



Buxton Civic Association

Newsletter

Issue 28 Summer 2015



Places and Spaces

Buxton's success is built upon its beauty and local character. These two are the benchmarks for Buxton's future. Remember to contribute your suggestions for our 'Places and Spaces' project on the website. See page 4.

Picture showing the Dome nestling amongst the trees, including the magnificent BCA owned Corbar woods.

Where has Burbage's water gone?

The Okker (Ocre) brook, the iron oxide stained tributary of the River Wye, has started to disappear, periodically, down some swallow holes that have caused a change in its flow. Now the old clapper bridge, known locally as the 'Fairy Bridge' looks marooned, like the tide has gone out. Locals know that the area was extensively mined for centuries, with fields named the 'Can Holes' and 'Dog Hole.'

One reason for the recent rejection of planning permission for 32 houses at the top of Macclesfield Old Road was due to the historic 'soughs' and underground waterways that remain in this disturbed hillside.

The Tideswell well dressing for 2015 showed the ancient Saxon village and its tidal well, which no longer flows due to quarrying in the area.

The changes to our local water supply raise issues for the present and link us to our industrial past.



Explore Buxton's Mining Heritage

- **Sunday 26th July.**
- **An afternoon walk exploring the coal mining heritage of Buxton, led by Lyn Noble of Buxton Civic Association.**

We are organising a guided walk to explore the coal mining heritage of Buxton. Everyone is welcome but please note that due to access issues it will not be possible to bring dogs on the walk.

Meet at Poole's Cavern car park 1.30pm. Please **do not** go direct to Cistern's Clough. Cars will be at the finishing point on Macclesfield Old Road and we will share transport to Cistern's Clough the starting point for the walk. The total distance, allowing for wandering about, will be about 5km (just over 3miles) and will take in some fairly rough and possibly wet moorland terrain. Boots and the usual outdoor clothing would be sensible.

We will first visit the last of the Buxton coal mines, which closed in 1918, then trace operations back in time as we move north across old tracks on Axe Edge Moor past deep shafts dating from 19th and 18th Centuries and pits from the 17th Century or earlier. Finally we will walk down to the Burbage area with its coke ovens, sidings and location of major levels into the coal seam. As we go along we should be able to see how the geology of the area determined the location and nature of the Buxton and neighbouring Goyt Valley coal fields.

If you are interested in going on the walk could you email us at communications@buxtoncivicassociation.org.uk or phone us on 01298 26978.

Projects update

Spring Garden Canopies



Pictures showing the street canopies that used to form part of a covered walkway that kept Victorian shoppers dry.

BCA are working on a project to restore the canopies and we have submitted a pre-application enquiry (PAE) to High Peak Borough Council. At the time of going to press we are still awaiting a response. You may have seen we have opened up a local debate in the Advertiser (09.07.15) to engage with our community.

Should the PAE indicate that the scheme would receive a favourable response then we will be contacting landlords to get their approval for the scheme.

Market Place Fountain

As we reported in issue 27 we are working with the Buxton Wells Dressing Festival to ascertain ownership of the fountain on the Market Place. Once ownership has been established, the plan is to seek permission from the owners to restore the fountain to its former glory. As you can see from the photograph below this is urgent as the stone work is deteriorating and in a poor state of repair.



Mike Wilde (Chair of the Membership and Communities Committee) told the AGM that after a year of being passed between High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council, a possible solution has been found.

"If both councils will enter into a 'letter of understanding' then this will be a sufficient basis to establish ownership. It has been a frustrating time but we think we can see light at the end of the tunnel" said Mike.

If you go down to the woods...

Restored Paths in Grinlow

By Mike Monaghan



It has been very pleasing to have had so many compliments about the improvements from both regular users of the woods and day visitors.

This work would not have been possible without the very generous support of two major local suppliers.

Lafarge Tarmac donated much of the stone. This amounted to 750 tonnes in Grinlow.

