

Miscellanea

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The Quarterly Mattishall People's Magazine Winter 2022 Issue 93

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Miscellanea

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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

It has been my pleasure to be involved in setting up the Mattishall Community Hub. The meetings have been well attended and it is so enjoyable just to sit and chat. We received lots of emails supporting the sessions and one particular email stood out to me: "It was a really lovely opportunity to meet other village residents and find many things in common with 'strangers'.... friends we haven't met yet". A brief report on the Hub and details of the next session can be found on p7. Hope we see more of you there on 6th December.



Anne Jackson

I think most residents are aware of the increase in crime in Mattishall recently. We have been assured by the Police that, for the next few months, we are a priority area which should result in a significantly increased Police presence which should have a positive impact on the crime rate. Please see p9 for details of the new Neighbourhood Watch scheme which is now operating in Mattishall and the contact details for the Co-ordinator. I know he will be happy to help you with any queries.

Talking of Neighbourhood, we now have a review taking place of the Neighbourhood Plan which was completed in 2017. You will find an update of the progress made so far on p21 and a questionnaire enclosed in this issue for you to complete. This is an opportunity for you to let the steering group know what you would like to see in Mattishall in the future – if you don't tell them – they'll never know!

Miscellanea is the village magazine and we always try to include your contributions. Apart from stories and poems submitted, we like residents to send us their choices for Desert Island Discs. Would you like to participate? Please let me know so I can reserve a space for you. Also, we haven't received a question this time for our local Community Engagement Officer, have you something to "Ask the Officer"? Let me have your question and Paula will include her answer in the next issue.

I'm not sure where the year has gone but looking back, it has been quite unforgettable. Now with the winter months ahead and the long dark evenings, we need to remember those hot summer evenings and the wonderful celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and look forward to more celebrations next year with the King's coronation.

Before then, we have to celebrate Christmas and welcome 2023 so I will sign off by wishing you all a happy, enjoyable Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Anne



Christmas Joke

*I have this incredible
ability to predict what's
inside a wrapped present.*

It's a gift

Brainteasers December 2022

Brainteaser 1 of 5

To which expression
could this refer?

FUNNY FUNNY
WORDS WORDS

WORDS WORDS

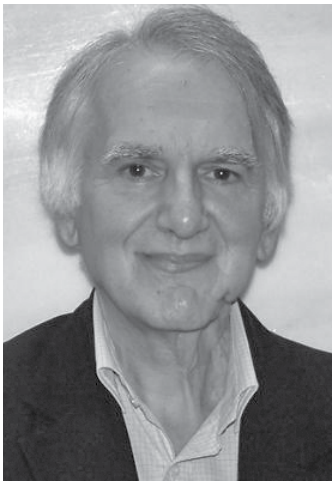
(Hint: say what you see)

Answer inside back
cover

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.



John Norton

EPISODE 4 - CARDS, TURKEYS AND THE PUB.

In my younger days as a student, and before a career path took over, I tried my hand at many part-time jobs in Mattishall and beyond.

Probably the one I enjoyed most was in 1967 during my first year at college. I came home for the 3 week Christmas break and managed to get employed as a temporary postman at the village post office to help with the seasonal rush. Mr and Mrs Coe, who ran the operation for many years, must have had great faith in me or, more likely, they were desperate. In those days before the cop out of sending Christmas greetings via the internet and posting something didn't break the bank there really was a bumper bundle of cards and parcels to sort and deliver. I'm sure there still is, but would hazard a guess that volumes have declined a little.

The village postman at the time was a well known local character called Ralph Turner. He had got the job a few years earlier supplementing his other work as a bit of a wheeler and dealer for which he had achieved quite a reputation. Some locals thought that he would never stick the job, but he proved them wrong and spent several years on his red post office bike delivering early morning mail to the village in between regular breaks at The Swan or the White House for a little sustenance and a game of cards.

Ralph was my mentor on my first day when I turned up at 6am on a frosty morning two weeks before Christmas to help sort the bags of Mattishall mail which had been delivered by van. I was allocated Parkers Road, Wier Avenue and some of the western parts of the village. Ralph helped me put the cards, letters and parcels in some sort of order for my round, showed me the spare bike with a carrier at the front which had been earmarked for me, checked I had a torch, helped me secure my mail bag on board and off I went. It was quite nerve wracking and I was very slow at first, being unfamiliar with all the names and numbers of the houses, and ham fisted with trying to use the torch without the bike falling over and dropping the mail. It was daylight by the time I had finished and with frost bitten fingers returned to base in triumph a good half an hour after Ralph who was already on his second mug of sweet tea.

After a couple of days, I really got into the swing of things and started to enjoy the dark early mornings and getting to know the village and its residents better. In some houses the kitchen lights were on and it was a great pleasure when people came to the door with cheery greetings to receive their mail. I even managed to get the odd tip or two. It was enough to put me in the festive spirit.

This seasonal spirit quite often extended to later in the day. We were supposed to do an afternoon round as well, but this was after, at Ralph's instigation, we felt the need to go to the gambling den of The Swan for a game of 5 card nap to try and recoup our outlay on a pint of Bullards bitter. Over the course of the two weeks the time spent in the pub seemed to get longer

and longer and the completion of the afternoon post round later and later. Perhaps this was the reason I liked the job so much. Thank you Ralph – Christmases have never been the same since.



Another unforgettable part of my Christmas working experiences was the good old turkey. My grandfather, the infamous B.E.(Bertie) Reeve, was a well-known poultry farmer based at Clint Green in Yaxham. To say he was a character is an understatement. I could write a whole book about him and his antics. He had a fairly large operation employing quite a few people with some like George Forder and "Tarzan" Lancaster coming from Mattishall. The seasonal turkey trade was the really busy time of the year. B.E. would hatch, grow and fatten turkeys and was really a forerunner to Bernard Matthews. The plump birds would be dispatched to that turkey farm in the sky and then plucked before being sent by lorry to market. Sometimes he would buy in fully grown live birds and prepare them for sale. There was a real buzz of hard work and excitement about his farm as deals were done and workers would be getting hours of overtime to help fund their Christmas excesses.

I remember from about the age of six being quite often called into B.E.'s office when he was with a group of his cronies having a Christmas sherry. He would ask me "Well how's the turkey trade then boy?". I would reply "It's bloody awful". For uttering that expletive all the old boys and B.E. would give me sixpence. It was the first and easiest money I've ever made.

B.E. liked to portray the image of being an important businessman. Even after he had given up the Clint Green poultry farm and had moved to Mattishall he could never retire and still dabbled in dealing in chickens, turkeys and goats. One Christmas when my sister Sue and brother-in-law Ken had come home from Africa where they had moved to, Ken and I spent the build up to the 25th December as B.E.'s lackeys. Ken had the use of quite a nice Rover car for the break, which was a bit smarter than B.E.'s pick-up. A deal needed to be done over payment for a consignment of turkeys and a meeting had been arranged with the seller. B.E. asked Ken to drive him to the rendezvous. About half a mile away B.E. told him to stop and then got out and sat in the back of the car. They carried on and the chap they were meeting was waiting for them. B.E. invited him into the back of the car and said "Sit in here next to me. We can do a deal while my man drives us around". Sure enough a deal

was done and they ended up in a pub. I'm not sure if Ken "my man" was allowed in or whether, like a good chauffeur, he had to stay with the car, but he still talks about it to this day. The only thing missing was a peaked hat.

For B.E. and Ralph Turner, and for many others, the local pub was a big attraction as a place to meet, chat, solve the world's problems, play cards and do business. Christmas time was an exceptionally manic period. Boxing Day lunchtime was probably one of the busiest days of the year. B.E. liked a tippie, a bottle or two of Worthington E being his beverage of choice. On the Boxing Day of the year that Ken was here we took B.E. and my father to The Swan which was heaving with what seemed like half the village. I was instructed to get the round in and B.E. handed me the money. I assumed he would want his usual Worthington E, which he did. But I got a further instruction. He wanted a sherry to go with it. As I got to the bar he shouted and told me that I must get "the very best" sherry. For B.E. only the "very best" would do. "None of that cheap rubbish". I did as I was told and brought the drinks to the table. B.E. took a big swig of his Worthington and then proceeded to tip the sherry into the beer. What a mixture. He must have enjoyed all the finesse and subtle taste of the best sherry having diluted it with half a pint of Worthington E.

