USE IT OR LOSE IT!!!!

Your new service 4 and 4A

Nottinghamshire County Council is funding a new bus service, the 4 and 4A which will run from Huthwaite to Mansfield Woodhouse. This route will link the two communities with Sutton and Mansfield town centres as well as providing access to the Kings Mill Centre by running directly into the hospital grounds.

The 4 and 4A will fill in gaps in the local bus network that have been left by the withdrawal of commercially operated services.

Key elements include:

- A service for Clegg Hill Drive and Blackwell Road in Huthwaite to Huthwaite Market Place and onwards to Sutton and Mansfield.
- Eastfield Side and Unwin Road will be linked to Mansfield and Sutton.
- The estates on the north side of Mansfield Woodhouse will again be linked to the town centre, health centre and onwards to Mansfield.

This service has been introduced in response to public requests and is being funded on an initial 6 month trial basis. Continued running will depend upon local passenger numbers making the route viable.

So make the most of your local service – use it and we will be able to continue to fund it, don’t use it and you will unfortunately lose it.

The timetable for the 4/4A has recently been revised

Some timings have been changed to better reflect the actual running time of the service. There have also been some minor route changes in Mansfield Woodhouse. Instead of going via Beech Tree Avenue and Chestnut Grove the bus now runs down Park Hall Road and along Cedar Avenue. It will also no longer operate along Shakespeare Avenue but via Slant Lane instead.

Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group’s Village Social and Fundraising Group

Christmas Event
SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER
See page 12 for further details

A.W. JYN
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Fax: 01623 655757

Woodhouse Warbler

Dear Friends,
On behalf of the Trustees and Volunteers of the Pet Bereavement Support Group (Registered Charity No 1104002) I am writing to ask something that will help both us AND Santa Claus. I was talking to Santa recently and he informs me that there are loads of cuddly toys and teddies stuck sad, forgotten and unloved in cupboards and lofts all around this area. He would like all boys & girls (up to the age of 103) to please sort them out - so that it will make space for all the lovely new things that he’ll be bringing this Christmas. If you then telephone Mansfield 653173 I can collect them to use for our fund-raising efforts. Or alternatively leave them in the side porch at 45 Peafield Lane, Mansfield Woodhouse. The benefits will be 4-fold - Santa will be happy, you will have more space for new things, it'll make us some funds and the cuddly toys and teddies will be loved again. Thanking you in anticipation.

Mrs. Yvette Price-Mear

Dear Woodhouse Warbler,
I was disappointed not to get a response from Sgt. D Lindsey about my letter concerning parked cars on pavements. I wish to know if they are parking illegally and if they are, why isn’t anything being done about it? I named some of the roads where the cars are parked on pavements and the people either don’t read the Warbler or they just don’t care about mums with prams or the disabled. There must be someone out there who knows the law on this matter.

CB

Dear Editor,
I am researching the name of Bennison, which was my mother’s maiden name and found that an Eric Bennison was born in 1922 in Mansfield Woodhouse. Are there any descendants still living in this area? Please contact Fran on 01623 641444 if you have any information.

F. Highfield

The Royal British Legion
Working at the heart of our community

Did you know that in Nottinghamshire the Royal British Legion cares for ex-service people and their families. Provides social, financial and emotional support. Is a membership organisation that anyone can join. Runs the annual Poppy Appeal. Is active in your community 365 days a year. To join, get involved or find out more contact Alan Priest on 01623 847039, E-mail alanpriest@hotmail.com or visit the website at www.britishlegion.org.uk
Dear Woodhouse Warbler,

CV. What a whinger you are. I almost had to get a towel, a handkerchief would not have been big enough! So, you have scrimped, saved, struggled to keep out of debt. And there's me thinking I was the only one. Well, we live and learn. Of course you and millions of others like us do it everyday of our lives. The wages in this area are one of the lowest in the country. If you work all your life on that level of income you would always be struggling. And the vast majority of the workforce in this area do exactly the same. As regards the trees; they have been around a lot longer than us and will still be here long after we are gone to give the next species of animal that rises to the "top of the tree", no pun intended, if we could only learn to keep our grubby little paws off them and remove only those that are required for the good of the land and not for our own stupid puny needs. And yes, you could be forced by the council to clean up your front garden if it got into a disgusting mess and you could be taken to court if you didn't. Oh and yes, it does pay to have been a spendthrift, reckless and smoked and all the other things in life that took your fancy. If you had, the state would have welcomed you with open arms and given you plenty to live on. And you have been made redundant; now you have time to support the lads on the protest then! You are lucky it's only happened to you once. I can think of dozens of people that have been made redundant several times. And on the day you were "let go" as employers like to put it, many hundreds of others were, no doubt, in the same boat. My father, God rest his soul, was in the same position you are and he got the same reply you did from the authorities. He saved up £2000 for his retirement and was refused help because of it. What a wonderful country we live in. It supports the idle, useless, greedy, reckless, druggies, hooligans etc. while the likes of you and I who try to do our best not only get penalised but pay for the privilege! Neither you nor I would have dared, without fear for our lives, written letters like this about things that the "state" are doing with which we disagree if we lived in some countries. No, it's not perfect, but if you can come up with a viable alternative please do.

JCross

Dear Woodhouse Warbler,

I recently returned from Normandy after the Pilgrimage to visit the graves of my fallen comrades and again meet and celebrate a unique type of friendship that resulted from the capturing, or liberating one of the country towns deep in the Normandy countryside namely, Thury-Harcourt, and lies some 10 miles south of Caen and the same north of Falaise. Our Division, the 59th Staffordshire Division had fought the "SS" Divisions there to capture the airfield at Carpiquet and then the capital city of the province, Caen. We continued our pressure south and made steady progress towards the tactical target, whilst on our right in the Western area our allies completed their clean up of the Cotentin Peninsula and General Patton's breakout with his 3rd Army and deployment into the more open country towards Paris. Well, the rest is history except the story of the capture of 'Thury-Harcourt'. To get there, we first had the not inconsiderable problem of crossing the River Orne, which was quite an obstacle. In places some 20 yards wide and on our sector had quite good-sized banks. The one bridge in the area had been "blown" by the enemy and our infantry and a few tanks forded at one point and against repeatedly attacked by the 'SS' held on and were soon reinforced, but the battle soon mounted in fury and the Germans brought heavy armour and repeatedly counter attacked in an effort to dislodge us. Our guns poured withering fire on them as they were thrown back time after time and at one stage a Captain Jamieson called for our artillery fire down on his own position to dislodge the enemy and held on until they finally gave up and withdrew with heavy casualties on both sides and Captain Jamieson, though himself wounded, still held the ground until relieved by fresh troops of the division and was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military honour.

The advance continued and the enemy got no respite from our guns and advancing tanks and infantry and soon we had Thury-Harcourt in our sights. The enemy was defending stubbornly and a strike by US Marauders was made which sadly resulted in the deaths of some 40 civilians, in some cases whole families. Eventually as we prepared to attack the town it was reported that the town was clear of Germans and so began our association with those wonderful people who wept at our advance with joy and relief and still refer to us as their 'Liberators.' Now 60 years on we go with our families and meet their families and we were given a Civic reception and a dinner, plaques and flowers.

Together we visited the War Memorials and laid wreaths at the Divisional War Cemetery and paid our respects to the 240 dead of the Division which the Mayor referred to as "whose blood had made that land sacred to their gallantry, persistence under fire, and self sacrifice". Together we went to church and sang the Hymns together and prayed and gave our thanks that we now lived peacefully together and respected and enjoyed each other's rights and freedom.

My personal visit to my old pal's grave was cheered by the sight of how well it was kept and obviously visited by the two little sons he left behind, now of course in their 60's. They would be good sons as Jim was a good father and husband.

So I returned full of hope for the future and happier for having gone back to "Thury", as it is called locally and this time, sharing it with my son.

