

A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Spring 2021



Cllr Joyce Pawley – Cllr Peter Baranek



Cllr Joyce Pawley

It is with deep regret and much sadness that we have to write of the death of our much loved and respected District Councillor, Joyce Pawley. Joyce has represented the parish on the District Council for a number of years and had a great love for our village. She showed a clear understanding of the many issues that the village faces and never held back in fighting to improve life for residents, businesses and visitors. She was passionate without being aggressively argumentative, working quietly, yet efficiently, to achieve what she thought was the right way forward and always the best for the village.

Her kind, yet firm manner was appreciated by many of those she worked with and whoever you speak to agrees that her walking shoes will be a difficult pair to fill by whoever is elected to replace her as our representative on the District Council.

Her activities did not just confine themselves to District Council duties. She was a founding Director of the Matlock Bath Development Association where she saw the possibilities for taking the village forward as a tourist destination in a sympathetic way without ruining its natural beauty and charm. She also ran 'Masson Matters', a social media page on issues of local interest.

In the New Year, Joyce underwent a high risk 7 hour operation at the Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham. The operation was postponed a few times, once as she was on the trolley ready to go to theatre – cancelled because of bed pressure due to covid hospitalisations. After the operation she was making steady progress but on 27th February she passed away. We have not just lost a good friend, the whole village has lost a passionate advocate of what it has been, is currently but most importantly, what it could be. It will be a privilege to represent the village at Joyce's funeral.

Just before her operation finally took place, she issued this plea about Covid 19 to everyone:

"For those of you who think what you do does not affect others – think again – it does. I am sitting here washed out and angry. Angry at ignorance, anger at denial and angry that our doctors and nurses are not appreciated more than they are. Offering them a few weeks of well-meaning clapping in 2020 is not enough. We have gone beyond that; they need to know that we are willing to play our part in stopping the spread of this disease otherwise all the massive contributions that they have made will seem lessened. Our NHS and patients like me who have done everything they can to avoid getting the virus need your help. Bite the bullet, do the right thing, follow the rules and play an active part in stopping the virus in its tracks."

Matlock Bath Sports Area



The Matlock Bath Sports Area is almost unrecognisable now due to work having started on our renovation.

Our contractors are on site turning a run down, unusable area into a wonderful MUGA for residents to use.

We will keep residents up to date with the progress of the renovation on our website.

Once completed the area will accommodate Tennis, Basketball and Five-a-Side Football. The Parish Council is so excited that this project has finally got off the ground as it has been a project in the making for more than 10 years. Once the renovation is complete the Parish Council will look at lighting. Although we do not currently have a completion date, we expect the work to be completed in readiness for the warmer days and nights.

Parish Council Meetings

As residents will know all Parish Council meetings since last May have been held via Zoom because of Covid restrictions. The legislation brought in to allow this expires on 6th May 2021. It is currently unknown whether the legislation will be extended to enable meetings to continue to be held remotely. Residents can still attend our virtual Full Council meetings but should contact the Clerk beforehand to obtain the joining instructions. Dates of future Parish Council meetings can be found on our website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

We are pleased to announce that two new Councillors have joined us recently – Leisha Martin and Jackie Ligo. We welcome them to the Parish Council. Unfortunately, in May we will say goodbye to three of our current Councillors – Cllr Michael Wilderspin, Cllr Jennifer Nettleship and Cllr Nick Grayshon who have served the Parish Council for many years. We thank them for their continued support and service.

New Website



We are pleased to announce that the new website is ready to go 'live'. We have been working for the past few months to build a website which will contain a vast array of information for both residents and visitors. The website contains information about the facilities around the village which the Parish Council is responsible for, information on the Parish Council, a 'What's On' Guide to the activities happening in the village as well as a section on 'Latest News'. Check out the website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

The work on the website is ongoing and more things will be added. If you have any suggestions for further information to be included, please contact the Clerk – clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Online Arthritis Action Groups



Arthritis Action Groups are an opportunity for people with arthritis to talk with others and share their tips on how to manage their arthritis and stay active whilst at home, and we actively welcome new attendees. We discuss a variety of self-management techniques.

