

A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Summer 2020



Cllr Trevor Bowmer



It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Trevor back in April after his long battle with illness. This was Trevor's second period as a Parish Councillor, the first over 30 years ago when Mike Greenan was Chairman. Mike wrote:

"Trevor and I became Parish Councillors on the same day in 1985. He loved Matlock Bath and did much to improve life for the community. Always a good listener, he knew what issues affected residents and worked hard to resolve them."

"We worked together for many years. His sharp business mind, tempered with a keen sense of humour could be relied upon to get people on side, a great skill!! When I walk round the village, I will remember the contribution he made and I will miss him."

Since being co-opted on to the Parish Council in 2012, Trevor has again been an invaluable 'servant' to the village. He had the ability to listen to debate then summarise and suggest a clear path forward. I, as Chair, shall miss his wise council. The village will miss his expertise in applying for grant funding and his relentless fighting for residents.

When "the Bowmers" purchased their cottage in 1981, Trevor was still serving in the Navy. Their 7 year plan was to do up the property as a step onto the property ladder and move on. 39 years later the village should be pleased that the move never happened. Up until his death, Trevor continued to contribute to Parish Council debates and decisions with suggestions as to how we should move forward. These thoughts will continue into our decisions in the future.

One of his ideas was a bench in Upperwood where passing walkers could rest. The Council agreed at its last meeting in May to commission this seat.

Funding for Social Distancing Measures

Derbyshire County Council on 12th May informed the District Council that it would be undertaking physical measures in town centres to help them covid secure in the run up to the 15th June when many non essential shops are targeting for re-opening. The County Council's plan was to prioritise the main towns in Derbyshire for these works. These being Ashbourne, Bakewell, Matlock and Wirksworth. In light of poor social distancing evident in Matlock Bath, the County Council has agreed to include Matlock Bath on its priority list. In the leading up period of 15th June, plans are being developed by the County Council for highways works in town centres taking on board the following issues:

- Safe queuing on the highway without impeding access to premises;
- Safe movement of people around the town centres;
- Maintaining accessibility for wheelchairs and pushchairs;
- Enabling deliveries to shops, providing suitable parking facilities etc

The Parish Council has written to DCC to outline the measures that they would like to see introduced. These were borne from the comments received from residents and include removal of parking bays to provide additional walking space, removal of A boards and street clutter, signage with possible pavement markings, temporary changes to access to the village from Temple Road car park, a reduction in speed along the A6 and a request for a more rigorous enforcement to prevent pavement parking. The Parish Council very much hopes to be able to discuss proposed measures with Officers in due course.

Funding *(continued)*

On 26th May, the District Council received notification from the Government of a small amount of funding under its newly announced Re-opening High Streets Safely Fund. This would relate to around £10,000 for each location mentioned above. It was thought that funding would come direct to the Town and Parish Council but at the Emergency Committee meeting held on 11th June, it was announced that the funding would pass to DCC to be included in their works. Eligible items could include:

- Economic recovery plan
- Communications (eg signs re social distancing)
- Guidance to business on social distancing (eg how to manage queues safely)
- Safely managing public spaces including streets through temporary improvements (eg temporary barriers, bollards, tape, planters etc).

We very much hope to have more information on what measures will be put in Matlock Bath shortly. All details will be put on our website.

A View from the Bath Chair – *Cllr Peter Baranek*



In these difficult times I am going to start with some positive thoughts. During the full lockdown, it was wonderful that we could enjoy the unusual quiet of the village and hear for the first time uninterrupted or drowned out, the voices of nature. It was also great that we could – on our daily exercise, wander our lovely village without the hindrance of visitors and the noise and air pollution caused by the motor vehicles on the A6. Maybe it's just my perception, but both the air and noise pollution seem far worse since lockdown started to ease. I am sure that this is an issue that the Climate Advisory Group will be looking at in the near future.

The other positive that has shone through the crisis is the community spirit of our village. Firstly, individuals came together to ensure that every household in the village had the opportunity to ask for assistance with constant monitoring. Thanks to Zoe and Chris from Hodgkinsons for organising the twice weekly 'shop' much enjoyed by many residents. Then there was the joyous singing of Happy Birthday for George Holloway outside his house – with all suitable social distancing and of course, the many impromptu concerts around the village. And, of course, the Thursday evening 8 o'clock clapping (plus lots of other noises as well).

