

# A View from the Bath

*A Newsletter from*

## Matlock Bath Parish Council

*Christmas 2009*



### Remembrance



*Charles Beresford talks to the children of Holy Trinity School on Armistice Day*

Some twenty adults and children gathered for the Remembrance Sunday service the War Memorial. The service was led by Rev Dave Battison, Curate of Holy Trinity Church. Wreaths were laid by Michael Wilderspin, Vice-Chair of the Parish Council and Shelby and Lucy Hirstwood, on behalf of the children of Holy Trinity School, Matlock Bath. A presentation was given by Charles Beresford, local historian of the village, on two of the men remembered, Maurice and Charles Morten. The hymns were accompanied by musicians from the Wirksworth Area Community Orchestra, one of whom sounded the Last Post and Reveille. A copy of the presentation is on page 2 of this Newsletter.



*Shelby and Lucy Hirstwood, Holy Trinity School*

On Armistice Day, all the pupils from Holy Trinity School gathered at the memorial at 2pm. Charles Beresford was again on hand to follow up work previously done with the children in school and a prayer was led by the Curate.

### Come, come a carolling ...



Take a break from the hectic run up to Christmas and come and join us for an hour or so for a traditional pre-Christmas celebration with fellow villagers. This year our Christmas celebrations will take place on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.00 pm**. We will be singing by the Village Christmas Tree in the Memorial Gardens with music provided by John Phillips and friends. Afterwards refreshments will be provided by the Parish Council in the Midland Hotel.

The tree and other illuminations in the village for Christmas have been provided again this year by the Parish Council. Thanks to the children of Holy Trinity School for decorating the area around the tree. This is a welcome revival of a long standing village tradition.

### Pavilion - 99 not out but what does the future hold?

Matlock Bath Pavilion is 100 years old next year. The District Council, who are the owners, have put out a consultation document on the future of the building. The Parish Council is one of the leaseholders of part of the building namely the Community Centre. Currently this is the only area available to the residents of Matlock Bath to meet. It also houses the Playgroup and Toddler Group. It is important that whatever happens to the Pavilion, the residents of Matlock Bath are not deprived of a Community Centre. We hope to make residents aware of any meetings arranged to discuss the Pavilion by advertising them on the Parish Council Notice Boards outside the Community Centre and at Artists' Corner. If you are interested in participating in these discussions please contact Bill, the Parish Clerk. Full details of the DDDC consultation are on their website or available from the Town Hall.

Though the District Council agreed in principle to the consultation on 5<sup>th</sup> November, they have only just published the details and dates. The closing date for submissions was 18<sup>th</sup> December, giving just 3 weeks to formulate a response, but after lobbying from the Parish Council, they have agreed to accept submissions up until **15<sup>th</sup> January 2010**.



## *The Bath at War by Charles Beresford*



*Charles Morten*

When the War Memorial was unveiled on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1921, and again when it was rededicated after the Second World War, the people of Matlock Bath who gathered had fresh memories of those whose names are commemorated – their sons, brothers, husbands, neighbours or colleagues.

Time has thinned the ranks of those with any memories of these men and we are now reaching the stage where for most people who stop to look at the inscriptions they are just a list of names with no other meaning than that they all died fighting for King and Country.

The stories of the men from Matlock Bath who served their country and perished in the Great War are now preserved for future generations but the lives of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Second World War have yet to be recorded.

Time does not permit us to consider all 10 men whose names are recorded here from the 1939-45 war, but let us for a moment consider the lives of two men whose names are picked out in lead lettering – the Morton Brothers – Charles and Maurice.



*Maurice Morten*

They both lived with their parents on Fairview Terrace and as youngsters would have walked along the Parade and would have known this War Memorial. Charles was 10 years older than Maurice and had been a Scoutmaster. He joined the Royal Artillery.

Maurice joined the Royal Navy in June 1940 and became a submariner. He was posted to HMS Unique which, on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1942, slipped out of Holy Loch for a patrol in the Bay of Biscay. Contact was lost with her on 9<sup>th</sup> October and she was never heard or seen again. Maurice died with the other 33 brave men of her crew.

Charles went out to Burma and was reported missing fighting the Japanese on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1944. He has no known grave.

Like all of the 32 men whose names are on our War Memorial, Maurice and Charles gave the lives for "our tomorrows" and should be remembered with honour and gratitude.

