



Progress Report January to July 2019

Introduction

New Station Manager, Pete Longden joined us temporarily towards the end of January. Then it was Simon Brooks again, then Pam Williams made a return. All these changes made us dizzy!

Buxton Blues Train

The train rolled on into the New Year and featured some of the best blues musicians around. One of the brightest stars of the scene made his BTT debut in April. *George Borowski and the Fabulous Wonderfols* featured the fabled “Guitar George” of Dire Straits’ Sultans of Swing fame.

FoBS help Buxton sparkle

Secretary, Sue points to our acknowledgement on the “role of honour” of all those who helped make the town brighter with a new display of Christmas lights. We donated half of our winnings from the successful ACoRP Award to the lighting campaign.



New cigarette bin installed

We decided it better to put a new bin in place as it had proved such a valuable addition to the frontage. Enquiries that Manager, Simon Brooks made with British Transport Police failed to turn up a perpetrator after it had been vandalised twice!

Initiated investigation of Station Approach as safe for pedestrians using it at night

Councillor Tony Kemp was contacted by us in recognition of the appalling night-time streetscape presented by the main route into town from the station. The lack of lighting and unlit footway present significant hazards to pedestrians, particularly those with mobility and visual acuity issues.

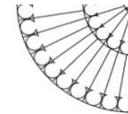
The land is owned by Mr E Conways of the adjacent DIY shop. We also wrote to him about the damaged 1863 bollards, offering to restore them with his support. Somewhat surprisingly, after a long time thinking about it, he consented!

Councillor Kemp reported that the area is entirely under the control of Mr Conways and therefore the Councils (High Peak Borough and Derbyshire County) couldn't intervene about the night time lighting nor a general scheme of improvement, like the addition of planter units and suchlike. Our campaigning continues with Mr Conways!



Poster case installation

Peter Dickinson from *Inputgroup* of Derby puts the final touches to the installation of the poster cases within the “Quad” frame. At our AGM, we decided to display items in the six cases in a “corporate friendly” and organised way (see below). Pete had to adapt the cases as the frame was non-standard size. We have asked for grant support for these quite expensive items.



Welcome to Buxton
Need a Taxi?

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These local taxi operators are working to improve customer service with The Friends of Buxton Station. All of their cars are friendly to wheelchair users and Guide Dogs.

<p>Buxton Radio Taxis (open 24 hours) Tel: 01298 23457 Tel: 01298 72121 All cars carry 4 passengers</p>	 
<p>Crescent Cars (open 06:00 - 00:00) Tel: 01298 73515 All cars carry 4 passengers</p>	 



Information provided by
Friends of Buxton Station
fobs.buxton@gmail.com

Fanlight window vandalised - thrice!

One of the previously broken panels was attacked once again by vandals just before Christmas. As if this wasn't enough, a bottle was then thrown through the same pane during the following week. Owners, DB Cargo wanted us to arrange a quotation from nearby competent suppliers and installers, *Classic Glass of Dove Holes*. They were commissioned to undertake the work by new-in-post Lucy North, Peter Green's replacement.

We did all of the negotiations between Classic Glass of nearby village, Dove Holes and DB Cargo to ensure that both parties were content with the work undertaken and the price paid. It was an early confidence-builder for Lucy, knowing that she could trust us in this work on her behalf, learning that we have a great love of our heritage Grade II Listed structure.



Initial planning meeting for the Buxton Spa renaming idea

Driving force for the campaign, Roddie MacLean, Chair of Vision Buxton organised a meeting to get the issue under way early in the New Year. We had done quite a bit of early preparation:

- Contacted the then Secretary of State for Transport for support and a list of objectives to be met;
- Similarly, contacted Ruth George, M. P., the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Shadow Transport Secretary;
- Devised a simple mathematical formula to show a consensus of support with reasonable levels of error would require around 2,000 respondents;
- Included a question in our collaborative Travel Survey about the renaming having a positive economic impact on Buxton; and
- Generated a very simple *SurveyMonkey* template for collecting feedback from rail users and our local community:
 - Would you like Buxton Station to be renamed *Buxton Spa* (yes/no)?
 - We particularly need the views of local people, what is the first part of your postcode (select from droplist: SK17, SK22, SK23, other)?
 - We also need the views of rail users (select from droplist “how often you travel by train:” weekly, monthly, less frequently).
 - Please add any helpful comments (50 character max).
 - Give your name and email to learn more.

Marc attended an exploratory meeting over dinner on 31 May with Roddie, our MP, Leader of County and Borough Councils, The Regional Director of Northern and Trevor Osbourne, prime sponsor of The Crescent development (that includes the spa hotel, the opening of which regains Buxton its spa town status).

April Staff Newsletter

This was circulated to Cleaning Staff, Ticket Office workers and Train Crew. It told about the new automatic doors (see later), our newly installed poster cases and cigarette bin and the fanlight window repairs by *Classic Glass* (see right photograph).

Talk to Parkinsons’ Support Group

Spoke to 18 members of the group about the voluntary work that FoBS undertake. Sue and Dave were given a vote of thanks and a small gift. One member offered to come and help at the next gardening session - he’ll be welcomed.

Explore Buxton

Jen from Explore came to see our work and wrote about us in her blog “*Best of Buxton.*” Impressed by the things that we have already done and the planned projects, have a read at: <https://explorebuxton.co.uk/friends-of-buxton-station/>



One last try at twinning

In recognition of “impending” Brexit, we attempted a twinning arrangement with a German station. One final try at Berlin’s Central Station followed by the town twin of *Bad Nauheim*, a spa town in west-central Germany.

We did this in honour of the friendship between our two nations and wanted to preserve it, not allow Brexit-fuelled division to flourish, saying “we remain European in attitude if not political affiliation.”

The Railroad Friends of the Wetterau Valley (see <https://ef-wetterau.de/>) made an encouraging offer to twin with FoBS. This is a Friends group of a heritage railway operating in Buxton’s twin town of Bad Nauheim, in fact they run the Bad Nauheim-North railway station! We have drafted a Friendship Charter and hope both parties are able to sign in amity soon.

