



Buxton Civic Association Newsletter Issue 34 Summer 2016

PLAYING OUR PART IN THE TOWN

Woodland Sculptures' Make Exciting Addition to Grin Woods

Sheffield Sculptress, Lorraine Bottrell, helped by the pupils from Burbage Junior School and a grant from Peak District National Park Authority, has created two beautiful wooden sculptures.

The Sculptures have been located in Grinlow Woods, part of Buxton Country Park. They have been designed to give visitors clues as to the history of the woods, that were originally planted by the 6th Duke of Devonshire to hide the scars of lime burning that had been part of the landscape for several centuries.

The lime burners are celebrated with a life- like sculpture of a quarryman who sits just off the main path through Grinlow. Visitors are taking advantage of the seat incorporated into the work to have selfies taken with him and it is not unknown for dogs to drop their balls or sticks at his feet. So far no one has reported that he has stood up and thrown them. Yet!



Caption Competition

Can you think of a suitable caption to accompany this photograph? Send in your suggestions to the email address on the back page by 31st July and we will publish the best ones on the website in August.

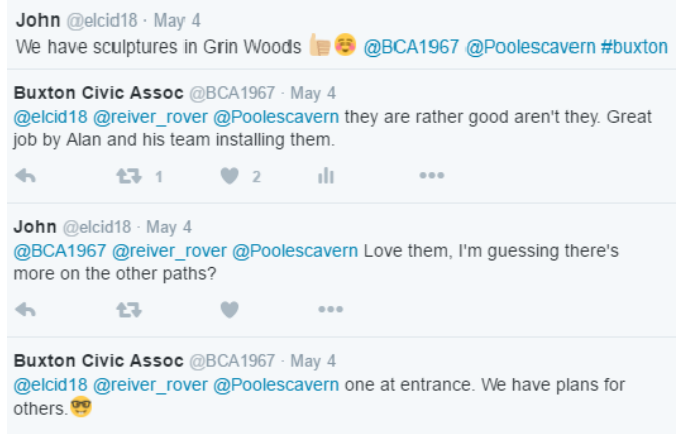


The Grinlow Quarryman



The Grinlow Timeline

Some comments from Social Media



50th Anniversary Event

Next Year will see the celebration of 50 years of Buxton Civic Association. Keep Thursday 18th May 2017 free in your diary.

We have an exciting programme of events planned.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Report on the Grin Low Butterfly Survey in 2015

By Steve Orridge

As I type this report we are already preparing for the 2016 survey and are looking forward to it with keen anticipation. Hopefully the weather will be kinder than last year and we will see a few more species and higher numbers.

The weather was predominantly cool and windy in 2015 and, looking back through our weekly records, 25 of the 26 weeks were below or just reached 20 degrees Centigrade. Cooler days have an adverse effect on every stage in the life cycle of butterflies and the adults are definitely harder to find on overcast days. In the first 13 weeks of the survey only 7 species were recorded but in the second half of the season (July 1st to September 29th) we found another 10 species making a total for the year of 17 species.

Species	Season Total
SMALL SKIPPER	2
DINGY SKIPPER	2
SMALL WHITE	1
GREEN-VEINED WHITE	23
ORANGE TIP	1
GREEN HAIRSTREAK	2
COMMON BLUE	24
RED ADMIRAL	4
PAINTED LADY	1
SMALL ORTOISESHELL	6
PEACOCK	18
COMMA	6
SPECKLED WOOD	3
GATEKEEPER	1
MEADOW BROWN	197
RINGLET	9
SMALL HEATH	11
Total Qty	311
Species count	17

The inclement weather also affected our migrating butterflies. In a good summer our resident species are joined by the continental migrants. This year any butterflies that did fly across into the UK did not make it as far as Grin Low. For example, we only identified one Small White over the course of the season and it was disappointing not to see any Large Whites. However, one of our surveyors (Janine Morris) was very lucky to see Painted Lady, another migrant, in week 25. And while I am mentioning our surveyors I would like to thank all of them (including Bob Billing and Jenny Conway) for all the effort they put in last year.

