

Tea at the Palace



A wonderful afternoon at The Palace Hotel was organised by our vice-chair, Hilary Lawrence.

Almost 150 members and friends were delighted by the 12 expert young flautists from New Mills who play together as 'Flute Salad', the Tideswell Male Voice Choir (pictured above), Ailsa Hoyle on the violin and pianist Christopher Ellis. All provided a memorable afternoon from the rich and varied musical culture of the High Peak.

Chairman Paul Dinsdale welcomed everyone, saying "This is a great opportunity to thank our members for their support, and to invite more local residents to join us and help in all sorts of ways: joining the Management Board; helping to look after our beautiful woodlands and the gardens at the Visitor Centre; organising events, and increasing membership. All are welcome to help wherever their talents lie and their time allows."

There followed an excellent Palace cream tea, and the presentation of prizes to the worthy winners of the first BCA photography competition: Richard Knisely-Marpole and Winnie Spence (pictured below).

Thanks to all who helped to make the event such a success, especially to Hilary.



Cavern in the Spotlight

Visitors to Poole's Cavern are already seeing Buxton's premier tourist attraction in a new light!

The launch of the newly installed low-emission lights was celebrated at a special ceremony by our MP Andrew Bingham in April. Among the guests were those without whose support this project couldn't have been realised: Derbyshire Aggregates Levy Grant Scheme and Lafarge Aggregates Ltd. Representatives from Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council, The Show Caves Association, Visit Peak District, High Peak Radio, The Buxton Advertiser, LED Ltd (suppliers of the entire system) and many others were also present.

BCA's Bill Preece welcomed everyone, "The importance of this project in terms of upgrading the lighting, improving energy consumption and therefore lessening costs, reducing the ambient temperature in the cavern, thus preventing the growth of vegetation unnatural to the cave, is immense. Most importantly it will maintain and renew the attraction for the more than 40,000 visitors who come every year."

Andrew Bingham cut the ribbon at the mouth of the cave with a flourish and recalled visiting it as a child. He went on to acknowledge the work of BCA in looking after the ring of trees surrounding our

town together with its unique and historic built environment.

A brief tour of the cavern followed with Alan Walker, our valued general manager, who demonstrated the amazing range of colour and flexibility of the lighting, as well as its intensity and variety. "This will help to make it much more usable for special events during the Festival and at special seasons of the year," Alan said.

Finally, all returned to the café for refreshments, agreeing that the use of light emitting diodes (LEDs) has indeed made this a state-of-the-art upgrade, which is a first-class investment.

Festival Fringe at Poole's Cavern

Former winner of Best Overall Fringe Production, the Young REC Drama School is returning to Buxton Country Park in July with two new productions.

The 8 to 11 year-olds will be performing 'Lunar Tics', a new lighthearted adventure for kids, written and directed by Poole's Cavern tour guide Martin Beard, who runs the drama school based in Burbage. The 12 to 16 year-olds will reprise the first production they did here eight years ago, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

This year they will once again be in the marquee (open air is too risky for Buxton's summer), and

for staging they will be 'back to basics', using only natural light on a totally white stage. An eco-friendly production, everything will be made from recycled materials, except for some paint: even the screws are being re-used!

Over the past few years, these productions have been a great success, forming a solid foundation from which many of the students have gone on to pursue careers in theatre, TV and media.

Civic Association members get concessionary prices on tickets and, if coming as a family, one adult can go free.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare
Young REC Theatre Company

7-8.45pm, 6-9 July
The Marquee, Poole's Cavern Grounds

Shakespeare's funniest and best-loved comedy, performed with energy and enthusiasm by the award-winning Young REC. Directed by Martin Beard, whose previous staging of this play won the Fringe Award for Best Overall Production.

This new version brings even more magic and laughter to Fringe 2011.

Tickets: £8 (Child £4, Concession £7)
Suitable for ages 8+
Bookings: 07725 919178

Lunar Tics

By Martin Beard
Young REC Drama School

7-8.15pm, 14-17 July
The Marquee, Poole's Cavern Grounds

In the final installment of the trilogy, the Clan McLellan adventure into space to save the world from evil Blutonians, who are starting another ice age whilst invading Earth.

The Clan steal a Blutonian spaceship and head for the moon where the dastardly doomsday machine is focused on planet Earth! (New Writing)

Tickets: £8 (Child £4, Concession £7)
Suitable for ages 6+
Bookings: 07725 919178

Macbeth

By William Shakespeare

6pm, 7.15pm and 8.30pm, 11-15 July
In Poole's Cavern

A thrilling, hour-long promenade production of 'Macbeth' in the extraordinary setting of Poole's Cavern. Witches haunt the ancient rocks and evil lurks in the shadows, seducing a king in his lust for power.

The audience enters the belly of the earth for a truly unique close-up experience of one of Shakespeare's most powerful plays.

"Blood will have blood. Stones have been known to move and trees to speak."

"The best version of Macbeth I've been lucky enough to see, even beating the RSC hands down."

