

# A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

## Matlock Bath Parish Council

Christmas 2010



### A View from the Bath Chair



Christmas is not a quiet time for most of us and the Parish Council is no exception to that rule. As we rush to get the Christmas Newsletter into print for delivery in the first week of December, we encounter the heaviest pre-Christmas snowfall in living memory in Matlock Bath. Panic has now set in as we deliver the Newsletter by hand. Will we be able to access all properties? So, if your Newsletter is a little late, I am sure you will understand why.

This Newsletter is full of information about what your Parish Council has been doing since the last edition and what we plan for Christmas and in the first part of the New Year. We are also taking a serious look at the longer term future. Before Christmas, the Finance Committee will meet to look at the budget requirements of all the Committees of the Council – Activities, Allotments, Communications, Facilities, Nature Reserve and Planning plus looking at their own requirements. By the middle of January, the Full Parish Council sets its budget for the financial year from April, and this money will be collected as part of the Council Tax. The Parish Council has increased its level of activity over the last 12 months and to pay for that increase, we may need to raise our precept – the name given to the amount of money we need. However, we are looking at cost cutting exercises in what we already do to make more money available to spend on the village. There will be a full report on our deliberations and on the level of the precept in the March Newsletter and a full breakdown of the expenditure and income for the current year in the annual report in May – in far more detail than we have published before.



Weather conditions have played havoc with life in the village with roads impassable and the school closed. Even the main A6 was only just kept open. The 'slippery road' sign had more meaning than usual. However, the spirit of many of the residents of the village came shining through in helping others out. Pictured are a group of residents who were just completing the clearance of Holme Road. Had this snow frozen, this road would have been impassable. At least now, the grit can be used to keep it clear and make it useable for both vehicles and pedestrians. It is a time when we should think about those in the village who are most vulnerable, who perhaps have mobility problems or maybe because of the weather conditions are more isolated. If there is someone near you who just needs to see a cheery face, needs their path clearing or something from the shops, help out if you can. **Community spirit is so important to our village!**

The Parish Council are considering the longer term future developments for Matlock Bath and to this end will be producing a Parish Plan. However, this will be meaningless unless we ask the residents of Matlock Bath what THEY want. It is your village so we need YOUR views. In the New Year, we will deliver to every property in the parish, a questionnaire. It will also appear on our website. We would like as many people in the village as possible to complete the questionnaire. We will then compile the responses and this will inform our plan for the future. Please help us achieve a meaningful Parish Plan.

It only remains for me, on behalf of the Parish Council, to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CLlr Peter Baranek, Chairman



### Christmas in Matlock Bath



The Parish Council is again arranging the Christmas Tree in the Memorial Gardens. We also hope to have lights on the trees by the Fishpond and the Jubilee Bridge.

On **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December** we hope that residents will join us at our 'Singing around the Tree' at 7.00 pm followed by 'soup and a roll' in The Midland Hotel. We hope to see as many residents there as possible – we have had more songsheets produced this year so come along for a half hour sing-along for this gathering of the village and then to The Midland afterwards.

Other community events happening in the village are mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter and all details will be on our website.

# What a Picture!

For many years the Parish Council has run an Art Competition. In the Spring, it was decided we should complement that with a Photography Competition. We live and work in a wonderful part of the world and both locals and visitors capture the beauty of the village in all the seasons of the year.



*1<sup>st</sup> Prize - Swirling Waters by Bryan Lomas*

The competition was organised through the website with entrants uploading their photographs. Up to four photographs could be submitted. Prizes were for First and Second, Best Villager, Young Photographer and Junior. Our sponsors gave prizes for individual categories: The Grand Pavilion Group, Derbyshire Dales District Council Illuminations, Heights of Abraham, Holy Trinity Church.

The Pro Loco Organising Committee shortlisted 50 of the entries to be displayed in the Pump Room of the Grand Pavilion.