But that was B.E. He certainly made our Christmases more interesting and has given us a wealth of stories to recall. I've only scratched the surface. And all that trauma of seeing countless gobbling turkeys ending up as plucked oven ready birds undoubtedly resulted in me writing a children's book called "The Turkeys Who Had A Happy Christmas" about a group of turkeys who escaped from an overturned lorry in Norwich and held the city to ransom in return for their freedom. The chief turkey is even called Bertie! It's still available from Amazon. (Forgive the plug – it's the entrepreneurial spirit inherited from my grandfather).

Happy Christmas! **John Norton**

Illustrated by Michael Blackman

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DORIS RICH – HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Born in 1922 in Southall, Middlesex, Doris celebrated her 100th Birthday on Sunday 13 November this year with a special tea party at Bob Carter Court, Mattishall.

Doris is among the first few Centenarians to be sent a congratulatory card from the new King - and is almost certainly the first Mattishall resident to receive one!



The day before her birthday Doris had a visit from her daughter and family, who live several hour's journey away, which included a special meal out at a local restaurant. On the day itself, Doris, looking very glamorous, enjoyed a lovely tea party surrounded by friends and with her sister, Yvonne, and brother, John, in attendance to help her celebrate this momentous occasion.

Doris moved to Bob Carter Court from Toftwood over 20 years ago. One of her hobbies is writing short stories and she has had a small book of them published by her family. She continues to write and some of her stories have been featured in Miscellanea itself!

When asked about her earliest memories, Doris could remember way back to being a very small girl, living with her parents in her Grandma's house where she could still recall the wooden washtub and the mangle and, especially, the black cat who also shared the house with them all.

Doris doesn't have a secret recipe for a long life and says that she puts hers down to, "good genes, both my mother and grandmother lived a long time". We all wish Doris a very happy 100th Birthday and continued good health and happiness.

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MATTISHALL COMMUNITY HUB

Wow! What a great start for Mattishall Community Hub. On Tuesday 18 October the first session of the proposed Hub took place at Mattishall Memorial Hall. Not really knowing what level of response to expect, we were absolutely delighted to welcome well over 20 local residents who came along and enjoyed a cuppa and a chat, made new connections and shared their various interests and hobbies.

In order to fully gauge the viability of the project, two further sessions were booked, the second one took place on Tuesday 1 November. Again, the turnout was most encouraging, we were very pleased to welcome back a number of local residents who had come to our first session, plus some new attendees, and once more there was a great atmosphere with chat and activity in the hall.

Our suggestions board and box soon started filling up with the various interests that people shared; from gardening, crafts and music to local history, dogs and flower arranging. Already there is discussion about setting up self-run groups, with a walking group currently being organised by one lady and a quiz kindly prepared by a gentleman for our next meeting.

The feedback from both of these initial sessions was overwhelmingly positive with lovely comments such as;

"What an amazing afternoon! It was a really lovely opportunity to meet other village residents and find many things in common with 'strangers' ... friends we haven't met yet!" SB

"Thanks a lot for organising the event. I managed to persuade ** (who was in a very down mood this morning) to come along ... I think she got a lot out of it." HG

"What a lovely afternoon it was ... such positive feedback showing the need for such a hub. I thought your ideas were great and there was a real buzz in the room." LV

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the taster session and look forward to the next get-together." BC

"... it was a lovely afternoon and I met people I'd never ever met walking around the village." SD

We hope very much to be able to continue and to expand this project into a thriving Community Hub for the village and, in order to do that, are currently seeking funding to enable us to carry on providing more sessions, to reach out to more local residents and to take on bigger community activities and events in the future. We were very pleased to see representatives from Mattishall Parish Council attend and hope that they were impressed by the positive response to the project. We are also very lucky to have the support of Lorraine Varney, Breckland Community Enabler, who went above and beyond her remit by making tea and washing up at both events!

The next meeting, the third of our 'experiment' to judge the need for and, hopefully, the long-term success of the project, will be held on Tuesday 6 December. Once again, we will be at Mattishall Memorial Hall from 2-4pm and, in addition to our usual 'cuppa & chat', we will be celebrating the upcoming festive season with some live music, a picture quiz and, of course, mince pies! Hope to see you there.

Helen Brook (Project Coordinator)

To contact Mattishall Community Hub please email us at mattishallvolunteerhub@outlook.com



MCH Committee



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Mattishall Neighbourhood Watch



You may be aware that I recently started up a Neighbourhood Watch group in Mattishall and may have seen some of my postings on social media but you might still ask the question – what is the Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is a national charity which has been in existence for over 40 years and is the largest voluntary crime prevention movement covering England and Wales with upwards of 2.3 million household members. The charity brings neighbours together to create strong, friendly and active communities in which crime can be tackled.

Neighbourhood Watch groups work in partnership with the Police, corporate companies with aligned values, voluntary organisations and individuals who want to improve their communities. Neighbourhood Watch aims to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the fear of crime by means of improved home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents and fostering a community spirit as well as tackling new forms of crime such as cybercrime.

Objectives

- To improve community safety generally e.g. fire safety
- To prevent crime by improving security, increasing vigilance, creating and maintaining a caring community and reducing opportunities for crime by increasing crime prevention awareness.
- To assist the police in detecting crime by promoting effective communication and the prompt reporting of suspicious and criminal activity.
- To reduce undue fear of crime by providing accurate information about risks and by promoting a sense of security and community spirit, particularly amongst the more vulnerable members of the community.
- To improve police/community liaison by providing effective communications through Neighbourhood Watch messaging systems which warn Coordinators of local crime trends which they can disseminate to their scheme members, and by members informing the police of incidents when they occur.

Schemes

Schemes can vary in size. A volunteer resident coordinator supervises the scheme and liaises with the police and other partners on information, messages and initiatives. It must be recognised that the scheme is a community initiative so success depends on what the members make of it.

The police can't deal with the problems and issues arising from crime and anti-social behaviour alone; they need the help of the whole community. Neighbourhood Watch provides a way for local people to play an important part in addressing this balance and making their communities safer.

Coordinator

The role of a Neighbourhood Watch coordinator is to set up and maintain a Neighbourhood Watch scheme within a specific street, neighbourhood or area. Whilst each crime prevention coordinator may develop specific procedures, the following are suggested as the main duties which coordinators will need to manage.

- Encourage vigilance amongst scheme members and actively encourage the early reporting of suspicious incidents.
- Receive crime information from the Neighbourhood Watch messaging system and distribute these messages to scheme members.

- Encourage neighbours to join Neighbourhood Watch through the website to receive up to date messages on national campaigns and initiatives and member benefits.
- Encourage scheme members to be aware of and put into practice crime prevention measures, such as property marking and security devices.
- Keep a check on vulnerable households and provide advice to members about dealing with callers at the door.
- Circulate newsletters and other relevant information to scheme members.
- Welcome newcomers to the neighbourhood and invite them to be part of the scheme.
- Supply each scheme member with Neighbourhood Watch and crime prevention literature, such as Neighbourhood Watch window stickers.

These are the main tasks that would be expected of a coordinator, tasks will vary according to the needs of each individual neighbourhood. Neighbourhood Watch has information and guidance on the following topics: -

- Antisocial behaviour
- Bicycle theft
- Burglary
- Car crime
- Child sexual exploitation
- County lines
- Dog theft
- Domestic abuse
- Elder abuse
- Hate crime and incidents
- Heritage crime
- Modern slavery
- Password protection
- Rural crime
- Scams
- Serious violence
- Street harassment
- Terrorism

These can be accessed via the Neighbourhood Watch website - www.ourwatch.org.uk. If you don't have access to the internet and you want further assistance you can contact me on mobile phone 07773330109.

You can also use this number if you want a Neighbourhood Watch window sticker.

Mike Onassis Mattishall Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator



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News from Mattishall Sports & Social Club



SEPTEMBER FUN DAY was a great success. It was a lovely family event, and we had a good turnout. It was nice to see so many new faces. Even though the day was a bit chilly, it did not put people off, if anyone wanted a warmup, they could go to the BBQ stand, into club or the marquee. We would like to thank everyone who donated their time, cakes and prizes, they definitely helped to make it work.

