

A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Summer 2021



Art and Photography Competitions 2021



Photography Competition – Our annual Photography Competition is now in its 12th year and open to all age groups. Last year saw our biggest entry yet. On line voting dominated the judging of the competition and the winning entry was entered by Steve Watson.

This year we are hoping for another bumper entry and would encourage our residents to take part. We have various prizes as always.

We are hoping to have more categories in the "Best Picture of" and these will be announced on our website.

To enter, entrants need to log onto our website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk and follow the link from the Competition Tab at the top of the page. Photographs can be uploaded straight onto our system.

1st Prize – Steve Watson

Art Competition – Residents will remember that last year we had to cancel the Art Competition as we felt that it would not transfer well to on-line. We very much hope that we will be able to go ahead with this year's competition and be able to display the entries so members of the public can vote in person for their favourites.

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

We would encourage all of our budding artists in the village to enter. It is so good to see so many views of the village. Remember that your work doesn't have to be drawing and painting. You can do a collage, textiles, 3D or graphics. Just a reminder that the 1st prize winner will have the choice as to whether they donate the work to the Parish Council or to retain their own work after we have photographed it. As many of you are aware the previous winners from the competition are housed at Masson Mills. Depending on what the future holds for Masson Mills, we may need to retrieve all of the paintings so in future it may not be possible for us to keep the winning work.

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

Both competitions close on 3rd October 2021.

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 expired on 6th May 2021. As a result, the Parish Council has agreed to resume face-to-face meetings. We postponed the July meeting following the announcement from Government that the restrictions would remain in place until 19th July. The meeting will now be held on **Wednesday 28th July 2021**. The venue has not yet been agreed but we will announce it on our website or residents wishing to attend can contact the Clerk. However, residents wishing to attend should inform the Clerk beforehand so we are aware of the numbers of people attending the venue. The agenda will be published on our website three clear days prior to the meeting. Dates of future Parish Council meetings can be found on our website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Matlock Bath Sports Area



We are extremely pleased to announce that the Matlock Bath Sports Area renovation is nearly complete. Councillors are looking forward to seeing the area in full use again after so many years of it being closed.

Once completed the area will accommodate Tennis, Basketball and Five-a-side Football and be available for everyone to use.

Our Facilities Committee will be meeting shortly to discuss and recommend to Full Council how the area will be managed including a possible booking system to ensure that the area can be used fully by everyone. We will publish details on our website.

Holy Trinity Church & Christian Aid Week – Holy Trinity Church

Because of covid restrictions, the team from Holy Trinity Church were unable to do their usual house to house collection this year. Instead, Church members undertook "challenges" to gain sponsorship and invited friends and family to donate using a Just Giving page on line. One group did a sponsored litter pick around the main car park in the village, along the A6 and down the bank adjoining the new recreation area.



Altogether over £2,400 was raised for Christian Aid which far surpasses all previous records for Holy Trinity!

Matlock Bath Bowling Club

After a long wait, members at Matlock Bath Bowling Club are at last playing bowls again!

You may have noticed a lot of work being carried out at the bowling green next to the Pavilion over the last couple of years. The green and facilities have been upgraded, the hard work mostly being carried out by club members. We have been very encouraged by the positive comments made by residents and visitors alike. We are finally able to play bowls but are, of course, following all the Covid 19 guidelines set by the British Crown Green Bowling Association.

The club is looking for new members, so if you fancy giving bowls a try why not get in touch. You just need shoes with flat soles, trainers are ideal. We can supply the bowls and guidance. If you're passing the green and someone is about, just call in and they will be happy to give you more information. Alternatively, you can get in touch via e-mail – matlockbathbowls@gmail.com

You will be made most welcome, ours is a small, but friendly, club with a range of players from old hands who have played for many years to ones who are much newer to the game.

Community Speed Watch



Residents will recall that in June 2020 we recruited and trained a number of volunteers to help us with our Community Speed Watch Scheme. Most of our volunteers had the roadside training with the Police and were ready to be deployed. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown all speed watch sessions were put on hold. Recently we have been given the go ahead to carry out speed watch sessions. We have now purchased our own equipment, thanks to the generosity of our previous County Councillor, Irene Ratcliffe.

