

A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Summer 2019



**CLIMATE
EMERGENCY**

5 THINGS

YOU NEED TO KNOW

Our Parish Council declared a climate emergency in May.

So what is the problem and why is it so important to us as a community?

CLIMATE EMERGENCY



IT'S WARMING

Global warming is a long-term rise in the average temperature of the Earth's climate system caused mainly by emissions of greenhouse gases. The planet has experienced climate change before, but not at the pace that is developing now. The 5 hottest years on record are in the last decade. A 2014 report concluded that CO2 emissions had doubled and at their highest level in 2.5 million years.



IT'S US

The history of global warming closely tracks the history of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. Large-scale burning of fossil fuels and farming animals for food on a large scale began with the industrial revolution in the 18th century. Both of these practices emit a huge amount of GHGs including CO2 and Methane, threatening the biodiversity of our planet.



WE'RE SURE

Climate scientists have been warning of the serious risk of climate change since the 1970s, but companies with vested interests have been spreading doubt on the science, delaying action. Now all reliable sources tell us we need to make huge reductions in global overheating by changing the way we live, eat, work, travel and use resources. To do this, government has to make law and policy that ensures immediate change.



IT'S URGENT

Since their inception climate change agreements between governments have never reached the targets agreed. We are currently at around 1 degree above the recommended sustainable temperature and are already seeing effects in global grain farming. In the last 6 months 2 reports from the United Nations, have reached the conclusion that global overheating must not rise above 1.5 degrees or permanent detrimental effects will begin.



IT CAN BE FIXED

GHG emissions must be halved in the next ten years, and in each of the following two decades, in order to reach the sustainable level required by 2050. Many climate scientists, and climate change protestors who have been peacefully bringing the issue to government and public attention, believe that this is not urgent enough. Keeping fossil fuels in the ground is probably one of the simplest ways to interrupt the rise in GHGs entering the atmosphere, but central government policy at present actually encourages extraction through fracking. Therefore we must come together as a parish and help to bring the issue to the forefront of the government of the United Kingdom.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The Parish Council would like to talk to local people in order to obtain ideas on how we can contribute to reducing carbon emissions and help residents to do the same. If you would like to get involved please contact the local climate group at climateadvisorygroup@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk Any ideas, questions and suggestions you have are very welcome. We will of course be continuing to update the community regularly through the View from the Bath Newsletter and the parish council website. We can only make a difference with your help.

Sources/links/useful addresses on this important topic:

<https://350.org/science/>

<https://extinctionrebellion@risingup.org.uk>

www.ipcc.ch

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk>

More can be found on the Parish Council website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Kate Gard Cook and Paul Richardson

Pro Loco Art and Photography Competitions 2019

Just a reminder that both the Art and Photography Competitions for 2019 are now open! We love to see entries from residents which showcases our lovely village.



Entry from Stephen Allen, 2018

Pro Loco Art 2019 – This will be our 40th year of our Pro Loco Art Competition and you have until **Friday 11th October 2019** to register your entry. As in previous years, your finished piece does need to depict a scene or artefact within Matlock Bath. You can enter on line by completing the entry form or by contacting the Clerk for a form. All finished work should be dropped off at a central location in Matlock Bath (to be confirmed) either before the closing date or no later than Sunday 13th October 2019. All entries will be displayed on **Saturday 19th October 2019** in the Pump Room of the Pavilion where members of the public will be invited to vote for their favourite.

We award a number of prizes including a prize to the best "Villager".

For further details regarding prizes etc, please log on to www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Pro Loco Photography Competition 2019 – This will be our 10th Pro Loco Photography Competition and you have until **Friday 11th October 2019** to submit up to 4 photographs depicting a scene or artefact of Matlock Bath.

All shortlisted entries will be displayed on **Sunday 20th October 2019** in the Pump Room of the Pavilion where members of the public will be invited to vote for their favourites.

We award a number of prizes including a prize to the best "Villager".