The children seemed to enjoy the traditional games provided and liked looking round the fire engine that Dereham Fire Service kindly brought along. It was great to be entertained by The Rockavox Choir from Dereham. We raised £700 toward the new play area and hope to plan another day in the future. A big thank you to Jo Bishop, whose idea it was and for the planning she has put into it.

Jo organised a Playing Card Bingo for October, which turned out to be another great success and she has been asked to repeat it. If you have never played before, you should come and have a go. We will let everyone know when the next one will be. We now also have a meat draw, which is held every other Sunday. You can buy squares from the club and see if you can be lucky.

We have had plenty of entertainment throughout Autumn, including Abi May, Ska Rich, Avenue Acoustic Duo, the Blues Bros on August Bank Holiday and StepBack Most have been well attended and we would ask you all to look out for our posters and on line, advertising our Winter events. We have Uncle Barry's Band for New Year's Eve, so hope you can all come along and celebrate with us. I am sure you will have a great evening.

We are now into the winter months, the clocks have gone back and the dark nights are upon us. At least we have Christmas round the corner. But if you ever feel the need to get out, remember we are open 7 days a week and will be

there with a friendly word and a welcoming drink. Whether a nice pint or a warming cup of coffee. We hope we will see you all soon.



Mattishall Bowls Club



Mattishall Bowls Club members will be working throughout the winter on the Green and behind the scenes in preparation for the 2023 season. After the very dry summer and high temperatures we have had to work hard to repair the parched areas. As the photos show, we had a team of workers at the end of the playing season, including our oldest member Stanley Easter, when we had to scarify the surface to get rid of the thatch – we removed 80 binbags of this material – and followed this with slitting, brushing and mowing. With the recent rain the green is well on the way to recovery and careful monitoring over the winter months should ensure a good surface again next Spring.

As with all clubs and societies, we are indebted to the hard-working Committee members who give up their time in order for the Club to continue functioning as it does, and we offer our thanks to each and every one of them.

We managed to recruit several new members last season, but we are always looking for more. Bowls is a relatively cheap sport to play and accessible to most – we would welcome both new and experienced players next year and you will find adverts in Miscellanea, on social media and around the village in the Spring. We will give details of our Open Days where you have the opportunity to have a go and receive free tuition. If you want more details about the Club, you can phone Gerry on 07908 205 023.

Finally, we wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a happy and healthy 2023.



Christmas Fun Afternoon

All Saints'
Church
Mattishall



Sun 4th December
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Christmas craft, fun and games for primary school children (accompanied by adults). Refreshments served.

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Sundry Musings...

We wanted a new kitchen. Sounds innocent enough doesn't it, rather than the litany of failures, surprises, and downright catastrophes we encountered in bringing this new kitchen into being.

I mean, I only wanted to get rid of the brown wood. Thirty-one years we've had this kitchen and for all thirty-one we've had brown wooden cupboards. It's been dark and dingey and it wanted zing and light.

I know that war in Ukraine and the threat of nuclear war hang heavy on our minds as I write, even worse, the return of Johnson as Prime Minister, but we must *carpe the old diem* and we did.

We found our man for the job. I shan't name him as he's particularly good and I don't want him poached...I may need him again. Well, as we all know it was a good, as in hot, summer, and indoor tasks were not appealing. We'd been given a date of 23rd August for him, we'll call him John, to start work. He booked us in for a five-week job and got me to book a four week skip from that start date.

All we had to do was decimate the kitchen cupboards and strip the ceiling and wallpaper. I lost a week somewhere during the summer and it came to within days of lift off, with little having been started. There were some long nights, and we gradually threw away 31 years' worth of out-of-date products lurking in the back of bottom cupboards, mustards we remembered from our second honeymoon and protein snack bars dating from father's golfing days. And when did I last use black treacle? Our stock rotation had not been very efficient, obviously.

There were numerous visits to the tip and a great feeling of catharsis for me, not so himself as all things might come in handy. Share my pain. The charity shops in Dereham did a roaring trade from our unwanted trifle bowl for the trifles we never make, and the exotic glass cake stand for the cakes I never bake. We overwhelmed East Anglian Children's Hospice as we approached with yet another box of untold goodies and were eventually turned away. I hope you're enjoying my white porcelain olive dish and baguette plate. Very smart for the dinner parties we no longer hold. Your turn now.

I suggested that we 'get a man in' to strip the ceiling as it was painted over many times, but himself shrugged off that notion with an easy "No problem." Two nights later I found him at 5am trailing bits of ceiling paper from his head like white dreadlocks, absolutely exhausted from the job.

When John arrived a few hours later he was most impressed and assumed we'd had someone remove it for us as he would have done. Far too hard a job he reckoned. I sighed deeply. Robin rubbed his neck.

Well, removing all the cupboards took just hours. Terrific: all gone, but a living room of deconstructed kitchen. The fridge of course in the hallway. It's quite chic. It's still there. The next part was less straightforward as John noticed that where Rob had stripped the wallpaper in one corner, there was an enormous crack and a hole.

We had to have the building inspector. Luckily, he came soonish, and his professional opinion was that the crack and subsidence was aged and not requiring attention, but what he did note was that the kitchen window had no lintel above it, and one needed fitting before we could proceed.

John went away and some burly builders came and drove a hole through the outer wall and erected scaffolding. A downer really. It put us back a week at least. Then John reappeared and removed the scaffolding poles and filled in the brickwork. You see how I keep him to myself; he's a brickie too.

Next the floor had to be levelled with a hard setting liquid to even it out ready for the wood flooring to go down. We were banished from the kitchen again and found ourselves exiting the living room into the garden with a kettle, then going in through the back door to get water from the utility room and vice versa. The living room was faintly covered in brick dust as were we. It seeped into our pores.

All was going swimmingly from then on until our new induction hob was fitted (cool) and John dropped a piece of cornice on it and smashed it. So, no hob. Back to the microwave in the living room. We were living on salad and ready meals, with added grit. But we were getting there. The cupboards were soon fitted and the new fridge and freezer too, but a door was bowed so we're waiting for a new one. The fitted microwave was scratched in transit, so we are waiting for a new one of those and Robin must paint the walls before 7th November when the floor is being laid.

John, bless him, whilst he was in the loft sorting the lighting, found a slight leak in the roof caused by a build-up of moss on the roof tiles. So, we got Mark in to clear the gutters and he's coming back on the 8th of November to clean the roof. John also noticed that our fuse box had gone out with the ark and sorely needed replacing. Another tick. Another cheque. I only wanted no brown doors!

Now it's a waiting game. We've filled the cupboards, bought new cutlery inserts for our new drawers then discovered a whole box under the dining table filled with cling film. There's nowhere to put it. We'll be ready by Christmas but I've no gravy boats: I gave them all away. After last Christmas for four omnivores, one gluten free vegetarian, two vegans, one diabetic and a Slimming World including three distinct kinds of gravy, I decided I'd do a buffet this year.

Salad for all. Merry Christmas.

Tina Cooper



Brainteasers December 2022 Brainteaser 2 of 5

What never gets hurt when it falls?
Answer inside back cover

Getting Crafty at Mattishall Methodist Church

Mattishall Methodist Church held a Craft Exhibition and Sale on Saturday 15th October.

This had been the idea of one of our members, Malcolm Hunt, although he sadly died suddenly at the end of August. We decided to continue and were very pleased that his widow Cynthia allowed his artwork to be displayed.

The other displays were from members and friends of Mattishall and Garvestone chapels. We had such a beautiful range - cards, crochet, knitting, painting and patchwork - to name just a few! The regular Traidcraft stall was almost as colourful! We also served teas and coffees and enjoyed cakes and sausage rolls.

We had a steady stream of visitors which gave them an opportunity to see what facilities we have and hope will encourage them to come back again and keep in touch.

Through the sales and donations, we were also able to raise £254 for church funds. We have also already started talking about what we will do next time to make it even better!



On Sunday 16th, we had a celebration service, thanking God for the gift of creativity, led by our minister, Rev Anne Richardson.

Christmas Joke

What do you call
a blind reindeer?

No-eye deer



Roots

By Kim

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Could you spend a couple of hours a week or even an hour a month helping a family with a child who accesses our hospices in their own home?

