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Miscellanea

The Quarterly Mattishall People's Magazine Winter 2026 Issue 109

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I like to think that long ago,
There fell to earth some flakes of snow
Which loved this cold, grey world of ours
So much, they stayed as snowdrop flowers.

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From the Editor



Anne Jackson

Another issue with lots of interesting stories and updates for you. So much goes on in Mattishall and Welborne, we are really lucky to live here - and so many are free! Look out for details of the Christmas Community Supper (p22) and the MCH hosting the Wayland Shantymen (p6), these are apart from the regular groups meeting throughout the week.

For many "It's the most wonderful time of the year" but for some, it is a lonely and sad time. There may be someone living near you who would love to be invited to one or more of your festive celebrations, is there? They may not accept but they would probably appreciate the invitation and know they haven't been forgotten.

We are very fortunate at Miscellanea that we have Mike, who provides us with both humorous and thought-provoking poetry but I received a contribution for this issue from Emma with a lovely poem about Christmas specially written for all those tired and fraught Mums out there preparing for the festive season – it is lovely (p23) and it did make me smile.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a very happy 2027.

Anne

Question - Can I receive a parking charge in a supermarket car park even when the shop is closed?

Answer - Yes! Private parking restrictions can apply even when the supermarket is closed. Here are three things to remember:

- **After closing:** You could receive a charge simply for sitting in your car waiting for someone.
- **Electric vehicle charging:** Using a charging point does not automatically exempt you from parking restrictions.
- **Parking bays:** Even in a free car park, parking outside the marked lines can result in a charge.

Our advice: Always check the parking signs, however briefly you intend to stay.

If you receive a private parking charge, ask for photographic evidence and consider appealing if you believe it is unfair. Do not simply ignore it.

A few moments checking the rules could save you an unexpected bill of £100!

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MATTISHALL & LENWADE SURGERIES NEWS



Christmas and New Year opening

We will be closed on the following dates: -

- Friday 25TH December 2026
- Monday 28TH December 2026
- Friday 1ST January 2027.

Prescription request dates

For collection before Christmas prescriptions need to be ordered no later than Tuesday 15th December.

For collection before New Year, prescriptions need to be ordered no later than Friday 18th December.

TITAN: An Update from Our Pharmacy and Dispensary Teams

Over recent weeks, patients will be aware that our pharmacy and dispensary services have experienced a number of difficulties following the introduction of our new electronic prescription and dispensing system, TITAN.

The system was introduced to help our pharmacy, dispensary and dispensing robot work together more effectively. Unfortunately, the implementation has not gone as smoothly as we had hoped, and technical problems have caused disruption to some of our usual processes. This has resulted in longer processing times for some prescriptions and additional pressure on our Pharmacy, Dispensary and Reception teams.

We would like to sincerely apologise to all patients who have experienced delays, inconvenience or frustration during this period. We fully appreciate the importance of patients being able to access their medication reliably and understand the concern that delays can cause.

Considerable work has been taking place behind the scenes with TITAN, our IT support and NHS colleagues from the ICB and LMC to address the problems. Progress has been made, and the majority of the initial IT issues have been resolved, although there remains further work to do before every aspect of the service is operating as we would wish. We would like to thank all the senior colleagues involved for their commitment, constructive engagement and determination to address these issues promptly and safely

Our Pharmacy and Dispensary teams have worked extremely hard throughout this period, both to maintain services for patients and to work through the additional workload created by the disruption. Our priority throughout has remained the safe and accurate dispensing of medication.

We remain committed to resolving the outstanding issues and will continue working closely with the relevant technical teams. Our aim is to have TITAN and our associated pharmacy and dispensary processes operating as they should as soon as possible.

Most importantly, we would like to say a genuine thank you to our patients and the wider community for your continued patience, support and understanding while we have navigated our Pharmacy and Dispensary through what has been a particularly difficult period.

We recognise that the service has not always been at the standard that either our patients or our staff would expect, and we are very grateful for the understanding that has been shown.

Thank you for continuing to support our Pharmacy, Dispensary and Practice teams.

Using the NHS App

We encourage patients who are able to do so to make use of the NHS App. It provides a convenient way to access a range of NHS services and manage aspects of your healthcare online, including repeat prescription ordering and accessing investigations and test results as well as your medical records

Using the NHS App can save you time and helps our Practice team support patients who need to contact us by telephone.

Winter Health: Choose the Right Service

This winter, remember there are several ways to access healthcare. Many minor illnesses can be managed with self-care, while your community pharmacist can provide advice and treatment for a range of common conditions. Pharmacy First also enables participating pharmacies to treat seven specified conditions where patients meet the relevant criteria.

For urgent help that isn't an emergency, use NHS 111 online or call 111. For life-threatening emergencies, always call 999.

And if you need the practice, we're here to help.

Flu/COVID reminder

Have you booked your Flu / COVID-19 vaccination?

If you are eligible and haven't yet booked, please call our Reception Team on 01362 850227 to arrange your appointment.

Season's Greetings from the Practice

The Partners and staff would like to wish all our patients and their families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Thank you for your continued support, patience and kindness throughout the year. We very much appreciate it and look forward to continuing to care for our local community in the year ahead.

Mattishall & Lenwade Patient Participation Group

Children's fish colouring competition winners

What an amazing summer of colour!

Children aged 4 to 14 across Mattishall & Lenwade took part in our PPG Fish Colouring Competition, creating their own brilliant versions of our famous surgery fish. As many patients will know, our much-loved fish tank has been a feature of the surgery waiting room for many years. It has now found a wonderful new home where it will be looked after and cared for. While it is sad to say goodbye to such familiar faces, it will make room for exciting new things to share with all our patients going forward. We wish our fish the very best of continued good health in their new home!

The standard of entries was absolutely fantastic and made judging incredibly difficult. To be fair to all ages, we split the entries into age categories and asked a local artist to help us judge for creativity and flair.

We are delighted to announce we have 3 main winners, who each received £20 and runners up received £2.

Congratulations to our 3 local winners - Taia, Georgia & Rupert. For safety reasons their drawings and first names only will be posted on the PPG Facebook page and displayed on the PPG Notice Board at Mattishall surgery.

A huge THANK YOU to all our children who took part, to parents and carers for supporting them and to all our local shops and cafes who helped distribute the colouring sheets to our budding artists. We really appreciated every entry. Keep your artistic minds ready- look out for our next competition close to the Christmas season. Thanks to Jeanette and Amanda for organising our competition.

Three members of our group had a meeting with a GP Partner and Practice and Deputy Practice Managers to express concerns about the problems some patients are experiencing with the new paperless repeat prescription system. It was explained that the issues affecting the pharmacy are as a result of the need to integrate the electronic surgery and prescription system with software that links with the NHS. Software was installed but glitches resulted with the system failing. All that has happened is beyond the control of the surgery but they've done the very best they can, with the assistance of digital support staff at the Integrated Care Board (ICB). Patients who use the internet (ie for email) are expected to order prescriptions on line. They should order repeat prescriptions at least 7 working days in advance. Those with no access to the internet can call or drop into the surgery to have a repeat prescription slip printed. Understandably patients are frustrated with the situation but staff have had to deal with abuse that is entirely unacceptable. Staff have been working additional hours and are under a lot of stress whilst trying to do their best for everyone. The Deputy Practice Manager emphasised that patients with concerns should drop in or call the surgery - the reception team will be happy to help.



Taia



Rupert



Georgia

I'd just like to say a big thank you to all the members of the PPG. As Chair, I have been privileged to be a member of the PPG for a number of years but now feel it is time for another member of the group to take the reins and move into the future with the group. My deputy is also stepping down and I thank her for her continued support. We've enjoyed meeting groups in the village and raising the profile of the PPG. Also, thanks to the surgery, particularly Steve and Charlotte for their continued support, which means a lot to the group.

Sue Pendlebury
Mattishall & Lenwade Surgery (Patient Participation Group) PPG

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MATTISHALL COMMUNITY HUB

Promoting social contact & community projects



Our October session marked the 4-year anniversary of the start of the Hub. While the Committee had forgotten this milestone (amazingly enough), Helen (who started the whole thing off) hadn't and brought along cake to celebrate. We were also pleased to welcome Gabs (Gabriel) Mansbridge from Active Norfolk. He gave a short talk about Active Norfolk (whose mission is to *'make movement part of everyday life, for everyone'*), how it might be of benefit to our community and handed out a survey for members to complete either during the session or to take away and complete at home. The purpose of the survey is to identify what type of activities might be appropriate for our members. Gabs will return to the Hub in the New Year (date to be determined) with the outcome of the survey responses and ideas on what types of activities might be appropriate. You never know, we may be able to provide some Chair-Fit sessions!