For more information regarding entry and prizes available, log on to www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk



Entry by Karen Newberry, 2018

Climate Emergency – What Can Matlock Bath Do?

This was the question before the Parish Council at its May meeting posed by some residents of the village. As a result, we arranged an extraordinary meeting for the following week and passed the following resolution:

- To declare a climate emergency.
- To set up an Advisory Committee which will advise the Parish Council on:
 - (a) The actions Matlock Bath Parish Council need to take to make it carbon neutral at the earliest possible date.
 - (b) How we can advise and encourage residents, businesses and visitors to be climate change aware and on the actions they can take to reduce their carbon footprint.
 - (c) On effective and meaningful lobbying of local and national government on this important international issue.
 - (d) How we can work with local, regional, national and international partners to achieve the '2030' goal.
- Report to the Parish Council on the proposed make up of the Advisory Committee for ratification at the July meeting of the Council and produce a first report on progress for the September meeting.

The Advisory Committee is now looking for members of the village to join and help in researching and preparing materials to assist the Parish Council in the four tasks listed above. To get involved in this important work, email:

climateadvisorygroup@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

A View from the Bath Chair – Cllr Peter Baranek



Welcome to a new Parish Council – which has moved seamlessly from the previous Council. Though the possibility of an election must always be there, we are pleased you gave the previous Council a vote of confidence by re-electing the Councillors without challenge and saving the cost of the election (about £1000). Democracy does not come cheap! I am honoured to be elected the Chair for another year, with Cllr Trevor Bowmer being elected Vice Chair. There is still a spare seat around the Council table so if anyone is interested in joining us, please contact the Clerk.

It was also pleasing to see that voters in Masson Ward re-elected Cllr Garry Purdy and Cllr Joyce Pawley to the District Council. Both have been strong supporters of Matlock Bath and fought many battles on our behalf. Clearly unlike other elections, voters were not swayed by national issues but kept their minds clearly on what is important to us here in the village. The other pleasing news is that Garry has been elected Leader of the Council at the Town Hall. We wish him well in his new role and know he will continue to fight for the village.

At the AGM, I presented my annual report on 2018/9 and a precis of this is in the Newsletter with the full version on the Parish Council website. We feel that the website is a source of knowledge in information about the work of the Parish Council in the village and we commend it to you as a first point of reference on all things Matlock Bath. We also know that visitors to the village find it useful as they often contact us through it. Unfortunately, it is often to complain, but we always forward these messages onto the relevant authority with a courteous acknowledgement to the sender.

The final sections of our winter lighting have hit problems for even though the festoons are now installed on Lovers Walk from the Bandstand to just past the play area, once fitted, a problem was identified with the time clock for all the lighting on Lovers Walk. DDDC electricians have been working to rectify this and other problems found but as yet the work is not finished so the festoon lights and the cross river lights cannot be tested. We are, however, optimistic that all issues will be sorted well before the Illuminations start on 7th September. Our lights will form an integral part of the illuminations display. We are awaiting final approval from DCC for the installation of fingerposts and lecterns with maps of the village. Once we have this we shall order them and arrange installation. This also has been a long and arduous process, but I am sure will be worth it in the end.

Redundant Telephone Box on North Parade – Nathan Davies & Frank Hall



We are pleased to announce that this summer will see the old redundant telephone box on North Parade refurbished and turned into a defibrillator kiosk. Through discussion with a charity called "Community Heartbeat Trust" (www.communityheartbeat.org.uk), it has been established that the charity adopted this kiosk from BT in 2014 to save it from removal and destruction. With the kind financial support of Frank Hall's Track Days, we have successfully purchased a new defibrillator for the Community Healthcare Trust, which will be located in the telephone kiosk on North Parade, Matlock Bath, later this year. The defibrillator will be installed as soon as the kiosk has been refurbished with a fresh coat of paint kindly donated by Crown Paints and installed with new windows to be donated by Halls of Matlock and Quiller.

