

A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Winter 2021



The Joyce Pawley Memorial Arbour



In the early evening of 23rd October the Arbour was officially opened by Joyce's husband, Chris. Members of her family were guests at an illuminations' evening, an event that was close to Joyce's heart. It was an emotional event with her family moved by what the village had done for Joyce. The final total for donations was £1500, an amount of which the village should be proud. This money paid for the arbour and nameboard above and for the plants which will be used to landscape the area. DDDC funded the groundwork for the arbour which stands proudly in the Water Garden facing the river.

We chose an open design on which some of Joyce's favourite plants can climb. However, the arbour has a roof to protect any occupants from the worst of the weather. The Pawley family are funding a board inside the arbour on which is carved a poem Joyce wrote shortly before her death entitled 'A Place of Escape – Meditation'. It is hoped that the arbour will be a quiet sanctuary for residents and visitors to sit and enjoy the natural beauty of the Water Garden and the river and maybe inspire acts of creative art and literature that the village has been famous for over many generations.

Pictured at the opening are Chris and the Pawley family, some of Joyce's fellow Councillors and some of the donors who made the memorial possible. On the evening of the illuminations there was a collection for Macmillan Cancer Support which raised £1036 for the charity. After the event, Chris sent the following message to the Parish Council:

"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the people in Matlock Bath who have contributed in whatever way to the erection of an arbour in memory of my late wife, Joyce. To know that she made such an impact in the all too short a time she served as one of your District Councillors has been a source of great pride and comfort to me and my family. As an expression of the appreciation and affection in which she was so clearly held the arbour is a wonderful and entirely apt memorial to her. Thank you so much".

The final part of the project will be to landscape the area over the winter. The Parish Council would like to hear from anyone who can help in the work and also help maintain the area once complete. Chris Pawley has already volunteered his services as he hopes to visit the arbour as often as he can but any further help to tidy and maintain the area would be greatly received.

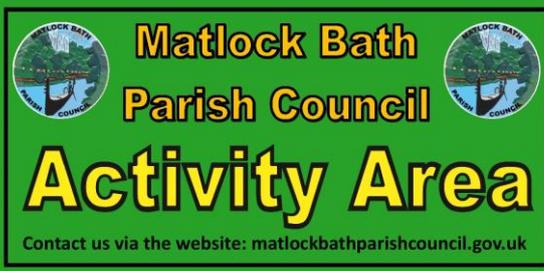
Singing Round the Tree



Why not take a break from the hectic run up to Christmas and come and join your fellow residents for a traditional pre-Christmas celebration. We are so pleased that this year's "Singing Round the Tree" will go ahead on **Monday 20th December at 7.00 pm in Memorial Gardens.**

Afterwards refreshments will be provided by the Parish Council at "Forget Me Not".

Matlock Bath Activity Area



We have now received confirmation of the insurance and the activity area is now open.

In the Autumn edition of "A View from the Bath" the procedure for accessing the area was explained.

Residents should log on to the website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk and book the area using the booking form and the calendar.

Once the booking form has been submitted, the Clerk will confirm the booking which will release the code. Should residents want to use the area exclusively in the future, they will need to make another booking. However, if they want to go on the 'off chance' it is not occupied by anyone else, they can.

A list of 'do's and don't's' is attached to the gate. We would urge everyone who uses the activity area to follow these to ensure that it is left clean and tidy for others to use. Full details can be found on our website and should you have any queries, please contact the Clerk. We will monitor the system and review it as necessary.



View from the Bath Chair – Cllr Peter Baranek



I will begin this time with a couple of entries from 'the Chair's diary'. I will not bore you with routine meetings which I attend to represent the village but this quarter, there were two events that I was invited to that are worthy of note.

Firstly, I represented the Parish Council at the opening of the Joyce Pawley Memorial Arbour, already covered on the front of the Newsletter.

In November, I was invited to the High Tor Hotel to their Diwali Celebrations to light their Diwali lamp. I was able to share with the new owners a little of the history of the building and the Parish Council wishes them well in their new venture and hopes to continue to work closely with them.