Robert Morris, a professional local photographer and member of the Organising Committee, said the Committee found it really difficult to shortlist only 50 photographs from which the general public had to choose.

Over 320 members of the public came into the Pump Room on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October between 3.00 pm and 9.00 pm. Many were visitors to Matlock Bath and even though they were allowed to vote for 3 photographs, many said that they found it very difficult to choose.

At the presentation of awards on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2010 also in the Pump Room, the event was rated as a complete success. Presenting the prizes, Patrick McLoughlin MP, said that the standard of photography was extremely high and the diversity of the entries was amazing. There were many local entries with some photographs been sent from different parts of the UK. There was even an international entry from Switzerland. All photographs had, of course, had to be taken in Matlock Bath.



*2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Matlock Bath in Winter by Peter Keeble*

First Prize went to Bryan Lomas for his photograph entitled 'Swirling Waters' taken in the Heights of Abraham. Bryan said 'I never expected to win. I saw the water and thought it might make an interesting photograph and then after coming to the photographic workshop run by the Parish Council, my wife said I should enter it. I am really pleased she did.'

The Second Prize was awarded to Peter Keeble for his photograph of 'Matlock Bath in Winter' and the Best Villager Prize to Lynn Wood for her 'Fingers of Ice'. The Young Photographer Prize went to Heather Maskill and the Junior Prize to Thomas Goodwin. Sponsored prizes were awarded to Grace Sellers (Heights of Abraham), Steve Gilman (Illuminations), Paul Lowndes (Grand Pavilion) and Kevin Butterfield (Holy Trinity church). All the shortlisted photographs are on the Parish Council website.



*Bryan Lomas with Patrick McLoughlin, MP*



*Junior Winner  
Heather Maskill*



*Young Photographer 1<sup>st</sup>  
Thomas Goodwin*



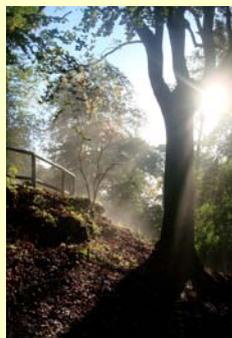
*Best Villager Prize  
Lynn Wood*

*Check out the website for all further information of the Parish Council's work*

***[www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk)***

## *What a Picture! Continued ...*

The Parish Council will be running the competition again next year and will be bigger and better than ever. We are approaching more sponsors which will mean more prizes. We are pleased to report that our Councillor Garry Purdy has already committed some of his community funding to the competition. Entries will be accepted from 1<sup>st</sup> April however, the photograph could have been taken at any time from now until the closing date on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011. Full details will be on the website in the spring. Look out for posters around the village.



*Best Heights of Abraham  
Grace Sellers*



*Best Holy Trinity Church  
Kevin Butterfield*



*Best Illuminations  
Steve Gilman*

## *Parish Council Notelets*

The Parish Council have used four of the 'winter scenes' photographs, which were entered in the Photography Competition, produced a pack of notelets are now on sale for £1.00 per pack. Notelets have been printed by Matlock Copy Centre Ltd and are being sold at cost price. Notelets can be purchased from Matlock Bath News and the Mining Museum. They are also available by contacting the Parish Clerk.

## *Grit Bins*

Earlier than normal, we have had to remember where those yellow bins at the side of the road are. For many months of the year they sit there unwanted and unloved. Then the snow and ice come and they can be life savers, but only if they contain grit, of course! They were all replenished by the County Council during the better weather ready for use. Many were emptied on the first day of snow, however, and some of the grit did not find its way onto the public highway but onto private driveways and paths. All villagers are reminded that this grit is provided for the use on the public highway **only**. Hopefully empty bins will be replenished as soon as possible. Please report empty bins to the Parish Clerk. Remember it costs around £120 to replenish an empty bin and this is money that could be spent on other things in your village. Please use the grit sensibly and sparingly. Please do not use grit on deep snow as it is ineffective. The snow needs clearing and then the grit needs to be put on the road surface below to stop it freezing. If you do need grit for your drive/paths at home or business, this can be purchased from a local builders' merchants at around £5.50 per bag collected or £6 delivered.