The refurbishment is scheduled for June with the defibrillator to be installed by Community Heartbeat Trust in early July 2019. The defibrillator will be registered with the local health authority and ambulance service, so when required they will be able to direct first responders to this location if it is the nearest to the person in need.

Matlock Bath will soon have 2 defibrillators, one at the Fishpond in the South of the village and a second on North Parade in the telephone kiosk by the Old Methodist Church. Look out for the new signage highlighting this new village asset and a (new) shiny red iconic telephone kiosk being brought back to its former glory.

Matlock Bath Sports Area

As you all may have noticed we have again rented out the sports area for use as a children's exercise entertainment area. The Agreement with the new company is until November 2019. This will bring much needed income in order for us to renovate the area into a MUGA. The Parish Council is currently seeking quotes and we hope that the work can start in the New Year of 2020 or earlier if possible.

Parking in Matlock Bath

You may be aware that any proposals to implement new, or amend existing, restrictions requires the making of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). This involves a lengthy statutory procedure of consultation, advertisement and the consideration of any objectives that may be received. Due to the costly and resource intensive nature of this procedure, Derbyshire County Council are only able to carry out a limited number of orders each year. You may also be aware that there are a couple of proposals for Matlock Bath on their list and Derbyshire County Council feels it would be a good opportunity to see if there are any other changes required that could be processed at the same time.

Derbyshire County Council has, therefore, asked the Parish Council to provide them with any suggestions that we feel should receive consideration. The County Council are looking for suggestions where removing or amending the current TRO would free up any further roadside spaces.

Once the list has been drawn up, Derbyshire County Council will put together a package of measures based on the suggestions to try and accommodate everything that has been put forward. As we all know this will not be a quick procedure and, as with all TROs, would have to take its place within the county-wide ranking system but at least DCC would have a set of proposals that ensure the restrictions in Matlock Bath remain relevant to the latest needs.

There are currently 2 proposals – one on Temple Road - the purpose of which would be to keep the roadside clear outside the hotel so that vehicles do not have to be driven close to the retaining wall which has shown signs of movement. The other is at the bottom part of Holme Road. Details of these two proposals can be found on our website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Illuminations, Fireworks & Access Only Roads



Although Summer has only recently arrived, our thoughts have to turn to that harbinger of autumn and darker evenings – 'The Illuminations'. If you live in a property on an 'access only' road or accessed from one of these roads you will receive with this Newsletter, a letter from Derbyshire Dales District Council along with two 'resident' car notices.

The most serious problems occur during the fireworks evenings and as there are to be eight again this year, it is important to have in place the necessary safeguards to protect the village from parking gridlock. Focus has been on the side roads which seem to become a target for visitor 'free parking' – Clifton Road, Temple Road, Waterloo Road, Holme Road (and all roads accessed via Holme Road), St Johns Road and the New Bath Road.

On 'Fireworks Evenings' – the eight Saturdays from **7th September** – all these roads will have a 'road closure enforcement' from 2.00 pm. They will have a security officer from the illuminations stationed at the junction with the A6 (apart from Temple Road when they will be just past the entrance to Gullivers). Security Officers will only allow vehicles with the necessary permit to access these roads thus enforcing the 'access only' regulation.

Please read the enclosed letter carefully and put the notices in a safe place. As with everything the Parish Council does, we welcome feedback from residents – both positive and negative. We hope that these arrangements will make the side roads and properties much safer during these congested times for the village.

Seniors Christmas Lunch 2019

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting another Seniors Lunch this year. The lunch will be held on **Monday 2nd December 2019** at The New Bath Hotel. If you would like to attend the Seniors Lunch this year please contact the Clerk at clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone 07914 420545 to reserve a place. As in previous years we would ask again that a contribution of £5 is made towards each meal. This will allow us to accommodate more attendees.