During the late summer and autumn, the village saw an increase in the amount of graffiti. One weekend there was a serious 'attack' of this type of vandalism. I am pleased to say that after contacting the clean up team at Derbyshire Dales District Council, they have done a great job of cleaning it off. If you do see any graffiti, please contact the Town Hall via e-mail – environmentalhotline@derbyshiredales.gov.uk or call 01629 761215. We must all work together to keep our village graffiti free.

Storm Arwen hit the UK recently and caused serious disruption around the country. Although not at the heart of the storm, the village did suffer some serious damage from fallen trees, probably the worst being a house in the village having a tree from Gulliver's through the roof. Footpath 5 between Upperwood and the rear of Cromford Court is blocked by two large fallen trees. Hopefully DCC rangers will clear this soon. If you discover fallen trees on footpaths or the highway, please report the location to the County Council. Issues with footpaths should be reported to eteprow@derbyshire.gov.uk

Whilst on the subject of reporting, we are pleased to say that we now have a phone number to call if there is excessive noise emitting from Gulliver's. Please call them on 07481 101574 and hopefully any noise will abate.

We had a meeting with the DDDC Tree Officer to discuss the problems of Ash Dieback in the Nature Reserve. The Environment Committee is putting together a plan of action based on his advice to ensure that the Reserve is as safe as possible. This will involve removing dead ash and then replanting with native species. We have a detailed list of all the flora on the Reserve and our replanting scheme will be based around this list. This will involve using volunteer labour whenever possible and we will look to source trees from the Woodland Trust which we can get free of charge.

As you may have seen, our Christmas Tree is in place. Thanks to the volunteers who made this possible. Lights and decorations will be added shortly. This, of course, means that Christmas cannot be too far away. Can I take this opportunity thank all those community spirited volunteers who help in so many different ways to enable the Parish Council to function. We are not like many larger villages and towns in the Derbyshire Dales who can afford to employ staff to carry out tasks. Our one paid member of staff is the Parish Clerk. We will continue to ensure value for money in whatever we do and to access funding from outside the village whenever possible to continue our work on making improvements to our village for all to enjoy.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope that 2022 proves to be a more settled and enjoyable year without the issues that 2021 has thrown at us.

Climate Change - DDDC

As part of its own Climate Change actions DDDC has completed its first phase of installation of EV charge points across the district, with further installations planned. Currently EV charge points are available at: Market Place, Wirksworth, Edgefold Road, Matlock, Shawcroft Car Park, Ashbourne and New Street, Bakewell.

Cycle racks are also available in the District Council's car parks in Bakewell's Granby Road, Eyam, Over Haddon, Matlock Bath Pavilion Car Park with two in Matlock at the Station and Lido car parks. Cycle lockers are available at Ashbourne Leisure Centre.

Our Hidden Heritage



We received an email from Canada in October. It was from Malcolm D Byard living in Ontario, Canada. It referred to Glenorchy Chapel. He wrote:

"When Glenorchy Chapel was demolished for road widening in 1965 my late Uncle, Laurence Hodgkinson, visited the demolition site and saw the dated lintel stone from above the Chapel doorway and he asked the demolition crew if he could have it to set it into the wall outside his residence. They gave him the stone and he did a fine job setting it into the wall. I think this is a significant Matlock Bath artifact which few are aware of so I hope you find it of interest".

Malcolm left Cromford in 1947 when he was 5 years old and has lived in Canada ever since. The photograph to the right is of the door lintel. It is part of the wall at the roadside as you walk up towards Masson House, South End.



Glenorchy Chapel was on the bend of the A6 on the Cromford side of Masson Mills. It has a particular interest for Malcolm as his grandparents were married in the Chapel. If you want to find out more about the Chapel, much information can be found in 'Matlock Bath – a Perfectly Romantic Place' published by the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site Education Trust and is on sale in The Mining Museum and Eclectic Delights of Serendipity. It is an accessible book full of interesting information and photographs about the heritage of our village.

If anyone has an interesting heritage story to tell do get in touch with the Parish Council. Much of our physical heritage has been lost – just photographs remain. However, anecdotal history such as this will be lost forever unless shared with today's generation.

