



Miscellanea

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The Quarterly Mattishall People's Magazine Autumn 2022 Issue 92

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future of our
parish see
page 29

As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colours enough to paint the beautiful things I see. *Vincent van Gogh*

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Miscellanea

Editorial Team

email: miscadvert@yahoo.com

Editor

Anne Jackson
(01362) 858744

Assistant Editors

Eileen Conway
(01362) 858271

Nicky Grandy
(07557403212)

Advertising

Madeleine Fowler
(01362) 858723

Distribution

Lizzie Loades
(01362) 850491

Contributors

William Barr

Woody Bear

Helen Brook

Tina Cooper

Eddie Dalton

Anna English

Paula Gilluley

Alfie Guglielmuzzi

Mike Hamill

Pam Kelly

John Norton

Daniel Platt

Doris Rich

Alan Wilson

Mark Stokes

Cover photos provided by Kevin Bingham

Miscellanea (current and past
copies) is available on-line,
www.mattishall-village.co.uk

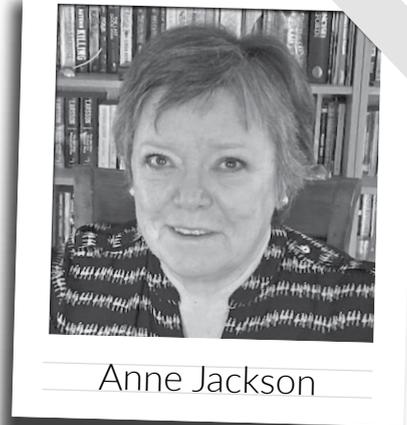
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Printed by Gowise Print, Norwich

From the Editor

The last few months have been unforgettable and will go down in the history books. The loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth touched the whole nation, in fact, touched people all around the world. It was a very sad time for everyone but I am sure the outflow of love and sympathy meant a great deal to all her family and helped them through a very difficult period. We can now look forward to King Charles III continuing and developing the work of his beloved "Mama",



Our long very hot summer was something else that we will not forget. It is said that we should expect such summers in the future because of the damage done to the environment and atmosphere but is it too late for us all to make changes in our lives and help prevent further damage? I think not, but it is up to each and every one of us to make those changes to ensure future generations enjoy our environment and life as we know it.

It seems a long time ago now but the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee showed us that community spirit still exists when we came together at the various events in June. I'm delighted that Helen Brook is hoping to develop that spirit with the introduction of a Community Hub. For more information on this, please see page 7 and come along to the Taster/Information Session on 18th October.

On a local issue, did you know the mobile library visits Mattishall fortnightly? I suspect most people who want to borrow a book go into Dereham or even Norwich but there are some residents who rely on this facility and it is important that it continues to serve all the rural areas. Why travel when you could pick up a good read here in Mattishall? See page 35 for the timetable.

Remember - Miscellanea is your magazine and, over recent issues, more residents have sent in articles, stories and photos. But we always have room for more!

Anne

NEW Dereham Seed Scheme.

The Dereham Gardening Group is able to get us seeds at a discount price. If they can get orders to a total of more than £200, the price will be reduced on a sliding scale up to a 40% discount, depending on how much the combined order comes to. This is a follow-up scheme to that operated successfully by DDAGS for many years. The seed companies are D.T. Brown and Kings.

There is no joining fee. Please notify Robin that you are interested by sending an email to him at derehamgardeninggroup@gmail.com.

Annual appeal

Please.... will landowners and those whose property borders pavements and footpaths – have sympathy on pedestrians and trim your hedges and shrubs and especially the brambles.

Thank you

Brainteasers September 2022

Brainteaser 1 of 5

To which food could this refer?

nafish

nafish

(Hint: say what you see)

Answer inside back cover

Episode 3 - School days

One of my earliest memories goes back to about a year before I started school. It was the Coronation in 1953. I can recall as a 4 year old sitting on my tricycle, which had been decked out in red, white and blue ribbon, outside the church in the pouring rain in the June of that year. This was, of course, when rain in the summer was quite a frequent occurrence. My elder sister Sue was already at Mattishall Primary School.



John's sister Susan, seated 3rd from left

She used to come home from school with tales of the fabled teacher Mabel Richmond, who I think it is fair to say was a bit of a strict disciplinarian. If the stories were to be believed, it was not uncommon for blackboard dusters or bean bags to be launched across the classroom aimed at pupils not paying attention or daring to utter a word out of place. It seems that Ms Richmond was a pretty good shot.



Mabel Richmond

I followed on to the school in 1954. I don't think I was very keen on the idea. Mrs Taylor, who lived near the church, taught the new infant intakes so at least I didn't have to face a baptism of fire from Ms Richmond. I had that to look forward to. However, fate intervened because just before Christmas at the end of my first term I got clobbered by a cyclist riding on the pavement outside a

fish and chip shop in Dereham. I got the blame, of course, because my father had instructed me to stay in the car. A few days later, on the day before Christmas Eve, I woke up not being able to walk which resulted in being hospitalised for 16 weeks, most of which was spent in a freezing cold convalescent home on Yarmouth seafront. When it came down to it, I think I would rather have been at school at the mercy of Ms Richmond.

The doctors never really discovered the real problem, but I did walk again and have had no trouble since. On my return to school life my sister and I were sent to Yaxham Primary School at Clint Green. The main reason for this being that we could walk the hundred yards to my grandparents' house after school because by then both my father and mother were working. It was an enjoyable time. The lovely head teacher Mrs Ethel "Dicky" Bird from East Tuddenham used to pick me up every morning in her little Ford Popular and I made some good friends there. I used to look on with envy at people like Micky Burrell and Chris Garner because they came from families of farm workers and the model tractors they could produce out of plasticine were works of art



John Norton

compared to my lump of coloured nothing. And Chris always brought a delicious looking packed lunch in his little tin box while I was suffering from being cajoled into eating swede and lumpy semolina for school dinner.

Another thing that made me envious was that quite a few of the kids came from families who attended the Methodist chapel. Every year they would have their Anniversary celebration which, more often than not, was a day trip to good old Yarmouth. I used to long to go, but my mother was a church goer and my father was not really into religion. The Church of England never seemed to have such fun, although the village fetes were something to look forward to.

In those days the 11 plus exam was around. This determined whether you would go to Grammar or Secondary Modern School. Not that many people passed what was a glorified IQ test. By an extraordinary fluke I did. And here I have to confess that Mrs Bird helped. Firstly because she was a good teacher, but secondly because when she was on patrol during the exam she came past my desk and looked at an answer I had just written and then tut tutted. I looked again at the question and changed my answer. I hope it's too late for any action to be taken now.

It was a really strange time, because now I would be going off to Hamond's Grammar School in Swaffham (despite the fact that Norwich is far closer) while most of my pals would be attending Dereham Secondary Modern. So, despite the fact that Micky Burrell and I would still play together there was a bit of a parting of the ways and things would never be quite the same again. It was then that Peter Baker from Back Lane became my best mate because he had passed the 11 plus at the second attempt and went to Hamond's. His father was a bus conductor which, in those days, meant you were a pretty well known local celebrity. One conductor, who I seem to recall had the nickname "Nobby", had a real cult following, particularly with the ladies, with his laughing and joking. Everyone wanted to be on the bus when Nobby was issuing the tickets.

I suppose there were about eight or nine boys from Mattishall and the surrounding villages, including Welborne, East and North Tuddenham, Honingham and even Colton, who went to Hamond's school and had to be transported to Swaffham. We would be picked up at 7.30 am by Percy and Ethel

Norton (no relation to me as far as I know) who lived on Norwich Road on the approaches to the village. Percy was a small man with black brylcreemed hair who had been badly wounded in the war and had to wear a corset-type brace to keep him upright. Ethel was a large jovial lady who didn't stand for any nonsense. Percy drove a camper van with four or five boys in the back hanging on to the gas cooker and anything else they could lay their hands on. Ethel in her little Simca vehicle took four of us. Our destination was Dereham Station. Sometimes Ethel would screech to a halt along Stone Road if she spotted a bit of road kill. Out she would get and it didn't matter how splattered the rabbit, hare, pigeon or whatever was she would pick it up with un-gloved hands and put it in the boot. Something sizable like a muntjac would have been a real bonus. She would then get back in the car and the journey would be resumed, albeit with her fingers sticking to the steering wheel.



At Dereham Station we would catch the train to Swaffham. By this time (1960), modern two-coach diesel trains had arrived. The train would be rammed with Hamond's boys and a few Swaffham Convent girls creating havoc, with the odd Prefect trying to control things before giving up in despair. Goodness knows what it must have been like for a normal fare paying passenger. My father went to Hamond's as well. In his day, and up to shortly before 1960, the trains were steam and had the old compartment carriages. It was a ritual that first formers would be tied to the luggage racks and, if they were lucky, released to let them get off. We had the notion that, because everything in the diesel train carriage appeared to be held together by screws, over the course of a year we could remove the interior of the train piece by piece and rebuild it in a back garden. I think we only got as far as the handles on the back of the seats.

At Swaffham we were all herded together and met by a teacher at the station who would walk us in crocodile fashion the half a mile or so to school. A bit like a chain gang returning to prison. The whole process would be reversed in the afternoon. On the train home the same melee would ensue. A milestone activity was at the end of the fifth year when some boys left school and others would be returning to the 6th Form where no caps would be required. On the last day of term as the train crossed Scarning bridge all the 5th Form lads would hurl their caps out of the train window onto what was then the A47 below. A bonus when we arrived back at Dereham Station was that the platform was full of Dereham High School girls who were waiting for a train to take them home in the opposite direction. Just time for a quick nod and wink and "what are you doing Saturday night?"