Jack Lattimer

Dear Editor,

I remember reading in the Warbler several issues ago that readers were asking where has the 'Dragon' off the Portland Arms gone to? I think I have spotted it on top of a house on Ladybrook Lane, Mansfield.

ALR

Dear Editor,

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed photograph. It is of my son Robert's truck. He now lives 6,000 miles away in America but as you can see from the number plate he hasn't forgotten his roots.

E Jerrom
To the Editor,

I write on behalf of a group of residents of Rolaine Close, Mansfield Woodhouse to inform the readers about the particulars of our complaint in relation to the trees that abut our properties. We are not trouble makers and our actions have not been taken lightly. We have explored every avenue to find an amicable solution over the last few years but to no avail.

Most of the residents involved in this disagreement are retired people; some have mobility and other health problems and their quality of life is being greatly affected by these trees.

It was back in 2002 when we asked Nottinghamshire County Council to do something about the trees that are now 50ft high and are proven to be unsafe and cause environmental health problems. Initially a Nottinghamshire County Council Education senior officer agreed to pollard some of the trees; this was stopped by the school, he did however plant 3 semi mature trees to provide an additional tree canopy cover for the children.

During a period of months of correspondence with Council Officials, residents were finally forced to send a petition to Nottinghamshire County Council. Even after written reasurances from Education Chiefs that the trees were safe, on 3 occasions which can be supported by photographic evidence, residents had to report unsafe branches that could have caused damage to property, injured residents or school children.

A formal complaint was lodged to Nottinghamshire County Council which was eventually referred to a Complaints Review Panel of 3 Elected Members chaired by County Councillor Joyce Bosnjak. Due to the continued stubbornness of certain Council officials this matter was finally referred to the Local Government Ombudsman in line with the official complaints procedure.

The recommendations of the Complaints Review Panel of Elected Members when it sat in September 2003 were that the School Governors should consider the expert advice of Nottinghamshire County Council’s Senior Forestry Officer. His recommendations was to reduce the height of the trees by up to 30% and carry out moderate crown lifting, this was rejected by the school.

The Local Government Ombudsman also ruled in favour of me personally over this issue and made the Council apologise for their actions, he did however say that he was powerless under the Local Government Act 1974 to force the Council to pollard the trees.

Once Local County Councillor Joyce Bosnjak found out that the school governors had not complied with the spirit of the complaints panel recommendations she personally wrote to the school, but her pleas for some form of conciliation were rejected. Even the efforts of Mansfield MP Alan Meale were rejected by the school and were met with solicitor’s letters. Both elected members met the residents at their homes to see the problem and could not understand the intransigent attitude of the school. Mr Meale and Joyce Bosnjak in an effort to make the authorities see sense attended a meeting with Mr R Latham, NCC Chief Executive, to try and resolve the problem.

Since the Chad went to press over this issue, the school have again rejected any form of compromise and conciliation over the problem. Residents believe the School Governors and Local Authorities have wasted thousands of pounds of public money fighting this problem rather than agree a compromise given the written and photographic evidence, NCC expert advice and views of elected members.

I publicly ask the School Governors to respond to this letter and meet with the residents and/or our elected members to debate this issue?

J Foster
Resident of Rolaine Close
The Coalfields Regeneration Trust

One to one funding surgeries with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust's East Midlands Regeneration Manager (Deborah Fraser) are to be held on the below dates in a variety of locations around the Coalfields.

Before you book an appointment please check the following:

- Are you based in an eligible coalfield ward or serve coalfield communities? Eligible CRT lists can be obtained from your CVS
- Are you a Not for Profit Organisation? If you are a profit making organisation do not make an appointment
- Do you have a project idea? If not speak to your CVS before contacting the CRT
- Does your project fit with CRT Themes? CRT themes include – Supporting Communities, Learning Communities, Enterprising Communities and Supporting People into Work.
- Can you demonstrate the need for your project and how/why it will impact on your community?

For more information on the Coalfields Regeneration Trust please visit our website on www.coalfields-regen.org.uk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>10.00 – 19.30</td>
<td>Ashwood Resource Centre, Kirkby in Ashfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 December</td>
<td>10.00 – 19.30</td>
<td>Nottingham CVS, Mansfield eligible wards are: Leeming, Manor, Meden and Northfield</td>
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To make an appointment please contact: Christine or Natalie on 01530 510 456

Building Better Communities

Building Better Communities is a major Notts County Council initiative aimed at improving the quality of the local environment throughout the county. Working with local communities, the County Council is investing £25 million over five years to deliver a wide range of local improvements such as refreshing our town centres, improving streetlighting and the condition of our streets besides creating new footways where they don't exist.

By March 2005, around 250 projects will have been completed including around a dozen across the Mansfield Woodhouse area. Local County Councillors Joyce Bosnjak, Reg Strauther and Parry Tsimbirdis' have worked hard to secure these improvements which will cost around £250,000 in total.

- Morven Ave/Crow Hill Lane
- Morven Ave/Crow Hill Lane
- Entrance to Yeoman Hill Park
- Priory Road
- A60/A6075
- Butt Lane/Church Hill Avenue
- Slant Lane/Eather Avenue
- A60 Mansfield Road
- Eather Avenue
- Brown Ave/Shakespeare Ave
- Park Road
- Brown Ave/Cox’s Lane
- Slant Lane
- Beech Tree Ave/Park Hall Road
- Cox’s Lane
- Church Street/A6075
- Brown Avenue shops

Install Extra Street lighting
Install a pedestrian refuge on road
Welcome to Mansfield Woodhouse signs
New seat on corners and tidy up trees on opposite corner
New seat at the junction
Renovate Butter Stumps Area
Provide benches
Mini Environmental improvement plans on roundabout
Widen footpath between Slant Lane and Valiance St
Mini Environmental improvement plans on roundabout
Tidy up bus lay-by, reorientate bus shelter and build new footway.
Harden verge
Provide plateau outside church and benches at A6075 junction
Refurbish under Environmental Improvement plan

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Progress Made on £50 Million Regeneration Project

Significant progress has been made by Meden Valley Making Places (MVMP) in delivering the masterplans which will breathe new life into former pit communities in the Districts of Mansfield and Bolsover.

Achievements since the project started include:

- Master-plans have been completed for 6 sites
- Detailed project plan for Creswell agreed
- Detailed consultations have taken place with affected residents
- Regular communication in the form of newsletters to residents, and tenant groups
- 147 properties have been purchased by agreement including 60 properties at Creswell. Henry Boot will start the 24 month refurbishment contract for Creswell in November partly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund
- Mansfield and Bolsover District Councils have purchased an additional 349 properties.
- 104 properties are already demolished creating 2 sites for redevelopment

MVMP has now requested that English Partnerships use its Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers to help assemble the sites. The orders will be made by the end of October on properties covering the Royal Estate in Market Warsop, Warsop Vale, New Terrace in Pleasley and Mansfield Woodhouse.

Where properties are to be retained group repair grants will be offered to renovate the external elevation of the properties to achieve a comprehensive regeneration of the area. Owners will be approached to participate in the scheme and be offered a minimum of 75% of the costs of the works which will be carried out by the Local Authority.

Higher level grants will be made to owner occupiers depending on their individual circumstances to ensure that all properties are included.

Commenting on the progress of the project, Janet Bradbury Chief Executive of MVMP said "The last 18 months have been very busy for MVMP and we have made significant progress in consulting local residents on the future of their areas, talking to individual households about their housing options and in acquiring properties by agreement."

"The Board has now reached the stage where we have requested English Partnerships to serve compulsory purchase orders. These cover the properties we require for development in the first instance."

"This is a crucial step in assembling the sites and securing new development which will breathe new life into the areas which have declined over the last few years."

Dennis Hone, Regional Director English Partnerships said: "It's very important that this significant and long awaited regeneration project becomes a reality. These new homes will completely revitalise Meden Valley communities.

"MVMP and English Partnerships want to ensure that as few residents and households as possible are disrupted in the process. We only use CPO's when absolutely necessary."