Illuminations and Access Only Roads

Now that the illuminations are over for another year, it is time for us to reflect on any problems the village encountered during the 8 week run. As residents will know all of our access only roads were closed and all but 2 had marshals stopping anyone without a pass from driving up. We know that there were problems at the start of the illuminations on one or two roads but we would welcome any comments which we can feedback to Derbyshire Dales District Council when they start planning for the 2022 event. Contact the Clerk – clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk with any comments, complaints or queries with regards to the 2021 illuminations.

Winter Service Scheme

At a recent Parish Council meeting, Councillors resolved to continue its membership in the Winter Service Scheme, run by Derbyshire County Council. The scheme requires volunteers to help clear pavements in the snowy and icy weather. DCC provides bags of salt for the volunteers to use. We have appointed a Snow Warden again who co-ordinates the clearing and receives up-to-date weather reports from DCC. Anyone wishing to sign up as a volunteer should contact the Clerk. Salt to be used on the pavements can be collected and, in some instances, we may be able to arrange delivery.

Although each year we do stress that the grit housed in the yellow bins should only be used for roads, we find that it is still sometimes used for private driveways. By signing up to the Winter Service Scheme, we can provide you with salt for the pavements and reduce costs to the Council. If you need salt for your driveways, this can be purchased locally at a reasonable cost.

Mary and Her Boat Lit Candles – Matlock Bath Boatbuilders Association

When Trust Community Psychiatric Nurse Mary Chigodora comes home from work, instead of sitting down to watch TV, she heads out to the River Derwent to row – and during September and October it is as part of the famous Matlock Bath Illuminations.

In 2021, Mary rowed a special boat that is a tribute to the NHS and its work during the pandemic.



The Matlock Bath Illuminations is a family event with a spectacular parade of illuminated and decorated boats along the River Derwent, all of which are rowed by a keen group of volunteers.

During the eight week season, in September and October, members of Matlock Bath Venetian Boat Builders' Association decorate themed models with coloured lights. The models are then mounted on rowing boats and paraded on the River Derwent on Saturdays and Sundays

Mary got involved with the celebration through her partner, Paul Henshall, who is a keen builder of the decorations for the boats, which are designed by students at Matlock's Highfields School. Paul has been taking part in the event for 47 years.

This year, Mary rowed the candle boat, lit by tea lights instead of the normal fairy lights, and dedicated it to the NHS and all other key workers. Mary said "I usually row my partner's decorated boat, but this year I agreed to row the traditional candle boat, as it is dedicated to key workers. We don't have to row a long way but it can be tricky if the weather is bad. I love to row, it's a way of giving myself some therapy. I row every evening after work. It was lovely this year to see my colleague, Karen Moore, and others were standing on the bank applauding me. People know me well in the Matlock area so it's lovely when any NHS colleagues give me a cheer."

The candle boat rowed by Mary was lit with about 100 tea lights and recalls a time before battery power brightened the lights at the illuminations. Her partner Paul, meanwhile, rowed the Lego Lockdown Express, another nod to the pandemic year.

For more details on the illuminations, log on to www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Matlock Bath Pre-School Playgroup - Playgroup



Matlock Bath Pre-School Playgroup was approached by Sam from Usbourne books who asked if we would like to take part in a fundraiser to purchase new books for our preschool. The children were able to take part in a sponsored listen if they wished and parents could order books for themselves. Sam approached local businesses to ask if they would be happy to donate some money to help the preschool buy some new books. The villagers were amazing and so very kind with their donations, in total we have been able to spend £901 on some absolutely gorgeous books which has been a lovely early Christmas present for us all.

The children and staff at Matlock Bath Pre-School Playgroup would like to thank all of the businesses in Matlock Bath who donated/pledged to our preschool. We have purchased some lovely books which will be enjoyed by us all for a long time.

Free Parking Throughout December – DDDC

A reminder that parking is FREE in our car parks after 2pm for a 14th year throughout December to help local residents and businesses at an important time for the local economy. The initiative comes on top of residents' parking concessions that allow local people to park free every day of the year up to 11am and after 4pm. This year, to support our 2030 net zero carbon emissions target, we're also urging visitors and residents to support Dales businesses by making best use of public transport, car sharing, cycling and walking, where possible.

Halloween Treasure Hunt – Matlock Rotary Club

Let me start with a large thank you to all the businesses of Matlock Bath who joined together with us in our first Halloween treasure hunt, which took place over the two weeks preceding Halloween, 31st October.

