

# A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

Matlock Bath Parish Council

September 2015

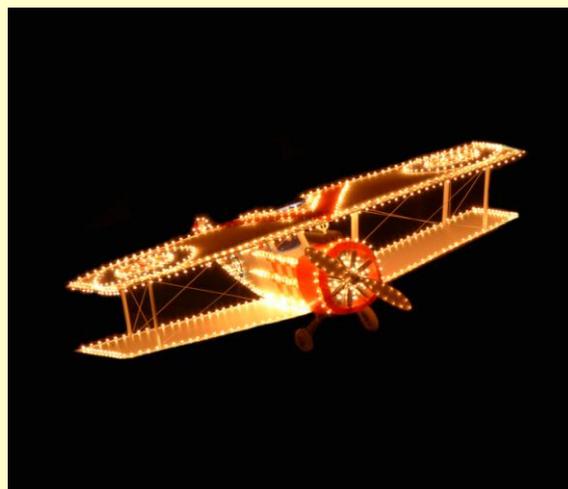


## Illuminations Village Evening – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September

This year the village evening will be held on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September**. The evening will be an opportunity for residents and traders to come down to Derwent Gardens and view the illuminated boats without the weekend crowds. There is no entrance fee.

The boats will parade at 8.00 pm and residents will have the chance to vote for their favourite boat. Once votes have been cast and counted, a presentation ceremony will be held later in the illuminations season. Winners will be announced on the Parish Council's website and in the Christmas Newsletter. Come down to Derwent Gardens and show your support for the boatbuilders who carry on this great unique annual Matlock Bath tradition.

The Hall Family has again very kindly offered to give children of the village a free ride on the fairground. Tokens should be collected from representatives of the Parish Council at the entrance to Derwent Gardens.



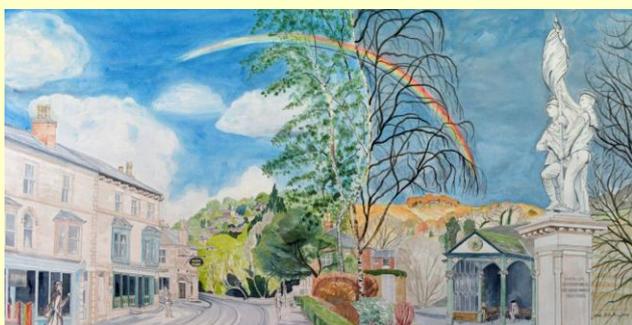
**Village Favourite 2014 – Last Plane Home**

As part of the Illuminations Village Evening, Gullivers Kingdom has also very kindly offered every child in the village a visit to the "Nerf Zone". They will be allocating wrist bands with times – numbers for each session will be limited. Anyone wanting to book their child in will need to contact Anne Gill on 07963 130694 before the 25<sup>th</sup> September to ensure they have a time slot allocated.

### **Why not bring your camera down and take a picture to enter in the Photography Competition?**

Afterwards at 8.45 pm, there will be a barbecue at The Temple Hotel, free for all residents of Matlock Bath. Mel and Chris from The Temple have very kindly offered to organise the barbecue again this year.

## Pro Loco Art 2015



**Sarah Parkin – 2014 entry**

This year's Art Competition has now closed. We are currently waiting for all the entries to be 'dropped off'. The number of registrations in the adult category has increased on last year and already it is good to see the wonderful array of pictures, models etc depicting a scene from our wonderful village.

We have also received entries from Holy Trinity School and some local children – more pictures showing our lovely village.

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, all entries will be displayed in the Mining Museum. Between 2.00-7.00 pm members of the public will be invited to vote for their favourite pictures.

A range of prizes are on offer in all four categories. A new prize this year is for the most artistic, innovative design. As part of the competition the Mining Museum will be commissioning the design of a leaded, stained-glass window as part of a permanent exhibition – 'Matlock Bath Through Time'. The design will be influenced by the ideas from the Art entries.

There will also be an opportunity to vote on line – voting will open on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September and close on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. There's nothing like seeing artwork live so why not come down and have a look at our wonderful entries.

## Pro Loco Photography Competition 2015



*Photograph by Jon Hollands  
Entered in 2014 competition*

Did you take any photographs of Matlock Bath over the summer? If so, why not enter it into our Photography Competition? There are great cash prizes on offer in a range of categories.

There are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes and we will be awarding a prize for the Best Villager and specialist prizes of £30 in the "Best Picture of ..." categories.