Tony Egginton, Executive Mayor of Mansfield District Council and MVMP Board Member said: "Meden Valley Making Places has made tremendous progress in the last 18 months in taking forward our vision of sustainable communities and better housing in rundown former coalfield areas in the Mansfield and Bolsover Districts."

"A comprehensive compensation package has been put together for those residents affected by the redevelopment and MVMP will continue to listen very closely to their views. We remain focused though on delivering the changes and investment required to completely turnaround these areas into places with a good quality of life and a sustainable future."

Councilor Terry Cook, Cabinet Member for Regeneration at the District of Bolsover added "This is excellent news for the villages and towns affected and we can now start and build upon the good work and progress we have made to date."

"This type of regeneration will help us achieve our long-term vision for the area and help meet the needs and aspirations of the local communities."
COMMUNITY SAFETY - Danger House

A danger house was on display at Mansfield Woodhouse Library on Tuesday 5 October to warn local people about potential accidents in the home, garage and garden.

The house model, which is 3x3 metres, had a separate garage and garden model showing hazards such as children playing close to barbecues, water on the floor and wires that could cause trips.

Nottinghamshire Trading Standards and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service joined forces to take the model on tour. Trading Standards officers and fire-fighters were on hand to point out the hazards and the consequences, as well as inform people how to improve safety in their homes and gardens. There was also a quiz to test people’s knowledge at the end of the session.

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak, Chair of the Community Services Select Scrutiny Committee, has helped to organise the tour: “The model is an excellent way of showing people just how dangerous the house, garage or garden can be and it really makes them sit up and think about the hazards lurking in their own homes. The model also showed people the different security measures they should take to protect their property and families.

People quite understandably feel safe in their homes and yet one third of all accidents to adults take place in the home. Each year almost one million children under the age of 15 have had to go to hospital for treatment following an accident in the home.

The most common accident is a fall which can easily be caused by tripping over household objects or toys left on the floor. Over 50% of all fatal accidents are falls and sadly each year around 1,500 over 65’s die following a fall in the home.

Burning and scalds, fires, choking, can all result from an accident with something we all take for granted as we use them on an almost daily basis.

DIY is another common cause of accidents with each year around 70 people being killed and 250,000 injured in DIY related incidents. Whilst ladders and power tools are the most common cause of accidents, the reason for them is usually lack of knowledge and an over estimation of our ability to do some tasks.

Finally our gardens are not as safe as we would think, with around 50 deaths and 450,000 accidents each year. Whilst garden tools such as lawnmowers, strimmers account for 29% of these accidents, falls on hard surfaces and uneven ground remain the major cause of accidents.”

Dave Bullock, from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: “We already carry out free home safety checks, where we assess fire safety and other potential hazards in people’s homes. This pilot scheme really complements our current work and we hope that it will reduce the number of avoidable incidents we attend.”

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The Government have recently released figures showing that recorded crime is on the decrease and I am pleased to say that Mansfield Woodhouse is showing the same downward trend. The Leeming, Priory and Robin Hood Wards recorded a total 1,272 crimes between 1/1/04 and 30/9/04. This compares to 1,584 for the corresponding period last year which represents a 18% decrease.

The types of crime which probably concern most residents are those of Dwelling House Burglaries and Auto Crime and both have shown a decrease. For the figures below, Period 1 relates to 1/1/03 to 30/9/03 and Period 2 from 1/1/04 to 30/9/04.

Dwelling House Burglaries during Period 1 totalled 124 and Period 2 had dropped to 93 which represents a 25% decrease. Shed and Garage Burglaries also dropped from 111 to 78 which represents a 30% decrease.

During Period 1 there were 140 reports of motor vehicles having been stolen and in Period 2 this had fallen to 65 which is a 53% fall and theft from vehicles had fallen from 223 to 137, which is a 39% decrease.

I know many persons will say that these type of offences do go unreported for one reason or another. All I would ask is that they are reported as there are many occasions when the Police recover property and are unable to trace the owner in which case it usually has to be returned or left with the suspected offender.

The one crime to reverse the trend is that of assaults which have shown an overall increase of 9% from 161 to 176 reported offences. However, this can be attributed to a 94% increase in common assaults which are minor injuries consisting mainly of slight bruising. The more serious assaults of ABH (Actual Bodily Harm) and GBH (Grievous Bodily Harm) have actually seen a decrease.

I will mention just one other crime and that is Robbery which is sometimes referred to as “mugging” whereby an offender uses or threatens violence in order to steal from their victims. There have only been 5 reported offences during period 2 compared to 16 during period 1.

The ‘Rat on a Rat’ campaign which encourages members of the public to inform on Drug Dealers is still proving to be successful and has resulted in the execution of several Drugs warrants in recent weeks. As mentioned in earlier editions information can be left anonymously on the Crimestoppers phone number which is 0800 555 111.

I hope that the above figures will dispel some thoughts that Mansfield is an area of high crime and whilst there is scope for improvement, we do not suffer from the higher crime levels and the more serious crime of other parts of the County of Nottinghamshire.

Sergeant Dave Lindsay.

Nottinghamshire Army Cadet Force Opens New Detachment at Mansfield Woodhouse

Nottinghamshire Army Cadet Force has recently opened a new detachment at the Northfield Focus Point on Vale Road. The Army Cadet Force is a national voluntary youth organisation, sponsored by the army, which provides challenging military, adventurous and community activities. Its aim is to inspire young people between the ages of 12-18 years to achieve success in life and a spirit of service to the Queen, their country and their local community, and to develop in them the qualities of a good citizen. The new detachment is part of ‘B’ Company which wears the cap badge of the Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters, a regiment with a long and proud history and with many local connections.

The detachment is open each Tuesday and Thursday evening between 7pm and 9pm and is open to young people, male and female, between the ages of 12-18 years. We are also looking for volunteer helpers and potential adult instructors.

For more information visit the detachment.
Longden Terrace
Callum Lawson attended the Paralympic Games in Athens during September 2004. Although Callum did not get to swim in the finals he thoroughly enjoyed his experience of the games and hopes to progress further during the next four years and be ready for the next games in Beijing in 2008.

Longden Terrace
Miners Welfare, Warsop
Now have a new Children’s Indoor Soft play Area.
Open for members, community groups and for private parties.
For more information and for bookings please contact Malcolm Sargison Resource Centre on 01623 747987. Or the Welfare on 01623 846872

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Woodhouse Warbler

Local Groups! - Get your message across with the Warbler!
The Woodhouse I knew and loved.
By a Woodhouse Lass (Part 1)

I should imagine the name Woodhouse derives from the name ‘The house in the wood’. The particular house was probably the ‘wolf house’, where the men from the surrounding area would receive payment for the tails of vermin they had caught in the trees.

As the trees were cleared other buildings of note appeared such as St. Edmund’s Church, The Priory, Clerkson Hall, Debdale Hall, Woodhouse Place and a number of others. Farms became prevalent, Winstanley’s, Stevenson’s, Park Hall, and Fletcher’s, just to name but a few. Some of these were farmed in my lifetime. Schools started to appear to educate the increasing number of local children; these were mostly run by the Christian community. Chapels, businesses, Doctors and Dentists were to be found around the house in the wood and the main street. The Old Hall was built in the centre of the village; this later became the area of the market place. This house became the centre of activity. It was built long before I was born but I was fortunate to have been born near the house in the wood.

My grandmother, Mary Elizabeth, was the cook to the Sykes family. She fell in love with a struggling businessman, a Methodist living in the High Street near the Old Hall. The house was very large and looked almost like a block of four. They often used to entertain people and I’m sure a good many of them were clergymen.

My grandmother used to send a Christmas cake to a Mr. J. E. Lamplough. My father used to keep a photograph of this gentleman on the chapel organ, until his death.

When Trinity Methodist Chapel needed a new organ my father visited him in London, he received him with, ‘Come in Will’. He gave us a very generous donation, thus the photograph on the organ.

