

A View from the Bath

A Newsletter from

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Autumn 2026



North and South Parades

Walk or drive along North or South Parades at 8.30 in the morning or evening, the pavements are clear and traffic is flowing smoothly. Carry out the same action at 2pm on a sunny afternoon in the Spring, Summer or Autumn, it is a completely different story.

Firstly, if you are exiting from either Holme Road or Temple Walk you risk life and limb. Once onto the Parades, it is usually highly congested with vehicles 'just passing through' usually very slowly or visitors trying to find a parking space on the road, or in one of the car parks. Just going for a stroll along the pavements is no better. You have to dodge various 'clutter' if you walk on the buildings side. Walk on the riverside on a bad day and you have to walk in the road because the pavement has become a parking area for vehicles. Progress is just as difficult. Throw into the mix cars with blue badges, two wheels on the pavement who take the blue badge as an excuse to park anywhere despite the problems it causes for other road users and pedestrians. They ignore the rules of the concessionary badge. Needless to say this does not apply to every blue badge holder.

These are the reasons why, since that very bad day in March when the village was invaded, the Parish Council has been fighting for a joint meeting with all parties involved in traffic management – the County Council (Highways and Parking Enforcement), the District Council (car parking) and the Police, under the umbrella of our MP John Whitby. After much negotiation, this coming together actually happened on 11th July and it was very positive with everyone agreeing that action needed to be taken to make the main road through the village safer for all and to keep the traffic flowing more freely.

Various suggestions were made to enable this.

Possible short term fixes:

- Improved signage on the riverside to make it clear that parking is not allowed on the pavement.
- Signage in car parks could be clearer and more helpful.
- Better directional street signage for car parks.
- Advance information on the approach to the village about car parking availability.
- Parking enforcement – higher profile enforcement, improving the effectiveness, the hours of enforcement.

Longer term, more costly action:

- Traffic calming with improved pedestrian priority.
- Street furniture.
- Possible road redesign.

Areas of impasses – noise management.

Although, there as yet, has been no action on implementing any of the short term fixes, the Parish Council has been pursuing various routes to get this started. On bullet point 1, we approached DCC for action even before the meeting. They insist that no further signage is needed but the Parish Council can put up signs. We would like to re-use the metal signs we had for covid with new facias. We have 20 signs with 6 still on the railings. We have a quote for the work but are awaiting finance for this from DDC and DDDC through a grant.

The work on points 2-4 are with DDDC.

On point 5, we met with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Charlotte Hill, who agreed that the hours Enforcement Officers currently patrol for is not suitable for Matlock Bath. On the longer term work, even though the Highways Authority is responsible for this, they have no money even to do feasibility studies and all funding for this would have to come from other sources. A positive that did come from our meeting was that as we are in a conservation area, there may be a way that action can be taken on noise. She is going to send the Parish Council further details.

North and South Parades cont ...

With regard to the funding of longer term work, one avenue of finance could be the East Midlands Mayor as transport and tourism come under her brief. This is an area where the MP agreed to take the lead and it is certainly an issue that the Parish Council will continue to pursue with vigour. When it comes to the design of what could be done, the Parish Council will expect to have a strong input as it is the village that has to live with the outcome and it must benefit the residents as least as much as the visitors and the traffic flow. There are many suggestions on the table but until a funding stream is found, there is little point in spending time even doing a feasibility study or detailed plans.

Village Christmas Lunch 2026



Final call for residents wishing to attend the Village Christmas Lunch this year. As reported in our Summer edition, we will be returning to The Fishpond who have served us delicious food for the past few years. The meal will be held on **Monday 14th December 2026 at 1.00pm.**

The meal is open to any resident. Those aged 60 and over will choose either a 2 course or 3 course lunch. In order to be able to invite as many residents as possible, we do ask for a £5 contribution for those wishing to have 3 courses. Anyone wishing to have just 2 courses, there is no charge.