Categories this year include: Best Picture of Masson Mills, Heights of Abraham, Holy Trinity Church, Illuminations (sponsored by DDDC) and High Tor/Artists Corner. The Parish Council is extremely grateful for the support of all its sponsors, in particular the Heights of Abraham, our main sponsor.

In addition, we will also be offering a prize for the Best Picture of 'A Hidden Gem of Matlock Bath' – somewhere off the beaten track, Best Picture of "the Heritage of Matlock Bath" – depicting something which is 100 years old or more and also a special prize entitled "The Parish Council Award". The winning photograph will be chosen by the Parish Council.

Entering the competition couldn't be easier. Download your photographs onto the Parish Council's website – [www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk) including all of your details. Don't forget the competition **closes at midnight on Friday 9th October 2015**. The competition is open to all age groups.

Following the closing date, a shortlist will be drawn up and these photographs will go on display in the Pump Room on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015**. Between 2.00 pm-7.00 pm members of the public will be invited to vote for their favourites. There will also be a chance to cast votes on line. On line voting will open on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October and close at 12.00 noon on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

It would be lovely to see more entries from children and also from local residents.



*Photograph by Peter Reed  
Entered in 2014 competition*

## Remembrance



The Remembrance Ceremony this year will held on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 2.00 pm**.

The Ceremony will be held at the old Bandstand by Jubilee Bridge and forms part of 'The Great War – Life in The Bath' project. This will be followed by the laying of wreathes at the War Memorial itself. This change is due to the closure of the toilet area in Memorial Gardens.

Wreathes will be laid on behalf of the Parish Council and also the young people of the village. Representatives of the Masson Mills Band will provide the music and the format will be similar to last year.

A warm invitation goes out to all to attend.

## View from the Bath Chair

This year has been one fraught with difficulties for the village with the closure of the Memorial Gardens toilets (and the place to put our Christmas Tree) and the problems on Lovers' Walk. The latter has now of course been resolved and we await eagerly the outcome of the consultation on the future of the former.

Despite these problems, there is a feeling of optimism around the village in both the resident and business communities and a desire to improve life in the village for those who live and work here and those who just come to enjoy it.

The Parish Council will continue to do all it can to help, support and promote and try to ensure that this optimism manifests itself into positive outcomes for all.



## Seniors Christmas Lunch 2015



This year the Seniors Christmas Lunch will be held on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015**. The lunch will be held at **The Temple Hotel** and we know we will get a scrumptious three course meal courtesy of Mel and Chris.

The meal includes tea/coffee. Mel and Chris have very kindly offered to pay for a glass of wine or fruit juice for every senior attending as part of the celebrations!

Menu selection will need to be made prior to the meal and the Clerk will circulate the choices nearer the time.

Some residents have commented that although they have reached 60, they feel they do not qualify to attend. Anyone 60 and over and is a resident of Matlock Bath is more than qualified to attend! So why not come along – meet other residents of the village and enjoy a free wonderful pre-Christmas meal. Spaces may be limited and will be on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in attending the Lunch, please contact the Clerk to reserve your place **no later than Friday 23rd October 2015**. If you have already contacted the Clerk and your name is on the list, you do not need to confirm this. If you know of anyone who you think would like to attend that we could personally approach please contact the Clerk.

## Access Only Roads and Illuminations Fireworks Nights



You will remember that last year new arrangements were put in place by Derbyshire Dales District Council for the fireworks nights of the illuminations. There are seven consecutive Saturdays starting on 19<sup>th</sup> September ending on 31<sup>st</sup> October. On these nights between the hours of 6.00 pm and 9.00 pm if you want access to the 'access only' roads in Matlock Bath you will need a residents permit.

These were delivered to all houses on the access only roads with the June Newsletter. Security staff from the illuminations team will be stationed at the bottom of Holme Road, Waterloo Road, Clifton Road and on Temple Road just past the entrance to Gullivers. They will only allow access for those vehicles who display the permit. This is to alleviate the problems of visitors to the illuminations using these roads for parking and causing accessibility and safety problems on these roads. If you live on any of these roads and cannot find your permit (2 were delivered to each household) or need extra for more than 2 cars, please contact the Clerk. The New Bath Road and St Johns Road will also be closed to traffic during these times.

