

A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Autumn 2010



A Party in the Park



Birthday Cake of the Pavillon baked and decorated by Jackie Newbury

The 100th Birthday of the Grand Pavilion was celebrated in between the showers at the Derwent Gardens on Saturday 14th August at an event organised by the Pavilion Group.

The celebration was opened by Simon Groom who recalled his own youthful experiences at the Pavilion and around £400 was raised for the group's funds. Music was provided by the BMW Brass Band and Andy Carr and other popular entertainment included Hen Racing and Street Dancing. A 1947 double decker bus was on hand for round trips to Matlock and back.

Roger Dunn with his Punch and Judy Show and magic tricks was a great hit with the children, who also found plenty of stalls and sideshows to their liking. Traditional stalls such as a coconut shy, bash-a-rat and a pair of stocks were also provided – though there was a distinct lack of volunteers from the Committee to sit in the stocks! One of the great successes of the afternoon was the duck race organised by Bob Grayson. The most original stall was the human fruit machine by Matlock Round Table. Unfortunately, due to the state of the grass the mini-Olympics had to be cancelled.

A 100th Birthday could not go by without having a suitable cake which was beautifully baked and decorated by Jackie Newbury of Mickleover. The competition to guess the weight of the cake was won by Ann King from Leeds. Afterwards the cake was donated to the residents of the Masson House Residential Home.

The event was organised at short notice and could not have taken place without the dozens of volunteers, traders and entertainers from the village and further afield. The Pavilion Group would like to thank them again for their efforts and also for Derbyshire Dales District Council for allowing the use of the Derwent Gardens.

Illuminations – Village Night

This year we have arranged a 'village night' at the illuminations on **Wednesday 29th September**. The parishioners can come down to the Derwent Gardens at 7.30 pm and see the illuminated boats on the river.

As you know, the boats usually only 'parade' at weekends but in the past, there has been a 'traders' night. This year, it is open to all the residents of the village as well. There is no admission charge. It gives us all a chance to see the boats without the weekend crowds!!

Why not bring your camera down and take a picture to enter in the Photography Competition.

The youngsters of the village will very soon be voting for 'the village favourite' so this will give them a chance to see the boats and make up their minds.



A View From the Bath Chair – Cllr Peter Baranek



So many articles mentioning the illuminations – summer must be over. Wherever you spent yours, I hope it was a pleasant one. After a fairly quiet summer (comparatively), since the last Newsletter in June, your Parish Council has certainly hit the ground running this month. There have been nine Committee meetings, a full Council Meeting and the appointment of a new Parish Clerk. Details of all meetings are on the website and calendar.

This Saturday, (25th September) there is a Photography Workshop in the Community Centre and we continue to receive entries on line for the Photography Competition (see back page). Planning is well under way for the village favourite, Remembrance in November and events for Christmas. You also now have another Newsletter. Although some of these activities are aimed at people outside the village, most are for the parishioners of Matlock Bath.

Matlock Bath Parish Council is funded by a precept that is added to your council tax bill. The Finance Committee will meet next month to look at our current position and the financial requirements of the Parish Council for 2011/12. Unlike the County and District Councils, we receive no money from Central Government. All our funding comes from you, the residents and businesses in the parish of Matlock Bath. We realise that the current financial situation within Central Government is difficult. They seem to tell us every day – at least once or twice. However, as already stated, none of our funding comes from them, so any announcements during the next month or so will not directly affect us. What will affect us, however, are any changes to the roles and powers of Parish Councils, some of which have already been hinted at. We will, of course, continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed. We hope that by the time of the Christmas Newsletter, we will have some more information for you about our financial proposals for next year.

One of the many roles of the Parish Council is the profile and promotion of the village. We hope that our website, this Newsletter, press releases and some of the activities such as the Art Competition and the Photography Competition do this. Another way that the Council can promote the village is when we have work to be commissioned, we endeavour to use local tradesmen. If you have a trade or skill that the Council may be able to utilise, please let us know and we will add you to our database for consideration in the future.

As I said in the opening paragraph and hopefully it is clear in all the articles that appear in this Newsletter, the Parish Council and its Committees are working extremely hard for the Parish of Matlock Bath. I am grateful for all the hard work put in by this small group of volunteers. It is, however, a small group consisting of seven councillors, four elected committee members and a Parish Clerk (which is the only paid post). To be effective, we need more of the villagers involved in our work. We have two councillor vacancies and lots of room on the various committees for parishioners to be included. Anyone from outside the village who might be interested in helping/advising could be considered for co-option on to the committees. What is your area of expertise interest? As stated in the annual report, we have seven committees overseeing Finance, Planning, the Nature Reserve, the many activities we arrange, Communications, Facilities and Allotments. We are looking for people to serve on a committee or just get involved with a single activity such as Christmas, the art competition, maybe the Newsletter or perhaps offer your time to run a workshop or class. You could give just a little time occasionally or once a year. Please get in touch, get involved and help. It is your village, help us make it the best.