*Charles Beresford is the author of the book 'The Bath at War'*

## *The Disappearing Postbox*

We are sorry to report we have no good news on the disappearing post box from North Parade. Despite the best attempts of many to retrieve it, Royal Mail have reported to us that they felt it was not needed and unfortunately it got damaged when they removed it. Royal Mail feels that there are enough post boxes in the village without this one. We believe, however, there is a need for a post box at the north end of the village and think we have found a site for it near the bottom of Holme Road. The Parish Council will lobby for a post box to be re-instated but we are considered just one voice. We would encourage all those who used the post box on North Parade before it was removed to contact Royal Mail and lobby for a replacement.

The closure of the Post Office in the village was a serious loss to services in the village and this is just another loss. I am sure with a concerted effort, we should be able to get this service re-instated. Write to FREEPOST, 20 Turner Road, St Rollox Business Park, GLASGOW G21 1AA or go to [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com)



## *A View from the Bath Chair*

With my blanket tucked tightly around my legs, I write my first article for the Newsletter as the newly elected Chair of the Matlock Bath Parish Council. My name is Peter Baranek and I have lived in Matlock Bath for over thirty years and have been on the Parish Council for over five years. My sole reason for wanting to be a Parish Councillor is to make Matlock Bath a better place for the people who live and work here. As Chair of the Council, I hope to make the continued hard work done by our Councillors as effective as possible.

Grateful thanks go to the retiring Chair, Rob Paterson who worked tirelessly for the village and was especially active on parking issues, policing matters and transport. We all wish him well for the future.

# Grass Roots Democracy

## Councillor Garry Purdy gives an insight into Local Government.

### Part 1

England has two patterns of local government in use. In some areas such as Derbyshire, there are tiers of local government with a **County Council** responsible for areas such as child services and education, waste management, trading standards, public transport and highways, social care, strategic planning and libraries and the arts. There is then a second tier with several **District Councils** within the county of Derbyshire (in Matlock Bath, it is Derbyshire Dales) responsible for areas such as housing, the environment, pollution and noise, parks, street cleaning, waste collection and recycling, leisure facilities, licensing, parking and local planning. Some areas, however, only have one tier of local government and these are dubbed **unitary authorities**. An example of this is Derby City.

Councils such as counties, districts and unitaries are known as **principal** local authorities in order to differentiate them in their legal status from the third tier of local government – **Parish and Town Councils**. A District Council area may be divided into several civil parishes. Matlock Bath has a **Parish Council** whereas Matlock has a **Town Council**.

The current arrangement of local government in England is the result of a range of incremental measures which have their origins in the municipal reform of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the structure of local government was reformed and rationalised, with local government areas becoming fewer and larger and the functions of local councils amended. The way local authorities are funded has also been subject to periodic and significant reform.

Councillors cannot do the work of the council themselves, and so are responsible for the appointment and oversight of paid officers, who are delegated to perform most tasks. Local authorities nowadays have to appoint a "Chief Executive Officer", with overall responsibility for council employees and who operates in conjunction with department heads.

In some areas much of the work previously undertaken directly by council employees has been **privatised**.

Local councils are funded by a combination of **central government** grants, **Council Tax** (a locally set tax based on house value), Business Rates and fees and charges from certain services including decriminalised parking enforcement. The proportion of revenue that comes from Council Tax is low, meaning that if a council wishes to increase its funding modestly, it has to put up Council Tax by a large amount. Central Government retains the right to "can" Council Tax if it deems it to be too much. This has been an area of debate in British politics for many years, with councils and central government blaming each other for council tax rises.

In the next edition of the Newsletter, we look at the history of Parish Councils.

## Online Resources on the Derbyshire County Council Website

A variety of online information is accessible via the Derbyshire County Council Website. It includes sixteen of the most reputable reference sites. If you are a member of the library, you can access all free of charge.

Go to [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/24hrlibrary](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/24hrlibrary) and log on. You need a Library Membership card number with the prefix DCC, eg DCC665402800. Follow the instructions on the screen.

Included are sources covering dictionaries, biography, business, newspapers and magazines, art, music, literature, current affairs, law, British Standards and more. Those fond of the written word can use Infotrac Newspapers and Journals databases, which gives access to 10 national newspapers and 50 journals and magazines going back to 1985. They also feature The Times from 1785 and the British Library Newspapers database including the Derby Mercury from 1800-1900. Use 'Who's Who and Who Was Who' to find out about famous and influential people back to 1898! Wanting to develop your business? Use COBRA, a business encyclopedia covering all aspects of starting and running a business

For children, there's extra homework help on the Britannica and World Book encyclopaedia websites.