## Holy Trinity School - PTFA

Now that we're officially settled in, the PTFA for Matlock Bath Holy Trinity School are planning the new school year. Not only do we have a new class for everyone, some great new teachers and the return of our trusted friends and colleagues. We also have a wonderful new Headteacher plus the school has had a fresh coat of paint! As you can imagine, we are excited to see what this school year brings.

Please, if you can spare any time or expertise, join us on our fundraising endeavours this year and help make this school year one to remember!

You can be sure that all of the money we raise goes towards the enrichment of the education of our Matlock Bath Holy Trinity School kids.



**RIVA @ ROSE COTTAGE** Matlock Bath  
**CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT**  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 5pm start

Join us for a Christmas evening which will include Christmas Crafts,  
Gift Ideas, Mulled Cider, Warming Snacks, Roaring Fires, Roasting Chestnuts  
Come and sing carols along with

**The Matlock Brass Band**

Leave a message on our Christmas giving Tree, Come along and start your  
Christmas with us and oh yes there will be snow!



# Derbyshire County Council Winter Service Scheme

Derbyshire County Council currently runs a Winter Service Scheme and the Parish Council has been approached to participate this year. In order for us to participate we have to nominate a Snow Warden to co-ordinate the clearing of snow and ice on pavements and we need to recruit volunteers to clear the snow.

Derbyshire County Council is only responsible for clearing snow from the highway and the intention is that if we can recruit volunteers to help clear snow and ice on pavements, residents can still get out to shops, bus stops etc despite the conditions. We are therefore looking for a volunteer, or two, to be a Snow Warden. Their role will be to:

- Help deal with potential heavy snow fall and ice between October-April.
- Report the latest local area conditions during wintry conditions using the County Council's website.
- Report situations that affect vulnerable residents, such as the elderly or inform.
- Co-ordinate volunteers to clear snow and distribute grit.
- Report empty grit bins (where possible)
- Act as a single point of contact within the Parish.

Volunteers will liaise with the Snow Warden for grit to be either delivered to the areas it is required or collected. Volunteers would then use it to clear the snow and ice on pavements and public footpaths – not roads/highways.

Although one of the duties of the Snow Warden is to report empty grit bins, with the geography of the village, we would ask that all residents report empty grit bins to either Derbyshire County Council direct or to the Parish Clerk.

We know that a lot of residents in the village already help clear pavements (and roads) but by participating in this scheme will not only make it a more formal arrangement but DCC will give the village a 'free' supply of grit to be used to clear the footpaths and pavements. This will then allow residents to use the grit from the bins positioned around the village to be used on the highway. It must be stressed that the Snow Warden can only distribute salt to those volunteers who sign up with us to this scheme.

Volunteers who clear snow and ice will be required to complete a fit to participate form. If you would be interested in acting as a Snow Warden or if you would like to volunteer to clear the footpaths, please contact the Clerk – [clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk) or telephone 07914 420545.

## *The Snow Code*

With the summer virtually over and we now move into cooler times, it is good perhaps to remind ourselves of the Snow Code. This is a Code set out by the Government.

- Start early – clear the snow or ice early in the day and cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it freezing overnight.
- Salt or sand **NOT** water. Help prevent black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared. Use ordinary table or dishwasher salt – you **ONLY** need a tablespoon for each square metre you clear. Sand or ash won't stop the path icing over as well as salt, but will provide good grip under foot.
- Take care where you throw the snow so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.
- Be a good neighbour. If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well – especially if they're elderly or disabled and depend on social care services which need to reach them.
- Pay extra attention to clear snow and ice from steps and steep pathways – you might need to use more salt on these areas.

The Parish Council is aware that there are self help groups who work on certain side roads in the village to make them passable for vehicles. This co-operative action is to be commended. Although we do not wish to formalise these groups in any way, it would be useful if these groups could identify themselves to the Clerk and also advise us if there is any further ways the Parish Council could assist these groups and help ensure that our village side roads are useable during any periods of snow.

The Parish Council received reports last year from residents who were concerned that grit bins were empty because the grit had been used on private driveways. Please remember that grit bins are provided by Derbyshire County Council for use on public pavements, paths and roads only – NOT private property! Salt can be purchased locally at a reasonable price for you to use on your private property. Bear in mind that Derbyshire County Council is not always able to refill grit bins immediately so please do not use the grit provided in these bins for your own personal use.