## *Community Centre*

The Parish Council manage the Community Centre at the rear of the Pavilion. It is available for hire at a very reasonable cost with preferential rates being offered to residents of Matlock Bath. We have a large room with an adjacent kitchen and toilets. Currently it is used during term time mornings by the Matlock Bath Playgroup, on Monday afternoons by the Mother and Toddler Group. It is also hired out to other regular group users. More recently it has been used for table top sales and childrens' parties. If you are interested in booking the Community Centre, please contact the Parish Clerk for full details and availability or check the website.

## *Derwent Valley Rail Partnership* by Cllr Michael Wilderspin

There is good news about the Partnership. The County Council has agreed to fund their share of the salary of the Partnership Officer whose hard work has been instrumental in securing many of the recent improvements to the train service. Over the last year there has been spectacular growth in numbers of people using the line, not the least being during the illumination's Saturday evening trains. Whatever the Partnership Committee decides, it is crucial for the Partnership Officer to represent this effectively to Network Rail, East Midlands Trains and other National Transport bodies. This has been done very effectively and promptly. **East Midlands Trains** would like to develop the service further and is at present preparing a scheme to smarten up Matlock Bath Station. **Holy Trinity School** has become involved in this community project.

The next meeting of the Partnership is in January at Belper Town Hall, St John's Chapel, at 10.15 am. At the beginning of the meeting there is an opportunity for public participating. If attending please make yourself known to the Partnership Officer, Alistair Morley, when you arrive.

## News in Brief ...

**Allotments** – We reported in the summer that there may be a possibility of land for allotments near The Temple Hotel. This is still a possibility and we are currently doing a feasibility study and soil testing of the land under consideration. If there is any resident of the village who did not attend the meeting at The Temple Hotel, or has not already registered an interest, but is interested in having an allotment, please contact the Parish Clerk.

**The School at Christmas** – It is the time of year when the school is busy with the preparations for Christmas? The children are creating a display behind the Christmas Tree in the Memorial Gardens. Our Christmas productions are in the church on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. Please contact the school if you would like details of this. We are also involved in a project to create art work to be displayed on permanent panels in the shelter at Matlock Bath Railway Station and the children are keeping the railway planters looking lovely with spring bulbs. On **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December** we are having an open afternoon for parents who have pre-school children to come and visit the school to look around and afterwards at **3.30 pm** we are holding the school Christmas Fair which you would be warmly welcome to attend.

*Amanda Mee, Headteacher*

**Holy Trinity Book Fair** – On behalf of all the children, teachers and parents, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated, helped or purchased anything from our Book Fair in October in the Community Centre. We raised a whopping £457 for our School Fund. Without the help and support of the local community, we could not have had such a successful day. The money raised will help with many of the school projects we support, such as the garden, clothing for outdoor learning and annual Christmas trip for the children. Thank you once again.

*Julie Morris, PTA*

**Photography Workshop** - A Photography Workshop was held in September. Following a short talk by local professional photographer, Robert Morris, those attending went out in to Derwent Gardens to take photographs which then formed a discussion back in the Community Centre. Robert showed examples of his work and gave tips and advice on taking photographs. Three of the winners of the Photography Competition attended the workshop. Thanks to Robert Morris for taking the workshop.

The Parish Council are hoping to repeat the Workshop in 2011. Look out for more information on the website and posters around the village.

**Over 60s Lunch** – In the Spring the Activities Committee are proposing to invite the over 60s of the village to a local hotel to have lunch. No specific details are available yet but if you would like to come along or can suggest someone who would, please contact the Parish Clerk.