The communication of information around the village though a little random at times seemed to work. Perhaps the Parish Council can look at a way of formalising this for future use. An issue for the Communications Committee perhaps.

When the announcement came that residents in England could travel anywhere in the country for 'exercise' our village became a magnet for hundreds, if not thousands of visitors, many with no idea of the concept of social distancing. With their return, the litter problem became a serious issue. The Parish Council immediately lobbied on multiple fronts – the District Council, County Council and our MP all received letters and various follow up e-mails on specific issues raised by our residents. Some of the concerns have been addressed but many as yet have not. Derbyshire Dales has generally been very supportive of our concerns and often acted speedily to requests. The County Council has not been quite as responsive and we have had intermittent success with our requests.

We have written twice to our MP raising specific issues and to date, the only correspondence in return has been two general press releases, one produced in conjunction with the Chief Executive of the Peak District National Park – which, of course, we are not part of. We have not received any answers to the issues we raised. She has visited the village now on three occasions and despite our requests to meet to highlight the problems our village has, and is still suffering, no offer has been forthcoming. It has been disappointing to not only the Parish Council but to a lot of residents that she has afforded photo opportunities with implications on her Facebook page that all is fine in the village. This is despite, not only the Parish Council's communication but correspondence from residents.

The Parish Council will continue to lobby for all the changes residents have been seeking to make our village safe at what continues to be a difficult time. We will monitor what is happening and continue to liaise with both DDDC and DCC reporting issues as and when they happen. Please keep reporting to us and if you do decide to contact any of the authorities, copy the Clerk in so we can continue to build an overall picture of the problems. Remember that all letters that we send can be found on our website. Though we are a fairly toothless body, we can still shout very loudly – and usually know who to shout at.

Pro Loco Art & Photography Competitions 2020

As reported in the Spring Newsletter, our Art and Photography Competitions are open. With the uncertainty of what the situation will be in October, a decision as to whether we go ahead with these competitions will be made shortly.

We are hoping that although it might be difficult to hold the Art Competition, the Photography competition could still go ahead with shortlisted entries put on our website and voting made on line. So for the time being we will still be accepting entries into both competitions.

We are sure you will have some fabulous photographs of a much quieter village than usual, as was the case during the first few weeks of lockdown or you may have some which you took prior to lockdown and since restrictions have lifted.

Entries can be made on line – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

We would urge residents to ensure that they adhere to the Government advice at this time.

Litter & Plastic Waste – "Oh no, not again!" – Joolz Dale



Litter is not a new problem, but it was shocking to see how quickly our beautiful village was strewn with litter once lockdown restrictions eased. The "before" and "after" contrast was stark: bins overflowing, pavements littered with blue plastic forks and coffee cups, rubbish floating down the river and cans, plastic bottles and chip trays scattered around every park bench and stuffed in the decorative planters.

Thanks to the litter picking efforts of many residents and business owners, together with DDDC, the bins were emptied and heaps of detritus cleared from the village parks, pathways, bushes and riverbank.

Sadly, we know this is not the end of it – the blight will return. I for one am not prepared to accept that this is somehow "normal" anymore and I know many other residents feel the same.

How do we stop it? – Litter picking does not solve the problem. Neither does more bins (there are 68 in the village – I counted them!).

The answer is LESS waste (especially single-use plastic) and everyone – visitors, businesses, residents, Councils and Government – working together towards all waste being recycled or composted and remainder disposed of appropriately.

I have joined forces with a group of like-minded residents. We are 'Litter and Waste Warriors', we are on the war path, and we'd like you to join us!

But what can we do? – We aim to tackle the root causes of our litter, waste and plastic problems, building on discussions from CLIMB meetings just prior to lockdown. The issues are varied and complex – but not insurmountable. We are looking at: signs and messages; a visitor questionnaire; waste reduction; sustainable packaging for take-away food businesses; recycling; litter picking teams; plastic and waste audits at home.

