

# A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

Matlock Bath Parish Council

December 2018



## Singing Round the Christmas Tree



Why not take a break from the hectic run up to Christmas and come and join us for a traditional pre-Christmas celebration with fellow residents?

This year our Christmas celebrations will take place on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm.**

Musical accompaniment, courtesy of John Phillips and Gerry Kreibich.

Afterwards, refreshments will be provided by the Parish Council in the Midland Hotel.

Our thanks go to Don Sturt of Cromford for supplying and erecting the tree and also to Mick Hirstwood for putting the lights and decorations on.

## Charles Beresford



We recently received the sad news that Charles Beresford from Brunwood Road had died peacefully on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November at around 2.00 am.

It was a great pleasure and honour for the Parish Council to work with Charles over many years on the Act of Remembrance. However, his enduring contribution to the village will be his book *'The Bath at War'*, a wonderful record of events in the village during WW1.

The in-depth research that he carried out to produce this book was immense and his contribution to the WW1 Remembered Project lead by the Parish Council cannot be underestimated.

Much of the material for the exhibitions in the Pump Room and the permanent display in the Memorial Shelter was the work of Charles yet he was always quietly unassuming and never wished to take any of the credit of which he was much deserving. Whatever we asked of him, he gave 200%. His special contribution to village life will be sadly missed but the Memorial Shelter display and his book will be a lasting tribute to this true gentleman.

His wife, Margaret, has asked us to let the village know that on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 11.00 am there will be a thanksgiving for Charles at Holy Trinity Church. This will be followed by a gathering at the Fishpond where we can all raise a glass to Charles.



*Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!*



# Matlock Bath Development Association CIC



We are pleased to announce that the Development Association has received an award. At the Accessible Derbyshire Awards dinner held in the auspicious surroundings of Chatsworth, we were given the Accessible Aspirations Award. It was given in acknowledgement of the accessibility audit carried out in the village and the planned sensory trail. Pictured receiving the award from Jane and Gillian – founders of Accessible Derbyshire are two of the Directors, Joyce Pawley and Peter Baranek.

**Green Man Trail** – The trail, which is almost ready to be installed, will run in Lovers' Walk and Derwent Gardens. We are awaiting the licence from the landowners, Derbyshire Dales District Council and the information sheets to be printed. It will provide another attraction for both residents and visitors. It is designed to both raise awareness of this lovely walk and educate those following the trail of some of the flora and fauna of the walk and the wonderful natural surroundings.

**Sensory Trail** – As a result of the accessibility audit of the village, the concept of a sensory trail was born. It will start in the Station Car Park and progress through Memorial Gardens and the WW1 display, over Jubilee Bridge to the old bandstand on Lovers' Walk then back along Lovers' Walk to the new bridge, around the water garden, through Derwent Gardens, passing the Pavilion and back along the riverside pavements to the Station Car Park. Though the final design has not yet been agreed, it will include work in the Memorial Shelter, to the bandstand and shelters on Lovers' Walk and Derwent Gardens and some exciting additions to the pavement along the Parades. We have been given the 'green light' to submit a LEADER grant application for much of this work and once we have the agreement of the landowners, Derbyshire Dales District Council and Derbyshire County Council, a final grant application will be submitted. We know of no such project in the East Midlands and what we do in Matlock Bath could well become a template for future such developments elsewhere in the UK. The 'purple pound' – the spending power of those with disabilities of many types – vision, hearing, mobility, autism, dementia etc accounts for 15% of the tourist market and often these visitors prefer to travel in the quieter times. This will be an all weather 365 days a year attraction in the village.

**The Frankenstein Festival** – The final event of this 10-day festival in the village was the reading of the winning short stories in 'The Wondrous Cave' at the Heights of Abraham. These stories were read by Matthew Parris and Andrew Smith who along with Tony Jones were the judges for the event. Recordings and photographs of the event can be found on the festival website at [www.thefrankensteinfestival.co.uk](http://www.thefrankensteinfestival.co.uk) We are most grateful to the sponsors of the festival without whose help the events could not have taken place.



**A Heritage Lottery Grant Application** – For some time now, we have been working on a series of interpretation boards around the village that tell the story of the history of the village. These boards will include the latest technology to enhance the visual display. In order to promote the heritage of the village, we would like to include in the grant application work to bring back more of the heritage shop signs similar to the one that hangs outside Hodgkinsons Hotel. We would like to make more of a statement of the village at its entrances at South End and Artists Corner and are looking at ways of improving these village 'gateways'. The entrances to our public spaces are not signed so as part of the application new signage to identify Memorial Gardens, Lovers' Walk and Derwent Gardens are being considered.