Our most abundant butterfly in 2015 was the Meadow Brown with a total of 197 individuals seen in eight out of 26 weeks. It was also the most numerous butterfly in the county (16202 individuals recorded in 2015).



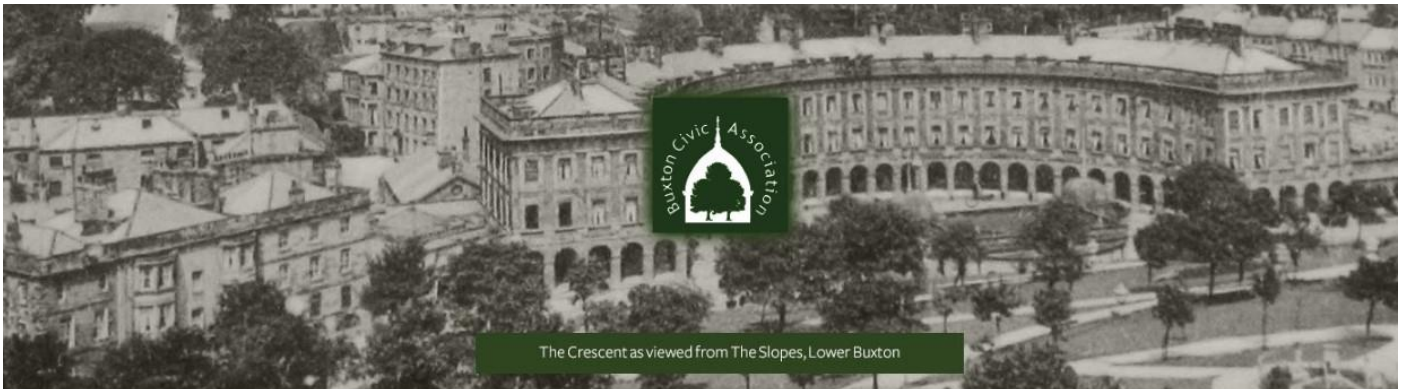
What last year's survey has proved is that the open rides are the best place, in Grin Low woods, to see butterflies. The newly opened area (section 5 - which you can reach by walking up the main path from the car park and turning left when you see the felled trees) was the best area, in terms of abundance, and accounted for 15 of the 17 species seen. Hopefully, the numbers and species will continue to grow as this area develops and the increase in light encourages more plant species to colonize it, which in turn will provide new opportunities for more butterflies. The second best place to see butterflies was the grassland, above section 5, from where you can see Solomon's temple. This was a great place to see Common Blue, Small Heath and of course the Meadow Brown.

Finally, our thanks must go to the woodland management team for sourcing the funds and creating the necessary habitat for our native butterflies. I am looking forward to seeing more new open areas created, and finding even more species of butterfly!

PLACES AND SPACES

Places and Spaces Project Launch Community Website

By Simon Fussell



[HOME](#) > [PLACES AND SPACES](#)

Places & Spaces With Buxton Civic Association Telling the story of Buxton

The June BCA Members Event was a series of Presentations followed by an Exhibition, to showcase the Places and Spaces project that started life just over a year ago.

A new mini section to BCA's website was also launched that same evening. The mini section covers the Places and Spaces project and in particular reaches out to the wider Buxton communities of Harpur Hill, Fairfield, and Burbage.

The purpose of the mini section is to collect reminiscences and stories about these communities, so it might be a story related to the Frith Artillery range at Harpur Hill, how you came to live in Buxton or stories from Green Fairfield.

The evening was well attended with over 70 members and friends crowding into the Visitor Centre. Five short presentations kicked the evening off, followed by mini exhibitions for the five projects.



Remembering past times

The five exhibitions covered the following areas:

1. An over view of the project
2. Ashwood Dale and Extreme Litter Picking at Lover's Leap
3. Heritage—with a report on the Frith Artillery range at Harpur Hill
4. Vulnerable Places and Spaces
5. Green and Open Spaces

Further information can be obtained from our website including, some video extracts from the presentations, some short 60 seconds Vox Pop interviews, and the downloadable programme of the event.