Those guests who are under 60 and are either a resident, or accompanying a resident, a 3 course lunch will be provided at a cost of £28.95 or a 2 course £23.95. The meal also includes tea or coffee. Any alcoholic drinks should be purchased at the bar.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the Clerk – clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk **no later than 23rd October 2026.** We may not be able to accommodate any late enquiries after this date. A menu will be circulated prior to the meal.

Remembrance



This year's Remembrance Ceremony will be held on **Sunday 8th November 2026 at 10.45 am.**

As in previous years, the ceremony will be held in Memorial Gardens next to the war memorial where wreaths will be laid on behalf of the Parish Council and the children of the village.

The format of the ceremony will be discussed shortly but it is hoped it will be along the same lines as in previous years. A warm invitation goes out to all to attend and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Children's Christmas Party 2026

For the last 41 years members of the village community have organised a party for the Children of Matlock Bath at various venues in our beautiful village. Families and villagers have organised food, music, games and, of course, a visit from Santa with gifts.

This year the party is to be held at The Fishpond on Saturday 5th December, from 11am-1pm. All children aged up to 11, who live in the village or attend either Matlock Bath Holy Trinity School or Matlock Bath playgroup are invited to attend. The Fishpond will be serving up their famous pizza and chips. However, please do let us know of any allergies or dietary requirements when booking your child's place.

There are limited spaces due to venue size so please e-mail Emma Eaton – emmaeaton77@gmail.com or telephone 07810 828692 by **15th November 2026** to book your child's place. Regretfully any children who attend on the day who have not booked may not be permitted entry and will not have been catered for or have a gift from Santa. This has been a delightful tradition in the village for over four decades and we very much look forward to seeing as many children who can attend as possible.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone involved over the years for their help.

Matlock U3A Ukelele Group – Matlock U3A

If you are looking for a new challenge this autumn, I am starting two Ukelele groups in Matlock this September. Learning something new and meeting different people is so good for your brain and all the laughter that we generate will definitely improve your mood.

There will be a beginners group for those who would like to learn how to play from scratch. I do have some ukuleles for you to borrow and I'll provide all the song sheets. You don't need any previous musical knowledge just a willingness to have a go and to do 5-10 minutes practice a day at home. You've nothing to lose and if after 8-10 weeks it's not for you, no hard feelings if you and the ukelele don't manage to bond.

Some of my present beginners are moving onto an Improvers group which I'm happy for new members to join. If you already play guitar or have played in the past or if you feel like it would be a better fit, why not come along?

If there are any drummers out there who would like to play a cahon to help us keep time, you'd also be very welcome, as would bass guitar players. I have a spare ukelele bass and a cahon to use.

We meet weekly at All Saints Church Hall, Smedley Street, Matlock.

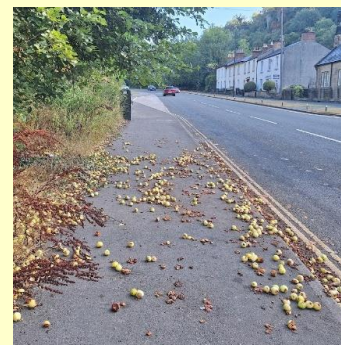
This Autumn's courses will start in September – beginners 3-4pm and Improvers 2-3pm. The cost is just £3 per week to cover the cost of hiring the hall. If you would like to stay for both sessions, it will be £5 per week. Pay as you go. Contact Sylvia Pearson – 07714 710099 or sylviapearson8@hotmail.com

If you're not a U3a member, you can try it out for 3 sessions, after which if you would like to carry on you need to join. It's £10 per year for Matlock Area U3a, which will allow you to also join plenty of other interest groups if you wish.