We wanted to do something a little different with our proposed twinning, we wanted it to be tri-partite!! The involvement of Peak Rail, who have much in common with *EF Wetterau* seems like a good idea. Initial contact with Paul Tomlinson and Martin Gadsby was favourable, particularly as the enthusiasts launched a call for a Buxton Support group for their wish to reopen the line to Matlock from Buxton on 19 June.



We started the “tri-partite ball rolling” by sharing this photograph with both “twins.” It was kindly sent by former Buxton Resident, Arthur Leah (lived here from 1978 - 84). The little boy in the shot was Arthur’s 2 years old Son, now aged 40!

Refused access behind buffers to tidy up and create art installation



Network Rail's new community contact, Kate Burke told us the bad news that her organisation still consider that area to be "live" track and refused to allow us to enter it to clear the visually intrusive litter and debris before re-raking the gravel. They would also not sanction any art installation in this area. We challenged this during Rail Safety Week.

Habitat Management - "rewilding the railway land"

New contact at DB Cargo, Lucy North negotiated permission from Head of Property, Mark Nicholls prior to his retirement to allow some tree work, removing dangerous timbers and allowing them to be stacked and staked to provide harbourage for local wildlife. A "win-win" project, safety concerns about dangerously leaning trees and damaged branches were addressed with the additional benefit of "giving nature a helping hand."

We met with Angharad Seaton, Northern's regional Environmental Advisor to discuss ways to improve conditions for local wildlife on the site formerly occupied by DB Cargo's Traction Maintenance Depot. She gave us some good advice on environmental enhancement and we made these into work objectives that were discussed with Lucy North at DB Cargo.



This photo shows how our proposals also had a positive impact on safety as the broken branches like the one seen here were to be removed where they threatened people using the public footpath (where Sue on the left and Angharad are standing).

Upon inspecting the trees, the Contractor appointed by DB Cargo considered the area to be too dangerous to allow FoBS Volunteers to enter and asked for the project to be suspended pending the removal of certain trees/branches. Some early log-piling work had already been undertaken. Nesting season also put a little delay on all work.

Re-evaluate one of the 2019 Objectives?

A prime Objective to provide a bench seat on the bottom of Palace Road was reconsidered after our Chairman, Dave spotted a pile of wooden bench seats poorly stacked in the local Council depot. If donated, we would be able to afford to site more than one bench to the benefit of local folk.

Dave remembered the great joinery work done by Paul Lewis of Buxton Lions when repairing the award-winning red phone box door because many of the benches needed attention of the “skilled joinery” kind.



Having gained permission to place a bench on land owned by DB Cargo opposite the entrance to the car park of the Palace Hotel, we made it one of our Objectives to move the idea forward. High Peak Mayor, Linda was instrumental in getting two donated from the stack of damaged ones at the Council Depot.



All of the benches seen here are marked with memorial inscriptions and have suffered vandalism when placed along the Pavilion Gardens walkway. Working collaboratively with Paul Lewis of Buxton Lions and his friend, Jek Jacob, we intended to cobble together a decent bench

from the damaged carcasses of two others. Paul restored one bench and has instigated further support from former woodworking tutor, Jek. He managed to make eight benches in total for return to use (6 wooden, the FoBS one and a metal one).

Further research indicated that Jek will probably need to purchase some suitable replacement timber as well as wood-glue, replacement dowels and environmentally-friendly weatherproofing chemicals to restore as many as possible - Dave made a bid to supportive Mayor's Charity Committee for £200 to cover this cost, but was very generously awarded £374. Our bench was installed on 22 May - see “And finally...”

Adding to the model of the Buxton Midland Station

Barry Bryant's Widow, Mary generously gave us a large number of Barry's models following his death. We sifted through the collection and added to the O-gauge Midland model and set about creating a new display of smaller OO-gauge engines and trucks (lower photograph).

Will and Dave added a crane, a couple of lamps, several trucks and a couple of carriages to the display.

The remaining models were donated to *New Mills & District Railway Modellers* who came up with this idea and thinks that (Barry and) Mary would like: Since 2001 the Club has appealed for donations of model railway items to raise funds for Blythe House Hospice. They sell donated items after repairing or adding value; sales are made throughout the year but mainly at the Club's annual February exhibition. 100% of the proceeds go to the hospice and the total raised over the years is over £80,000. The photograph below shows Henry collecting the boot-full of modelling stuff for *NM&DRM*. The team at *NM&DRM* estimated that Barry's hoard will fetch a staggering £1,200!!!



Bashing with the Mayor



We were invited to attend the Mayoral Charity “pie and pea” bash by Madame Mayor herself. Sue and Dave represented FoBS and were regally entertained by Linda and her rock’n’rolling team, who raised much-needed funds for Blythe House Hospice (see notes about Barry Byant’s models) and Buxton Mountain Rescue.

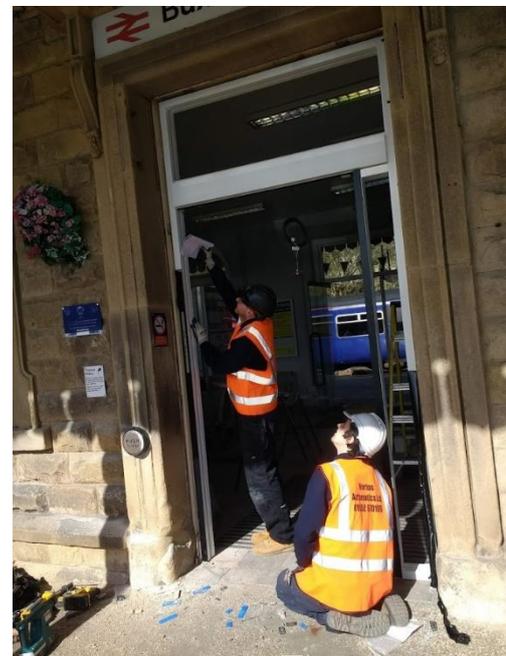
The only disappointment was that we didn’t win anything on the raffle - Sue had her eye on the giant purple teddy bear!

