

A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Autumn 2009



Pro Loco Art Competition



Open Winner – Jonathan Shepherd

Held on the 13th June 2009, this is the 30th year the Parish Council has run this competition. Entrants have the day to paint/draw a scene of Matlock Bath. There is an overall prize, a prize for the best artist from the parish and a junior competition. The winning painting becomes the property of the Parish Council and the prize winners from the last 30 years are displayed in the Masson Mill Conference Suite. If any residents of Matlock Bath wish to see the paintings, they should ask at the museum.



2nd Prize – Carol Brown

Nine adults entered the open competition and produced eleven wonderful paintings of scenes of Matlock Bath. These were then displayed in the restaurant at Masson Mill and judged by members of the public. Jonathan Shepherd's painting was chosen as the winner with Carol Brown's as the runner up. Two village residents entered the *Locals' Competition* with Anne Wilderspin taking the prize. All of the adult entrants were given a set of canvases by Turners Art of Rowsley.



Village winner

Prizes were presented by our host Mr Arram who generously provided refreshments for everyone in the Conference Suite. We would like to thank Mr Arram for his continued support in hosting the event and Mrs Limmack of Turners Art for sponsoring the competition. We hope to welcome more village residents as entrants in next year's event. Details will be in the spring newsletter.

Junior competition

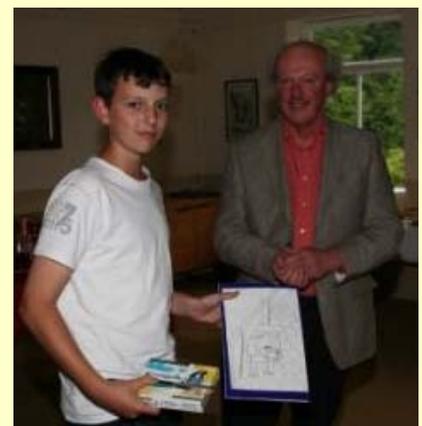
Turners Art also sponsored this section with an art pad, folder and pastels being awarded to all six entrants and further prizes of art materials being awarded to the top three entrants.



Bryony Holmes



Zeek



Tom Atkins

Cromford Court Planning Application

As part of its role, the Parish Council comments on all planning applications submitted from Matlock Bath to Derbyshire Dales District Council (the planning authority). The Parish Council considered the above application at its meeting on Wednesday 19th August. The meeting was attended by 21 residents who expressed a great number of concerns including the previous planning history. The Parish Council advised residents to make personal representations to DDDC. The Parish Council asked the planning authority to clarify the current status of the building.

The Parish Council have written to the planning authority objecting to the current application on the following grounds:

- (a) The proposed use may not be compatible with this listed building which is situated within the conservation area and which is part of the World Heritage Site and close to a Site of Scientific Interest.
- (b) Visibility at the access to the A6 is very poor and therefore dangerous and the Parish Council would request that this issue is re-investigated in depth.
- (c) There could be difficult access for emergency vehicles particularly as it has been reported that the driveway has suffered some slippage and is in poor condition.
- (d) The boundary at the rear of the property is not secure and, at present, has easy access on to the public footpath from Scarthin to Matlock Bath and into the woods above. The wooded hillside contains mineshafts which could be a danger to children.
- (e) The property is close to the A6 and there are associated road safety concerns for children.

The Parish Council is keen to see the building in use again, but it is important that the usage has a clear benefit to our community. There are pros and cons with every application but in this case we feel that the cons far outweigh the pros. This current application is vague and has many potential problems. As with any application, we are happy to work with applicants and offer our support when we feel it is beneficial to the parish.

Derwent Valley Rail Partnership



The Parish Council is represented on the ***Partnership Working Group***, a body that meets quarterly. There is an opportunity for public participation at the beginning of the meeting so if you have a grouse or plaudit about the train services from Matlock Bath, please come along.

Normally Senior Management from the train company will be present and direct questions may be put to them.

Good News! After much hard work, East Midlands Trains (EMT) have agreed to allow all trains to stop at Cromford and Whatstandwell from the beginning of the December 2009 timetable.

Connections It is also hoped that EMT will improve the timings for connections to London in December as there have been many representations about this.