Caring for a seriously ill child or young person can put a lot of extra demand on a family. The aim of the Help at Home service is to put a caring individual into a family's home to provide everyday practical support such as cooking, sibling support, cleaning and gardening. We provide you with the necessary support and training, all you need to do is provide some of your precious time. If you would like any more information or to apply then please contact

Anne at anne.rayner@each.org.uk or call 07771 275320. Thank You.



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

GROUP NEWS

The Beavers enjoyed a canoeing session at the Scout Activity Centre in Eaton in September and then had a Superhero-themed sleepover which involved visits from a Policeman and two Guide Dogs, craft activities, geo caching, biscuit decorating and a campfire.



The Cubs made the most of the good weather so far this term with lots of outdoor activities - although not all were dry! The term got off to a wet and wild start with a trip to have a go at paddleboarding, even trying out the giant paddle boards with the scout section. All children taking part did really well. The wet theme continued into a visit to Dereham Fire Station where we learnt about all the different work the crews do, had a look around the fire engine and even got to have a go with the hoses. Thankfully that was the last of the water as we also completed a 2-mile hike around the back of the village to practice map reading and to get used to following different types of paths etc whilst practising the countryside code. After half-term we have another range of new activities to try, along with brushing up on our cookery skills, the Remembrance Day parade and a sleepover!



This term Scouts worked on their teamwork on giant SUPs (Stand up Paddle Boards) at Whittingham Broad with the cubs and during a Wide Game at North Tuddenham. They have been practising their meal budgeting and cooking skills both inside the scout hut and on open fires at camp, this is part of their outdoor challenge award.



In September members from across all sections of the Group were presented with their Norfolk Platinum Jubilee Challenge Awards by Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk Alex Bartram. To achieve this, members had to complete four challenges over the Jubilee year: Being Active (physical challenge); Environment (sustainability challenge); Learning Legacy (learning challenge); and Celebrating the Jubilee.



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

We have a new School Council for this academic year. The classes in Year 1-5 voted for new class representatives. The Year 5 children stay on and take the lead as joint Chair Person and Secretary. They meet fortnightly to discuss matters arising in school. So far this year they have collected information about what they think children need to learn to keep them safe and healthy in the current world we live in. They have also shared what opportunities they have available in the local community and the risks that they may face. This is used in school as part of our stakeholder needs assessment so we can provide a suitable 'Life Skills' curriculum for Mattishall Primary School (MPS). They shared the results of their findings with our RSHE Governor via a TEAMS meeting.

The School Council has also been part of a process to appoint the MPS Friendship Squad leaders. Year 5s were invited to apply for the position by completing an application form. The School Council leaders interviewed the applicants and chose two successful candidates. The Friendship Squad leaders are responsible for the day to day running of this group. The Friendship Squad are available to support their peers at breaktimes.

Our new 2022/2023 intake of Reception children have made a great start to their learning journey at Mattishall Primary School. They have been very busy this term getting to know each other and learning about their new environment and routines. We have shared many stories including, 'Peace at Last', 'The Colour Monster' and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', and many more. We have been pleased with how they have settled in.



Yellow Class (Year 2) has been using paint to explore with lines, shapes and colour mixing. The children have combined paint with other media and created a range of pieces of artwork. They have also learnt about and discussed the work of other Artists such as Hokusai.



Green class (Year 3) have been learning all about pre-historic art. The children have been busy using natural materials such as fruit, leaves and twigs to create pigment for paint. They found this fun, but super messy. They then discussed how painting on a cave wall is much harder than painting on paper. They created their own cave wall using PVA glue, lentils, flour, rice and seeds. Once dry, they developed their painting skills by painting their animals on the cave wall. The children even created their own paintbrushes using twigs, a sponge and a rubber band. It was so much harder than painting on paper because the surface was extremely rough!



Blue Class (Year 4) celebrated Black History Month by recognising the significance of Sacagawea, a brave and resilient Native American woman who acted as a guide/interpreter on an expedition to explore the west of America at the turn of the 18th/19th century.

Indigo class (Year 5) has been learning all about North American Art. The children have been busy using blocks to create a block house based on the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. The children had to first sketch the design of their block house and then build it, thinking carefully about what type of blocks they could use to match it as accurately as possible to their own designs. The children enjoyed being architects and builders!



During Science, Year 6 children have been learning about classifying organisms. They learnt about how animals and plants can be classified and have now moved onto learning about micro-organisms. One particular micro-organism we looked at was yeast. We learnt that when yeast 'eats' a certain type of food it produces CO₂. This is how bread gets its air bubbles. We did an experiment to see which food yeast likes to 'eat' the most out of sugar, coffee, flour and salt. We placed these foods in a Ziplock bag with some water and yeast. The bag that inflated the most with CO₂ contained the food the yeast liked to eat the most. We found out it was sugar.



The school also held a pumpkin carving competition that everyone really enjoyed.



OUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU

If you believe that education can make a difference to children's lives ... read on. If you want to support the school to be the best it can be – we want you to be our school governor.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and dedicated individual from our local community to join the governing board at Mattishall Primary School. This is a great opportunity to be able to support our school and community.

The governing board play an important role in helping the school reflect and question its practices in a supportive way, as critical friends. We encourage the school leaders to continue to strive for the very best for all the pupils and to bring about fresh ideas and new perspectives.

The responsibilities of the governing board are:

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

If you have professional experience that might be beneficial to the group (e.g. financial, safeguarding, health and safety, etc), that is wonderful, but you do not need and specific qualifications or experience. There are a wide range of courses available (free of charge) to help support your introduction and development as a governor. You will also be supported by the rest of the friendly team too.

If you would like to find out more about the role and it's requirements, or you are keen to become a school governor, please contact the chair of governors, Pete Bourne, via the school office (office@mattishallprimary.org.uk).



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our village, our future

Review of the Mattishall Neighbourhood Plan

Our Review of the Mattishall Neighbourhood Plan is now progressing at pace. Since the last edition of Miscellanea, we have now appointed a steering group, comprising:

Graham Clarke, David Fowler, John Pickering, Rev Mark McCaghrey, Lorraine Trueman.

Planning consultants Modicum Planning Ltd, Rachel Hogger and Natalie Blaken.

We have secured government funding in order to conduct the review.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Our current Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2017. It is a land use plan containing 28 planning policies, which are used by Breckland District Council when determining planning applications in the Parish.

The planning policies are arranged into five topics

1: Environment and Landscape 2: Housing and the Built Environment 3: Community
4: Economy 5: Transport and Telecommunications

We are reviewing the plan to ensure it is up to date and is an appropriate and effective response to the priorities and concerns shared by our Parish residents.

The current plan proposed a number of projects:

- Build a children's' play area
- Build an adults' exercise area
- Develop a community woodland
- Provide additional allotments

The play area and adult exercise area have now been built. New allotments, a community orchard and woodland to be available adjacent to the Denbury Homes site. Overall, these projects that you set in 2017 have been achieved.

WE NOW NEED TO KNOW FROM YOU HOW YOU WANT YOUR VILLAGE TO EVOLVE

An important part of the review is to ask you, our residents, local businesses and community groups for your initial thoughts on the future development of our village.

- How do you think our village could be improved?
 - What works well and what not so well?
- What enhanced services would you like to see and what additional facilities would you like to see provided?
 - How do you feel about more residential development?
- How important is the design of new buildings and how they fit with the village's character?
 - Do you have concerns about traffic?
 - How should our landscape and wildlife be protected?

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF YOUR VILLAGE, PLEASE GET INVOLVED AND HAVE YOUR SAY – WE WILL LISTEN

Please complete our online questionnaire at www.Mattishallpc.info

Or in writing by email to clerk@mattishallpc.info

Or by completing the enclosed form and handing it in at either Mattishall News, or the Village Stores.



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: miscadvert@yahoo.com

Mattishall Methodist Church

No services at our chapel in December except on Sunday 18th December at 2.30 pm – **Carol Service** with our minister Rev Anne Richardson.

Weekly Sunday Services commence again on 1st January at 2.30 pm.

See Noticeboard for details. All welcome.

