy. Lots of little hands got to work making their own Mr Happy characters!

In the next few weeks we will be looking at Mr Dizzy, Little Miss Chatterbox and Mr Bump. We are certain there will be some amazing creations over the coming term...

If you'd like to see what we have been making and the theme of the week then join our Facebook page – Mawsley Toddlers, for all the goings on and latest news.

**Day:** Thursday Mornings (term time only)

**Time:** 9.15am – 11am

**Location:** the Centre, Mawsley

**Cost:** £1.50 for the first child and 50p for each child thereafter (this includes a snack)

**Age:** Birth to 4 years old

The Centre can also provide tea and coffee at a discounted rate of 50p per cup.

In addition to the craft and sensory play we have various toys, including cars, dolls, dressing up, kitchen and ride-on bugs.

We also have a book reading area and for our very young members a soft baby area with age appropriate toys.

Still unsure? Then please do not hesitate to contact one of our volunteers on the numbers below or via the Facebook page.

Sam Eggleton – 07818 408911

Lucy Westley – 07834 515690

Shelley Brown – 07887 792673





The Choir were pleased to open The Angel Festival at the beautiful St Andrews Church Cransley on 9<sup>th</sup> December. We filled the church with lots of traditional carols and some rarities, with the audience joining in with many. In the interval refreshments were served and we all mingled and had a good chat. It was a lovely evening which kicked off the Christmas festivities.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December the Centre presented its second Choir Wassail Evening. For those not familiar with Wassail it's basically an excuse to get together and enjoy an evening of merrymaking.

We did this in grand style singing carols and other Christmas songs with lots of participation from our 80 plus strong audience, all expertly led by our lovely MD Carole. The Centre provided us with a fine spread of hot food and we enjoyed several beverages from the bar. This stood us in good stead for even more merriment. Proceeds from the Centre ticket sales, a raffle organised by choir member Rosie and friends plus the St Andrews collection ensured we could give a donation of £400 to Cransley Hospice. Well done to everyone!

We have welcomed some new members and now have our very own pianist the charming Edward. In February we celebrate our 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Competition time is looming, we have entered Kettering Eisteddfod on the 18<sup>th</sup> March and Milton Keynes Festival 24<sup>th</sup> March, we are sure you all wish us good luck. A group of us will be traveling to Stratford-upon-Avon for the annual choir workshop on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April always an enjoyable occasion.

**Please make a note of this years 'SUMMER CONCERT' Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July an event not to be missed!**

If you have a love of singing why not come and join us?

No auditions! New members always made most welcome!

Rehearsals are held in the Centre Committee room Thursday evenings in term time

7:30pm-9:30pm

CHOIR SECRETARY - 07793 386232

Sing – Make Friends – Spread Happiness

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS SUMMARY

January 2017

In order to determine how Mawsley Villagers felt about further development within the Mawsley Parish boundary a questionnaire was constructed and hand delivered to all dwellings within the Village in July 2016, with a request to complete by end August 2016. At the same time the questionnaire was posted on the online survey site – [surveymonkey.co.uk](http://surveymonkey.co.uk).

The reason for the questionnaire was to gain feedback from the Village to help determine the viability and need to progress further with producing a Neighbourhood Plan for further development of Mawsley Village.

It was also indicated that the findings would be shared with the Village so that the Parish Council could subsequently decide if proceeding with a Neighbourhood Plan was viable and this will be decided in the coming months.

In total 112 questionnaires were completed, which based on circa 900 dwellings in the village represented around a 12% response.

55% of the respondents were in the age group 26-49, with disappointingly, only 3% below the age of 25. More than 20 questionnaires were anonymous or with vague or partial contact details. However, the answer trends were consistent with other fully filled in questionnaires.

The results show that there appears to be a consistent general trend as to why Mawsley Village has become the home of choice for many, as follows:-

- Safe
- Quiet
- Community Spirit
- Friendly
- Countryside
- Village life
- School
- Local facilities – Doctors, Dentist, the Centre, Shop, Indian restaurant

There was also an apparent consistent trend with regard to the areas of concern in Mawsley. By far, with over 90%, inconsiderate PARKING is the number 1 issue, followed closely by poor MOBILE PHONE coverage and reliable BROADBAND speed. Anecdotally it is understood that a significant number of Villagers work from home so these two issues would be very important.

