January 2025: Copy for the Parish Magazine

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Review of the year

New Parish Clerk:
Our parish clerk, Tim Watton, had left at the end of 2023 after 18 years. It took us a while to find a replacement, but Julie Wigg has now been our clerk since June and has settled in extremely well. Julie can be contacted via email anytime or by phone Monday to Friday 9 to 5 (see details below), Although Julie does not live in the village, she does visit almost every Wednesday morning and is free to meet residents who wish to raise issues or to answer questions. Please contact Julie directly or just come along to the Youth Hall where you can have a tea or coffee and a chat.

D-Day 80:
2024 was the 80th anniversary and we held a memorial event on the Recreation Ground on June 6th. Our beacon was lit simultaneously with beacons across the UK in memory of those who took part in the landings. The U3A History group provided a village history display to back up the event. We also had an impressive parade from the Army Cadets to accompany the beacon lighting and reading.

Midsummer Festival:
Many residents will remember the days of the village carnival with floats parading through the streets with the carnival queen leading the way. The costs of insurance with the need to align with more stringent H&S regulations meant that format couldn't continue. Consequently, the carnival struggled and then closed. The 2022 festival for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the 2023 day for the King's coronation has rekindled the wish for an annual village festival. That was held in late June in 2024 and was a big success. It was different to the carnival of old, but we hope to continue to hold a similar annual festival and encourage more participation from the residents in future. 2025 will include the 80th anniversary of VE Day on May 8th as well as a festival in late June. Watch this space.

Recreation Ground:
2024 saw the installation of a new terrace at the pavilion, an ideal spot to watch what's going on. While we did need to address some safety concerns, we took the opportunity to expand the terrace and the fence to really give it a sports pavilion touch.
Two 'boules' pitches were installed near the car park and anyone can roll up and have a go. It's a great spot for a sunny afternoon to get together and get those competitive juices flowing. We haven't yet hosted any competitions, but perhaps in 2025 we can.

Lytchett Matravers Sports Club/Pavilion Storeroom:
The new storage facility located between the pavilion and the Scout Hut is now up and functioning. You will have seen the steel frame standing there for a few months, but it is now complete. This will allow bulky items such as goals to be stored securely and will free up space in the pavilion and other garages. The Sports Club are planning further upgrades to the pavilion to broaden its use for the community.

One of the garages will also be used for the storage of Parish Council road-signs and that will allow the Parish Office to return to its original function; as an office and meeting room.

Village Finger Posts

The replacement of the fingerpost at the Higher Cross (the junction of High Street and (Lime Kiln Road) raised interest throughout the village. It is planned to restore similar fingerposts around the village, especially where they can be installed in a prominent spot. The roundels on the top are common across Dorset and we want to use the fingerposts to help highlight our village history and links to nearby places.

New Councillors:

We did welcome two new councillors in 2024 and still have a vacancy to fill as well. The Parish Council should try and be a reflection of a cross section of residents as much as possible. We hope that's the case, but we're always open to suggestions. And, as mentioned, there is a vacancy so if you wish to get involved in village life and help to improve our village please contact the Parish Clerk for an application or just a chat.

Parish Council Meetings:

Our next meeting (Finance & General Purposes) is on January 8th at 7 p.m. and the next Full Council meeting will be on December 22nd at 7 p.m., both in the Blanchard Room as usual.

Agendas for all meetings are published online and the associated reports can be requested from the Parish Clerk. Meetings always start with a public participation session, so please come along if you have suggestions or questions that you would like to discuss with the Parish Council or stay and listen to our discussions, because it's all about your village.

Alf Bush,

Chair, Lytchett Matravers Parish Council

For further information please visit our website at: https://lytchettmatraverspc.org/ or contact the Parish Clerk via lytchettmatravers@dorset-aptc.gov.uk. The Parish Clerk can also be contacted directly on 07596-885667.