It's hard to believe that Mattishall Community Hub has already been in existence for 4 years. How time flies.....

Looking ahead.....at our session on Tuesday 1st December, and back by popular demand, we have the **Wayland Men's Shed Shantymen** coming to entertain us. They last came in November 2024 and were brilliant, raising a smile to everyone's faces! Don't be shy.....come along even if you haven't been to one of our sessions before. Everyone is welcome. There will also be mince pies, savoury snacks and of course our usual challenging quizzes!

Our first session in the New Year will be on Tuesday 5 January. We don't have anything special planned, but we'll be providing a welcoming, warm space and free refreshments as usual (and quizzes). In February, we meet on Tuesday 5th when Dawn, the Community Tech Coach from Norfolk County Council will be returning to provide help to anyone who is struggling with technology (aren't we all?). So, if you're given a new piece of electronic kit for Christmas or are just struggling in this technological age, do come along as she will be able to help. And it's a free service.

Otherwise, we're putting our thinking caps on regarding another coach trip in the New Year. All suggestions welcome!

Mattishall Community Hub meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 2-4pm at Mattishall Memorial Hall, South Green (next door to the Sports & Social Club). Free entry and refreshments. All ages are welcome. MCH is supported by Breckland Council and the National Lottery Community Fund.

Nicky & the MCH Team
Email: matcomhub@gmail.com

Brainteasers Issue 109

Brainteaser 1 of 5

A hunter spots a bear very close by to him, but the bear does not see him, so the hunter decides to sneak up on it.

He walks 5km due south then turns to walk 5km east before turning again to walk 5km north. To his horror, at the end of his trek he finds himself face to face with the bear, which has not moved an inch.

The question is: what colour is the bear?

Answer inside back cover



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Come along on **Tuesday 1 December** and be entertained by Wayland Men's Shed Shantymen – there will also be mince pies!



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Desert Island Discs



Hello, I'm Jackie Alexander, and I am delighted to be asked to contribute to Desert Island Discs.

I was the daughter of a serving soldier, and my early life was spent living abroad wherever Dad's postings took us – it was a privilege for me to experience life in Bermuda (but as a very young child!), West Germany and Singapore – as a teenager this time!

When I was eighteen, I began training as a Nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. I met my husband Doug when I was in London and married when I was twenty-two. I worked in the NHS until I retired. We moved to Norfolk when Doug was ordained in the Church of England, and lived for several years in Norwich, moving to Garvestone when he became Vicar, then Rector, of the Barnham Broom Group. We eventually moved to Mattishall when Doug retired. Doug sadly died twelve years ago, and two years after this I moved into Bob Carter Court. We were both happy together in Mattishall, and the community has been supportive since I have been on my own. A good place to live.

The music!

So let me dip my toe into the ocean that is music (and I can only have a cupful – mustn't change my mind now!)

Blue Danube (Vienna Philharmonic)

Start with a journey down the Blue Danube (Vienna Philharmonic). My parents were wonderful ballroom dancers, and like most young people of their generation met through dancing, so a waltz is a must have. My mother always enjoyed listening to the New Year's Day Concert from Vienna, and even when we lived apart we both listened at the same time – long distance togetherness! Two years ago, I went on holiday with my son to Vienna and we went to a concert at the Musikverein – dream come true!

Hey Jude (The Beatles)

Onto the Sixties: Hey Jude (The Beatles). Hard to choose just one! What a time! Flower Power and all you need is love. A student nurse in London, heady times. Met and fell in love with Doug. Went and saw Yellow Submarine, and walked hand in hand down Oxford Street singing All You Need I Love.

Plaisir D'Amour (Joan Baez)

I discovered Folk Music in London so onto Joan Baez and Plaisir d'amour. Again, finding just one song is so hard, but this song is so beautiful, it has to come with me to my desert island.

Leaving London (Tom Paxton)

Now Tom Paxton and Leaving London. I remember a friend rushing into my room so excited when she discovered Tom Paxton. Tom introduced John Denver to England, John amazed to be at Shepherds Bush Green! Many years later we went to a Tom Paxton concert at the Winter Gardens in Margate. He looked out over the audience and said 'I seem to be moving with an older crowd these days!'

Ruby Tuesday (The Rolling Stones)

Can't ignore the Rolling Stones – again the agony of just one. But I've chosen Ruby Tuesday. I think it was 1978 when I had a Stones calendar. Can't remember what month it was, but a mean and moody picture of Mick Jagger sitting crossed legged wrapped in black. I don't think I changed to another month!

Johnny B. Goode (Chuck Berry)

Another Winter Gardens special evening! Chuck Berry: Johnny B. Goode – what a night! Dancing in the aisles and singing along. Chuck invited a group of young women onto the stage to dance with him and memorably said 'just remember who is playing for you!' We all left the theatre feeling really good, much laughter and bonhomie. And I've got to have something to dance to on my island!

Again...years later, I was listening to Desert Island Discs. It was Tracey Emin recalling dancing on the stage at the Winter Gardens to Chuck Berry. (And I was there too!)

Unchained Melody (Righteous Brothers)

My daughter Helen has a lovely singing voice, and sang in the Girl Guides Choir. I was taking her to a booking, and we were singing away together: Unchained Melody by the Righteous Brothers. Neither of us could compete with Bill Medley, but made a valiant effort with 'I neeed your love'. Ended with the giggles! I'm old enough to remember Jimmy Youngs version!

Shoals of Herring (Ewan McColl)

Back to folk music. I love Ewan McColl and Peggy Seager – so many wonderful songs. But Shoals of Herring is Norfolk – out of Yarmouth Harbour we were sailing. I think Lowestoft has something to say about this! I love the Tide and Time Museum in Great Yarmouth telling the history of the herring trade, reflected in this song. And also remember the women who cleaned and gutted the fish. Hard lives all, but brought to life in this song.

Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen)

Just wow! I was lucky enough to go to a Queen concert in 1984 (I think). When Freddy still had his gorgeous long hair, it was a brilliant evening! Another memory is being in the Chapelfield Shopping Arcade – when the Post Office was still there. It was quite crowded and Bohemian Rhapsody came over the tannoy. The whole place stopped and everyone was head banging and singing – I see a little silhouette of a man, Sacaramouch Sacramouch shall we do the fandango! Still get that little shiver!

Martha (Tom Waites)

My son James introduced me to Tom Waites. I initially wondered – what on earth! But I've grown to love his music, what I can only really think of as 2 in the morning music. Martha to me is a perfect love song, looking back to first love and unfulfilled dreams. Both people did have happy lives – but oh the memory.

Would you like to choose your favourite songs?

Let me know and you can be included in a future issue of Miscellanea

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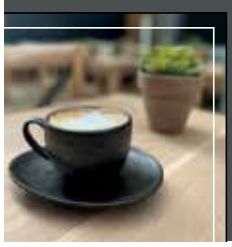


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The lady who used to be at the library

We live through challenging times with many unknown and unfamiliar futures. We are bombarded with news from the press be it digital or print – alarming news which has us wondering where we stand in a world of uncertainty. I don't wish to make light of the situation bypassing the seriousness of our plight but one thing we all share and can be assured to be concerned about is the state of our teeth.

Yes, teeth.

From an early age, in British schools at least, we pupils were told to make a single line towards the assembly hall wearing only our vest and blue pants (that is underpants for any American readers) wherein we knew one of two things would happen; we would be given an injection or even worse, a dental examination. After that check-up, a letter, a wicked letter, would be sent in a plain brown envelope to the parents of children with dodgy looking teeth. I always got the brown letter. It was the kiss of death to this dental phobe for consequently we had to see the dreaded school dentist whose raison d'etre was to inflict pain and anxiety upon the oppressed.

It was always a filling; the call back to the dentist was always for a painful filling in our tiny teeth. The nasty black stuff had to be drilled out by a tool that wouldn't look out of place on a construction site. Like a pneumatic device that could blast its way through concrete, the slow drill ground its way through dentine. We wept, dear reader, we wept. I made the same pact with God before each visit; I'd give up sweets and treats forever if I didn't get the drill. I always got it.

The process of getting dental examinations at school continued during my own children's school days but by then the dentist was less inclined to fill baby teeth. But by the age of eleven I had a mouthful of amalgam and a pathological fear of the dentist. I wanted all my teeth out and dentures instead. My grandmothers had dentures; my aunts did and my twenty-one year old cousin was getting all her teeth out for her birthday. It would be absolute bliss not to feel toothache and I waited for my turn.

Instead, my mother chose a new dentist. And, as I marched to the scaffold that was the examination room I held my head high and prayed. Pain relief was available via an injection into the mouth which brought forth new anxieties, but it numbed the nerves and the drill was a shrill shriek of an instrument that took no time. Phew.