Mattishall and Tudd Valley Benefice Carol Services and Activities

All Saints, Mattishall, Sun 4th Dec, Christmas Activities Afternoon from 2pm

Yaxham Village Hall: Sun 4th Dec, Village Carol Service at 2pm

All Saints, Welborne: Sun 11th Dec, Carol Service led by the Salvation Army at 3pm

Yaxham Village Hall: Sun 11th Dec, Community Nativity Play at 3pm

St Peter's, Yaxham: Fri 16th Dec, Community Nativity Play at 7pm

St. Michael's, Hockering: Sun 18th Dec, Village Carol Service at 3pm

All Saints, Mattishall: Sun 18th Dec, Village Carol Service at 6pm

St. Mary's, North Tuddenham: Sun 18th Dec, Village Carol Service at 2pm

Christmas Eve

All Saints, East Tuddenham: Sat 24th Dec, Carol Service at 3pm

All Saints, Mattishall: Sat 24th Dec, Christingle at 4pm

St. Michael's, Hockering: Sat 24th Dec, Holy Communion at 8pm

St. Mary's, North Tuddenham: Sat 24th Dec, Christmas Praise at 9.30pm

All Saints, Welborne: Sat 24th Dec, Holy Communion at 9.30pm

St. Peter's, Yaxham: Sat 24th Dec, Holy Communion at 11.30pm

Christmas Day

All Saints, Mattishall: Sun 25th Dec, Holy Communion at 10.30am

St. Peter's, Yaxham: Sun 25th Dec, Crib Service at 9.30am

New Year's Day

All Saints, Welborne: Sun 1st Jan, New Year's Communion at 10am

DROP IN COFFEE MORNING

DROP IN takes place every Thursday morning in All Saints Church, Mattishall from 10am until 12. Everyone, both ladies and gents, are welcome to come along, especially through the winter when the church will be a relatively warm place to come to and meet people for a chat and refreshments. We serve unlimited teas and coffees, biscuits and cakes. We don't charge any specific amount but if people can make a small discretionary donation (suggest £2) to cover expenses that is appreciated.

It is a great place to make new friends and we sometimes have activities such as our Christmas party on the 15th of December. On that day we will serve a Christmas buffet lunch from 12 followed by entertainment until about 2pm.

The most important thing about DROP IN is that it is somewhere to go, stay warm, meet people and make friends.

Please do not be lonely, come along and enjoy a cuppa, listen or chat to others and join in as much as you feel you want to.

Lizzie

LIZZIE'S BOOK LOVERS CLUB

This very informal book club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, currently in All Saints Church Mattishall. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th December at 2.30pm.

We don't have a set book to read, we just chat about the books we have each been reading and we then swap our books with other members of the club. We have refreshments while we chat and we ask for a small donation to cover expenses and heating of the church. We are a friendly group who love to chat. When we have finished talking about books we often move onto all sorts of subjects. If you like reading and fancy meeting likeminded people then you are welcome to join us.

Lizzie



Christmas Joke

What did the snowman say to the aggressive carrot?

Get out of my face

Desert Island Discs



Let us introduce ourselves. We are Alan and Sue Cossey and we moved to Mattishall in 2009 from Hellesdon, near Norwich airport. We probably know most people here through leading two parents' and toddlers' groups at All Saints' Church, where we are both churchwardens and Alan is a Licensed Lay Minister. Sue leads **Little Angels** on Wednesday mornings during term time and Alan leads **Who Let The Dads Out?** once a month on Saturday mornings. Alan currently still has a paying job, developing database software.

Our musical tastes are somewhat different, so perhaps you would like to work out which of our favourite pieces of music is whose below (we do say on some of them though). We've arranged them roughly in order of when they were recorded. There is also a link to each item to watch and listen to it on YouTube, if you wish, by typing the link into your web-browser or, once this edition of Miscellanea has been uploaded to the Mattishall Village website (www.mattishall-village.co.uk/miscellanea-1.htm), by clicking on the links there. We've tried to keep to official sites so there is no copyright problem.

Our first choice is **Hey Bulldog** by the **Beatles**. The Beatles would break up within about a year, but they seem to be particularly enjoying themselves singing it here. www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4vbJQ-MrKo.

Our second choice is much, much more relaxed, being **Albatross** by **Fleetwood Mac**. It's a track to put on, put your feet up and drift away. Rather bizarrely, this brings back memories of WH Smith on St. Stephen's Street in Norwich for Alan. He thinks it was because Albatross was in the charts on a trip there. Weird really. <https://youtu.be/QooCN5JbOkU>

Next is **Something**, again by the **Beatles**. Perhaps the best loved Beatles song of all, it was not written by John Lennon or Paul McCartney, but by George Harrison who was coming out of their shadow during those last years. It is a beautiful love song and if you can sing its words and mean them, you are a privileged person. www.youtube.com/watch?v=UelDrZ1aFeY

John Lennon recorded "**Jealous Guy**" on his 1971 album, *Imagine*, but it is best known for being released by Roxy Music shortly after Lennon was murdered in New York in 1980. Bryan Ferry, of **Roxy Music**, has an incredible voice and makes great use of it in this song, superbly backed up by Andy Mackay's saxophone. <https://youtu.be/hRzGzRqNj58>

Back in the 1990s, the Cossey family seemed to hear **Take That** played in their house every day as their eldest daughter was a huge fan. A reminder of those days is a couple of songs, **Back for Good** and **Never Forget**. **Back for Good** is easy to listen to and was the groups only US hit. <https://youtu.be/N2ICfCO8TCw>

Never Forget is a rather unusual song for a pop group with the success that **Take That** had. It is a reminder that fame is temporary and that there is always someone ready to take over. It is rather ironic that this song was released shortly before Robbie Williams left and, one single later, **Take That** broke up (though they did reform later). For both Sue and Alan, these two songs are a reminder of a holiday in France with their kids, singing along merrily to these songs as we drove along in the car. https://youtu.be/yoO_1FFr56k



Next is something very different, the song, **In Christ Alone**. In 2001 **Keith Getty and Stuart Townend**, two British composers of Christian music, got together to write this song, an example of modern hymn-writing. It became popular on this side of the Atlantic before also becoming so in the USA and elsewhere. It tells of the hope that a Christian has whatever life may throw at him/her because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn9-UNer6MQ

Though the recording of the next one is from 2009, it is a song that **Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel** released on an album, which was initially a failure, which seems surprising now. However, a remixed version of **The Sound of Silence** was a great hit the following year. The recording here is when they sang it live at Madison Square Garden in 2009, a song so simple and beautiful. <https://youtu.be/LJQ1q-13Ek>

And now for something completely different. **Beethoven's 6th Symphony**. We don't automatically lean towards classical music but this piece offers beautiful harmony and easy to listen to music written by a great master. The title given to this is the "Pastoral Symphony" or "Recollections of Country Life." The music depicts this incredibly well as you can imagine the green fields and trees on a summer's day. The sudden arrival of a storm is depicted followed by the calm as the storm subsides and the sound of the lark singing again. <https://youtu.be/aW-7CqxhnAQ>

Lastly, we bring you a song of a type that few people have probably heard. Around the world are hundreds upon hundreds of Christians from (just about) every tribe and tongue, including a growing number of Jewish people who believe that Jesus (of the New Testament) is their Messiah. We'll leave you with this foot-tapper of a song, **Gadol Adonai** by the **Messianic Jewish Alliance of Israel**. Fear not, there are English subtitles! <https://youtu.be/chG6xRsX7ns>

Brainteasers December 2022

Brainteaser 3 of 5

Which of the following 4-digit numbers should not be in the list?

- 5193
- 8118
- 5601
- 5544
- 6318

Answer inside back cover

Senior Slot

Our Day Out

Free award-winning creative workshops for older people

In December, get creative with festive fun – mince pies, African drumming with Les Chapel and a digital twist!

- Dereham Trinity Methodist Church, Friday 2nd December 1-3pm
- Attleborough Methodist Church, Thursday 8th December 1-3pm

From January to March – **Our Day Out** will be exploring more fun creative activities, as well as exploring digital applications. Check out the Creative Arts East website to find out more!

- Dereham Trinity Methodist Church, Every 1st & 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3pm
- Attleborough Methodist Church, Every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, 1-3pm

Interested in coming along?

Contact Lauren, Arts & Health Support Worker on 01953 713390 or email lauren@creativeartseast.co.uk for more information.

The Silver Social

The Silver Social offers a chance to enjoy a cuppa and cake whilst listening to some live music, watching a theatrical performance, or taking part in an arts workshop. Local venues are listed below but you can find out about others, further afield, by logging on to our website.