We also received very generous support from Lomas who carried out the haulage from the quarry. We are immensely grateful to these two companies for the continued support over a number of years.

We should also note the outstanding work of our contractor, Oak Tree Landscapes who have done so much of the path work for many years.

During the nesting season and the busy visitor periods we will not be carrying out any further path work but there are still a number of areas requiring attention in future.

The support of our members and the public for the work has been very heartening. We don't want to rest on our laurels however so if you know of a path that you feel may benefit from some attention we are always happy to consider suggestions.

These photographs, taken this spring, show a newly surfaced path to Solomon's Temple in Grin Woods and the unsurfaced path on the Ring of Trees towards Burbage.

If you go down to the woods today you may be in for a surprise! - especially if you have not been there recently.

During the last couple of years we have been able to do a remarkable amount of path restoration in our three principle woods of Grinlow, Corbar and Sherbrook.

When we carry out improvements to paths we seek to get the balance right between making the woods accessible, maintaining the special character and creating a reserve for precious wildlife.

The recent work on the paths we feel demonstrates this approach. One major benefit of having well surfaced paths is that most visitors are far more likely to stick to the path. People avoiding muddy sections has lead to environmental damage in the woods. The sections of the woods where we have resurfaced paths are limited, so that there are still many areas of the woods left in their natural state.

One recent benefit of the work in Grinlow has been that school parties are now making much more use of the woods as they are safer, especially for younger children. Getting children to visit, appreciate, and understand our woods better is one of the association's key objectives and the restored paths have certainly helped in this.

Out and About in Buxton

Spring Fair



Yet again the sun shone and the crowds were out and about in force for the Spring Bank Holiday Fair. BCA had a stand. This gave us the opportunity to raise our profile and inform people about our ownership of the woods, Poole's Cavern, and to, promote volunteering.



Civic Day

Civic Day

A day, each year, to say,
'I care about where I live'

On the 20th June it was National Civic Day. The event is organised by Civic Voice and involved hundreds of Civic groups from around the country. This was the first time that we had held an event to celebrate the day and we had a display by Turner's Memorial for a couple of hours. We highlighted the Places and Spaces project. This encourages local people to identify vulnerable places within the town. Over time we will pick out priorities from this list and focus on them as part of our campaign to improve Buxton. To add your places and spaces, go to the website at :-

www.buxtoncivicassociation.org.uk

We have had ninety suggestions so far; including the deterioration of buildings and walls, especially in the centre of town, loss of urban trees and unsightly gateways into the town, like the High Pavement.



Memory Lane

Footballing Memories

Footballing Memories of the Devonshire Hospital

In 1967 when I was 17, my mum was an inpatient at The Devonshire Hospital where she had hydrotherapy treatment to control and alleviate her rheumatism.

On a Spring Sunday my dad and I drove the 20 miles from our home in Ashton-under-Lyne to visit her and found Mum chatting away to a newly admitted patient in the next bed whom she introduced as Marjorie from Blackpool.

As we were all still gossiping with Marjorie her husband Harry and his friend Tom arrived with gifts of chocolates and flowers to cheer her up. I was surprised that I recognised her visitors but didn't know how I knew their faces. It was as Harry and Tom politely enquired what I enjoyed doing when not visiting mum and I had mentioned I liked playing football that they disclosed football had been their great love and playing had brought them together as friends. Harry said that Tom had played for Preston and had himself played for Blackpool. Astonished, but now making the footballing connection, I added, "Yes, and you both played for England!"

As a great follower of football and playing myself at the time for Moss Side Amateurs and training with Droylsden, (where Harry started as a youth), I couldn't have wished for a greater thrill. Over the weeks that followed, Marjorie and Mum became good friends and in the summer of 1967, after they had been sent home, Mum, Dad and I were invited over to Blackpool for tea. We met up with Harry and Marjorie at the newsagent's shop they ran together in Blackpool, before we set off for tea in what I recollect as being a rather beautiful house overlooking the seafront.