I have had numerous practitioners since. Whilst I was pregnant and in receipt of free dental care, I met a chap who suggested that I have a gold crown on my most filled tooth. It has been admired and respected by all subsequent professionals and has lasted well.

Since then, my visits have been fewer and less unpleasant. I say fewer visits but this summer I broke all documented records. Okay, my jaw has been a little clicky and uncomfortable but I got on with it. In June I went for a check-up expecting a clean bill of health, a pat on the back and a sticker. Alas no - my jaw was misaligned and a wisdom tooth was impinging on my inner cheek. We had bathroom fitters in at the time and the foreman produced a hefty gadget from his toolkit offering to remove the tooth at no extra cost. I should have pondered longer.

On July 1st my wisdom tooth was thus removed with athletic strength and a scalpel. My jaw was well numbed but it was relatively difficult for my trusty dentist. He stitched me up and informed me that since I'm taking medication for osteoporosis my healing process would be impaired. I was to report to him every two days for the first few weeks and take ibuprofen and paracetamol as instructed on the packet.

My bank account was suitably raided, and here I have to take a moment to comment on the unfairness of the system. There aren't any NHS dentists in my area and I've spent more on dentistry than I have on the foods I can't chew. Yes, the school dentists were basic and unpleasant but they were free. We were checked regularly because it didn't bankrupt us for a check-up and clean. Our bodies are extremely fortunate. They receive upkeep free from questions of affordability. Our teeth are a necessary expense.

Anyway ...two days post extraction I went back to the dentist in extreme pain and anguish. He had a sweep around and sent me away. Two days later and in severe pain and discomfort I returned for him to numb my jaw again and remove the stitches. Two days later...you get the picture. This resulted in more visits in two months than in all the years preceding and I was on first name terms with the receptionist.

Today I'm following on with prescribed exercises, jaw massages and a heat pack to reduce the pain where my jaw has overstretched itself and moved out of place. My aching head has been x-rayed and I'm seeing the oral health people at the hospital.

I haven't eaten a full meal since July but slide spoonfuls of yogurt through a narrow gap. That sounds healthy but unfortunately, I can slip crisps through the gap and after they go soggy, grind them between my back teeth. To date, I have lost no weight but found infinite sources of unhealthy soft food.



Tina Cooper

So do take care of your teeth. You can't put a price on dental wellness. Regular maintenance is an investment. On the other hand, you might consider dentures; I certainly did.

Pass the floss.

Tina Cooper

Brainteasers Issue 109

Brainteaser 2 of 5

What is the next number in the following sequence?

8643, 3864, 4386, ??

Answer inside back cover

Mike's Scribblings



Mike Hamill

Winter

The winter sun fades to grey
and shortens with each passing day.
Leaves on trees, once bright and green,
fall dead and brown and lie unseen.

In wintry winds, the snowflakes play,
in natures organised disarray.
The shapes created do astound
their ethereal beauty does confound.

The fingers of Jack Frost explore,
icy tendrils to the fore.
Creating patterns on window panes
as winter dominance now gains.

The children, to the school now walk,
their breath misting as they talk.
Wrapped in cocoons of warming heat,
but still the cold nips at their feet.

As night time falls and the winds do blow,
the moonshine glistens on the earth below.
The birds in roosts now congregate,
as, for the morning warmth, they do wait.

Words We Speak

I often wondered if I ought,
to say more. Or say nought?
To talk the words that compel,
the listener to rebel.

Should we temper speech to please,
and only accolades receive.
To offer praise, where praise is due
or criticise, and to yourself stay true?

Can we stand, with head held high
and with no compunction cry?
Can we be strong, never meek;
as we utter the words we speak.

Yesterday

Yesterday is today, now past.
Tomorrow will, forever last!
Hours are just minutes passing by
Minutes just prove how seconds fly.

Stranger things we know and see.
Treasures given by nature. For free!
Birds in flight, out on the wing,
hearing the bullfrogs loudly sing.

Rain or shine the earth will breathe,
nature sometimes can deceive?
Water that drips from rods of ice
Will our air always suffice?

This place we live in this world of ours
that gives us air, water and flowers.
That brings us music and children at play.
That starts with a breath on each new day.

In the night I oftimes dream
of words I've heard, or places I've seen.
So, remember well each time you wake
as the day begins and the dawn does break.
Think of the joy you will have today,
for they become memories, of yesterday.

Nonsense

Confabulation is an untruth, not intended.
Forgiveness is a heart that is now mended.
Feelings are what makes the heartbeat rise,
confusion is just, another surprise?
Look ye to your Dowsabel,
as, in their eyes you do dwell.
Be you not a Merrygreeke
Smiling, always, as you speak?
So, if this Gallimaufry does you confuse
Smile and think to reuse!

A Question

I saw some footprints close to me
I followed them just to see
where they led? Where would they go
I felt that I just had to know?

My senses heightened I followed closely.
But then I spied with sharp acuity
A second set had joined the first
Once more the ground I traversed.

Who made these marks that I spied
Whose footprints did I stand astride?
Was it some creature, adversarial
Or was I going round in a circle?

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TRUE TALES FROM LONG AGO. STORY 4: HARRIET AND ALICE'S LEISURE TIME

In the holidays and at weekends, Harriet and Alice had to find their own amusement. They played on Shenfield Common (keeping an eye on the clock on Wilson's Corner) and coming in for lunch at 12. They played doctors and nurses, cowboys and Indians in the sand pit or in the street. They played with dolls' prams, wooden hoops, whip and top and marbles. They drew out a hopscotch pitch with chalk. If it was wet, they had crayons indoors. There were no books in the house. Once when Alice was ill with measles, she persuaded Harriet to buy her 3d worth of butterscotch at the local shop, using money from her money box. This was a huge bagful and made her very sick. Harriet got the blame. Usually, Alice was very good at seeking out her 1d worth of sweets, but Harriet ate hers all very quickly and then tried to persuade Alice to give her some of hers - generally without success. The twins invented games to pass the time during Alice's illness since they were both kept off school. One consisted of tallying the colours of the hats of people passing in the street (EVERYONE wore hats). Harriet drew up a chair to the window and reported on the colours of the hats or on the numbers of men's or women's bikes and Alice would tally. Sometimes, Grandpa Wade took the twins to Epping Forest in his pony and trap to play with their shared red rubber ball. On their 10th birthday, the twins were given a bike between them, and a year later, another bike meant they finally had one each.

Every Sunday, they went to Sunday School. For good attendance and behaviour, there was a prize at the end of each year. Harriet received a bible. On Sunday afternoons, the Muffin Man came round the streets ringing his bell. He carried the muffins on a large tray on his head. Harriet also remembered the lamplighter who came round just before dusk with his long pole and lit the gas lamps in the streets. There were very few cars and many goods were delivered by horse and cart. The twins had a cat each, cats being replaced when necessary and they went for piano lessons to a teacher in Doddinghurst Lane. On one occasion, they were stung by a swarm of hornets when they disturbed the nest reaching into a hedge for a stone to kick along the road.

Mealtime etiquette was strict. Children should be 'seen but not heard' and 'not speak unless spoken to'. Older brother, Fred, was allowed three thick pieces of sliced bread, but the twins only two. They could have one cake and fruit in season from their granny's garden. If there was a choice of jam, which was rare, they could only choose one flavour and stick to it. Fred had a whole egg, but the twins had half each, which they hated because it had to be hard boiled to be cut. Once on to cake, they were not allowed to return to bread and they had to take the cake nearest to them on the plate. Cake only appeared on Sundays when their mum's favourite brother, Uncle Tom came to tea. When visitors came, Alice and Harriet had to share one cake or banana so there was enough for the visitors, but Fred never had to share his food. The first course had to be all eaten up before any pudding was allowed. Their mum clearly favoured Fred and her unequal treatment of her children bottled up resentment against her and their brother. When the children had finished eating, they had to sit up straight on the high-backed chairs and link their hands behind the chair back and wait for everyone to finish before they were allowed to leave the table.

As adults, Harriet and Alice remained close, but Fred's arrogance and entitlement meant that they had little to do with him.

Anna English

If you missed parts 1-3 of Anna's tales they can be found on-line in issues 106 – 108 at www.mattishall-village.co.uk



Independent Age

No-one should face financial hardship in later life.

Independent Age is the national charity focused on improving the lives of older people facing financial hardship. They offer free impartial advice and information on what matters most: money, housing and care.

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You can call them on freephone on **0800 319 6789** (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm) or email **helpline@independentage.org** to speak to one of their advisers.

"An archaeologist is the best husband any woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her."