**The Village Favourite** – The Parish Council once again sponsored the illuminated boats Village Favourite competition this year. All the children at Holy Trinity Primary School and Matlock Bath Playgroup chose their favourite boat and then by secret ballot cast their vote. A ballot box was placed in the Matlock Bath Newsagents so the 11-16 age group could also participate. All the votes were counted and the prizes awarded as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Turuk Makto – Members of Matlock St John's Ambulance
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Ghostbusters Car – Ian Page from Cromford
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Chinese Pagoda – Robert Easton from Cromford

Prizes were presented by Cllr Daphne Collie in the Derwent Gardens on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. All boatbuilders are to be congratulated on the endeavours again this year.

**Remembrance** – The Act of Remembrance took place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00 pm in the Memorial Gardens. Thanks to Dave Battison, Curate, Holy Trinity Church and to the musicians from The Wirksworth Orchestra for their contributions. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the village by Cllr Bob Grindrod and Lucy and Shelby Hirstwood.

**Children's Christmas Party** – This year the children's Christmas party was held at Gulliver's Kingdom. Once again the Parish Council gave a grant of £200 to assist with the cost of the event. Thanks to Chris McKay for organising the event.

**Boxing Day Raft Event** – This year is the 48<sup>th</sup> year of the Boxing Day Raft Event. It will start at 10.00 am from Matlock Bridge to Cromford Meadows. For more information please go to our website or log on to [www.dasac.co.uk](http://www.dasac.co.uk)

**Pro Loco Art Competition** – As in previous years we will be holding a Pro Loco Art Competition in 2011. We changing the format of the Competition and details will be available shortly on our website. Keep an eye out for posters around the village in the New Year.

**Thanks ...** There a lot of residents who help the Parish Council with their work and we would like to express our thanks for all the work they do. If you can spare a bit of time to help with the Nature Reserve or would like to be involved in the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk.



*The Parish Council would like to wish everyone*

*Merry  
Christmas*



# Information Sheet



## Parish Council

Parish Clerk – Julie Baranek, Coppice End, Woodland Terrace, Derby Road, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire DE4 3PU

Telephone 07914 420545 or

e-mail [clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Parish Councillors

Cllr Peter Baranek	01629 56831
Cllr Daphne Collie	01629 583887
Cllr Rev Nick Grayshon	01629 583924
Cllr Bob Grindrod	01629 56741
Cllr Dave Mowle	01629 584387
Cllr Nick Whitehead	01629 580752
Cllr Michael Wilderspin	01629 583190

## District Council

Derbyshire Dales District Council, Town Hall, Matlock DE4 3NN

Telephone 01629 761100

Website – [www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

### District Councillors

Peter Hume 01629 823337 or

e-mail [peter.hume@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hume@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

Garry Purdy 01629 823636 or

e-mail [garry.purdy@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:garry.purdy@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

## County Council

Derbyshire County Council, County Offices, Matlock DE4 3AG

Telephone 01629 580000

Website – [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)

### County Councillor

Garry Purdy 01629 823636 or

e-mail [garry.purdy@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:patrick.mcloughlin.mp@parliament.uk)

## Waste Collection

There will be no disruption to collections over the Christmas and New Year period. Collections of your Household Waste, Green Bin, Blue Box, Blue Bag and Trade Waste will take place on your normal collection day.

In order to save costs, it has been decided that the refuse collection calendar will no longer be printed and distributed. Residents can request via the website, by e-mail an electronic version of the calendar. There are no changes to the service and therefore collections will continue as normal. Refuse is weekly on the same day each week and recycling/green is fortnightly from the last on the calendar.

If you do not have access to an electronic version, please contact the Parish Clerk.

## 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:

11<sup>th</sup> December

8<sup>th</sup> January

12<sup>th</sup> February

19<sup>th</sup> March

## Contact the Police

The **0345 123 33 33** number is the only way to make non emergency calls. The 0845 telephone number and local station telephone numbers will cease at the end of December.

## ***County & District Councillor's Report*** by Cllr Garry Purdy

Christmas draws near and once again a time for reflection.