Community Speed Watch is an educational scheme to help people reduce speeding traffic through communities. The scheme enables volunteers to work within their community to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally.

As things start to get back to some normality a couple of our volunteers find that they no longer can continue with the CSW. We therefore need to recruit some more volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a 'Speed Watcher' for Matlock Bath or would just like further information on what is required, please do get in touch with the Clerk. Full training will be given.

The Grand Pavilion Story So Far – David Screen

Salutations dear friends. I'm going to tell you a little story. It's about standing upon the shoulders of giants. That, by itself, will actually and eventually, make this a great big story indeed. This is the first part – sort of small, manageable chunks to begin with.

This is about the ongoing story of the heritage of Matlock Bath in general. In particular, The Grand Pavilion. To see and hear the website, go to <http://www.screendevelopment.com/MatlockBath/GrandPavilionStorySoFar1>

We'll begin by dropping a few names – very important names I might add. The names I'm going to drop are just a few to begin with – that's simply because I am, as yet, still finding my feet on this exciting project. The first name is, of course, Charles Beresford. Charles amongst other things gave us 'The Bath at War', A Derbyshire Community and the Great War. Charles was a man of outstanding focus and commitment to this ongoing, humongous, heritage enshrined cause. Much more of Charles' work in further parts of our story. The second and third names are forever entwined in their esteemed and unbelievably knowledgeable work entitled 'Matlock Bath, A Perfectly Romantic Place'. They are, of course, Christopher Charlton and Doreen Buxton. What a stupendous piece of work they have given us – educational, informative, engrossing and highly detailed and referential. More of these dedicated people later. The fourth name to be dropped here is that of Julie Bunting who has given us 'Matlock and Matlock Bath'. A collection of images detailing greater perspectives of this beautiful area of the Peak District. Again, more of Julie's work later. The fifth name really needs no introduction at all, other than to say the sage of sages, the repository of all things Matlock Bath – the encyclopaedia beyond our wildest heritage dreams. This is, of course, Ann & Andy Andrews of the Andrews Pages – <https://www.andrewsgen.com> There will be, of course, be further names added to these giants as we proceed deeper into our searches and discoveries of all things Matlock Bath and the Grand Pavilion. For now, I leave you with this one particular thought that I would like you to hold in your mind. This project, this Matlock Bath and all things related, there-to and there-in project is a people project. It might be about a place, a location through time itself but it is, and will continue to be, based around the efforts, interests, knowledge and unselfish endeavours of the people within this story. Do you have something to contribute to this never ending story? Do you have any old documents, photographs, maps etc that you think would contribute, even in a small way, to this venture? If the answer is yes, then contact granpavherit@btinternet.com

Cleaning the River Derwent, Saving the Sea – Peak Paddle



The Peak Paddle team were out again cleaning the River Derwent through Matlock Bath a couple of weeks ago. The crew cleared from Artists Corner down to Cromford and loaded their canoes, kayaks and paddle boards full of trash, comprising of agricultural waste, litter, sanitary waste and an awful lot of metal work which was revealed by the recent low water levels including a shopping trolley from Somerfields, who in fact left Matlock many years ago! Our river guardians cleaned up fly tipped furniture close to Masson Mills that had been dumped down the river bank including a bed and sofa!

The kids and staff from Matlock Bath Pre-School Playgroup also joined the clean up down along the riverside path from Jubilee Bridge to the Derwent Gardens.

Pete Astles, Paddle Peak's founder said that it was really great to be joined by the local kids in Matlock Bath. It makes all the hard work Paddle Peak are doing worthwhile to know the local community support it. All the waste we remove from the river protects the environment, its wildlife and saves it from making its way downstream and ultimately out to sea.



Police Crime Commissioner

Residents will have read in previous editions of "A View from the Bath" that the Parish Council had been meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner, Hardyal Dhindsa, with all involved parties represented to discuss various issues in the village. The meetings were so important to the Crime Commissioner and to the Parish Council and it was an excellent way of bringing together the different agencies to ensure that progress could be made with these issues. Hardyal also found time to hold meetings with residents. One of the tasks of the group was to improve accessibility along the Parades. The Parish, District and County Councillors drew up a plan of action. Unfortunately, this has 'hit the buffers' for since the elections in May, the new Police Crime Commissioner has failed to respond to our communications for the meetings to resume. We will not let the issue drop and will continue lobbying for action.