I think it was through my grandmother working at The Hall, that my father was able to attend Ashville College at Harrogate. When my sister and I visited the College several years ago the Head asked us if my grandfather was a minister, when we said “no” he said “How did he get in here then?”

A few years ago among some family photographs, that came into my possession was a large photograph of the Rev. J. E. Lamplough as Vice President of the Methodist Conference in 1945, also there were many photographs of his immediate family. They may have been related to the Sykes’s. It must have upset my grandmother a great deal to see the big house being demolished. In its place the market place was formed which was surrounded by shops. I remember all those people who occupied them, all good honest, upright, dependable people. Wesleyans, Baptists, Salvationists, Anglican, Primitive Methodists, United Methodist, and the man that travelled the streets, in summer, selling ice-cream was a Congregationalist.

To be continued
Early Years

I’m Sally Ezard, I’m your Early Years Library Development Worker based at Mansfield Woodhouse Library. I’m working alongside SureStart Meden Valley, so if you have a child under 4 years you may have met me at one of the many play sessions SureStart run in the Mansfield Woodhouse and Warsop area.

If not you will see me at the regular baby clinics at the Oakwood surgery where I will be around to hand out your FREE Boots Books for Babies bag, your 2 FREE board books, 2 rhyme cards, a colourful placemat and a FREE library membership form for your baby.

I am also around visiting the many childcare provisions in the area with a selection of babies and children’s books and musical instruments for a fun but noisy ‘rhyme time’!

At any of the sessions I am always available to give information on the library, library events, benefits of the library for babies and children and SureStart sessions in the area.

Sessions currently running at Mansfield Woodhouse Library are the ever popular ‘TOTS AND TOYS’ which runs every Monday during term time from 2-3pm and the ‘STORYTIME’ for under 5’s which runs every Tuesday from 2.15-2.45pm.

So if you have a child under 5 or look after a child under 5 why not come along to play, meet other parent/carers in the area and take out new books.

No matter what age, babies and children LOVE BOOKS and LOVE TO PLAY so why not combine the two and come along to the library and have some FUN!!!!

Hope to see you all very soon.

Mansfield Woodhouse Library
Church Street
mansfieldwoodhouse.library@nottscc.gov.uk

Opening Times
Monday          9.30 - 7.00
Tuesday         9.30 - 7.00
Wednesday       Closed
Thursday        9.30 - 7.00
Friday          9.30 - 5.30
Saturday       9.00 - 1.00

Tots and Toys Group meets on Mondays 2.00 – 3.00. Come along and meet other parents and have songs and rhymes with Sally

Storytime for the under 5s takes place every Tuesday 2.15 – 2.45. Bring your children for stories and craft with Janet.

Thursday afternoon interest sessions every third Thursday of the month 2.00 – 3.30. All welcome. Admission free

Thursday 16th December Creative Christmas
Thursday 20th January Great Grandma’s dustbin
Thursday 17th February Shopping in WW2
Thursday 17th March Derbyshire, county of contrasts

New Books December/January

DOBBS, Michael           Churchill’s hour
ELTON, Ben               Past mortem
EVANOVICH, Janet         Metro girl
FORBES, Colin            Blood storm
PITMAN, Jenny            The vendetta
ROBERTS, Nora            Blue dahlia
STEEL, Danielle          Echoes
THOMPSON E V             Shadowmarch

All these titles can be reserved now for a small charge

Newlinc computers
We hold regular Try IT Taster sessions in the library on:
- Basic computing
- Internet and email
- Family History on the Internet

For details ask in the library or phone 621781

Internet access is free to all library members. You can also access the Library catalogue and reserve books from home on the NCC website on www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nelib
Hard to Reach Groups Project working with Older People

We are now working around Older People’s issues on our current theme. As with all of our themes, we are working to promote and extend the membership of the Mansfield Community Empowerment Network (previously known as the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum). We can pay for any volunteer to attend these meetings and pay for travel, carer and other costs (we have a list of what can be claimed for). We are keen to get in touch with groups who are not taking part at the moment, to see if there is any way that we can make it easier for them to attend. We would be grateful if you could pass this information to any group who you think could benefit, or let us know their details so that we can get in touch with them.

We are also working with Mansfield Community and Voluntary Service (CVS) to re-establish the formerly known North Notts wide Older People’s Consultation Group with a Mansfield specific remit.

Both of these meetings mentioned are ways that older people, or those providing services for older people, can have a direct route to service providers to make sure that services are appropriate and relevant. We hope that you are keen to get involved to ensure that your voice is heard in this important debate!

If you would like someone to visit your group or organisation please get in touch. We would be more than happy to discuss things over the telephone or attend a meeting to answer questions. Call Penny or Janet on 01623 624655 or call in to Park Road Resource Centre.

Woodhouse Warbler

New Look for Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group

The Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group has a new sign for Park Road Resource Centre, and here it is.

Money for the new sign was raised through a charity event organised by Malcolm and Isobelle Dakin, and the Group would like to thank them for all the hard work that they put in to raise the money.

The Group welcomes anyone in the community to come along and join in the educational and leisure course that are on offer within the centre. Interested volunteers can also join the Village Social and Fundraising, Crime, Environment and Safety, Community Website Groups or even our own Woodhouse Warbler team.

Contact Sharon at Park Road Resource Centre on 01623 429334 for more details and take a look at the new sign while you’re there! We’d love to see you!

Yeoman Hill Park Update

Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group (MWCDG), Notts County Council (NCC) and Mansfield District Council (MDC) have been meeting to try and progress with their plans for the park.

Major discussion points at the moment are about funding which we hope to attract to be able to carry out the improvements on the park to the pavilion, toilets and bandstand etc. Over the next meetings and with help from Groundwork, an application by the combined groups will be put together and submitted to these various funding organisations for the improvements.

Look out for more news in the next edition of the Woodhouse Warbler!
Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group’s Village Social and Fundraising Group

Christmas Event
A date for your diaries

On Saturday 11th December, the Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group’s Village Social and Fundraising Group will be holding their fourth Christmas Event.

After starting with a parade from the Anvil Public House at 2 pm, the parade will continue onto Turner Hall where a host of activities will take place.

Santa will be joining the parade and people of all ages will be able to visit him in his grotto.

Look out for the posters which will be displayed around the village and come along and join in the fun.

For more information on the event, or if you are a group that would like to join in the parade contact Sharon at Park Road Resource Centre on 01623 429334.

Free Town Planning Help for Community Groups in the Mansfield Area

Do you want to have a say in the future of your community?
Are you affected by a development in your area?
Do you care about your local environment, job opportunities and housing?

Planning Aid provides free, independent and professional Town Planning advice and support to communities and individuals who cannot afford to pay fees to a consultant. It has received money from Central Government to help more people and work more actively to involve local communities in the planning process.

Lauren Dempsey has been employed as the new Community Planner in this area, and is trying to contact and assist those that have had little or no involvement in the planning system in the past. This service helps people to:

- understand and use the planning system
- be involved in preparing plans
- draw up their own plan for the future of their community

Type of activity used includes:

- interactive workshops
- presentations
- educational projects in schools

Please get in touch with Lauren for an informal chat if you are interested to find out more or think we can help.

Either phone Lauren Dempsey on 01433 670483 or e-mail her at emcp2@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk
Community Consultation in Mansfield Woodhouse - Public Meetings

Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group (MWCDG) has been asked by David Bowring – owner of the Transport Company - to see what the community feels about continuing to use Vale Road after permission to do so runs out in 2009.

Bowring Transport uses Vale Road to access the quarry for infill (the infill material being soil, clay and builders’ rubble). The infill activity will need to continue for at least a further 10 years after 2009 before the quarry is restored to its previous appearance.

There are a number of other options to the use of Vale Road which include:

> use of the former railway route, now used for leisure activities and known as the Meden Valley Trail;
> use of the private road through Pleasley Vale Mills and conservation area. The road is owned by the District of Bolsover Council;
> use of the existing railway/Robin Hood line with a new off-loading facility;
> creation of a new road from the Millennium Business Park on Chesterfield Road to the quarry.

