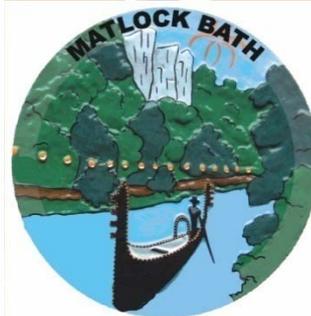


# A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

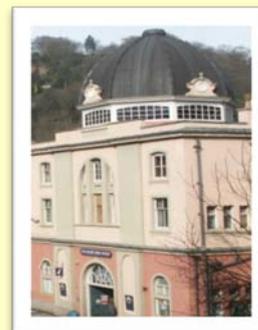
## Matlock Bath Parish Council

April 2010



### Save the Pavilion

You will remember that in our Christmas Newsletter we reminded you that the Pavilion was 100 years old this year but its future was under threat. The Parish Council arranged a consultation meeting to hear how the residents of Matlock Bath wanted us to respond. Well tell us you did! You strongly endorsed the suggestion of the Parish Council that none of the District Council's three options for the future of the Pavilion were the way forward. Forty residents of the village attended the meeting in the Community Centre on a snowy January evening and we received eight e-mail responses from people who were unable to attend. The consultation meeting lasted nearly two and half hours and we are pleased to report moved forward in a very positive way. From the comments made at the meeting and from the e-mail responses, the Parish Council submitted a response that truly reflects the wishes of the residents of Matlock Bath. It said: The Parish Council require the minimum community provision from any development works to provide the following facilities managed by them.



- A multi purpose community room for meetings, parties, classes etc that can be used by all sections of the village.
- A dedicated area for the playgroup to meet. This could then be equipped specifically for their needs.
- A parish office and a further office that could be used by the community police and others.



As a spin off from this meeting some of the residents have formed 'The Matlock Bath Pavilion Group'. Though this group is completely independent of the Parish Council, we intend that the two groups will work together to get the best possible facility in the village and ensure that this village icon is restored to its former glory.

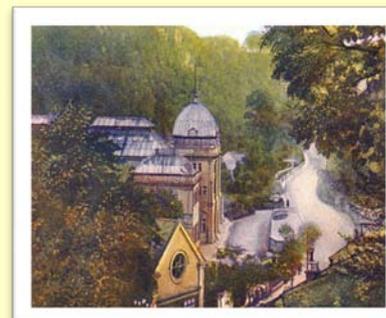
After submissions and lobbying by the group, many local residents and the Parish Council, the District Council at a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February agreed to give the Matlock Bath Pavilion Group at least six months to put forward a feasibility study on its future use. They are busy working on this and all details of the group and its work can be found at [www.savethepavilion.co.uk](http://www.savethepavilion.co.uk) News from the Save the Pavilion Group is later in the Newsletter.

Do you have any memories of the Matlock Bath Pavilion?

We are trying to collect memories from peoples' experience of using this lovely building. If we can get enough stories we will publish them and sell the publication to raise money to help save the building. So, can you help?

- Did you meet your spouse at the Pavilion?
- Did you have a memorable experience at the Pavilion? Good or Bad!
- Do you remember any of the community activities that took place at the Pavilion?
- Do you remember seeing someone performing on stage?

If you do, please contact Charles Beresford at [charles@matlockbath.com](mailto:charles@matlockbath.com) or telephone 01629 56785.



The Parish Council will continue to press for a community use area within any development plan, with this community area linked to the proposed development of the sports area and we will be making every effort to secure funding to help bring these projects to fruition.

The Parish Council recognises and supports all the hard work already done by the Matlock Bath Pavilion Group and applauds the community involvement in such a project. We hope that this project – whatever the final outcome – acts as a beacon to both community involvement in Matlock Bath and to other such projects in the area.