December Workshops

Festive Fun with Genevieve Rudd – Gather to get creative, forage for materials to make wreaths, festive drawing and some digital seasonal fun.

16/12/2022, 1pm-3pm, Attleborough Library

January Workshops

19/01/2023, 1-3pm, Toftwood Village Hall
25/01/2023, 1-3pm, Bawdeswell Village Hall

February Workshops

16/02/2023, 1-3pm, Toftwood Village Hall
22/02/2023, 1-3pm, Bawdeswell Village Hall

March Workshops

23/03/2023, 1-3pm, Toftwood Village Hall
29/03/2023, 1-3pm, Bawdeswell Village Hall

Keep your eyes out for updates on workshop and performance details coming soon...

Want to know more about The Silver Social?

To stay up-to-date with what's coming up at The Silver Social, visit www.thesilversocial.com or if you want to talk to someone about getting involved with The Silver Social as a participant, a prescriber, volunteer, or a performer, please contact Kaitlin Ferguson, Arts and Health Officer at Creative Arts East, by emailing kaitlin@creativeartseast.co.uk or calling 01953 713390.



Our Day Out! creative ARTS EAST

FREE CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN NORFOLK
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Suitable for those aged 50+, sessions offer an opportunity to improve wellbeing, try something new and meet others in a safe environment

We are Dementia Inclusive

Where is your nearest session?

Our current in-person session run in **Attleborough, Dereham, Great Massingham, Great Yarmouth, Hunstanton, South Wootton, Thetford, Watton and Wells**

creativeartseast.co.uk

Interested in coming along?

Contact Lauren on **01953 713390 / 07359 099950** or email lauren@creativeartseast.co.uk for upcoming dates and to book a place!





Brainteasers December 2022

Brainteaser 4 of 5

Which one of these is least like the others and why?

- Poem
- Novel
- Statue
- Rainbow
- Painting

Answer inside back cover

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

New for 2022 The Squirrels Rest Café & Takeaway

Come & enjoy a coffee, cake & relax in our peaceful surroundings
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.

New for Christmas 2022

Christmas Grotto

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th December 2022

Pre bookable tickets, bookings for Grotto 12pm till 6pm Christmas music & Mulled Wine

Christmas Trees Nordmaan Fir Cut & Pot grown, Wreaths & Gifts, Hampers & Vouchers & much more available. Now taking all your Christmas veg, meat & bakery orders.

We would like to thank all our customers for your continued support & We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

We will close at 2pm on Christmas Eve & reopen on Wednesday 04th January 2023

Any orders can be placed either by phone or email

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www.acornhutfarmshop.co.uk



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Miracles can happen

It was snowing hard, very cold and dark. The lady was sitting alone and was only just warm enough. She was supposed to have visitor for Christmas but had just heard that they would not be coming. Having saved her meagre pension to buy extra food, which would not now be needed, she wondered what to do. She did not have a freezer, unlike most people now. They were going to celebrate her ninetieth birthday, as well as the birth of Jesus. So, she was rather disappointed.

Sometimes she wondered, like so many others, had he really been born as the fables told us or was it just a myth? With the world such a selfish place, and so many terrible disasters, how could you believe all you were told as a child.

Deciding it was too late to make up the fire again, the lady made a cup of cocoa, filled a hot water bottle and went to bed.

Perhaps tomorrow would be a better day, it could become warmer and the snow could melt, she could even get a card or two, although there were none last year. It took a long time for sleep to come.

At the other end of the village a young couple were also wondering what to do over the next two days. Christmas – what a joke. Good will, love they neighbour, Merry Christmas, how? Life was a bore when you were out of work and not many prospects of finding any. They too found it hard to sleep.

Next day was indeed Christmas, it snowed as hard as ever. Even so, there were quite a few people about. Children could be heard laughing and shouting and somewhere there was music playing. This was heard by both the lonely old lady and the young couple. It did cheer them a little. But it was going to be a long day, with little to make it different from any other.

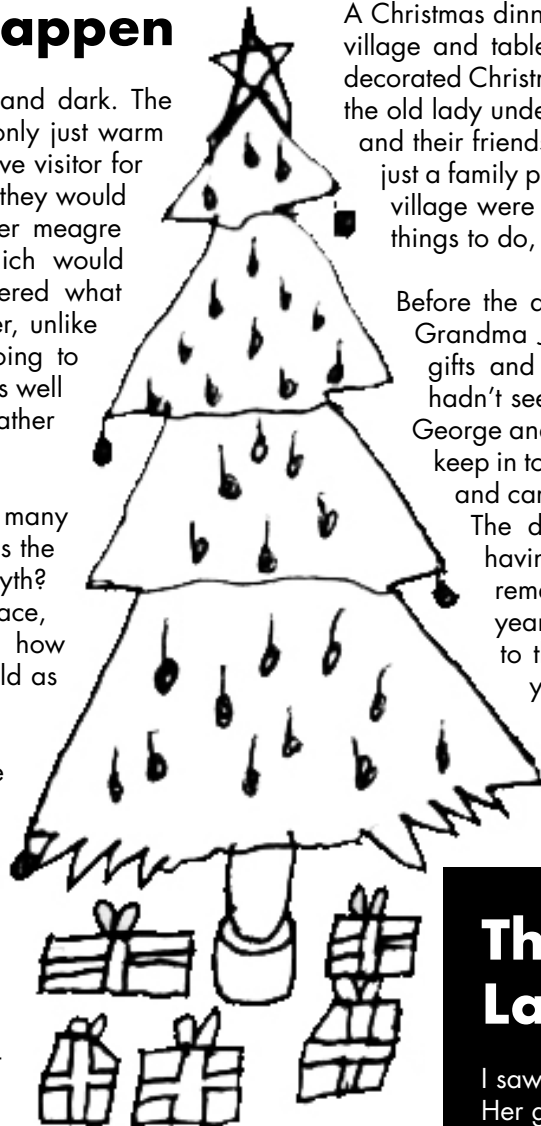
But miracles can happen after all, the musicians were going from house to house checking on their neighbours. The old lady was bundled up in her coat, hat, scarf and gloves and put into a car rather against her will, protesting had no effect. The young couple were also persuaded out of the house. From many other houses people were leaving, some with parcels in their hands. All were moving towards the village hall. There they found light, warmth and laughter.

A Christmas dinner had been cooked by the ladies from the village and tables set up by other willing hands. A large decorated Christmas tree had pride of place. It was then that the old lady understood why her visitors had not come; they and their friends had the idea of a village party instead of just a family party. It was a wonderful idea and the whole village were taking part. The young couple were found things to do, making their day quite different.

Before the day was over the old lady was known as Grandma Jessie by everyone. She was given cards, gifts and more importantly, hugs from people she hadn't seen for a very long time. The young couple, George and Mary, found new friends and promised to keep in touch. Children had gifts from the tree. Songs and carols were sung, some by the children alone. The day finally ended. People returned home having enjoyed the best Christmas they could remember. It was decided to do the same next year. Grandma Jessie, George and Mary came to the conclusion that miracles can happen if you help to make them.

Doris Rich

Illustrated by Alfie Guglielmuzzi



The Queen's Last Farewell

I saw today; Her Majesty in repose.
Her guards surround her, in sentinel pose.
As she lay beneath her standard bright,
watched over through day and night.
The symbols of Monarchy above her lay,
as people together did come to pray.
They came in multitude, to stand before
Our Queen, in dignity and to honour.
To say farewell in thoughts and prayer.
To stand in supplication; foursquare!
Race, colour; nor creed was seen,
just sadness at the passing of our Queen!
Rest In Peace ma'am each heart will sing
As now we turn and cry. God Save The King!

Mike Hamill

A tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

She fulfilled her duties to the end
Our Queen Elizabeth, the nation's friend.

Jo Sparkes

A Good Decision

Many years ago – 1994 to be exact – I made a phone call that proved to be one of the best decisions I ever made. I answered an advertisement in the local magazine about people interested in joining a writing club. I spoke to Mrs. Shirley Hayward who welcomed me to the next meeting. Well, the rest is history as they say. We met every Monday afternoon from 2pm 'til 4pm and read out what we had written during the past week, maybe a story, poem or something we had attended or observed during the past few days. Our contributions were serious, sometimes funny and hilarious and sometimes sad but always well written. We usually had a break during the school holidays to recharge our batteries!!! Our meetings were fun and we usually stopped for tea and cakes halfway through.