Agatha Christie

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New Bridge

I think I'm finally beginning to get some clues about Norfolk Highways' priorities. The rotten bridge I wrote about last time has already been replaced. That's the one at the far side of the field where the donkey was, up the side of Oaklands farm on Thynne's Lane. Not quite as grand as the one I call Bernie's Bridge, but nice new sleepers and chicken wire to make the surface non-slip. That's two bridges attended to virtually as soon as reported. Excellent! By the way, the field is now empty of donkey and horses. I wonder where they went?

When I first took on this job (or is it a hobby?), I thought the first thing to do was to get all the roadside fingerposts in place and in good nick. I reckoned that if you couldn't find the path you couldn't use it. Seems that's not the way Highways' think. It does generally take quite a long time for signposts to be replaced. For example, there's a fingerpost on Stone Road that's been lying in the hedge for at least two years, despite being reported (twice) to Highways. Still, I suppose I can see their point. A missing signpost isn't going to hurt anyone, but a dodgy bridge most likely will. Still, it would be nice if progress on signage was a bit quicker.

Talking of signage, I have seen one of those round metal waymark signs with an arrow pointing out the route which is labelled "circular walk' but I've never found the rest, so a couple of years ago, when someone new to the village asked about local circular walks, I couldn't be of much help. The "definitive map", which you can find on the County Council website, is the final authority on Public Rights of Way, and shows no sign of a circular walk round Mattishall. Well, I suppose it wouldn't; that's not it's for. However, the village website www.mattishall-village.co.uk does describe and has a sketch map of a circular walk around Mattishall and East Tud. It's about 12 miles long, so you might want to find suitable legal shortcuts. I have only walked parts of it myself, but I feel I should warn anyone doing the walk that the route as mapped does involve a rather rotten bridge as you draw level with the end of Forge Close. You might prefer to divert along the path kindly installed by the developers which will bring you out near Stone Road without negotiating North View Farm. AllTrails and Komoot also show different circular walks in the area, as does Dereham-Walkers-are-welcome.

Remember, if you find a problem on the Public Rights of Way anywhere in Mattishall, you can report it direct to Highways on the Norfolk County Council website. It does take about half-a-dozen clicks to get to the right place, and the "journey" through the website refers to "roads" until the last minute, but it is there, and Highways WILL get back to you. If you lose the will to live with that, please do contact me (Wallace Murray) by email on fpw.mattishall@gmail.com and I'll report the problem and keep checking for progress



Do take care if you're out and about on our footpaths.

Wallace Murray
Footpath Warden



Brainteasers Issue 109

Brainteaser 3 of 5

Cynical Cyril is watching TV. At the end of the late night film, the weather forecast comes on. The weatherman says "It is raining now and will continue to rain for another two days. However, in 72 hours' time, it will be bright and sunny!".

"Wrong again" snorts Cyril.

How does he know the forecast is wrong?

Answer inside back cover

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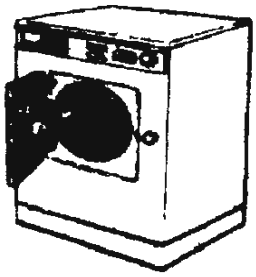
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It Begins With Cricket Part 1

This article, about a child discovering jazz music with his grandfather, was written by my friend Ivan Clark. I first met Ivan maybe 15 years ago in the garden of the artist Zacron and to break the ice, I asked what line of work he did? Ivan told me he had retired from teaching and had once been the in-house artist at Ronnie Scott's (jazz club), he then told me about all the legendary jazz musicians he had met, drawn, painted or shared a drink with (in moderation of course!) I couldn't resist asking Ivan if he had met Miles Davis, he told me he had met him and that "though Miles had a bad reputation for the way he treated people, he was always very nice to me". There must be many thousands of jazz afficionados who would give anything to say they had met Miles Davis.

Ivan and I only met a few times during those 15 years but exchanged a steady stream of emails and handwritten letters. I have kept every one of Ivans letters, many of which were about jazz and I have kept every envelope as each one would have a little sketch in pencil of an animal or creature each one with a pun beneath it. One of our post ladies was so taken with the animal sketches on the envelopes she delivered, Ivan even sent one letter with the envelope sketch depicting a hare racing along with a Royal Mail bag around it just for her (see below). Only a handful of people have read this article, friends and family, so I hope it is of interest to readers of Miscellanea.

If you would like to read more of Ivan's writings about Jazz, please let me know

Phil Hewitt



I was brought up, ostensibly, by Grandmother and Grandad, in their house, within a village on the Durham coast, mining being the reason the village was there.

But, I guess, that's not strictly true, because there's evidence that Ryhope had a previous incarnation as a spa and bathing place. The Hope, a dene, a natural valley leading to the sea, on the Seaham Harbour coast road, had the River Rye running through it. The river, no bigger than a fast-flowing stream emanated at Warden Law, where Saint Cuthbert's body lay for some time. Bede and Aiden, founder Christians, also knew Warden Law.

Grandfather was a professional umpire and loved his involvement with cricket. Before the First World War, he'd had a promising career in the game, but serving with the DLI (Durham Light Infantry) as a machine gunner, then as a Captain, he was wounded on two occasions and suffered with the consequences of those injuries all the time I knew him, until his death in 1962.

He introduced me to cricket on the radio (the 'Third') and around the age of eight or nine, New Zealand, then an indifferent Test Team, were our summer visitors.

It was the Test at Trent Bridge, where rain had stopped play, and after EW Swanton, Max Robertson and John Arnott had speculated, they returned us to the studio, where, a rather peremptory and plummy-voiced continuity announcer announced to us that he had a gramophone record to hand by a 'Mr Art Tatum', until the next program, or, when the rain stopped in Nottingham.

Well,... the cricket was great,... not just because England were doing well, but because Grandad had drawn a plan of the ground and put in the fielding positions in relation to the commentary box. Glorious!... more visual than actually sitting in the ground,... certainly more comfortable and much drier....

... but, when I heard Art's recording... it was like the malarial bite of a mosquito... its effect is still with me. I was (marginally) disappointed when the East Midlands sun came out, and Swanton's plummy, rich-timbred voice welcomed all listeners back to NZ v England.

The Radio Times was a very different publication then, the occasional Ravilious woodcut, or a fine pen study to set the scene of a play or concert, columns of type, to a strict format. I used to read it voraciously. Radio was something I adored, and at the 'end of play', or 'stumps have been drawn', I unfurled our copy of the RT and discovered lots of music broadcasts. Obviously, the Third Programme and, (not shown in the RT) with dial twiddling, some European channels, some broadcasting jazz.

France and Belgium had lots of fine American jazz players resident as a result of the race issue of post war America. It led me to a related issue of humanitarianism.

I don't remember seeing a 'black' man or woman, just a man or a woman.

Suddenly, one found that issues in Society were, at the same time, shocking (upsetting for me, plus I could hardly imagine them) and unforgivable as tenets of a society that was not bestial or ill-educated 'per se'.

The early issues were Bessie Smith, knocked down by a car and a delay in calling for help, cost her life, and Billie Holiday, on tour with Woody Herman's band in the South, arrived at the hotel where the gig was to be, to be told 'The lady can't come in, Sir!' Woody, bless his heart, said to the concierge, words to the effect of 'If Miss Holiday can't come in there 'ain't no gig, Burter'...'n you're fired'. Miss Holiday came in.

Lots, if not all, white jazz musicians, recognised certain facts - jazz is the only American art form which is indigenous, it was primarily, though not exclusively, black music... and discrimination because of ethnicity was wrong.

Ten, perhaps twelve years ago, the BBC series, 'Jazz' (so wonderfully put together) showed a Brubeck interview, where he cried uncontrollably, on two points. One his father had a huge farm in excess of 20,000 acres in California. He remembers as a child seeing branded numbers on workers' (black) wrists, from his grandfather's days. And two, the fact that he (Dave B), was the first jazz musician on the cover of 'Time" magazine. Dave had refused the invitation, saying to the publisher it ought to be Duke Ellington, but the publisher paid no attention. As reparation, Dave wrote the beautiful ballad 'The Duke' - gorgeous.

Ivan Clark's memoirs



What is Happening at Kingfishers Open Spaces: Latest by Roisin Murray

What a time to try and develop trees and meadows! The good news is that we didn't lose many more whips this summer, and the fruit trees seem to be surviving – but we will need to wait until Spring to see if we have lost any more.

The main wildflower meadow area blossomed in the summer and was enjoyed by many. In terms of wildlife, frogs and a wide variety of insects have already made it their home.

Much of our success, despite the drought, was due to local volunteers turning out to water the trees, remove the huge thistles threatening to take over the wildflower meadow and to cut some of the areas where we are trying to establish more wild flower areas. At most of these events, cake and drinks were provided as a thank you to the volunteers for their support. If you would like to hear about our activity days do contact to go on the mailing list (used for this one purpose only). Details at the end of the article.