**Matlock Bath Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 6.00 pm at the Community Centre**

## A View From the Bath Chair



What a busy three and half months it has been since our Christmas Newsletter. It was a last minute change to the Christmas edition which brought the plight of the Pavilion under the spotlight. As well as all the activity 'Saving the Pavilion', there has been the setting up of the website, work in the Wapping Nature Reserve, all the Christmas activities including singing round the tree and, of course, the children's Christmas Party. Matlock Bath featured in the March edition of 'The Derbyshire' magazine. There is a copy of the article on the website. The Parish Council have been lobbying the County Council to repair the water leaks which caused major problems on the A6 and on Clifton Road. We are grateful to our County Councillor, Garry Purdy, for pursuing these issues – the only outstanding leak now is the small one by the crossing outside Masson Mill. We are also planning our spring and summer activities – all of which are covered by articles in the Newsletter. This is a bumper edition which of course has also taken time to produce. A big thank you to all contributors.

With this high level of activity comes a heavy workload for your Parish Councillors. We need your help to continue to improve what we do for the village. We have various committees that support all our activities. Do you have a special interest and are willing to help in some way. We need help in areas such as the Wapping Nature Reserve, Communications, (Newsletter, Website and press) Community Centre, Financial Management or specific events such as the Art Competition or Christmas. The larger the team, the more we can do for the village. You can give as much time or as little as you can spare. If you can help, please contact any of the Parish Councillors or the clerk to talk through what is required.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, we are organising a 'Spring Spree' in the Nature Reserve. We hope, if successful, this will become an annual event. It is in the early stages of planning but we are doing it as a joint venture with the school. If you have any ideas or would like to help, please get in touch in any of the usual ways (including the website now). We will let you know further details when available via the website and on posters on the parish notice boards and other prominent places around the village.

Please let us know what you think of the Newsletter. It is produced for you, so tell us if we are getting it right or what is missing. We hope to see you at the Parish Annual Meeting in May or one of the other Spring events.

## Santa Came on Time ...

The Children's Christmas Party held at The Fishpond was a great success this year with everyone feeling that the community spirit of Matlock Bath was bolstered by the event. Eighty two children attended with lots of parents as well as two new babies. Santa turned up on time, remembered all the children's names and gave them the correct present.



*Hope you've got one for me!*

The highlight of the party had to be the 'Dress the Dads as Christmas Fairies' competition. Thanks to all the wonderful dads who agreed to be covered in tinsel, glitter, baubles, complete with fairy dresses, then danced with their wands. Much more fun than 'pin a tail on the donkey'.

As in previous years, a grant was made available by the Parish Council for the Children's Christmas Party.



*Santa's Coming ...*

Anne Marie and Matt at The Fishpond who put on a disco at a reduced cost. They also donated the Christmas lights and Santa's chair as well as clearing up after the revellers had left – no mean task!! Thanks also go to Rosie and Nigel at Gifts Galore who gave wonderful presents worth far more than the budget of £2 each and they also donated the wrapping paper.



*And the best dressed fairy is ...*

## ***www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk***

It is ready at last!!! After nearly two years of waiting for progress, the Parish Council at the February meeting decided to change providers and within a few weeks we have our website up and running. There is still some fine tuning to do, but the main body is there for the entire world to see. We have tried to get a good balance of what the people of the Parish need but also to show others what Matlock Bath has to offer. The site is intended to be fluid, extendable and always in development. It should respond to the needs of the Parish and make the Parish Council a more efficient organisation.

We feel that photographs will play an important part in this and would love you to send in your photographs for inclusion on the site. They must, of course, be of the Parish. Why not set [www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk) as your home page? It must be in your favourites! All news of events in the Parish will be there. Please go on and look around it. We think there is something for everyone. We would love to hear from you as to what you think of it, for areas we could improve or sections we could add. Just e-mail [website@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:website@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk)

We would also like to use the website to send you the very latest news. If you would like us to e-mail you when there is some important news on the website, again e-mail [website@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:website@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk) and we will send you an 'e-news' e-mail with the link to the latest news item. We also intend it to be a vehicle for communicating the Newsletter to those who would prefer it electronically. This method would be so much 'greener' and, of course, it would also cut down our production costs saving some of your money. We hope to give you further news on this exciting development in the Summer Edition. By using the electronic delivery method it will enable us to circulate the Newsletter to many people outside the village. These are all what we consider exciting and important developments. We must take just one step at a time, but past copies of the Newsletter will always be available on the website.