Illuminations Village Favourite



Every year, the Parish Council sponsors prizes for the best illuminated boat chosen by the young people of the village. Hopefully most of the voters will have been able to go down and see the boats on the river on Wednesday 29th or another weekend night. If not, we have a set of photographs for them to see.



We will arrange with the school for us to visit and allow the pupils to ballot for their favourite boat. We will do the same with the children in the playgroup. It is important that the secondary school village youngsters get a chance to vote as well. If you fall into this age group (11-16), go along to **Matlock Bath News** from 8th October – 17th October and pick up a ballot paper and select your favourite.



The winning boats will be announced at the illuminations on Saturday 23rd October at 7.30 when the prizes will be awarded.



Remembrance by Charles Beresford



In another of his articles on the memorial in Matlock Bath, local historian and parishioner Charles Beresford gives us some background to two of the names remembered.

With Remembrance Sunday approaching and the Grand Pavilion very much in the news this year, it might be of interest to readers to learn that two of the twenty two men from the First World War commemorated on our fine war memorial were very much associated with the building.

When war was declared in August 1914, **Angus Walker Hall** was an employee of the Matlock Bath & Scarthin Nick UDC and worked in the offices at the back of the building (now the Community Centre). By the end of September he had volunteered for service with the 9th Sherwood Foresters, which landed at Gallipoli in July 1915. He survived the terrible conditions and two actions in which the battalion was badly cut up. Dysentery was rife on the peninsula and he was laid low by the disease in September and was evacuated to Malta where he eventually recovered.

Probably due to his Christian name he was later drafted as reinforcement to the 9th Highland Light Infantry serving on the Western Front. He was taken prisoner and was sent to a camp at Poznan in Prussia (now in Poland). The armistice was signed on 11th November 1918 and his parents and family, who lived at Woodland Terrace, must have eagerly anticipated his return. Instead, 12 days later they received the news that poor Angus had died on 4th November. The cause was never known, but he might have been a victim of the great influenza epidemic.



Lew Dickinson worked in the Mineral Department of the Midland Railway Company in Derby and was a fine amateur baritone. He took leading parts with both the Derby and Matlock Operatic Society Groups and appeared on the Pavilion Stage in productions by the latter group in 1911 and 1912. His fiancée, Lil Bale, a school teacher in Matlock, was in the chorus. Lew was a colour sergeant in the local Territorials, the 6th Sherwood Foresters and went out to France in March 1915. He had lived with his parents and sister in Matlock Bath (also at Woodland Terrace) before the family moved to the Dimple in Matlock but he had retained membership of the Holy Trinity Choir and the local Arkwright Masonic Lodge. He was commissioned in the field in March 1915 and was coming home on leave to be married the following October. At 6.35 p.m. on 30th September the trench he was manning with No. 9 platoon was blown up by an enemy mine and Lew was killed. Lil never married and always kept a picture of Lew by her bedside until her death in 1973. If you should ever visit Ypres there is a memorial litany stool in St George's Church which the family donated in his honour and attached to the brass plate is a button taken from his uniform after his body was recovered.

The remembrance ceremony this year will take place in the Memorial Gardens at 2pm on Sunday 14th November. Wreathes will be laid on behalf of the Parish and also the young people of the village. A warm invitation goes out to all to attend.

New Clerk – Cllr Daphne Collie, Appointments Committee

We have pleasure in welcoming Julie Baranek to the Parish Council in the position of Parish Clerk. Julie has been living in Matlock Bath for 14 years and has recently carried out work for the Parish Council including the production of the Newsletter and helping with activities and events. After a career in examination administration, she has now chosen to work locally. She was appointed as Clerk because of her wealth of experience in a managerial position with responsibility for people, administration, organisation and IT. We are sure she will use her planning and organisation skills and enthusiasm for the village to help and support the Councillors in our work. She will be a great asset to Council as she has a passion to develop and improve the community in which she lives.

Julie's contact details are on the information section of this Newsletter and on the Website.

**Have you entered the Pro Loco Photography Competition yet?
Enter Now – deadline extended until 10th October**

Pro Loco Photography Competition

As you will know we have been running the Photography Competition throughout the summer. We have now extended the closing date and you have until 10th October to submit your entries. The full rules of the competition with how to enter are on the website. Here is a summary of the competition:

- The photograph has to be of Matlock Bath or taken within the Parish of Matlock Bath within the last year
- Each competitor can enter up to 4 photographs online
- There will be an overall winner, a special prize for the best photograph taken by a resident and prizes for under 16s. There are also sponsored prizes for Best Illuminations, Best Pavilion, Best Church and Best Heights of Abraham photographs.
- Judging will take place on 16th October by members of the public



There is still time to enter. Come along to the Village Evening at the Illuminations on 29th September or just take some photographs of where you live in the village. Why not take one of your garden? There have been very few entries from the residents and virtually none from under 16s. There are 2 prizes in this category!!

Judging will be in the Pump Room of the Pavilion between 3.00 pm and 9.00 pm on Saturday 16th October. Come along and give us your opinion of the best. Then on Sunday at 3.30pm, Patrick McLoughlin MP will present the prizes to the winners in each category and the overall winner. The exhibition will then remain open until 8pm for the public to view.