Updates will be put on our website.

View from the Bath Chair – Cllr Peter Baranek



It has been a strange Spring and early Summer. So many things have been moving frustratingly slowly and many niggling issues cropping up. Articles in the Newsletter cover some of these but I will touch on a few in my thoughts on the work of the Parish Council.

Signage paid for by funding from the Government and the European Union was finally in place. Unfortunately it has been subject to vandalism. The village also suffered a weekend of graffiti. Much has been cleaned away but some work still needs to be done.

Any damage to Parish Council property will be countered by the strongest possible action and we will endeavour to bring the full force of the law to bear on the perpetrators. Our thanks go to those who have done their best to rectify damage and reported it and even challenged the culprits. If you witness any criminal damage in the village please call 101 or report it on line. If safe to do so, take photographic evidence. The good news is that a perpetrator has been identified from both CCTV and a resident's prompt action and the Police are taking action.

Work on the sports area moves on slowly and we hope to report very shortly that the facility is available for use and details will be on the website shortly. Speaking of the website, as residents know we have a new design as it had outgrown the previous version. Please take a look and see what you think. If you have suggestions for improvement or ideas on what could be on there, please get in touch.



The benches on the riverside are now useable but the finishing touches are still awaited.

We are currently working with Derbyshire Dales District Council to source work through Government funding. We are looking to provide more picnic tables and seating in the green areas in the village. Unfortunately, the funding is provided following strict guidelines, but we hope to access around £6,000.



Now the Parish Council owns the flower towers, we rely on our village volunteers to manage them along with the flower barrels, the station and the rose garden. I hope as you travel around the village these continue to bring pleasure throughout the year. If you would like to join our small team please get in touch.



Our thanks go to Hodgkinsons Hotel, Ashdale Guesthouse, Tuckers Fish and Chips and Eclectic Delights and all the other volunteers for their efforts in brightening our daily lives.

We have had some success with routine issues. After 2 years of complaining to DCC highways, the problem with the road drains on the A6 at the bottom of Temple Road has at least been identified but a solution is not yet forthcoming. In our regular meetings with DDDC Officers, we have identified issues some of which have been rectified and others await action – sometimes long term!



If covid regulations allow, the illuminations will go ahead this year but on a smaller scale than in previous years. We lobbied over fireworks which attract large numbers to the village often NOT in Derwent Gardens and, therefore, not managed. Although there will be still some fireworks evenings, there will be less than in previous years. Please put your resident pass somewhere safe if you live on an access only road. You will need it this autumn to pass through security!!

Litter remains a problem in the village. With the Government putting such emphasis on social responsibility for covid issues in the future, it is worrying seeing from the litter issue that a few of the visitors to the village are seriously wanting in this attribute. However, we are thankful to those volunteers who do their best to rectify the situation by litter picking around the village. These include non-resident groups such as the Cromford Wombles, who when they have finished in their village, come to help us out. If further volunteers would like to join the Parish Council's volunteers, pink bags and litter picks are available from the Clerk.

Earlier in the year, I reported the sad loss of our much-loved District Councillor, Joyce Pawley. We have been contacted by some residents asking if we can have a memorial to her in the village. Her husband, Chris, has also asked the same question. We are looking at the possibility of an arbour in the water garden as this was one of her favourite places. If any residents would like to contribute to this memorial, could you please contact Zoe at Hodgkinsons or Paula at Ashdale.

View from the Bath Chair cont ...

Other ongoing issues we are continuing to pursue resolutions for include anti-social behaviour late in the evening. We have further CCTV coverage along the Parades and are working actively with the Safer Neighbourhood team and DDDC on this issue. The issue of excessive noise and pollution from cars and motorbikes will also continue to be addressed through whatever channels are appropriate.

Enjoy the summer – if and whenever it arrives.