Mrs Hoyland's Apple Tree

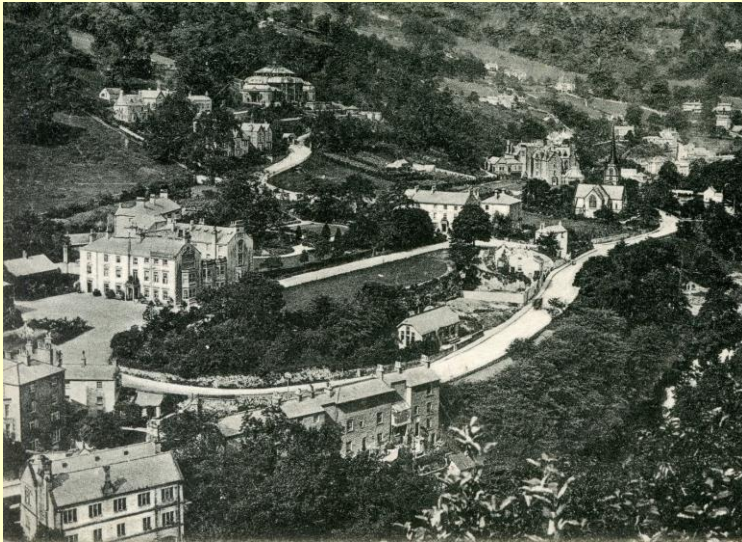
Driving into the village from Cromford in the late summer you will have encountered a profusion of apples on the bend almost opposite the old school. These are the remnants of a once thriving community at the southern end of the village in the shadow of the New Bath Hotel. These apples have fallen from the apple tree which is all that remains of Mrs Hoyland's front garden. Her house – Woodland House – stood on the then access road to the New Bath Hotel and on which also stood the 'turnpike' and its cottage.

The current access to the New Bath is a result of the 1970s road widening scheme which demolished many buildings including a bakery, the turnpike house (the posts still remain, repositioned at the side of the New Bath Hotel) and the garage that stood where the cattle trough is now housed.



Unfortunately, the apple tree at the bottom of the garden is missing from the historic picture as is the 'turnpike'. Woodland House was once the village Post Office and towards the end of its life was converted and became known as Hoyland flats. I have been told that the pupils from the school would often go 'scrumping' the apples after school. Note the gas streetlight outside the houses on Woodland Terrace. Matlock Bath had its own gas works which was housed just at the back of the station. Gas Works House is still there on the footpath past the Cable Cars to Starkholmes.

Woodland House



Further to the article on Mrs Hoyland's apple tree, this is a photograph from 1917 taken from the top of Cat Tor. Bottom left corner is the Old School and just above that on the other side of the A6 is Woodland House. Moving up on the left side is the unmistakable New Bath Hotel but note, no pool. That was not built until 1934.

Behind the New Bath are some of the houses on Clifton Road but behind these is the wonderful Palais Royale – a glass pavilion originally called the Pavilion but renamed after the Pavilion on South Parade was renamed during WW1 after being originally being called The Kursall. The concert hall in the Palais would hold 1000. Down the hillside below the Palais Royal is the Royal Hotel originally the Old Bath Hotel, the

front section of which was destroyed by fire in the 1920s. This site is now Temple Road Car Park, and the Palais Royal site is Gullivers. Older residents of the village will remember as children going up into the empty palais to play. Great on a wet day.

Other buildings no longer there are the Bath Terrace Hotel close to Portland House at the bottom of Clifton Road and just at the side of the main road is Hartle's Bazaar – a comb manufacturer. The geography of the area was changed by the road widening scheme in the 1970s including the access roads to the New Bath Hotel.

View from the Bath Chair



I hope the heat of the long hot summer was not too much for you. Thank goodness for the many Victorian houses in the village to help keep us cool. It has been an unusual summer in Parish Council land too in that usually most things go into hibernation during August – including the Chairman – but not this year. You will have seen the main article on the front page. I was going to put in some photographs, but it is quite depressing to see the village overwhelmed by the traffic chaos. This and many other smaller issues have kept us busy through August.