Wapping Nature Reserve by *Mike Greenan*

The Chairman of the Wapping Nature Reserve Committee Mike Greenan reports on the summer's activities

The main project in the reserve this year was the completion of the link path. The work was carried out for us by BTCV. The standard of the work by BTCV has been remarkable. The volunteers have worked extremely hard, moving some 20 tons of stone by hand. Some of the team were young women who had never lifted a shovel before. The decision was taken to modify the steps installed last season so as to provide an easier route for walkers. I hope the village will be pleased with the result.



An application was made for a grant under the Landfill Grant Scheme to provide funds for the creation of the path planned along the access roadway between the two new gates. This involved a lot of research and the bid was made. Unfortunately, DCC, with limited funds, decided that Cromford and Wirksworth should benefit this year. We have some stone and timber left over which will make it possible to construct steps at the top of the field beside the Wapping and around the base of the large tree in the centre as next year's project.

The creation of the drainage ditches at the Clifton Road/ Garforth Crescent entrance to the field has made the area dry and welcoming for visitors. The new sign is intact and the exhortation to dog owners to avoid dog-fouling seems to be having an effect. I rarely have to clear up.

I have had two days of walks with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust who will provide advice on how to register the Nature Reserve. They have recorded the flora and fauna.

The disappointing news is that there has been a complete dearth of volunteers to help in the nature reserve this year. Work has been limited to keeping the major paths open and great thanks goes to Michael and Ann Wilderspin for all their hard work throughout the summer. Our thanks must also go to Tarmac who donated stone for our project and arranged its delivery. Finally thanks to BTCV for their endeavours.

The Nature Reserve Committee will be meeting shortly to plan next year's activity and as always we need volunteers to help us run this project. Interested parties should contact the Clerk. We need everybody from hands-on clearers to those who can support with management of the Reserve. Please contact the Clerk or talk to one of the Councillors if you are interested in getting involved in this village project.

Allotments

There was a meeting of the Allotments Committee in July at The Temple Hotel. There was a wide ranging discussion but there is still a lot of important work to do to get the project up and running. We will, of course, keep you posted as to developments but for anyone who is interested in having an allotment it is not too late. Get in touch with the Clerk and we will add your name to the list of interested parties.

County Councillor's Report by Councillor Garry Purdy

Work has been carried out to cut back an overgrowth of self set trees at the side of the main A6 road, Matlock Bath, but more importantly, off the limestone walls directly opposite Masson Mill. Road traffic signs have also been cleared of tree cover. I have been requesting this work for some time and am pleased that the work has been completed, although I am still pushing for further tree work to be carried out cutting back the overgrown branches along the pavement of the A6 road between Matlock to Matlock Bath.

Neither Derbyshire Dales District Council nor Derbyshire County Council have a policy to deal with the massive overgrowth and lush vegetation that is now coming to a head after being set by the Victorians including all the self set trees. The only policy that can be secured from the Authorities is that of safety. If any member of the public is concerned about any tree and considers it to be a danger then please advise either of the above Authorities.

Footpath Closure

Footpath number 2 (often known as Green lane) that runs from the Chinese Restaurant to the Temple Hotel has been closed until at least 4th October. Thanks to reports by parishioners to the Council, we were able to alert the County Council who were quick to respond as the fallen wall was a serious hazard. If we have any further news from the County Council we will put it on the 'news' website page. We shall of course monitor the situation and endeavour to get the County Council to open the path as soon as possible.

District Councillor's Report by Councillor Peter Hume

We have been advised by the Environment Agency that they have issued a draft decision notice refusing the application from Taywell Composting for the operation of an In-Vessel Composting Plant on the Dunsley Mill Site. This information has been confirmed by Derbyshire County Council Planning Department who, we are told, will take the views and reasons of the EA into account when preparing the revised Officer's report and recommendations for their Planning Committee.

From discussion with County Planning, it is unlikely that they will present their report to Committee before the end of November.

The draft decision and supporting documents should be available for viewing on the EA website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/consultations/80798.aspx later this week.

Please Help ...

As we announced in the June issue of A View from the Bath, Holy Trinity School are holding a Book Fair in the Community Centre on **Saturday 16th October 2010**. They desperately need books, DVDs, CDs, computer games so please have a sort out and donate the items to the school. Delivered with this Newsletter is a flyer from the school giving contact numbers. Please support the village primary school.

'A View from the Bath' @ www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

You will remember that in June we announced that the Newsletter was going electronic. We asked all of you with internet access to 'sign up on line' to receive an electronic copy. It is disappointing to report that only 14 people from 11 households signed up to receive the Newsletter this way. That is why everyone gets a paper copy of this edition.

Each quarter, we print and deliver 420 Newsletters to properties in Matlock Bath. It takes over 10% of our annual budget. If you do have internet access, we would urge you to sign up for this form of Newsletter. If only 50% of the village sign up, this will mean that we will have around £600 to spend on other things in the village. In addition if enough people sign up, it gives us the option to have more electronic news or even reminders of events.

The same exciting Newsletter – but cheaper and more environmentally friendly!

Go on – sign up NOW!!