Unfortunately for us adolescent boys and girls there was no such thing as co-education for those who had scraped through the 11 plus. As our biology master, who we called Bilko, once famously said to us "You are the sort of boys who go after girls of the opposite sex!" That is the sort of insight that comes with teaching the subject for 40 years.

A highlight in all this was ice and snow. The excitement was immense when a covering of the white stuff meant that Percy and Ethel were late picking us up so we missed the train and had to wait for the next one an hour later. The thought of missing the first couple of periods at school was joyous and well worth getting frostbite at Dereham Station which was only relieved by huddling around the coal fire in the waiting room.

The school day for my 7 years at Hamond's lasted from 7.30 am to 4.30 pm, and later if you were playing sport or got detention and had to hitch-hike to Dereham or get a later train and then the No 13 bus home. But it was a good school and I'm eternally grateful for the education it gave me. It has left wonderful memories and pals I still see today.

The school motto has stayed with me which I've tried to live by and pass on to my many children and grandchildren. "Vincit que se vincit" which roughly means "He or she conquers who conquers him or herself". That is, you need a good helping of self-discipline to achieve things. If you put your mind to it you can do it!

In some future rambling, if I manage to put my mind to it, I'll reflect a bit on the fun and adventures we would embark upon in and around the village in the school holidays and how we used to earn a shilling or two.

Illustration by Victoria Bingham. Photos courtesy of Mattishall Village website: www.mattishall-village.co.uk

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A Community Hub for Mattishall

During the recent pandemic, as we are all aware, social interaction and the chance to meet new people, and to take part in group activities, was severely restricted. Thankfully, those restrictions have all been lifted and people are now getting back to normality and are free to enjoy social opportunities once again.

As the result of some basic market research, there appears to be support among local residents for a proposed Mattishall Community Hub. This would be a regular meeting place for villagers - of all ages - to share their interests and hobbies, swap resources such as books, plants/seeds, jigsaws/games, art/craft materials, garden produce etc. or simply to enjoy a 'mardle' over tea and biscuits!

Mattishall Community Hub (MCH) would, primarily, be a social hub for people to meet up, make connections and pursue their common interests. We would welcome those who may have limited social contact; perhaps because they are new to the area and have yet to meet other residents, are no longer working, have small children at home or are carers or are, in any way, feeling isolated, lonely - or just plain old bored! Essentially, though, MCH would be for the whole community to access and enjoy.

MCH would facilitate the sharing of local information and promote the various, existing groups and societies in the village that residents may not already be aware of but might like to join (for example, Mattishall hosts a concertina club - who knew?!) MCH would also offer the chance for people to form self-run, special interest groups such as gardening, art, music, 'knit & natter', board games etc., all under one roof.

Community events could be organised - perhaps people would like to have jumble sales, quizzes or film showings, for example? More ambitiously, how about coming together with other community bodies in a whole-village effort to reinstate previous, successful community events such as the 'sheep' trail, the flower & produce show or even The Gant? The possibilities are endless!

The excellent turnout for Mattishall's successful events to celebrate our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee earlier this year is a positive indication that village support is there for community projects and it would be great to build on that enthusiasm.

MCH would be for the community but very much led by the community and none of the above can happen without you so we really need to know what you think. We will be holding an informal 'taster session' at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 18 October from 2-4pm so please come along, if you can, to share your ideas of what you would like from a Mattishall Community Hub... or just come for a free cuppa and a bit of company, everybody (all ages) welcome, hope to see you there!

If you are unable to attend but would like to comment, please email me at mattishallvolunteerhub@outlook.com

Helen Brook BEM



EAST TUDDENHAM

COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

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Our community allotment was set up in March 2022 to provide a place for people to learn together about **growing fruit, flowers, herbs and vegetables** and to enjoy the **mental and physical health benefits** of being in the green outdoors.

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Would you like to have a go at growing your own but don't have the space, experience or feel a whole allotment is too much to manage, why not take on a small plot or raised bed on the community allotment?

If you don't want to grow anything for yourself, why not be a volunteer, it's a great way to **meet new people** and enjoy helping to **maintain the community** areas or utilise your skills in various projects.

Want to know more?
You can find us on the allotment site:
**Mattishall Road,
East Tuddenham**
Or call Ann on **07884 382171** or email etcommunityallotment@gmail.com
Facebook page:
East Tuddenham Community Allotment Project: Growing Together



MATTISHALL COMMUNITY HUB
Taster Session

Mattishall Memorial Hall
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Tuesday 18th October
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Nature Barn

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The family moved from a quiet, woodland village near Chelmsford in Essex and their property search was lengthy and difficult due to the Covid restrictions but it was love at first sight when they found the Barn in Mattishall. Alongside their business they have a busy household with 3 boys who are truly living their best life and enjoy playing outside, feeding the ducks and exploring nature areas they've created.

The idea of Nature Barn stemmed from years of building, creating, family adventures and inspiring surroundings. Nick and Nicola have been married for just over 15 years and have always shared a passion for nature, creativity and perfection. After many years in renovation, redesign, building and carpentry it was time for Nick to really hone his skills and do something he loved. They are fortunate to live in a beautiful property which is a constant inspiration to them; an ideal landscape to create designs and trial their handcrafted products.



Nicola and Nick appreciate the healing qualities of nature and their business enables them to share this passion with you. It's a personal journey that they are building from a love that is deeply rooted within them and particularly with the struggles everyone may have had over the last few years it's important to reconnect with something constant and often forgotten – nature.

The bespoke services offered are fairly unlimited – from outdoor kitchens to nature hides to unique garden structures. Nature Barn strive to be as sustainable as possible in all their builds and handcrafted goods. You can explore examples of their work and what they have to offer on their website www.naturebarn.co.uk or find them on social media.



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Eileen
Writes...

The Weather Watchers

In August 1767 Parson Woodforde wrote from Melton Constable:

"Such dry Weather which we have had for so long, long Time together, was scarce ever known. All People (tho' in the midst of a Harvest) now wish for Rain. The Grass Ground about us instead of green looks quite rusty, being burnt up so long by the Sun, some are obliged to feed their stock with Hay now." The Parson's observations might be applicable for conditions in East Anglia today. But how long will it last?

Records show that the droughts, storms and floods of our unpredictable weather are nothing new, likewise man's attempts to predict them. The earliest approaches to predicting weather were based on astrology and practised by priests. Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, wrote of "formation of rain, clouds, hail, wind, thunder, lightning, and hurricanes" along with topics of "astronomy, geography, and chemistry". In the 4th century BC, he made some remarkably acute observations concerning the weather and his four-volume text was considered by many to be the authority on weather theory for almost 2000 years.

For centuries and before the relatively recent arrival of the satellite and new technology, our farmers, sailors and travellers relied on observation and experience to predict the weather. Before accurate forecasting, fishermen, farmers and others who worked in the open had to rely on weather wisdom - the appearance of clouds or the behaviour of animals - to tell them what was coming. Odd scenarios - that a bull in a farmer's field, a frog in a jar or a swallow in a hedge-row could detect a coming storm before a man of science in his laboratory, was an affront to Victorian notions of rational progress. We now owe much of the forecasting to the Victorian Vice-Admiral Robert Fitzroy who spent many years at sea.



Vice-Admiral Robert Fitzroy

Fitzroy was well known as the captain of HMS Beagle during her famous journey around the globe. When he looked to find a suitable gentleman companion for the voyage who 'should share his scientific tastes, make good use of the expedition's opportunities for researching natural history' he chose Charles Darwin who went on to write the groundbreaking 'Origin of the Species'. Fitzroy acted as Governor of New Zealand from 1843 until 1848 when he returned to Britain retiring from his active naval service.

In 1851 he was elected to the Royal Society with the support of 13 fellows, including Charles Darwin. In 1854, on the recommendation of the President of the Royal Society, FitzRoy was appointed as chief of a new department to deal with the collection of weather data at sea. His title was Meteorological Statist to the Board of Trade, and he had a staff of three. Later that year he established what would be called the Met Office and created systems to get weather information to sailors and fishermen for their safety at a time when hundreds of lives were being lost at sea. This became more significant when the passenger steamship Royal Charter sank in a storm off the coast of Anglesey in October 1859 with the loss of 459 lives and Fitzroy argued for a supply of coastal observations stations that would protect vessels at sea and arranged for captains of ships to provide information, with tested instruments being loaned for the purpose and for computation of the data collected.

The purpose of the Met Office was to learn more about marine climatology for the greater understanding to improve the safety of life and property at sea. But Fitzroy knew that the general public were also interested in the weather and so established the first public weather forecast service in August 1861. His general forecasts followed the next year - stating the probable weather for two days ahead and the world's first daily weather forecasts were published in a British newspaper.

The new telegraph system allowed the information to be transmitted quickly and these observations were used to form a new storm warning service which began in early 1861. Now known as the Shipping Forecast which opens the morning service for Radio 4, it is thought to be the oldest forecasting system in the world.