Henry (Harry) Johnston was born in Manchester on 26th September 1919 and as a talented youngster was signed aged 15 by Blackpool in 1934. He made his first-team debut against Preston North End on 20th November, 1937 and soon established himself as the club's centre half. During the Second World War he served in the Middle-East. On his return he was appointed club captain. He won his first international cap for England against Holland on 27th November 1946 which England won 8 – 2. He died on 12 October 1973 aged just 54.

By Mike Wilde

Sir Thomas "Tom" Finney, CBE was born in Preston on 5 April 1922. He served as an apprentice plumber before he made his debut for Preston in August 1946 aged 24 and soon established himself as a lively forward. He scored a goal in the game against Holland in 1946 playing alongside his pal Harry. During the Second World War he fought in Montgomery's Eighth Army in Egypt and later served as a tank driver in Italy with the 9th Lancers. Post-war demand for plumbers ensured that he had a second income to supplement the money he received as a footballer and was nicknamed "The Preston Plumber". His final pay packet in 1961 was £20.

Top-class footballers in the mid 1950s during the season earned around £15 a week. In summer they came down to around £12 a week. For a win there was a bonus of £2 and for a draw £1. By comparison the average wage for men in 1954 was £9.50, so the footballer's lot was pretty good even then.



Have you got any memories from the Devonshire hospital? If you have and you would like to share them, please drop us a line either by post or by email to ;

communications@buxtoncivicasassociation.org.uk

What's on

Butterfly Survey in Grin Woods

Steve Orridge, our butterfly and moth expert, has organised a butterfly survey in Grin Woods. The survey will be taking place on a weekly basis throughout the summer and we will be posting updates on our website.

How well do you know your butterflies?

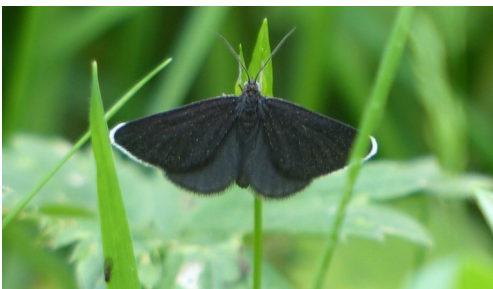
Answers will be posted on the website after 1st August.



A



B



C

Events

Social Dog Walk



FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
Meet at 10.00am for set-off at 10.15am

We will be making a leisurely 1.5 hour walk, to chat and socialise and make human and canine friends!

Venue: various - please check Poole's cavern, BCA website or FB for details.



Design & Print by Printexpress, Buxton Tel: 01298 72009

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please wear sensible footwear suitable for rough ground. Participants are required to take responsibility for the behaviour of their own dog.

Please be responsible by bringing poo bags to clear up after your dog.

Please do not bring dogs that are not vaccinated or that are in season.

Call: 01298 26978 or Email: info@poolescavern.co.uk

- Poole's Cavern Café welcomes dogs
- Water and complimentary dog biscuits are offered

Poole's Cavern, Green Lane, Buxton, SK17 9DH Tel: 01298 26978
Buxton Civic Association Ltd. Registered Charity No 258163 Company No 944439

46th AGM

The chair's report, environmental report and a version of the Woodlands presentation will be posted to the website. If members would like paper copies of these can they contact Simon Fussell on 01298 26978.



Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre was packed for Buxton Civic Association's 46th AGM. Mike Monaghan in his first address as Chair of the Association welcomed members to the meeting and described how the next few years could be the most exciting in BCA's history. Building on the strong foundations that had been laid down over the past ten years, Mike explained that the Association was now able to focus on using its wealth of experience and knowledge in reaching out to other local organisations and developing influential partnerships to help shape the future of the town.