We know that all the changes in people's lives this past year have made managing arthritis more challenging and our groups are a great place for people to meet others with the condition and share experiences.

For more information log on to www.arthritisaction.org.uk or contact Ruth Smith, Area Co-ordinator on 0203 781 9230/0770 2813737

Paddle Peak - Pete Astles



During the recent floods, the local community group Paddle Peak have highlighted the problem of flushing single use plastic items down the loo. In times of extreme weather and during floods, sewage and rain water combine then overflow into our beautiful River Derwent. Thus leaving bushes along its banks decorated in thousands of unsavoury items including wet wipes, sanitary towels and tampons. Paddle Peak are asking everyone to think twice before flushing these items down the loo.

Paddle Peak's three Ps message to remember is:

Only flush Pee, Poo and Paper. Everything else needs to go in your household waste bin.

Please also consider using plastic free alternatives. Huge thanks.

Cromford and Matlock Bath Film - Patrick Leach

I am an amateur filmmaker in my spare time and last year, in between lockdowns, I made a film of a walk around Cromford and Matlock Bath which I published on YouTube last year. To view the film, log on to <https://youtu.be/3cpiic9JjuU>

Pro Loco Art & Photography Competitions 2021

It's that time of year again ... and the Parish Council is pleased to announce that both the Art Competition and Photography Competition for 2021 are now open! As residents will remember, last year's Art Competition was cancelled although we did manage to go ahead with the Photography Competition. Both competitions are open until **3rd October 2021**.

The **Art Competition**, now in its 42nd year is open to anyone over 14. The Parish Council made the decision to remove the younger children's categories because of lack of entries from this group. Full details of prize money can be found on our website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Although restrictions over the coming months will be lifted gradually, some may still be hesitant of going out to recreate a piece of work. No problem – just look out of your window – there is plenty, I am sure, to be seen. Whatever way you create your work – be safe.

We are very much hoping that the Art Competition will be able to go ahead in the Autumn with all work being displayed and voted by members of the public. A final decision will be made nearer the time.

A reminder that the 1st prize winner will be able to 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 12th year is now open to all age groups. As with the Art Competition, we would ask residents to be safe if going out and taking photographs and remember you can enter 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 already have sponsorship from Heights of Abraham and hopefully we will be able to offer prizes in the "Best Picture of" Categories. For more information and how to enter, please log on to www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Community Testing for Covid – Derbyshire County Council

One in 3 of those with Covid 19 do not have any symptoms, meaning that they could be passing on the virus to anyone they meet. Our community testing programme offers regular testing to those who are at most risk of passing on the virus which is those who are still going out to work and spend time with colleagues or the public. The testing will identify people with Covid 19, enable support for those who have to self-isolate and drive infection rates down further in the county. Community testing is not for those who have coronavirus symptoms. You don't need to book, just turn up at a time convenient to you. The testing centre for Derbyshire Dales is the Members' Room, County Hall, Smedley Street, Matlock. It is open 7 days a week from 7.45 am to 7.00 pm. For more information check out the DCC website – www.derbyshire.gov.uk

Update on Recycling Centres – Derbyshire County Council

Now spring has sprung, we're seeing an increase in the number of people using our recycling centres so we're reminding people that the Government's 'stay at home' guidance is still in place.

If you do need to visit us, please remember:

- Social distancing measures are still in place at our sites and you may have to queue.
- Sort your waste into different types before you arrive.
- Avoid busy periods, if possible, such as weekends and between 10.00 am-4.00 pm.
- We only accept household waste from Derbyshire residents and no commercial waste.
- Use your kerbside recycling service at home as much as possible.