New Wards for Derbyshire

Derbyshire Dales is set to have new boundaries for its Council wards. The Local Government Boundary Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It has reviewed Derbyshire Dales to make sure Councillors will represent about the same number of electors and that ward arrangements will help the Council work effectively.

The Commission has published final recommendations for changes in Derbyshire Dales. It says residents should be represented by 34 Councillors. This is five fewer than current arrangements. There will be 20 wards: ten single Councillor wards, six two Councillor wards and four three Councillor wards. This is five fewer wards than there are now. The boundaries of 17 wards have been changed in our draft recommendations. Three will stay the same.

Changes in response to what local people said include that Bonsall be reunited in a ward with Cromford and Matlock Bath.

The Commission made further changes to its earlier proposals. Further details can be found on the Derbyshire Dales website. Parliament needs to agree the changes and the new arrangements will then apply for the 2023 Council elections.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Some residents in the village have been experiencing anti-social behaviour outside of their homes. Between 16th February until 16th May the Police received around 40 reports. The Parish Council contacted the Police on behalf of the residents to broker a meeting to discuss the issues the residents were enduring. With the co-operation of Derbyshire Dales District Council's Community Safety Officer and the Police, an 'action plan' was drawn up to try and tackle this.

The Policing response includes:

- Highlighting the issues on the local section briefing to make local Officers aware and encourage problem targeting.
- Increased patrols by both LPU and SNT Officers to offer reassurance to residents and address any issues encountered at their time of attendance.
- Liaising with the control room to ask that any/all reports of nuisance/anti-social behaviour are passed to LPU Officers for awareness and attendance if possible. This may not always be possible for the control room due to the demand they manage.
- When able, allocating a dedicated Officer to Matlock Bath on Friday/Saturday between 2200-0200 hrs to target the issues and proactively disrupt the anti-social behaviour by stopping motorists and robustly scrutinising the legality of both the vehicles and motorists.
- Seeking support from colleagues in the Roads Policing Unity to increase patrols in the area and robustly deal with any traffic offences including speeding and vehicle defects.

As always, the response will be dependent on other demand and calls for service on Police resources. The situation will be monitored and it is hoped to see an improvement for local residents. We would urge all residents who see anti-social behaviour or are subject to it in their vicinity to report the incidents to the Police immediately.

PCSOs for Matlock Bath

We now have two PCSOs in the village – PCSO Kirsty Hunt and PCSO Carlie Mattison. They can be seen regularly walking through the village so if you have anything you wish to raise with them please stop them and say hello. They are working hard on behalf of the residents. They have arranged a couple of street meets in the village and hopefully these will continue. We will of course post details of these on our website or in future editions of "A View from the Bath" as dates are confirmed. Both Kirsty and Carlie can be contacted via Safer Neighbourhood Team for Derbyshire Police.

Annual Report Presented to the Annual Parish Meeting 5th May 2021

Although most of the past year the country has been in lockdown, work has continued for the Parish Council.

During 2020/2021, two Councillors left the Parish Council, one of which was through the sad death of Cllr Trevor Bowmer, a much respected and great supporter of the Parish Council. Three new Councillors have since joined us so we now have a full complement of 9 Councillors serving. We encourage volunteers to help with the work of the Parish Council on a casual basis as well as serving on our Committees. The Parish Council's thanks go to all our volunteers for the hard work they put into the work of the Parish Council for the benefit of the village. As you will see from the list below, we have been involved in a variety of activities that hopefully will have brought an improvement to both the environment of the village and the quality of life in Matlock Bath.

Awarding Grants	Website management	Photography competition
Planning issues	Facebook page	Residents litter
Summer tower florals	Twitter account	Dog 'poo' picking
Flower barrels	Quarterly newsletters	Advice / support for residents
Cattle trough florals	Bus shelter maintenance	Liaising & Lobbying
Rose garden	Press releases/radio/TV	Neighbourly Networks
Footpath maintenance	Signage maintenance	Station adoption
Winter service scheme	Climate Emergency	Community Speed Watch
War memorial Cleaning	Nature Reserve:	
Benches & Maintenance	Maintenance & clearing	
Bench plaques		

Parish Council Budget – A budget for 2020/2021 of £37,300 (and ringfenced funding of £51,388) was set by Full Council in January 2020 based on recommendations on spending needs from each of the Committees. The precept requested was £28,000, the difference was met from the carry forward from 2019/2020. The budget set for 2021/2022 is £39,865 with a ringfence of £5,400. This was based on the assumption that the sports area ringfenced funding would be paid before the end of the financial year. The precept request was £28,000 – no change from 2020/2021.