Those with sharp eyesight will spot our CRP Chairman, George Wharmby dancing in the background! (Clue: He’s between Linda and Dave, 3rd from the left!).

After lots of campaigning, we eventually got automatic doors installed at the Ticket Office

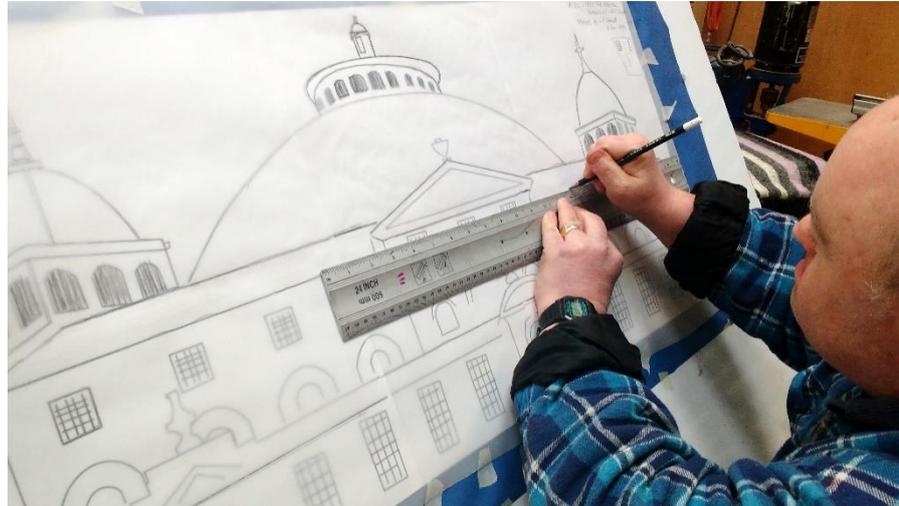
Head of Property at Northern, David Byrne promised to help us with our campaigning to get the very heavy doors replaced. He came good in March when the power assisted doors were put in. Well done all for keeping up the campaigning pressure!!

We are still discussing how the doors could help even more by being fully automatic - at the moment, they are programmed only to open when a button is pushed or a handle is pulled/pushed. Still, a million times better than the old heavy ones!!



Early work on the 2019 Buxton Art Trail project.

We decided to commission a special piece of artwork from Designer, Sarah Brindley and her artistic team from Moore Care, being individuals with learning disabilities and/or challenging behaviours. We had the idea of a townscape profile based upon unique architectural features of Buxton for the theme, allowing the artists to interpret that in their own style. Early work looked promising.



Sarah told us that the commission fee would go to buy more equipment to extend her work with Moore Care. Operating under the name *More Care Design Collective*, this team of Artists, led by Sarah relish the opportunity to enter this project into the Buxton Art Trail. FoBS intention by commissioning the Collective was primarily to include this marginalised group within a mainstream arts event, highlighting their talents through a project that reflects the wonderful heritage of our lovely town. Their work will be visually striking and has been driven entirely by them - true community art! More details in the next Progress Report.

Rewilding the River Wye

Working in partnership with our friends from Buxton Town Team, we helped to build up the damaged banks and installed deflecting barriers from stone leftover from our Japanese Garden project. Here we see Rob from the Waterside Care team (a part of *Keep Britain Tidy* group) loading some of our stones into the water.



The Defibrillator Objective

To encourage people to “have-a-go” with the AED that we have provided at the station, we worked with the Steve, Editor of *Pure Buxton* and a young heart attack survivor, Andy Fowler. A meeting was held with Steve Caddy on 17 March and a very positive article followed in Steve’s next edition of *Pure*.

Travel Survey forms released

Derek worked together with members of Buxton Town Team to develop a comprehensive travel survey form aimed at rail users. The aim is to gather information about current views of the station as well as rail travel, with the opportunity for respondents to suggest areas for improvement and their support (or otherwise) for the idea to rename the station *Buxton Spa*.



An online version has also been produced



**The Buxton Line
Rail Passenger Survey
2019**

Please will you help?

Friends of Buxton Station are working with Northern and the Community Rail Partnership to promote and improve the service and stations on the Buxton Line.

Please would you complete this questionnaire so that we can gather your views and provide ideas for improvements. The survey is being carried out by Friends of Buxton Station and the Town Team in agreement with Northern.

Please pop this document in a box at Buxton Station when completed.

Before you start,
You may prefer to do this survey on line at:
<http://tinyurl.com/Buxtontrainsurvey>
Thank you!

(<http://tinyurl.com/Buxtontrainsurvey>).

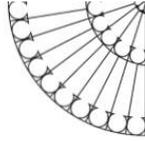
We introduced Robert Largan (left) to the form during his tour of the station in April; the Conservative candidate for High Peak MP admitted to “being very impressed by (our) projects and Award successes.”

We dressed a well!

Participating in the ancient tradition internationally associated with Buxton, we dressed the Turner’s Memorial in April as the water supply was restored. Samuel Turner was one of a small group of influential individuals responsible for bringing the railways to the district and it was appropriate for a community group like FoBS to honour him in this way.

Attended by Civic dignitaries, including the Deputy Lieutenant of Derbyshire and Mayor of High Peak, we celebrated by adorning the Grade II Listed monument and nearby tree with 500 knitted flowers, generously made and donated by the U3A’s “Knit & Natter” group. Chairman Dave (seen here putting the final decorations in place) gave a brief talk to the 100 or so present about Mr Turner, his value to the town and his connection to the trains.





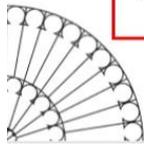
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Taxi poster produced

Having written to all local private hire and hackney carriage operators in the area, we were confident of attracting a great deal of interest into our proposed "onward travel information" project. However, only two local operators wanted to get involved.