We at Matlock Rotary were very pleasantly surprised by the take up and generosity of those who joined us in the venture; with only two concerns choosing not to take part. The feedback we have received from both the public and the stakeholders has been very positive, with the twin aims of visitors being provided with a new FREE experience and the storefronts searched for the answers complementing each other very well.

Visitors were able to post their entries in the village and a draw was held in Derwent Gardens on the last night of the Halloween celebrations, entries being received as far away as London and Chester. The joint winners were sisters Millie and Isobelle Beer from Chesterfield.

In addition to enhancing the profile of the village, Matlock Rotary expect to raise over £400 which will be used towards causes that we support.

It is hoped that the Halloween Trail could become an annual event. Any comments, queries or suggestions please contact Terry Fox via terry.matlockrotary@gmail.com



Jonathan @ Roly's Fudge Factory



Andy @ Matlock Bath Tattoo

Thanks to all, including

Ancient Alcove on Lovers Walk



This picture of the ancient shelter on Lovers Walk was painted by George Robertson in about 1797. It is the oldest building on Lovers Walk, a Grade 2 listed area in the Matlock Bath Conservation area. Some recent investigation by local historian Doreen Buxton has found reference to Lovers Walk in a 1713 publication with shelters, similar to this, mentioned.

Many residents will remember that the shelter was damaged by a tree fall a couple of years ago. Unfortunately, in the summer it was then demolished by DDDC as it was felt it would not have given a good impression of the village to leave a derelict structure surrounded by Heras fencing. The decision was taken to dismantle the remains and to store them until the shelter can be rebuilt.

We have received a number of messages of concern about the action taken on this important historic building. We therefore contacted DDDC with our concerns. DDDC has confirmed that they are currently obtaining budget cost information to inform a draft specification for the structure. The intention is to submit a bid to the Council's capital programme for the next financial year to enable the works to take place. At this stage it is hoped that works can be scheduled for early Summer 2022. They have confirmed they will ensure that the Parish Council is involved in the process and kept up-to-date as it progresses. Although the Parish Council is concerned about the removal and whether any structural detail was recorded before its demolition, we have been assured that as the shelter is a historic architectural feature of the Grade II Historic Park/Garden, that it will be rebuilt on a like-for-like basis. The Conservation Officer will also be involved in developing a specification for the rebuild.

Seniors Christmas Lunch 2021

On 4th December a group of residents gathered at The Fishpond for the Parish Council's Seniors' Lunch. 26 attended. The Fishpond, a new venue for the event, proved successful but we would welcome any feedback from those attending for when we plan the 2022 event.

Art and Photography Competitions 2021

Despite the last 18 months being difficult for everyone, we were so pleased that our annual Art and Photography competitions could go ahead this year. Due to Covid our 2020 Art Competition had to be cancelled.

Art – This competition, now in its 42nd year and although receiving a smaller entry than usual, we were delighted to see some stunning work, all depicting scenes of Matlock Bath. The 1st and 2nd Prizes were sponsored by Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills and were awarded as follows: 1st Prize – Stephen Allen, 2nd Prize – Anne Holmes and 3rd Prize – Linda Hardy. The Parish Council awarded two prizes to Carole Heyes and Malcolm Walters.



**Anne Holmes (2nd), Stephen Allen (1st)
Linda Hardy (3rd) (L to R)**

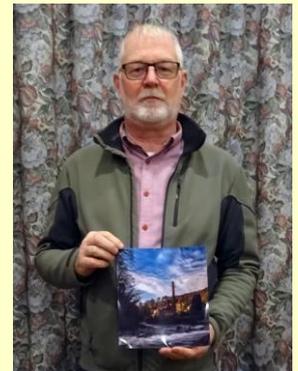
Most residents will be aware that all the previous winners of the Pro Loco Art Competition have been displayed in the Conference Suite at Masson Mills. Unfortunately due to the problems Masson Mills is experiencing at the moment, we were asked to remove them for safety purposes. After discussion, the Parish Council has decided that they will be displayed in the Pavilion where more members of the public will be able to see them. We will be contacting the artists who painted them to ask whether they are happy for their painting to be moved to The Pavilion or whether they would like it returned. All paintings will be photographed and their frames and plaques cleaned before being passed to the Pavilion. The Parish Council will remain custodians of the paintings and signage to this effect will be displayed in the Pavilion. It is hoped that many more people will be able to see the paintings over the 42 years it has been running.