Finance and General Purposes Committee - The Finance Committee this year has recommended to Full Council to grant an award to Matlock Bath Pre-School and Playgroup. The Parish Council was approached in 2020 to pay for the annual support costs for the village defibrillator.

Planning Committee – In the past year the Parish Council has considered many planning and tree work applications. The Planning Committee consider each application in detail and the merits or detriments of each one assessed. Although the Parish Council has only an **advisory role** on planning issues, we feel that this area is important for the village.

Environment & Conservation Committee – There has not been any volunteer work in the Nature Reserve this year and as a result we had to secure the services of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust rangers for a day who cleared large areas of brambles which had become intrusive in the meadow. They also removed small unwanted self-set sapling trees.

The Parish Council has continued to provide **four three tier planters** along the Parades. We have now purchased the planters which will be maintained by local businesses in the village. In addition, three **flowering barrels** – one opposite Masson Mills and two at the bottom of Clifton Road as well as the cattle trough is planted up and maintained by a local resident. The Rose Garden in Memorial Gardens continues to be maintained when resources allow. An increasing number of residents have asked to be involved in **litter picking** around the village. In addition to the litter picks loaned by DDDC to businesses, the Parish Council continues to have its own volunteers who also have been provided with litter picks and bags by the Parish Council.

As part of the Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Scheme, the Parish Council has arranged for a number of **footpaths** to be cleared by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. This work was paid for through the Maintenance Scheme at no cost to the Parish Council. We have also supplemented work through a small budget to enable us to clear more paths.

In 2020, the Parish Council again joined the **Winter Service Scheme** operated by Derbyshire County Council. This scheme provides free 'grit' to the Parish Council to distribute to residents/businesses who sign up to be a volunteer to clear snow and ice from footpaths during the winter months. Due to Covid 19, few businesses or residents could sign up.

Facilities Committee - The Parish Council once again arranged for the bus shelters, village signs and noticeboards to be cleaned regularly. Our war memorial was also cleaned this year.

Work on the renovation of the **sports area** started in January 2021. It is hoped that the project will be completed, despite some minor problems, at the end of April 2021/early May 2021.

Funding in 2020/2021 allowed us to purchase a further 5 **benches** which will be installed shortly. Memorial plaques for benches continue to be popular and already 3 of the new benches will have a plaque on them. Following much research, it was ascertained that the three benches on the riverside pavement were the property of the Parish Council so we have been repairing them and altering them to be more covid compliant, with backs being added down the middle. Unfortunately, one of the benches has been subjected to vandalism and the matter is now in the hands of the Police.

Communications Committee - The **website** continues to be a popular way of communicating. In September 2020, due to new legislation ensuring all websites were accessible to all users, Councillors agreed to invest in the design of a new website rather than pay for changes to be made to the old website to bring it up to the required legislation. The website contains a vast amount of information enabling us to keep residents up to date with village life and some of this information is mirrored on our **Facebook** page. Both are updated on a regular basis and are extremely reactive tools. News items also are 'tweeted' Our main vehicle of regular communication with residents continues to be the quarterly **Newsletter**, a hard copy of which is delivered by hand by again some willing volunteers to every resident and business in the village as well as being published on the website. It continues to be well received.

Activities Committee - The **Pro Loco Art Competition** has attracted many entries over the years but due to Covid 19 restrictions, it was not possible to go ahead with the competition this year. All entries will be rolled over to the 2021 competition.

The eleventh **Photography Competition** again proved very successful. With over 253 entries made, we had to shortlist to 91, a task which proved near impossible for the Shortlisting Committee. . Previously both competitions have attracted sponsorship from various sources including Sir Richard Arkwright Masson Mills and Heights of Abraham. This year they agreed to still sponsor the Photography Competition in the "Best Picture of" Categories. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors who were still able to support our competition despite the situation regarding Covid 19.