There are also sections on your Councillors, a brief history of the village (but with links to other more in depth documents and pictures), a page on the latest news, a section that explains the meetings structure of the Council with Agendas and Minutes, a calendar of what's on with more detail on the events page, a section which will be expanded as the work progresses about the Wapping Nature Reserve and pages of information and links.

We are indebted to Jackie Sellers of Crow Pie Marketing for all her hard work in getting the site up and running so quickly since only being asked in February.

## ***The Matlock Bath Pavilion Group***

As mentioned in the front page article, we have now got six months to come up with a plan to utilise the Pavilion which is largely thanks to all the villagers who supported the "Save the Pavilion" Campaign. So a big thank you goes out to you all for giving us a chance to return the building to its original purpose!

We now have access to the Pavilion and have found that "The Pav" merely covered over the old features of the building, with cheap wood, leaving behind many of the theatre fittings may be useful in future. The plasterwork is awful and there is a lot of rubbish left lying around. There is substantial plumbing to be done and the whole place needs to be re-wired. Having said that, we are confident that the building can be covered into a good space for theatre, entertainment, music and events that will appeal to local residents and bring people to Matlock Bath.

More importantly, we believe we can come up with a formula that ensures that the building at least breaks even. In the current climate no-one is going to subsidise the running costs of The Pavilion, it must be self financing. To do this we will organise a range of events and we would like input, from you all, as to what you feel will work in The Pavilion. Some events we do will be enormously popular with the residents, others will be less so. Be assured of one thing though; THERE WILL BE NO RETURN OF "THE PAV".

Our next activity will be a clean up inside during the two weekends after Easter. We need all the help we can get to tidy the building and remove the last remnants of "The Pav". We are also organising a fundraising part on the 24<sup>th</sup> April at The Temple Hotel, look out for notices!

Let's hope together we can save this historic and ironic building and bring the heart back to Matlock Bath!

For those who can help, want to offer suggestions or would like to get more involved, please contact us.

Chairman of the Matlock Bath Pavilion Group: Gregor MacGregor, 01629 55088. E-mail [gregor.macgregor@fs.utc.com](mailto:gregor.macgregor@fs.utc.com)  
Or via the website: [www.savethepavilion.co.uk](http://www.savethepavilion.co.uk)

## ***Bus Shelters***

Have you had to wait for the bus recently? If it was in one of the four bus shelters maintained by the Parish Council, then hopefully you will have noticed that it looked a bit smarter than usual. The Parish Council have contracted a cleaning service for these shelters and they will be washed and swept once a month. Hopefully this will make them a pleasant place to wait. Please report any issues with the bus shelters to the Clerk. The 'Matlock Bath' signs, also the property of the Parish Council, have also had a spring clean. After a little more maintenance, they will look as good as new.

## ***News from our County & District Councillors***

You may have seen from your council tax bill distributed recently that the County Council have kept the increase in their part of the charge to 1.5%; the lowest ever increase since the charge was introduced. It is recognised that in these difficult economic times that the money available in your pocket is more important than ever.

The County Council is rationalising its spending with the challenge of saving £60 million in the next five years. It is believed that these monies can be saved, not at the expense of any frontline services, but with prudent savings in certain areas by efficient and smart management. It is important to maintain savings in order to set prudent and affordable budgets, not only now, but also in the future.