The Mid Norfolk Conservation Volunteers (MNCV), also helped, after our contracted scything contractor, Karl Jermy, had cut the large meadow. We left the cut stems for a while, to allow the seeds to drop to the ground, ready for next year, then they needed moving or they would create too many nutrients in the ground – as wildflowers need poor soil to thrive.

The MNCV team spent a morning shifting the cuttings, creating "dead hedges" which will provide great habitats for insects and invertebrates over the winter months. Karl then did the same in the fenced Orchard area.





The fenced orchard showing the "dead hedges" before and after a cut

By the time you read this we, hopefully, will have had our last big work day of the year - if the weather is kind on the 28th November. If not look out for announcements for an alternative date. This day will see the last of the wildflower area in the fenced orchard cut by Karl, with an opportunity for volunteers, properly instructed, to have a go at safely working with the scythes to cut the plants.

If we can get volunteers trained, we can then do more of the smaller scything jobs as and when needed without needing to save then up for Karl. We do already have two scythes which can be adjusted to the height of the person using them.



We should also have prepared the soil in the orchard for planting Yellow Rattle – which involves scarifying the ground before sowing the seeds. This plant predates grasses which can overwhelm the wild flower so decreasing the grasses should support a wider variety of wild flowers in the future.

The newly installed benches around the main area are in place and have been used by walkers, and we still have one more to come soon – a second donated bench funded by a resident.

The allotments are now fully occupied, but it is always possible to be put on the waiting list if you are thinking of applying for one. In October this year the control of the allotments went back to the Parish Council as the Mattishall Allotment Society disbanded, so any queries should go to the Parish Clerk in future.

The Community Allotment plots used a generous grant from Breckland Council to install waist-high raised beds, to allow those with limited movement to join in gardening. The Community Allotment team have applied for a further grant to install a firmer path around the beds and install a gate from the car park (with permission of the PC) to allow better wheelchair access to the raised beds. We also plan to put in lower-level beds to enable families to come along and try their hand at gardening. We will know some time in December if we have the money to complete this phase of the project.



We are winding down for the winter now, but next spring the team will look at how best to offer access to as wide a range of villagers as possible. So, if you think this might be for you let me know and I can make sure you hear what is happening "down on the plots"

Do let me know if you would like to hear about either work parties on the Open Spaces or events at the Community Allotments by contacting me at roisintmurray@outlook.com or 07932 794251.

Youth! Miscellanea

The Centre Section Dedicated To Young People in Our Area

1st Mattishall & District Scout Group

Scout HQ – On the grounds of the Mattishall Primary School

Through a fun youth activity programme we try to prepare young people with skills for life. We encourage our young people to do more, learn more and be more.

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

GROUP NEWS

Beavers

This term Beavers have been out and about in the village cleaning the bus shelters and sampling local chips. They have been working on their cook's badge, which included creating their pizzas during a recent sleepover. Campfire was held 'inside' due to the storm outside that night! Next, it was their scientist badge experimenting with foodstuffs and making things fizz or change colour with hopefully not too much mess.

We have some spaces in Beavers, so if you would like your child to experience the fun that we have, please contact "Badger" - Su on 07514032678



Cubs

Cubs have been following a theme of community this term and the spirit of working together with the value of team work. You may have seen them doing a litter pick in the village and at the Remembrance Service recently.

We have also looked at the wider community and had an evening exploring the festivals that others in the community may celebrate such as Diwali, Holi and day of the dead. We even made our own Diwali elephants. For the later part of this term, we return closer to home with a special evening on remembrance and an evening exploring Scotland and its culture and traditions.

We have taken part in our annual bowling competition and last week we had a go at pottery painting. And of course, lots of team building and team work games - leaving the adults all wishing they had the energy of the cubs.





Scouts

Five of our older scouts completed their expedition challenge in October, hiking from Ringland to Horsford and then exploring Broadland Country Park. All scouts enjoyed a night hike and wide game in the dark at Poppies wood, then had the opportunity to camp at Beetley during half term. Where they created some autumnal creations, campfire cooking, had a go at axe throwing and a local hike.





Group

We have recently heard from the Parish Council that we have been successful in our Grant application towards the acoustic panels, that we have recently installed in our scout hut – Thank you!

All sections, Beavers/Cubs/Scouts, along with our young leaders joined the village's Remembrance Service in November. We have also welcomed our new Rev Kirsty to several of our sessions this term.





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 6.15 – 7.30PM Contact Emma Day – email: eeyore41983@aol.com

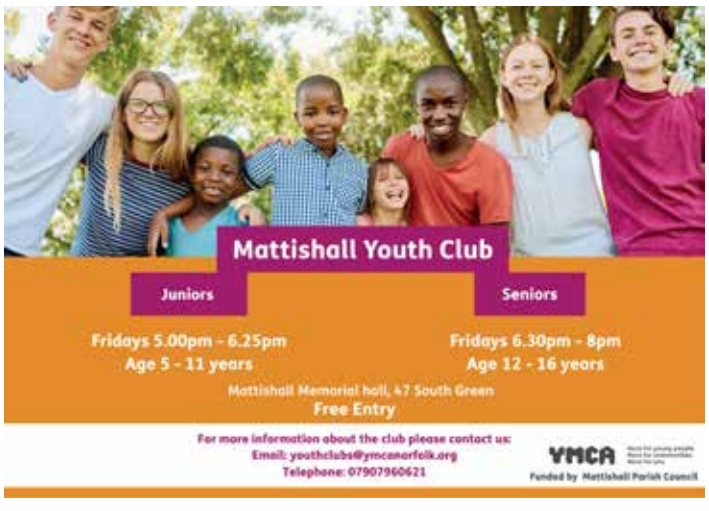
SCOUTS - GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 10 - 14 MONDAYS 7 – 9PM
Contact Ann Futter – ann.futter@live.co.uk

Brainteasers Issue 109

Brainteaser 4 of 5

Using the numbers 5,5,5 and 1 once each, make an equation whose result equals 24. You can use the mathematical operations of addition, multiplication, subtraction and division.

Answer inside back cover



Mattishall Primary School

As we reach the end of another fantastic Autumn term, we can look back with great pride on all that has been achieved. It has been a term filled with learning, progress, memorable moments and plenty of joy. Mattishall Primary School is a truly special place, made so by our wonderful children, supportive community and brilliant team of staff who bring so much enthusiasm and dedication every day. On Sunday the 8th of November two of our children did a reading each to remember the fallen.



I feel incredibly proud to be part of MPS and look forward to all that the future holds.

From all the staff at MPS, we wish you and your families a very relaxing, happy and joyful Christmas. Enjoy the festive break!

The children in Y2/3 have been learning about the colour theory. They have been exploring using textures to create different colour groups such as: cool, warm, primary and secondary colours. The children created their own piece of artwork by weaving material to create a colour texture board!





The children in Year 4 are enjoying 'The Power of Colour' in their Art lessons, learning how warm and cool colours are created, mixed and used by artists to create contrast, depth and atmosphere. They're exploring how colour choices can evoke different feelings, studying examples from Aboriginal art and Vincent van Gogh, and applying their understanding through practical artwork.



Reading Cafes

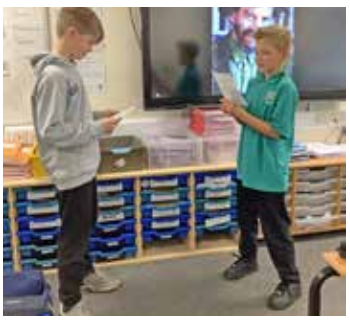
Every class has welcomed parents/carers and families into school for Reading Workshops during this first half term - we've loved celebrating the many benefits of reading together for pleasure.



In Year 6 this term we have been learning about the Windrush Generation and what they did for us following the Second World War. In our English lessons we have been reading the book 'Windrush Child' by Benjamin Zephaniah and we also listened a performance of the poem 'Windrush Child' by John Agard. This poem inspired us to write some of our own performance poetry based on the 'Windrush Generation'. The class wrote their own versions of the poem and then performed them to the class thinking about their expression and what particular words or phrases they wanted to emphasise to the audience.

Tom Scannell- Headteacher





Mattishall Youth FC
A Season of Progress, Promise and Ambition

The 2026/27 season is well underway for Mattishall Youth FC, with our Under 12s competing in the Norfolk Combined Youth Football League Premier Division.

It's been a season of change, development and plenty of excitement so far, with several new faces joining the squad over the summer. Bringing together a new group of players always takes time, but the progress on the pitch has been encouraging, with performances continuing to improve as the players develop their understanding and build relationships. The team has already enjoyed some memorable moments, including an excellent victory over Wymondham Town, a fantastic 5–1 away win against Lakeford Rangers in the Norfolk County Cup, and an impressive 3–1 victory against Drayton Youth.