## The Great War – 'Life in the Bath'



It has been a busy, exciting and successful summer for the project. After a lot of hard work from the many contributors, our summer exhibition was opened on 11<sup>th</sup> July by Brigadier Edward Wilkinson CBE, TD in the Pump Room of the Grand Pavilion. The exhibition, which this year focused on 1915, included exhibits of memorabilia and a variety of displays. The project investigated the lives of those from Matlock Bath who were serving in the armed forces and also life in the village during the conflict. At the opening were invited guests, including many of those who had contributed in different ways. The Chair of the WW1 Committee, Peter Baranek, introduced the exhibition and explained the project and then Brigadier Wilkinson gave us an insight into the Sherwood

Foresters of whom he was an officer, before he declared the exhibition officially open. A vote of thanks was given to the Brigadier by Charles Beresford and then he presented the Brigadier with a copy of his book 'The Bath at War'. World War 1 soup was then served with bread to those attending. The bread was kindly provided by The Fishpond.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July the pupils of Holy Trinity School, Matlock Bath dressed to travel back in time to visit. They donned vintage school 'uniform' of caps and waistcoats for the boys and mop hats and white smocks for the girls and walked to the Grand Pavilion to investigate what was in the exhibition. They were pleased to see that the work they had done as part of their study in school was on display. On hand were the organising committee to show them the other exhibits.

The photograph below shows a group of youngsters at the display about the family who sent the postcard used for the poster for the exhibition. The photograph to the right shows two boys completing their activity sheet.

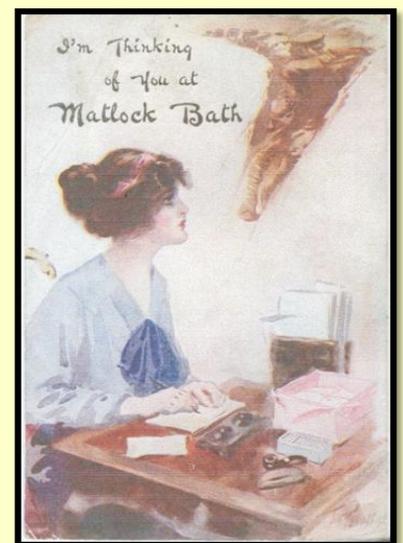


The pupils also had a go at giving a name to the 'old soldier' who was made by patients at the Newholme Hospital, Bakewell. On hand for help and advice was also a young soldier in the dress of an officer. The whole event was filmed and will appear on the website in due course. We are grateful to Crich Tramway Village for the loan of the costumes. Before the pupils left, each was presented with a replica postcard of the one sent by Albert Hodgkinson aged 14 of Matlock Bath to his father Lawrence who was serving in the trenches in 1915. Replicas of the postcard are available from the Mining Museum at 40 pence.

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, the exhibition was visited by Andy Potter from Radio Derby and he talked to the main contributors - Charles Beresford, Dominic Hodgkinson, Mike Greenan and Laura Smith. The interviews were then broadcast on his afternoon show.

The exhibition has been open for the summer and entrance was free. It has been both well attended and well received. It is a credit to all concerned in the production and presentation that a small village can produce an event with such interesting diversity. It compares very favourably with those being produced in larger towns and cities. We are, of course, indebted to Heritage Lottery Fund for providing the funding for the project which will continue for at least one more year.

The website continues to grow and develop and much of the material produced for the exhibition will be displayed on the website and recorded there for future reference. Many of the positive comments written in the visitors' book about the exhibition will be transferred to the website. As well as the website, we have an active Facebook page and a twitter account so please join us there as well.



Work is already underway on projects for the 2016 summer exhibition. If you have ideas of investigations you could do on people, places or events in the village from 1916 – the year we will focus on – or would just like to get involved and help others in their project work do get in touch. It is great opportunity for families to research part of the history or a part in the village where they live. Do you have photographs, postcards or other memorabilia from that time – if so please get in touch at [ww1@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ww1@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk) or pop into the Mining Museum and talk to Laura or Robin.

## ***Role of a Parish Councillor***

In the June issue of "A View from the Bath", we looked at the role of the Parish Council as a corporate body. In this edition we look at Councillors as individuals.

Councillors may attain office by ordinary election, bye-election or co-option to a casual vacancy. Once elected, the normal term of office for a Councillor is four years. A Councillor is the holder of a public office, not a volunteer and is not a paid employee of the Council. A Councillor cannot alone make any recommendations to, or decisions for, Council about any Council business and has no individual accountability for the decisions made by Council.