Fitzroy soon began to work on strategies to make weather information more widely available for the safety of shipping and fishermen. He directed the design and distribution of a type of barometer which, on his recommendation, was fixed at every port to be available to crews for consultation before setting out to sea. Stone housings for such barometers are still visible at many fishing harbours.

Sadly, his work and efforts had taken their toll on Robert Fitzroy and after many years suffering from depression he committed suicide in 1865. On 4 February 2002, when the shipping forecast sea area Finisterre was renamed to avoid confusion with the (smaller) French and Spanish forecast area of the same name, the new name chosen by the UK's Meteorological Office was "FitzRoy", in honour of their founder.

Brainteasers September 2022

Brainteaser 2 of 5

What is so fragile that when you say its name, it is broken?

Answer inside back cover

MATTISHALL AND BURGH CHARITY

Number 1085364

The Charity in its present form dates from 2001 when the previous 2 Charities were combined into one Charity. The aim of the Charity is to provide relief for the needy of Mattishall and Mattishall Burgh and it achieves this by making a once yearly payment around 1st December to qualifying residents of Mattishall and Mattishall Burgh. The Charity can also, if asked, make "one off" payments at any time during the year.

The monies used to make the payments come from rents received from various parcels of land around the Mattishall area and investments. To increase the total amount of money available for distribution the rents received are banked in order to attract interest. Once the total money available for distribution is known, the amounts to be allocated to individual claimants depends upon the actual number of claimants. These payments therefore can vary up or down from year to year. Around the beginning of October annually, Notices are placed around the village inviting residents of Mattishall and the Burgh whose total yearly income does not exceed certain criteria to apply for relief.

These Application Forms are vetted, agreed and put into the various monetary groups.
(ALL INFORMATION GIVEN IS TREATED AS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL).

The Trustees of the Charity then calculate and allocate an amount of money to be payable per group member for all the claimants in that group banding.

Prior to the amalgamation of the various charities in 2001 the position was as follows and is set out below by way of information:

1. MATTISHALL BURGH UNITED CHARITIES (No 244539)

The United Charity consisted of 5 individual Charities

- a The Feoffes Lands, otherwise Thomas Harlestone and other - Inquisition dated 1728. (Barnhams Charity) For those interested: FEOFFEES means the persons invested with the FIEF – the Fief being the land held in fee.
- b. Robert Harlestone: Indenture dated 1570 otherwise The Gant otherwise Margaret Parker
- c. William Mowting: Will dated 1613. (Share applicable in the above Parish)
- d. Mary Thornton: Scheme dated 1863. (Share applicable in the above Parish)
- e. Fuel Allotment: The Mattishall Inclosure Act 1801

2. MATTISHALL UNITED CHARITIES (No 218863)

(Fuel Allotment)

As can be seen from the above, Mattishall was very rich in charities, namely The Fuel Allotment (Coal Charity), share of Thornton and Mowting's Charities, The Feoffees Charity and share of Robert Harlestone Charity (otherwise the Gant). Thornton's Charity was shared with Mattishall Burgh and the original Indenture is very interesting, but unworkable today, stating that the fleeces of 40 ewes kept on the Commons should be used for clothes for the poor.

The Gant Charity dates from 1570 and was instituted by Archbishop Parker who was the first Protestant Archbishop in England (he was considered by the Catholics to have broken the Apostolic Succession).

When instituted the Charities produced reasonable amounts of money for the time in question. Today the lands forming the Charities produce yearly amounts of rent which go to make up part of the monies distributed annually. Currently the Mattishall & Burgh Charity is administered by six Trustees each of whom is nominated and approved by the Mattishall Parish Council. Their period of appointment is for four years and they can be re-appointed by the Parish Council.

At the moment the Trustees are as follows:

Frederick Garner, Urban Hawkins, Mrs Ruth Starling, Mrs Pauline Cox, Mrs Diana Talbot,
Miss Eileen Browne and Rev Mark McCaghrey

The following are the bands of Income relevant to the Application Form for 2022

Income under £245 for single/widow/widower/unmarried people

Income under £335 for couples/unmarried

For more information about this Charity or to request an application form, please contact the Clerk to the Charity, Mrs M. E. Ward, on 01362 850840 or any one of the Trustees.

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GOING DUTCH

Some people are brilliant at languages. They speak their own with such beauty and fluency that you can easily overlook the fact that what they are saying may be ignorant or foolish or both. And so Dear Reader you will immediately see that my attitude is that of a jealous and mean-spirited man. Nothing new there.

Some people spend their lives waiting and hoping to be asked if they speak any other language. They simper and wave their hands in an aw shucks display of false modesty. Then having paused for sufficient dramatic effect, and having your full attention, they will admit to being fluent in French, German, Italian, Hindi, Urdu, Welsh and Icelandic, before adding that they can also get by in Swahili, Tagalog, Mandarin and Japanese. Even the act of writing these words stirs my irritation at their talent and achievement.

My own incompetence in this area is of course nothing to do with my idleness or stupidity. It is a product of how languages were taught in the dark ages of the early 1960s. My first French teacher was a retired Brigadier. He was about 8 ft tall with cold blue eyes, a mouth that never smiled, and a moustache that dropped tobacco stained hairs onto the classroom floor. Perhaps you know him?

As you may have guessed I had little affection for this man, but I must give credit where credit is due. He achieved a unique singleness of view and purpose between himself and a class of disparate nine year olds. He didn't want to be there. We didn't want him to be there and we all wanted the whole miserable experience to be over as soon as possible. But a job is a job and his army pay was not enough to fund all that malodorous tobacco, and so he was going to spend 40 minutes a day teaching these miserable specimens until they could be passed up to the next class. What we could not realise until later was that being a Brigadier does not really qualify you to teach French to nine year olds and that he was working the same text book as us but two pages in advance.

In that golden age there was a theory of education that was widely held and enthusiastically applied. It has its roots in the accepted way of communicating with foreigners when abroad. Try it in English and if that fails shout it at them.

The Brigadier was not without imagination and so he built on this simple foundation. When he was greeted with a child who was unable to recall the French for 'My uncle is wearing my aunt's dress' or the like, then he would first bellow abuse up close and personal at parade ground level. If that did not work, he would add a special twist, which was applied to the hair or sometimes to the ear.

And, of course, in a way it worked. We all did everything we could to graduate out of his class with hair, ears and hearing intact.

But there are other pitfalls to language learning, even when you are self-taught and so less likely to encounter military style punishments. A few years back I had the opportunity of having a few summer holidays trekking through Northern Pakistan in the Hindu Kush and Karakoram and even occasionally making a sly incursion into Afghanistan. The people that we met were so delightful and friendly that I thought it would be polite to learn some Urdu and thank them in their own language.

I bought a book and a cd and set to work. It is not an easy language even when you set aside the matter of the complex alphabet and just learn the speech. But after a few months of regular work I found myself appointed as the Urdu spokesman of the group and I was confident that I could do a good job.

We had camped in a mountain village and been given water, apricots and yoghurt without payment being accepted. We were moving on and so my big moment had come. I stood up and addressed the headman of the village. I smiled modestly. He smiled back encouragingly and so I launched into a pretty little speech about the beauty of the surroundings the warmth of the hospitality and the kindness of the people, the distances we had travelled and the hospitality that we would offer if any of them should find themselves trekking into Mattishall. As I continued his expression changed to puzzlement, surprise, confusion and finally full-blown rage.

continued on page 14...



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From page 13...

Our friend and guide, Saeed Anwar Khan, stepped in with profuse apologies and hustled me away. 'Nobody has ever said that to a man in these parts and survived and if you ever try to speak Urdu again I will personally kill you!' I never did find out what I had said but have taken Saeed's advice and not one word of Urdu has passed my lips since that day.

Not all my language efforts have invoked the threat of violence. Usually, the disaster has been on a more domestic scale, financial loss and acute embarrassment. Do you want some advice from me on the subject of learning languages? No? Well, here it is anyway. Unless you are a talented linguist do not try to learn Italian and Spanish at the same time. Otherwise, you may find yourself, as I did, in a Venetian cheese shop demanding to buy a church and refusing to take no for an answer.

Just when I thought this trauma was all behind me I discovered that my daughter's son was to be brought up bilingual. Mother would speak to him in English and Father in Dutch. I contemplated a future when as a teenager my grandson would say quite horrid things about me behind my back knowing I would not be able to understand. So, I took the plunge and started to learn Dutch.

The process of learning a language is quite easy in these digital days. Every day I sit before a screen and converse with Duolingo's computerised world of mayhem. I have mastered 'I confess that my aunt is still in prison'. I can confidently assert that a toothbrush has feelings or that the elephant and the turtle are now married. I am rewarded in Lingots. They have no value and little use but I gloat over them like a miser with his hoard.

But to make real progress and avoid the problems I had with Urdu I had to find a teacher. If you Google 'Dutch Teacher based in Norfolk' most of the links are to people based in the Philippines. So, it is a good job that they are not holding themselves out as geography teachers.

I struck lucky, pure gold in fact. Every week the patient Annie talks in slow Dutch and does her best to look cheerful as I mangle her language. These days she lives near Amsterdam, but before that she was based in Wymondham and taught languages in several Norfolk schools. She does not shout at me and has never tried to twist my hair or ears. Maybe she is very patient or perhaps it is just that over Skype it would be tricky.

In my next lesson I think I will put her language skills to the test and see how well she used her time in Norfolk. I will ask her 'What is the Dutch for 'The harnser is eating the hodnidod while the bishybarnybee is getting married to the erriwiggle.'?