We have fielded many complaints about problems around the village this summer. I think we have covered the issue of traffic elsewhere, but the main reoccurring issue was the state of Derwent Gardens and Lovers' Walk either the litter or the lack of maintenance and its appearance, the untidy/unkept gardens and litter. When raising these with DDDC, the answer that we often receive is "It will be sorted for the illuminations". As one resident who is a regular user of the walk round with his dog said to us, "It is a hive of activity late August and through September and October but then nothing is done for the rest of the year". The feedback we also get when reporting issues to Councils is "it is only the Parish Council again". So, as well as copying us into your complaints, please forward them onto the necessary authority. Contacts are:

Derbyshire Dales District Council have a 'report' page on their website. www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/a-z-of-services
Derbyshire County Council (Highways) have a 'report' page on their website. www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport-roads/roads/report-a-road-fault

We have, and will again, make the point to DDDC that the parks are used by residents and visitors 12 months of the year, not just during the illuminations. The standard of maintenance for Matlock Bath parks would not be tolerated in either Matlock or Bakewell. Matlock Bath seems to be the poor relation and DDDC are operating a two-tier system.

Our village has been welcoming tourists longer than other towns in the Dales – since 1698 in fact. I have no facts and figures for elsewhere but as part of the work on traffic issues, I have revisited the visitor figures for the village, last looked at in 2019 for grant applications to the EU. Then, the figure stood at 1.1 million for the year. I am still waiting for a few final figures but currently it stands at 1.57 million.

It is the time that we received the level of service from the local authorities that this sort of figure warrants and earns.

As residents, we accept that the village is a tourist destination – it is its 'raison d'être'. It was created because visitors came for the thermal water. However, the infrastructure and services must reflect this and move up to meet the demand. How this is achieved is a debate for another day and another newsletter.

Safer Neighbourhoods Team - SNT

Community priorities are reviewed and set on a quarterly basis, guiding the focus of the Safer Neighbourhood Team's activity. New priorities are determined by analysing local crime trends and incorporating feedback from you, the community, through engagement events, surveys and direct contact.

Following the review, the SNT has identified the following priorities for the upcoming quarter in relation to Matlock Bath – Nuisance Parking/Vehicles in Matlock Bath.

In relation to the new priorities, we will:

- Attend local meetings, eg Parish Council, Community Forums to gather feedback and share updates.
- Promote road safety awareness through school visits and youth engagement sessions.
- Take proactive enforcement action against offences such as obstruction and anti-social driving.
- Work with Roads Policing Unit for joint operations where necessary.
- Collaborate with local councils to identify infrastructure improvements, eg signage, traffic calming.
- Liaise with Highways and CCTV teams to support evidence gathering and deterrence.
- Share updates and crime prevention advice via Derbyshire Alert and Social media.
- Publicise successful interventions to reassure the community and encourage reporting.

What we have done in July and August, working in partnership on Nuisance Parking/Vehicles in Matlock Bath

A working partnership has come together including Police, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire County Council, Matlock Bath Parish Council, Elected Member of Parliament and their team to discuss issues around the following:

- Parking on the pavement by all vehicles.
- Parking signage throughout the village – includes both yellow/white lines and street signage.
- Parking and/or Police enforcement.
- Road safety – such as speeding, layout of North & South Parade and volume of traffic that the A6 gets.

We agreed to look at the following potential solutions:

- Use excess pavement on the riverside – create new, addition bike 'cut out' bays to add capacity and loading bay for deliveries.
- Installation of benches, planters on the riverside to stop pavement parking, if cut out bays for parking cannot be established.
- Road humps/raised crossings to slow traffic/prevent ASB driving on main A6.
- Extend yellow/white line on pavement to highlight that the double yellow lines extend to the pavement also to advise that there is no parking on the pavement.
- Electronic car park capacity signs to show capacity at DDDC car parks along the A6.
- Parking Enforcement Officers – to look at a different patrol strategy to suit Matlock Bath.

We have patrolled the area and spoke to/advised/used enforcement around the issues mentioned above – it is great to say that 99% of people spoken to have been positive and issues rectified straight away. The other 1% have received fines for parking.

Overall, the main aim of this partnership working is to make Matlock Bath a safer place to visit for all, not to deter anyone visiting. Updates to follow.

