

Matfen District Newsletter

Newsletter for Matfen Parish, including Ingoe, Ryal and Fenwick.

Welcome to the Winter 2011 issue of our Newsletter! We hope you find it interesting and informative. If you would like anything to appear in the next issue in Spring 2012, please contact Sally Urwin on 01661 886937.

Parish Council News

- **Matfen Piers Road Junction:** The Parish Council has informed Northumberland County Council once again that safety improvements to this junction remain our top priority for inclusion in their Integrated Transport Programme. We still await the results of their traffic survey carried out at the junction earlier this year but in the meantime road markings have been improved, including the provision of a red line down the centre of the Military Road adjacent to Matfen piers as a warning against dangerous overtaking.
- **National Cycle Road Race:** The Parish Council has made known the concerns of local people about the effects of this annual cycle event in terms of the lack of prior information from the organisers, the disruption to people's lives locally during the event, and the legality of the race organisers themselves directing traffic while the race was in progress. Significant improvements are needed before next year's event and the Parish Council will be initiating meetings with those concerned to achieve this end.
- **Village Greens:** Legal steps are being taken to delegate the management of Matfen, Ryal and Ingoe village greens from the County Council to Matfen Parish Council. At the same time, consideration is being given to measures to improve the traffic and parking arrangements in the vicinity of Ryal village green.
- **Pedestrian Footbridge:** At the request of the Parish Council, Northumberland County Council has agreed to provide steps and a ramp at the southern end of the white pedestrian bridge across the burn in Matfen. This will improve pedestrian access to south side including the village shop, particularly during bad weather.
- **Fenwick Play Area:** Plans are in hand to provide a play area for children at Fenwick.
- **Litter Pick:** A litter pick has been initiated by the Parish Council around Matfen and the surrounding area to improve the state of roadside verges etc.
- **Road Flooding:** The drains on the road between the village and the Great Whittington junction have recently been replaced, hopefully resolving the longstanding road flooding problem in this location.
- **Ingoe Bus Shelter:** Northumberland County Council has advised that it intends removing the Ingoe bus shelter since it is no longer used. If local residents have any views on this, please inform the Parish Council.
- **Matfen Parish Council website:** www.matfenparish.org – a useful source of information on what is happening in the area, including agendas and minutes of Parish Council meetings, links to essential services, local news and weather reports.

Matfen Village Hall

The village hall is available for private hire for your own parties and events. Please contact Lynda on 01661 886785

- The Parish Council meets in the hall on alternate months on Monday evenings at 7pm - see Agenda and Minutes displayed on the Parish Council notice board.
- Weekly table tennis coaching sessions for juniors (9years - 15years), which start in Matfen Village Hall from Wednesday 5th October until Wednesday 28th March, 7pm until 8pm. There will be two ETTA coaches in attendance during these sessions. The table tennis club night is from 8pm until 10pm, every Wednesday.
- Matfen and Great Whittington WI meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm with a varied, interesting programme. See the Matfen Parish Council website for more information www.matfenparish.org
- Beginner's Yoga Classes - suspended for the time being but it is hoped these will resume in the Spring.
- Zumba Exercise Classes with Clifton - every Thursday evening from 6.30 to 7.30pm
- Bonfire Night will soon be upon us. This year 5th November is a Saturday and we aim to maintain our reputation for having the best bonfire and fireworks display around. This is always a great family night out and starts at 6 pm when the bonfire will be lit and we start serving hot food. Glowbands will be for sale and the fireworks display, which is always spectacular, starts at 6.30 pm. Do join us for a family fun night whatever the weather
- The children's Christmas party will be held in the afternoon of Saturday 17 December. Details will be publicised nearer the time
- Date for your diary - a Christmas race night is being planned at the village hall for the evening of Saturday 10 December. It should be great fun - low technology and lots of energy needed. Supper to be included, all details nearer the time

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Matfen Hall Cricket Club

- Matfen Hall Cricket Club reluctantly gave up their West Tyne League crown this year, despite a strong start in May and June. There have been many highlights of the season, with some excellent individual and team performances during the season. It has been refreshing to see the emergence of some newer and younger talent from within the parish. New young players are much needed to preserve the long term future of the team
- As the close season progresses, we will be engaging in some 5 a side football for fitness, some indoor cricket games in the Autumn for skills training, and starting nets for practice from January 2012. New members are all welcome to take advantage of these activities, with the cricket practice being held at the world class facilities of our ground sharing partner, South Northumberland CC, located in Gosforth.
- During the winter, there will be some changes to the facilities on the ground, and these will lend themselves to creating a family centred club, that welcomes new players, families and friends to play good cricket on the pitch and also enjoy the company of fellow players off the pitch. Anyone interested can contact Ian Pilkington (vice captain) on 07792 631056, or via ian@i2iconsultants.co.uk.

Regular Services

- The mobile library 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.

Support our Local Businesses! (To be included please contact Sally Urwin on 01661 886 937)

Matfen Village Store & Coffee Shop

Welcome to Dawn and Keith Irving, the new owners of Matfen Village Store! They have refurbished, restocked and rejigged, and the shop now has a fantastic range of groceries, fruit and veg, a delicatessen plus fresh local produce, newspapers and many other items. A cash machine is situated in the shop itself. The lovely little cafe has a great choice of both hot and cold dishes, all home made by Keith plus takeaway sandwiches and hot meals. The cafe will remain open throughout the winter months. The winter opening hours are 7.30 am to 5.30 pm Monday to Friday, 7.30 am to 5 pm on Saturdays and 7.30 am to 4 pm on Sundays. Please come in and say hello to the new owners and do support your local shop so as to ensure its future.

The Black Bull Pub

The Black Bull is a traditional country pub overlooking the green which provides a warm welcome plus great real ales, wines and food. Please telephone 01661 886330 to check opening times.

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 real ale brewery, restaurant, shop, exhibition and farm walk run by Heather and Gary Scott. We are open every day from 10.30 to 5.00pm, except Wednesdays, and for evening meals on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6 until late. We have a brand new 3 course Christmas menu for only £12.95. We are licensed for weddings and civil ceremonies. 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 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