Included and other areas of concern are :-

- Parking
- Mobile Phone coverage and broadband
- Lack of a circular path/cycle way around the village
- Roads not being adopted
- No Pub
- Lack of other shops
- Speeding
- Threat of further development
- No activities for teenagers
- Lack of suitable housing for the elderly
- Limited bus service
- Care of Public Open space
- Post box location



There appears to be NO SUPPORT FOR FURTHER HOUSING DEVELOPMENT. The general view is that Mawsley has already been overdeveloped and is much larger than originally planned. This is putting too much strain on the school, facilities and adds to the parking problem according to a significant number of respondents.

It is apparent that many people moved to Mawsley, as a new village, for what it was and not what they wanted it to be developed into.

There seems to be a demand for more suitable housing for the elderly, especially bungalows and sheltered housing /gym which is being suggested for the Pub site (if the site is never going to be developed as a Pub/ Restaurant, which appears likely).

More than 20 respondents suggested that, if necessary, additional housing could be placed on the field between the two entrances.

Less than 5 respondents suggested that the land off Cransley Rise could be developed, but only if that allowed for the circular path/cycleway to be completed.

With regard to changing 'one thing in the village' the following points were popular:-

- Adopt the roads
- Complete the cycle path
- Review Article 4 restrictions
- Build pub restaurant
- More shops in the empty units in Barnwell Court

In the case of the Centre development the following main points were prevalent :-

- More facilities for older people i.e. bingo, whist, bridge.
- Expand bar area to provide a "quieter" area
- Develop Patio area to provide more seating and Patio heating
- Generally more activities at centre
- Regular Farmers market/local producers' stalls

As the Parish Council enters into the next phase of consideration and consultation we would welcome any thoughts or comments from all interested parties in the Village.

Please send any comments to Juliet Lewis, Acting Parish Clerk at [mawsleyparishcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:mawsleyparishcouncil@outlook.com)

**Cllr Kevin White**

Mawsley Parish Council







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## MID JANUARY 2017

**Nature on Your doorstep – a stroll round Mawsley & District by Les & Paul (no dog, no wives just us two old boys).**

The morning dawned misty, cloudy, gloomy, chilly (4° C), damp and stayed that way. We arrived at the car park adjacent to Brampton Valley Way at the site of Kelmarsh railway station.

We climbed the steps up to the track bed of the long since closed Northampton to Market Harborough railway. Opened in 1859 and closed to passenger traffic in 1960 and finally fully closed in 1981. Now a recreational path for cyclist and walkers.



Despite the gloomy conditions the track side hedgerows were full of activity from the off. Thrushes including Fieldfares, Redwings and Blackbirds were feeding greedily on the ripe red berries. Coal tits roaming through looking for food. Wrens criss-crossed our path. Interestingly one of our most familiar songbirds, the tiny bird is both pugnacious and restless. Many books describe the Wren as being secretive but, while it is often overlooked they certainly did not hide themselves away from us. The Wren population is at something of a peak at the moment, thanks to a run of mild winters which have boosted overwinter survival. Cold winters can reduce the breeding population by a quarter or more.

As we walked we identified sites or one enormous site of a badger set in the

embankment. Judging by the amount of scrapes in the surrounding grass, paths leading in all directions and holes in the bank there must be a large population here. The digging is caused by the badgers eagerly searching for a tasty meal typically earth worms.

The old route of the railway here follows the bed of the River Ise and crosses it several times. The Ise rises from a number of springs in the hills to the south west near Kelmarsh and Naseby and joins the Nene in the Wellingborough area. This river is an important nature corridor for a large number of birds and animals. The upper reaches, along with some of the tributary streams are home to rarer species such as white-clawed crayfish, water voles and otters.

After a mile or so we reached the site of Clipston and Oxenden station. Now, virtually unrecognizable as a station apart from the station cottages. Turning right we took the peaceful lane to Arthingworth now closed to traffic apart from farm vehicles.

With the fields either side featuring uncultivated strips the area is clearly a haven for wildlife. Much to our surprise we heard a female Tawny owl call from a stand of high trees, unfortunately we were not able to spot her. According to reports this is a relatively common occurrence especially between the hours of 10am and 3pm. The jury it seems is out on as to a clear reason why.



Once through Arthingworth we followed the road in the direction of Kelmarsh back to the car park. The walk was about 4 miles and easy going. Pub on route is the Bulls Head Arthingworth.

I will make sure I return to the route Paul and I took in the summer, when the countryside promises to be verdant and brimming with life.

