



# Buxton Civic Association Newsletter Issue 29 Autumn 2015

## Nestle Station Road site



BCA, Vision Buxton and Buxton Town team have requested a meeting with Nestle and the proposed developers of the site to discuss alternative options. At the time of writing no dates have been fixed and the current application for a supermarket and hotel has been withdrawn.

## Cave Conference

Poole's Cavern was the host venue for an International Speleothem summer school, organised by the University of Birmingham. Using Poole's cavern as a base, the conference looked at Stalagmite growth and atmospheric changes in caves around the world and how climate change patterns can be recorded and analysed.



The conference was led by Professor Gunn and Professor Fairchild, and included seminars and field trips down the cave, and into the surrounding limestone hills. Delegates came from as far afield as Russia and Spain and included scientists from Birmingham, Oxford and Royal Holloway universities.

## Opportunity Knocks!

### Would you like to do something simple towards helping BCA funds?

The Lee Wood Hotel recently made a fascinating discovery about baking in Buxton before the First World War. They want us to capitalise on this and use it to raise money for our charity.

If you would like the chance to join in, then turn up for a free coffee at Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre and we will tell you the 'in's and out's' and you can see if you can volunteer a little bit of help.

No outside work in the woods this time but imagination and brains are needed.

**Date: 10.30am Saturday 7th November 2015**

## Tourism Thrives in the Peak

The latest figures indicate that tourism in the Peak District and Derbyshire economy continues on an upward curve generating more than £1.9 billion in 2014, despite the tough economic climate.

This was an increase of 5% from 2013, with visitor numbers increasing to 38.3 million. Tourism supported 27,720 full time jobs in 2014, an increase of almost 2,500 on the previous year.

This is reflected in our visitor numbers too.

## Fountain on Market Street

We have submitted a draft memorandum of understanding to both councils (HPBC and DCC) to get them to agree to give BCA and the Buxton Wells Dressing Festival permission to restore the Fountain on the market place to its former glory.

We have heard from HPBC, who have forwarded their comments to DCC so we will post any updates on our website as soon as we have them.

It would be wonderful to have the fountain restored in time for the well dressing festival next year, which would be the 176th anniversary of the installation of the original fountain.

## About BCA

### What makes us tick?

Buxton Civic Association is run by a board of volunteers, who work through four committees, (see opposite for Information on the role of the committees). BCA seeks to promote the preservation of exceptional historical and natural environments that make Buxton the place it is and are worth fighting for.

As a member you have already supported BCA with your annual subscription. Remember that as well as free access to Poole's Cavern, membership also entitles you to free car parking at the visitor centre.

We have almost 400 members but it is important that we reach out to a wider audience. If every member persuaded a friend to join the Civic Association then this would boost our profile still further. They would be actively supporting awareness of the quality of the natural and built environment that we are so lucky to have and strengthening our ability to protect what we have and influence the future.

When Buxton was shortlisted for Best Town 2014, the judges commented on the key role that volunteers play in maintaining Buxton's beauty and local character. Without the support of members in the past we could have lost the Octagon, Pavilion Gardens and Solomon's Temple.

- As well as new members, we need your support in other ways.
- Perhaps you could become a woodland volunteer?
- Or you would like to be involved on one of the committees for the Places and Spaces project?
- We also need people to help out with the newsletter, whether it be contributing articles or helping put it together.

If you are interested in any of the above, drop us an email or a letter expressing your interest and we will get in touch with you. The contact details can be found on the back page of this newsletter or by going to our website at [www.buxtoncivicassociation.org.uk](http://www.buxtoncivicassociation.org.uk).

### Corporate Affairs

The Corporate Affairs Committee (CAC) is responsible for the management of the business affairs of BCA and looks after our commercial and financial objectives. It also deals with the legal and administrative issues for the charity.

The current chair is Mike Monaghan and he is supported by Martin Wragg, Brian Shawcross, Jonathan Davy, with Alan Walker (General Manager) and Simon Fussell (Business Development Manager) attending as well.