Community catch ups – if you have any issues you wish to raise, come along to the community catch ups on the following days:

3rd October – 10.00-11.00 am

29th November – 10.00-11.00 am

20th December – 2.30-3.30 pm

They are held on the top tier of Temple Road Car Park. If you are unable to make one of the catch-up days, you can contact the SNT at MNT@derbyshire.police.uk

Art & Photography Competitions 2026



2026 Best Villager
Beverley Yates

Our Art and Photography Competitions are still open and would love to see some entries from our residents as you know the village the most.

Art Competition – Prizes are on offer for 1st, 2nd and 3rd together with Best Innovative, Best Villager and the Parish Council prize, decided by the Parish Council.

Artwork can be submitted in different media – drawing and painting, graphics, collage, 2D, Textiles, 3D etc.

Photography Competition – As well as the usual 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes in the adults, young photographer and Junior photographer, we have managed to secure sponsorship for "Best Picture of" Categories for Illuminations (sponsored by DDDC), The Grand Pavilion, Holy Trinity Church, Riverside Kiosk and the New Bath Hotel. In addition, we award prizes for Heritage, Hidden Gem and the Parish Council prize.

The only rule for both competitions is that the finished piece or photograph has to be of Matlock Bath. **Closing date is 10th October 2026.**

The Activities Committee will shortlist the photographs shortly after the closing date and the finalists for both competitions will be displayed in the Pump Room of the Mining Museum on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th October 2026. As in previous years, we will ask members of the public to vote for their favourites. Anyone entering can also come down and vote. Voting opens at 11.00 am-4.00pm on both days.

The Parish Council is extremely grateful to the sponsors of both competitions – Heights of Abraham, DDDC, The Grand Pavilion, Holy Trinity Church, Riverside Kiosk and the New Bath Hotel.

For more information, contact the Clerk – clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk or log on to our website – www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk



2026 Hidden Gem
Paula Dyson

Care Home Guide – CareHomeGuide.uk

I work for CareHomeGuide.uk, a free independent directory of CQC rated care homes in England.

We have put together a page for Derbyshire Dales residents with two things on it. A list of every care home in the area with its CQC rating and contact details, and a free copy of our NHS Continuing Healthcare guide, which normally costs £37.

Continuing Healthcare is the bit most families miss. If someone qualifies, the NHS covers their care home fees in full, with no means test. Very few people know it exists, and the ones who do often give up partway through the assessment.

There is nothing to buy and no catch. We make our money from the care homes, not families. For more information log on to

<https://www.carehomeguide.uk/districts/derbyshire-dales>

THE DERWENT VALLEY MILLS EDUCATIONAL TRUST
presents

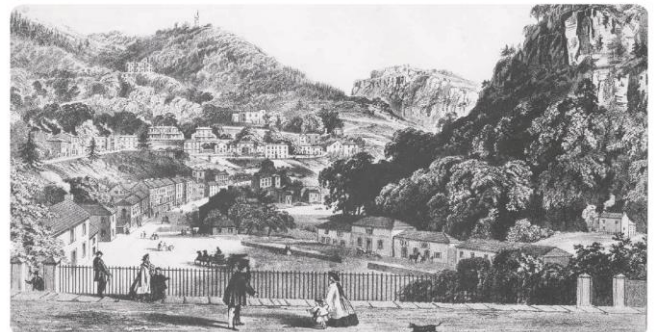
"MATLOCK BATH VOICES"

A fascinating history of a Derbyshire village presented in words and pictures at the world famous Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills Visitor Centre.

THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Masson Mills, Matlock Bath, DE4 3PY



This live performance is based on the descriptions of Matlock Bath from visitors and residents over the centuries, and pictures from a unique private archive. This is the story of a remote rural hamlet which grew to become a nationally famous Spa, before finding the place it holds today as the East Midlands' favourite day-out destination.

ADMISSION
£7.50

PLUS BOOKING FEE.
ADVANCE
BOOKING ONLY.