Posters – We are inviting young people at Holy Trinity School or living in Matlock Bath to design posters that will be laminated and displayed in the village. We would like posters to be colourful and eye-catching, with the messages about why dropping litter is wrong and the potential hazard to human health, wildlife and our waterways. We hope that the posters will raise awareness and encourage visitors to keep our village and river clean. With the help of the Parish Council, we would like to see some of the children's designs become larger/permanent installations, like those at Matlock Bath Station. If your child does not attend Holy Trinity School and would like to create a poster, please contact Amy Kirkland for a template and details, via my e-mail – joolzdale@yahoo.co.uk

Join Us! – Please join us in our quest to become a single-use plastic (SUP) free and litter-free community. Email us to find out how you can get involved. If you are shielding or isolating, there are plenty of actions that can be done from home, and we would welcome your support. Be the change you want to see.

Parish Council Meetings

Although face-to-face Parish Council meetings are currently suspended, Councillors will be meeting remotely to discuss and conduct business. Residents are welcome to attend our meetings but would request that if you have a specific issue you wish to raise, this is e-mailed to the Clerk to bring to the notice of Councillors prior to the meeting. An answer at the meeting will be read out and minuted or discussed under "Urgent Matters". All agendas are available on our website at least 3 clear days prior to each meeting.



Parish Council Vacancy

Matlock Bath Parish Council currently has a vacancy to join this busy team. The work we do is varied and interesting. You will have the opportunity to join one, or more, of our Committees who meet to discuss issues within their budget. If you would be interested in joining us, please contact the Clerk for more details –
clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Paddle Peak have been doing great work on our river once again. A short term plan has been drawn up for the next 1-2 years. The plan includes becoming a charitable organisation to enable fund raising, insurance etc, continue to hold regular river clean ups, start to run regular paddling sessions at Carsington Water, create a river user group to bring together all users including paddlesports, professionals and clubs, rowing board hire, angling clubs, raft race organisers and the emergency services as well as establishing a riverside base where kids can be inspired to try paddlesports.

Matlock Canoe Club will reinstate the slalom course that was destroyed during the floods. Sport England will fund the repair work to the slalom course and its lighting.

At a recent meeting, the Parish Council agreed to become a 'Friend of Paddle Peak'. For more information on Paddle Peak check out www.paddlepeak.org

World War Commemoration



You will remember this iconic postcard picture that we used as part of the WW1 project that the Parish Council managed for the centenary with the help of a HLF grant. The legacy of this wonderful work lives on in both the exhibition in the Memorial Shelter and on our website. None of this would have been possible without the assistance of local historian, Charles Beresford. A project that Trevor Bowmer was keen to pursue with Mike Greenan before his illness was a trail around the village identifying properties where the soldiers lived. We now have another volunteer to help Mike but would welcome other assistance from anyone interested in joining this small team.

Though it seems a long way off yet, we would like to do a similar project to our 'The Great War – Life in the Bath' for WW2. The reason for raising this now is that there are still residents and other local people who were alive during the conflict and will have stories to tell about life in our village from 1939-1945; stories like the Hodgkinson family and their card. Many people may have photographs, letters, anecdotes and information about life during the conflict. It would be great to start recording and cataloguing this now. We already have two volunteers to start this work and would like to hear from anyone else willing to help. We also want to hear from those with stories to tell or WW2 memorabilia we can catalogue for reference. Contact the Clerk through the usual ways.

Derbyshire Dales District Council – Cllr Joyce Pawley

The District Council continues to do all they can functioning within the regulations set by Central Government to keep the residents of Matlock Bath safe during the current crisis. I know "doing what they can" comes nowhere near reflecting what the community wants to happen. Unfortunately the relaxation of lockdown did not come with sufficient powers to allow us to do more and that is something I sincerely regret. Our Officers have managed to enforce some matters relating to members of the public eating at tables outside take away outlets but there is still ongoing work to do in that respect and the matters are being pursued.

I was hoping that our local MP could have spoken to the community by now and responded to your worries. It would be great if we could feel that she would pass on concerns about the lack of police powers on social distancing. I have written to her this morning to ask that she considers meeting, via Zoom if necessary, with the people of Matlock Bath in order to have a full and frank discussion over the situation. I hope for a response.

On the 11th June, at an Emergency Committee meeting at the District Council, it was agreed that there would be a trial period to open the toilets across the District. The facilities will be opened from 11am to 3pm and cleaned three times during that period. I hope that will be sufficient to keep visitors safe. I shall certainly be keeping an eye on how this plays out as I am not sure these opening hours will suit Matlock Bath.

Finally, can I thank the residents of Matlock Bath for their tolerance during this very difficult period, especially in relation to social distancing problems. It must be more than frustrating, and although you have made your voices known not much has happened in response. I continue to press for change.