Councillors have a duty to attend meetings and prior to, or at the first meeting, a newly elected Councillor must sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office (Local Government Act 1972 s83). They must also sign a Register of Members Interests document and declare any items of a personal or prejudicial interest that may be on the agenda for Council meetings as part of the ethical framework.

Parish Councillors are required to act ethically in carrying out their role, abide by a Code of Conduct and this requires Councillors to act openly and honourably in the public interest. They must do nothing to bring the Council into disrepute and must never use their position to secure personal advantage for themselves, their family or friends.

The role of a Councillor consists of:

- Representing the interests of the whole community in the best possible light. Discussion in, or out, of a Parish Council meeting should be constructive and reflect the views and needs of the community.
- Being well informed on local issues.
- Preparing for meetings by studying the Agenda and any accompanying documents for discussion prior to the meeting.
- Attend meetings regularly. If a Councillor fails to attend any meetings for six months without an acceptable reason, then they are automatically disqualified, (Local Government Act 1972 s.85(1)).
- Being aware of the differing needs of individuals/group and represent the Council on outside bodies.
- Suggest ideas, engage in constructive debate and respond to the needs and views of the community.
- Comment on proposals and help the Council to make decisions on behalf of the community.
- Abide by the corporate decision of the Council, even if this is not their own personal view.

Councillors are not allowed to speak on behalf of the Council unless it is a matter which has been discussed and resolved at a Council meeting and, in such circumstances, should only express the agreed views of the Council and not his/her personal views.

**The Chairman** is elected by members of the Council at the Annual Council Meeting and serves for 12 months (LGA 1972, S15(1)) and can be re-appointed annually for however long Council decides. The role of the Chairman is exactly the same as any Councillor, including not legally making a decision on behalf of the Council, but in addition has the following responsibilities:

- To run Council meetings ensuring that effective and lawful decisions are taken at meetings of the Council and, assisted by the Clerk, guides activities by managing the meetings of the Council.
- To ensure that Councillors when speaking keep to the point.
- To summarise the debate and facilitate the making of clear resolutions and to keep discussions moving so that the meeting is not too long.
- To represent the Council at official events.
- Liaise with the Clerk on the content of the agenda. However, as legal signatory, the Clerk has the responsibility for the agenda.
- In the event of tied votes, the Chairman can have a second, casting vote. Their first vote being a personal vote as a member of the Council.

In addition to the Chairman, Matlock Bath Parish Council appoints a Vice Chairman. His role is to support and assist the Chair and, where necessary, take meetings which the Chairman cannot attend.

## ***Wapping Nature Reserve***

We are still looking for more volunteers to work alongside our current team in the Nature Reserve. The work is weather dependent but there is always plenty to do. Volunteers can do as much, or as little work, as they are able. If you would be interested in helping in the Reserve please contact the Clerk for further details –

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

## Singing Round the Christmas Tree



As you know each year we host a festive "sing-song" around our Christmas Tree in Memorial Gardens. As you also know the Memorial Shelter is fenced off at the moment and it is unlikely that it will re-open before Christmas. Therefore, we have a problem! Where are we going to hold our event? We are currently looking into possibilities of where to erect the village Christmas Tree and hope to still hold the annual event this year.

We will notify residents in our December Newsletter of the situation including the date and venue for the event.

## The Environment



**Fishpond Hill (FP16)**

At the last Parish Council meeting Councillors were delighted to hear about the self-help groups of residents helping to keep our village tidy.

Trevor Milner from The Fishpond arranged for the weeds to be cleared on Fishpond Hill (Footpath 16). Thanks to his staff, this area was cleared of weeds and litter. At the request of the Parish Council, DDDC has agreed to change the bin on this path to a large lidded bin to accommodate the increasing amount of litter in this area.

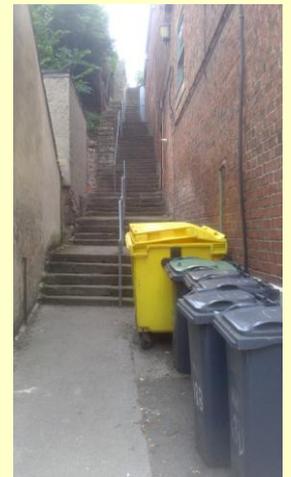
Residents at 'South End' contacted the Parish Council as they wanted to tidy up their part of the village. Residents were concerned about the amount of litter and fly tipping that was occurring. Wheelie bins were constantly being left on the highway which appeared to belong to no-one. The Parish Council provided a litter pick and bags for the litter to be collected and DDDC arranged for the unused wheelie bins to be taken away.