The Highways Department is currently examining our roads to establish where the priorities of work should take place following the recent inclement weather and is inviting suggestions as to which routes should receive attention. Go to [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)

If you care to look at the Derbyshire County Council website you will find a link to the draft plan for the next four years, and we are inviting your comments. Please take the time to visit, not only to see our aspirations, but to respond as you see fit. All responses need to be made by 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

One of the biggest challenges we face in the next two years is the state of the economy and business. The County Council cannot set the business rate. This is the responsibility of Central Government. The County Council does, however, have the means to help and assist business and in particular, to try and identify any funding that might be available. The economy of Matlock Bath depends predominately on tourism. If you need any help or advice in this area, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cllr Garry Purdy  
County Councillor

Following last year's successful Matlock Bath Illuminations and the subsequent liaison meeting, the District's Partnership and Regeneration Committee gave the green light for the 2010 illuminations. Preparations are now proceeding. The District Council have received a reasonable response for support by way of pledges from local traders. However, further support from those not yet involved would be most welcome as every pledge helps to ensure the long term sustainability of the Matlock Bath Illuminations which, undoubtedly, make a significant contribution towards the economic life the village.

The future of Matlock Bath is also going to be greatly influenced by the outcome of current planning and deliberations regarding The Pavilion. The village has every right to be immensely proud of the swift and effective response to the call from your Parish Council for action in respect of The Pavilion. As a result of this response, you clearly have an enthusiastic and right minded group of people prepared to work on the preparation of proposals and a feasibility study for a future for this iconic building to the benefit of the local and wider community. It is important that all avenues are explored with a view to achieving a long term sustainable future for The Pavilion.

Meanwhile, in addition to supporting these major initiatives, your District Councillors continue to work with your Parish Council in response of many routine matters which arise in the Parish.

Cllr Peter Hume  
District Councillor

## ***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 the Councillors' attention. Full details on the format of Parish Council meetings are on the website (meetings page).

Agendas and Minutes of the meetings can be found on the website, on the Parish Council Notice Boards at Artists' Corner and outside the Community Centre or directly from the Clerk.

Dates of future meetings will be agreed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010. They will then be posted on the website calendar on published on the notice boards. We will of course include them in the next Newsletter to be published at the end of June.

## ***Annual Parish Meeting***

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 6.00 pm in the Community Centre. All residents of the parish are invited. The purpose of this meeting is for the parishioners to receive the Annual Report from the Chair of the Parish Council. This will be a written report on the work of the Parish Council in the last twelve months. There will be an opportunity for parishioners to ask questions about the report or raise issues of concern. The Annual Report will be published in the summer edition of 'A View from the Bath' and will be published on the website after the Annual Meeting.

After the Annual Meeting, we will hold the Annual Parish Council Meeting, at which a Chair and Vice Chair and Committees of the Parish Council will be appointed. Both meetings will be completed by 7.00 pm when the normal monthly meeting of the Parish Council will take place.

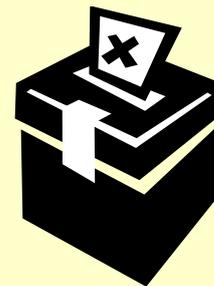
We hope to see as many parishioners as possible for at least the Annual Parish Meeting. It is the main chance each year for you to tell the Parish Council what we are doing right and where we can improve what we do for the village. We do not have a magic wand. Our powers are limited by statute and the funds at our disposal. However, to be effective, we need the village to communicate with us.

# Grass Roots Democracy

In Part 2 of this series of articles, Councillor Garry Purdy looks at Parish Councils.

## History of Parish Councils

Parish Councils have their origins in the development of villages, all over England, during Saxon and Norman times – 1000 or more years ago. Villages were ruled by the Lord of the Manor because as communications were poor and central government often weak, there was little national control. Sometimes the villages all met to make decisions which affected the whole community. Gradually, it seems that Parish Priests and sometimes Schoolmasters joined the Lord of the Manor to become a kind of ruling, clique because in small villages they were the only people who could reason right. It was probably them that became the first effective parish councils.



After the Second World War the National Association of Parish Councils was formed, and by 1952 half of all parishes in the country were members. The Association became a national force and raised the profile and consequently the activity of parish councils.