Once a year the group published a book to which everyone contributed a piece of writing. I gave mine to my son the other day when he came to see me. They were too valuable to get lost or left in an attic. There were lots of memories in those books. I made some good friends and had a lot of laughs during those years. Sadly, many of my friends are dead now, but the lovely memories linger on and I often have a laugh to myself when I remember something that happened at one of our meetings.

Joan Walton

Remember, Remember The Gunpowder Treason and Plot

His name was Faukes
But they called him Guy,
A handsome fellow
With a beard and glass eye.

He and his fellows
Sat down to conspire.
To set the Houses of Parliament firmly afire.
The government's no good
Shouted one surly ruffian wearing a hood.


They all agreed
And after having a feed,
Hailed in gunpowder
In barrels and tubs,
Wagons straining at the hubs.

A vigilant bystander, watching could see,
Pulled out the Bobby from the local with glee.
Who called on the army with soldiers strong,
They quickly saw that something was wrong.


Guy Faukes and his fellows, conspirators all
Were taken to the gallows
To take a great fall.

So now we remember Faukes,
A man they call Guy,
A handsome fellow
With a beard and glass eye.


Doris Rich




Bridge Club



Scrabble



Ten Pin Bowling



NORFOLK
theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN OF MATTISHALL

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

Speakers and Subjects

11th January
'Monastic Meals – Feasting and Fasting with the Prioress'
Rosie Wilkin

8th February
'Through the Stage Door'
James Stibbings

8th March
Annual General Meeting
followed by Beetle Drive

For more information please contact either
Jackie Tooke
01362 858447
or
Pat Hamilton
01362 850286

We Will Remember Them

11 AM, the guns fall silent and the thunder stills.
Just the cries of the wounded, the emptiness fills!
Is it over? Does the fighting end,
Can we now our weary way, homeward wend?
Home to our families, our children, our kin?
Can we smile now; would it be a sin?
We are the lucky ones, or so they say,
To have made it, to this auspicious day.
But there are those still broken; in body and mind.
Some whose injuries. they'll never find!
And those who have fallen, forever concealed,
Beneath the soil, in a foreign field.
They gave us everything, their life, their youth.
And we will respect them, in honour and truth.
So, stand tall, as the words you humbly say!
For our tomorrow's, they gave their today
We will remember them!

The Worm

I saw a worm once 'twas a wriggling thing?
But, oh my my, it could sing.
It lived inside the compost heap,
and would, on occasion, take a peep.
I saw it one night in bow tie and tails,
surrounded by an orchestra of snails!
I stood there quietly, all aquiver!
And, as it sang; I felt a shiver.
It sang with gusto and panache.
Oh, my eyes were all awash
What a star it was, such a performer;
as it belted out *Nessun Dorma!*



Mike Hamill

Illustrated by Victoria Bingham

Mattishall Parish Council News

LATEST NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Upcoming events!

Christmas Lighting Sunday 4th December

Come along to join us for the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights at the Village Green.

Santa's Grotto (held at the Church), mulled wine, mince pies.

Lizzie and the Dereham Band playing traditional Carols and Christmas Songs.

King's Coronation 6th May 2023

The date of the coronation has now been announced as May 6th 2023.

Save the date!

Further information to follow in regards to the Council's plans to celebrate this event.

Volunteers required to help plan the event, please contact the clerk.

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings

Monday 7th November
Monday 5th December

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

Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime in Mattishall

Over a period of time this year there have been a number of instances of Anti-Social Behaviour and minor crime in our village. For the most part, these have been criminal damage and theft.

Here is a sample of some of these instances: -

- Damage to a brick wall in the children's play area
- Damage to telephone kiosk adjacent the play area
- Damage and theft to dog waste bin adjacent the play area
- Severe damage to wooden bench in play area
- Damage to wall and gate in churchyard
- Damage to general waste bin adjacent bus shelter near the play area
- Damage to access gate to the play area
- Damage to gate and fence bordering the play area

This list is just the items that the Council is responsible for – we are aware of others crimes committed elsewhere in the village.

With all of this damage and theft there are costs involved financial and human.



Financial Cost

The Council is responsible for the provision, maintenance and repair of many items within the village. Damage and theft can cost the Council hundreds, possibly thousands of pounds each year. The Parish Council Precept is part of the Council tax that residents pay and if our costs increase then taxes have to increase.

Human Cost

As a Council we are only too aware of the effect of this criminality can have on our residents – anger, frustration, feelings of insecurity, helplessness. A proportion of our population is elderly or vulnerable and may feel isolated - reports or crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area can be unsettling and upsetting.

What is the Parish Council doing about it?

We are open to hear the concerns that residents may feel about these and possible future events.

It helps us to judge the mood of our residents and respond by the future policies and decisions we make on your behalf.

The Parish Council

Richard Turner (Chair)
 Graham Clarke (Vice Chair)
 David Fowler
 Richard Norton
 David Piper
 Janice Smith
 John Pickering
 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

Update!

Council members have agreed a date to meet with Highways to discuss the recent 20mph speed consultation.

We look forward to providing a further update as soon as possible.

Communication

This magazine is useful for routine communications.

Social media also has its place and it's become obvious that there is a requirement to inform the community more regularly of the work the council is doing.

Over the next few months the website will be redesigned, additional noticeboards will be updated regularly and will be placed in easily accessible locations.

We are positively engaged with partner agencies such as the Police and others in investigating crime, seeking advice on future crime reduction measures and following good and reasonable advice on how, by design, we can provide facilities whereby crime is less likely to occur.

What can I do as a resident in Mattishall?

Take common-sense precautions to protect your property and possessions. Guidance is available- seek it out and use it. It doesn't always mean expensive alarms. Ensuring door and ground floor windows are shut and locked even during the day. Are sheds secure? Be a good neighbour particularly if elderly or vulnerable live nearby. Are they OK – do they need assistance? Be observant while in the village – is something you're seeing or hearing suspicious?

If you see or suspect a crime has taken place then Report it!

If non-emergency dial 101 or
 Use report tool on Norfolk Police Website

Police patrols are a response to the Police perception of the level of crime in any area. If crime is not or under-reported then that equates to little or no crime and so resources are tasked to more prolific areas. This is why any perceived crime should be reported.

Neighbourhood Planning Review

The Review of our Mattishall Neighbourhood Plan is now well underway. An article in this issue of Miscellanea contains more information on what the current plan does and has achieved, and why it's important that we carry out a review to keep the plan relevant.

We really need to make sure that you, our residents and local businesses, have the opportunity to make your views known and can play a part in shaping the future of our parish. It's your village and it's important that you have your say.

Please take a few moments to complete the brief questionnaire within the magazine or visit our website and fill out the form online: www.mattishallpc.info

We'll do all we can to keep you informed as the review work moves forward, and there'll be lots more opportunities for you to have your say.

If you'd like more information or if you'd like to get involved in the plan making process, please contact the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group via email: mattishallnp@gmail.com or come along to a future Parish Council meeting.

MATTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL
 WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL
 OUR RESIDENTS A MERRY
 CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
 NEW YEAR!





The Mattishall Society

The Society meets on the second Monday of each month

NORFOLK'S INDIAN PRINCESS – a talk by Juyna Lewis

You may not have heard of Sophia, the youngest surviving child of Sir Duleep Singh, who lived at Elveden Hall during Queen Victoria's reign. Yet this 'Norfolk Princess' was a significant person in the history of the Suffragette Movement and left quite a legacy.

Sophia's grandfather was the Maharaja of the Punjab in India, whose nickname was The One Eyed Lion of Punjab. He had several wives, being careful to select at least one from each local religion. Duleep Singh's mother was a force to be reckoned with. She was from a lower caste than her much older husband, but her beauty brought her to his attention and her ambitious father managed to get her married to the Maharaja, who was his employer. Duleep was only two years old when his father died. It was customary at the time for widows to throw themselves onto their dead husband's funeral pyre, but Duleep's mother refused, arguing that her young son needed her.

Duleep had older siblings who should have inherited the Punjab from their father, but they all died, so he inherited the kingdom but was forced out of it as a teenager by the East India Company which coveted the fertile area, and Duleep was sent to England.