While results are always welcome, the focus remains firmly on player development, enjoyment and creating an environment where young people can grow in confidence, make friendships and develop their footballing abilities. The commitment shown by the players has been fantastic, with training sessions well attended and a real sense of togetherness developing within the squad. The support from parents and families has also been invaluable as we continue building for the future.



Looking to the Future – Come and Join Mattishall Youth FC!

Away from the pitch, the club has ambitious plans to continue growing, and we're actively looking to welcome new teams into the Mattishall Youth FC family. Whether you're an existing team at another club looking for a fresh start and a new home, a coach considering setting up your own team, or someone looking to start a brand-new team from scratch, we'd love to hear from you.

At Mattishall Youth FC, we have the facilities, infrastructure, experience and enthusiasm to help your team establish itself, develop and flourish. We believe grassroots football should be about more than just results. It's about creating opportunities, building friendships and providing a positive environment for children to enjoy the game.

If you're interested in becoming part of our growing club, please get in touch for an informal conversation.

Email: **mattishallyouthfc@outlook.co.uk**

We look forward to an exciting remainder of the season and continuing to build a bright future for youth football in Mattishall!



Rockinghorse Daycare

Rockinghorse Daycare, in Mattishall, provides quality care for children between the ages of 3 months and 5 years. We also provide additional facilities for school-age children in the form of 'Stallions' our Breakfast, After- School and Holiday Club.
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Contact
Debbie or Ruth on
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rockinghorse.daycare@yahoo.co.uk

Ofsted Good rating



Club News & Events

Autumn at the club started with a Family Fun Day in September, although we had a lovely sunny, warm day for it. With the help of a bouncy castle, a Gladiator Dual arena, other games, music and delicious food from Curry Muncherz and Downing Desserts, we all had great fun. So nice to see so many families here enjoying the field and the club.

Plenty of dancing has been had here with bands Reignite and Final Drive. Followed by an evening of music from Grease and Dirty Dancing with the very talented and entertaining Dynamo Divas. For the first time in a long time, we had a DJ night with Paul King who came along and played 80's music. Just the idea of it inspired some of our members to dress up accordingly, with some hilarious costumes (still trying to get the picture of our chairman in those leggings out of my head!)





Members enjoying 80's night

There's more music coming up with Ten66 a ska/reggae band on 28th November, Reignite are back by popular demand on 30th January and there's plans afoot for a Country night in February (yes, some members already have their cowboy/cowgirl outfits planned!)

Bingo continues to be on the last Friday of the month (18th in December though). As always, we have Pool on Mondays. Poker and ladies Darts on Tuesdays and Darts on Thursdays.

Our AGM was well attended, and members were encouraged to have their say. The committee have some good new ideas to work on. Thanks to all who came along and contributed. The club is only as great as it is because of the support of all our members.

Memberships are up again on last year's numbers so far, still only £10, giving you cheaper drinks and free or reduced entry to some events. Feel free to come and have a look and a drink, you can visit three times before becoming a member.

Our toilets are now fully refurbished. Our conservatory has had a new roof and been plastered to make if more useable. The painting will be started next week, and our new furniture is coming at the start of December. Most of it should be completed by the end of the year, which is exciting.

Firework night was another great success! A great turn out for the fireworks, fire dancers, food vans, children's entertainment and more. A big thank you to Nathan at NR Health and Fitness for his time and sponsorship.

Which brings us to CHRISTMAS! Our festive season starts with the Round Table Santa Sleigh starting here on the 28th of November at 3.30pm. We have a Games Night on Saturday 5th December with Mr and Mrs, Play Your Cards Right to name but a few. BLC Food are bringing their festive menu along.

Our children's Christmas party is on Saturday 12th December 3-5pm with a children's entertainer, nibbles and the man himself giving out gifts!

Our popular Christmas Draw which is £1 a square, is drawn on Sunday 20th December at 5pm, lots of great prizes including Norwich City tickets.

Christmas Eve is always a lovely afternoon in the club from 1pm. Christmas Day we are open from 12-3pm so pop in for a drink before your Christmas dinner and nap in front of the TV.

Which takes us to New Years Eve! We are very excited to be bringing you a good old-fashioned party to see in the new year. We have Lauren of Dynamo Divas providing the entertainment (so we know we're in for a good night!) and food and drink with friends. What more could you ask for? Tickets open to all. Only £5 for members and £10 for non-members but all tickets include a free drink. Tickets available at the club.

I would just like to say a big thank you to our staff and committee. Our staff have worked through a busy year and continue to do it with smiles on their faces. Our committee is bigger than ever and have also had a challenging year. Thank you to all for working together to keep this great little club thriving.

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!,





The 2026 Thursday Dereham Darts League has drawn to a close with a mixture of campaigns for the four Mattishall teams.

Mattishall S & SC 'b' finished a solid fourth place in Division One with 13 wins from 22 games, just 10 points behind the league champions from Toftwood SC 'a'.

Mattishall S & SC 'a' were ninth place with 8 wins from 22 games in Division Two, diminishing any threat of relegation with impressive wins in their last two league games.

In their maiden campaign, the team based at Mattishall Golf Club are fifth place in Division Three with 19 wins. With Mattishall S & SC 'Swans' in tenth place with 7 wins.

A successful league Doubles tournament was held at the Golf Club on 1st October and then the Singles tournament held at the Sports & Social Club on 29th October with Mark Ramm successfully winning through to the Play-Off evening.

The new season will be commence in early January, any prospective players interested in joining a team can make contact through the league's Facebook page: S.N MOTORS Thursday Darts League.

Mattishall Lawn Bowls Club

The club is now in the maintenance period which is focused on getting the green and buildings ready for our next season in 2027. As mentioned in the last edition of Miscellanea, we celebrated our 50 years as a club which was enjoyable and an important anniversary.

However, as secretary I would enjoy talking to readers to help explain why joining the Bowls Club will help your health, improve social contacts and why bowls is an enjoyable sport for all ages. Previous experience is not needed. All try outs are free with coaching and equipment provided.

These sessions can be arranged over the next few months, make contact to get started - Please call Gerry on 07908 205023/ 01362 289038

Gerry Goldner

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MATTISHALL COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS SUPPER

ALL SAINTS CHURCH MATTISHALL

Friday 11th December

Doors open 6.00pm

Entertainment from 7.00pm

CHEESE AND WINE
CRAFT STALLS
QUIZ AND CONCERT
STORYTELLING

FREE EVENT
for the Community





Christmas Family Fun Afternoon

Sunday 6th December
2pm – 4.15pm
All Saints Mattishall

Lots of Family Activities
Free Entry
Crafts, Games, Music, Songs & Refreshments

Father Christmas will be in the church from 2pm – 4pm

Mulled wine will be served just before leaving the church at 4.15pm ready for mince pies on the Village Green to see the Christmas lights being switched on at 4.30pm

In partnership with the Mattishall Parish Council

A special poem written by one tired Mum to all those preparing for the Big Day!

DECEMBER by Emma S



I wonder what Christmas magic means to your family

Maybe there are advent calendars
Special decorations dusted off year after year
Fragile crafts from school
Still somehow hanging on
The angel they'll remember when they're a parent too

Maybe the elf visits every day
(Sending you strength)
The letters to Father Christmas
Watching The Snowman with hot chocolate and blankets
Dancing in the kitchen to those classic Christmas hits

Maybe the smell of baked mince pies fills the kitchen
(Even if you're reheating them from Sainsburys)
Paper and ribbons on every surface
A glitter and cotton wool craft explosion
Their wonder over the little nativity figurines on the windowsill
The rogue donkey you'll find in the Lego box in January

Maybe it's in the winter walks
Pointing out lights and garish inflatables
You're worrying you haven't wrapped them up enough
But they'll remember the feel of your soft gloves forever
Relishing in the undivided attention a walk can bring



And maybe nobody sees it
But maybe you are up til midnight
And get up at 3am when you remember (regret) the elf
And book the delivery slots
Sort the turkey
Source the costume
Buy the presents
Book the tickets
Arrange the grotto visit
And maybe nobody sees you collapse into that armchair
Under an invisible mental load
Wondering if it's all enough
(It really is)

So, when I ask what brings the Christmas magic
Maybe you should ask "who"
Because when you see the magic in their eyes
Look closer
It's a reflection
Have you ever thought that maybe
All along
The magic
Has
Been
You











Roundabout

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



Loades from Lizzie 01362 850491

DROP IN



We continue to meet weekly, Thursdays 10 - 12, in All Saints Church, Mattishall (ASM). Our numbers have increased dramatically over the last year and we now average up to 40 people. We have introduced a **JIGSAW PUZZLE SWAP** so if you fancy trying a new puzzle at home you can take one from our table. During the morning some of our members work together to complete a puzzle, great fun and we even framed the first one and have it in the church! Some of us also knit during the morning and some of us are making some special items to go to dementia care homes/hospital to keep residents occupied.