### Planning Group

The Planning Group is one of Buxton's watchdogs with a brief to monitor planning applications and development proposals. It ensures that applications align with our objectives, and comments on behalf of BCA within the guidelines prescribed by HPBC and DCC. The group is chaired by Jonathan Davy with support from Nigel Manning. Working co-operatively with other groups in the town is an important part of their remit.

### Wood Watch

The woodland committee oversees the management of 200 acres of woodland, that BCA owns, for the benefit of the residents and visitors to Buxton alike. Major improvements have been carried out to footpaths, improving accessibility especially in Grin and Corbar.

The creation of a forest ride in Grin, with the help and support of funding from the Forestry Commission and RSPB is a significant step to improving bio diversity in the woods. Already there has been an increase noted in the number of raptors that can now take advantage of the increase in prey.

### Membership and Communities

Promoting BCA in the town and engaging with the members through the websites, social media and printed newsletter. This team acts as a link with the other groups in the town. We organise members trips, e.g. Parliament, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, as well as a regular autumn and winter talks programme. Mike Wilde chairs the committee.

## A Personal View

### Sherbrook Plantation

You hear them first. The young make a plaintiff cry, calling and mewing, unmistakable and distinctive. I step out of the wood and turn back to look above it. Then they appear, the female clutching something in her talons executes a food pass, a small song bird by the looks of it. The young circle the trees before diving down to the nest and a meal. A family of sparrow hawks: the bird of prey most likely to be seen in your garden, a thrilling sight on the wing.

Though under twenty acres, the plantation is full of interest. A badger sett has been dug into one of the old spoil heaps but the badgers have moved on elsewhere and the holes fill up with debris.

During the summer a dry river bed gives away the geology. The stream flows off Stanley moor, in winter fed by springs, but in the drier summer months it disappears underground. It continues on through the wood to join the Wye at Lovers leap in Ashwood Dale.

Lilly, my collie, fascinated by the different smells and scents is reluctant to move from one particularly pungent patch. I coax her away and she moves onto the next set of scents. It's the doggie equivalent of surfing the web, picking up messages from the other animals that have passed this way.



Sherbrook Planation

Like many of the woods that surround Buxton, the trees here were part of a plantation, planted to hide the scars from lime burning.

Over the years it has evolved a character of its own. Less dense than Grin woods, it clings to the side of the narrow valley, dark and oppressive before giving way to lighter glades.

Everywhere there is dead wood, so vital and important to the health and wellbeing of the wood.

The sparrow hawks have fallen silent. Across the narrow valley I can hear the ducks from the riding school. Lilly tugs at her lead to remind me that there are other things to be doing than standing staring at trees. We set off back down the path, past the cottage of Content. Letting Lilly off the lead, she races across the grass before dropping to the ground to wait patiently for her ball.

By Simon Fussell

### Do You *Just* Belong

Are you an active member  
the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented  
that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings  
and mingle with the flock?  
Or do you just stay at home  
to criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part  
to help the work along?  
Or are you satisfied  
to only just belong?

Do you work with your committee  
and get right in and mix?  
Or leave the work to just a few  
and talk about the "CLIQUEs"?

Think this over MEMBER  
You know right from wrong,  
Are you an active member, or  
"DO YOU JUST BELONG"?

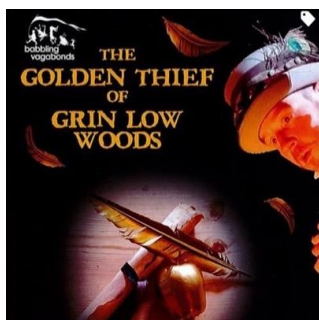
Paul Dinsdale 2015



## The Golden Thief of Grinlow Woods

## Promenade Performance

### By the Babbling Vagabonds



Babbling Vagabonds' play "The Golden Thief of Grinlow Woods" was performed over the weekend of 26 and 27th September 2015. It was very successful with some 250 people booking onto the event over the two days.



Pictures of the performers and audience in Grin low. Pictures by Peter Phillipson.



## Matlock Civic Association

Matlock Civic Association was formed in 1981 and until recently were affiliated to the Arkwright society. They decided that the time was right to go it alone, so have now become an independent charity as from 2015.