The last option has been informally suggested as a possible solution to traffic using Vale Road by both officers of both Nottinghamshire County Council and Mansfield District Council. This could fit with a longer-term vision to create a new road between the Millennium Business Park and the A60 at Warsop. If this happened it could open up green land for the development of light industrial, manufacturing and possible retail usage and the route would be likely to follow and obliterate the remains of an ancient/mediaeval road, affecting others in the Northfield area of Mansfield Woodhouse because of vehicles seeking access to the new development.

The investment in the area around Vale Road, Station Street and High Street by Bowring Transport would be equivalent to the cost of building the road between Millennium Business Park and the quarry. This will be a substantial investment and could be made available over a five to ten year period commencing 1st April 2005 subject to final agreement with Bowring Transport Ltd and the outcome of this community consultation. There is a possibility of earlier spend against indicative, early outcomes of the consultation exercise.

The residents of around 300 households along and near the route could be directly affected by continued usage. Bowring Transport has outlined a potential package of benefits for individual households and the community as a whole, to be managed by MWCDG. The consultation will gather information, ideas and comments on potential projects and on future development of local facilities.

MWCDG want to make sure that the whole community has a chance to be involved, to make sure that all views are heard and taken account of in the development of any proposals, and to ensure that everyone can take part in making decisions. The consultation is planned to take place over an initial three-month period with more detailed work taking place over a six month period. The consultation will start with a questionnaire which is hoped will provide an early indication of the main issues. Aside from the questionnaire there will be opportunities to be involved in discussion groups, individual discussion, training and helping to design and get projects off the ground.

If you require any further information please contact James Devonshire on 01623-429334.

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Over 50s  Home Insurance

Low cost cover you can trust

For a free quote, visit us at:
Age Concern Nottinghamshire
26-28 Regent Street
Mansfield
Open Mon-Fri 10am to 3pm
Or call us on: 01623 488203
Please Quote Ref: NHC700

- Buildings and Contents options
- Flexibility to choose the cover you need
- Interest-free instalments option*
- Backed by Norwich Union, one of the UK’s leading insurers

*Written quotations available on request

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Your Award Winning Woodhouse Warbler!
Once again the parents and children at Leas Park School have overwhelmed us with their generosity. On Thursday 7th October we had our annual Harvest Festival and the tables in the hall were brimming over with gifts of fruit, vegetables, flowers and tinned produce. Children took part in a Harvest Assembly play called The Flying Pizza and then helped the teachers to load the food into cars. This was donated to The Larches and Beech Court.

I am very proud of the community spirit displayed by our children and very much appreciate the kindness of their parents.

Helen Atkin
Head Teacher

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The Friends of St. Edmund’s Primary School
Launch its first Christmas Fair

The Friends of St. Edmund’s Primary School are looking for your support as they launch their first fundraising event, the Christmas Fair to be held at the School on Thursday 16th December 2.30 pm onwards.

The newly formed Friends of St. Edmund’s Primary School is a group of enthusiastic Parents/Carers who are committed to working with the school to strengthen links between Staff and Parents/Carers and to help the school raise funds for a variety of projects to enhance the lives and education of the School’s pupils.

The Christmas Fair and Christmas Prize Draw is the first event. So would you like to become involved? If so, here is how:-

- We are looking for local craft workers who may wish to have a stall at the fair.
- If you are a local business you may be interested in supporting us by donating a prize to our Christmas Draw (please hurry, tickets on sale soon!).
- Whether you are a Parent/Carer or not – support us by coming to the Fair - it’s open to all. We have numerous stalls from the traditional to the more unusual, something for everyone guaranteed.
- Buy tickets for the draw – prizes include store vouchers, tickets to the American Adventure, Golf Course Vouchers, Theatre tickets, Christmas Lights & Decorations, tickets to local attractions and many, many more.

If you would like further information, then call Joanne Barker on 01623 431458.

If you are a Parent/Carer at the school and wish to join us it’s not too late, everyone is welcome you can commit as little or as much time as you like. Just check the notice board or ring for details of the next meeting. 

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Season Greetings From all at

For Snacks or Midday Meals
Come to the Stable Centre for a friendly welcome in comfortable surroundings
Buffets for all occasions catered for.

WHY NOT PAY US A VISIT

Church Street
Mansfield Woodhouse
Notts.
Tel: 01623 659625

Open:
Mon to Fri: 9.30 am - 3.00 pm
John Samuels

I was saddened to hear recently of the death of John Samuels! Who is he you might say? Well back in 1982 he was a tutor with the Workers’ Educational Association and he started a local history class at Mansfield Woodhouse Library. That class continued for the next four years and in that time 24 members produced a booklet about the history of Mansfield Woodhouse 1650 to 1875, and John was the editor. Many of those members will remember his enthusiasm for local history.

Here is an extract from that booklet about local charities…

...Many villagers, whilst not destitute, would be grateful for some assistance and over the years a number of charities had grown up to help these people. In the reports of the Charity Commissioners made in the early 19th century the details of local charities are clearly set out.

Clerkson’s Charity
The largest local charity, it had been founded in 1725 by Faith Clerkson, to provide schooling in Mansfield and Mansfield Woodhouse. A house was hired for a school in Mansfield Woodhouse with a headmaster and a mistress to teach fifteen boys and fifteen girls. The master received ten pounds a year and the mistress, five pounds. Reading, writing and arithmetic were taught to the boys and although the girls were taught to read, knitting and plain sewing were also important. Clothes were bought each year for twelve deserving boys and girls and if any money was left it was spent in apprenticing two children.

Richard Radford Charity
Richard Radford left eight hundred pounds for a school charity which appointed a schoolmaster in 1828 at a salary of thirty pounds a year. He was to take into his own home thirty-two children to be educated in reading and arithmetic and to see that they attended Sunday school.

Claypits charity
This charity started in the time of Queen Elizabeth 1 to help poor people not maintained by parish relief and to place apprentices. For example in 1824 the sum of seventy pounds, ten shillings and sixpence was received by the charity; sixteen pounds was given to a Sunday school and the rest to the poor and apprentices.

Watson Charity
One hundred pounds was left in 1719 and the interest of four pounds a year was to be used for apprenticing poor children. In 1793 a hundred pounds was given to help build a workhouse.

Dand’s Charity
Six yards of blue baize (a course woollen cloth with a long nap) in two three-yard rolls was to be given to the two poorest and most deserving widows in the parish.

Wilson Charity
This charity started before 1786, for six shillings a year to be given to the poor of the church.

Fisher Charity
The sum of one hundred pounds was left to invest for housekeepers not receiving parish relief. For example in 1831 forty people each received two shillings and sixpence.

Price’s Charity
Ten shillings a year was to be given to the poorest widow in the parish – this money came from the rents charged for Bancroft Close, Mansfield.

Bingham Charity
Ten shillings a year from the rents of Old Mill Close was to be paid to the poor of the parish.

Whelpdale Charity
Two shillings a year was to be given to the poor.

Richard Eyres’ and Diana Eyres’ Charity
Richard Eyres left five pounds a year to the poor. Diana Eyres left two pounds ten shillings a year to the poor.

The booklet is out of print but a copy is in the local studies section at Mansfield Woodhouse Library.

Ann Edgcombe,
Archivist for the Mansfield Woodhouse Society

Woodhouse Warbler

Woodhouse Warbler – The Voice of the Community in Mansfield Woodhouse

Tetsudo – Ladies self-defence course

The thinking persons Martial Art

This is a rare opportunity to participate in a self-defence workshop which will improve your awareness and ability to defend yourself. These skills are achieved by practising various drills and exercises with a partner, so why not encourage a friend to join in too. Course is taught by an instructor of 20+ years experience in the art of Tetsudo.