On 5<sup>th</sup> July, a group of volunteers from the "Friends of Matlock Bath" tackled the ongoing litter and overhanging shrubbery problem on Footpath number 1 (Valley Steps).

All overhanging shrubbery was cut down and taken away and the footpath is now a tidy and clear passageway.

The Parish Council continues to clear as many footpaths as possible as part of the Minor Maintenance Rights of Way Scheme run by Derbyshire County Council. In addition, a small budget is also set aside for additional work. If you know of a footpath which needs clearing, please contact the Clerk – [clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The Parish Council is encouraged to see residents wanting to help tidy up the village and all self-help groups should be congratulated on the hard work they are doing.



**Valley Steps (FP1)**

## News in Brief ....

**Pay & Display Consultation** – A formal consultation will be held shortly on the proposed Pay and Display on the Parades and Dale Road. The consultation will last for 21 days. If you would like to submit your comments, log on to the Derbyshire County Council website.

**Sports Area** – Now the consultation with the village has ended, the Parish Council will be looking at possible renovations for the sports area. More details will be in our December issue.

**Information Panel** – As part of the WW1 Grant funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, an information panel will be installed in Memorial Gardens in the autumn. More details will be in our December issue.

**Laser Boxes** – The Parish Council's laser boxes used at Christmas in Memorial Gardens will be re-sited at Holy Trinity Church to 'light up' this beautiful building.

**Litter Bins** – A new litter bin has been re-sited by the Bus Stop at the Fishpond. DDDC has agreed to look at all broken locks on the litter bins and to possibly exchanging small bins for large ones outside the food outlets.

**Matlock Bath Station** – We now have two new adopters for the station. We will shortly be looking at bulbs and bedding plants for the winter. Anyone interested in being an adopter please contact the Clerk.

**Grants awarded by the Parish Council** – We recently awarded a grant to the Mining Museum to help support their project "Matlock Bath Through Time".

## **District Council- Cllr Garry Purdy**

I would first of all like to pay tribute to our Officers at DDDC for pulling out all the stops to deal with the rock fall issue on Lovers Walk that was so heavily covered by the media earlier this year.

Thankfully the Illuminations are now going ahead and I am aware many Traders are relieved. There is still some repair work to undertake, but it is all systems go.

All I would ask in this regard is for the Traders to seriously consider making a contribution financially towards the running of the Illuminations. It really does help and is much needed. Thank you if you do.

On September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Governance & Resource Committee we should be able to make a decision on the Options put forward in the recent Consultation on the public conveniences in the Memorial Gardens. I will be pushing at the meeting for Option A to be taken up - the repair and reinstatement of the present toilet building.

Cllr Mrs Joyce Pawley and myself attended a meeting recently organized by the Friends of Matlock Bath which I thought went very well. We are now trying to help the FOMB work with the local Parish Council and the District Council in their desire to help in the village, so watch this space.

Drugs, or the misuse of drugs, raises its ugly head in the village once again with complaints received. Suffice to say that the Police have been notified and we know who the people are. If you have any information on this matter do please contact the Police, or if you prefer you can contact me.

We have a three year plan for the Illuminations, to help build it better each year with different themed events, bands and other entertainment. We did suffer a set back to this year's plans with the rock fall, but I know that our Officers have been working hard to include a laser light element to add to the show.

A meeting will be called very soon after the end of the Illuminations, to be held in the Pump Room, what we call a 'wash up' please excuse the pun, but to find out how the event went and how we can improve on next year's event. So please do make the effort to attend. We will advertise the date nearer the time.



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JIM@JAMESKAYARB.CO.UK

## **Derby & Derbyshire Age UK – Befriending Service**

Age UK is urgently seeking volunteers for their Befriending Service in the Derbyshire Dales & High Peak areas.

Do you enjoy spending time with people? Do you have a few hours a week to spare?

Just a couple of hours a week could make a real difference to someone's life.

Support and training will be provided by Age UK and the opportunity to meet other volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact 01433 620263, or alternatively by email at [befriending@ageukderbyandderbyshire.org.uk](mailto:befriending@ageukderbyandderbyshire.org.uk)

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