The information is aimed The information included is all accredited and can be relied upon for authenticity and currency.

If you need any help with the use of any of these resources, please ring the Derbyshire County Council Library Information Service on 01246 275143 where staff will be happy to help.



## It's Your Parish Council!

General meetings are held once a month in the Community Centre at 7.00 pm. The next meeting is on **9<sup>th</sup> December** and then in the New Year, **13<sup>th</sup> January**, **10<sup>th</sup> February** and **10<sup>th</sup> March**. Agendas and Minutes are on the Parish notice boards outside the Community Centre and at Artists Corner, the Mining Museum Reception and from Bill, the Parish Clerk. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Public participation is limited to an "open forum" at the start of the meeting when views and concerns can be brought to the attention of Councillors. We currently have a vacancy for a Councillor so anyone interested in joining us, please contact a councillor or Bill, the clerk for details of what the role entails.

## Refuse & Recycling

If your normal waste collection day is **Friday** then collections over Christmas and New Year will be on Thursday 24th December and Saturday 2nd January.

The Saturday morning refuse service is available on the following dates:

Station Car Park, Matlock Bath (7.45- 9.00 am)	12 <sup>th</sup> December, 9 <sup>th</sup> January, 13 <sup>th</sup> February, 13 <sup>th</sup> March
Market Place Car Park, Cromford (9.15-9.45 am)	12 <sup>th</sup> December, 9 <sup>th</sup> January, 13 <sup>th</sup> February, 13 <sup>th</sup> March
Town Hall, Matlock (7.45-10.45 am)	12 <sup>th</sup> December, 16 <sup>th</sup> January, 20 <sup>th</sup> February, 20 <sup>th</sup> March

Full information on all services is available on the Derbyshire Dales website or by calling 01629 761215.

Don't forget to recycle as much waste as possible especially over the Christmas period. Natural Christmas trees will be collected in January alongside the green bin collection or alternatively look for recycling schemes in the area. See Derbyshire Dales website for information.

## Mobile Library

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

17 <sup>th</sup> December	11 <sup>th</sup> February
14 <sup>th</sup> January	25 <sup>th</sup> February
28 <sup>th</sup> January	11 <sup>th</sup> March

*Please note there will be no service on 31<sup>st</sup> December.*

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



## Reminders ...

**Illuminations** – DDDC Illuminations Liaison Meeting will be held on **15<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 pm**. The agenda includes an overview of the 2009 event, income and expenditure, Fireworks Weekends, Transport Issues and Health and Safety.

**Grit Bins** – As mentioned in the last Newsletter, we rely on residents informing us of the need to refill grit bins. Please inform Bill, the Clerk, should your grit bin need filling. Help us to ensure that the grit bins are only used for the public highway and not for personal use.

**Christmas Church Services** - Christmas services will be held as follows:

### St Mary's Church, Cromford

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00 pm – Christingle  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 am – Morning Worship  
Christmas Eve at 11.00 pm – "Midnight" Communion

### Holy Trinity Church, Matlock Bath

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 10.45 am – Children & Youth Carol Service  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm – Candlelit Carol Service  
Christmas Day at 10.00 am – All Age Communion

**Derwent Valley Line** - The revised and improved service comes into force from 13<sup>th</sup> December and includes an hourly service from all stations including Cromford and Whatstandwell, better connections at Derby including quicker journeys to London and an earlier arrival into Nottingham for commuters.

### Holy Trinity School

The PTFA Christmas Fair fundraiser will be held on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm** at the school.

The children will perform the Christmas Nativity and A Christmas Carol in Holy Trinity Church on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm** – tickets from the school.

Visits to school by prospective new starter children are always warmly welcomed, please ring for an appointment. Application packs for September 2010 are available now.

We are looking for volunteers to listen to children read in school. Can you spare a regular hour once a week? Do you have any other skills you could share with the children such as cooking, sewing or gardening - we are currently developing a garden area to grow our own vegetables.

For further information, call the school on 01629 582862 and speak to Amanda Mee, Headteacher.



*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!*