The Parish Council is very proud to work with representatives of the British Legion to facilitate the **Remembrance** at the War Memorial each year. However, due to the restrictions with Covid 19 we were unable to hold a service for residents. Instead, Councillor representation laid the wreaths on behalf of the village with short prayers led by Holy Trinity Church. A donation for the poppy wreaths was made to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal as usual.

Our Christmas event – **Singing Round the Tree** – again due to Covid 19 restrictions had to be cancelled. As a result, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not provide a Christmas Tree as in the past. This was also partly due to the fact that the electricity supply in Memorial Gardens was not working.

December would have seen the tenth **Seniors Lunch** which was to be held at The Fishpond. Again, due to Covid 19 restrictions this had to be cancelled. The lunch has been re-booked for 2021.

Matlock Bath Climate Advisory Group – A Policy has been drawn up which outlines what the Parish Council will do to help with the climate emergency.

Peak Leader Grant Application - The final leg of the grant funding was completed with the installation of two new fingerposts and four information lecterns. These have already proved to be useful for visitors.

Re-Opening Up of the High Street Safely Funding - In May 2020 we were notified by DDDC that Matlock Bath would receive funding of around £10,000 for measures to be put in place for re-opening up of the high street. After several discussions and 9 months later, we finally were able to purchase and install new signage, pavement stencilling and lamppost wraps to remind people that the virus is still with us, that social distancing is still in place and to wash and sanitize hands regularly. Our signs were designed in heritage colours in keeping with the village and though visible, not intrusive. These signs came at no cost to the Parish Council.

Community Speed Watch – The Parish Council agreed to embark on this new initiative to try and help with speeding in the village. 13 volunteers have come forward to be trained and hopefully speed watch duties will be resumed as soon as restrictions are lifted. We were very fortunate to receive funding from our County Councillor, Irene Ratcliffe, to purchase our own equipment. This will give us more flexibility in when our volunteers can go out rather than share equipment with Cromford.

And we also

2020 saw the introduction of our Matlock Bath Summit meetings under the auspices of the Police Crime Commissioner. These meetings are also attended by DDDC and DCC Officers and local Police. The meetings came as a result of the problems which the Parish Council raised and are an attempt to co-ordinate issues across the many agencies. Our meetings have continued throughout lockdown via Teams. The areas of concern have been:

- Re-opening up of the High Street Funding
- Accessibility for pedestrians on the pavements along the Parades
- Social distancing
- Parking Enforcement
- 'Boy' racers in the car parks
- Litter problems.
- Noise and pollution from traffic on the A6
- Travellers in the car parks

Once again, **our adopters of Matlock Bath station** planted and maintained planters and barrels with summer bedding and winter flowers.

During the Covid 19 crisis we have continued to be involved in assisting with the **neighbourly networks** which have been set up by residents throughout the village. This seems to be an excellent way of communicating information to residents.

During the lockdown, we have continued to liaise with District and County Councillors and lobby to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents of the village. The release from the lockdown could be problematical for the village with many residents having concerns about the possible influx of tourists throughout the summer. The Parish Council would like to thank our District Councillors and County Councillor for their work in keeping us up-to-date with what is happening at District and County Council levels and for all the lobbying they have done on our behalf throughout the year.

Sadly, the start of 2021 saw the death of our much respected and admired District Councillor, Cllr Joyce Pawley. Joyce fought extremely hard for the village with her level head and determination. She will be very much missed by the Parish Council and the District Council.

We also continue to have regular **Closer Working** Meetings with DDDC which are held every three months. These meetings allow us to raise issues/concerns formally with Officers and receive feedback.

The Future - During these unprecedented times, it has been the shining light in the gloom to see the community spirit thrive and grow. Though the topography of the village does not lend itself easily to help us bond into a community, the activities and social media links that have formed have enabled us to act together. Thanks go to all those who have worked so hard in everything we do for the village and, of course, to those who selflessly give their time to act as Councillors or volunteers with the only reward being that we do it to make Matlock Bath a better place to live, to work and to visit.

