

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

- The new playground area was opened last year by Lady Blackett with a great turnout by Mums, dads and Grandparents. There is also a massive new picnic table, and everyone is welcome to use the new facilities.
- Did you see our monster snowman in the Hexham Courant? When everyone was snowed in, Matfen organised a snowman get together and built a wonderful beastie with three humps. Well done to all snow builders!
- The football and cricket clubs are in danger of disappearing altogether without the urgent help (not financial) of the residents of the parish. Help and support are needed for the cricket team in the form of new players, preparing the ground, making teas and generally supporting the team. A new Matfen Football Team needs to be formed. We are in danger of losing the Sports Field which is for our enjoyment if support is not forthcoming. Please contact Annabel Postings on telephone number 01661 855200.
- There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor following the resignation of John Maughan. Can you help? For more information please contact Mandy Senior, Clerk to the Council on 07500 822784.
- Do we want the red telephone box to be kept in the village? Telephone calls will no longer be able to be made from it, but it is a national icon and other villages have made great efforts to keep theirs. Let Mandy Senior know on mandysenior@supanet.com
- Voters are being encouraged to decide if they need to apply to vote by post or proxy in the next UK Parliamentary General Election which must be held by 3 June 2010. Anyone who thinks they will be unable to make it to their local polling station between 7am and 10pm to vote on polling day, whether they are on holiday or working, can choose to vote by post or by proxy. However, in order to do this, they must be registered to vote and have completed a voting application form. It's quick and simple to register to vote and to get postal and proxy application forms. Visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or call Northumberland County Council's elections office on 0845 600 6400.

DOG FOULING

- The Parish Council regularly receives from residents and visitors, complaints of dogs fouling the footpaths, the road leading to and the churchyard itself, Matfen Village Green and other grassed areas including the field approaching the Sports Ground from the south.
- We have received a complaint from the landowner and farmer who is very concerned about the health of the sheep and lambs in this field and intends to ban dogs from this area as well.
- Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 "you must pick up any faeces left by your dog in an area to which the Act applies". The Act applies generally to any land to which the public have access including all the areas and land mentioned above. The Parish Council will request Northumberland County Council to enforce the Act and request the Dog Warden to take action against offenders. The responsibility for clearing up lies with the person in charge of the dog at the time of the offence.
- Dog faeces, apart from being unpleasant, are a very real health hazard. The eggs of the parasite Toxocaris Canis are in the faeces and remain in the soil where they can be transferred from hand to mouth by children when playing. Apart from unpleasant health problems this can cause permanent blindness and cases of this are known in our locality. We have provided bags in a dispenser on the Village Green and there is a supply at the shop. Please bear in mind that dogs are already not allowed on the Sports Ground.
- **This problem must be resolved and the Parish Council would like anyone who witnesses a dog fouling the areas mentioned and where this is not being picked up, to report the matter, with the name of the person whose dog is responsible, to Mandy Senior, Clerk to the Council on 07500 822784.**

Matfen District Website www.matfenparish.org

Did you know we have a dedicated website for our area? The site is run by the Parish Council which is here to help provide the facilities you want to see in the area and, where possible, to deal with local problems as they arise. In addition the site seeks to provide information on local social activities and essential services in the area. The website has local weather, news and info on what is happening in the district. Please go and have a look and see what you think.

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!

Future Events

- Tuesday 23 February 7.30pm – Talk on Historic Corbridge by David Waugh.
- Saturday 27th February 7.00pm – Children's Quiz and Games Night for 8 years +
- Friday 19th March 7.30pm – Matfen Quiz Night. This event is extremely popular, so please book your tickets as soon as the posters go up! (The ticket price includes a hot supper).
- Sunday 28th March 2.00-4.00pm – Easter Event for Children. Lots of things to make and do. All children welcome.

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- Tuesday 20th April 7.30pm – Talk on Northumbrian Wildlife, past present and future by John Almond.
- Sunday 23rd May 3.00-5.00pm – Children's Summer Talent Show. More information nearer the time!
- **Saturday 17th July – MATFEN VILLAGE 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 and any queries please contact Ruth Miller on 01661 855489 or Tim Belton on 01661 886 347.

Regular Weekly Groups and Meetings

- Great Whittington and Matfen Women's Institute meet at Matfen Village Hall on the first Tuesday of every month from 7.30pm. Visitors are always very welcome to attend, and they have a fascinating and fun series of talks arranged. For more information please see the Matfen website (details above).
- The mobile library now comes weekly – in Matfen on Fridays from 2-3pm, in Ingoe on Fridays from 11.30 to 11.50 am, in Fenwick on Fridays from 12.10 to 12.30pm and in Ryal on Tuesdays from 2-2.20pm. For more information call the library supervisor on 01661 823594.
- 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 886 166.
- Matfen Table Tennis Club. Table tennis coaching for all ages on Wednesday 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 The club night will follow after the coaching sessions, commencing 8pm until 10pm. Anyone interested please contact Derek Padgett 01661 886785

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.

The Black Bull Pub

The Black Bull is now serving a delicious lunchtime menu from 12 to 2pm. Evening food is served on Friday and Saturday with a fish 'n' chip menu on Friday (eat in or take away) and a full choice on Saturday. The pub is open from 12 noon to 11pm and has a great selection of real ales, lagers, spirits, soft drinks and wines. The pub has a large flat screen television and plenty of outside seating. For further details contact Danny or Kelly on 01661 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 every day from 10.30 to 5.00pm, except Wednesdays, and for evening meals on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6 – 9pm. Very popular Sunday lunches served! . We are just outside Matfen, signposted off the Military Road. Tel 01661 886 192 or www.highhousefarmbrewery.co.uk

Matfen Hall Country House Hotel, Spa and Golf Course

Please call 01661 886 500 or visit 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