Community Safety – Derbyshire County Council

We've been spending more time indoors so it's only natural to be spending more time on our 'phones, laptops and tablets. Our Community Safety Team have worked with the Police to create our free Digital MOT service to help protect you from all aspects of online fraud and cybercrime. It takes just 5 minutes to complete and you'll receive tailored advice and information. For more information log on to www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/mot

Tackling Crime and Antisocial Behaviour in Matlock Bath -

Hardyal Dhindsa, Police and Crime Commissioner



I wanted to introduce you to an initiative to improve both the resident and visitor experience in Matlock Bath that I and your Parish Council have been working on for the last few months. Together we've been talking to Derbyshire Dales District Council and Derbyshire County Council to see if we can break the 'logjam' that has stopped things from happening in the past.

It's not been easy and there are still issues to be resolved, but plans are underway to try to tackle concerns raised by local businesses and residents such as anti-social behaviour, parking issues and social distancing and accessibility on the pavements.

The 'Matlock Bath Summit' is a group, initiated by me as your Police and Crime Commissioner. As well as the three local authorities, it includes representatives from the local Police and other interested parties.

The aim is to follow my hugely successful model for change, evidenced by the Derby City Centre Summit and Chesterfield Town Summit. I felt that a similar approach was necessary following a visit to Matlock Bath to see the problems for myself, when I met various local businesses and residents, alongside representatives from your local policing team and local authorities. There aren't issues that I can solve on my own, but I know that if partner agencies, with shared interests and ambitions, work effectively together they can deliver change, hence the inception of the Matlock Bath Summit.

The group has been working to address problems such as anti-social behaviour, particularly at the Station Car Park; problems with parking in general; difficulties with maintaining social distancing on the footway and street clutter.

I know that the Police are working hard to enforce speed limits and they have increased patrols in the village. We have asked the County Council to address some of the parking problems and it is working with the Parish Council to ensure changes to the patrols of its parking Enforcement Officers to address this. We've also suggested to the District Council that it follows the example of other Councils and consider introducing a local by-law, known as a PSPO, to prohibit some of the anti-social activities that have been taking place, because without the certainty of a PSPO, it is sometimes hard for the authorities to bring about successful prosecutions. But I know there is more to do and I feel that together we can do this. I am on your side. I very much hope to work with you to identify ways in which we can deliver long term solutions that meet your expectations. If you have any queries, please contact me directly. I am determined that we deliver effective improvements and your views count.

Parking Reminder



A reminder to all that parking is NOT permitted anywhere on the pavements along North and South Parades in Matlock Bath. Remember – pavements are for people not vehicles. Derbyshire County Council – who are responsible for the Civil Parking Enforcement – have informed us that the summer schedule for the enforcement is now in place and there will be a high presence along the Parades and in the car parks.

Residents can use their DDDC permits (before 11am and after 4pm) in the four car parks in the village but NOT on the public highway. The enforcers will be monitoring both the 1 hour limit along the Parades and time limited roadside along the Dale.

Food for Thought

March saw the first ever Food Waste Action week – a national campaign to help us all cut food waste which helps feed climate change. Did you know:

- If we stopped throwing away the 714,000 tonnes of potatoes we waste every year in our homes, it would do the same for the environment as taking 326,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent gases out of our atmosphere.
- Each year UK households throw away 4.5 million tonnes of food that could have been eaten – a huge waste of money as well as food.
- 30% of man-made global CO2 greenhouse gases are created from the production and consumption of food.
- We often think that it is the supermarkets that waste food whereas in fact 70% of all food wasted in the UK is wasted by people in their own homes.

For more information, hints and tips on cutting food waste, helping the environment and saving money, log on to <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com>

Closer Working Meetings

We continue to meet with Derbyshire Dales District Council every three months to discuss issues around the village. One issue which we have raised is the litter and whether we could have more bins. The contract for litter bins is due for renewal and DDDC has said they will look into whether more bins can be provided. Whilst it would seem to most people the provision of extra bins an easy solution, but the team has to look at capacity and whether they are able to take on more bin emptying. The Parish Council is also discussing with DDDC whether any under-used bins can be re-located to more prominent positions.