**We Need Your Help** – We need your help to do this work. As well as ordinary members of the Association, we need someone with an interest in helping accessibility and someone with an interest in the history and heritage of the village. Expertise is NOT required – just an enthusiasm to help us in the work we want to do. Contact us via

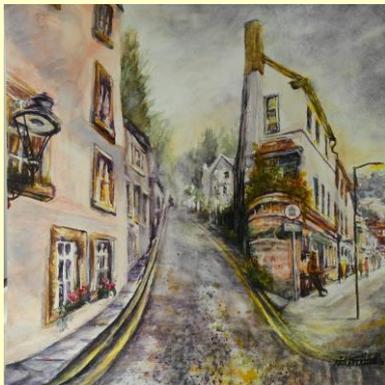
**Website** – [www.matlockbathda.co.uk](http://www.matlockbathda.co.uk) **E-mail** – [info@matlockbathda.co.uk](mailto:info@matlockbathda.co.uk) **Telephone** – 07914 420545

## Scam Telephone Calls – Derbyshire County Council

Residents are being warned by Derbyshire County Council about scam phone calls being made in the council's name and councillors are asked to help spread the word. The authority's trading standards team has been contacted by concerned residents who have received phone calls in which the caller claims to be from Derbyshire County Council and wants to speak about a potential council tax refund. The public has been informed that the council would never make unsolicited phone calls of this nature. The council's advice is to put down the phone on these scammers and report the call to Citizens Advice Consumer Service.

## Pro Loco Art and Photography Competitions 2018

What an exciting and creative time the village has had this Autumn! This year, alongside the illuminations, the Art Competition, held in September and the Photography competition held in October produced beautiful work. Once again, we were amazed at how much talent they attract in all age categories. It seems with each year both competitions grow in popularity and standard.



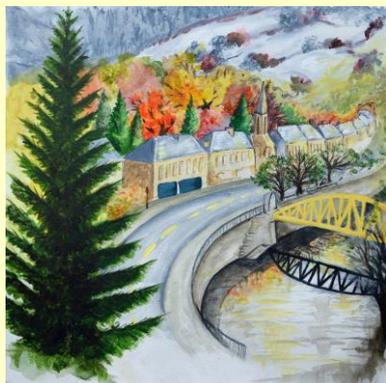
**1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Kathleen Kellett**

The **Art Competition**, now in its 39<sup>th</sup> year, took place first and attracted 12 adult entries and 26 in the children's categories. We were delighted to see various media used to create some stunning work, all depicting scenes of Matlock Bath. The entries were all displayed in the Pump Room of the Grand Pavilion in September when, as usual, we asked for the public to vote for their favourite work in each age category.

This year's adult winner, together with all previous winners can be seen in the Conference Centre at Masson Mills. Anyone wishing to see the exhibition can contact Masson Mills direct.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prizes were sponsored by Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills and were awarded as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Kathleen Kellett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Stephen Allen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, sponsored by the Heights of Abraham, went to Sarah Parkin.

Other prizes awarded included – Most Creative and Innovative was awarded to Susan Taylor, Highly commended to Bryan John and the Parish Council award went to Anne Holmes. A special prize – Frankenstein Inspired was awarded to Linday Hardy.



**Secondary – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - Issy Edwards**



**Secondary 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Georgia Davies**



**Linda Hardy - Most Creative & Innovative**

All entries received including the winning pictures can be found on our website – [www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The prize winners for the Art and Photography Competitions were invited to attend a presentation ceremony in November. Prizes were presented by Andrew Pugh, Managing Director of The Heights of Abraham, who also very kindly sponsored the evening. Thanks also to the New Bath Hotel for hosting the event.



**Infants – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Sam Kirkland**

The **Photography Competition**, in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, was held later in the month with voting taking place, again in the Pump Room of the Grand Pavilion in October. We had another bumper entry of outstanding shots this year with over 240 entries, shortlisted with extreme difficulty to 87. We are extremely grateful to local photographer, Robert Morris, for his help in shortlisting the entries again.

The winners this year were:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Mike Swain, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Gary Gouws, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Sam Devonport, Best Villager – Peter Newberry.

The Parish Council Award went to Rebecca Parker for her photograph of the War Memorial.