At this time of year, though, there is great appeal in seeing the bare leaved trees forming such patterns in the mist. Not much colour to speak of.

For that we had to return to the village, where there is a striking show of yellow coming from two plants in particular one a shrub and the other a climber. The former is *mahonia japonica*.



Believe it or not, the scented flowers on this plant attract a type of bumble bee even now. And in so many other respects, this is a shrub that ticks all the boxes.

It grows in almost any soil, partial shade or sun, any aspect and attractive black berries are produced which blackbirds relish.

If the plant gets too tall, it can be cut back ruthlessly without much set back to future flowering and growth.

One down side; the hard evergreen leaves are quite spikey and sharp – nothing that a good set of gardening gloves can't cope with, however.

The second plant most people will recognise if they have spent many winters here. This climber is the winter jasmine (*J nudiflorum*). Very noticeable because the yellow flowers produce a splash of colour from November through to February. Easy to grow and establish (ideal over

arches and porches) though it might need help in supporting itself since it is not a true climber. Finally, a mention of that plant icon which signals the imminent arrival of spring.



Snowdrops are appearing on the banks and roadsides of Harrington and, if you're lucky, in your own garden.

*I wonder if the sap is stirring yet  
If wintry birds are dreaming of a mate  
If frozen snowdrops feel as yet the sun  
And crocus fires are kindling one by one:  
Sing robin sing*

*I still am sore in doubt concerning Spring.*

*Christina Rossetti*



To find out more about the Brampton Valley Way see [www.sustrans.org.uk/route/brampton-valley-way](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/route/brampton-valley-way)

Again we find Ordnance Survey map Explorer 223 very useful.

## **MVA – BONFIRE NIGHT**

**That went with a bang! We hope you enjoyed the fireworks in November. There have been so many positive comments so far and thank you to everyone who attended. For a village event it is so well supported which allows it to continue every year. Well done Mawsley.**

There are so many people to thank that it would be impossible to tag everyone. The event would not happen without the volunteers that help. You all know who you are and from Steve Thorpe and I thank you for your help and support.

Thank you to the the Centre team for their efforts. There is a lot of people to serve in a very short period of time and they did it fantastically well. Coffee @ No9 provided a great BBQ and the pork rolls were particularly good. Thank you Luke, Heather and their team.

The lighting team deserve a special mention. We had two new people helping this year and they did an

amazing job alongside the more experienced members of the team. Lighting of the fireworks is a dangerous job but thankfully everything ran smoothly and most importantly safely.

Our final thank you goes to Martin Bentley. Martin has run this event for many years and this year decided it was time for a well-earned break. In actual fact he has been as involved this year as we have. He attended every meeting and offered us support and guidance at every step.

We cannot thank you enough for helping us make sure the event happened and ran so well.

We live in such a great community and when this village pulls together it really does great things.

It has been a pleasure to be able to help give something back and we are looking forward to doing it again this year.

**Chris Wane**

## **PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE**

**Well, the Allotments issue has certainly started a lively debate! Around 50 villagers came to the January Parish Council meeting to make sure their views were known; and yes it was a lively debate.**

The Council has to acknowledge that we underestimated the strength of opposition, both to the provision of allotments within the village per se; and certainly to the proposed site. And in acknowledging this we also apologise for not managing the process as well as we should have done.

We decided to go back to square one and start the whole process again; this time by forming an Allotment Working Group comprising two Parish Councillors; a member of the Allotment Society; and a representative from those opposed to allotments. Full details of the Group's remit are on our website. The Group will report to the Council, who will then make the final decision.

It cannot go unsaid however that it is extremely disappointing to note that a number of people who posted their views on FaceBook were unable to do so without being offensive and / or abusive. Perhaps they should simply grow up; but as the posts were immediately removed by the Moderators it was also a complete waste of "effort".

Moving on I would like to give thanks to Vic Cope for all the work he has done for the village as a Parish Councillor, particularly with regard to the Centre. Vic has now resigned as a Councillor – but not from the many other things he does for the village – so that means there is a vacancy. I simply add that if you want to influence the way in which the village develops, and the way issues are addressed etc., then now is your chance. And at the risk of venturing into the fraught world of the politically correct, the younger you are the better.

I can advise you that the Parish Council has made no change to the precept for next year. The precept is the source of Parish Council funds; the Borough Council no longer makes a grant to parish councils. Although collected via your council tax bill all of this precept is returned to Mawsley.