Closer Working Meetings

The Parish Council is involved in "Closer Working Meetings" which are hosted by Derbyshire Dales District Council. The meetings are held between Officers from DDDC and the Parish Council every 3 months. The aim of the meetings is to offer a platform to raise issues, concerns or any matter, which the authority has responsibility for, on a regular basis. Matlock Bath is the only village in the Derbyshire Dales who has the opportunity to meet with officers as they are usually only arranged for Town Councils but given the nature of Matlock Bath, it was agreed we could be included.

Although the meetings have been suspended in view of the coronavirus pandemic, the Parish Council can still feedback to officers any concerns. Previously we have raised issues such as the travellers, pedlars, bins around the village, parking enforcement, the public conveniences and much, much more. One issue we have spoken about is recycling bins around the village. We had asked for recycling bins and although it was thought it might not 'work' in Matlock Bath, DDDC would consider looking into the possibility of having a 'pilot' scheme to see how it goes. In the light of the problems we have recently encountered with the increase in litter, this is something which we will be pursuing further.

CLIMB (CLimate Matlock Bath) - CLIMB

During the covid 19 crisis, we have all been involved in dealing with life-changing and extreme measures through Neighbourly Networks and, more recently, the Litter and Waste Warriors and Paddle Peak river cleaning. The pandemic has shown how connected we all are, even while physically distanced. CLIMB has not met online, except in meetings of its sister organisation, Derbyshire Climate Coalition, both open to everyone. A CLIMB website is being built but you can see the DCCoalition discussions about active travel (walking and cycling), transport, food security and Rolls Royce and the Green New Deal by following the link –

www.youtube.com/channel/UCZI5L0wH7Enxy4rfazTnPCQ/

Whether you call it Build Back Better or #The Time is Now, how we come out of pandemic mode together is going to dictate life in future under the climate emergency. Pandemics and climate change do not recognise borders; we can only solve this together. The coronavirus crisis has rapidly accelerated the so-called 'fourth industrial revolution', with new technology and artificial intelligence changing work and lives. Each Government is making plans for how we rebuild. The world's next crucial climate plan will be made next year here in the UK, postponed from the international governments conference that was to be held this November in Glasgow. Authorities need us all to be involved in those decisions and there are opportunities to be heard. The Government wants to 'level up' and MPs want to know what voters want for a better environment for everyone after covid 19.

If you think company bailouts should include conditions that safeguard the public, workers and the environment, you can e-mail our MP Sarah Dines - sarah.dines.mp@parliament.uk Last June many of us went to a mass lobby of Parliament for action on climate change and protecting nature. On Tuesday 30th June there is an online lobby of Parliament, inviting everyone to ask MPs to put people's health and wellbeing, climate and nature at the heart of the nation's recovery. See <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/virtual-lobby/> Stay safe and stay well everyone!

Derwent Gardens and Lovers' Walk

For many residents, lockdown has meant that they have been exercising around the lovely Derwent Gardens. It has been a time when the park has been deserted of visitors enabling us all to enjoy the peacefulness of and beauty of the gardens. However, we have had reports that there has been activity in the Gardens which is prohibited.

When in Derwent Gardens, please observe the information boards which are there for the safety of members of the public. All motorised vehicles (including quad bikes) are prohibited and are subject to a fixed penalty notice.

Although the play areas are closed currently, no dogs are allowed in them. There is clear signage on the gates to both areas.



**Holy Trinity Church,
Matlock Bath**
and
**St Mary's Church,
Cromford**

We invite you
to join us
as we celebrate God's love
at our internet service
on
Sunday July 5th.
starting at
10.00am

The service will be broadcast using Zoom
Use the following links to access the service

Meeting ID: 884 3353 5279
Password:191668

One tap mobile
+442030512874,,88433535279#,,,0#,,191668# United Kingdom
+442034815237,,88433535279#,,,0#,,191668# United Kingdom

For more information or to request the zoom link
please email the church office
office@htmb.org.uk



District Councillor Report – Cllr Garry Purdy

I am trying to recall where I have heard it said – the best times and the worst times. I seem to think it is a TV advert. That is certainly a lot of people's take during the last 3-4 months of suffering covid 19. At first people did a fantastic job in volunteering at the start of the humanitarian crisis, and then we have seen the worst of times since Government eased lockdown rules. I want to stay on a positive note though and thank those villagers who have been on the 'telly' this past week by their volunteering to litterpick. Thank you on behalf of our Authority. Pete Astles and his team of paddlers have been cleaning up the river on a regular basis now over the past year and more and our Authority provides bags which we collect up and take away.