Life Rings

We recently had an enquiry from a member of the public regarding the life rings in the village as they appeared to be missing. DDDC has advised us that unfortunately the life rings were frequently stolen or thrown into the river. As a result, it was agreed to replace them with 'throw bags'. Throw bags are far more effective and, as they are less cumbersome, they can be used by most people (including children). Although they do not offer a buoyance aid, they can be thrown (and retrieved) much quicker and have greater range. All the throw bag points are inspected weekly and are currently in place at each point.

Smoke Free Spaces Consultation - DCC

Smoke-free zones help protect everyone's health

That's why we're consulting on making more places smoke-free zones across Derbyshire.

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/SmokeFreeConsultation



Derbyshire County Council is carrying out a consultation on smoke-free spaces. The dangers of breathing in second hand smoke are well known. It's what led to a change in the law in 2007 that banned smoking in indoor spaces.

This is why we are consulting the public on reducing this risk to people's health by creating more smoke-free outdoor public spaces. We would do this by working in Partnership with other organisations, such as District and

Borough Councils. Second hand smoking is a health risk to everybody, but particularly children, therefore there is a focus on public spaces where children are likely to be.

This consultation will gather people's views on creating more smoke-free spaces. Make sure you have your say!

The consultation is open now until 29th July 2019. To take part log on to www.derbyshire.gov.uk/SmokeFreeConsultation

Matlock Bath Railway Station Adoption



A group of 5 residents are station adopters for Matlock Bath. Part of their role is to manage the flower tubs with planting and watering when necessary. Adopters are also the 'eyes and ears' for the station reporting problems, litter etc as well as planting up our flower tubs. The workload is minimal – two plantings a year and watering in the summer when necessary.

The benefits are great with the station looking pleasant and inviting for rail users and satisfaction for the adopters. We also maintain the bed in the car park by the station. This is low maintenance planted with perennials and bulbs.

We are looking to enlarge the team. If you are interested and can spare a few hours a year, please contact the Clerk.

There are some small perks provided by East Midlands Trains.

Childrens' Activity Area – Free Tokens

The company who have set up the activities in the village sports area have very kindly offered some free ride tokens for primary and pre school age children who live in Matlock Bath.

If you would be interested in obtaining a free ride token for your child please contact the Clerk on clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk with you name and address.

Tickets will be valid from the school summer holidays. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first served basis and limited to one ticket per child.

Annual Report Presented to the Annual Parish Meeting 15th May 2019

The Parish Council continues to take a high-profile role in the village. Though statutory responsibilities are few, we continue with many non-statutory roles and have extended these during the year. With the higher profile comes increased workload. Many from outside the village and some residents and businesses see the Parish Council as all powerful and responsible for everything which, of course, is certainly not the case. We are happy to pass the issues raised with us to the responsible authorities or individual though. As you will see from the list below, we have been involved in a variety of activities that hopefully will have brought an improvement to both the environment of the village and quality of life in Matlock Bath.

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

With two resignations and one new co-opted member this year, there are now eight Councillors serving. We encourage volunteers to help with the work of the Parish Council on a casual basis as well as serving on our Committees. Copies of all Committee notes and Parish Council Minutes can be found on our website. The Parish Council's thanks go to all our volunteers for the hard work they put into the work of the Parish Council for the benefit of the village.

Parish Council Budget – A budget for 2018/2019 of £64,376 was set by Full Council in January 2018 based on recommendations on spending needs from each of the Committees. This included £24,836 ringfenced funding (renovation of the sports area, winter lighting etc). The precept requested was £28,000, the difference was met from the carry forward from 2017/2018. The budget set for 2019/2020 is £36,510 with a ringfence of £45,523 (renovation of the sports area, winter lighting, costs for leases/licences etc). The precept request was £28,000.