<https://www.ticketsource.com/dvm-educational-trust/t-gljrddv>

Light refreshments
available to purchase
on the night.
Free parking on site



Derwent Valley
Mills World
Heritage Site
Educational Trust
is a registered
charity no. 1099279

Lights of Abraham – A Winter Lights Trail

Make your way along the festoon-lit riverside walkway before arriving at the base station to board your gondola and take a moonlit cable car flight across the river and above an avenue of colour.

Once you arrive at the summit set off on the trail that winds through illuminated gardens, across boardwalks and along woodland paths. You'll encounter many interesting and unusual scenes along the way.

Look out for the neon forest, the giant swans, interactive stepping stones, ice garden & colourful surprises around every corner. The Vista Bar will be open serving festive tipples alongside its usual drinks menu, with pizzas on offer too. Downstairs in the café we will be serving jacket potatoes, loaded chips including festive fries and delicious cake. The Snap Tin will be open too with take away drinks and festive treats. We also have lovely firepits to toast marshmallows on and keep warm!

Open from 4.00pm-8.00pm
20th November-30th December 2026
(Excluding Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day)

For more details log on to
www.heightsofabraham.com/lights



An Autumn Special from the New Bath Hotel



With a new management system as part of the Radisson Individuals Group and a new management team, the New Bath Hotel are keen to be part of the village and encourage Matlock Bath residents to come and see what they can offer.

As a taster for this, they have sent us a voucher to put in our newsletter – A View from the Bath for residents to use in their restaurant. It is for 50% off food until the 30th November. I know many residents took advantage of the beautiful summer weather to use the pool and attend some of the round the pool events that were taking place.

Now that the nights are drawing in and the weather not so inviting, why not take advantage of this offer to see what the restaurant is serving up.

The Parish Council are keen to support local businesses whenever possible.

We are extremely grateful for the support the New Bath Hotel in allowing us to use the Derwent Room for our meetings without charge for the last 9 years.

Enjoy

Matlock Bath Illuminations 2026



2025 Winner – Paul Lill
'Peacock of the Peaks'

Inside this newsletter you will find 2 residents passes for the illuminations. Note that these are only provided to households on access only roads to allow you to return to your property once the roads have been closed for the illuminations on fireworks evenings only. The first fireworks evening is on Saturday 3rd October.

The pass should be displayed in the window of your vehicle and be visible to the security personnel stationed on Temple Road, Waterloo Rad, Clifton Road and Holme Road. Roads will be closed from 2pm on each of the fireworks evenings. Although the New Bath Road and St Johns Road will be closed, they will not be manned by security. Road closure signs will be available on these roads to allow residents to put them out.

In order to prevent visitors parking on our residential roads, security will not allow access if the pass is not shown.

As always, please let us, or Derbyshire Dales District Council know, if you encounter any problems during the illuminations. Any feedback is greatly received.

At the time of writing this article, the winner for 2026, voted for by the general public, has not been announced. Full details should be on Derbyshire Dales District Council's website.

Residents are reminded that they can have free entry, even if the evening is sold out. All you need to do is take a utility bill or identification which displays your home address on the evening you want to go, and hand to one of the marshals by the booking office.

Further details about the illuminations can be found on www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Station Adoption

We recently welcomed two new members to the team of station adopters who have already proved to be an asset helping to look after the station over the last few months.

In early June a group of employees from Siemens and Porterbrook assisted our adopters in planting up the barrels on the station as part of a community day. The day was very well received.

Plants for the autumn have now been ordered and estimate they will be planted in November.

Review of Local Government Re-organisation Launched

A review of plans to streamline local government has been announced to ensure the process is robust and aligns with the new government's plans to rewire the state.

Following updated and privileged legal advice, ministers will review plans for Local Government Reorganisation.

Three areas have been withdrawn in light of new legal advice. Plans for 14 other areas are also being reviewed and paused while this is carried out.

To reassure local leaders and communities while this review takes place, the Government has confirmed that local elections in May 2027 will go ahead on existing council boundaries and remains committed to effective and sustainable local government and simplifying these structures.

***'A View from the Bath' is published by Matlock Bath Parish Council,
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