The big belly bins were introduced as they can accommodate eight times more litter than a normal bin. They are also solar powered notifying staff when they need emptying. The problem we are finding is that the bins are 'rammed' with take away waste which prevents the tray from closing. This then gives a signal that there is a problem with the bin or that it is full when it is not. When the tray is rammed full, no other litter can be put inside it, hence why it is then stacked on top of the bin.

We are extremely grateful to DDDC that new lighting in Pavilion Car Park is now working lighting up the car park making it safer for all after dark.

The Parish Council also raised at one of its meetings the issue of bike racks. Although there was a rack at Matlock Bath Station, it was under-used and part of the rack was unusable. As a result, this has now been re-located to Pavilion Car Park.

If any resident has an issue which they would like the Parish Council to raise, please contact the Clerk – clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

2021 Illuminations

Discussions regarding this year's Illuminations will be held shortly. A decision as to whether the illuminations will go ahead in light of any restrictions, will be made by DDDC by the end of May. Although DDDC would like to do some kind of event this year, it will depend on any restrictions laid down by Government. If the event does go ahead it will either go ahead as normal or it will be scaled down for a shorter period and/or fewer people allowed.

Matlock Bath Jubilee Rose Garden

We are still looking for a volunteer to look after our Jubilee Rose Garden situated in Memorial Gardens. The area is desperately in need of some weeding, pruning and general tidying up. If anyone can help, please contact the Clerk – clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Matlock Bath Station

Work has continued at Matlock Bath Station and all the planters are now filled with winter bedding. We welcome our new adopter, Cathy Cresswell, to the team. We will shortly be deciding on what blooms we would like for the summer. Anyone interested in being an adopter should contact the Clerk – clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Bench Renovation – The Riverside



The mystery about the history of the benches has yet to be solved but the renovation work goes on. We had hoped to have these back in use for the Easter period. One of the benches was so badly damaged that it had to be taken away for a complete overhaul. It was repaired and re-fixed a couple of weeks ago and the final painting and staining was to take place as soon as the weather allowed.

Unfortunately, and most annoyingly, the replaced bench was vandalised being completely cut from its mountings and moved. The moving of the very heavy object caused further damage. We reported the incident immediately to the Police who are completing their enquiries. We are hopeful that the perpetrator of the crime will be called to answer for their actions and the Parish Council will receive full recompense for the damage.

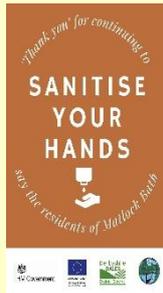
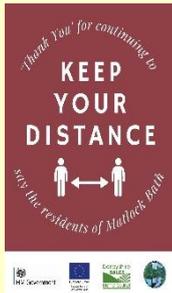
Work to renovate the three benches will continue and we hope to have the site open again very shortly. The new bench design not only means the benches have a larger capacity but will enable social distancing for the users – and a back support as well.

Re-opening the High Street Safely Fund



This is an EU grant fund that was distributed by the Government to Local Councils to enable high streets to open safely. Derbyshire Dales District Council allocated Matlock Bath around £10,000 early last summer but it was given to the County Council to administer in consultation with the Parish Council. Unfortunately, everything the Parish Council suggested, Derbyshire County Council could not agree to. After much 'toing and froing' between Derbyshire Dales, County Council and the Parish Council we have now managed to access some of this funding and hopefully you will have seen the evidence of our work around the village.

Firstly, we have stencilled social distancing signs on the pavements on North and South Parades and on Lovers' Walk as well as Derwent Gardens. We have also installed signage on the riverside railings in an effort to make this pavement as accessible and as safe as possible for all. We have installed lamppost wraps to remind all that social distancing, face coverings and hand washing are all still an important part of fighting Covid 19. We are also supplying A4 and A5 posters that businesses can display in the same designs and colour as the lamppost wraps.



We hope that residents and visitors find these reminders useful and that they help make the busy parts of the village safer for all users.