We are now a **DEMENTIA FRIENDLY** group for anyone who has memory issues. Ideal for people to attend with a family member or carer. There are activities to have a go at and this is a nice opportunity for carers to have a chat with others in a safe place.

On December 3rd we will have **Mid Norfolk Handbell Ringers** with us playing Christmas Tunes from 11am and a light lunch will be served from midday.

Each week we ask people, where possible, to make a small contribution of £2, although that is not essential but helps with heating costs. On days when we provide lunch it helps if people can increase that contribution to £5 to help cover extra costs.

DROP IN CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Thursday 17th December we are holding our final meeting before Christmas and will have singing and lunch. We meet that day from 10am as normal and the fun starts around 11am followed by lunch and ending with a singalong of Christmas songs and carols. We resume our normal Thursday mornings from 7th January 2027.

BOOK CLUB



Our **very informal** book club meets on the second Wednesday every month at 2.30pm in ASM. We do not all read the same book, we just bring along whatever we have been reading and give a very brief description of the books and whether we recommend them, or not! Some people now use Kindle, which is fine, they can still tell us about their reading. Lots of chat and laughing and the chance to find out about new authors and to swap the books among the group. We have a cuppa and cake as well so plenty to enjoy. Our numbers have increased this year and we had 17 people at one meeting so it must be good fun! A small donation to help with the cost of heating the church in the winter is appreciated but not essential.

SINGING FOR WELLBEING

These **FREE** sessions are great fun and we have new people coming along all the time to join in. We have up to 20 people attending! We meet twice monthly, one evening and one lunchtime session, The lunchtime session is on the second Wednesday of the month, 1 – 2 pm just before book club. The evening session is on the 4th Thursday of the month from 7 – 8pm. Sessions are held in All Saints Church, Mattishall - plenty of space and we arrive a bit early for a cuppa together before we start. During the very cold months we may only meet once a month on the Wednesday or move into the church rooms for the Thursday evening. Phone me on 01362 850491 if you want to check on any of the Thursday sessions. You do not need to have a good voice or know anything about music, just to enjoy singing and having fun. **The aim is to leave with a smile on your face.**

A COMMUNITY SUPPER

is to be held on Friday December 11th from 6pm in All Saints Church, Mattishall. This will be a **FREE EVENT** for anyone to come along and have a great Christmas social evening with craft stalls, cheese and wine supper, quiz, singing and entertainment (entertainment starts at 7pm). The community singing will be led by some of the singers who come to the singing for wellbeing sessions who have formed an informal choir for village events.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Last year over 100 people joined us and we had a lovely evening together celebrating Christmas. Look out for posters with more details.

WHY NOT JOIN US?

Over Christmas there will be lots of services and special events held in our churches and everyone is welcome to join us, a way to celebrate Christmas in lovely surroundings.

For more information about any of the above, please contact Lizzie -01362 850491



MATTISHALL METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 20th December at 2.30 pm - Carol Service.

Weekly Sunday Services at 2.30 pm.

Weekly Bible Study - Thursdays at 2.30 pm. alternating with Garvestone Methodist Church - Contact Fred on 01362 850750 for venue.

See Noticeboard for details. All welcome.

Meeting Rooms for hire - Enquiries to Fred on 01362 850750.

MATTISHALL & TUDD VALLEY CHURCH BENEFICE

December

Tue 1st, 8:30am - 9am	N Tuddenham, St. Mary's	Monthly Morning Prayer
Sun 6th, 9am - 10am	Hockering, St. Michael's	Morning Worship
Sun 6th, 9am - 10am	Mattishall, All Saints'	Morning Worship
Sun 6th, 9am - 10am	Welborne, All Saints'	Morning Worship
Sun 6th, 10:30am - 11:30am	N Tuddenham, St. Mary's	Holy Communion (Traditional)
Mon 7th, 9am - 9:30am	St. Michael's, Hockering	Morning Prayer
Tue 8th, 9am - 9:30am	All Saints', Welborne	Morning Prayer
Sun 13th, 9am - 10am	Mattishall, All Saints'	Morning Worship
Sun 13th, 10:30am - 11:45am	Mattishall, All Saints'	Morning Worship (informal)
Sun 13th, 11am	Hockering, St. Michael's	Carol Service
Sun 13th, 2pm	Yaxham, St. Peter's	Carol Service
Sun 13th, 3pm	Welborne, All Saints'	Salvation Army Carol Service
Sun 13th, 4pm - 5:30pm	Mattishall, All Saints	Oasis - for families with young children
Wed 16th, 12noon	E Tuddenham, All Saints	Lunchtime prayers
Sun 20th, 9am - 10am	Hockering, St. Michael's	Holy Communion (Traditional)
Sun 20th, 9am - 10am	Welborne, All Saints'	Morning Worship
Sun 20th, 3pm	N Tuddenham, St. Mary's	Carol Service
Sun 20th, 6pm	Mattishall, All Saints'	Carol Service
Mon 21st, 9am - 9:30am	All Saints', Mattishall	Morning Prayer
Tue 22nd, 10am - 10:45am	All Saints' Church, Welborne	Holy Communion (said, traditional with short homily)
Christmas Eve		
Thu 24th, 2pm	E Tuddenham, All Saints	Carol service
Thu 24th, 4pm	Mattishall, All Saints'	Christingle
Thu 24th, 9pm	Welborne, All Saints'	Holy Communion
Thu 24th, 11:30pm	Hockering, St. Michael's	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day		
Fri 25th, 9:30am	Yaxham, St. Peter's	Crib Service
Fri 25th, 10:30am	Mattishall, All Saints'	Holy Communion
Sun 27th, 10am - 11am	Yaxham, St. Peter's	Holy Communion - Benefice Service

Friday 5th March 2027 at 2.30pm

World Day of Prayer Service prepared by Christian women from the WDP International Committee on the theme "United in Prayer for Justice and Peace", celebrating 100 years of WWDP.

All are welcome to attend

Would you like to help your community?

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 contact 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

Mattishall Walking Group



The walking group meet every week (alternate Tuesdays and Fridays) and the length of walk is determined by who turns up and weather conditions but generally it is about 4 miles. We meet at All Saints Church at 10.30am and are a friendly group that enjoys a chat while we walk. Each week our walk is advertised on Nextdoor but if you want further information, please email me Hazel Goodall on hazelnutmum@yahoo.co.uk.

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

2nd Wednesday each month - 7.30 pm at Mattishall Memorial Hall

Next meeting dates:

9 December…13 January 2027…10 February…10 March

Bridge, Scrabble, Ten Pin Bowling, Darts …

Plus Theatre, Cinema, Exhibitions, Lunch and access to Norfolk and National WI Activities and Campaigns

For more information please contact Jackie Tooke 01362 858447 or

Pat Hamilton 01362 850286

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Art & Craft Group

Whether you like painting, knitting or needlework or any other similar hobby why not come along to our group to enjoy a chat, a laugh and good company



Every Wednesday, 2pm – 4pm

Mattishall Memorial Hall

£4 per session.

(First visit – free!)



Tea or coffee and biscuits provided – and cake when it's someone's birthday!

Dereham Walkers are Welcome

07561 813243

www.DerehamWaW.org.uk/

As December approaches, so do our last two walks of the year.

The First Friday walk will be on **4 December**, for no more than 4 miles, starting at the usual time of 10:15, this time from outside Church House (bottom of Church Street). As a short walk, there is not a programmed refreshment stop, but there is usually a number of short halts for people to collect and catch breath, so if you want to bring something to eat and/or drink, there will be opportunity to consume it. We hope that those joining us might end with refreshments (tea/coffee or lunch) somewhere in town. The walk will be led at a reasonable pace - we do not rush, but we do need to make progress for the group as a whole; if you have any questions about our speed, please raise them with us. There's no need to book, just turn up. For more details, contact Ken Hawkins, ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk or 07561 813243.

The Easy Second Tuesday walk for **8 December** will be starting as usual at 10:00 outside Dads and Lads (Cherry Tree car park). It will be no more than two miles, on good surfaces and will take about an hour. The pace will be steady with regular pauses to catch breath and afterwards there will be an opportunity to have some refreshments (bring your purse). For more details or any questions, please contact Sue at sue.rothwell@outlook.com. Please note that if you need personal support in order to take part, you will need to arrange this yourself; we regret that we are unable to provide it.

