

Matlock Parks Matters

April 2006

Issue No. 9

PIC TOR...READY TO GO



Derbyshire Dales District Council have appointed Whitehouse Construction Ltd as the contractor to undertake the second phase of the Matlock Parks Project at Pic Tor. Work will begin on site after Easter, once Severn Trent Water (STW) have completed the renewal of the rising main within Knowleston Gardens and the Riverside Walk. Phase 2 has been slightly delayed to accommodate their scheme; this will minimise disruption and unnecessary work.

Pic Tor will be closed to the public during the contract, which is expected to run from mid April until early July. However, closure of the public footpath along Pic Tor Lane will be kept to a minimum; only being closed when required by Whitehouse Construction on health and safety grounds. Planning approval and consent from the Environment Agency have been granted for the scheme and all the contract documentation is in place to enable the contract to proceed.

Inside...

- *Summer Fun in Matlock and Matlock Bath...*
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DERWENT GARDENS... MOVING FORWARD

Derbyshire Dales District Council have granted planning consent for the Derwent Gardens scheme.

The Environment Agency have granted consent for the construction of the new walkway to the rear of the Pavilion, and general consent for works adjacent to the river.

A contract has been let to Emery Landscapes for the tree works: selective tree removal will open up views of the river and Lovers Walks cliffs. The opportunity is being taken to carry out work to the trees that are in a poor condition.

The contract for the works has been tendered and it is anticipated that the contract will be awarded after Easter.



Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund



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

MATLOCK PARKS ENTERTAINMENT

Over the winter, the parks have once again hosted the traditional events of the Victorian Christmas Market and the Boxing Day Raft Race.

Both events were a big success and well attended by visitors and the local community. Are you tempted to try and better the 'Heinz Baked Bean' raft for next year's winter dip...?!

Now that the weather is finally improving, here are some of the events to look forward to in the parks this summer:



Matlock Live BzR 2006 'Celebrating Young People'

Flaming June is set to ignite in real style for the young people of Matlock when Derbyshire Dales District Council hold an annual 'Youth BzR' to celebrate the achievements of young people.

Hall Leys Park and the **Matlock Lido** on **Saturday 3rd June, 10.00am to 4.00pm**, will be the place to be if you don't want to miss out on the opportunity to practise football skills, partake in a bit of climbing practice, demonstrate those skate skills and learn scuba diving.

Live music, dance and the opportunity to air those long held views via the famous 'Diary Room' will be other fantastic activities happening on the day. This will all take place whilst talented musicians from Highfields perform their summer BusKIT. Further details can be obtained from Peter Corke, Consultation and Community Planning Officer, on 01629 761211.

Matlock Bath Village Festival

This June **Matlock Bath** will see the first Village Festival - part-sponsored by the Parish Council.

It will include a village pantomime, art competition, photo competition, village picnic, brass band concert and much more: it will be a chance to celebrate village life.

The dates for your diary are:

Art competition – 10th June 2006

Brass band – 11th June 2006

Picnic – 18th June 2006

Pantomime – 22nd -23rd June 2006.

A full programme will be published in the next Matlock Bath Parish Council newsletter. If you are interested in holding an event during this period then please contact Janice Jackson, the parish clerk on 01629 650727 with details.

A BIG THANK YOU....

A big thank you goes to the voluntary and community organisations who have helped with some of the preparation work for Pic Tor and Derwent Gardens:

- * Members of the **Derbyshire Caving Association** and **Derbyshire Bat Group** arranged a working party in January to help clear out the caves under the Pic Tor cliffs. Several bin bags of rubbish were removed from the site that day.
- * The **Derbyshire team** of the **National Probation Service** have also been very busy at Pic Tor. They have now completed several task days at the site, helping to clear the vegetation from the steps to the terraces, around the cave entrances and from the terraces themselves. This has exposed the original stone edging to the footpaths which will be re-laid where necessary, as part of the main contract.
- * The **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers** will be carrying out footpath and fencing repairs to the Woodland Walks in Derwent Gardens on several days throughout April.



*Pic Tor Caves before and after the 'clean up' operation
Photos courtesy of David Webb,
Derbyshire Caving Association*



Funding Success for Pic Tor



An application to the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DDEP) for funding towards the restoration works in Knowleston Gardens (Pic Tor – phase 2) has been successful. They have offered a grant to the Matlock Parks Project in the region of £60 000

DDEP is one of seven partnerships set up by the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA); its' aim is to stimulate a range of sustainable economic development throughout Derbyshire.

Over the next few months the grant will contribute towards:

- ◆ Improved access to the rock terraces
- ◆ Feature illumination of the cave entrances
- ◆ Planting of native ground flora and ferns
- ◆ Restoration of the ornamental gates and railings
- ◆ Restoration of the Knowles Memorial Stone
- ◆ Resurfacing of the footpath network
- ◆ Upgrading of the furniture
- ◆ Construction of the new footbridge and associated works.

www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Events in the Matlock Valley

April to June 2006

April

5 Cuckoos and Foxes

A circular walk from the centre of Matlock and with extensive views from the Cuckoo Stone. Bring packed lunch and flask.

10.30am Hall Leys Park Bandstand
SK 298602 6 miles 4 hours

Whistlestop Countryside Centre (7-11yr olds)

- 10 Pond Dipping
- 11 All About Owls
- 12 Nest are Best!
- 13 Miniature Gardens

Booking for Easter Activities on: 01773 881188

25 Matlock Bath Spas and Springs

Peak District Walking Festival (PDWF)
The fascinating history of Matlock Bath is revealed in this walk. Follows footpaths and riverside paths with good views
Matlock Bath Railway Station, Matlock
10.30am—12 noon
Free, but booking essential at Matlock TIC
T: 01629 583388

May

2 Hills and Hydros of Matlock (PDWF)

An opportunity to explore the Victorian and Edwardian heritage of this popular town
Matlock Bath Railway Station, Matlock
10.30am—12 noon
Free, but booking essential at Matlock TIC as above

6 Plant Sale (North Derbyshire Cottage Garden Society)

Arkwrights Mill, Cromford
2pm

19 Bat Night (Matlock Bath Wildlife Watch Group)

Whistlestop Countryside Centre
8-9.30pm
Tel: 01773 881188

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

June

3 Farmers Market

(in conjunction with Matlock Live and BzR)
Hall Leys Park 10.00—3.00pm

18 Hall Leys Park

Fortnightly throughout the summer from June 18, Bands will be playing in the refurbished bandstand from 2-4pm. Please contact Matlock Town Council (Tel: 01629 57488) for further details, or if you have a band that would like to play.

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