Places are limited to 20. To book, contact Colin or Vikki, telephone 01623 459389 after 6pm on week days or email mansfield.tetsudo@ntlworld.com. This is a 5 week course and costs £28 each, payable on the first session, starting Tuesday, 11th January 2005, 7.30pm at Manor Sports & Recreation Centre, Kingsley Avenue, Mansfield Woodhouse. Wear loose clothing to allow free movement and training shoes.
The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine was introduced in 1988. In 1998 it was suggested that the vaccine might be a cause of autism. This adverse publicity has caused a considerable reduction in the number of children being vaccinated. In 1995-6, 92% of children had received the MMR vaccine. By 2002-3 this had fallen to 82%. Scientists talk about “herd immunity”. If most of the individuals in a group of people are immune to an illness, there will not be any out breaks of that illness. 82% coverage is too low to achieve herd immunity, and there have been outbreaks of measles as a consequence. In fact even if everybody has a single dose of the MMR vaccine, herd immunity is not reliably achieved because it is only 90% effective. For this reason a second dose was introduced to be given before starting school. The important questions to be answered are:

1. Does it matter if people are not vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella (German measles) and
2. Does the MMR vaccine cause autism?

Measles is an unpleasant viral illness usually occurring in childhood. It can be complicated by ear infections, pneumonia and infection of the brain tissue (encephalitis). Mumps is well known because it causes the classic swelling of the salivary glands in the face. However it also causes two serious illnesses – meningitis and pancreatitis. Men can also develop an infection of the testes (orchitis). There has been a recent out break of mumps in young adults in this country. This is an age group who missed out on MMR vaccinations because they were too old. German measles or rubella is a trivial illness for children and adults, but is a disaster to the unborn child. It can cause heart problems, brain damage, deafness and eye problems as well as other illnesses. Part of the reasoning behind the MMR vaccine was the realisation that to protect the unborn child from rubella, it is important to prevent outbreaks of German measles. This can only be done by achieving herd immunity, and therefore boys need to be vaccinated as well. I don’t think anybody can argue that the illnesses covered by the MMR vaccine are not important.

The more controversial question is whether there is a link between the MMR vaccine and autism. The possibility of MMR causing autism was proposed in 1998 by Dr Wakefield. He is a specialist in stomach and gut problems in children (paediatric gastroenterologist). He reported on studies of children attending his specialist clinic. There were obviously children with gut problems. He found fragments of measles virus in the gut of children with autism more commonly than a comparison group. The comparison group may or may not have had a gut disease. The weakness of this argument is that:
1) he was looking at a highly unusual group of children in the first place,
2) he did not compare like with like and
3) finding an association of 2 events together (measles virus fragments and autism) does not prove that the one causes the other.

The last point maybe the most difficult to understand, but is crucial.

In September of this year a major new study was published to look at the issue of MMR and autism. It was a large study with a carefully matched comparison group to ensure that like was compared with like. The records of 1294 children with autism and 4469 normal children were compared. 78.1% of the children with autism had received the MMR vaccine before their autism was diagnosed. 82.1% of the comparison group had received the MMR vaccine (at the same age). Thus the percentage of children who had received MMR vaccine was nearly the same in the two Groups. If MMR was causing autism, the percentage of MMR vaccinations should have been higher in that group. The research was much more detailed than my summary suggests because it looked at various sub groups as well (e.g., Asperger's). This study gave similar results to other studies that have been done since this controversy started. These studies have been done in the UK and abroad.

The conclusion is that there is no good evidence showing an association between the MMR vaccine and autism. The recommendation that all children aged 12-15 months should receive the MMR vaccine. A second dose is recommended before school entry. The MMR vaccine is also recommended for all non immune adults, especially those in residential care or starting at college. If you need any more information, please contact your doctor or health visitor.

Peter Frith

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**You can contact us by e mail - woodhousewarbler@hotmail.com**
MANSFIELD and District DIAL

MANSFIELD and District DIAL – Disability Information Advice Line – has expanded its much-needed service by adding three new rural outreach venues to the seven it already operates.

Volunteer advisers will be on hand from the second week in November at Selston, Rainworth and Carlton in Lindrick passing on their expert advice and help on a wide range of disability issues.

Venues and times for the new sessions are:
- Mondays – Rainworth Miners Welfare, 1 pm – 3 pm.
- Tuesdays, Carlton Park Centre, Long Lane, Carlton in Lindrick, 10 am -12 noon.
- Wednesday – Selston Community Health Centre, 10 am – 12 noon.

A registered charity, Dial has been operating for 21 years, covers the whole of Nottinghamshire, and is run by volunteers who all have a personal experience of disability.

Rural Outreach Supervisor Colin Mitchell said: “During the past year our present Rural Outreach Service has been so successful that we have decided to expand it further.

‘One of the strengths of our service is that we take information and advice out to local people. It can often be difficult for a disabled person to get to our Mansfield office.’

‘One of the most popular elements of the service is helping to fill in Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance forms and doing benefit checks.’

Volunteers are always needed to help continue expanding the service. Full training and support is given.

An existing volunteer said: ‘Joining Dial, since being medically retired from work, has been the best experience that I have had. By helping others, it helps me.’

Existing weekly Rural Outreach Sessions are:
- Monday
  - Bilsthorpe, Miners Welfare, The Crescent, Bilsthorpe - 1 pm - 3 pm
  - Portland College, Nottingham Road, Mansfield – 6.30 pm-8.30 pm

- Tuesday
  - Harworth, Harworth Parish Centre, Scrooby Road, Harworth - 10 am-12 noon

- Wednesday
  - Langold, Village Hall, Markham Road, Langold – 1 pm-3 pm

- Thursday
  - Meden Vale, The Medical Centre, Meden Vale – 10 am-12 noon
  - Clipstone, Clipstone Social Club, Mansfield Road – 1 pm – 3 pm

For more details on this service contact Colin Mitchell, Rural Outreach Supervisor, on 07952 881390.

Those Shape fitness girls have done it again… on Tuesday 12th October, they held a charity work-out in aid of Kings Mill Breast Screening unit and along with another work out at Underwood and a Virgin cosmetics party they have raise a staggering £782.48 so far. They hope to increase that to £800 after the final raffle draw on 4th November. Nicky, the instructor says the ladies have been absolutely amazing in supporting this great cause. A big thank you to all of them.

Well done girls
See advert on page 17

Byronaires Jazz Band

Are you interested in joining your local marching and display band? We are always looking for new members. It is a great way to meet new friends. You do not need to have any experience, as full training will be given. It is a fun way to meet new people. We meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm for practice in the Manor Barn. If you are interested, just pop along to one of our practice sessions. Alternatively you can call Mr Young on 01623 469654 or Jill Evans on 01623 467199 for further information.

FREE PRIZE DRAW
To Enter simply cut out this coupon and hand it into Drinks to Go before 18th December 2004

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Draw to be made 18th December 2004
Entries to Persons 18 years and over
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In Association With Carlsberg
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COME AND SEE OUR WIDE RANGE OF BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS
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3rd Prize
Inflatable Football Goal Posts

8,BROWN AVE, MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE PHONE 647430

Mansfield Woodhouse Social Groups Christmas Event - Saturday 11th December 2004
To book the Centre, please ring Northfield Focus Point on 01623 626808. Alternatively, you can contact Janet on 01623 462729 or James on 01623 429334.

If you have access to the internet you can e-mail James at mwcdg_james@hotmail.com.

**Band of Gold**

**ARE YOU LONELY, DIVORCED, SEPARATED, WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS**

Looking for a social life. Come and join us every Friday night at Band of Gold at Lakeside Leisure, Meden Square, Pleasley, Notts. SOCIAL – DANCING - RAFFLE. We are a voluntary organisation for lonely people. Our social evenings on Friday nights are designed to give you the opportunity of meeting others in the same circumstances as yourself. Which in turn will help you to pick up the pieces of your life and give you the will to carry on. This organisation has but one purpose in mind, to help you. Please feel free to phone or approach the committee on any other problems at any time.