News in Brief ...

Benches – Thanks to the Clean & Green Team at Derbyshire Dales, two of the benches in Memorial Gardens have been repaired and repainted. It is hoped that at some point the remainder of the benches will be repainted.

Graffiti – Unfortunately Matlock Bath has been subject to a lot of graffiti recently. Thanks to our contractors Spotless for cleaning our bus shelters and noticeboard and to DDDC for cleaning Jubilee Bridge and around Derwent Gardens.

Bin Collections – We have been advised by DDDC that there have been some missed bin collections over the past few weeks. This is due to staff shortages. DDDC has issued a statement which can be found on their website – www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk Your patience would be appreciated.

***A Full version of the Report can be found on our website –
www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk***

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Halloween Treasure Hunt – Matlock Rotary Club

A big hello to the residents and traders of Matlock Bath.

With the support of your Parish Council, in October this year members of The Matlock Rotary Club will organise a Halloween Treasure Hunt, limited solely to Matlock Bath.

Matlock Rotary will approach all businesses with a presence in Matlock Bath asking them to participate in the event. The basic idea is that each business will display an object that somehow represents Halloween in their window or noticeboard, with a name, eg The Skull, attached to it. The public will download or collect an entry sheet with the name of participating businesses on it and will be asked to visit the outside of the shop and record the object they see and its name.

Entries will be posted at agreed point(s) in Matlock Bath and those that are correct will be entered into a prize draw.

To maximise the spirit of the event it will be in operation between the 18th and 31st October 2021. The draw to take place during the final evening of the illuminations.

The benefit to businesses will be the requirement of all participants to check each entry site for the Halloween named article, with the obvious good that this will bring. The cost of entry will be £10 – from which all profits will go to the Matlock Rotary Charity Fund which has been sadly depleted by the covid epidemic.

Further details will be circulated nearer the time. Any comments, queries or suggestions please contact Terry Fox via terry.matlockrotary@gmail.com

Re-opening the High Street Safely Fund



Residents will remember that in the Spring edition of “A View from the Bath” we notified you that through the Re-opening up of the High Street Safely Fund, the Parish Council had managed to secure monies to allow us to purchase signage, stencilling and lamppost wraps reminding the public of the restrictions still in place. The posters and signage are gentle reminders to our visitors that we would like them to adhere to restrictions whilst in our village. The signage came at no cost to the Parish Council but through a grant system from the Government via Derbyshire Dales District Council.

We were therefore somewhat disappointed that a couple of weeks of being installed our metal signage on the railings had been damaged. In addition, stickers referring to Covid being a hoax were put all over our signs. Unfortunately, some signs were ripped from the railings and thrown in the River Derwent. In fact, Paddle Peak returned one of our signs to us after their clean up. Residents will have seen that the stencilling on North Parade was covered in yellow paint - worst still was the fact that the perpetrator had actually walked in the paint and up the Parades.



Our laminated signs were also covered in stickers. The lamppost wraps did not escape the damage with either being pulled off the lamppost or again stickers put on them. The Parish Council worked hard to secure monies and organise for these to be put up.

Whilst we all have our own views on matters and appreciate that there are some people who do not believe Covid is real, this act of criminal damage is totally unacceptable. Where would we be if everyone who didn't believe in something acted in this same way. As residents can imagine, we were sickened by this all and, of course, reported it to the Police.

On a positive note, thanks to the residents who witnessed a lady defacing the signage, Police have managed to identify her and invited her in for an interview. She was also seen on CCTV. Updates will be given on our website.

Seniors Lunch

We very much hope that this year's Seniors Lunch will be able to go ahead. We will, of course, keep monitoring the situation regarding Covid and follow any Government guidelines. The lunch will be held at The Fishpond on Monday 6th December 2021. Any resident wishing to attend should contact the Clerk on clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk and they will be added to the list. Any update as well as full details will be put in the Autumn edition of “A View from the Bath” as well as our website.