William Barr

Illustration by Michael Blackman

Brainteasers September 2022

Brainteaser 3 of 5

Which one word can be inserted into both gaps in the following sentence for it to make sense?

Answer inside back cover



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***** Scouting is for **GIRLS** and **BOYS** aged **6 - 14** *****

GROUP NEWS

Beavers enjoyed joint meetings with cubs - Bollywood dancing and visited Hope Community church, Wymondham. We enjoyed some American activities; did some outdoor cooking on a campfire and had an adventurous activity day at the Scout centre in Norwich (crate staking/bouldering/assault course).



Scouts spent June and July preparing to attend the International jamboree 'Poacher' in Lincolnshire, with circus skills to practise and erecting our large mess tent as a team. A village litter pick was also completed. Scouts then joined 5000 other Scouts and Guides from 8 countries camping at Poacher camp for a week of activities, experiences and exploration; we were on the 'Circus Fest' sub camp and made friends with our next door Groups who were from Holland, Hull and Harpenden!

Cubs had a great term with lots of new activities. We enjoyed a Disney themed camp complete with archery and wood whittling. The cubs were very well behaved and were a pleasure to have. We finished our term with lots of adventurous activities such as karate, air rifles and Tomahak throwing. It was a very enjoyable term and everyone worked very hard. This coming term we are looking at personal safety, how to help others including doing a food collection for the Steps project at Hope Community Church. The cubs will also have a go at cooking a two course meal - hopefully no smoke alarms will be set off!



Group News : We held our Group AGM in June and had a fantastic turn out of families to enjoy a BBQ and games. A Bronze and Gold top award was presented to Ted and Josh respectively by our District Commissioner. Four young people from the Mattishall Scout Group participated in the Royal Salute at the Royal Norfolk Show, which involved several practise sessions as well as the actual event.

These are the 'normal' session timings which we hope to be able to follow next term once again.

BEAVER SCOUTS - GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 6 - 8 TUESDAYS 6.15 - 7.30PM Contact Su McKinnell on 07514 032678

CUB SCOUTS - GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 8 - 10 WEDNESDAYS 7 - 8.30PM Contact Emma Day - email: eeyore41983@aol.com

SCOUTS - GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 10 - 14 MONDAYS 7 - 9PM Contact Ann Futter - ann.futter@live.co.uk



Mattishall Primary School

The Reception children learnt about animals during the summer half term. They had some visitors including a dog, a tortoise and a miniature Shetland pony! A vet, a veterinary nurse and a representative from The Cat's Protection charity also came. Mrs Berry our Year 4 teacher talked to the class about being a cat owner. The children also observed the life changes of five very small caterpillars in class and then released the butterflies in our school meadow.



Green Class (Year 3) were busy learning about pneumatic systems in Design Technology (DT) and how air can create movement. They designed and created a toy which used pneumatic systems in order to work. They used a tube and balloon to blow in air to create an opening of the box to look like a monster's mouth was opening. They thoroughly enjoyed this! Green Class also loved their golf lessons at Mattishall Golf Course. They played out on the field and used the indoor stimulators. It was super fun and they all worked extremely hard.



Children in Blue Class (Year 4) investigated states of matter in their science lessons. They explored the properties of solids, liquids and gases and observed changes of state when materials are heated or cooled.



Children in Indigo Class (Year 5) designed and programmed temperature sensors, using micro bits, to monitor a pet's temperature. This combined designing a temperature probe case as well as having to programme the device to record a maximum and minimum temperature.



After working so hard on their SATs, Year 6 began preparing for their leavers' play 'Pantastic!' They pulled everything together and worked really well as a team. The children did three successful and brilliant performances show-casing some wonderful acting and amazing singing. During rehearsals, they had to put up with wind, rain and boiling hot conditions! Everyone had a brilliant time and should be extremely proud of themselves.



Year 6 also had a special leavers' assembly. They shared lots of their memories of their time at the school from Reception to Year 6. Connie and Maisie sang a song from their leaver's performance. They had changed the wording about saying goodbye to the school. Every year a Year 6 child is awarded with a trophy for 'Motivation and Determination in Learning'. All the staff in school vote and this year it was awarded to Beau. We wish them all well in their new high schools and hope that they will come back and visit us to let us know how they are getting on.



This year during Mattishall's Got Talent, there were a variety of talents on display. We had acts including singing, dancing, a Star Wars light sabre routine, bike stunts and many more. The audience were enthralled and amazed at what the children could do. It even inspired the younger children in Reception to come up with their own talent show. After a lot of deliberation, the judges finally made their difficult decision. In joint 3rd place was Shanai – singing (Y6) and Tyler – singing and dancing (Y6). In joint 2nd place was The Freaks – gymnastics (Y2 and Y4) and The Riptide girls – singing (Y6). In 1st place was Albie in year 2 who sang Good Tonight from the film Bad Guys. He had the whole school singing and wanting his autograph. Everyone did a brilliant job!



We held our annual Sports Day on Friday 8th July. All the children did a fantastic job of giving it their all in every race they competed in, including sprints, an obstacle race and long-distance.



A note from the Headteacher:

Where did the last academic year go? It only seems like yesterday that we were in September and looking forward to 'getting back to normal' following disruption from Covid and the Pandemic. However, it has been lovely to gain back some kind of normality and see the children fully engaged in their learning, supported by visitors in school and educational trips out. We reintroduced events and performances and managed to fit in plenty of fundraising.

We have made many positive changes to our curriculum this year and are ready to introduce a new approach to reading and phonics at Mattishall, with the introduction of Read, Write, Inc. We hope that our Year 6 children from last year have settled well in their high schools. We are looking forward to working with our new intake of children and their families, starting in Reception this September.

Mr Chapman

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News from Mattishall Sports & Social Club

The Social Club has had an amazing summer so far, starting with the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. These seem a long way off now, but our contribution on the Friday went down really well. The village was intent on enjoying themselves and the occasion was very popular with BBQ, music all afternoon and evening and fun for the children.

We have also found the BBQ afternoons on Sundays a great hit. These were helped immensely by the fine weather, but the outside music was also very popular. We are hoping to keep these going until the weather gives up on us. Keep an eye out for our posters, on the Mattishall Community Group Facebook page and MS&SC website advertising these events.

We have had some brilliant music attractions so far this year including Abi Mai, Ska Rich, Avenue Acoustic Duo and the Blues Brothers on Sunday Bank Holiday, all were well attended. We also had a Disco/Karaoke in August to celebrate a birthday.

We have Ska Rich returning on Sunday 9th October, Pagan on Friday 14th October and Step Back on Friday 4th November. Looking forward somewhat, we have managed to book Uncle Barrys' Band for New Year's Eve. Look them up to see how good they are!!

Jo will also be starting our meat draw, the older members will remember that this went well some years back, and this seems to be a good time to bring it back. Jo is also hoping to set up a Friday nights' darts tournament over 6 weeks and a Country & Western evening. Watch out for more information.

Anyone who has not been down to see us yet to say hello, you are all most welcome. We want you to make sure that this is the place for you, so you can visit us three times before you need to join (£10 per person per year), you will always get a friendly reception.

Mattishall S & SC darts team...

Head into the second half of the Dereham Darts League in 2nd place of Division Two. From the first 11 games played which are best of nine matches, the team have won 8 and lost 3. These match wins include a convincing 8-1 win, three 7-2 wins, two 6-3 wins and two 5-4 victories. The three losses so far have all been narrow 4-5 defeats.

Darren Maidment leads the way in the singles format match wins, followed by Wayne Fulcher and Dave Everett.

In doubles format matches, Elvin Pratt has the best record so far just ahead of Darren Maidment and Wayne Fulcher.

Darren has hit two maximum 180 scores so far this season and Wayne one.

With regards to highest checkouts, Jonathan Brown can look back at a 155 three-dart finish, Shane Gould 138, Darren 124 and Wayne 100.

After last season's clinching of the Division Three title by one point, the team are looking forward to a strong finish in Division Two for the remainder of this campaign

Pictured are three of our current darts players: Daniel, Matthew & Darren - each went to school in Mattishall during the late 1980s & early 1990s and have all represented a darts team in the village for nigh on 20 years a piece.



Mattishall Bowls Club... has come to the end of their playing season – it has been a glorious one weather-wise for playing but the hot, dry summer has taken its toll on the green with many more sessions of watering than is ideal. We started the season with our numbers rather low but thanks to a leaflet drop and adverts in Miscellanea we have managed to grow our membership to a level to fulfil all our fixtures in the leagues and play with some success.

In the Elmham and Whissonsett Leagues we finished mid-table with many close, enjoyable games in both. We were relegated from Division 1 in the Dereham League last season by the slenderest of margins and so it was extra pleasing to bounce back this year gaining promotion at the first attempt. The final game in this league was between ourselves and Gressenhall who were occupying top spot but, after a tense match and winning 5-3, we had to settle for second place by a very small points difference.

We held our Presentation Day on Saturday 3rd September at the Clubhouse. The trophies presented were to:



Paul Curtis who won the John Galer Challenge Cup for the opening day game (above left) and **John Galer** who won the Singles title again! (above right) Chris Frost was a close runner-up again!



John Galer and **Dick Plowman** (above left) won the Pairs and **Gerry Goldner** and **Alan Wilson** (above right) shared the Stanley Easter trophy for the closing day game. This trophy is a new one and named after our longest serving member who has been a real stalwart of the club.

