



PLACES AND SPACES

A Presentation and Exhibition

Thursday 16th June
7.30 till 10pm

Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre

Admission Free



Timings

7.00—7.30pm Mingling

7.30—8.00pm Presentations

8.00—9.30pm Exhibitions in the Café,
interpretation area and school room.
Refreshments will be available in the
café.

Presentation

30 minutes (7.30-8.00pm) introducing
the project.

The idea surfaces

At Risk and Vulnerable sites

Lovers Leap and Ashwood Dale

Harpur Hill and the Artillery Range

Green Spaces

Exhibition 1 – The Project

The idea for the Places and Spaces Project sneaked up on me during the Orwell Prize debate at the Festival in 2014.

“Perhaps a man really dies when his brain stops, when he loses the power to take in a new idea.”


Coming up for Air

THE ORWELL PRIZE

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Buxton Festival 2014: The Housing Crisis and the Countryside



**Buxton
Festival**

Thursday 24 July, 2014
2:00pm

Pavillion Arts Centre
St John's Road
Buxton SK17 6BE

The Housing Crisis and the Countryside, 'Buried by a kind of volcanic eruption from the outer suburbs' (George Orwell, Coming Up For Air).



I re-read “Coming up for Air” and wondered where the Carp pond was in Buxton. A trip to the Library and a look at the 1897 map of Buxton got me thinking about what would have disappeared from Buxton’s landscape if I were to come back and look at a map of Buxton in fifty years time.

In May 2015 a meeting was held, 25 members turned up and we identified over a 100 places and spaces that were important to how we saw Buxton, collectively and as individuals

We identified three main elements to the project:

At Risk and Vulnerable sites, Gateways into Town, and Heritage Trails.

As well as the exhibitions that you will see and hear about tonight, we have published two guides, Ashwood Dale by Alan Roberts, and Buxton Coalfields Heritage Walk by Lyn Noble.

To read about the early days of the project and see the list of special Places and Spaces go to

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

Exhibition 2 - At Risk and Vulnerable Places

This strand has two objectives;

1. To identify sites that are at risk from development
2. To identify sites that are at risk from vandalism or have been neglected

A survey was undertaken in 2015 to identify some quick wins. These included the damaged and missing stones to the Palace Hotel walls, the damaged paving stones on the market, litter in and around the Morrisons and Waitrose car-parks.

As you will hear and see there has been some progress but like the old Forth Bridge, the work is never done.

Tribute must be paid to the work that other groups in the town are doing, including Buxton Town Team in Ashwood Park, and of course the Friends of Buxton Station, who are very good at getting things knocked down.



Exhibition 3 - Extreme Litter Picking

Lovers' Leap is one of the best known but least visited of the Victorian beauty spots in Buxton. Unless that is you want to dump your rubbish or wild camp and leave your tent, a couple of books and some other things best not mentioned in company. There may be as much as thirty six years of accumulated rubbish.



An intrepid group of volunteers led by Roger Floyd and Judith Milling have been tackling the task over the past few months.

As well as collecting over 100 bags of rubbish the team have had to use climbing techniques to get at some of the rubbish.



The Project takes in Ashwood Dale, and Cowdale quarry which has been the subject of a recent planning application to extract 5 m tonnes of limestone to build another bottling plant.

Exhibition 4 - Heritage

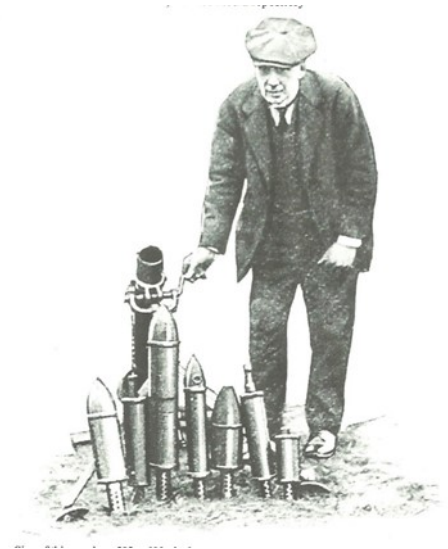
The Frith Artillery Range, Harpur Hill, 1916-1918

"Illustrating the use of the BCA website "Places and Spaces" page for recording local history, with provision for user input, the display presents the background to an important but little known event of 100 years ago.