Covid 19 has decimated our Green and Clean Team with about 50% of the staff having to self isolate either due to their age or an underlying health condition of their partner or themselves. Hence the fact that we have not been able to carry out the work throughout Derbyshire Dales as normal. Thankfully a number of them are now able to return to work and things should start to pick up. Help from the community in times like this is very much appreciated.

Basically that is what happened to the collection of waste by our contractor – Serco at the beginning of lockdown and the staff being unable to be close together in the cab of the lorry. Special measures had to be brought into place at extra cost to both Serco and our Authority, but again this service is getting back to some normality although it will take a little while to catch up with the green waste collection.

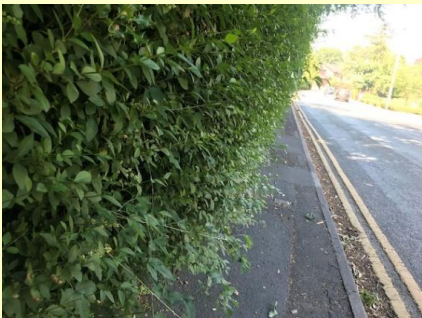
We are fully aware of the complaints and sensitivity surrounding the motor bikers seemingly ignoring the Government's guidelines during this emergency. The Divisional Commander of Police in reply to our questioning stated that Government guidance did not provide any enforcement powers to help break up the gatherings, but that when Police Officers questioned some of the motorbikers they argued that they were either in a family or work group. I cannot blame people who have observed Government guidance themselves at being angry when they witness others that do not and with some people who patently should know better and set a proper example.

We have received some monies from Government recently to help towards the safe opening up of the High Street. Myself, your Parish Council and Cllr Joyce Pawley made a strong case to the County Council, who are responsible for implementing the scheme, that Matlock Bath should be included and I am pleased to report that this will be the case, although the County Council have prioritised Market Towns first. I am not sure what physical measures will be implemented though as yet.

On Friday 11th June 2020, I joined with other Council Leaders in Derbyshire in a virtual first meeting of the Derbyshire County Economic Recover Board, brought together with representatives of the business community from different sectors in order to discuss and plan for the economic recovery of business in Derbyshire. I was delighted to see that Rupert Pugh, Director of the Heights of Abraham, was part of the board representing the tourist sector. There is much work to be done, but equally much concern not only for the economic recovery, but for the safety of everyone concerned.

These are unprecedented times and if I may so it beholds us all to try and stay calm (another saying) but essentially and above all, to stay safe. The next four weeks are critical in my view as to which path the virus takes. A report in the news recently from an eminent scientist is that the best way to combat this disease, quite apart from social distancing is to ensure that you constantly wash your hands. It reminds me of the time when working as a Security Adviser at Chesterfield Royal Hospital in the late 1990's that there was an outbreak in hospitals in the country of MRSA and that the answer was to ensure the proper washing of hands. Hospitals throughout the country set nurses on to teach hospital staff how to wash their hands. What mad times we live. Good luck to you all!

Overhanging Trees



At this time of year when everything grows so quickly, please remember that under the Highways Act 1980, s154, the property owner is responsible for ensuring that trees and shrubs from their property do not overhang roads, pavements and footpaths. This is especially important at this time because of social distancing regulations.

Please check your boundaries. If you know of any infringements please report them to DCC's Highways Hub – highways.hub@derbyshire.gov.uk

If you see any street light that has branches effecting the light in any way, you can report this on the Derbyshire County Council website. All you need is either the exact location or the lamp number. Let's make our pavements and footpaths as safe as we can.

Community Speed Watch

For a number of years now the A6 has been subject to vehicles being driven at excessive and/or inappropriate speed which lately seems to have got worse with anti-social behaviour in our car parks. As a result, it has been suggested to the Parish Council that members of the community volunteer to be involved in the Community Speed Watch Scheme.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a national initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using radar speed detection devices. Excessive or inappropriate speeding is extremely dangerous and is responsible for many unnecessary injuries and collisions.