Undaunted, we ploughed on with our intention to let late night arriving rail users know where to get hold of a taxi for their onward journey from the station.

This is one of a series of posters placed in the newly installed poster cases. Other information will signpost local services and ideas of things to do and see in town.

One of those involved, Buxton Radio Taxis pledged a donation of £60 towards our voluntary work - thank you Lisa.

Accessibility

The station now has a profile on Euan's Guide – a website that provides venue information for those with accessibility issues.

This website is increasing in popular use as families of those with specific needs carry out research prior to making a visit. We hope that the information we have released will give a good indication about what to expect. There are more things that could be done, but knowing about step-free access is important.
(User: Fxxxxxxxxx, password: Pxxxxxxxxx2)





Buxton Railway Station
Station Road, Buxton

0 ★★★★★ 0



Accessible Toilet

The railway station sits at the end of The Buxton Line linking the town with Manchester's Piccadilly Station.

Read more

Write review

Buxton Railway Station

Station Road, Buxton, SK17 6AQ, United Kingdom | 0800 200 6060 | [Website](#)

Back to results

Reviews

Details

Location

Venue Description

The railway station sits at the end of The Buxton Line linking the town with Manchester's Piccadilly Station.

Accessibility

Our station has:

- two accessible parking bays;
- ramped entrance way to Ticket Office;
- flat and level access to both platforms;
- automatic entry doors that operate by pushing a large button;
- induction loop facilities at the Ticket counter and on platform;
- a RADAR operated accessible toilet on the platform with ramped access;
- an accessible Ticket machine; and
- a 24-hour information/help push-button service accessible from wheelchair height.

Awards List

BlueAssist training programme.

Toilets

Ramped access, wide doorway, RADAR key, elbow taps, grab rails, handrails.

Staff

Information about the staff has not been added for this venue.

The venue says it has...

 Carer Discount

 Disabled Access

 Induction Loop

 Disabled Parking

We entered Buxton Garden Trail

Supporting a local community venture that raises funds for local charities, including *Helen's Trust*, we entered our Japanese Garden into the Trail after giving a facelift and a few additions. Sadly, the June weather wasn't kind as *Storm Miguel* swept roughly across the North-West.



Our bench on Palace Road! ▼▼▼▼▼



The other restored seven benches being handed back to High Peak BC Councillors Todd and Grooby (photo shows, from left: Paul Lewis (Lions), Oliver Bagshaw (HPBC), Cllr Linda Grooby, Dave Pickford (HPBC), FoBS Chairman, Dave and Cllr Jean Todd ▼▼▼▼▼



Matt's image of a steam train was finally installed

Matt Cooper, the community artist who came up with this striking design suffers from autism and anxiety issues. He made the original image digitally using an iPad Pro - choosing 'calm and relaxing' water colours - then we eventually had it printed onto a sheet of metal.

After a long time trying to work out the best way to print up Matt's steam train image with Jim at Hotline Signs, we finally got it right - too narrow and it would've needed too much edge filling, too wide and it would not look proportionate.



The stylish image has been placed within the archway of the former entrance to the station's platform one on Palace Road - creating the illusion that it is exiting a tunnel.

Matt said: "The fact that it looks like a tunnel reflects the history of the station itself - when people would have been able to see trains through the entrance."

Matt explained how working on the project has helped him - he uses art to escape his 'worries, fears and sometimes reality', adding that his ever-supporting parents were 'proud' of the work's prominent position.

And finally,.....

One of our Station Adoption Plan Objectives for 2019 was to undertake a mid-year Report on all of our Objectives. This was done within the meeting and thereafter recorded in the minutes of the 19 June 2019. We were able to report then and repeat here in brief:

- a. **Review previous Access Audits:** **done** on 11 June
- b. **Tidy-up the area behind the buffers:** not allowed by Network Rail
- c. **Promote discounted travel in our newly installed poster cases** - not done yet, but poster cases **installed**.
- d. **Investigate “habitat creation” projects:** **partially done**, but stopped early on by safety concerns from land owner.
- e. **Install the “Buxton Weather Stone:** Management Committee agreed to shelve this project for the time being, review again at year-end AGM.
- f. **Display or gift/sell Barry Bryant donated items:** **Done**. Given to the New Mills & District Railway Modellers Club to be auctioned in support of Blythe House, it was anticipated that £1000 would be easily raised.
- g. **Investigate “Harry Potter” train with High Peak Magic Circle:** Not done. No suitable “link-up” events have occurred.
- h. **Redecorate the rear of the boarded gateway:** Not been done.
- i. **Site a bench seat on Palace Road:** This has been **done** and extended to save nine other benches.
- j. **Redecorate the 1864 bollards on Station Approach:** DC prepared (fill tops and wire brush) on 23 June, work **imminent**.
- k. **Work with Pure Buxton to show how easy AED use is:** This has been **done** within the April edition.
- l. **Install a ribbon townscape silhouette** on the top fence on P2: **Done**. This developed into our Buxton Art Trail installation
- m. **Undertake a travel survey** (Feb/March) and review (June/July); This was **done** in May.
- n. **Assist in the feasibility study** on DB Cargo land next to the station; Tina Heathcote of Buxton Town Team to arrange “round table” discussions with DCC, HPBC, Network Rail, Northern and DB Cargo, expected by **end of year**.
- o. **Investigate a “knitted display akin to wells dressing;”** This was **done** on 13 April - Carnival Committee asked that we repeat the dressing for the period of the “Wells Festival” in July.
- p. **Canvas and assist Bike’nGo to replace four of their bikes:** The Management Committee agreed to withdraw this idea due to complete lack of support from Bike’nGo staff.

To summarise, out of 16 items, we have completed seven in total, with a further three partially completed or due for completion imminently. Of the remaining six, we have not been allowed to address two for lacking support (feasibility study & Bike’nGo) and a further two have not presented the opportunity to engage. The final two have not been done due to low priority (repaint boarded gate - programmed for next working party in July) and vandalism fears (Buxton weather stone).