Statistics Since EMT has taken over the franchise there has been a dramatic increase in passengers using Matlock Bath station and this has prompted the train company to consider further investment. Between April and August 2009 passenger journeys on the Derwent Valley Line have shown a staggering 119% increase compared to the same period in 2008. Train indicator boards are in place at Matlock Bath and several other stations. These can now be uploaded more accurately since additional sensors have been installed between Ambergate and Matlock Bath. In addition, more trains are running on time, now increased to 91% with fewer cancellations.

Alastair Morley from the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership said: *"This is a real boost to reaching the Community Rail Partnership's target of achieving 60% growth in passenger journeys by March 2011. The growth at Matlock Bath by both visitors and residents has just been phenomenal and a real boost for the local economy."*

Emma Knight from East Midlands Trains said: *"It's great news that more passengers are taking advantage of our new hourly service and the great opportunities it provides for people to leave the car at home and enjoy a relaxing day out in Matlock Bath or to visit the bustling shopping centres in Nottingham and Derby."*

Full details of the hourly train timetable from Matlock Bath are featured in the current guide to the Derwent Valley Line available from Matlock Bath News, Peak District Mining Museum, Matlock Library and other local outlets. Alternatively call 08456 058058 for a copy or visit www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk where there are also special deals on tickets.

New Parish Clerk

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that William (Bill) McCartney has been appointed as the new Parish Clerk. We welcome Bill and wish him well in his new role. His contact details are shown on the Information Page of this Newsletter. Janice Jackson, our retiring Clerk, served the parish for 13 years and we wish her well in her retirement.

Illuminated Boats The Village Favourite



The village favourite competition is organised each year by the Parish Council. Voting is open to all young people up to the age of 16 who live in the village. They may cast their vote at Holy Trinity School, the playgroup or at Matlock Bath News opposite the Fishpond. The prize is awarded to the winning boat on the last night of the illuminations.

Remembrance Sunday Service



This year's remembrance service will take place at the memorial on North Parade on Sunday 8th November at 2.00 pm. Everyone is welcome. As usual, the parish will be laying wreaths.

Housing Survey

A Parish Needs Survey has been posted through your door with this newsletter! The Parish Council are working with Isabel Bellamy, the Derbyshire Dales Rural Housing Enabler to ascertain the needs of Matlock Bath. Please complete this important housing survey as it may lead to a small development of affordable houses for local people in Matlock Bath.

Grit Bins

We never like to think of the onset of winter but must prepare for the worst. As ever, we would ask you to check any yellow grit bins in your area. If they need replenishing, please contact the Parish Clerk. This grit is provided by the County Council for gritting public highways. Please refrain from using it to grit private roads and driveways. Grit for such areas can be purchased from the local builder's merchants costing around £3.50 for a 25kg bag if collected or £4.50 if delivered.

If anyone sees grit being used inappropriately please report it to the Parish Clerk as these bins cost around £80 of your money to fill. If used appropriately, hopefully we can all have a safe winter on the byways of the village.

Rabbit Field



This summer there has been much progress in this open space behind the New Bath Hotel – access off Clifton Road opposite the school. A group of volunteers have, on Tuesday evenings, been clearing the undergrowth which has taken over the site. We hope work will continue through the winter at other times if the weather allows.

More volunteers are needed and the time and day of operations can be changed to suit personnel. Contact **Michael Wilderspin on 01629 583190** or Chair of the Rabbit Field Committee **Mike Greenan, on 01629 582250** for more details and availability.

We hope to provide seats at strategic points so that those residents who stroll or dog-walk may sit and rest and enjoy the views. Why not stroll along this autumn and enjoy the tranquillity. Access can also be gained from the 'Wapping footpath' and Upperwood.

We are very grateful to **BTCV** for their help in building the footpath network in the field. They worked on this during August in conjunction with our "cutting" programme. We are also extremely grateful to **Tarmac** for donating 40 tons of roadstone. The other materials were provided by the Parish Council.



Tarmac 



Annual Report of Matlock Bath Parish Council, May 2008-April 2009

It has been another busy year during which we have continued striving to improve the facilities and local environment for residents, traders and visitors and have addressed many issues facing the village.

Facilities and services - provided by the Parish Council

We oversee the community centre, sports area, bowling green, rabbit field and provision of allotments. We provide a village newsletter, sponsor various community events and have funds to offer grants to local groups. We have notice boards at Artist's Corner and by the Community Centre.