Buxton Civic Association were invited to talk at Matlock's AGM on 12th October. Before this there was a guided tour of the town and a chance to look at the projects that MCA have been involved in. In addition to the 14 blue plaques that they have so far awarded, they have been the driving force behind the restoration of several park spaces as well as commissioning and raising funds for a mural depicting the history of the town as a way of brightening up the approach road to Sainsbury's supermarket.

One of their most prestigious projects has been the restoration of the gun emplacements at Baileys Tump ( see photo above) The guns and search lights formed a key part of the defence of Sheffield from the Luftwaffe during the second world war, as well as providing a beacon for allied bombers setting off on their raids of the Ruhr and other key strategic targets.

It is hoped that MCA members will visit Buxton and address BCA members as part of the talks programme next year.



## Autumn Talk Badger Vaccinations

The first of Buxton Civic Association's autumn talks saw Debbie Bailey from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust give an excellent and informative presentation on the Badger vaccination programme that is currently being carried out in the High Peak.

Now in its second year, the programme has vaccinated close to a hundred badgers and has managed to get 17 out of 19 landowners in Edale signed up to the project ,with 80% of badgers in the area successfully vaccinated.

The vaccination process needs to be repeated annually in an area in order that the social group build up an immunity. The aim is to increase the proportion of vaccinated animals thereby reducing the incidence of the disease. Research shows that if one third of adult badgers are vaccinated within a social group then this can reduce the risk of infection to unvaccinated cubs by 79%. Based on the average life span of a badger of between 3-5 years, and an estimated annual population turnover of 30%, then it has been calculated that it would take five years of vaccination to build up the levels of immunity within a social group.

Debbie made it clear that vaccination is only part of the battle against Bovine TB. Vaccinating badgers helps reduce the incidence of Bovine TB in the wildlife population but stringent controls over cattle movement and annual testing were vital to protect the herds of cattle from the disease.

Vaccination is a detailed and thorough process. The commitment of the volunteers makes all the difference to the success that the High Peak group are having. Before you can vaccinate the badgers, the setts have to be surveyed to establish those that are occupied. Badgers are fond of digging, so that the number of entrances does not indicate the number of badgers occupying a sett. Often the setts are shared with foxes.

Once an indication of the number of badgers has been established, the areas needs to be pre-bated with peanuts to get the badgers used to the cage traps. There are strict rules governing the setting of the traps, and the vaccination team will set out before dawn to inspect the cages early in the morning to reduce the length of time that the badger has to spend in the cage.

There was a good turn out from BCA members and the High Peak Badger Trust. If you are interested in supporting the vaccination programme contact Derbyshire Wildlife Trust or High Peak Badger Group.

## Events

### Members Talks programme

**12th November 2015 at 7.30pm at the Visitor Centre**

**Isabella Stone from Friends of the Peak District**



Isabella will talk about the Friends of the Peak District, the organisation, its goals, and the challenges that it faces in the 21st century.

Members and non members are welcome and the talk is free.

**22nd January 2016 at 7.30pm at the Visitor Centre**

**Peter Phillipson Director of BCA and ecologist**



Peter will talk about the wild forest in southern Poland and Belorussia, home to the last herd of European Bison.

**18th February 2016 at 7.30pm at the Visitor Centre**

**Lyn Noble and Alan Roberts**



An illustrated talk on the history of the Buxton coalfields and its role in history of the town.

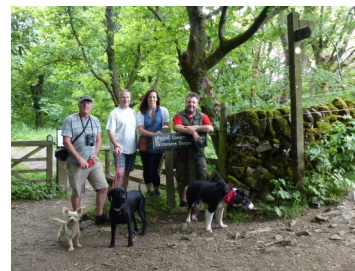
### Santa's Grotto



Santa is coming to Poole's Cavern at weekends in December. You can book a place now to visit Santa in his grotto.

Phone 01298 26978 to reserve a place.