Vehicles that are found by CSW volunteers to be driving in excess of the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speed. In cases where education is blatantly ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences are noted, enforcement and prosecution may follow.

Training will be given which will also cover health and safety. There will be an opportunity for a member of Derbyshire Constabulary to head out with the groups on their first site check for further demonstration of the radar device. Safety is the primary concern for CSW and a number of rules must be adhered to if members of the public wish to volunteer.

Before the Parish Council can consider whether to take up this initiative, we would like to hear from residents who would like to be involved with this scheme. If you are interested in being involved, please contact the Clerk – clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

News in Brief

Leader Grant Project - The fingerposts and map lecterns are currently with our installers and it is hoped that they will be fitted in the coming weeks. The conclusion of this will see an end to this long and onerous project.

Seniors Lunch – This year's Seniors Lunch is scheduled to be held on Monday 7th December 2020 at The Fishpond. A decision as to whether it will go ahead will be made in September.

Adverts for Future Newsletters – We welcome any adverts or articles for future editions of the Newsletter which relate to Matlock Bath or our surrounding area.

Matlock Bath Station Adoption – In view of the coronavirus, it has not been possible to plant the summer bedding. However, work can now resume and it is hoped that some, if not all, of the barrels can be planted.

Potholes on Upperwood Road – Some of the potholes on Upperwood Road were filled by DCC in April. However, there still remains a few which still have not been done. A request to get this work done has been sent to DCC.

Florals in Matlock Bath – The four, three tier planters which normally adorn the Parades during the summer will be out on 3rd July. Two of the positions have had to be changed to help with social distancing.

Benches – The Parish Council will be arranging for further benches to be installed on North Parade. If anyone wishes to have a plaque installed in memory of someone dear, please contact the Clerk.

Grants – The Parish Council is pleased to be able to award a grant to Matlock Bath Pre-School Playgroup for new signage and materials to update the outside area.

Litter Picking – The Great British September Clean, part of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, will be held on 11-27 September 2020. Any resident wishing to take part on an individual basis can loan a litter pick and bags from the Parish Council. The litter picking does not necessarily have to be done during this campaign, litter picks and bags can be provided at any other time. Contact the Clerk for details.

Footpaths – Footpath 2 (Green Lane) will be cleared of overhanging shrubbery shortly. If you know of any other footpaths which are overgrown, please contact the Clerk.

Matlock Bath Sports Area

Councillors discussed the quotations received at its last meeting. We are pleased to let residents know that we have identified our chosen contractor and are looking forward to work starting in August/September. We will continue to give regular updates on the renovation project on our website– www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Meeting of Derbyshire Dales Town (and Parish) Councils

Following a Peer Group study, hosted by Derbyshire Dales District Council earlier this year, Wirksworth Town Council contacted five local Town Councils to discuss whether it was thought beneficial to meet to discuss common issues in our towns and villages so that a more concerted approach could be made to the Local Authorities regarding common issues. The group consisted of Ashbourne Town Council, Bakewell Town Council, Darley Dale Town Council, Matlock Town Council, Wirksworth Town Council and Matlock Bath Parish Council.

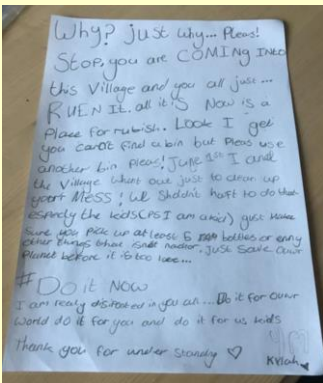
The Group met in March and it was evident that the issues experienced by Matlock Bath also apply to the other Town Councils namely, car parks, travellers, anti-social behaviour and problems with A boards and pavement clutter. It is hoped that once face-to-face meetings can resume that the Group will also look at Climate Emergency Issues. We will keep residents up-to-date with information coming from these meetings.

Matlock Bath Climate Advisory Group

Following a Climate Emergency workshop hosted by Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) in March, a Group who will meet regularly on line with representations from as many Parish and Town Councils as possible has been set up. It is hoped that this Group will enable member Councils to exchange ideas on how to tackle the climate emergency at 'grass roots' level in towns and villages. By sharing experiences it is hoped a difference can be achieved and new initiatives going forward can be developed.