Work continues to improve the facilities at the Community Centre and we plan to continue with this to make the facility as accessible as possible to all groups of the community. We have been negotiating with Derbyshire Dales District Council for a new lease on the former tennis courts and the bowling green and will, once these have been secured, seek grants to enable this area to be transformed. There is much interest in the village in establishing allotments and we have approached the District Council with a view to gaining a lease on a suitable area of land in the village, but as yet nothing has been finalised. During the year we looked into the possibility of purchasing the Old Chapel on North Parade with a view to offering even better facilities for the village. We were not successful unfortunately.



Our summer floral displays brightened the village

Work on the Rabbit Field has continued throughout the year and volunteers are always welcome to join our team. We now have a footpaths officer and will be liaising with the County Council to improve the many miles of public paths we have in the parish. Our floral displays in the summer were welcomed as were the Christmas tree and lights. Our newsletter continues to be well received and we would like to thank everyone who contributes towards its production and distribution. Work continues on our website which it is hoped will be completed shortly.

Events - arranged or sponsored by the Parish Council

The Parish Council has organised a number of events throughout the year. In June we held another successful Art Competition at Masson Mill and we would like to thank Mr Arram for his generous hospitality.

The community singing and Christmas celebrations around our Christmas tree were popular and we would like to thank the Midland Hotel who provided refreshments afterwards. We also provided some Christmas lights in the village. A Christmas party was arranged for the village children and we made funds available to assist with the cost.

The Remembrance Service was well attended and we would like to thank everyone who made it a success. We are responsible for the maintenance of the memorial.

We again sponsored the illuminated boats' village favourite competition.

Lobbying and representation

Another important role for the Parish Council is to lobby on behalf of the village. This year saw the closure of the Tourist Information Centre, the Post Office and the Pavillion Night Club as well as the disappearance of the Post Box on North Parade. We also had a number of visits from the travelling community. The Parish Council has been in discussion with the District and County Councils on these matters. The housing of the TIC to the Mining Museum was much welcomed, it is still hoped that somewhere can be found for the Post Office to operate and we wait with interest for the District Council's proposals for the future of the Pavillion Building. The Parish Council has been successful, after a long fight, in having an abandoned van removed from Upperwood and we continue to strive to get Jubilee Bridge painted, get the problem of the water running on the A6 resolved, battle to find a suitable place to store trade waste bins, address noise problems and dog fouling issues, as well as persuading Derbyshire Dales District Council to change their policy on tree management and address the remaining problems of the Parks Project including the Ferry which has not yet been operational. We have advised on all planning applications to the District Council on a regular basis, hoping to add local knowledge and perspective.

Then there is the parking issue. A number of problems have been brought to our attention during the year. We have met with representatives from the County Council, who are the body who have the power to deal with highways matters and made them aware of all the problems. The introduction of the new parking regulations and their vigorous enforcement has been the subject of much debate and we will continue to review the impact this is having on the village. We have representatives on various liaison committees including the illuminations, Derwent Valley Rail Partnership and have maintained a close working relationship with the police and of course our County and District Councillors.

District and County Council Report

Since we last reported, a number of happenings have taken place in connection with the political scene in the area. I was proud to be elected as your new County Councillor for Wirksworth Division, which stretches from Matlock Bath side of the railway bridge into Matlock, and down as far as Bradbourne and Hognaston.

Working with your Parish Councillors, a number of issues have been dealt with in the village. The most important being the fact that Derbyshire Dales District Council have voted early in the year to continue with Matlock Bath Illuminations this year. We are extremely grateful for the Traders who have pledged to this event in order to help the Council run the event within budget. However, these pledges come from a little over half of the Traders of Matlock Bath, and I would appeal to those that are not contributing to think what would happen if the Council voted not to run the Lights. There is still time to pledge, so please get in touch with Mr Dave Brooks at the Town Hall.

Flooding has been an issue, especially sewerage that spilled out on to the landing stage in Derwent Gardens. Hopefully, this is now resolved by Severn Trent. We have had to challenge Dales and County Council with not tackling quickly enough the perennial problem of water flowing out of the hillside on to the main A6.

The County Council Highways Department have been tasked with cutting the grass surrounding the iconic trough in front of the New Bath Hotel, and further requests have gone in to cut trees and foliage back in areas where it blocks road signage and pedestrian access. If you know of any similar problems in your area you can either contact me, or report the matter direct to *Call Derbyshire* on 08456 058 058.

A different challenge was presented when a Trader in Matlock Bath caused a gas explosion as a result of digging holes in the pavement to facilitate umbrellas on the frontage. The appropriate authorities were immediately contacted and this is now in the hands of DDDC Environmental Services.