## ***Pro Loco Art and Photography Competitions 2018 (cont)***



***1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Mike Swain***



***Best Picture of the Heights of Abraham – Karen Newberry***



***Best Picture of Heritage – Claire Hall***

In the "Best Picture of" categories, winners were:

Holy Trinity Church – Nick Lawlor, Heights of Abraham – Karen Newberry, Illuminations – Fatima Oliveira, Masson Mills – Peter Keeble, 'A Hidden Gem' – Jenny McCubbin, Heritage – Claire Hall, The Boats – Darrin Bayliss White.

In the Young Photographer category, Harry James won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize. The Junior Photographer category was won by Maisie Swain.

Although the above mentioned are the winners, we would like to extend our thanks to everyone who entered either of the competitions. The standard this year was high.

The Parish Council is extremely grateful to all our sponsors – Holy Trinity Church, Derbyshire Dales District Council (Illuminations) and in particular The Heights of Abraham and Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills. We will be soon making arrangements for the 2019 Pro Loco Art and Photography Competitions so why not start to think about entering? Our village looks stunning all year round, so how about capturing its beauty or character on canvas, in a textile piece or perhaps through a camera lens?

There are prizes on offer for all age groups – check out our website for details in the New Year.

To see all of the entries in both competitions, including the winning entries, log on to our website – [www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk) and follow the links from the home page.

## ***Adoption of Matlock Bath Station***

The adopters of Matlock Bath Station have been busy again over the Summer looking after the lovely florals at the station. Shortly the winter bedding plants will be planted so that the station will look bright and welcoming for train users throughout the winter and spring.

Being an adopter for the station is very rewarding and we are currently looking for new adopters to join our team. If you are interested in becoming an adopter please contact the Clerk – [clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## ***Grants Awarded***

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that so far this year they have awarded grants to the Matlock Bath Bowling Club, the Children's Christmas Party in the village and also to DASAC for the Raft Event. The Parish Council is proud to support worthy causes with our grants budget.

## ***Our Volunteers, Our Supporters and Our Thanks!***

The Parish Council is appreciative of all the support it receives from the volunteers and supporters who help us with the work we do. From delivering Newsletters, planting trees, working in our Nature Reserve, planting and looking after our florals, litter picking, 'manning the stand' at our Competitions, sponsoring a prize or competition, station adopting or sitting on a Committee and more, we are truly grateful for the work you do.

It is encouraging to see so many people willing to support the Parish Council and we hope that you will very much wish to continue. There are so many to mention by name but you all know who you are so ..... THANK YOU!

## Winter Service Scheme

It's not too late to sign up as a volunteer for the Winter Service Scheme. You may recall that the Parish Council is part of a scheme operated by Derbyshire County Council called the Winter Service Scheme. This scheme requires volunteers to help keep clear footpaths in snowy weather. DCC provides the Parish Council with bags of salt for the volunteers to use.

Cllr Michael Wilderspin has again agreed to act as Snow Warden this year and will distribute salt to those volunteers who sign up and co-ordinate the clearing of snow and ice on pavements with the volunteers.

We do know of many residents in the village who already clear pavements in the inclement weather but by participating in this scheme will allow the grit in the yellow bins dotted around the village to be used on the highway and therefore reducing the cost to the Council. Can we also stress to residents that the grit provided in the yellow bins should only be used for the highway and not private driveways. If you wish to grit your own private drive, bags of grit/salt can be purchased locally at a reasonable cost.

Volunteers who clear snow and ice will be required to complete a fit to participate form. You still have time to sign up so if you would like to volunteer to clear the pavements near you, please contact the Clerk – [clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk) or telephone 07914 420545.

## NEW Village Book Swap!



A brand-new Village Book Swap is now available for everyone to use and is hosted by the Restoration Café, Grand Pavilion in Matlock Bath. It has been a real village effort to put it together but following a post on the Next Door app by resident Sally Dixey, Café Manager and Grand Pavilion Trustee, Judy Chappell, agreed to host the Book Swap. Sally donated the bookcase and local people have also donated books to get it started. More books would be appreciated as shelving allows. Thank you to everyone who has helped.

The Village Book Swap is available whenever the café is open and is proving to be popular already! It is free to use if you bring a book to swap, otherwise a donation to the Grand Pavilion Fund of a minimum of £1 is much appreciated.

Please pop along and browse the book shelves and bring a book to swap. Everyone is welcome!

## 'Spend a Penny' Project



As you will know, our original application for a rural tourism grant from RPDE was refused. However, we have appealed against their decision and our appeal has been upheld so we can now prepare a full grant application for this facility to be built. The new build, attached to the south side of the Pavilion, will include a state-of-the-art tourist information point, a fully accessible changing places toilet, three individual 24/7 unisex toilets, further toilet and washing facilities for use at busy times and some office space.