Tokens of appreciation and thanks were given to groundsmen, admin people and League captains who all volunteer their time and efforts to keep the Club going.

We are now putting in the hard work on the green necessary to get it ready for the winter when we hope that rain will help restore it for the start of next season. We are always looking for new players for next season, experienced or otherwise, so if you fancy trying the game we will more than happy to see you. Most of our recruits this year were new to the game and have enjoyed their time with us and will be back next year. Dates will be given on Facebook, Mattishall neighbours and Miscellanea when the new season starts.

Finally, congratulations to our "noisy neighbours" Mattishall Cricket Club on their remarkable success this season! Good luck to the footballers of all ages for their season ahead. It is good to see that, after the last few troublesome years, sports clubs are not only surviving but starting to thrive once more. The village would be much poorer without them. **Alan Wilson**



Roundabout

Community Pages, News from Community Groups & Societies, Social and Church Events. What's on in and around Mattishall

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES can advertise their events up to a half-page FREE OF CHARGE. LARGER ADS WILL BE CHARGED. Please let us know about any event you are organising in the next 3-6 months by contacting Madeleine Fowler, Welgate House, Welgate, Mattishall NR20 3PH. Tel 01362 858723 or email: miscadvent@yahoo.com

Mattishall Methodist Church

Weekly Sunday Services at 2.30 pm.
Saturday 15th October - 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
Craft Exhibition and Sale in aid of Church Funds.
Coffee/tea/cakes available. See separate poster.

Saturday 19th November - **Charity Coffee Morning**
from 10.00 am to 11.30 am.

See Noticeboard for details. All welcome.

Mattishall and Tudd Valley Benefice

1st OCT - **Harvest Festival** - A service of celebration of Gods gifts - 10.30am - Craft activities for children.

22nd OCT - **Women's Day** - A day of worship, prayer and ministry with inspiring and challenging speakers. All women welcome. More details on All Saints website.

31st OCT - **Bright Party** - Our annual party with fun, craft and food! 5.00pm to 6.30pm

13th NOV - **Remembrance Service** - Starting on the Village Green 10.40am and continuing in All Saints.

20th NOV - **Annual Memorial Service** - 4.00pm - A reflective service for those who have lost loved ones. All welcome. Refreshments served afterwards

26th NOV - **Christmas Fayre** - 10.00am to 4.00pm - Quality Christmas crafts and goods for sale. Cakes and drinks available throughout the day. Light lunches served.

4th DEC - **Christmas Fun Afternoon** - Join us in All Saints at 2.00pm for fun, food and craft activities and meet Father Christmas. Follow onto the Village Green afterwards for the switching on of the Christmas tree lights.

News from the Surgery....

COVID Autumn Booster Programme

Swanton Morley Surgery will once again be offering COVID vaccinations to the eligible population of Mid-Norfolk. All those eligible for the COVID 19 Autumn Booster vaccination will receive either a letter or text message inviting them to book a COVID Vaccination at Swanton Morley. Appointments can be booked via the National Booking at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Swanton Morley Surgery will contact those patients who do not have a registered mobile number and unable to receive a text message. Please do not contact Swanton Morley Surgery.

Swanton Morley are currently vaccinating residents of Mid-Norfolk Care Homes and eligible patients who are registered housebound.

Mattishall & Lenwade Flu vaccination

We'll shortly be offering the influenza vaccination to our eligible patients. We will update you as soon as clinics are open for booking, please refrain from contacting reception while we finalise arrangements.

DROP IN COFFEE MORNING

Our Thursday coffee mornings continue with more people joining us as the weeks go on. We are a friendly group of people who meet every Thursday in All Saints Church, Mattishall to share refreshments and socialise. It is a great place to meet new people and make friends. We have occasional buffet lunches and are planning our normal Christmas party in December which is always a fun event.

Anyone is welcome to come along. It is not just for ladies, we have lots of gentlemen who come along and they also do a lot of chatting.

No specific charge but we suggest a donation of £1, some people like to put in more. It covers our costs, including heating the church.

Hope to see new people coming to join our friendly group.
Lizzie

LIZZIE'S BOOK LOVERS CLUB

- now at All Saints Church, Mattishall



If you like reading then you might like to know about our club which meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 2.30pm. We have moved our location into All Saints Church, Mattishall at the moment while the pub is closed. Refreshments are served and we just ask for a donation for using the church building and facilities.

We are a slightly different book club with no specific reading each month. We just talk about books that each of us have read and if we no longer want to keep the books we swap them amongst ourselves. It is a good way to get new books and to find out about different authors. When we have talked about books the conversation moves onto literally anything.

Another great way to meet new people and socialise, new members are always welcome to join us.

Lizzie

Desert Island Discs



Hello, I'm Woody Bear, I am the Beaver Scout mascot for 1st Mattishall and District Beaver Scouts. I enjoy visiting lots of different places in the village and further afield, I am collecting geocaches at the moment which I call "peskies". I've been asked to choose my Desert Island Discs. This has been very hard and so obviously I have asked "Badger" for some help. I've chosen loads and think they are all wonderful, I hope you enjoy my choices, so in no particular order let's begin.

1. Let me be your Teddy Bear - Elvis Presley. I enjoyed visiting the Beaver Scouts in their homes (pre-Covid) and this brings many memories back.

2. Teddy Bears Picnic - Henry Hall and Orchestra. Food is very important to everyone, especially me.

3. Me and my Teddy Bear - Rosemary Clooney. Years ago, this was used by a children's dancing group in Dereham at the Memorial Hall for a public performance. I didn't star in it but if there is a re-run then count me in.

4. The Bear Necessities - Disney. From the Jungle Book, this is very recognisable to many, I've watched the film at least 4 times.

5. If you go down to the woods today - Bing Crosby. Classic singer who should be on everyone's listening list.

6. Night on a Bear Mountain - Mussorgsky. So quiet to start with, then the grumbly bears arrive, it's a loud one but I can have a good stomp about without getting told off for being too noisy - the music covers me.

7. Teddy's Lullaby - Tanya Goodman Sykes. Need a bit of quiet time and to settle down a bit after the noisy one, as I am a bit tired, I have been very busy working these out and z z z z zzzzz.

So sorry, dear readers, Woody has fallen asleep with still 3 pieces of music to choose and share with you. So, I think I'll let him snooze and finish this off with some choices of my own.

8. The Good, The Bad and The Ugly theme music - Ennio Morricone. Part of this is played on the flute, years ago I played the flute - I was never good enough to play this!

9. Faure's Requiem. Whilst at school I sang in "Festival Choir" and the whole school sang this for our Annual Presentation evening in front of all our parents in St Andrew's Hall, Norwich. The hours of practise, learning all the music and latin words by heart and stress of a long dress to combine with lots of stairs. In 3 hours, it was all over and finished - just a memory.

10. Toccata and Fugue in D minor - Bach. I was on a family holiday in Edinburgh, visiting St Giles Cathedral, this was being played on the organ, we were at the other end of the Cathedral but the power of the music was phenomenal, we felt it through the furniture, spine tingly.

But what about a book and luxury item?

Well, I think I would ask for a set of badgework books and pens and paper for my luxury item, maybe the island would have a bottle washed up for me to write a message in a bottle?



"Badger" - Woody Bear's minder!!!

Dereham Walkers are Welcome

07505 426750

www.DerehamWaW.org.uk/



As autumn approaches, first comes our short (under 4 miles) walk on 2 September, starting at 10.15 am, this time at the Assembly Rooms in the Market Place. Future walks, always the first Friday of the month, are on 7 October (starting at The Neatherd), 4 November (starting at the Windmill) and 2 December (starting point to be decided). But do check where we're starting if you're thinking of joining us in case of late changes.

Later in the month, we have our third and final town walk, looking at Georgian Dereham on the morning of 17 September. This walk is part of Heritage Open Days week, and must be booked in advance; booking opens 30 August.

We have a longer walk planned for 12 October, details still to be settled, while the 2 December walk will offer a longer walk option as well as the short walk.

Looking forward to seeing you over the next few weeks.

Mattishall Cricket Club - '2022, An outstanding season'



My first season as Chairman of our club has passed and what an exciting one to be a part of. Our first and second teams both finished champions of their respective Norfolk Cricket Alliance leagues Div 3 & Div 5, an outstanding achievement. The club has a strong senior squad, with such excellent support from all our Committee Members and volunteers. This was truly a season like no other, even the weather played its part with no game cancelled due to wet weather!

Any successful club benefits from a strong youth section, and a key priority for our club. It is so rewarding to see our very young players in our U9s side develop with hardball cricket and learning new skills from our qualified coaches and playing with a determination and smile on their face. With the support of Norfolk Cricket Board, we will aim to further develop our stars of tomorrow, linking in with local schools to ensure that all young people of all ages and gender have the opportunity to join our club, develop their skills and play cricket.

Maintaining a sustainable club is a challenge for all clubs across the county, we however are blessed with such excellent sponsors that provide that financial support we need to survive, develop and grow. Our primary sponsor, Doors+ Group have been unwavering in their support and we are proud to be associated with them, as we are with all our sponsors who continue to support the club in difficult times, our sincere thanks and appreciation to all.