They have been provided at no cost to the Parish Council – other than a great deal of effort and frustration.

The battle for the funding is not over for once we have finished the work before the tight 31st March deadline, we will be holding the County Council accountable for the £2123.69 that they used from the fund for 'contractors operator and plant, employee related fees and internal staff fees' when all that happened in the village was about 15 red signs of social distancing.



Worried about Getting Hacked? – Derbyshire Constabulary

Over 15,000 hacked e-mails and social media accounts are reported in one year.

If a hacker got into your e-mail or social media account, what would they find? Health and banking information? Names and contact details for your friends and family? Private photographs and messages? For more people it's at least one of those.

Your e-mail and social media accounts contain a wealth of personal information about you, which makes them a lucrative target for cyber criminals. Between February 2020 and February 2021, Action Fraud received 15,214 reports about e-mail and social media account hacking. The majority of reports (88%) were made by individuals, with 12% of reports being made by businesses. Analysis of the crime reports revealed that Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat were the most affected social media accounts with phishing messages being the most common tactic used by cyber criminals to lure unsuspecting victims.

The motivation behind the hacks are varied and can range from financial gain, to revenge or personal amusement. Some victims are extorted for money, whilst others have their accounts used to send malicious links to their contacts.

Secure your e-mail and social media accounts in just a few minutes. Here's what you need to do:

- 1 Use a strong and separate password for your e-mail, as well as other important accounts, such as your banking or social media accounts.
- 2 Enable two factor authentication (2FA). It will help stop hackers from getting into your online accounts, even if they have your password.
- 3 If you can't access your account, search the company's online support or help pages. You'll find information about how to recover your account.

For detailed instructions on how to reset your password or enable 2FA on your accounts, visit <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/secureyouraccounts>

View from the Bath Chair – Cllr Peter Baranek



So far, 2021 has been a very up and down year for the Parish Council. Adjectives we could use to describe it so far could include: deeply upsetting, disheartening, exciting, frustrating, accomplishing, satisfying ... I could go on with the list, but I am sure you get the gist.

The **deeply upsetting** was of course the death of Joyce Pawley, a great servant of the Council who took her enthusiasm for the village both to the District Council and further afield.

The **disheartening** is the malicious damage done to a parish facility that benefits both residents and visitors. Much work has gone into this bench project – and, of course, parish funding.

The **exciting** – work has started on the renovation of the sports area. It will be even more exciting when the project is completed – hopefully in the not too distant future.

Frustrating – getting our hands on the funding to install the signage to remind visitors that we are in a pandemic and to respect our village and its residents. **Accomplishing** – when we actually got some of it. **Annoying** – the first fine weather of the year brought tourist issues to the village. **Satisfying** – the response of the Police after this particular weekend by showing a strong presence in the village to reinforce the current Covid restrictions.

When I was contacted by the BBC following the fine weather weekend at the end of February, I, of course, jumped at the chance to attempt to get the message out. Five minutes of the Politics Live show came from the village on Sunday 7th March. I hope I got the message home clearly that we only welcome visitors to the village who are following **all** the current covid rules.

These emotions I am sure are nothing new to the three Councillors that we say farewell to at the end of this parish year. All are no longer residents of the village. We thank them for their time and support and wish them well in their new homes and new lives. They are also emotions that our two new Councillors will encounter quickly – as well as being on a steep learning curve for their new roles. They will, of course, have great support from the Clerk, the other Councillors and the village as a whole.

All residents should now have received their Council Tax documentation including their parking permit from DDDC. Those eagle-eyed will have spotted the increase in the parish payment charged. I need to explain why this is because the Parish Council has not increased its budget requirement. We set a precept for the money we need for the forthcoming year in January. This was unchanged at £28,000. This is then divided amongst the residential properties paying Council Tax. The number of properties changes from year to year. This year it has decreased so everyone pays more. Holiday rental homes do not pay Council Tax if they are a business, which most are and single residents pay a proportion.