At a critical stage of the First World War, the Frith Artillery Range was set up at Harpur Hill for the proof testing of trench mortars, items of equipment that were desperately needed in France.

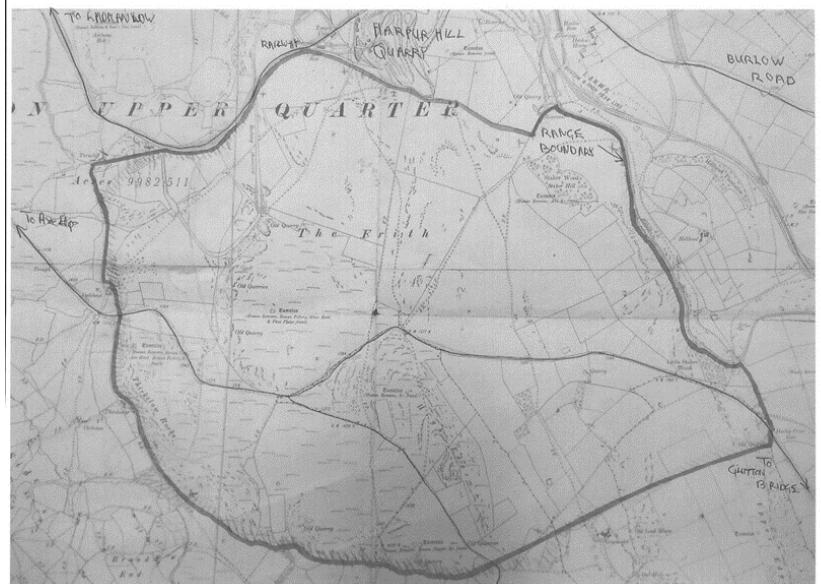
Nearly every British made trench mortar was tested at the Frith Artillery Range before being sent to France, where they played a vital role in the long drawn out trench warfare."

Wilfred Stokes demonstrating a trench mortar.



Extract from ordnance survey showing the boundary of the Frith Artillery Range.

Alan Roberts has produced an information leaflet, 'The Frith Artillery Range Harpur Hill 1916—1918.'



Exhibition 5 - Green Spaces

“To promote the preservation of lands and buildings of beauty, environmental or historic interest”



Where ever you stand in Buxton you can see trees and green open spaces. The town is surrounded by woods, ten of which are owned and managed by BCA. In the town itself we have a wonderful, if at times, controversial, number of street trees and of course the Pavilion Gardens.

But there are other ‘green’ and open spaces that are equally important. BCA has developed the wildflower glades in Grin low woods. Severn Trent Water have allowed the old reservoir site at Lightwood to re-wild with very little interference, allowing a diverse range of flora and fauna. Then there are the brown field sites, like Hogshaw tip, often with more bio-diversity than the much coveted green field sites. These sites are all vital to our dwindling wildlife. As are the wildlife corridors and verges.

To protect these spaces, we need to know about them first. If you have a special green or open space, let us know about it.

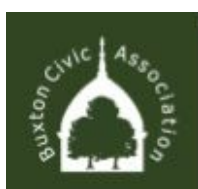
About Buxton Civic Association

Buxton Civic Association is a registered charity established in 1967 to preserve and enhance Buxton's unique heritage and the rich surrounding countryside. Members come from all walks of life, brought together by conviction of the importance of our natural and built environments. Individual skills and areas of special interest are always welcome.

The Association monitors and advises on local planning matters encouraging high standards of architecture and helping protect important buildings and land from misuse and destruction.

Poole's Cavern was acquired in 1976 and reopened to the public. It is ranked as one of the top tourist attractions in the Peak District. It provides a valuable source of income with which to support the management and improvement of the 160 acres of woodlands in and around Buxton that were gifted to BCA by the Chatsworth Estate.

If you are interested in joining and supporting the work that BCA does then go to our website at www.buxtoncivicassociation.org.uk and click on "join us".



Buxton Civic Association

Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre, Green Lane, Buxton, SK17 9DH.

T 01298 26978 | E communications@buxtoncivicassociation.org.uk

W www.buxtoncivicassociation.org.uk