### Social Dog Walks

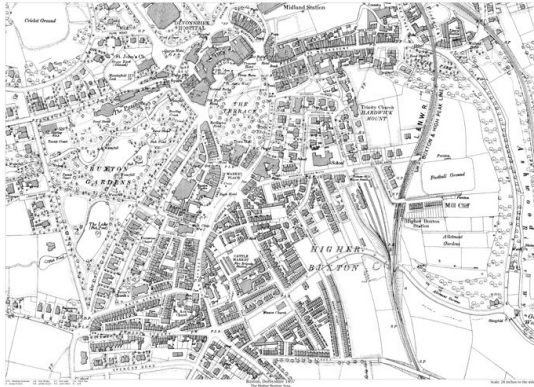


Meet at Poole's Cavern visitor centre at 10.00am on the first Sunday of every month. Everyone and their dogs welcome.



## Places and Spaces

### About the Project



Map of Higher Buxton from the 1897 Ordnance Survey map illustrating some of the places and spaces that have been swallowed up by the growth of the town.

The places and spaces project was conceived from a number of different ideas that had been discussed amongst the members for some time. It was felt that it was important that we identified those buildings, open spaces, monuments and views that were important either historically or sentimentally and record them, and if possible seek to protect and preserve them.

In addition members identified areas that were falling into disrepair or were being neglected.

A meeting was held in May and open to all members of BCA and from this meeting some 90 sites were identified, falling into the following categories;

- Buildings
- Open Spaces
- Monuments
- Views



### Project update

The Places and Spaces project continues apace with three sub groups being formed to look at the following areas:

1. Gateways into Buxton
2. Vulnerable and At-risk sites
3. Development of Heritage Trails in and around the town.

Since the open meeting on 14th May we have held two further meetings to develop the themes identified above.

There is still much work to be done and if anyone would like to join on of the groups above then they would be more than welcome.

We have a meeting at Poole's Cavern Visitor centre on 26th October at 6.00pm. We will be discussing action and progress on the three areas above, but welcome further suggestions.

We have one heritage trail close to completion, a walk that takes in the old Buxton coalfields and mines, and a further one looking at the development of the A6 and the route into Buxton from Chatsworth is currently in progress.



Some of the sites identified on the A6 Southern Gateway

A full list of the selected places and spaces can be found on our website at [www.buxtoncivicasociation.org.uk](http://www.buxtoncivicasociation.org.uk). The link to the document is at:

<http://buxtoncivicasociation.org.uk/places-and-spaces-project-update/>

## Fools Cavern

## Communications

### A Guide's Eye View

Several years ago , I spent a couple of summers showing groups of strangers around a hole in the ground. Buxton's Poole's cavern is an interesting and unusual hole, but then, frequently, so are the visitors.

Perhaps sensible questions shouldn't be expected when up to forty strangers are huddled together in a dark, damp cavern, but some still take you by surprise. "How much does the cave weigh?" was a tricky one, as I couldn't think of any more polite a reply than ... "well, nothing, technically."

"What's the essence of the cave?" was another, this time asked by a very grand chap who strolled behind me with an air of studied regal disinterest. At the time I had nothing better for him than my stock "well it's a limestone cave formed hundreds of thousands of years ago by.." I didn't feel he was impressed.

Answers can be just as odd as questions. There is a section of wall in the cave that many people have scratched their mark into, and some of them evidently did this a long time ago., I'd point to where some 17th century visitor has scrawled 1666 and ask the group if anyone could tell me what well-known historical event took place that year? Answers ranged from 'Kronenbourg' was invented to the single word 'Shakespeare'. Admittedly they would sometimes be correct but where's the fun in that?

It never hurts when visitors are easily impressed, and I know I was onto a winner as I led a family of six towards the entrance of the cave, and happened to mention something about Derbyshire. They stopped dead in their tracks.

"We're in Derbyshire?"

"Yes Buxton in the High Peak area of...."

"Really we are in Derbyshire right now?" a pause. "But we thought we were in Staffordshire!"

### Footpath Finder Reminder

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](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/rights_of_way/default.asp)

### Buxton Civic Association

#### General Manager:

Alan Walker at Poole's Cavern 01298 26978

#### 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

**Grants and Funding:** Brian Lawrence

Editor Alyson Phillips  
Email [communications@buxtoncivicassociation.org.uk](mailto:communications@buxtoncivicassociation.org.uk)  
Twitter BCA1967  
Contact BCA, Poole's Cavern, Green Lane, Buxton, SK17 9DH

Registered charity number in England and Wales 258163