This autumn we suffered an incident of flooding along the main A6 in Matlock Bath. I trust that residents and traders thought that the County Authority responded quickly. The self-set trees on the high limestone wall opposite Masson Mill have been cut back, thus exposing the wall in all of its glory. I am still pushing for more overgrown trees to be cut back, but we are faced with budgetary problems in this area and work will only be carried out for safety reasons, and not aesthetic reasons, which I know is a sore point, especially following the recent and successful Photography Competition so well organised by the Parish Council. We wait with interest the latest news and commend the work to date of the Pavilion Group. Such matters do take time, and the biggest issue, of course, is funding. Has anyone got a spare million quid or two!

The Met Office has issued the County Authority with a severe winter weather warning. May I simply ask that people prepare themselves appropriately and fit the correct tyres and/or shoes as appropriate if the white stuff comes again. As an authority we spend an awful lot of money on grit, but quite simply we cannot achieve coverage on all of our roads.

After the Illuminations has finished, Matlock Bath enters a very quiet period until the advent of Spring. I hope that we can keep the illuminations going, but it has to be a team effort and we are reliant on the input of traders. We are aware that times are tough, but may I recount the experience of Chatsworth House after it suffered a bad trading year as a result of the foot and mouth epidemic. They opened up at Christmas and have found it very profitable. Food for thought for Matlock Bath, especially when I know what Wirksworth has organised.

My very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

## ***Christmas Services***

Christmas Services for Holy Trinity Church, Matlock Bath and St Mary's Church, Cromford will be as follows:

### **Holy Trinity Church, Matlock Bath**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December – 10.45 am Children's Carol Service, 6.00 pm Carol Service

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – 11.00 am Book of Common Prayer

Christmas Day – 10.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December – 10.45 am Morning Worship

### **St Mary's Church, Cromford**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December – 11.00 pm Holy Communion

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December – 9.30 am All Age Worship

## ***District Councillor's Report*** by Cllr Peter Hume

As we draw to the end of what has been a very busy year throughout Masson Ward, and Matlock Bath in particular, winter has really set in and Matlock Bath is truly living up to its reputation as "Little Switzerland". Foremost in the minds of many of the local community over the past year has been the efforts to prepare a viable plan for the future of the Grand Pavilion. This has involved a great deal of work on the part of the core members of the now established group and support from many others in the village in respect of fund-raising and other events. I understand that the Centennial Celebrations in August in the Derwent Gardens were a great success; I was very sorry to miss these due to holiday commitments. We were, however, on our return, able to enjoy the excellent 'Back to School' evening at The Temple Hotel. The thanks of all of us go to those working so hard, together with our best wishes for a successful outcome for this venture.

Meanwhile, your Parish Council has worked tirelessly on the myriad of matters affecting life in the village. They are to be thanked for this and congratulated in particular on the successful Art Competition held earlier in the year, the equally successful Photography Competition and the Matlock Bath Illuminations which again were extremely popular and attracted many visitors to Matlock Bath. A full report has yet to be prepared but our expectations are that the 2010 illuminations will have been an overall success.

It only remains for me to wish all residents of Matlock Bath a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

## ***Re-cycling***

**Christmas Tree** - If your property is on a garden waste collection round please put your Christmas tree at the edge of your property by 7.00 am on your "green" collection day. You do not need a green wheeled bin just put your tree out on the correct day between Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011. No trees over 5ft please. If your tree is taller than this, please chop it accordingly before placing it out for collection. If your property is not on a garden waste collection round take your tree to the nearest civic amenity site or try your local DIY retailer/garden centre to see if they are running tree recycling schemes.

**Christmas Cards** - You can recycle your Christmas cards as long as they have no glitter, plastic or non card items attached. Christmas card collection points will be set up from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 in the following places: Sainsbury's Car Park, Matlock, Sainsbury's Car Park, Ashbourne, Canterbury Road, Car Park, Wirksworth.