If you want to help out with any of the above themes or have suggestions for other themes or projects, then please get in touch using the contact details on the back page.

We need your help!

If you have stories about Fairfield, Harpur Hill and Burbage then we want to hear from you.

Email us or write to us at the addresses on the back page.

BOOK REVIEW

Remember the Past, Shape the Future – a book review by Alyson Phillips

Remember the Past, Shape the Future is a fascinating new book, co-written by Olive Middleton and Trevor Donald. It shows that the BCA was founded at an amazing moment in history.

In the 1960s concerns about town planning were being expressed increasingly loudly. Films like 'Kathy Come Home' and plays by 'angry young men' signalled loss of public confidence in the planners.

Sir John Betjeman's extraordinary poem 'Inexpensive Progress' 1966 gives context for a time of catastrophic planning decisions. Olive writes '... at this time Victorian was thought old fashioned and ready for dismissal from the scene.' The Civic Trust was formed in 1957 with every intention to be heard nationally.

The Government countered growing unrest with the 1967 Civic Amenities Act and 1968 Planning Act which introduced 'neighbourhood plans' in an attempt to consult the public. What strikes the reader of *Remember the Past, Shape the Future* is that this moment in history was shaped locally by the dogged strength of a few Buxton people. The chapters move chronologically through the decades with Olive sharing carefully researched memories.

The Buxton Advertiser of 3rd March 1967 records the formation of the Buxton Civic Association. The Inaugural Meeting 16th May 1967 discussed practical steps that should be taken to make Buxton a better place to live and work in.'

Meanwhile, the Council felt 'Buxton's Pavilion should be flattened ... a quaint Victorian relic.' The tea house had to be demolished, shelters and grottos were removed, '... the Swiss Cottage entrance to Broad Walk was removed, urns disappeared, holes in the planking of bridges....' Olive lists a catalogue of dereliction and decay and controversially, there were negotiations for a private zoo, the owners of Flamingo Park wanted to buy the land outright.'

In response the Association set up specialist committees on Buildings, Open Spaces, Woodlands, Footpaths, Public Services and Nuisances, and established links with national bodies. In addition, it mobilised a 'Conservation Corps' of young people – something we need to re-start. A photograph, reproduced from the Advertiser of August 1967, is inspiring. It shows Stella Worrall, Olive and their children and friends, clearing rubbish from a stretch of the River Wye in the town. It distils, not only a moment in history, but asks the question, 'What can we do for Buxton?' It takes energy, dedication, teamwork and often rubber gloves. Fifty years later Olive is still asking us to roll up our sleeves.

Olive remembers the debt to many people, in particular Arthur Middleton, Henry Hartley and Henry Douglas who achieved much in the early years. Olive modestly omits her own name from this list. She must be included in this 'relay' of Buxton people who have worked tirelessly for the next generation. Names of dedicated staff are also threaded through the book, Dave Allsop, and Alan Walker involved from fifteen years old, Pru Lloyd, James Acton and Ashley Cooper since 1988, and Paula Pickering in the cafe.

The chapter on the 1980s describes a surprise and scandal unearthed by the tenacious Henry Hartley. An attempt at installing a casino in the Octagon went all the way to the House of Lords. The future of the Pavilion Gardens hung in the balance!

We have BCA to thank for the dancing daffodils and repaired dry stone walls that enhance the entrance to Buxton via the A515 past Foxlow Grange Estate.

Solomon's Temple was at risk in 1987. £20,000 was needed to make it safe and BCA's appeal raised the £7,500 shortfall to ensure it was rescued.

Olive and Trevor underline the importance of the shop and cafe as vital elements of BCA's operations. 'They should contribute to profits in order that increasingly expensive reinvestment in trees, land management, conservation and property repairs can be made.'