If you can't make either of those - or even if you can - we will be starting 2027 with our New Year's Day walk, which will also be the first Friday walk for January. This will start at 10:15 from outside Church House (bottom of Church Street) to the usual pattern of no more than 4 miles. We anticipate taking lunch at The Romany Rye at the end of the walk - all welcome.

2027 will continue with First Friday and Easy Second Tuesday walks planned every month.

And, for the first time this year - Happy Christmas!

Ken

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By Kim

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Brainteasers Issue 109

Brainteaser 5 of 5

A mystic has been summoned to a haunted house to discover a spirit dwelling there. She can sense that it must be present behind one of the four doors, but each door is inscribed with a riddle written by the spirit:

Door A: I'm behind B or C
Door B: I'm behind A or D
Door C: I'm in here
Door D: I'm not in here

The mystic knows that just one of these inscriptions tells the truth.

Where is the spirit?

Answer inside back cover

Hazards of Supermarkets

Supermarket buggies have four swivel wheels instead of the more rational North American two, which makes steering a cart around any food store extremely hazardous for the uninitiated such as myself. Control is minimal – one may inadvertently move the cart sideways, and cornering at the end of aisles is akin to being on a fairground dodgem-cart rink. The moveable slot inside the cart is also a real nuisance, intended only for seating children, not for putting small items in, so I generally wedge a basket in there. Many people use hand baskets instead of buggies – it's a lot safer and lessens the innumerable clangourous pile-ups in stores' popular areas. However, in one important respect British Supermarkets are most definitely superior to North American and that is in the consideration of employee comfort – all checkout counter people (and gender-wise they are about equal) are seated. And there's a lot more of them too!

Malcolm G Hill



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Mattishall Parish Council News

LATEST NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Upcoming events!

MATTISHALL'S CHRISTMAS LIGHT CELEBRATION AND AN AFTERNOON OF CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Sunday 6 December

All Saints Church Mattishall

Lots of Family Fun! Christmas Activities 2-4:15pm

Father Christmas 2 - 4pm

Christmas Lights Switch on at 4:30pm

YMCA YOUTH CLUB

Friday Evenings!

Junior sessions

5pm - 6:30pm

Senior Sessions

6:30 - 8pm

Held at Mattishall Memorial Hall, 47 South Green, NR20 3JY.

FREE!

fully funded by

Mattishall Parish Council

INTRODUCING OUR NEW COUNCILLOR MARGARET BATES



My name is Margaret Bates & I have recently been co-opted on to Mattishall Parish Council.

I have lived in Mattishall for 14yrs having recently retired from the NHS working within the Dementia Unit & I am still involved in Dementia Research.
My first role was attending the Remembrance Sunday service, this was very important to me as my father served in the Army. It was a wonderful event and so well attended, a real tribute to our countries servicemen and women past and present.
I find there is a real community feel in our village and I would like to help this to continue in the future.

PLANNING MATTERS

Breckland Council is due to publish its "submission" version of the Local Plan on the 3rd December. At this point we will know for certain whether the two proposed Mattishall housing sites have been omitted from the Local Plan. There will then follow an examination of the Plan by the Government's Inspector. A final decision will be known by the end of 2027.

The Parish Council discusses all matters relating to planning at its monthly meetings. This includes a discussion on all planning applications made within Mattishall. You are always most welcome to come along to these meetings, to listen to the Parish Councillors, and of course have your say during the open forum session.

REMEMBRANCE



Thank you to everyone who took part in or attended the great Remembrance service on 8th November, honouring those who died fighting for our Country.

http://mattishallparish.gov.uk clerk@mattishallparish.gov.uk

THE PARISH COUNCIL

Graham Clarke (Chair)
David Fowler (Vice Chair)
David Piper
Janice Smith
John Pickering
Roisin Murray
Martin Goodrum
Lloyd Frosdick
Margaret Bates

Anita Rose
(Parish Clerk)

UPCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

4 January
1 February
1 March
5 April
26 April *
10 May **
7 June

***Annual Parish Gathering**
****Annual Council meeting**

Further details of meetings and minutes are on the website.

Meetings are held at Poultec, South Green at 7pm.

OPEN SPACES

The Open Spaces Working Group (Councillors and Lay members) inspected the village green Play Area, Cemetery, Churchyard and Allotments and addressed all identified issues.

Planning has begun for substantial churchyard wall repairs, using appropriate materials in stages to ensure a robust, lasting result.

A parishioner wrote expressing concern that the village green play area gate could let a small child escape onto the road. We will consult professional inspectors at December's annual inspection. Meanwhile, accompanying adults must always supervise children.

An anonymous parishioner has donated a bench for Kingfishers Open Space, dedicated to all those we have loved and lost. It will be installed near the wildflower meadow on delivery, completing the site's bench capacity. We thank the donor for this generous gift and hope all users enjoy the seating.

Mattishall Allotment Society voted to disband and return full control of Burgh Lane and Kingfishers Allotments to the Parish Council.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM MATTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Wishing all residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
We thank everyone in our community for their continued support, kindness, and involvement throughout the year.



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Answers to Brainteasers

1. The bear is white, the hunter must be at the North Pole so it is a Polar bear

2. 6438

3. The late night film finished in the middle of the night.
   In 72 hours' time, it will also be the middle of the night, so it won't be bright and sunny

4. 5 x (5 - (1 / 5)) = 24
   1 / 5 = 0.2
   5 – 0.2 = 4.8
   4.8 x 5 = 24

5. The spirit must be behind door D, meaning that just the inscription of door B is true.
   If it were behind Door A, then B & D would be true
   If it were behind Door B, then A & D would be true
   If it were behind Door C, then A, C and D would be true.

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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 8008020
Breckland Council Offices	01362 656870
Dereham Library	01362 693184
Dereham Police Public Enquiry Office	01953 424242
Konectbus (No 4)	03300 539358
AGE UK Advice Line	0800 6781602

Norfolk County Council

Mobile Library Timetable–Mattishall

Wednesdays–normally every 28 days

Location	Arrival Time	Departure Time
Orchard Road	11.50	12.05
Daffodil Way	12.10	12.30
Willow Close	12.35	12.50
Thynnes Lane	12.55	13.10
Hunter Avenue	14.45	15.00
Smithson Drive	15.05	15.20
Cedar Close No 3	15.25	15.40
Parkers Road	15.45	16.05
Burgh Lane	16.10	16.25
All Saints Walk	16.30	16.45

NEXT DATES: 23rd December 2026
2027 dates tbc - provisionally 20th Jan, 17th Feb, 17th March
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

KNOW WHERE THE DEFIBRILLATORS ARE

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Poultec x 2
(one in the Gym the other outside Café Verde)

Memorial Hall (playing field side of the hall)

Village Green (opposite the surgery)

Mattishall Primary School
(only available during school hours)

Mattishall Golf Club (outside the clubhouse)

Welborne Village Hall (beside the back door)

Bob Carter Court (outside front entrance)

WINTER Quiz

Answers from the last issue:

1) 118 2) 2 3) In its head 4) 2 years 5) Portsmouth and Southampton 6) Kaleidoscope 7) Venus 8) Wood 9) 7 10) 86,400

Congratulations to Mark Robinson who won our voucher for Café Verde. With a chance to win the next voucher, email your answers to miscadvert@yahoo.com by 31st December 2026

1. 2 to the power 5 is?
2. Romulus and...?
3. Ottawa is the capital of?
4. Grand Prix is the French for...?
5. Which spice powder is a mix of turmeric, chilli, cumin and fenugreek?
6. When was the first Apple iPhone launched?
7. What does BMW translate to literally in English?
8. Princess Peach appears in which computer game franchise?
9. What type of fish is Nemo?
10. What score in tennis follows deuce?

Community Supper Quiz

Answers: 1) Felix Mendelssohn 2) a) Snug b) Bottom c) Quince d) Flute e) Snout f) Lysander g) Puck h) Moth i) Starveling j) Oberon. 3) Cliff Richard 4) Fagin. 5) David Kossoff 6) Free. 7) Una Stubbs. 8) Warren Mitchel, Anthony Booth & Dandy Nichols. 9) San Francisco and Ford Mustang. 10) Henley. 11) Old Possum Book of Practical Cats. 12) Breeze 13) One Midsummer Morning 14) Porgy & Bess, George Gershwin.

Congratulations to Helen Lloyd who won the bottle of wine.

Miscellanea Production Schedule

to be ready for w/c	Adverts and payment submitted by	Reports & articles submitted by:	Printed and ready for delivery
March 2027	Fri, 5th Mar	Wed, 10th Mar	Friday, 26th March
June 2027	Fri, 30th May	Wed, 5th June	Friday, 21st June
September 2027	Fri, 3rd Sept	Wed, 8th Sept	Friday, 24th September
December 2027	Fri, 5th Nov	Wed, 10th Nov	Friday, 26th November

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