Appendix – some examples of FoBS’s local News coverage in the period.

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Heritage heroes

New award scheme honours town’s community volunteers



BUXTON’S thriving community spirit has been celebrated in a new awards scheme organised by the Civic Association.

The organisation’s first Heritage Heroes night, staged at the instigation of recently retired association chair Mike Monaghan, highlighted the contribution of leading members of the town’s voluntary sector.

PICTURED (FROM LEFT): CHRISTINE GOULD - WELL DRESSING FESTIVAL; RICHARD LOWER - CARNIVAL, RBL & TOWN TEAM; MIKE MONAGHAN - RETIRING BCA CHAIR; MADELINE HALL - SERPENTINE COMMUNITY FARM; TINA HEATHCOTE - TOWN TEAM; VIV RUSSELL - FORMER TARMAC DIRECTOR; DAVE CARLISLE - FRIENDS OF BUXTON STATION.

purebuxton

“We are celebrating the enormous number of people who are involved in caring for this remarkable town,” he said. “In the 50 years since the Civic Association was formed, various other groups have emerged that are very active and they are all complementary.”

Mike presented Heritage Hero awards to:
Buxton Town Team member **Tina Heathcote** in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the preservation and enhancement of Buxton.

Dave Carlisle, for his role as the inspiration and guiding force behind the Friends of Buxton Station.

Christine Gould, in recognition of her outstanding work with Buxton Well Dressing festival since 1986.

Richard Lower, chair of the well dressing committee and the carnival and a member of the Royal British Legion and Town Team – playing a key role in the restoration of Ashwood Park and improvements to Fairfield Road.

Madeline Hall, for her work in transforming a derelict and overgrown council parks depot into the Serpentine Community Farm.

Mike also handed a special award to former Tarmac director **Viv Russell** in recognition of his support for local groups. He said: “There can hardly be a charitable organisation in this town that hasn’t benefitted from Tarmac’s help, either in kind or money.”

Viv dedicated his award to the quarrymen of Buxton ■

purebuxton

All change for Buxton Spa

Should town capitalise on its new status by changing station's name?

BUXTON is set to return to 'spa town' status when the Crescent hotel opens next year – one of only two in the country.

Now moves are afoot to make the most of that claim to fame, announcing it to visitors as they arrive in the town – by officially changing the name of the railway station to Buxton Spa.

Dave Carlisle, chair of the Friends of Buxton Station, says: "This is a unique opportunity to market our town. Widespread news coverage is expected to promote Buxton's return to 'spa town' status. This move would effectively acknowledge that fact.

"The Crescent will have a mineral water pool, refilled daily with spa

water – only the second place in the UK where this happens."

Vision Buxton chair, Roddie MacLean, agrees: "It makes absolute sense. We're about to become a genuine spa town and this is a way of marking that change in status."

MP Ruth George has checked on procedures for the change and reports that no formal process is required.

Northern Rail is said to be behind the idea in principle; Network Rail requires only confirmation that people are happy with the change.

What do you think? Are you in favour of the new name? Let us know your views by emailing editor@purebuxton.co.uk or writing to us c/o PO Box 140, Buxton SK17 1AU ■



BUXTON ADVERTISER NEWS PAGE 13/12/2018

'Next stop Buxton Spa?'

By Ben McVay
newsdesk@buxtonadvertiser.co.uk
@Buxton_News

A prominent businessman is spearheading a campaign which is calling for the town's railway station to be re-named Buxton Spa.

The group - led by architect and business leader Roddie MacLean - wants the name change to capitalise on the multi-million pound regeneration of the Crescent.

It is understood the group believes not enough is being done to promote Buxton's return to spa town status to the world. Mr MacLean said Buxton would soon be one of only two towns in the country where people can bath in spa waters.

He said: "People are saying this is a pretentious idea but there's no pretence - it's about making an actual fact.

"I think a lot of people don't realise that we're going to be a spa town again so how are we going to mark it or make a commercial opportunity of it?"

The calls have won the support of High Peak MP, Ruth George.

"I welcome the suggestion

- we want to encourage more visitors to Buxton to make sure that local people and businesses to reap some benefits of the Crescent project," she said.

"And the more who travel by train the better for our local roads and parking."



Roddie MacLean



Ruth George MP



Members believe more should be done to market the spa

Group wants station to be given new name

By Ben McVay
news@buxtonadvertiser.co.uk
@Buxton_News

A group of people keen to see the town make the most of the Crescent's multi-million pound regeneration is pushing to see the train station renamed Buxton Spa.

It is understood they believe not enough is being done to promote and capitalise on Buxton's return to spa town status to the world.

The Grade I listed Crescent building, where the spa is located, has been derelict for 25 years and is among the most architecturally significant in the country.

When it reopens as an 80-bedroom thermal spa hotel next year it will be the only one of its kind in the north of England and is expected to play a huge role in driving economic growth, boosting tourism and

creating more jobs.

Buxton architect and business leader Roddie MacLean said the town would soon be one of only two in the country where people can bath in spa waters.

He said: "People are saying this is a pretentious idea but there's no pretence - it's about marking an actual fact.

"I think a lot of people don't realise that we're going to be a spa town again so how are we going to mark it or make a commercial opportunity of it?"

"People have spent a lot of money on the Crescent so we should be trying to make a return on that investment - it's partly the fault of the developers who are resistant about pushing it until it's nearly finished."

Buxton Crescent & Thermal Spa writes on its website that the original thermal pool will be at the heart of the complex.

It will also host pampering

The reaction on social media

Matthew Blackwood said: "There are lots of volunteer groups in Buxton who do a lot of great work, but this persistence in pretending we're somehow on a par with Cheltenham, Bath etc. is faintly ridiculous.

"This should be WAY down the list of anyone's lobbying priorities and even if the Crescent IS finished (if...) next year, the rest of the town is way off the mark in terms of the retail offer and general infrastructure."