Chair person: Ethel 01623 489399
Secretary: Cliff 01623 438020
Treasurer: Irene 01623 645515

**We Urgently Need**

**Deliverers in the Following Areas:**

- Roman Bank - Titchfield Ave - Rufford Drive - Birklund Drive - Portland Crescent

If you live in or near any of these areas and can spare an hour or so every 3 months to deliver the Warbler please get in touch. *It keeps you fit!!! It may be that if we cannot get any deliverers in these areas we may be very late in getting your copy to you, if at all. Even if all you can do is the street you live on we would be very grateful and so would your neighbours. So please get in touch. Telephone 01623 429334*

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**Northfield Neighbourhood Management Team (NNMT)**

I would like to start my letter by telling small groups in the Mansfield Woodhouse area they can apply for money of up to £5,000 for small projects as there is a local delegated pot through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. If anyone out there is interested please apply sooner rather than later.

My next issue is to thank everyone who supported the NNMT on the Open Day held at Northfield Focus Point (NFP) on 24 July 04. It was another successful event and we hope to do more for next year. Thank you.

As many of you now know, one of our wardens, Martin Cope, has been called back into the forces as a reserve. We shall miss Martin very much and wish him all the best and a safe homecoming.

Well, Christmas will soon be here. Keep your eyes on posters and advertisements for forthcoming events which will be taking place. On that note I would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the year and on behalf of the NNMT, wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a brilliant new year.

*Janet Wood NNMT Secretary*

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**Room Hire Charges**

**For**

**Northfield Focus Point**

**Vale Road, Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, NG19 8DR**

**Hourly Rates for Bookings:**

(all prices are per hour unless otherwise stated)

- **Main Room** - £8.00
- **Room Two** - £4.00
- **Overhead Projector** - £3.00
- **Flipchart** - £3.00
- **TV and Video Player** - £5.00

**Refreshments** - £4.00 per session

(Kitchen facilities are also available to use if you choose to bring your own refreshments)

**Party Booking Rates:**

- **Room Hire** - £100.00
- **Deposit (Refundable)** - £40.00
- **Disco** - £55.00
- **Bar** - £25.00

You may bring your own drinks or organise your own disco if you wish.

(Kitchen facilities are available but will be restricted if you hire the bar)

To book the Centre, please ring Northfield Focus Point on 01623 626808. Alternatively, you can contact Janet on 01623 462729 or James on 01623 429334.

If you have access to the internet you can e-mail James at mwcdg_james@hotmail.com.

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**Deadline for next issue is 1st February 2005**
Reflexology is a science that deals with the principal that there are reflex areas in the feet that relate to all organs, glands and parts of the body. After experiencing the treatment personally I felt wonderful and decided that I wanted more. During each treatment I would be asking which areas of my feet related to what part of my body, and "where's this?" and "what's that?" (I must have driven her mad!). At that time I was working in an office, but decided that I wanted to find out more about Reflexology. I did my homework and what I found was mind blowing. Reflexology has been used to treat an incredible amount of acute and chronic conditions including; arthritis, fertility problems, skin conditions, back problems... I could go on but the list is endless! I decided that I definitely wanted to become a Reflexologist and be able to help others.

I enrolled on a course with the International Institute of Reflexology, not entirely knowing what this would entail. Gosh, it was heavy going! At the end of the course having completed over 100 hours of case studies (you know who you are – thank you!), a practical examination and a written paper on anatomy and physiology – I (thankfully) passed.

I now have my own business in Forest Town. It's the best thing I've ever done. I meet all kinds of people from children through to senior citizens and it is so rewarding. You never know, Reflexology could help you or a loved one - don't knock it till you've tried it!

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Kirsten M Roebuck MIIR
Forest Town, Mansfield Notts
Tel: 01623 621196
E-mail: kmr.reflexology@btinternet.com

WOODHOUSE AREA ASSEMBLY

The Area Assembly continues to go from strength to strength. It is working closely with the Mansfield Woodhouse Community Development Group (MWCDG) and the Neighbourhood Management Team (NNMT) to initiate things raised by the public in Mansfield Woodhouse and North Mansfield. The market is now becoming established in the Co-op Car Park every Wednesday and provides an added attraction to the area. The funds raised from this are being ploughed back into the community with proceeds split between St Edmund’s Church and the local ‘Relief in Need Charity’. It is hoped that the local allotment holders will have a stall in the future.

(A recent picture of the thriving market is shown above).

The Assembly’s small budget is being used wisely and funds to help with the restoration of the St Edmunds church clock and helping the local Alzheimer’s Society have been given.

A major funding project with the Brownsea Trust has taken place with over £1,300’s worth of tools being bought to help this trust carry out projects in the area. More on the success of this in the next update!

The AA has also negotiated with Mansfield District Council for more new litter bins in the area. The costs have been shared equally between the Assembly and the Council and the bins have a plaque denoting they have been supplied by the Area Assembly. Hopefully these will help improve the litter problems.

Whilst the saga of the A60 bus lane did not result in its removal, the Assembly did not hold back in putting forward people’s views. It was successful in getting road markings improved and reducing congestion on the A60 in that area.

Everyone is welcome to attend as all meetings are open to the public. We have had some interesting discussions and everyone is allowed to put their point over. If you would like further information or would like to turn up at the next meeting at Turner Hall on Thursday 9th December, 2004 and/or Thursday 10th February, 2004 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start contact Dr Bill Pearce 01623 463139 or e-mail bpearce@mansfield.dc.gov
there are no recorded facts regarding the stumps. What we have is folk tales. The accepted folk tale is that from some time in the 1600's the farmer's wives of Woodhouse were in the habit of taking butter made in the farmhouses in baskets (it is not stated in what form it was made up or packaged – that is left to the imagination) to the Butter Stump site. They either rested themselves or their baskets on the stumps. The reason for this activity was to sell their produce to passing coach traffic (in those days horse drawn, of course). Leeming Lane being a main north/south route up and down England.

It should also be noted that Mansfield Road was the main link between Woodhouse and Mansfield for many centuries up to the early 1900’s. The only other links from Woodhouse to the main line route of Leeming Lane would be Butt Lane and Warsop Road. Even Butt Lane would have been a late comer to these links. Most of the land to the east of Woodhouse beyond the Maun valley was heath and woodland. There would be no need for links out to the east as no human activity was taking place out there. Other than the occasional drover (Packman's Way) (Donkey Steps). Butt Lane relates to the butt end of the Wake Hills area, of which the Leeming Lane rec. still remains.

If you examine the Butter Stumps you will see that there are six insitu. Clearly two are missing as they form a U shape. Two are missing at the bottom of the U. The open end of whatever is facing what is now invariably called Woodhouse Place. However, if you look at a number of the old written records you will see that it was historically referred to as Mansfield Place. Our much vaunted Major Hayman Rooke who lived there referred to his residence as Mansfield Place. He lived there from 1723 to 1806. He died at Mansfield Place on 18th Sept. 1806. Perhaps we should acknowledge this date more appropriately than we do, coming up to the bicentenary.

The strange thing is, with the butter stumps being almost in his front garden, he being a great antiquarian, you would have thought he would have come up with some definitive on record, but he didn’t. So was there any story to be told?

Further examination will show that whoever erected the stumps would have had to pay a pretty penny for them. They are tapered from bottom to top in an octagon shape. A bit of good Woodhouse stone mason's skill. The stone is magnesian limestone – as you would expect in Woodhouse – and to all appearance is of the same origin and lineage as the stone in the wall close by, that surrounds the front garden of Mansfield Place. However there was at one time one or two separate entrances through to the south end of the garden. These old gaps have been blocked up at some later date by slightly different stone work. Could the stumps have been guards or guides for people, or perhaps ridden horses to enter and exit the property. A safety device. Or were they there to stop coaches parking close up to the entrance and thereby blocking use. The road junction could have been quite different in the past to what we see now. At some point the entrance(s) were blocked up and the stumps left out on their own. Could they have then been appropriated by our clever women of Woodhouse to sell their goods.