Luckily for him, Queen Victoria took him under her wing. When he was an adult, he bought Elveden Hall and embellished it in the Indian style, using Indian craftsmen whom he brought over from India. As well as turning Elveden Hall into a mini-palace, Duleep set a mini zoo in the grounds, with exotic and dangerous animals such as tigers and leopards. He married Ada Douglas Wetherill and had a large family. Sophia, his youngest daughter, was raised at Elveden in the lap of luxury, wanting for nothing. She was educated at home, loved animals, especially dogs, which she bred. She was a tiny figure, who was very sporty. She enjoyed hockey and riding her bike, but was shy in company and hated speaking in public. Despite moving in Royal circles, no one proposed marriage to her as she was 'the wrong colour'.



Sophia Singh

Sophia met Ghandi when he visited England and began to take an interest in politics. When she visited India, she became acutely aware of the plight of the poor and of women in particular and, on her return to England began to espouse various causes

such as campaigning for votes for women and setting up a home for 'lascars' (Indian sailors who, having worked their passage in East India Company ships, were abandoned on arrival in England.)

With her wealth and Royal connections, Sophia was a valuable asset to the suffragette movement. She was never arrested, as the police knew of her privileged status. Having campaigned with the suffragettes before WW1, like the other women involved in the movement, she stopped campaigning during the war and worked as a Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurse, returning to the suffragette cause when the war ended. Married women over 30 who owned property with their husbands got the vote in 1928, but Sophia continued to campaign for 'universal suffrage' – the vote for all women..

With her considerable wealth, she was able to set up schools for girls in various countries and in WW2, she took in evacuee children.

Sophia never married, but she did live to see universal suffrage for women before she died in her 70s in 1948.



So why is she far less well known than the other prominent women of the suffragist movement? Emily Pankhurst air-brushed her out of the suffragettes' story when she wrote her own autobiography because, once again, Sophia was regarded as 'the wrong colour.'

Anna English

Mattishall Society

Meets at the Memorial Hall on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm and will reconvene, after the winter break on Monday, 13th March 2023

13 th March	Stacy from Sunnyfields Honey	Bee-coming a Bee-keeper
17 th April	John Caro (provisional)	The History of Silver and Silversmithing

*The 2023 membership fee will remain at £5 per person and will be collected during January/February Anyone wishing to join the Society should contact **Carol Colledge** on 01362 858230*

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas & A Happy and Healthy New Year



CRIMEWATCH MATTISHALL



PC 898 Paula Gilluley
Breckland Community
Engagement Officer

Paula.Gilluley@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

As I write this, I can't believe that we are already in November and with the clocks having gone back an hour, we cannot help but notice that the nights are starting to draw in earlier.

This is the time of year when we start to see an increase in reports of thefts from cars, sheds and outbuildings. We can all be guilty of sometimes settling down for the evening and neglecting to check if our outbuildings, vehicles and homes are properly secure and these lapses can be seized upon by opportunist thieves taking advantage of insecure doors and windows and stealing valuables which are left out or on show in vehicles.

The **#9pmRoutine** is an initiative backed by many Police Forces both in the UK and abroad which seeks to encourage us all to get into the habit of completing routine security checks. By setting a reminder on your phone or your alarm for 9pm, get into a routine of checking that your home, vehicle and any outbuildings are secure, and valuables removed or hidden out of sight. Opportunist criminals look for an easy target. By completing the following checks life will be made all the harder for criminals:



Check your vehicle is locked and valuables (including tools from work vehicles) are removed.

Shut your windows.

Lock Your Doors.

Check your Outbuildings.

Don't forget you can visit our webpage at www.norfolk.police.uk for lots of other crime prevention advice on a range of topics.

Update On Norfolk Police Priority Setting Meeting, Wednesday 12th October 2022

Two Parish Councillors and a resident from Mattishall attended the meeting held in Watton. There were four Police Officers (including a Beat Sergeant) and two District Councillors also in attendance.

The Police Officers reported back on actions and investigations following the recent antisocial behaviour events in Mattishall and confirmed that further incidents will be investigated robustly.

The officers also reported that because of concerns expressed by Mattishall residents, Norfolk Police will step up their patrols in the area generally, but particularly in the evenings during weekends. They encouraged residents to engage with these officers if they see them as it provides an opportunity to pass on any concerns directly. Should anyone not wish to pass information in person, this can be done via calling 101 or through the Force's website (www.norfolk.police.uk).

These activities are a stated priority for Norfolk Police. Although they will be administered by the Watton Safer Neighbourhood Team, for practical purposes the patrols will be conducted by Dereham Police.

Officers are willing to attend future public meetings, with reasonable notice and sufficient demand, to hear concerns and answer questions.

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Brainteasers December 2022

Brainteaser 5 of 5

A carrot, two pebbles, a scarf, a hat and a pipe are lying together in the middle of a field.

Why?

Answer inside back cover

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Keith Hudson 01362 850729, 07708085676

E mail keith.hudson12@hotmail.co.uk

Dereham Walkers are Welcome

07505 426750

www.DerehamWaW.org.uk/



Our next walk is on Friday 2 December, and is a dual length walk. It will start at 10:15 from outside the Assembly Rooms in Dereham Market Place and take in Scarning Water Meadows and Rushmeadow. Those wanting the usual first Friday short (under 4 miles) walk will return via Sandy Lane, while those wanting a longer (6.5 mile) walk will continue through Quebec Wood and on to Northall Green before also returning to town.

Future walks short walks will continue into 2023, always on the first Friday of the month, and starting at 10:15 unless otherwise advised, though the starting pint will vary, so please check on arrangements in the New Year. We are still planning our usual New Year's Day walk, so please contact us nearer the time for more details if you're interested.

Looking forward to seeing you over the next few weeks.

THE LINK



**MATTISHALL DEMENTIA
SUPPORT GROUP**

**Living with Dementia?
Do you want some company?**

Why not try Mattishall Dementia Support Group?

WHERE? Mattishall Methodist Church

WHEN? 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month

10am till 12 noon

For Refreshment, chat, games, music and singing, fun and laughter
Advice and information
Separate carers group

A voluntarily run and funded group for the benefit of people diagnosed with dementia and their carers

Tel: Lin - 0776 957 3499
For more information, or to volunteer.

Happy Christmas to Mattishall from all at the LINK



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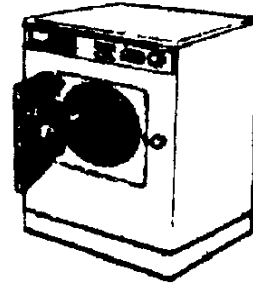
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looking for drivers.**

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 Too funny for words
- 2 Rain or Water
- 3 5601 (All the others add up to 18)
- 4 Rainbow (the others are all man-made)
- 5 They are the remains of a melted snowman

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:

30 November 2022
22 February 2023

25 January 2023
22 March 2023

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

Winter Quiz

Answers from the last issue

(1) South West Norfolk (2) Jeremy Paxman
(3) Melbourne (4) A38 (5) Stanmore and Stratford (6) 3
(7) Switzerland (8) 1972 (9) The Specials (10) Portugal

Congratulations to Helen Lloyd who won our voucher for Café Verde.

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

1. Which year was Christ's birthday officially declared?
2. And by whom was it declared?
3. When was the last official white Christmas in the UK?
4. Al Martino was the first person to achieve what in 1952?
5. If Christmas was allowed in Scrabble, how much would it be worth (letter values only)?
6. Rovaniemi in Finland is important why?
7. Father Christmas is whom?
8. How long does Father Christmas have to deliver all the presents?
9. The word epicenism is an anagram of?
10. How many different types of birds are mentioned in the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' song?

Miscellanea Production Schedule

to be ready for w/c	Adverts and payment submitted by	Reports & articles submitted by:	Printed and ready for delivery
Mar 2023	Fri, 3rd Mar	Wed, 8th Mar	Fri, 24th Mar
June 2023	Fri, 2nd June	Wed, 7th June	Fri, 23rd June
Sept 2023	Fri, 8th Sept	Wed, 13th Sept	Fri, 29th Sept
Dec 2023	Fri, 10th Nov	Wed, 15th Nov	Fri, 1st Dec

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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