

A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Spring 2020



Matlock Bath "Neighbourly Networks" – Julia Dale & Kate Gard Cooke

We find ourselves in unprecedented times. Let's make sure no one in our community is isolated.

Neighbours in Matlock Bath are setting up small local groups so we can help each other when individuals or families have to self-isolate and need to stay at home. This may mean they need support with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking, or simply having a friendly chat (while maintaining social distancing, of course)!

Some groups have a WhatsApp group for offers and requests. For people not able to participate in that, text messages or telephone calls will keep people linked in. Groups are forming throughout the village.

If you have set up a group, please e-mail the Parish Council Clerk at clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk and provide a list of all the properties included in your group.

If you do not know your local group, contact the Parish Council Clerk by e-mail – clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone 07914 420545. The Clerk will put you in touch with your nearest group. No one in Matlock Bath has to feel alone in this crisis. We are all in this together.

The Chairman Writes

A different style newsletter for unprecedented times. Despite the 'shut down' the Parish Council felt that it was important to attempt to get a newsletter distributed to the village if at all possible. With things moving so quickly, we have made the decision to produce a much briefer edition but with some important news. Further information on items contained in this Newsletter will be available online as soon as possible. We encourage you to check the Parish Council website to see any updates we may have.

This week, we have been liaising with residents who have set up 'Neighbourly Networks' to help and support other residents (see article above) and lobbying DDDC, DCC and the Police to ensure that a repeat of last weekend's crowds in the village does not repeat. The Clerk already works from home so it will be business as usual apart from meetings. Again, we will keep you updated on the website but rest assured that the Clerk and Councillors will continue to work via email and phone to do whatever we can.

You will have now received your council tax bill and see that the Parish Precept has reduced this year slightly. The Council set a standstill precept of £28,000 but because the number of properties paying the precept increased slightly, your individual contribution was reduced.

We of course ask you to follow Government advice on all aspects of what you do. My philosophy, when I do have to go out, is to imagine that everyone I meet has covid19 and I treat them as such. We are lucky that for most of the time in our village, on our daily exercise, there are many paths and byways where we can walk, meeting very few other people. If while out walking and you find any issues with the footpaths, do let us know and we will do what we can to rectify the problems. Please stay safe and healthy.

Community Delivery

Zoe and Chris from Hodgkinsons Hotel are trying to offer the village the opportunity to order from their suppliers. They have a basic outline of ordering guidelines for now which have been released to all the WhatsApp Matlock Bath Neighbourhood groups. It is unclear at the moment whether the service will be offered once a week or twice a week. Orders should be submitted by e-mail or text. Arrangements are subject to change. Orders will need to be picked up at a pre-arranged time (one person only per pick up timeslot) within a 2-3 hour window if possible but special arrangements can be made if this is not suitable for some people.

If you have any queries or need further information please contact Chris or Zoe at enquiries@hodgkinsons-hotel.co.uk or 07943 524246. Further details can be found on our website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Great River Derwent Clean Up & Paddle Peak – Paddle Peak



The Paddle Peak group were out again in early March to remove more hay bale black plastic wrapping and netting from the river that was washed in during this winter's floods. The team managed to clear everything within reach from McDonald's, through Matlock Town and on to Pic Tor leaving Hall Leys Park looking splendid in time for Spring.

Paddle Peak Founder, Pete Astles, commented "It's been really hard work on the river. There's still so much to be done to remove the thousands of meters of black plastic bale wrap that went down the river in November's floods. We've barely scratched the surface so far. It's pretty demoralising the scale of the task we have set ourselves."

The Paddle Peak crew will continue their work over the next few weeks. For more information on the Paddle Peak Community Project check out www.paddlepeak.org

Seniors' Christmas Lunch 2020

This year's Seniors Lunch will be held on **Monday 7th December 2020 at The Fishpond.**

If you would like to attend the Seniors Lunch this year please contact the Clerk no later than 23rd October 2020 at clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone 07914 420545 to reserve a place. Those who have attended in previous years are aware that in order to accommodate more residents, a charge of £5 per person has been requested. A menu will be circulated prior to the meal for pre-ordering.