## Role of Parish Councils

The 1965 Royal Commission on Local Government (The Redcliffe-Maude Commission) recommended that local councils should be empowered to do what they pleased for the benefit of their people, and a consequence of this was the very important 1972 Local Government Act which removed many of the restrictions on the activities of parish councils. For example, before the 1972 Act, parish councils couldn't save money from one year to the next in order to fund a major project. Something all councils have to do these days to avoid having a massive council tax for each year that anything new is attempted. Subsequent legislation has added to the parish council powers and now local councils can undertake any of the following things:

- The provision of allotments.
- Developing and improving knowledge of the arts and crafts.
- Provision of bars and laundrettes.
- Cemeteries, crematoria, maintenance of churchyards and the provision of mortuaries.
- Provision and maintenance of public clocks.
- Provision of any form of public entertainment and of any premises for giving entertaining including maintaining bands or orchestras and providing for dancing.
- The provision of buildings for public meetings and functions, indoor sports, physical recreation, for clubs having recreation, social or athletic objectives.
- The provision and maintenance of footway lighting which lights roads and pavements.
- The provision of litter bins and the support of anti-litter campaigns.
- The provision and maintenance of public open spaces, pleasure grounds and public walks, public lavatories, car parks, cycle parks, public parks and associated facilities.
- Maintenance of public footpaths and bridleways, planting and maintaining roadside verges.
- The provision of litter bins and the support of anti-litter campaigns.
- The provision and maintenance of public open spaces, pleasure grounds and public walks, public lavatories, car parks, cycle parks, public parks and associated facilities.
- Maintenance of public footpaths and bridleways, planting and maintaining roadside verges.
- Maintenance of public seats, shelters for general public use and particularly for bus passengers, erection of signs which warn of dangers, renounce a place name or indicate a bus stop.
- Provision of indoor or outdoor swimming pools or bathing places.
- Provision of facilities for conferences, the encouragement of recreation and business tourism.
- Powers to maintain a village or town green.

In addition to all those things, a parish council can do anything, provided it is for the general benefit of the community, and that the expenditure in any one year does not exceed £5.30 per local government elector in that particular parish or community.

## What of the Future?

There are serious moves afoot for parishes to undertake work currently the responsibility of the larger councils. This will involve parishes in greater financial responsibility but residents should benefit through having a much higher quality of localised service. Such a move though would need very serious consideration and necessitate a proper election process as with District and County Council Members. Proper electoral accountability must be ensured.

## ***Parish Council Contact Details***

Parish Clerk – Bill McCartney, 1 The Old School, Huthwaite Lane, Old Blackwell, Derbyshire DE55 5HY  
Telephone 0785 4240309 or  
e-mail [matlockbathclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:matlockbathclerk@btinternet.com)

Cllr Peter Baranek	01629 56831
Cllr Rev Nick Grayshon	01629 583924
Cllr Bob Grindrod	01629 56741
Cllr Liz Holmes	01629 56272
Cllr Dave Mowle	01629 584387
Cllr Michael Wilderspin	01629 583190

Full contact details for Parish Councillors, County Councillor and District Councillor can be found on the website.

## ***Saturday Refuse Collection 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:

17<sup>th</sup> April  
15<sup>th</sup> May  
12<sup>th</sup> June  
10<sup>th</sup> July

## ***Mobile Library Dates***

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

25 <sup>th</sup> March	20 <sup>th</sup> May
8 <sup>th</sup> April	3 <sup>rd</sup> June
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	17 <sup>th</sup> June
6 <sup>th</sup> May	1 <sup>st</sup> July

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

## ***Messages from the Community***

### **Holy Trinity School**

A massive thank you to everyone from the school, church and the community who helped on a very cold Saturday in February to help further develop our gardening areas and to barrow a huge amount of soil to make way for the new steps connecting the school and church. We have just planed our first onions, some chives and some parsley! If anyone has any gardening equipment (spades, trowels, rakes etc), planters, seeds, plants or cuttings of plants (vegetable or flowers) who would like to donate these to our gardening club and gardening activities for all the children we would appreciate them. We are also collecting Sainsbury's and Tesco Vouchers so if you shop in these stores then we would appreciate if you could collect the vouchers and bring them into school to help buy new gardening and sports equipment. Thank you very much.