Richard Jones said: "It's a great idea. There's far too many backward looking people with miserable attitudes talking this town down.

"We've a fantastic opportunity with the new development of the spa to put this town back on the map but if people carry on talking it all down by wallowing in self pity we could blow it."

treatments featuring mineral-packed mud and specially tailored healthy lifestyle programmes.

Dave Carlisle, chairman of Friends of Buxton Station, said: "This is a unique opportunity to market our lovely town.

"We can expect widespread news coverage about the return of Buxton as a spa resort.

"The name change is a great way to herald this - to let people know that we have world class spa facilities on our doorstep."

High Peak MP Ruth George said she welcomed the suggestion.

"We want to encourage more visitors to Buxton to make sure that local people and businesses to reap some benefits of the Crescent project.

"And the more who travel by train the better for our local roads and parking."

STATION NAME A few practical considerations

It is interesting to read the calls for a change of name for Buxton Railway Station to Buxton Spa.

Just a matter of changing the platform signs? Unfortunately not!

Consider the following:

- Software changes to train destination displays and ticketing systems.
 - Software changes to customer information systems on platforms.
 - Software changes to National Rail apps and website.
 - Publication of new printed timetables and posters.
 - Amendments to various internal railway publications. To name but a few.
- Anyone willing to pay, please

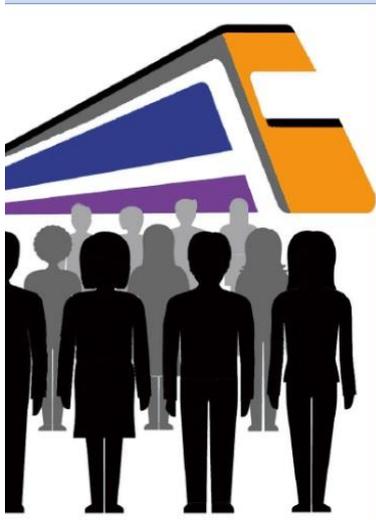


Buxton Advertiser Pages 4 13/12/2018.

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Travel plans on track

Rail passengers will be surveyed as part of improvement project



TRAIN passengers are being asked to play a part in a community-led campaign to make Buxton a better place for travellers of all kinds.

Friends of Buxton Station volunteers will be inviting commuters and visitors to complete a survey into their travel choices – and their views on rail services and station facilities.

The exercise, which will survey passengers in April, June and July, is part of a Buxton Town Team-led initiative designed to tackle access, parking, traffic and transport issues.

The travel plan project, which arose from a *Buxton on the Move* conference in 2016, also involves the

county and borough councils and the University of Derby, liaising with transport operators.

Last year, nearly 900 people took part in a residents' survey, sharing their travel habits and views on ways to improve movement around the town. A further survey, of visitors, will also take place this year.

Meanwhile, a travel plan steering group is working behind the scenes on potential schemes such as cycle routes, school runs, park-and-ride, electric vehicle charging points and a Buxton travel app.

The rail travel survey can also be completed online at <http://tinyurl.com/Buxtontrainsurvey>

purelifestyle

It's okay to have a go

Life saving made easy on Platform 2, thanks to defibrillator

It was just another gym session for 28-year-old fitness fanatic Andy Fowler – until he collapsed on the treadmill. He was saved when staff used a portable defibrillator to jolt his heart back into action.

Five years on, he gives thanks every time he comes across one of the growing network of AEDs (automated external defibrillators) – including one on the platform at the station in his home town of Buxton.

"They still don't know exactly what caused my heart to stop, but I'm



proof that it can happen to anyone," he says. "If it hadn't been for a defibrillator, I would be dead. The more of them there are, the better – especially as anyone can use them."

Crucially, the AED units provide easy-to-follow visual and audio prompts. Marc Haywood, vice chair of the Friends of Buxton Station group which installed the unit in a former telephone box, says: "There is no way of getting it wrong."

"The machine automatically monitors the heartbeat and won't provide a shock if it's not required. Most AEDs actually talk to you as you use them - they are designed so that anyone can use them; you don't even need glasses to read a screen!"



Group chairman Dave Carlisle adds: "I was scared of doing more harm than good with one of these things – but now that I've spoken to Andy, I won't hesitate to pick one up. It's really good to know that the machine won't let me do something harmful."

The AED is available for use 24 hours a day on Platform 2. Dave adds: "We hope that it never has to be used. But if it is needed, hopefully anyone will have the courage to grab it and have a go" ■

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ABOVE (FROM LEFT): ANDY FOWLER, MARC HAYWOOD & DAVE CARLISLE WITH THE DEFIBRILLATOR

17

NEWS

Celebrations see famous landmarks gushing water once more

Town marks revival of two historic wells

By **BEN MC VAY**
ben.mcvay@pjmmedia.co.uk
@Buxton_News

Crowds gathered to mark the historic reopening of two Buxton wells which have been dry for years - with entertainment from Burbage Band and speeches from dignitaries.

The Taylor Well and Turner's Memorial fountain had been closed since the thermal cut-out on the pump which draws water from a cistern under the Cavendish Arcade burnt out.

Celebrations took place at the Turner Memorial fountain on Saturday - with Deputy Lieutenant for Derbyshire Louise Potter, High Peak Mayor Linda Grooby and consort Mark Pearson overseeing the restoration of the waters.

To mark the reopening water gushed out from the fountain's water spouts as Mayor Grooby gave the command 'let there be water'.

The Deputy Lieutenant then made a speech thanking Buxton Town Team and everyone involved in restoring the precious landmark.

Burbage Band played some more and there was dancing in the street to celebrate.



Mayor Linda Grooby at the Turner Memorial fountain.

The reinstatement has come thanks to a Buxton Town Team collaboration with local businesses and organisations.

Hours have been spent rodding blocked pipes and drains, manholes, restoring the pump and generally 'fettling'.