From the description of the stumps – given later in these notes it seems very unlikely that they would have been out in such an ornate manner, just to serve the trade of artisans. Somebody with status and money must have been at the back of such craftmanship when they were originally set up. The stumps are only 9 inches across at the top and as such would hardly be suitable to support a conventional basket. Butter could have been sold out of a long narrow barrel.

The stumps have not been well looked after. They have obviously had little respect from the County Highway authority and have had no protection. It is essential that a good protecting rail is put round them as soon as possible and a vandal proof plaque put up to recognise their place in the highway verge. The two missing stumps have been located and can readily be put back in place.

There is no indication that anything was attached to the stumps. It is very unlikely that they were tethering posts – especially with a parking close up to the entrance and thereby blocking use. The road junction could have been quite different in the past to what we see now. At some point the entrance(s) were blocked up and the stumps left out on their own. Could they have then been appropriated by our clever women of Woodhouse to sell their goods.

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There is no indication that anything was attached to the stumps. It is very unlikely that they were tethering posts – especially with a taper to the top. They would have been very awkward for mounting posts if not downright dangerous. But with a flat 9 inch top, planks could have laid from one post to another. A flat top for a post is unusual and suggests some special usage. As they stand they are only 12 inches above verge level. However excavation reveals that the cut taper faces are 3 feet long. Which suggests supporting something of table height. That tapered column is on an uncut larger base. Which goes on to suggest table/bench structure to carry some considerable weight. But all of that could be purely ornamental or to stand up to some heavy coach collision.

Each face of the octagon is cut at 45 degrees to the next. The cut faces are 3 feet in length, so surely that amount originally stood some considerable weight. But all of that could be purely ornamental or to stand up to some heavy coach collision.

Is there any significance in the number 8. Eight sided pillar and eight pillars. It must be remembered that if these pillars have anything to do with Hayman Rooke, he was in his time an accepted authority on the practice and lore of the Druids which in his time, and right up to modern times was all mixed up with the Celts. One of the prominent beliefs of the Celts was in nine fold sequences. Arthur’s search/quest for the Cauldron of Annwn warmed by the breath of nine maidens. The nine fold sisterhood found throughout Celtic tradition. The nine gifts of Brighid to bless new-born children. So on and on. I could write a whole book on this. I think we have the ninth pillar of our stumps in the wall behind them. Or am I being too fanciful!

Tony Barton.

Since writing the above the ninth stone has been traced - not on the site. This is available for inclusion in the forthcoming restoration. We will now have to rename the stone circle as the Woodhus Nine Ladies or possibly Rooke's Fancy or Rooke's Nine Sisters.
On the final weekend before Christmas December 17th – 19th we have an opportunity for everyone to put back a little of Christ back into Him. This year in the Parish, the Church of St Edmund’s is going to provide a reflective balance as we all rush to get the preparations in place to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Have a blessed Christmas.

At 7.30 pm on Friday 17th December you are invited to join in the singing of Carols in the market place. Bring a lantern, for we will move along Church Street towards St Edmund’s. On entering Church we will finish the service with two final carols and a special blessing. Entry to church should be wonderful, for there will be a Christmas tree extravaganza.

Lots of groups have agreed to decorate the Church with Christmas trees and include a depiction of the Nativity story within their copse of trees. It will be a wonderful sight to see how people have interpreted this old story, whether in traditional or modern ways, or perhaps drawing on other cultures for inspiration. Church will then be open on Saturday from 10.00 am – 3.00 pm for everyone to come and view, perhaps taking only a few minutes to reflect and think about the significance of Jesus’ birth. We are also holding in the Turner Hall from 10.00 am – 12.00 noon a Christmas craft morning for any children.

On the Sunday normal morning worship at 10.00 am will be an act of appreciation for Christmas. Whilst at 6.30 pm in St Edmund’s the Male Voice Choir will crown our weekend with a carol concert to finish with mince pies and mulled wine in the Turner Hall.

These events are open to everyone to share and hopefully will provide a reflective balance as we all rush to get the preparations in place to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Have a blessed Christmas and do come and join us, making this weekend one of inner preparation also.

Allan Scrivener
Vicar of Mansfield Woodhouse.

### Christmas-tide 2004

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Closed Mondays
December
This month is an ideal time to browse through the gardening catalogues, and then get your order in as soon as possible to avoid any disappointment. If you haven’t got a vegetable plot it might be worth considering using a corner of your garden for producing fresh vegetables for your family. Vegetables can even be grown in containers and moved around to create an instant garden. Cut holly early in the month of December after selecting some nice boughs which have berries and nice twigs from the variegated forms. These will store well in the garage until they are needed. In the cool conditions they will keep for several weeks without water. Trees and shrubs can still be planted whenever the weather is mild. Do not, however, plant if there is frost in the soil because the lumps of frozen earth will remain frozen and prevent the plants from getting a good start in the spring. The pruning of fruit trees such as apples and pears can still continue in all but the froriest of weather. Small branches will not need extra treatment but where large branches have been cut tidy around the edges of the wound with a very sharp knife as ragged edges are a starting point for disease. Black, red and white currants and gooseberries can also be pruned. Keep off lawns in the winter is the best advice anyone can give. It is essential when the ground is covered in frost, unless, of course, you want unsightly footsteps which will remain visible for weeks. However, where lawns are wet or waterlogged it is better to get on them and spike the turf to alleviate the problem.

January
Weeding is one of the most time consuming jobs gardeners face through the spring and summer months. So if you want to reduce the use of chemicals and keep the weeds at bay consider planting ground cover plants. These can be decorative and low maintenance which once fully established form a dense mat of growth and consequently suppress most weeds. Cotoneaster dammeri, aubrieta, heathers or spreading junipers grow quickly and require very little after care. Clear garden debris where slugs and snails could be hiding. Sharpen the blades of all your garden tools in store. Then wipe all metal surfaces with an oily cloth to protect against rust. Don’t let dust build up on the leaves of your houseplants. Otherwise the stomata – the minute pores through which oxygen and carbon dioxide pass – will clog and the plants won’t be able to breathe. Wipe them weekly with a damp cloth. Don’t use milk. Cover a couple of crowns of rhubarb with straw and an old bucket to pick some delicious pink tender stems from late March onwards. New fruit trees can be bought bare rooted at this time of year for immediate planting. Top Tip: Sow some early and very tasty salad crops in the greenhouse border or in gro-bags such as spring onions and radishes. Suitable varieties are: ‘White Lisbon’ Winter Hardy’ and ‘French Breakfast’ radishes.

February
Don’t let a few bright days tempt you into thinking that spring has arrived, we all get itchy fingers at this time of the year, but hold back. Most vegetable crops grow best when sown in warm soil where they can romp away without check to their growth, all important for a good crop. Broad beans can be sown this month cover the growing area with some polythene to warm the soil up first. Sow them in double rows 2 in deep spaced about 8 in apart then cover with some garden fleece. These sowings should be advanced enough to beat the black fly. Clematis which flower from June until September on shoots produced during the current season need to be pruned back hard now. Prune the stems down to the strongest pair of buds at the base of each stem or about 1ft from soil level. It is also a good idea to sprinkle a general fertiliser around the base and then apply a generous mulching material such as leaf mould. This is a good time to start pruning standard roses, although this seems to cause a lot of worry among beginners. Start by removing any dead material which may act as a source of disease, such as coral spot. Then shorten the remaining live growth which will encourage flowering. Just as with bush types, aim to produce a balanced shape with an open centre to allow air circulation. Prune the canes of autumn fruiting raspberries such as ‘Autumn Bliss’ down to ground level. The new flush of canes will appear in the spring to provide this years fruit.
This issue's competition is a Christmas Word Search. By entering you stand the chance of winning two tickets to see a production of the 'Borrowers' on 26th February 2005 at 3 pm which have been kindly donated by the Palace Theatre, Mansfield. The competition is open to everyone. To enter simply find the hidden words in the grid and circle or highlight them. Then fill in your details, cut it out and send it to the address below. All correct entries will be put into a draw. All entries must reach us by no later than Friday 31st December 2004. The winner will be notified by mid-January.