Derbyshire Dales District Council – Cllr Garry Purdy

I first of all would wish to thank Pete Astles and his team of paddlers from Paddle Peak who are doing a sterling job cleaning the River Derwent in our area. As you can imagine from the floods in November last year there is an awful lot of material that has gone into the river such as hay bales, netting etc and is causing some serious environmental issues.

I recently met with Prime Minister Boris Johnson and reminded him of his visit to Matlock last November on the day of the floods and reminded him of his promise to help. I am pleased therefore to read in the press and Government circulars of increased amounts of monies in the budget towards flooding. The next step is to ensure that some of it comes our way.

Full Council approved the Corporate Plan last Thursday evening which allows us now to start to build on more positives than negatives - a Review of our Clean & Green Team, to build more affordable homes and to build more businesses in the Dales. The Corporate Plan was a real team effort between Members and Officers, and whilst everything that was wished for by some Members could not be achieved, overall it is a quite ambitious plan for a small Authority like ours and we can start to turn things around from the years of austerity.

(Cllr Purdy's article was written before the country went into lockdown)

Parish Council Meetings

In view of the Coronavirus pandemic, it has been agreed to suspend all Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings until further notice.

This will also include the Annual Meeting of the Council and the Annual Parish Meeting which was due to be held on 20th May 2020.

The health and safety of Councillors, staff and the public is our primary concern. The Parish Council will continue to work within the restrictions laid down by Government. A report will be produced on the proposed agenda items for the meeting which was to take place on 25th March. An updated report will then be produced monthly until our meetings resume. These reports will be put on our website.

We are currently awaiting an announcement regarding legislation to enable the holding of meetings remotely but will be guided by Government announcements. We will keep residents updated via our website. You can still contact the Parish Council should you have any queries or concerns at clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Council has registered the Neighbourly Networks with Derbyshire County Council to offer support to residents during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Pro Loco Art & Photography Competitions 2020

It's that time of year again ... and the Parish Council is pleased to announce that both the Art Competition and Photography Competition for 2020 are now open! Although we are in a period of uncertainty and have restricted movement for the foreseeable future there are still ways you can enter our competitions. Both competitions are open until **4th October 2020** (this may be extended depending on the Coronavirus). All shortlisted entries for both competitions will be held over a weekend in October/November.

The **Art Competition**, now in its 41st year is open to anyone over 14. The Parish Council made the decision to remove the younger children categories because of lack of entries from this group.

Although we are aware that with the restrictions in place during the coronavirus outbreak it is not possible for you to leave your house, you can still download a photograph of Matlock Bath and paint from that or just do it from memory or even paint what is outside of your own house.

This year we have made an important change to the rules. Those residents who have entered in the past will recall that the 1st prize winner is displayed with the previous years' winners. After much discussion, it has been agreed that the winner can choose whether to donate the work to the Parish Council to display with the previous winners or if they would prefer to retain their own work. If the work is retained by the winner, the Parish Council will arrange for a photographic record of it.

For more information about the competition including prizes available and to submit an entry form log on to www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

The **Photography Competition**, now in its 11th year is now open. As with the Art Competition, we realise that due to the restrictions during the coronavirus outbreak, it may not be possible at the moment for you to take photographs of our lovely village. We can accept photographs which have been taken since last October so if you have some photographs taken since then, why not enter them?

Prizes will be awarded across all age ranges. We have been fortunate to have sponsorship from Heights of Abraham and Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills as well as sponsorship for some "Best Picture of ..." categories. For more information and how to enter, please log on to www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

We would urge residents that if they are thinking about entering either of the competitions to ensure that you adhere to the Government's advice on restrictions at this time.

News from Derbyshire Dales District Council

Town Hall – For the protection of both staff and visitors, the Town Hall is now closed to all visitors. Residents can contact the Town Hall on 01629 761 100. To pay a bill (Council Tax or Business Rates) or report an issue (missed bin collection) or comment on a planning application etc log on to www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/DoItOnline

Citizens Advice – Based at the Town Hall – all face-to-face services have been suspended but will continue to provide telephone advice, including full appointments that people may need on 0300 456 8390.