It has proved impossible for technical reasons to reinstate the hand operated ferry between the landing stage in Derwent Gardens and Lovers Walk. Whilst this did not cost the District Council any monies, it is a pity that it did not work out and that the monies could have been spent elsewhere within the park.

We had to bear the brunt of unfounded news headlines that we (Councillors and the Authority) were targeting the motor bikers that visit the village. This is furthest from the truth. I believe that due to a lull in official coverage in the area between the police losing responsibility for parking, and it moving to the new Civil Parking Enforcement scheme, a great number of bikers and motorists enjoyed a period of ticket free activity for more than a year. When the Civil Parking Officers commenced operations officially, motor bikers and motorist were caught parking illegally and dealt with accordingly. Some of you might recall a Government campaign some years ago entitled, 'Pavements are for People', and quite simply on safety grounds we have to insist that this legality still applies today.

Apart from a sudden and recent influx of a few hundred motor scooters one recent Sunday who also took over the pavements for a period until the police intervened, I believe the village has witnessed a good mix of motor bikers and families in motor cars more recently. And that is the key. Matlock Bath has to cater for everyone and we simply cannot discriminate against any group.

Road safety though still troubles me, and I do believe that the police can do much more to tackle the issues of speeding in and around the roads of Matlock Bath. The sad site of flowers at the road side is testimony to this problem. We do target these problems through the Safer Neighbourhood meetings each quarter, but the police admit resources have to be brought in from Chesterfield Police.

At the time of writing I am still waiting a response from Officers at DDDC with regard to the painting of Jubilee Bridge, and the public debate that has to take place on the future of the Pavilion. Additionally, the District Council is currently undertaking a review of all of the public conveniences in the Dales District. If you have any opinion on the future of public conveniences, get in touch with the Officer in the case, Mr Peter Foley, Head of Environmental Services, Town Hall, Matlock.

Cllr Garry Purdy (Elected Member)

Information Sheet



Please keep this Information Sheet for Future Reference

Parish Council

Parish Clerk – Bill McCartney, 1 The Old School,
Huthwaite Lane, Old Blackwell, Derbyshire DE55 5HY
Telephone 0785 4240309 or
e-mail williammccartney@btinternet.com

Parish Councillors

CLlr Rob Paterson	01629 760135
CLlr Peter Baranek	01629 56831
CLlr Rev Nick Grayshon	01629 583924
CLlr Bob Grindrod	01629 56741
CLlr Belinda Heaney	01629 56022
CLlr Liz Holmes	01629 56272
CLlr Marilyn Sargeant	01629 55782
CLlr Michael Wilderspin	01629 583190

District Council

Derbyshire Dales District Council, Town Hall, Matlock DE4
3NN
Telephone 01629 761100
Website – www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk

District Councillors

Peter Hume 01629 823337 or
e-mail peter.hume@derbyshiredales.gov.uk
Garry Purdy 01629 823636 or
e-mail garry.purdy@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

County Council

Derbyshire County Council, County Offices, Matlock
Telephone 01629 580000
Website – www.derbyshire.gov.uk

County Councillor

Garry Purdy 01629 823636 or
e-mail garry.purdy@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

House of Commons, London SW1 0AA

Patrick McLoughlin 0207 219 3511 or
e-mail patrick.mcloughlin.mp@parliament.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are held in the Community
Centre, at the rear of the Pavilion, adjacent to the car
park. Members of the public are welcome to attend.
Participating is limited to "Open Forum" where views
and concerns may be brought to Councillors' attention.
The next ordinary meetings are:

Wednesday 14th October 2009
Wednesday 11th November 2009
Wednesday 9th December 2009



Agendas for, and Minutes of, the meetings can be found
in the Mining Museum reception, on the Parish Council
notice boards at Artists' Corner and outside the
Community Centre and from Bill, the Parish Clerk.

Mobile Library Dates

The mobile library will visit Matlock Bath every
alternate Thursday on the following dates:

8 th October	19 th November
22 nd October	3 rd December
5 th November	17 th December

The library comes to the station car park arriving at
9.30 am and leaving at 9.35 am.

Skip Dates

The Saturday morning refuse collection service is
available in the Station Car Park Matlock Bath between
7.45 am and 9.00 am and on the Market Place car park
Cromford between 9.15 and 9.45 on the following dates:

10th October
14th November
12th December