Amanda Mee, Headteacher

### **Holy Trinity Church**

#### **Services for Easter:**

Palm Sunday – 10.45 am Communion  
Maundy Thursday – 11.00 am BCP Communion  
Good Friday – 10.00 am All Age Worship followed by Walk of Witness to Memorial Gardens  
Easter Sunday – 6.00 am Willersley Castle  
10.45 am All Age Worship  
Communion  
6.00 pm Evening Worship

## ***Allotments***

We are aware that there is a lot of interest from residents for the provision of allotments. The Parish do not own any land. We have tried, in vain, to get access to some land that may be suitable. We were optimistic about a section of land at the back of the station car park that belongs to the District Council. Unfortunately the District Council said that, in their opinion, it was unsuitable. We will continue to try to find some land and we have money ring-fenced in the budget for all the work that will need to be done before the land can be used for allotments (lead testing, lease, water supply, security etc). If anyone has any ideas where such a piece of land may be, please contact the Clerk.

## Sad News ...

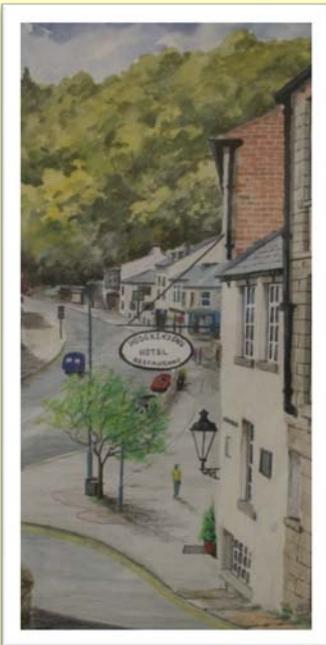
We are very sorry to report the death of Freda Bayles of Orchard Mount. Having spent much of her early life in the village, she moved away to pursue her writing career. On retirement, she returned to her much beloved Matlock Bath. Freda was a very active member of the Parish Council for many years. A tireless campaigner on any matters affecting the village, she served on the conservation forum advising the District and County Councils. Her careful and accurate research proved invaluable in planning matters. She played a major part in footpath reconstruction, providing important historical information about seldom used paths, ensuring they were documented and safeguarded for the future. Freda was a true professional who could be relied upon to do what was needed to complete any task she undertook.

Freda was Chairman of the Ratepayers and Residents Association and served as a School Governor at Holy Trinity Primary School. A published local writer, Freda worked in Fleet Street. She and Janet Ede created the local guidebook, Allison Uttley Walks which has given pleasure to residents and visitors. Only last year, she wrote an article for the Parish Newsletter on the History of the Pavilion. She will be greatly missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing and working with her.

Mike Greenan – colleague and friend



## Competition Pro Loco Art 2010 – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June



*Winner 2007*

This year will be the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the event. The rules are simple. On the day of the event, entrants register at Masson Mill between 9.00 am and 10.00 am. They then have until 3.00 pm to produce a picture, the subject of which is within the village. It can be outside or in (we always order fine weather).

**Categories**  
**Junior (Up to 11)**  
**Young Artist (12 – 17)**  
**Village Resident**  
**Open**

The open section has a first prize of £125 and second prize of £70 and £50 goes to the winner of the 'village resident' section. Cash prizes are given by the Parish Council. Prizes for Junior and young artist are donated by Turners of Rowsley. Only two residents from the village entered last year so come on all you artists – get out your equipment and get down to Masson Mill.

For further information go to the website or contact the Clerk.

Entry is £1 for adults but free for young artists and juniors. The thirty one winning pictures are displayed in the main conference room at Masson Mill where this year's prizes will be presented. Full rules of the competition are on the website.



*Winner 2009*

Judging takes place between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm in the restaurant at Masson Mill where it falls to members of the public to cast their votes for the pictures they think are the best. Prizes are awarded at 5.00 pm by Mr Arram, owner of Masson Mill, to whom we are grateful yet again for hosting the event.