The first meeting of this Group will be held on 23rd June. Matlock Bath will be represented on this Group and regular updates will be notified to residents on our website and through our newsletter.

Letter to Visitors



Since lockdown restrictions have started to be lifted, the number of people visiting Matlock Bath has increased. Unfortunately with this has brought an increase in litter. You will all know from neighbours and reading this newsletter that many residents have been out and about litter picking.

However, one resident – 10 year old Kylah was so upset by the amount of litter in the village that she decided to write an open letter to the visitors. Kylah and her grandmother, Diane Evans, have been helping to clear the mess left by the visitors.

Kylah and all the litter pickers have done an excellent job in clearing up the litter. Well done Kylah!

BBC News picked up this story and the full report can be found at https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-52894313?at_custom1=link&at_medium=custom7&at_custom4=88857BBE-A62A-11EA-9290-75B3C28169F1&at_custom2=twitter&at_campaign=64&at_custom3=Regional+BBC+East+Midlands

Anti Social Behaviour

The Parish Council is aware that there has been a lot of anti-social behaviour in the form of 'boy racers' in Station Car Park over the years and complaints still continue to be received by the Parish Council and the Police. Although we have been in many discussions with both DDDC and the Police, no definitive solution has been reached. The Police/PCSOs will respond and attend (if available) and deal with any offences found at the time, but they feel that the long term problem should be sorted out by the owners of the car park – DDDC. In other towns, access/exit barriers have been in place which seems to have resolved long term antisocial behaviour. DDDC has tried other ways to resolve the matter through CCTV, cutting low lying branches so the area is more visible and therefore less hidden from view, installing speed humps etc but this has not worked in stopping this behaviour in their car parks.

Our local SNT has said they will support any other measures DDDC would put in place and would be happy to be involved in working with the Parish and DDDC in coming up with a more permanent solution to this problem due to the fact that it is a drain on Police resources.

The Parish Council will again speak to DDDC about this problem and it will be noted again at our Closer Working Meetings.

Annual Report Presented to Full Council – 20th May 2020

The Parish Council continues to take a high-profile role in the village. Though statutory responsibilities are few, we continue with many non-statutory roles and have extended these during the year. With the higher profile comes increase workload. We are happy to pass the issues raised with us to the responsible authorities or individuals though. 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 quality of life in Matlock Bath.

Summer tower florals	Facebook & Twitter	Nature Reserve:	Christmas Tree
Flower barrels	Bench plaques & Maintenance	Maintenance	Seniors Lunch
Cattle trough florals	Quarterly newsletters	Hedge planting	Station Adoption
Residents litter picking	Press releases	Clearing	Winter Lighting
Pro Loco Art competition	Website management	Signage maintenance	Rose Garden
Dog 'poo' picking	Photography competition	Advice / support for residents	Awarding Grants
Footpath maintenance	Presentation ceremony	Liaising & Lobbying	Climate Emergency
Winter service scheme	Peak Leader grant	Summer activity area	Planning issues
Bus shelter maintenance	Singing round the Tree	Remembrance	

We currently have seven 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. Copies of all Committee notes and Parish Council Minutes can be found on our website. 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.

Parish Council Budget – A budget for 2019/2020 of £38,860 (and ringfenced funding of £45,323) was set by Full Council in January 2019 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 2018/2019. The budget set for 2020/2021 is £37,300 with a ringfence of £51,388. The majority of the ringfence being allocated for the renovation of the sports area. The precept request was £28,000.

Finance and General Purposes Committee - As well as managing its own budget, the Finance Committee oversees the budgets of all the other Committees and the financial planning of the Council. The Finance Committee this year has recommended to Full Council grant awards to Matlock Bath Development Association, Derbyshire Sub Aqua for the Boxing Day Raft Event and the Children's Christmas Party. Details of the Income and Expenditure for each financial year can be found on our website.

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. The Committee has met regularly and has had on site meetings with residents to look at parking problems specifically on Holme Road and Temple Road. It also met with DDDC planning officers to both lobby and seek advice and clarification.