Finally, The Council has obtained an interest-free loan to enable us to change the lights at the Centre to LEDs. The original fittings were failing at an alarming rate, and proving costly to replace; but more pertinently LEDs will save c. £1,800 each year in electricity costs. I'm now considering the lights in my house!

**Bob Littler**

## 1ST MAWSLEY RAINBOWS

1st Mawsley Rainbows would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who supported their Christmas Wreath Making Evening in November. It was a fantastic evening and all the wreaths looked amazing. In total we raised an outstanding £342 which is being used to buy additional resources for the Rainbows to use. Not only were we overwhelmed by the number of ladies who attended the evening, we were also really touched by the number of local business who were happy to provide raffle prizes.

These include The Bear and Beignet, Bosworths Garden Centre, Creation Station, Beckworth Emporium, the Centre, Stefanie Jayne, Luxus Studio, Lucy's Nails, Kafe Bloc, Pete Ayres Bootcamp, The Only Way is Debi, LW Dance and Fitness, Acorn Equestrian Centre, Doorstep Baking, Sweetest a Fayre and Younique presenter Sarah Smedmore. A big thank you to you all. As the evening was so popular we will be running another Wreath Making Evening on 8th December 2017.

Last term 1st Mawsley Rainbows had great fun participating in a range of activities within the

Mawsley Community. These included litter picking around the village, participating in both The Harvest Festival and The Remembrance Parade and making two Guys for the Guy competition on bonfire night. The Rainbows also completed a 1 mile sponsored walk for Children in Need and raised a brilliant sum of £405.50. This term we have some exciting adventurer activities planned including Rock Climbing and Caving, a Forest School session at Brixworth Country Park, a session with the Northants Search and Rescue Team and a visit to board the aeroplane based at Tresham College.

If your daughter is interested in joining 1st Mawsley Rainbows please register her interest via the Girl-guiding website.

1st Mawsley Rainbows are now collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. So if anyone shops either online or in store at Sainsbury's, we would be very grateful if you could donate your vouchers to us. We are in the process of trying to find a suitable location for our collection box but in the meantime the box will be placed outside the small room at the Centre every Tuesday between 6 and 7pm.



## WHAT IS PILATES?

We wondered this when we heard there is a Pilates class here in the village at the Centre on a Saturday morning.

We knew it was some kind of exercise class so decided to go along to see what it was all about. There we were met by the Pilates instructor, Lynn Westall, who is so welcoming and friendly, as were the other pupils in the class.

The hour long class mainly consists of various floor exercises using slow natural flowing movements to stretch and tone your body. So all you need is a mat (although some are provided) and comfortable leggings or exercise trousers and a roomy top enabling free and comfortable movement. The exercises vary each week and concentrate on different parts of the body. Those who have particular concerns, for example with asthma, their back, or neck, receive personal attention from Lynn who adapts the exercises to suit each individual. There is no apparatus or equipment needed, just the weight of your own body and limbs. Therefore, it is easy to practice your favourite exercises at home.

Age or gender is not a concern although at present it is mainly females who attend the class ranging from teens to the over 60's.

We have been attending the class for around a year and feel the benefit of having improved posture, flexibility and core strength.

We enjoy the class very much as everyone is friendly with a great sense of humour which gets us off to a good start for the weekend.

The classes start at 9.30am in the main hall and cost £6. For more information, you can contact our instructor, Lynn on 07971 735970.

**Pie & Lattes**

## THE PATH ROUND THE ECO FIELD

I, along with many residents of Mawsley, often exercise my dogs round the eco-field and we all seem to try to keep to the perimeter so that the wild flower meadow doesn't get trampled on too much which could result in damage to the flowers. Some kind person mows a path round the perimeter in the summer which makes for a pleasant level walk. However, with the bad weather, the whole field is very soggy underfoot and I have noticed that it is often covered with wheel ruts/tracks, presumably because some residents need to use a motorised buggy to enable them to exercise their dogs and young mums with children in pushchairs face similar problems.

I think it would be really nice if there was a "firm surface" path round the perimeter which would enable everyone to enjoy the facility safely and cleanly during all seasons. What do others feel? National Trust and country parks all use this sort of surface and, as their paths are used by huge numbers of people, it must obviously wear very well.

I know it would cost quite a lot to do but I wonder whether there would be any volunteers to help with the work if we could get some contributions/grants/sponsors etc. to pay for the materials? Mawsley is excellent for getting things done in the community so your thoughts and ideas would be very helpful.

**Doreen Cope**

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