As part of this application we must demonstrate 'a need'. We know that there is not 'a need' amongst the residents but nobody knows better than us who live here the need for such a facility for the visitors. We hope therefore that you can support this project by putting your names to the messages of support both on the change.org website and on the forms scattered around the businesses in the village. There is also one by the book swap in the Restoration Café. Could you also encourage your family and friends to show their support by doing the same? If you are on social media spread the word there as well. We have put this information on both the Parish Council and Matlock Bath Development Association Facebook pages and on Twitter. The Change.org support petition can be found at <https://www.change.org/p/matlock-bath-development-association-the-matlock-bath-spend-a-penny-project>

The Consortium – the Grand Pavilion, Matlock Bath Development Association, Matlock Bath Parish Council, The Town Team, Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire and the Peak District Mining Museum – hope to get the completed application ready by the end of February. Part of this preparation time is due to the need for planning permission which I hope you will also be able to support. We will keep you up to date with progress via social media and the Change.org website. If successful, a very optimistic time-scale would be completion before the 2019 illuminations but a more realistic date is the Spring of 2020.

## ***District Councillor Report – Cllr Garry Purdy***

As we hunker down to the onset of winter once again, thoughts turn in the Authority to waste! Or should I say, the duty of the Authority to collect your waste. The present waste contract with Serco is due for renewal in 2020 and our Officers have already commenced enquiries as to the state of the market and what is on offer. It does not provide for glad tidings. In fact, some waste companies have gone out of business due to the dramatic drop in the price of waste that they can reclaim, especially in the price of plastic! A Special Council meeting to discuss future options was held at the Town Hall on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November. The agenda can be found on our website under Committee papers if anyone is interested in reading it. What does this mean? It may mean a longer cycle of collections, two or three weekly and charging for the collection of green waste. It was an important meeting and generated many questions and debate, but a decision has to be made. Last time round it was a buyers' market and the Authority saved around £300,000 on the contract. I am afraid that this is not the case this time.

As a member of the Police & Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel, we have been pushing the Commissioner for him to back a judicial review into the Police. He has declined. However, there is much evidence that has been published in the press on the current poor state of the Police that a petition has been raised on Change.org calling for an Early Day Motion in Parliament to have a judicial enquiry into the future of policing in this country. Watch this space!

I would like to pass on my best wishes and good luck to all of you working hard in the village to provide a more sustainable future. This includes the Parish Council, Matlock Bath Development Association, the Spend a Penny Project to try and provide a new public convenience at the Pavilion, the Pavilion Group, Matlock Bath Station Adopters etc. If there is any body or group I have missed then please let me know; such voluntary work is commendable and deserves credit.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## ***Act of Remembrance 2018***



On Sunday morning 11<sup>th</sup> November, local residents and some visitors gathered in the Memorial Gardens for the Act of Remembrance.

This year Remembrance Sunday fell on the same day as Armistice Day so it was thought apt to have a service in the morning rather than the usual afternoon service.

Members of the congregation at Holy Trinity Church were invited to attend instead of the usual Church service.

Mike Greenan read the names of the fallen and then wreaths were placed – Lt Cdr Christopher Bowmer laid a wreath on behalf of the village and Noah and Reuben Whitehead laid a wreath on behalf of the children of the village. Holy Trinity Church also laid a wreath. Kevin Butterfield kindly read the Exhortation, Commitment and Dedication. Rev Pauline Key made a short introduction and recited the poem *In Flanders Field*. Pauline then led the hymns and prayer.

You may have noticed the lamppost poppies this year in the village. The Parish Council wanted to support this initiative by the Royal British Legion so agreed to purchase 20 poppies. The Hall Family very kindly sponsored the remaining poppies and arranged for them to be put up throughout the village and taken down.

Our thanks go to everyone who was involved in Remembrance this year – not just the Service itself but Remembrance as a whole.

## ***Illuminations Feedback 2018***

A feedback meeting on the 2018 illuminations was held on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Notes from that meeting can be found on our website. If you have any comments regarding the 2018 illuminations or suggestions for the 2019 season, please let the Clerk know so we can pass these on to DDDC. A Working Party has been set up to look at the 2019 illuminations and the Parish Council will have representation on that committee.

***'A View from the Bath' is published by Matlock Bath Parish Council, Coppice End, Woodland Terrace, Derby Road, Matlock Bath and printed by Ashover Print***

**Website: [www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk) E-Mail: [clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
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