Tina Heathcote, Town Team volunteer and project team leader, said: "This is a challenging project helped enormously by the cheerful help willingly given by so many, including Streamline

Quality Builders, Cemex, Vinci, Swift Welding, High Peak Borough Council, Buxton Civic Association and Town Team members."

A Town Team spokesman said work was still needed on the pump and until this was completed the water would not be flowing all the time.

The Taylor Well came into being when Joseph Taylor donated 'a well of polished Peterhead granite on the corner of Bridge Street in 1886'.

Referred to as the 'Children's Well' for well dressing, the well was relocated to the Terrace Road end of Spring Gardens in 2001.

Samuel Turner was a much-loved town benefactor and his memorial was erected by public subscription in 1878.

To find out how you can take part in Buxton Town Team projects, visit buxtontownteam.org or email townteam@buxtontownteam.org.

Civic projects

Civic projects

Spring-cleaners tidy up the town centre

More than 50 civic-minded volunteers rolled their sleeves up to tidy the town during this year's Big Buxton Spring Clean.

Teams set about washing anything that people look at or touch - including signs, parking metres, litter bins, bus shelters and post boxes.

The Buxton Town Team-organised event prepares the town for summer events including the spring fair and festivals.

Steve Bradshaw, Town Team director and Big Buxton Spring Clean project leader, said: "Once again we've had a great response for help with the clean and many thanks to all who took part on Saturday.

"Many hands make light work so if you spot something in your neighbourhood that could do with a bit of TLC, please just do it."



Buxton Town Team volunteers prepare for their spring clean on Saturday. Photo: Jason Chadwick.

www.buxtonadvertiser.co.uk Thursday, May 9, 2019

NEWS

Matt Cooper - who suffers with autism - used an iPad Pro to paint the image

Artist creates bold work for station

By **BEN McVAY**
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@Buxton_News

A Harpur Hill artist who suffers from autism and anxiety issues has created a striking graffiti art-style image of a steam train at Buxton Railway Station.

Matt Cooper, 22, painted the image digitally using an iPad Pro - choosing 'calm and relaxing' water colours - then had it printed onto a sheet of metal.

The stylish image has been placed within an archway of the former entrance to the station's platform one on Palace Road - creating the illusion that it is exiting a tunnel.

Matt, who works part-time

as a shelf-stacker at Morrisons, told how he used an artwork programme to layer the painting - starting with a sketch and then adding the outline and colours.

He said: "I think the colours make it look well with the brickwork of the building.

"The fact that it looks like a tunnel reflects the history of the station itself - when people would have been able to see trains through the entrance."

Matt, who uses art to escape his 'worries, fears and sometimes reality', said his ever-supporting parents were 'proud' of the work's prominent position.

Dave Carlisle, of the Friends of Buxton Station, said Matt's image had 'exceeded expectations'.



Matt Cooper and his creation.

NEWS

Questionnaire launched for integrated travel approach



Copies of the survey are available from Buxton Station.

Group seeks to improve travel around town

By Ben McVay
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@Buxton_News

A group set up to improve Buxton Railway Station is planning to introduce a joined-up travel system in the town by linking it with other forms of transport.

The Friends of Buxton Station are working with partners on a 'holistic plan' for the efficient movement of people around and through Buxton.

As part of the project it is exploring the introduction of a travel app enabling easier use of transport to, from and around town.

The group is currently gathering information about how customers use the half-hourly service between Buxton and Manchester Piccadilly.

Questions cover the types of travel to the station, reasons for the journey, frequency of travel and includes opportunities to rate facilities and suggest improvements.

The Rail Passenger Survey complements the residents' survey 'Let's Keep Buxton Moving' - undertaken by Buxton Town Team last year.

It gathered a wealth of material which is being used to review how people move in and around the town by the Travel Plan Steering Group

project team.

Derek Bodey, Friends of Buxton Station treasurer, said the group wanted to find out what people thought of improvements made to the service so far.

He said: "We want to hear suggestions for improving the service itself, facilities at the station and what they think of the connections to the bus services.

"We want to achieve an integrated approach but we want to involve the public and get their thoughts."

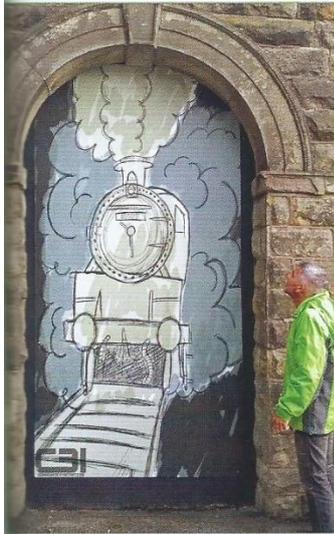
The survey can be collected from Buxton Station or by searching for the Friends of Buxton Station (FoBS) on Facebook.

Community

purelifestyle

Platform for local art

Specially created work brings new look to old station entrance



BUXTON station has gained an eye-catching addition to its ever-growing collection of art with a picture of a steam train filling the former entrance to Platform 1.

The image of Midland Railway steam train 08898 is the work of Harpur Hill community artist Matt Cooper, commissioned by the Friends of Buxton Station and approved by council planners. It joins a mural, a sculpture of a station guard and a giant tiled map of the town.

"I wanted to help the Friends group make some

exciting artwork to cover up the boring gateway and came up with the steam train and tunnel idea," says Matt. "The planning officers wanted it toned-down, so I had to pull back a bit from my usual graffiti street art style."

Matt, who suffers from autism and anxiety issues, adds: "I use my art as a means to escape my worries, fears and sometimes reality. I draw almost every day and I'm improving as time goes by."

The FoBS group of volunteers recently won a second National Community Rail Award for their project to save Buxton's last red public phone box from the scrap yard by installing a life-saving defibrillator inside it on Platform 2. They intend to enter Matt's design into the same competition this year.