Dan Nightingale (1st Prize)

Photography – Our Photography Competition is now in its 11th year and goes from strength to strength. In all we received over 230 entries which our Shortlisting Committee had to shortlist to 82.

The winners this year were: 1st Prize – Dan Nightingale, 2nd Prize – Steve Watson, 3rd Prize – Melanie Parkin, Best Villager – Paul Thornhill and the Parish Council Award went to Jon Hollands. Prizes in our "Best Picture of" Categories went to: Peter Newberry, Pete Astles, Jay Derrick, Chris Cookman, Victoria Morris, Clare D'Cruze, Mark Lodziak and Karen Newberry. 1st Prize - Young Photographer went to Callum Conquest. All the shortlisted entries can be found on our website alongside the winners.



Jon Hollands (Parish Council Award)

As always, our thanks go to Robert Morris, who has the difficult task each year to shortlist and to our main sponsors – Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills and Heights of Abraham. Without their support it would prove difficult for the Parish Council to host this competition. We are also grateful to those businesses who have sponsored the "Best Picture of ..." prizes. Finally, thank you to all those who enter and highlight what a beautiful village we live in.

A ceremony to award prizes was held in the Pump Room of the Mining Museum on 4th December. It was great to meet all the winners and present their prizes. We would like to thank the Peak District Mining Museum for hosting the event and providing tea and cake and for supporting the work we do throughout the year.



Paul Thornhill (Best Villager)

All of our prize winners entries can be found on our website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk The 2022 competition will open in the New Year. Photographs taken from 1st October 2021 can be entered into the 2022 competition so if anyone has any lovely photographs of the recent snow, submit them, you could be a winner!

District Councillor – Cllr Garry Purdy

I make no excuse by commenting on the rising infections from Covid, especially the latest variant coming out of South Africa and named Omicron. It is spreading rapidly and the really big message is, of course, to those who have not been vaccinated yet for whatever reason. I know someone quite well who, for some reason of their own, at 42 years of age has been against vaccination, but now having caught Covid is really frightened and in a panic. Get vaccinated now before you regret not doing so, because if you catch Covid it will be too late. This thing is real and not the stuff of nonsense on some social media sites.

Our Planning Officers are in lengthy talks with Gullivers Kingdom in order to have them regularise the container holiday accommodation. Gullivers Kingdom is a real asset for tourist economy in our area and we very much welcome their presence in the village. However, it has to be said that it is important that planning law is complied with.

Estimates to repair the heritage stone shelter in Derwent Gardens that was damaged by a fallen tree some time ago are being sought from building companies and as soon as costings are known for a full repair then a bid will be submitted into our capital programme for Council to approve the repair and reinstatement. I assure you that this iconic shelter will be reinstated.

In April of this year the Matlock Bath Illuminations Working Group decided to gamble and reinstate the illuminations this year, given the huge disappointment of us having to close it down last year due to Covid. In deciding to put the illuminations back on again we took the conscious decision to halve the number of people allowed into Derwent Gardens in order to ensure as much safety for the public from Covid as much as possible. Thankfully the illuminations went off well and it was lovely to see the happy and smiling faces, especially the children at the event, even more so when the illuminated and decorated boats hit the river. Well done once again to the boat builders for their hard work and dedication. Without them the illuminations would not be the success that it is.

Another nice but poignant event was the opening by Chris Pawley of the arbour in Derwent Gardens which has been dedicated to Joyce Pawley, former District Councillor to Masson Ward who sadly passed away after a major operation and is still sadly missed. It is a credit to the people in the village who contributed towards the cost of the arbour, very well supported by Matlock Bath Parish Council and the hard work of Peter Baranek in pulling it all together. Our Authority supported by paying for the groundworks and base that the arbour sits upon. Chris Pawley and his family were extremely touched at the kind generosity of those who had given financially to purchase the arbour and those who had put hard work into its erection. It now represents a quiet place to sit and contemplate and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the River Derwent and Derwent Gardens. If you do sit a while, think of Joyce, a native of Cromford, who put an awful lot of work into the community of Matlock Bath and Masson Ward as a District Councillor and whose life was taken far too quickly.