A special mention to those volunteers that do so much for the club, they might not play the game on a Saturday, but without their help and support we just could not play. There are too many to mention all by name, but special appreciation to our Secretary Lizzie, a first class multi tasker! Sharon, our Safeguarding officer, and to our groundsmen, Keith 'Rocky' Hudson and Richard Flatt, for me they are the true heroes, working tirelessly to prepare the ground, and maintain our

facilities and equipment. I regularly receive excellent reviews from opposition teams, our playing conditions are first class and we have again this season hosted a number of County games. Senior Youth Coach Ryan Hawkins and George Gagen who worked tirelessly towards the end of the season. We are supported by the Mattishall Sports and Social Club and work together to create a friendly engaging environment for all to come and watch or play the game.

Yes, we are at the end of the season, but our work does not stop. The winter period is our busiest time, working through our plans and be best prepared for next season. For me, I would be delighted to hear from you, whether you want to join us as a player, an interested sponsor or indeed volunteer, you are all very welcome. Let's ensure that Mattishall Cricket Club continues to thrive.

Mark Stokes
Chairman, Mattishall Cricket Club

Age UK Advice Line
0800 678 1602

is free to call 8am - 7pm 365 days a year

Age UK are well aware that arranging social care can be a challenge. From knowing where to start, what type of care and support you need and who pays for it, there are lots of questions to ask. But they remind us that we are not alone — they are to help us through the process.



The Acorn Hut
Farm Shop & Plant Centre

No.1 Watercress Lane, (off Mill Road) Mattishall, NR20 3RJ
 Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 4pm, Sunday 10am – 2pm
 Tel: 07885666868 / 07885663926
 Email: theacornhutfarmshop@gmail.com

New for 2022 The Squirrels Rest Café & Takeaway

We stock locally sourced Norfolk Artisan produce from around the county. Fresh fruit & vegetables from local suppliers, delivered daily. We have a wide range of fresh butcher meat, frozen fish, meat & much more. Fresh bakery bread, scones & cakes delivered twice weekly.

Fully stocked plant centre, seasonal bedding, shrubs, ornamental trees, fruit trees, pots, compost, grow bags.

Winter bedding & hanging baskets now in stock.

Gifts, Hardware, outdoor Metal work & much, much more

Come & enjoy a coffee & relax in the peaceful surroundings

Any orders can be placed either by phone or email
 Follow us on Facebook – The Acorn Hut Farm Shop & Plant Centre
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www.acornhutfarmshop.co.uk



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The Flight

It was a very mild October evening; I was walking in the garden where I live. They are quite large and worth walking around. I don't know what made me look up. I think it was a movement of the air, not quite a sound just a whisper.

I saw coming towards me a flock of starlings, there must have been fifty or more birds flying together. As I watched I saw they were making the most incredible patters, it was better choreographed than anything Strictly Come Dancing can do or any of the aerobatic teams. The birds were tumbling about the sky making barrels, tubes, cubes, butterfly shapes and many others. Not one bird ever got in the way of another, not one bird was ever out of place with the others. They flew around one another and beside one another back and forth. It was as though they knew I was watching. They seemed to fly just above me for some time.

Then suddenly they were gone. Flying away towards the east. I was mesmerised by them and stood for some several minutes waiting for them to come back. Of course, they did not. They were away to the resting places they use at night. I had heard of these flights and once saw one of them on television. There must have been thousands of the birds at that one time. It was a huge cloud of black. It's amazing how they can work together better than we humans can.

I just wish I was able to go to the Fens or the north east coast of Norfolk where these birds rest at night. It must be many times better than the few I saw. Alas, I have not the ability or the energy to take such a journey much as I would like to.

Doris Rich

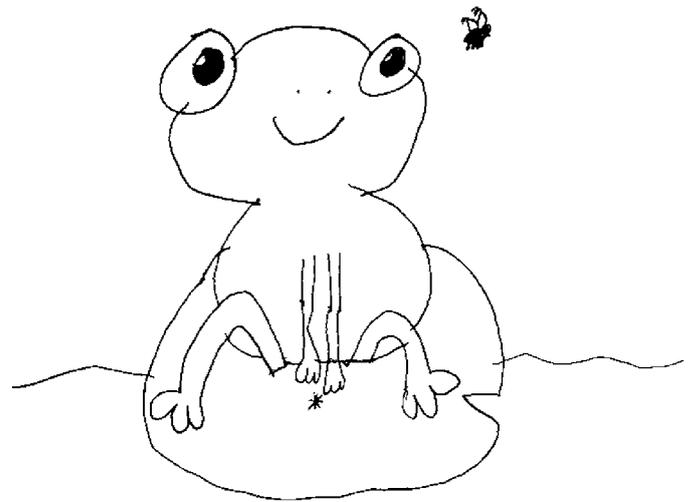
Synaesthesia Week Daze

Monday, a dun day, a pale brown, and wan day,
Tuesday like the blue of a pie chart in primary precision,
Wednesday a yellow hail fellow well met day
Shaped like a cumulus cloud in bright sky,
Thursday as washed the mottled stones by the sea
Like seals skinny dipping in brine,
Friday a definite black day, a clean shiny jet day
No edges, no blurring; tight fit,
Saturday's scarlet enrobed in rich velvet
With smudges of crimson, but brighter,
Sunday is tough, it is brown wet and muddy
A puddle so deep it would drown you,
A feeling of football, the end of all things
Till it morphs through light beige into Monday.

Tina Cooper

Games with the Animals

Today, I played leapfrog with a toad.
It was an uplifting experience, I'll be blowed.
We leapt around the lake, from shore to shore.
Then Toad said: let's play some more?
He leapt onto a lily pad in the middle of the lake.
A running jump, I then had to take!
My leap was short and I didn't get
to join the toad! I just got wet!



I played tag today, with a lovely dragonfly
It shouted "you're it", as it floated by.
And then, by the winds' softest breath
It flew so high. And it just left!
Now, this was hard, how could it be,
I would be IT; permanently!
I looked around and began to cry,
There was no sign of the dragonfly!

With a Chameleon, I played hide and seek.
I closed my eyes and did not peek.
I counted down, from ten to one
And when I looked, she was gone!
I searched for her just high and low
And know not where she did go?
And then, her eyelids opened, and I could see
She'd just been sitting there, upon my knee!

Today I played hopscotch with a kangaroo.
Just a baby one, it was true!
But he did the lot in two short bounds
And won each of the remaining rounds!
He laughed, and said, "go on mate,
take a turn! I can wait."
I was not happy, I became a grouch
Kanga just smiled and popped into his mama's pouch

Mike Hamill

Illustration by Alfie Guglielmuzzi

BELL RINGING

AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY... if you ever wanted to learn to ring church bells.

St. Peter Mancroft, in Norwich, has set up the 'Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre'. It is reached by a short spiral staircase inside a small door to the right of the west porch and is one of only three in the world.

The facility offers bell ringers, from complete novices to accomplished ringers, the opportunity to learn and improve their skills. There are 8 training bells attached to a computer system. Bells can be rung individually or all together for 'change ringing'.

The training bells have already been used effectively to teach new recruits to ring for the centenary of the 1918 Armistice.

Visitors to the centre can see the impressive boards which record the first ever peal and other performances dating back to 1715. Heritage lottery funding is helping to develop an exhibition about bell ringing.

Groups can arrange a visit where they can try ringing and discover the history of bell ringing in Norwich. Taster sessions for groups and business team-building events are available on request.

Nikki Thomas is the centre's manager. For further information see the website – mrdc.org.uk. or to book a visit, Nikki can be contacted on manager@mrdc.org.uk.



Bridge Club



Scrabble



Ten Pin Bowling



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

OF MATTISHALL

**Please come and join us
at our next meeting,
where a friendly
welcome awaits you.**

Speakers and Subjects

12th October
**'Gardens of East
Anglia and More'**
Frank Lambert

9th November
**'For the Love of Cows
& a Bit of Royalty'**
Helen Reeve

14th December
**'Three's Company –
Musical
Entertainment'**
Christmas Party

For more information
please contact either

Jackie Tooke
01362 858447
or

Pat Hamilton
01362 850286

A Treasury of Bellingringing Stories

Alexia, a ringer at Buckland, Surrey, has written a book of short stories about events up the tower 'A Treasury of Bellingringing Stories', over a hundred pages long - see attached poster. This paperback book contains a collection of short stories describing events in the bell tower during the year, whether ringing joyfully for celebrations or more poignantly for Remembrance, marking the seasons present and past. The stories are suitable for all, whether bellringers or not. Everyone who hears bells ringing out over villages and towns will enjoy these stories.

Copies of the paperback book are £5, helping to raise funds for Buckland Church. If you would like a copy, please email ringingstories@gmail.com (delivery free radius 5 miles Dorking, Surrey, otherwise add p+p = £1.80 for UK). Payment by cheque or BACS bank transfer - please ask for details.

A Treasury of Bellingringing Stories

By Alexia Beale

This paperback book contains a collection of short stories describing events in the bell tower during the year, whether ringing joyfully for celebrations or more poignantly for Remembrance, marking the seasons present and past.

£5

To order your copy, please email ringingstories@gmail.com (or phone 01306 885108). Copies are £5 plus postage (free delivery within 5 miles Dorking). Payment by cheque or BACS

Mattishall Parish Council News

LATEST NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Upcoming events!

Remembrance Sunday 13th November 2022

By tradition, a two-minute period of silence is observed throughout the country at 11 am. Our church service and other ceremonial gatherings will take place at the Village Green and at All Saints Church.

