

# Matfen District Newsletter

Welcome to your Spring Newsletter for the Matfen, Ingoe, Ryal and Fenwick District.  
We hope you find it interesting and informative!

## Parish Council News

- Northumbrian Water started work in Matfen Village back in February 2009 and the work will carry out until after Easter. They are replacing the water main through Matfen. Northumbrian Water has said they will make good the mess to verges and that there should not be any vehicles or heavy plant on the village green. They have promised this but we know they have already churned up some areas. The Parish Council will make sure that it will be left as they found it.
- The Parish Council website has been improved further by providing links to 'Visit Northumbria' and 'Hadrian's Wall Country' websites which should be of assistance to visitors to the area.
- A dropped kerb has been installed outside the public toilets in Matfen
- Post Office Outreach Service – It has been noted that a mobile van service is provided to villages that have lost their post offices in the latest round of closures, but that nothing similar is being done for those villages, like Matfen, that lost theirs some time ago. Veronica Jones, the County Councillor will take up this matter with the Post Office.
- We still have problems with dog fouling despite the Parish Council providing bags for disposal. A small minority spoil things for the rest of the village. Please use the dog bins!
- We still have a problem with some cars parking on the pavement opposite the bus shelter, meaning that people with pushchairs or wheelchairs cannot pass. Please remember to park in a considerate manner.
- Matfen is now appearing in the Village News section of the Hexham Courant. Ruth Miller from the Village Hall committee has been submitting small items of interest when possible.

## Matfen Village Hall

*The hall is available for hire at reasonable rates for private bookings, children's parties etc. – contact Lynda Padgett on 01661 886785. To all Residents: We have a friendly and supportive community and love to welcome new residents who want to be part of the social life of the village. Please come along to future events!*

## Past Events

- Tuesday 17 March Talk: History of Matfen and hereabouts. This was an extremely well attended meeting! Struan Wilson and Charlie Harrison shared their knowledge and interest in the evidence of the past in Matfen and the surrounding district. A great turnout and a fascinating talk.
- Sunday 29 March: An Easter Event for Children – a fun day was arranged by Suzanne Doney and Cathy Hall with children's activities around the theme of Easter and Spring. Plenty of children and parents joined in and made a great day out.
- Tuesday 31 March: Matfen Summer Fete Meeting. The meeting was attended by all who were involved last year and all who would like to be involved this year – the village will definitely build on what was a really successful and fun event last year. If anyone is interested in helping on the day, please contact Lynda Padgett on 01661 886 785.
- Friday 3 April at 7pm: Matfen Table Tennis Club held a Junior (under 16 years) Village team challenge match between Great Whittington & Matfen.

## Future Events

- Thursday 23 April Talk: Starting Research on your Family History. Michael Money will set you going on this fascinating topic.
- Thursday 14 May Talk: Making up your own hanging baskets. Staff from Hollybush Nursery will demonstrate this skill, answer your questions and bring plants etc for sale.
- Saturday 13 June: Children's Summer Talent Show /outside games. Something for everyone to enjoy in the summer weather (we hope!). Suzanne, Cathy and Tim are in charge!
- Saturday 11 July: Matfen Summer Fete

*All talks are at 7.30 pm but watch out for further details on all these events and do come and join us! Tickets will be available at Matfen Village Store*

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## Regular Weekly Groups and Meetings

- The mobile library comes into the village (near the Village Hall) on Tues 24th March at 3.40pm. At present it comes every 4 weeks - however, there is uncertainty within the library service and things may change in the future.
- The fish and chip van comes every Friday evening just outside the Matfen Village Hall, from 7pm onwards.
- Parents and Children Group – Every Friday 9.30 am until 11.30am. Come along with your pregnancy bumps, babies and toddlers. A very friendly group for any parents or carers with children from 0 - 4 years, that runs through out the year and during all half terms and holidays. Coffee, tea and biscuits available with lots of toys to play with! £1 per session for each family. For more information call Fiona Warren on 01661 886 .
- Matfen Table Tennis Club. Table tennis coaching for all ages will start on Wednesday 1st April until Wednesday 15th July 7-8pm at the Village Hall. Two trained ETTA coaches will be in attendance at most of the sessions. Learn the basic strokes and develop your skills to become a more competent player. Cost: £20 for the complete session and £2 for individual sessions. The club night will follow after the coaching sessions, commencing 8pm until 10pm. Anyone interested please contact Derek Padgett 01661 886785
- There is also a Craft Afternoon every 2nd Wednesday of each month from 2 - 4pm. Bring your own work. Refreshments served.

## Support our Local Businesses! – to be included please contact Sally Urwin on 07884 180 195.

### Matfen Village Store & Coffee Shop

The village store sells everything including newspapers, magazines, groceries and take away food and is open 7 days a week and also has a cash machine situated in the entrance hall. Our lovely little coffee shop has a great choice of both hot and cold dishes as well as Austin's famous scones and cakes! If you need any more information please call Lindsey & Austin on 01661 886202.

#### Coffee Shop Spring Opening Hours

Wed – Sun            10 – 4pm  
Mon & Tues            Closed

#### Store Spring Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 7.30 am – 6.00pm  
Sat & Sun            8.00 am -5.00pm

### The Black Bull Pub

The Black Bull is now serving a delicious lunchtime menu from 12 to 2pm. The pub is open from 11am to 11pm and has a great selection of real ales, lagers, spirits, soft drinks and wines. The pub boasts a pool table, large flat screen television and has plenty of outside seating. Please check for opening hours with Danny and Kelly on 01665 886330

### Hadrian Pet Hotel

The Hadrian Pet hotel provides 5 star dog and cat boarding in purpose built kennels. Located mid Moorhouses just outside Matfen, signposted off the Military Road. Tel: 01661 886675.

### High House Farm Brewery and Visitor Centre

Award winning tearoom, shop, exhibition and farm walk. We are open each Saturday and Sunday 10.30 until 5.00pm. We serve traditional and very popular Sunday lunches each weekend. We are just outside Matfen, signposted off the Military Road. Tel 01661 886 192 or [www.highhousefarmbrewery.co.uk](http://www.highhousefarmbrewery.co.uk)

### Matfen Hall Country House Hotel, Spa and Golf Course

Please call 01661 886 500 or visit [www.matfenhall.com](http://www.matfenhall.com)

### GS Environmental Pest Control

Ring to sort out your rodent, wasp or ant problems. Contact Steve Gregory-Smith on 01661 886282 or 07717575 678

### Got friends or relatives coming? Here are details of bed and breakfasts in the Matfen area.

- ❖ Bog House B&B – please call Rosemary Stobart on 01661 886 776
- ❖ Matfen High House B&B – please call Struan or Jenny Wilson on 01661 886 592
- ❖ Wallhouses B&B – please call Jean Patterson on 01434 672226
- ❖ Wallhouses South Farm Self catering cottage – please call Eileen Lymburn on 01434 672388