BOOK REVIEW

Trevor emphasises the archive, to recall our proud past and use previous experiences in readiness for future challenges. We can celebrate the annual bluebell display in Corbar Woods and the rare plants of the Glade. The latest addition to Grin Low is the wooden sculpture of the old lead miner, where visitors queue for 'selfies'. This section of the book concludes with a list all our new projects and shows how we are reaching out to national organisations like the RSPB, supporting Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Badger Vaccination Programme and assisting smaller projects like the Serpentine Market Garden.

Mike Monaghan, our current chairman outlines how BCA remains true to its first principles: '..to enhance Buxton's setting, natural environment and its built heritage... to maintain and develop these principles in the face of external factors that generate such change and challenges'. He tasks us to become more active in 'outreach and campaigning within the town ... by being increasingly visible in our proactive cooperation with other organisations, then we will be more visible and take BCA from strength to strength.'

Visit any another town in England and you see that it remains at the beck and call of the car. There are roundabouts, retail parks for identical supermarkets, bad bits of landscaping, signs, signs and more signs, wheelie bins, mobile phone masts and new housing of poor quality, generic chain hotels, multi-story car parks. Think of Buxton. Did we escape? Where would we be without individuals who are prepared to 'chain themselves to the railings.'

Thank you for being there over the past fifty years BCA. We will keep this book as a handbook to the future.

The book celebrates early achievements of the Association such as:

Fifty metre diameter roundabout stretching from the front door of the Palace hotel to Clowes' Chemists.' - STOPPED

1969 Save Our Woods campaign – THEY DID

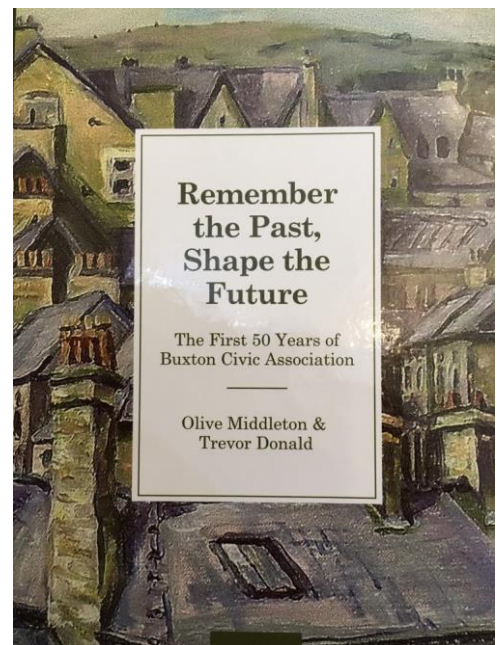
Trees protected and footpaths in Grin Low – RESTORED

Replacement of Victorian street lamps on Broad Walk – STOPPED

Poole's Cavern closed since 1964 -OPENED

Grin Low, Corbar and Sherbrook Woods ... "for the benefit in perpetuity of the people of Buxton ACQUIRED (from Chatsworth Estates)

Woodlands appeal and tree planting scheme started 1972 – £1000s RAISED



Members and their friends are invited to a special event on Thursday 21st July from 7.00pm at Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre.

Meet the Authors.

A chance to hear about how the book came to be written, and the trials and tribulations of writing such a detailed book.

The event is free to members and non –members alike.

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS (OR THE CAVE)



Cave formations—Poole's Cavern



Sun rise in Grinlow on Dawn Chorus morning



The stepping stones in Gadley Woods



New Paths in Gadley Woods

EVENTS

Members' Talks Programme

July

21st July Meet the Authors. A chance to hear about how 'Remember the Past Shape the Future' got to be written. 7.00pm at Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre with Olive Middleton and Trevor Donald

August

Members Summer BBQ with an amble in the woods.

18th August 7.30pm Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre.

The Membership and Communities Committee will be hosting a BBQ for members and friends of members. If the weather is fine we will have it in the picnic area. Alternative plans will be made in the event of wet weather.

September

15th September 7.30pm. Trevor Gilman will give a talk on the Vulnerable Buildings of Buxton, including illustrations.