District Councillor – Cllr Garry Purdy

Now that the sun is shining at last and life is returning, albeit slowly, to some form of normality, it is understandable that people have mixed feelings about a return to social life. Although the Government recently announced that the 4th Phase of unlocking in the road map to recovery was to be delayed until 19th July, it is not known yet whether some restrictions will continue to apply such as the need to wash hands, wear face masks, socially distance ourselves and workers to work from home where possible. Government has been under much pressure from both sides of the argument. Firstly, scientists who advocate we do not fully open and secondly captains of industry stating the case that the Prime Minister must open up! Which side would you choose?

I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Heights of Abraham on Monday 17th May, together with the Chief Executive of DDDC, Paul Wilson and Civic Chair, Cllr Helen Froggatt who cut the ribbon on the opening ceremony. Other representatives had been invited to attend in what was a quite, but very important affair, in opening to the public once again. In between heavy rain showers it was nonetheless nice to see members of the public and with children attending to enjoy this excellent tourist attraction.

Whilst covid cases are very low in Derbyshire, the fact is that the 'so called' Delta variant represents approximately 2/3 of the infections throughout the country, and one former Professor adviser to the Government has announced today that the national spread indicates that we are at the start of a third wave of the virus. You will be aware from news reports that the vaccine programme has been accelerated in order to combat the disease and in the main, is shown to be successful against the latest variant.

It behoves each and every one of us to get vaccinated twice, and to undertake regular testing through the NHS Rapid Flow Test. This is a very simple procedure and you can either attend Imperial Road Vaccine Centre and/or send for the test kit off the NHS website. I sent for my Rapid Flow Test kit and it is extremely comforting to carry out the test and for it to reveal a negative result which I then fed onto the NHS website.

Because we Councillors are having to attend person-person meetings now I see this simple measure as extremely important in protecting not only oneself but others in the process.

We have decided to progress the illuminations this year following the sad decision last year to have to cancel. Regular meetings are held to discuss how best to progress the event, keeping in mind of course, the paramount importance to keep people safe when attending the event and including the village. Reduced numbers and reduced fireworks nights are being planned at present, but if in the awful event that the virus threatens once again, we will do the sensible thing and cancel the event. We are, therefore, continually monitoring the virus data.

Following the sad loss of Cllr Joyce Pawley who died following a major operation, a bi-election has seen the return of a former Councillor for Derbyshire Dales – Cllr Dermot Murphy. Dermot is fully aware that he has a hard act to follow but I am sure he will do his level best for Masson Ward.

Finally, I attended a business event at Chatsworth House on Tuesday 1st June in the presence of His Grace, the Duke of Devonshire and Lord Patrick McLoughlin, Chairman of the British Tourist Industry. Limited numbers applied due to Covid restrictions, but it gave us an opportunity to test the market of tourism in Derbyshire and, in particular, Derbyshire Dales. Rupert Pugh, Heights of Abraham Director, was also a guest together with other prominent business people in the area, and we learned a great deal of the effects of the pandemic and the nervousness around future business. One area of real concern is the employment of staff into the industry, especially into catering. The fact is that many staff who have been furloughed are not returning to work! Whereas the French recognise the worth of catering and hospitality workers with academy status training, in this country it is not recognised as such as is, in fact, seen as a poor choice of occupation due to certain misconceptions and a low wage market. Cllr Barry Lewis, Leader of Derbyshire County Council was also present at the meeting and commented that the County Council were working with Derby University on a piece of work to try and change attitudes in this market. Watch this space!

The Illuminations & Access Only Roads

If you live in a property on an 'access only' road or accessed from one of these roads you will find in your newsletter, a letter from Derbyshire Dales District Council along with two 'resident' car notices. It is important to have in place the necessary safeguards to protect the village from parking gridlock. On fireworks evenings – Clifton Road, Temple Road, Waterloo Road, Holme Road (and all roads accessed via Holme Road), St Johns Road and the New Bath Road will be closed. Roads will be closed from 2.00 pm and a security officer will be stationed at the junction with the A6 (apart from Temple Road when they will be just past the entrance to Gullivers). Security Officers will only allow vehicles with the necessary permit to access these roads thus enforcing the 'access only' regulations. Please ensure your pass is in your vehicle if you go out on fireworks evenings.