Christmas Tree Lighting Sunday 4th December

Come along to join us for the light switching of the Christmas Tree at the Village Green. Full details to be confirmed for the following; Santa's Grotto, mulled wine, mince pies and Dereham Band playing traditional Carol and Christmas Songs.

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings

Monday 3rd October

Monday 7th November

Monday 5th December

All meetings are held at Poultec, South Green Business Park, Mattishall and start from 7pm.

We are pleased to introduce our new Councillor Mike Onassis

Mike has lived in Mattishall for about 18 years. He has served in two of the Emergency Services Fire for 30 years and Ambulance for 2 and half years.

His interests are Motorcycling, Camping, Radio Amateur (M7MCO), Travelling, Walking and Environmental issues.

Mike like all parish councillors is an unpaid volunteer



Criminal Damage and Anti Social Behaviour

Our village unfortunately has been subjected to criminal damage and anti social behaviour over the last couple of months. The Parish Council arranged a meeting with Norfolk Constabulary and Breckland's Anti Social Behaviour Officer to attend a residents meeting held at Poultec on Monday 5th September. We would like to thank the residents, the Police and Breckland's ASB Officer in taking the time to attend this meeting giving the opportunity for us to raise and alert our officers of local concerns.

The outcome of this meeting is to report and keep reporting to the police, even if the same crime / ASB is being committed day after day, please keep reporting. The police can only patrol the areas where the crime / ASB is being reported. To report any incidences please call 101 or report using their online portal <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/contact-us/6-report-it>. The Parish Council will be working closely with Norfolk Constabulary, Breckland District Council, YMCA and Norfolk County Council Youth Service to address these concerns. The police are also conducting a "Crime Protection Survey" to advise of any improvement we could make.

Residents attending the ASB meeting were not aware that the parish has been funding the running of a very successful Youth Club, which has recently trialled an additional session for a younger age group, for 5 years.

The council is aware of a lack of provision for the 16+ age group. Although, with the suggestion that some of the ASB in the village has been caused by those from areas that do have such provision, this may not be the answer to that problem.

The Parish Council

Richard Turner (Chairman)
 Graham Clarke (Vice Chairman)
 David Fowler
 Richard Norton
 David Piper
 Janice Smith
 John Pickering
 Andrea Taylor
 Mike Onassis
 Anita Rose Parish Clerk

Further details of councillor responsibilities, details of meetings and minutes are on the website. If you would like to discuss anything related to the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk.

Public Consultation 20mph speed zone Survey

We would like to thank all those who took the time to reply to our recent 20mph Public Consultation Survey.

The Parish Council had agreed at our last meeting held in September to write a letter to Highways along with providing the outcome of the survey for their consideration. As soon as we hear back from them we will provide you with an update.

Communication

This magazine is useful for routine communications and social media also has its place, it's become obvious that there is a requirement to inform the community more regularly of the work the council is doing. Much of which takes place in the background. Over the next few months the website will be redesigned, additional noticeboards, which will be updated regularly, will be placed in easily accessible locations

MATTISHALL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

REVIEW

Mattishall has had a Neighbourhood Plan in place since its Adoption by Breckland District Council in 2017. A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led document aimed at guiding the future development of our Parish.

The Existing Plan

Like most things after time Plans become out of date as policies change. The Government advises that Neighbourhood Plans should be reviewed after 5 years. An up-to-date Plan is considered to carry more weight than an older Plan therefore Mattishall Parish Council have decided to undertake a review of the existing Plan commencing in the Autumn of 2022.

The Review

Mattishall Parish Council wish to appoint a Steering Group of c. six members. The envisaged composition will be three Parish Councillors and three or four Mattishall residents plus a small group of residents that the Steering Group can call on from time to time that have specialist skills. The Parish Council have engaged independent Consultants to guide the Steering Group through the process.

Volunteers – Get Involved, help shape the future of your village

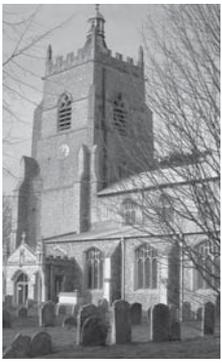
The Parish Council are looking for residents that want to be involved in shaping the future of the Parish. The Plan is about the use of development land over the next 20 years, sustainable development, environmental protection, social and economic growth and the Parish's aspirations for the future.

This is your opportunity to influence how your Parish develops and evolves in the future. We are looking for parishioners, ideally professionals and business owners who can give a couple of hours developing the Plan per week. We are looking for an Administrator, (a key role). In addition, we are seeking an Architect or Planner, a Project Manager and a Web Page Developer who can be called on for occasional advice.

If you would like to help please contact in the first instance the Parish Clerk clerk@mattishallpc.info Please do get involved in the future of Mattishall Parish.

Flooding

The dry summer has meant that memories of past flooding events have faded somewhat. However, the council has continued, and will continue, to work with Anglian Water and Norfolk County Council to address the causes of this problem. We are also working with other parish and town councils who are experiencing this and other problems to find solutions and apply pressure to loosen purse strings where necessary.



The Mattishall Society

The Society meets on the second Monday of each month

BLICKLING – A RIVER OF TIME A Talk by Brian Butcher.

The Jacobean house which we see today is the third to be built on the same site and dates from 1619. The Blickling estate encompasses almost 5000 acres and includes 12 farms, 126 houses (some of which are holiday-lets), a pub and the ground of Alysham Market Place.

Mr. Butcher talked Society members through a thousand years of Blickling's history, starting in 1066, when England's King Harold owned the estate. It passed to William the Conqueror when Harold was defeated at the Battle of Hastings. William gave it to his bishops and, later, Sir Nicholas Dankworth was the first to build a house on the site. Lord Erpingham (he of Agincourt fame) and Falstaffs also owned the estate before the Boleyn family took it over in 1450. George Boleyn rebuilt a house on the same site and it is in this house that Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII, was born.

Blickling is reputed to have a ghost – a lady in grey. Anne Boleyn wore grey damask at her execution, so it is supposed that the ghost is Anne Boleyn. Ladies at the Tudor court played dangerous games. One, Jane Rochford, married George Boleyn, who owned the Blickling estate, but she arranged meetings between Thomas Culpepper and Henry VIII's 5th wife, Catherine Howard, which resulted in the executions of both parties and Jane herself went mad when she was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

It was the next owner, Henry Hobart, who commissioned the building of the present house, but he did not live to see it completed. Henry was a lawyer who bought his baronetcy from James I. He married Dorothy Bell and they had 16 children. Dorothy did live to see the house completed. His descendent, the 4th baronet, another Henry Hobart, lived in the reign of Charles II. The Hobarts had supported the Parliamentarians during the Civil War, so had to watch their step. But Charles II was keen to get such powerful families 'on side' and honoured Henry with a knighthood. Henry fought in the Battle of the Boyne and was a hot-headed arrogant man. In 1698, he failed to become a member of Parliament and he suspected one, Oliver LeNeave, of blackening his name and challenged him to a duel. Duelling had been outlawed, so this was a risky thing to do. They met on Cawston Heath and fought with swords. Henry, despite being



an experienced military man, failed to notice his opponent was left handed and was run through. LeNeave fled abroad. Henry's wife managed to force LeNeave to return to England and stand trial for murder, but a Norwich jury acquitted him.

Sir John Hobart, 1st Earl of Buckinghamshire (1693-1756)

The pub on the Blickling estate is called the Buckingham Arms, because one of the house's owners was the 1st Earl of Buckingham. The 2nd Earl, John Hobart reputedly had an affair with Catherine the Great when he was sent to Russia to conclude a treaty. He failed to conclude the treaty, but brought a priceless tapestry back to Blickling as a gift from Catherine and remodelled part of the building to accommodate it. The tapestry is still in the house. John Hobart had no sons, but two daughters, one of whom married the Marquis of Lothian and so the Lothians became the last private owners of Blickling. The mausoleum in the grounds of the estate houses the 2nd Earl and his two wives.

It was the 11th Marquis of Lothian who was the last to live at Blickling. Before World War II, he believed in appeasing Hitler and met him twice; he also entertained Nancy Aster at Blickling and Ribbentrop (the first Nazi to be executed after the war for war crimes). Later, he changed his mind about Hitler. In 1937, he was instrumental in Parliament passing the National Trust Act and when he died, Blickling was the first substantial estate to be bequeathed to the National Trust. During World War II, Blickling was used by the RAF and USAF and there is a museum on site with first-hand accounts of life at Blickling's 'RAF Oulton' 1940 – 1947.



Blickling Hall

It is not surprising that an estate which has existed for over a thousand years, has had its share of heroes, villains and scandals. We are lucky it survived and that it is open today for all to enjoy. **Anna English**

Mattishall Society

Meets at the Memorial Hall on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm

Future talks are:

10 th October	Jim Stebbings	Magnificent Seven Stories behind the lives of seven well-known songwriters from the Great American Songbook era
14 th November	AGM	50th Anniversary of Mattishall Society
12 th December	Christmas Social	Members Only <i>See below</i>

Anyone wishing to join the Society should contact

Carol Colledge on 01362 858230

2022 membership fee is £5



CRIMEWATCH MATTISHALL



PC 898 Paula Gilluley
Breckland Community
Engagement Officer
 Paula.Gilluley@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

I and your Local Policing Team Beat Managers are aware that there has been a concern around anti-social behaviour (ASB) within the Mattishall area. As you can imagine we often see a rise in reports of ASB during the school summer holidays, when days are longer and children and families are

away from school or work on holiday. While we have only had a few incidents reported to us during the summer months, we know that ASB can impact on the quality of life for those living and working in our area. So, what is anti-social behaviour?

