

Events in the Matlock Valley
August to September 2007

August

Summer Holidays:
DDDC Sports / Activity program throughout the summer.
Details: 01629 761382
www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/LeisureCulture/Sports

Band Concerts:
A series of band concerts will be held in Hall Leys Park:
Sundays 2-4pm : **5 / 19 August**
Details: Matlock Town Council: 01629 57488

The DDDC Countryside Rangers Service run a series of **Guided Walks** that link with the various Matlock Parks, throughout the summer. Leaflets are available:
01629 761326

- 2 Bonsall and Beyond** (DDDC guided walks)
- 10 The Missing Lynx** (DDDC guided walks) / also 12 Sept
- 15 Jug of Salt** (DDDC guided walks) / also 25 Sept
- 21 Cuckoos and Foxes** (DDDC guided walks)

19 The Arkwright Spinsters (Cromford Mill)
Hands spinning demonstration using traditional spinning wheels. Bring along your own materials to be spun.
The Arkwright Society run a program of events over the summer—details: Visitorservices@arkwrightsociety.org.uk

30 Drumming and Dance Workshop
Hall Leys Park: 4-7yrs (am) / 8-11yrs (pm)
Details: Matlock Town Council: 01629 57488

If you have an event running in the Derwent Valley between Matlock and Cromford, and would like it to be included in this quarterly produced events list, please contact:
Alison Baker on 01629 761140

September

Matlock Bath Illuminations
1 September—27 October
7-9pm every Saturday and Sunday evening
Featuring the Parade of Decorated and Illuminated Boats
Cliff Top Firework Displays on:
Saturdays 29 September, 13 & 27 October
Further details: 01629 55082

2 The Mansfield Woodcarvers
Cromford Mill: 9-5pm. Details: Arkwright Society as above

Should you wish to receive future editions of this publication please indicate in which format by completing **one** of the following:

Name.....
Address.....
.....
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OR

Email.....

Please return to: Alison Baker,
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Alternatively telephone 01629 761140,
or e-mail your request to
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A version of Matlock Parks Matter is available free of charge in electronic, audio, Braille and large print versions, and in other languages on request. For assistance in understanding or reading this document, please call 01629 761140 to request a copy.

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Matlock Parks Matters

July 2007

Issue No. 13

LOVERS' WALKS
...IN PROGRESS



Jackson Civil Engineering from Sutton-in-Ashfield have been appointed to carry out the main contract at Lovers' Walks in Matlock Bath. They started work on site in May and the contract is due to be completed in September of this year. The main proposals include the refurbishment of the bandstand, shelters and alcoves, which will include new feature lighting; refurbishment of the electrical network; new furniture, signage and interpretation throughout and refurbishment of the riverside railings.

There will be a major overhaul of the footpaths, particularly the Riverside Walk and Bird Cage Walk which is currently closed to the public for health and safety reasons.

Jackson Civil Engineering will endeavour to keep the riverside walk open where feasible, but this will be limited due to the restricted access to the site. Notices will be erected at Jubilee Bridge and New Bridge, and also in the tourist information centre in Matlock Bath to keep the public informed. The riverside walks will re-open in time for the Matlock Bath Illuminations.



Lovers Walks: Refurbishment of the Former Shop and Ferry Shelter

Inside...

- *A Closer Look....*
- *Ahoy there...*
- *Thanks to...*
- *Over to you...*
- *Future events...*



Supported by the **Heritage Lottery Fund**



Contact: Alison Baker at Matlock Town Hall, on 01629 761140, or at
alison.baker@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

A Closer Look...

As part of the ecological management plan, the rangers have started monitoring both the grasslands on High Tor and the lime-ash woodlands throughout the 3 parks: Pic Tor, Lovers' Walks and High Tor.

In the woodlands, permanent monitoring plots have been established. Data on the tree species, and sapling growth is being recorded and the plots will be revisited in 5 years time to assess any changes in the woodland composition. It is particularly important to establish whether limes are naturally regenerating.



Greater Knapweed

The rangers have been working with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to examine the grasslands of High Tor in closer detail. There are significant areas of species-rich limestone grassland around the summit and along the cliff edges of Grand Walk. Identifying which wildflower species are present will enable decisions to be made on the best way to manage the site. The aim is to improve the biodiversity of the site over the next 5 years.

Ahoy there....

Matlock Bath Holy Trinity School and the Matlock Bath Pre-School playgroup have been instrumental in deciding on the type of equipment to be provided in the newly refurbished play area on Lovers' Walks. The play area has a nautical theme, and the central unit is a 'Pinta' pirate ship made by Eibe, suitable for any pirates aged 3 and over. There will be rope rigging, a wobbly bridge—ideal for fighting off invaders, a look-out deck and slide for a quick escape! The ship will be set in a large sand area, which is a first for the District Council. Other equipment that the children have chosen includes:



Junior and toddler swings
See-saw
Turnstile roundabout
Spinning cup
Springers including Danny the Dolphin and 2 sailboards
Toddlers should be on the look-out for the crocodiles!!
A big thank you to Matlock Bath Parish Council who have very kindly donated £5000 towards the cost of the new equipment. An official opening of the play area will be held later in the year, with a pirate theme, for the benefit of all those children who contributed so enthusiastically to the design.

A BIG THANK YOU...

BTCV have been working hard at Lovers' Walks over the last 3 months: they have tackled 2 major areas of work:

- The clearance and resurfacing of the footpath from Matlock Bath Station car park to the cliff top walks. This has involved removing a large amount of soil and vegetation, which had grown over the original path, and then resurfacing the path. The result is a great improvement. The entrance into the car park will be re-graded and resurfaced by Jackson Civil Engineering, as part of the main contract.
- Vegetation removal from the woodland walks, including:
 - overhanging branches
 - overgrown brambles and ivy
 - removal of soil debris from the stepsRepair works to the steps throughout the woodland walks will be undertaken by Jackson Civil Engineering as part of the main contract, later in the summer.



Footpath undertaken by BTCV volunteers: Lovers' Walks

- Matlock Civic Association have worked hard in May (despite the rain!) to paint the gates and railing around Knowleston Gardens. If you have visited the gardens at the end of Hall Leys Park, you will see they have done a fantastic job. Their hard work – as work in kind – draws in match funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. They have also carried out weeding and pruning to the new shrub beds at Park Head in Hall Leys Park.

Over to you.....

It's your turn to have a say in the future of the Matlock Parks. Derbyshire Dales District Council is proposing to help establish a voluntary group (commonly called a 'Friends of....' group), who will contribute to the development of the Matlock Parks. This could be your opportunity to improve your carbon footprint by taking part in an environmental project; perhaps you would like to see more family events in the park; perhaps you have ideas on possible improvements. We would like to hear *your* ideas on *your* park. Anyone can become involved, however much or little time they have available.

An initial meeting was held in July with the organisations and individuals who were involved in the development of Hall Leys Park and Knowleston Gardens (Pic Tor). In the autumn, a further meeting or event will be arranged, which will be open to the general public. Members of a 'Friends' group from a nearby park will be invited to come and discuss how their group was established, and what they do.

If you are interested in being kept informed, or would like to become involved please email: alison.baker@derbyshiredales.gov.uk or phone 01629 761140 with your contact details. I look forward to hearing from you.