Finally, anyone with spare greenhouse space who would look after bedding plants for various floral displays in the village, could they please contact the Clerk. Such a gesture would save the Parish Council funding and hopefully give someone the pleasure of nurturing young plants that will brighten up our village displays for residents, visitors and those who are just passing through.

Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)

Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), as part of their Climate Emergency Support Programme, has launched a community scale **carbon footprint tool – Impact**. The aim of the tool is to provide small communities data on their carbon emissions, allowing them to identify where they can make a significant dent in local emissions. Currently the tool is focussed on Parish Council level. Once you enter your Parish name, the tool will display the carbon footprint for your community.

You can view your community's carbon footprint in two ways: **A Territorial Footprint** – Emissions that arise from activities within your Parish boundary, including the road and rail travel, industrial and commercial emissions, agriculture and household energy use. **A Consumption Footprint** – Household energy use but also considers what we buy (including services) and eat, much of which is imported.

They are working on improving the tool and would welcome your thoughts. If you would like to contribute, please email impact-tool@cse.org.uk You can use the tool here: <https://bit.ly/3t9Z2Db>

CSE have published a number of useful advice leaflets – some of which we have included in the past few editions of "A View from the Bath". They are available free to download.

For more information on CSE, log on to www.cse.org.uk

The Matlock Bath Lockdown Concerts – John Gill



Joe Ash

At one show Joe Ash had just finished performing when the Police arrived in his garden to say they had received reports of an illegal concert. He was able to tell them that it was a concert but the artists were all in their own gardens scattered around the hillside!

I even had a call from local TV news asking if we could stage another so they could film it!

We are so lucky that Bev & Steve Yates were on hand to produce three great YouTube videos as a souvenir of these memorable local events.

A big thanks to all our performers who did so much to lift our spirits at this time. They are all credited on the YouTube videos. Please check them out if you haven't already done so – maybe share them with friends and family from afar to show them what a beautiful place we live in and the fantastic community spirit that abounds here – not to mention the talent!

It all started with a plan to do a little 90th birthday celebration for George Holloway on Waterloo Road. Gerry Kriebich, Dave Allsop and myself set up microphones and speakers in our gardens – mine on top of the garden shed – and did a mini cabaret show for George.

It was such fun that it was followed by four more shows from the 'Matlock Bath Bowl' including one on the Sunday evening before Christmas. The last of the summer shows was an extraordinary VE Day singalong with twelve artists (all Matlock Bath residents) performing from their patios and gardens. We found all the shows such uplifting events. I even received calls from Starkholmes residents to say how much they enjoyed it!



Finn and Tallulah

Matlock Bath Pre School – Amy Kirkland (Matlock Bath Pre School Committee)



A Thank You from Matlock Bath Pre School – 2020 was such a challenging year for everyone, and as a small local charity, the sudden closure and lack of fees presented us with a difficult task in March. We are a community-focused, long-established pre-school, with an excellent reputation and a wonderful team who provide exceptional care for children from the village and surrounding area.

A plea to the local community meant that we were able to fundraise enough to cover our costs during closure, keep hold of all team members, and continue to provide the same great level of care to children as soon as we were able to reopen. THANK YOU to everyone who made a donation to our GoFundMe page and helped to keep us in business. Many other small pre-schools, sadly, have not been so lucky.

In looking to the future and thinking about how we could continue to improve our service and sustainability, we approached the Parish Council for help with funding for new signage, banners and marketing material. We were delighted to receive a grant from them which has enabled us to refresh our signage, create a new signed entrance at the rear of the play area, allowing us to operate a one-way system, and new banners which will help us to advertise for new children over the coming months. Thanks to support from parents and others, we 'revamped' the outdoor learning area and continued to operate, come rain or shine, in a safe and fun environment outdoors. We have emerged from 2020 stronger and more determined than ever to continue to do what we do best – to offer high quality, local, affordable childcare for all, at the heart of the community and with our children at the centre of all we do.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Matlock Bath Parish Council, parents and families of our children, and to the wider local community, for your ongoing support.

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