Seasons greetings to everyone and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Matlock Bath Sandbag Hub

Each year Derbyshire Dates District Council provide sandbags to businesses if there is a threat of flooding. For your information, the sandbag hub for Matlock Bath is in Memorial Gardens under the seat in the Shelter. Properties on North and South Parade who are concerned about possible flooding can collect the sandbags. Any queries please contact the Clerk.

Matlock Bath Raft Event

The event all started during the year of 1961 when a group of divers looking for something to do in the winter months with a lack of winter diving decided to give a little back! The group decided to set up an annual event in Matlock on Boxing Day now known as the Raft Event. The first year was a huge success with over 100 rafts taking part, divers from all over Yorkshire and Derbyshire took part and made the event possible. 54 years later the event is still going strong.

The event is organised by the Derbyshire Association of Sub Aqua Clubs (DASAC) and the event raises funds for the RNLI and over the past years has raised on average £2,900 a year and approximately £154,000 or more over all 54 years the event has taken place. In 2015 DASAC won a plaque from RNLI in commemoration of their efforts.

Starting at 10.15 am rafts enter the cold River Derwent in Matlock. Spectators line the streets to watch rafters hurry down the river, through Matlock Bath, over the weir and finally finish at Cromford meadows. To date the event will go ahead this year.

DASAC is pleading to spectators that they refrain from throwing eggs and plastic and paper bags of flour into the River. This is not only damaging to our local environment but also to the wildlife.

A follow up article will be published in our Spring edition on this year's event.

Stay Well This Winter - Derbyshire County Council

Most of us will have already seen some snow and ice so it's safe to say that winter is truly here. Whilst the snowy scenes look pretty, cold weather can cause serious issues for older and more vulnerable people.

Cold weather can make some health problems worse and even lead to serious complications, especially if you are 65 or older, or if you have a long term health condition. We've put together lots of advice and support around how to help you, and your family, stay well in winter. Here are a few tips:

- Check regularly on older neighbours and relatives;
- If you're not very mobile, are 65 or over, or have a health condition such as heart or lung disease, heat your home to at least 18C.
- If you're eligible then get your free flu jab and Covid 19 booster;
- Draw curtains at dusk and keep doors closed to block out draughts to keep your home warmer;
- Have hot drinks regularly and try to have at least one hot meal a day.

If you think you will struggle with heating costs this winter then help may be available. Find out about more help with heating your home by logging on to www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Welcome Back Fund



You might remember that in the last 'A View from the Bath' it was reported that the work on this project was nearly complete. We are pleased to report that this is now the case. The final phases – picnic benches in Memorial Gardens, Artists' Corner and on the grass area along the dale and the installation of the dispensers for the leaflets by the map lecterns by the Pavilion Car Park and Memorial Gardens finished. These introductions are proving popular with the visitors. Both the funding for the equipment and the administrative costs to the Parish Council have now been reimbursed on behalf of the Government by DDDC so it all comes to the village at no cost to the residents or businesses.

We discovered this week that there is still money available in this fund so the Parish Council is putting together a further bid. What we can do is quite restrictive but as before, any money approved and spent in the village will all come from Central Government but will benefit the village. We are considering a number of projects, in particular:

- Producing postcards of scenes of the village using the images submitted for the Pro Loco Photography Competitions. These postcards will be available for visitors free of charge to post to friends and family, many of whom may not have visited the village.
- Producing leaflets on some of the many walks starting and finishing in the village. Again, these will be available to all free of charge. Any reader who has a favourite walk, please share it with us and we can add it to the list of possibilities.
- The planting of more spring flowering bulbs around the village – along the A6 and in the parks and green areas. You may remember the Parish Council planted some along the A6 a few winters ago and we are still benefitting from them every Spring. If anyone can help with this planting, please get in touch. You can plant a number of bulbs in just half an hour and we have all the equipment to make this task even easier. No previous experience required.



Anyone who can help should contact the Clerk. We will update you on this project in the Spring newsletter and maybe by then we may see the fruits (or should that be flowers) of our labours.

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