Paying tribute to the board and to the staff, Mike said that the strong business model that Poole's Cavern provided enabled BCA to manage and constantly improve its extensive estate of woodlands, and to provide support to other like-minded organisations in the town.

Peter Philipson, Director with responsibility for the woods gave a presentation on the work of the Wood Watch committee and explained in detail the work that had been done earlier in the year to create a woodland ride. Supported by the RSPB and a grant from the Forestry Commission, he explained that this work would complement the glades, and would increase the bio diversity of the woods.

Considerable investment had been made in improving some 1.5km of paths in Grin Woods and also in Corbar Woods where the final link in the Ring of Trees walk had been completed.



This work would not have been possible without the very generous support of donations of materials from Lafarge Tarmac and support with the transport from Lomas Distribution.

Simon Fussell talked about the Environmental Quality Mark that the Association had been awarded for a second year, and went on to explain how the EQM supported the board's objective in providing an environmentally sustainable business model. It provided a benchmark against which decisions could be made to ensure that the environment was always put at the forefront. The Association was also pleased to be able to support the work that Derbyshire Wildlife Trust was doing to vaccinate badgers in the area from Bovine TB.

Brian Shawcross reported another successful year. We maintained visitor numbers, controlled costs and generated a healthy surplus on a turnover of £0.5m which will allow us to plan future improvements.

Mike thanked the two retiring directors, Tim Middleton and Owen Longden for their hard work and support and welcomed Nigel Manning to the board.

It had been decided at the last AGM that the major planning issues would be opened up to the membership and it was encouraging that so many members attended the meeting to discuss the Nestle Station road proposal and made their feelings about the scheme clear by voting unanimously to reject it. BCA needs to continue to be vigilant on the planning front and the strengthening of the Planning Group was to be welcomed with the additions of Derek Bodey and John Anfield as consultants.

In conclusion Mike thanked the Association's staff, the directors, volunteers, other committee members and everyone else who had supported the Association.

25 Years of the BCA Newsletter

By Alyson Phillips

With a new team working on the Newsletter (same Editor) we thought we would have a glance back at the origins of the “new style” newsletters that began in July 1990.

A team of five worked together in those days, so please contact us if you want your voice heard as more contributors are always welcome. (The five were; Elizabeth Bouchier, Lynda Carr, Betty Lindsay, Pat Thompson and Eugenie Verney.)

Contrary to Henry Ford’s belief that “History is bunk!” we prefer the quote from Mark Twain. “History does not repeat itself but it rhymes.” We must learn from the past otherwise we will be condemned to repeat mistakes. The same concerns chime through the articles; fortunately we have the benefit of their experience.

The importance of the newsletter was that it enabled people from all areas to raise their concerns. For example Betty Lindsay, from Harpur Hill, wrote, *‘A fallen wall has blocked the path known locally as ‘the old cinder path’ but as a result of correspondence and some prompting, the clearing of the footpath and rebuilding of the retaining wall has been half completed....the footpath is at least walkable.’*

We would like to know what ‘prompting’ looked like in the nineties—it obviously had more teeth! We would like to see articles that raise civic issues from all parts of Buxton.

If you would like to be involved in putting the newsletter together, or perhaps contribute an article or two then drop us a line. All contributions and help will be gratefully received.

Footpath Finder

Have you ever been out walking locally and noticed that a footpath needs repairing? Perhaps you have had to climb over a broken stile, or seen a sign that has been vandalised?

There is a wonderful website for reporting these problems. It is very easy to use and you can zoom in to show exactly where the problem is on the map provided.

The address is;

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/rights_of_way/default.asp

Buxton Civic Association

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Board Members

Chair: Dr Mike Monaghan

Secretary: Martin Wragg

Treasurer: Brian Shawcross

Planning: Jonathan Davey, Nigel Manning and Michael Bryant.

Woodlands: Peter Phillipson

Community and Membership: Mike Wilde

Newsletter: Alyson Phillips

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