*Winner 2003*

## Who Lives in a House Like This?



The answer is 'a wide diversity of plants, trees, wild flowers, birds, mammals and insects'. This is **The Wapping Nature Reserve**. Many of you already know it as 'The Rabbit Field'. We have reported in previous Newsletters of the work that has been carried out in the Reserve. It is in the permanent care of the Parish Council, is managed as a nature reserve for the benefit of the community and members of the public are welcome to visit. The Reserve lies on the hillside behind the New Bath Hotel and can be reached from Clifton Road and from The Wapping Footpath and Bridleway. Mike Greenan, the Chair of the Nature Reserve Management Committee now explains a little about the Reserve.

Parish Council volunteers have created a network of pathways through the field so as to make it accessible all year round. The main paths have been constructed with stone, with more being built on a phased basis as funding allows. The new stone paths will soon cover with leaves and be less visible. The remaining path network requires constant cutting back to remove brambles and care is required in this natural environment.

There are many species of trees and wild flowers. The intention is to label these so that everyone will recognise them. The range of wild flowers season by season is quite amazing. These include Campions, Stitchworts, Nettles, Wood Sorrel, St John's Wort, Willowherbs, Primroses, Bindweeds, Periwinkles, Forget-me-nots, Foxgloves, Speedwells and Common Spotted Orchids. When the Bluebells are out, they cover large parts of the field. As more selective clearing takes place, other dormant species will flower.



It is intended to construct benches at strategic points. Some were installed in the past but were removed. Future designs will be simple and set in concrete. The planned work for the 2010/11 season will include clearing a terrace in the area around the very large tree which stands at the top of the main central path. There is little flat ground but this should provide a suitable area for the schoolchildren to enjoy a lesson in the fresh air.

A path wide enough for prams and wheelchairs, will be created alongside the trackway from Clifton Road to the Wapping Gate. It is hoped that this may be funded by a grant from DCC in recognition of the disruption caused in the village by adjacent quarrying. If no funding can be arranged, it will be built by parish volunteers.

If you are interested in helping develop this fabulous asset, why not offer to help. There are many opportunities. We don't just need volunteers to clear brambles and build steps, although we need as many of those as possible. The trees need identifying and labelling. The flowers also need to be properly identified and mapped so that we don't trim them. The birdsong is incredible, especially after the rain. We hear the woodpeckers but do not see them. Could you tell us which birds are here and when? Could you design flora and fauna information for the website? Could you chart the footpaths and produce a detailed map of the reserve? Are you interested in dry stone walling? The list is endless. Why not contact us with any suggestions you think would be useful? Why not join the Management Group and have your input there. The more we do to enhance the reserve, the more likely it is that we will qualify for funding. It's your village resource so please help to make it as good as possible for now and for the future.

As a nature reserve, it is important that certain rules are followed. These rules are displayed at the entrance to the Reserve.

*Access is for pedestrians only. Do not pick the flowers. Do not light fires. Horses may be taken along Garforth Crescent which is the main trackway at the bottom of the reserve between the two new gates. No horse may be taken anywhere else in the reserve. The Wapping is a bridleway and the steps have been specially constructed to cater for horses. The field paths are designed only for pedestrian use. As the area is for recreational use, please do not allow your dog to foul. There are many other dog friendly areas around. Our children must be free to run around and explore in safety and comfort.*

## **Spring Spree – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May – lots of activities in the Reserve for all ages. Picnic, 'I spy' real nature, chocolate hunt, and much more**

Why not come for a walk in the reserve before the Spring Spree? Sit and read a book in a sheltered spot in the sun, bring the children for a walk and explore the Reserve or just pop over for ten minutes after school.

*News from the Bath' is published by Matlock Bath Parish Council, 1 The Old School, Huthwaite Lane, Old Blackwell, Derbyshire DE55 5HY  
E-mail: [matlockbathclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:matlockbathclerk@btinternet.com) ☎ 07854 240309*