2017

We are putting together our programme of talks for 2017. Among the topics will be the history of the Fountain on the Market Place, and Mountaineering Memories. If anyone has a hobby or an interest that they would like to share, then please get in touch at Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre and we can arrange a suitable slot in the programme.

BCA Members' Talks

Our talks programme is open to members and non-members and is currently free. They start at 7.30pm and are held at Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre.

Other Events

Hold the Front Page!

Newsletter—An opportunity for established or up and coming writers.

We are currently publishing the Newsletter four times a year. We have no plans to change this at the moment.

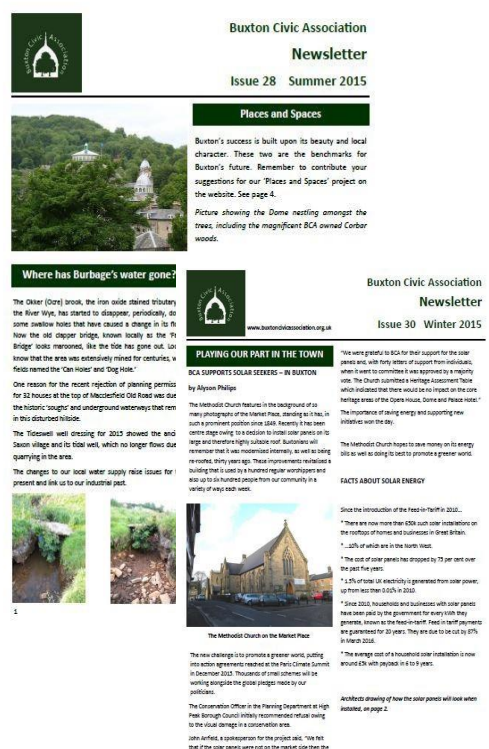
However, in order to make the Newsletter even more interesting we are proposing to have a theme for each issue.

In order to facilitate this, we are proposing to set up a small sub-committee headed by our Editor, Alyson Philips, to agree the themes, and to produce the copy for the Newsletter.

So if you are interested in being involved please let us know by 31 July 2016. You can email us or write to us at the addresses on the back page. Mark your email or letter 'Newsletter'.

We are planning the first of the themed Newsletters for the Christmas Edition.

Thanking you in anticipation.



GET COOKING

COMMUNICATIONS

The Fish Course

FISH SECTION

COD AU GRATIN

Take a piece of the middle of a cod, boil it (not too much) in salted water and divide into flakes. With ½ pint of the water in which the fish was boiled, make rather a thick white sauce, using 2oz of butter to 1oz of flour with a grate of nutmeg and salt and pepper to taste. Butter and rub with a shallot a dish which will stand the heat of the oven; arrange on it a foundation of mashed potatoes. Make a layer of flakes of cod, mask with the sauce and add a grating of parmesan cheese. Make another layer of fish etc. and strew lightly over the whole some well-dried bread crumbs. Put the dish in a brisk oven and serve directly the dish is a golden brown.

Mrs Brittain, Melrose, Park Road, Buxton.

If you can, look at the display of snowdrops in the front garden in February.

This contributor must be Vera Brittain's mother, close to the time her daughter was working at The Dome, formerly the Devonshire Royal Hospital – see Vera's book, "Testament of Youth".

This is the second in our series of extracts from the recently discovery of a pre-First World War booklet which contains not only fascinating advertisements from shops and businesses in the town, but also many dishes of the time sent in by residents.

Comprising savoury and sweet dishes as well as household remedies, it was discovered by the proprietors of the Lee Wood Hotel and made available to BCA. The booklet was printed in 1912 for the benefit of The Home of Rest Furnishing Fund, which was in West Street. Moreover, it contains the name of each contributor and the house name or road of where they lived.

Our thanks to Olive Middleton for selecting and editing the recipe and for the Leewood Hotel for permission to print it.

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

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, Alan Roberts

Woodlands: Peter Phillipson

Community and Membership: Mike Wilde

Newsletter: Alyson Phillips, Simon Fussell

Archives: Brian Lawrence

Environment: Andy Banks

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