South Devon Herald Express

Tickets: £10
Bookings: 0845 127 2190 or online at:
www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk



Calling all Helpers!

Lots to do so come and join in: it can be fun!

The Woodland Working Group meet on the last Monday morning of the month, 9.30am at Poole's Cavern. Usually light work in Grin Wood. Please phone David on 01298 77258.

The Gardening Group meet some Friday mornings and look after the gardens at the Visitor Centre. Please phone Joan on 01298 23978, or May on 01298 23791.

The Community Group produce the newsletter, arrange events, and work on increasing membership. Please phone Pat on 01298 70706, or Trevor on 01298 27946.



AGM

**7.30pm, Monday 13 June
Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre**

BCA AGM plus a special tour of the Cavern's new LED lights.

Directions: A537, A523 (the Silk Road) northwards, A5090 (Bollington Old Road) at the third roundabout, left up Clarence Road just after the high canal aqueduct.

We need to give our Bollington friends numbers by Thursday 16 June and organise car sharing. Please phone Trevor on 01298 27946 before that date. Offers of lifts welcome.

Visit to Bollington Civic Society

**6.45pm, Monday 20 June
Clarence Mill, Bollington SK10 5JZ**

Last June a party from Bollington Civic Society came over the hills and we took them up the main path through Grin Wood to Solomon's Temple. After refreshments at the Visitor Centre we compared notes about what our two civic societies do.

It was a mutually beneficial and very enjoyable evening and they have now invited us to make a return visit, meeting at 6.45pm at Clarence Mill by the Macclesfield Canal with refreshments at 7.00pm at the Waterside Cafe. We shall visit the Discovery Centre, set up by the Civic Society (of particular interest is a collection of over 2000 old photographs on computer), and go on a short guided walk round old Bollington.

Discover Ferneydale Nature Reserve

**6.30pm, Thursday 21 July
Meet by Harpur Hill School**

Last July we enjoyed an expert guided flower walk in Grin Wood led by Mrs June Noble. June has kindly agreed to take us round the Ferneydale Reserve, recently established by High Peak Borough Council.

The Ferneydale Reserve is in the valley just below Harpur Hill Primary School and over 130 plants have now been recorded, including several rare orchids.

Numbers are limited to 16 so booking is essential. Please phone the the Visitor Centre office on 01298 26978 before Monday 18 July, to book your place.

Autum Events

Make Friends with your Digital Camera (Session 2)

2-4pm, Sat 24 September, Poole's Cavern

Arthur Packham regrets he was not able to take the original second session of his course due to ill health. In this session Arthur will focus attention on corrections and changes that can easily be made to pictures on a computer.

Maximum 20. Please phone the Visitor Centre office on 01298 26978 to book your place.

Transition Buxton Talk:

Preparing to make the transition to a low oil, low carbon society

**7.30pm, Thursday 20 October
Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre**

The Transition Movement is a lively development all over the UK attracting many idealistic younger people. This is a chance for BCA members to find out what they suggest, especially about our woodlands.

There will be an article by Charles Jolly of the Transition Buxton Coordinating Group in the autumn newsletter giving you more information.



Who's Who at BCA

Brian Shawcross

BCA Treasurer Brian Shawcross is an accountant with over forty years of wide and varied experience. Most recently working for the YMCA in St Helens and Halton, he has also worked in the motor trade and construction. Brian generously responded to a request in our newsletter to give some help to our last excellent treasurer, John Boardman, and when John left Buxton last year Brian agreed to take on this important and demanding role. We are fortunate to have the services of such a professional, experienced, obliging, and friendly gentleman.

Brian has lived in Buxton for thirteen years with his wife, Gaynor, a medical photographer, and their daughter Kate, now a solicitor in Lancaster. His main interests are walking, cooking and DIY. Brian says he enjoys his work as BCA Treasurer and sees a secure financial future for us.

Access Improved in Grin Wood

The main path in Grin Wood, from Poole's Cavern up to the open pasture land around Solomon's Temple, has been repaired with much very welcome help from Lafarge Aggregates, Tarmac and Omya UK, whose quarries supplied the stone. BCA is extremely grateful to them for their generosity.

The surface of this popular

path was getting eroded and slippery in wet weather and we are delighted that we have been able to complete this urgent repair work.

General Manager Alan Walker and his team, together with Martin Wragg of Oak Tree Landscapes, Chapel-en-le-Frith, completed the work. This follows the successful construction of the new

path in Corbar Wood finished in January – in spite of the snow!

Alan Walker says, "Already we have had positive comments from walkers and even from an accompanied motorised wheel-chair user who was delighted to be able to get up to the top to see the fields around Solomon's Temple and the views over Buxton."

Buxton Civic Association

General Manager: Alan Walker at Poole's Cavern, 01298 26978

Board Members

Chair: Paul Dinsdale

Vice chair &

Planning: Hilary Lawrence

Secretary: Martin Wragg

Treasurer: Brian Shawcross

Woodlands: Peter Phillipson

Community &

Membership: Alistair Rogerson

Development: Bill Preece

Environment: Mike Monaghan

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Stephen Robinson

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