ASB is behaviour that:

- is capable of causing nuisance and annoyance
- is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress
- creates significant and persistent problems in a neighbourhood
- leaves communities intimidated and afraid

Examples of such behaviour would include:

- noise
- harassment
- vandalism
- graffiti and fly tipping
- nuisance neighbours
- street drinking

If you or your family are suffering from anti-social behaviour please contact Norfolk Constabulary either via 101 or online at our www.norfolk.police.uk website: <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/contact-us/6-report-it/08-anti-social-behaviour>. If it is not urgent you can also contact the local policing team directly at SNTWatton@norfolk.police.uk but always call 999 in an emergency.

Norfolk Constabulary will work with other agencies, including Breckland District Council and your local Parish Council, where necessary, to act to address the problem. And you can also discuss any issues with your local councillor, who can act on your behalf to raise concerns with the council and other organisations. I would also urge you to attend our Priority Setting Meetings, which are held every three months. These meetings are hosted by your local Beat Managers, PC Ed Arbuthnot and PC Austin Clarke and provide you with an opportunity to discuss directly with the officers any local concerns you may have. The next Watton Priority Setting Meeting (which includes the Mattishall area) will be held on 12th October 2022, starting at 7pm. The meeting will be held in the Watton Town Council offices but for those who can't attend in person, there is an option to join us online via Microsoft Teams. For the link to join us online please email me at Paula.Gilluley@norfolk.police.uk.

So, if you are going to be out enjoying our lovely weather, please be mindful of others and stay safe!



Ask the Officer

The latest question asked is:

Mattishall is not abundant with pavements so pedestrians often have to walk on the road. What is the law about selfish vehicle owners who park on the pavement obstructing the way for pedestrians and forcing them onto the road?

And the answer is:

Inconsiderate parking is an issue which causes almost as much tension as speeding. Parking offences were decriminalised back in 2011 when enforcement passed to Local Authorities. In the case of Mattishall, your Civil Enforcement Officers come under King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council covering King's Lynn, West Norfolk, North Norfolk, Broadland and Breckland and they can be contacted at parking.operations@west-norfolk.gov.uk.

Generally speaking, Police only enforce obstructions which cause a significant danger – for example parking on a blind bend. Where there is a pavement on either side of the road then a vehicle parked on one pavement may not be considered as causing an obstruction as there is the option for pedestrians to cross the road to the other pavement. There is currently debate in Parliament about bringing in new legislation covering inconsiderate parking."

Have you a question for our local Community Engagement Officer? Please send it to miscadvert@yahoo.com

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Brainteasers September 2022

Brainteaser 5 of 5

What lives without a body, hears without ears, speaks without a mouth and to which the air alone gives birth?

Answer inside back cover

MATTISHALL MEMORIAL HALL

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For further information contact

Keith Hudson 01362 850729, 07708085676

E mail keith.hudson12@hotmail.co.uk

A true tale

Our daughter, Sophie and her husband Jason were travelling by car to Derbyshire to stay in a hotel with relatives. They stopped at a motorway services area to buy a sandwich for the journey. Returning to their car, they found it unlocked and both their suitcases and Sophie's bag had gone. It turned out the services area had no CCTV, nor did it have security people; the local police 'were not interested because no one had been stabbed'; the insurance people said they would only pay out a limited amount because the items were not taken from their house. They had no alternative but to return home and begin to try and replace what they had lost.

But then.....Sophie received a text from a stranger asking were they the Coopers who had lost two suitcases? At first she was suspicious - was this the thief who would then demand money to return the suitcases? But no, he was a genuine member of the public whose children had noticed the suitcases dumped in bushes in their local wood, where they were playing. Sophie and Jason met up with the man and retrieved their cases and Sophie's bag. Of course, they were not entirely intact - valuables which could be sold on had been taken - laptop, kindle, EarPods, cash etc. but everything else was there - clothes, toiletries etc.

So...whilst it was bad, it could have been so much worse. And the hotel in which they and their relatives had planned to stay, didn't charge them for their room when they heard the story.

Anna English

Are you coping with Dementia?

Do you need some support?

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THE LINK - MATTISHALL DEMENTIA



SUPPORT GROUP

Mattishall Methodist Church 10-12
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for more information.

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Would you like to help your communities?

**Mattishall Community Car scheme are
looking for drivers.**

It's a volunteer service so you can do as much or as
little as you like, as drives are requested I would con-
tact you to see if you are available to help with that
drive. We help people who live in the village to get to
their medical appointments.

**If this sounds like something you are able to
support please call Wendy Flew on 01362 858445**

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USEFUL LOCAL PHONE NUMBERS

Mattishall's:

All Saints Church Office	01362 858873
Community Car Scheme (Wendy Flew)	01362 858445
Parish Council Clerk (Anita Rose)	07831 422700
Pharmacy	01362 858540
Post Office	01362 850232
Primary School	01362 858451
Surgery	01362 850227

District Councillors

Paul Claussen	01603 880454
Paul Plummer	07717 690938
Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital	01603 286286
Norfolk Swift Response	0344 800 80820
Breckland Council Offices	01362 656870
Dereham Library	01362 693184
Dereham Police Public Enquiry Office	01953 424242
Konecibus (No 4)	03300 539358
Age UK	0300 500 1217

Answers to Brainteasers

- 1 Tina fish
- 2 Silence
- 3 Lighter
- 4 13 (add the date to the number of the month)
- 5 An echo

Norfolk County Council

Mobile Library Timetable—Mattishall

Wednesdays—normally every 28 days

Location	Arrival Time	Departure Time
Orchard Road	11:15	11:30
Daffodil Way	11:35	11:55
Willow Close	12:00	12:15
Lime Tree Close	12:20	12:35
Thynnes Lane	12:40	12:55
Hunter Avenue	14:25	14:40
Smithson Drive	14:45	15:00
Cedar Close No 3	15:05	15:12
Cedar Close No 18	15:12	15:20
Parkers Road	15:25	15:45
Burgh Lane	15:50	16:05
All Saints Walk	16:10	16:25

Next dates:
5 October 2022 2 November 2022
30 November 2022 28 December 2022

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment both on a permanent and temporary basis. For all enquiries about this route please call 01603 222303

Autumn Quiz

Answers from the last issue

(1) Jupiter (2) South Africa (3) 4 (4) John Constable (5) 1992 (6) Chewing (7) 4 (8) Basildon (9) Cherry (10) Watermelon

Congratulations to Charlotte Butcher who won our voucher for Café Verde.

With a chance to win the next voucher, email your answers to miscadvent@yahoo.com by 31st October

1. Our new Prime Minister is MP for where?
2. Who presents University Challenge?
3. Fosters lager comes from which Australian city?
4. Which is the longest 2 digit A road?
5. The Jubilee line has termini where?
6. How many Kings of England have been called Richard?
7. Longines watches come from which country?
8. Which year did man last set foot on the moon?
9. Terry Hall was the lead singer of which band?
10. Lisbon is the capital of which country?

Miscellanea Production Schedule

to be ready for w/c	Adverts and payment submitted by	Reports & articles submitted by:	Printed and ready for delivery
December 2022	Fri, 11th Nov	Wed, 16th Nov	Friday, 2nd Dec
March 2023	Fri, 3rd Mar	Wed, 8th March	Friday, 24th March
June 2023	Fri, 2nd June	Wed, 7th June	Friday, 22nd June
September 2023	Fri, 8th Sept	Wed, 13th Sept	Friday, 29th Sept

Our advertising rates per issue are:

size	black and white	colour
1/8 page	£20	£30
1/4 page	£35	£52.50
1/2 page	£65	£97.50
Full page	£125	£187.50

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Contact details: Telephone Anne on 01362 858744 or 07515417225 Email miscadvent@yahoo.com



Mattishall Golf club is filled with lots of golfing options for players of all abilities and ages. You do not need to be a member to visit and play our course or make use of our facilities.

- We have a modern clubhouse with terrace which overlooks our 9-hole course, with 18 tees that challenges experienced players, but is also a great course for those new to the game. We have one of the longest par 5 holes in the county. The course is available for members and non-members.
- A six bay covered driving range for you to practice, learn and improve on is available for members and non-members.
- Our Golf Academy offers the latest Trackman Simulators and a 9-hole Indoor Crazy Mini Golf course, both of which can be played come rain or shine. Alongside the Academy building runs our function room which is available to hire privately. We also offer activities such as pool, table tennis and a bouncy castle.
- We have two PGA Professional Golfers on site to help with all your golfing needs, tuition or to purchase golf equipment from our Pro Shop, located in the Academy.
- Mattishall Golf Club is the perfect place for individuals, friends, families, birthday parties, stag and hen parties, corporate events or just a fun afternoon or evening out. We know golf is a social game so we've made the Academy the place to socialise with its own licensed bar and on-site catering serving hot and cold drinks, burgers, pizzas and loaded fries. Please pop into see us for a drink on our terrace, to make a booking or to make an enquiry, we will be happy to show you around.
- The perfect venue for a birthday party with indoor facilities which are not weather dependant.