Environment & Conservation Committee – As there has not been any volunteer work in the Nature Reserve this year we had to secure the services of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust volunteers for one day who cleared large areas of brambles which had become intrusive. They also removed small unwanted self-set trees. The Parish Council has continued to provide **four three tier planters** along the Parades. In addition, three **flowering barrels** opposite Masson Mills and at the bottom of Clifton Road together with the Rose Garden in Memorial Gardens and the Cattle Trough and area around it on the A6; all of which are maintained by local residents. A number of residents continue to be involved in **litter picking**. Litter picks have been provided by the Parish Council as well as DDDC as part of the annual national litter picking initiative. Residents continue to be involved in **dog 'poo' picking** in order to keep the village clean and tidy. As part of the Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Scheme, the Parish Council arranged for a number of **footpaths** to be cleared. Although the Parish Council receives a small grant for this work, it is supplemented by a budget each year to enable us to clear more paths than would normally be possible.

In 2019, 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.

Facilities Committee - This Committee oversees the **sports area, bus shelters, benches, signage** and the **war memorial**. The Parish Council once again arranged for the bus shelters, village signs and noticeboards to be cleaned regularly. We once again rented out the **sports area** in 2019 to bring in more funding to go towards the renovation project. This rent was ringfenced to be used for the renovation. We were fortunate to receive a grant of £3,490 from Better Derbyshire which will also go towards the renovation.

Communications Committee - The *website* continues to be a popular way of communicating. The website contains a vast amount of information. 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 published on the website. Advertisements in the Newsletter offset some of the printing costs.

Activities Committee - The Parish Council has for many years promoted 'village' activities, some of which have been open to the wider community. We have continued this promotion both as a community service and to promote Matlock Bath to the wider world. The *Pro Loco Art Competition* has attracted many entries over the years. The tenth *Photography Competition* again proved very successful. With over 150 entries made, we had to shortlist to 87, a task which proved near impossible for the Shortlisting Committee. With the high standard of pictures, we are able to use many of the entries in our publicity material, website etc. Both competitions have attracted sponsorship from various sources including Sir Richard Arkwright Masson Mills and Heights of Abraham. In addition, sponsorship money was received for 'specialist' photographs from Derbyshire Dales District Council (Illuminations), The Grand Pavilion and Holy Trinity Church. In November a joint *presentation ceremony* for both of the competitions was held at The New Bath. It was a chance to bring together all the winners in both competitions and was very well received by those attending. We also invited our volunteers in order to acknowledge the work they do on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is very proud to work with representatives of the British Legion to facilitate the *Remembrance* at the War Memorial. Rev Nick Grayshon attended on behalf of Holy Trinity Church. Two wreaths were laid by on behalf of the children of the village and the village.

Our Christmas event – *Singing Round the Tree* – again proved very popular and it was good to see so many residents coming together at this time of year. Music was provided by John Phillips on guitar with audio by MDS. Mulled wine was provided by Mad Hatters followed by a buffet provided by Forget Me Not and funded by the Parish Council.

The *Seniors Lunch* held at The New Bath Hotel was enjoyed by 29 residents.

Matlock Bath Climate Advisory Group – This group was set up in May 2019 when it was resolved to declare a climate emergency. The group will advise the actions the Parish Council need to take to make it carbon neutral at the earliest possible dates. The Parish Council in turn will advise and encourage residents, businesses and visitors to be climate change aware and on the actions they can take to reduce their carbon footprint. The Group will recommend effective and meaningful lobbying of local and national government on this important international issue.

Peak Leader Grant Application - June saw the final installation of the winter lighting. Unfortunately during the storms in November, part of the festoon lighting was brought down by a tree falling from Lovers Walks but has since been replaced. The two new fingerposts and four information lecterns in the village will be installed very shortly. Once installed, this will complete the Peak Leader Grant.

And we also As well as the work of the Committees, we have representatives on various bodies including The Derwent Valley Rail Partnership and the DDDC Illuminations Liaison Committee. We meet with DDDC officers every three months to raise issues formally and receive feedback. We lobby the higher tiers of local government (County and District Councils) on a regular basis on behalf of residents and on general issues of concern in Matlock Bath from water leaking onto the highway to dangerous trees, from the provision of grit bins to litter and refuse.

Once again, our adopters of Matlock Bath station planted and maintained planters with summer and winter flowering.

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 Parish Council would like to thank our District Councillors, Cllr Garry Purdy and Cllr Joyce Pawley along with our County Councillor, Cllr Irene Ratcliffe 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.

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. The Parish Council will be looking at how these can now be maintained and developed for the duration of the pandemic and into the future, whatever that may hold. 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.

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