Finance and General Purposes Committee - This Committee oversees the *finances* of the Parish Council and also deals with *employee and personnel issues*. As well as managing its own budget, the Finance Committee oversees the budgets of all the other Committees and the financial planning of the Council. The Finance Committee this year has recommended to Full Council grant awards to Matlock Bath Bowls Club, Matlock Bath Development Association, Derbyshire Sub Aqua for the Boxing Day Raft Event and the Children's Christmas Party.

Details of the Income and Expenditure for each financial year can be found on our website.

Planning Committee – In the past year the Parish Council has considered many planning and tree work applications. The Planning Committee consider each application in detail and the merits or detriments of each one assessed. Although the Parish Council has only an *advisory role* on planning issues, we feel that this area is important for the village.

Environment & Conservation Committee – This Committee deals with anything to do with the *environment and conservation* in the village including the *Nature Reserve, florals* around the village, *footpaths* and many other issues.

Facilities Committee - This Committee oversees the *sports area, bus shelters, benches, signage* and the *war memorial*. As residents are aware the sports area has been closed for around 3 years now due to the fact it is unusable as an activity area. In order to boost the sports area budget in preparation for the renovation, in 2018 we invited applicants to submit proposals to put on a children's exercise area/fair. This brought in a good rent which has been ringfenced and will be used to renovate the sports area. The area will be also rented out in 2019 with a view to the renovation project starting at the end of 2019/beginning of 2020.

Communications Committee - The *website* continues to be a popular way of communicating. The website contains a vast amount of information. Our main vehicle of regular communication with residents continues to be the quarterly *Newsletter*, a hard copy of which is delivered by hand by again some willing volunteers to every resident and business in the village as well as being published on the website.

Activities Committee - The Parish Council has for many years promoted 'village' activities, some of which have been open to the wider community. We have continued this promotion both as a community service and to promote Matlock Bath to the wider world. The *Pro Loco Art Competition* has attracted many entries over the years. The ninth *Photography Competition* again proved very successful with 150 entries. A joint *presentation ceremony* for both of the competitions was held at The New Bath, sponsored once again by Heights of Abraham and The New Bath Hotel.

Public Conveniences - In 2018 following the closure of the Pavilion Toilets, a consortium of interested parties namely – Grand Pavilion, Matlock Bath Development Association, Accessible Derbyshire, Matlock Bath Town Team, Mining Museum and the Parish Council – was set up. An expression of interest form was submitted to RDPE for a grant to re-build these toilets with a Changing Places facility. The application was approved and shortly a full application will be submitted. This project is being led by The Grand Pavilion but with support from the other parties.

Travellers – In January of this year we saw the arrival of one of the regular traveller families in the village. Unfortunately, this attracted the arrival of further families. The Parish Council has written formally to the District Council to enforce the need of an authorised traveller site in the area. DDDC has agreed to look into putting a barrier system on the car parks. It is hoped that this will come to fruition to prohibit illegal use by travellers.

And we also

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

The Parish Council would like to thank our District Councillors, Cllr Garry Purdy and Cllr Joyce Pawley along with our County Councillor, Cllr Irene Ratcliffe for their work in keeping us up-to-date with what is happening at District and County Council levels and for all the lobbying they have done on our behalf.

The Future

The future for the village is exciting. We have the Matlock Bath Development Association working hard to bring new money and life into the village. This is crucial as the help and support we receive from both the District and County Councils is diminishing due to lack of finance.

Thanks go to all those who have worked so hard in everything we do for the village and, of course, to those who selflessly give their time to act as Councillors or volunteers with the only reward being that we do it to make Matlock Bath a better place to live, to work and to visit.

News in Brief.....

Events coming up in the village -

Matlock Bath Music Festival - 13th July 2019 - See Facebook page for further details

Matlock Bath Pirate Mutiny - 4th and 5th August 2019 - See Facebook page for further details

New Bath Hotel Lido re-opens - Contact the New Bath Hotel for further details

Heights of Abraham receives a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for the 5th year in a row - this qualifies the Heights for a position in TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence Hall of Fame.

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