Car Parks – Although DDDC car parks remain open for the benefit of Derbyshire Dales residents who are working from home or making essential visits as set out by Government, clear signage has been put up asking motorists if they need to be there and to follow current Government coronavirus measures. Parking charges are also suspended temporarily until further notice.

Play Areas and Parks – All facilities within the parks (play area etc) are closed. Park walkways should only be used for brief exercise alone or with people from your household. Please adhere to the social distancing rules.

Bins and Recycling – Bin collections are being impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. **Garden Waste** collections are suspended from Friday 27th March and **food waste** collections are now fortnightly (with your general waste collection). Our aim is to focus on **general waste** and **recycling** collections but please note these may not always happen to schedule.

Support for Businesses – A package of measures to help businesses and workers has been announced including financial support. For the latest up to date information log on to: <https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/services-business/business-support-events-funding/3030-coronavirus-support-for-businesses>

For up to date information please log on to www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk as information is subject to change.

CLIMB (Climate and Ecological Emergency Group Matlock Bath) - CLIMB

CLIMB Matlock Bath is now a Friends of the Earth Climate Action Group and a member of Derbyshire Climate Coalition.

Pete Astles from Paddle Peak spoke at a CLIMB meeting about work being carried out by his team to help clear plastics and other debris out of the River Derwent, members wondered how to respond. Would fish and chip shop owners in Matlock Bath help people to think about plastic in the river, the sea and in the fish we might eat? A Matlock Bath fish and chip shop owner has now kindly agreed to help raise awareness by displaying posters made by local children in his two shops. We are hoping that from this idea other communities will begin taking similar actions. Can readers help float this idea up and down the river?

'Power Down Wednesdays' – This initiative has the potential to grow and grow, saving lots of energy. Will you try it? People might decide to work from home, hold meetings electronically, use cars less, ride bikes more, walk, wear more layers, avoid buying plastic, use bikes, buses and trains, change to renewable energy companies, eat plant based food, change investments, change to low energy light bulbs.

Our website will be available soon. If you have any questions please contact the Parish Council Climate Advisory Group at climateadvisorygroup@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

CLIMB Meeting Dates – New members are welcome. Meetings have been with kind support of the Restoration Café at The Grand Pavilion – 7.15-9.00 pm alternately on Wednesday and Thursday evenings – 9th April, 6th May, 4th June, 1st July, 30th July. However due to the Coronavirus 19 guidance, these will need to be online until further notice, once we have set up a means (probably Zoom).

(The full article can be found on our website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Matlock Bath Sports Area

We have now received a number of quotations to renovate the sports area. The Parish Council will be looking at the quotations shortly. We very much hope that the renovation can start as soon as possible but with everything there is uncertainty at the moment due to the current pandemic we are not in a position to say when. Regular updates can be found on our website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Leader Grant Project

We were hoping to report that this project where the Parish Council received a 75% grant for work to install winter lighting, fingerposts and map lecterns in the village would be complete but the very last phase – the fingerposts missed the shut down of our suppliers by a matter of hours. Once they resume work, they will be despatched to the installers and fitted by the Memorial Gardens and Jubilee Bridge. The map lecterns may be fitted by the time you read this newsletter. We hope that they will be a great aid for the visitors.

Matlock Bath Development Association News

The Directors continue to work to improve the leisure infrastructure in the village. Our top priority is to improve the toilet facilities. We discovered that there is the last of European funding for 80% of work to improve tourism facilities so we put together an Expression of Interest for a grant of £170,000. This would provide two purpose built toilet blocks, one on the site of the old block at the entrance to Derwent Gardens and a second on the Station Car Park close to the station. Phase 2 of the project would be to reopen the Artists' Corner block. Our Expression of Interest was endorsed but we were given a deadline of full application as August 2020. To complete the project, we would have to raise around £80,000 capital and working capital loans of around £60,000. It has, therefore been agreed that this is not feasible but vowed to continue this plan as a longer-term project. As soon as we have full plans ready, we will launch this longer-term project. Further details will be available on the Parish Council's website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk We will also be relaunching the Green Man Trail on Lovers Walks and Derwent Gardens once the Covid 19 crisis allows.

*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 using FSC Certified Sources
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