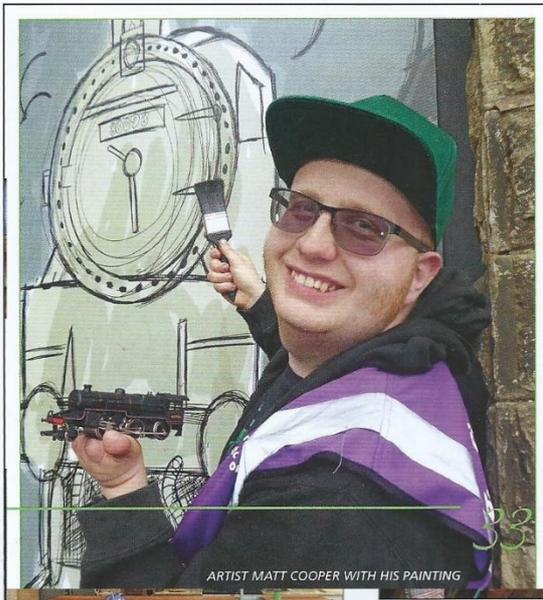
"We love it when someone comes forward with a

great idea like this, it's even better when it helps that person deal with their health issues," says chairman Dave Carlisle.

"Matt's image exceeds our expectations; it is fun and arresting, but totally in keeping with the station's heritage – steam trains would've once been visible from that very gateway!"

The image will feature in this year's Buxton Art Trail (July 6 & 7) along with another piece of work commissioned from the More Care Design Collective – a community arts project co-ordinated by artistic designer Sarah Brindley. The group includes a team of artists with significant learning difficulties and/or very challenging behaviour.

FoBS is an award-winning unfunded voluntary community group working to make the station more welcoming, comfortable and attractive ■



ARTIST MATT COOPER WITH HIS PAINTING

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Reputation restored



Water is flowing again from Buxton landmarks...

WATER is flowing once more from two Buxton landmarks, thanks to the combined efforts of local people and businesses.

And the fact was celebrated in style with a 'Turning on of the Waters' ceremony following the Town Team's spring clean on April 13.

Mayor Linda Grooby performed the honours and Deputy Lord Lieutenant Louise Potter told the crowd: "We owe a huge debt to Buxton Town Team. It's fantastic to have running water on the main street again."

Town Team members worked in partnership with Buxton Civic Association and local businesses to restore the water supply to both the Grade II-listed Turner Memorial Fountain and the smaller Taylor Well.

Friends of Buxton Station and the local U3A also lent their support, in recognition of Samuel Turner's championing of the local railway. Much of the work was done voluntarily by Quality Streamline Builders, Cemex, Vinci, Swift Welding and PK Heathcote.

But experts say the water pump must be urgently replaced if the water is to keep on flowing – so a campaign is now under way to raise the necessary funds.

Town Team member Tina Heathcote, who has co-ordinated the project, says: "We want to bring the systems into the 21st century, with not just a new pump but an air temperature cut-out, so the waters can flow in winter too, except when there's a frost."

If you can help, please email: townteam@buxtontownteam.org or call 07595 377 956 ■

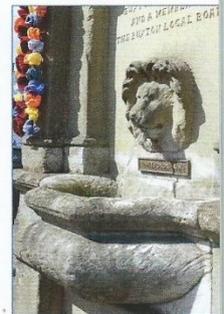
The Taylor Well



THE red granite well – also known as the Children's Well – was given to Buxton by Joseph Taylor in 1886. Originally sited on the corner of Bridge Street, it was moved to its current location in 2001. Little is known of the well's benefactor except that he was a solicitor and also founded Trinity Church on Hardwick Mount ■

Turner Memorial

THE memorial to Samuel Turner was designed by his friend Robert Rippon Duke and erected shortly after his death in 1878 by public subscription. Turner, a builder, was a key figure in numerous local organisations, a church warden for over 40 years and was instrumental in bringing the railways to Buxton. The fountain was badly damaged in 1959 but restored in 1994 ■



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FREE



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Town centre wells restored

Must do better:
Concerns over key
development site

**The Phantom
strikes again:**
Buxton's mystery
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Lifestyle in Buxton and the heart of the Peak District

NEWS

Community



Patty Hoskin and Roy Jeffreys from the Friends of Buxton Station.

Friends restore vandalised memorial bench

Patty Hoskin and Roy Jeffreys, from the Friends of Buxton Station (FoBS), take a well-earned rest on a freshly restored bench at the bottom of Palace Road in the town.

It is one of a collection

which were situated at the Pavilion Gardens before being vandalised and dropped into the river.

Sadly, all of the benches had been marked with memorial inscriptions and FoBS

chairman Dave Carlisle is particularly keen to hear about the couple mentioned on the Palace Road seat - Kath and Jack Shepherd.

FoBS decided on the Palace Road site after gaining

permission from landowner DB Cargo.

Dave said: "We noticed folk struggle to walk up the steep bit of Palace Road and thought a bench there would provide a suitable resting place."

Speakers discussed ways of making Buxton more accessible

Transport

Northern to offer more carriages at Peak times

Rail operator Northern is now running four carriages per train during its peak time services between Buxton and Manchester.

Northern's new timetable means services to Manchester from Buxton - from 6.33am to 10.34am - and those to Buxton from Manchester - between 1.24pm and 6.24pm - are running with four coaches.

Dave Carlisle, chairman of the Friends of Buxton Station, said: "Overcrowded trains during those times should become a thing of the past and commuters will be overjoyed."

NEWS

Civic pride



Mayoral grants boost community organisations

Councillor Linda Grooby, who served as mayor of the High Peak for 2018-19, presented cheques from the Mayoral Charity to a number of grassroots groups and organisations in a ceremony at the Pavilion Gardens. She said: "I thank all the groups for their excellent work within our community and hope they use the grants to carry this on."

The groups helped were: Peak VIP Group, Parkinson Buxton Support Group, Buxton Well Dressing, Friends of Buxton Station, Buxton Town Team, Mad Hatters Choir, Friends of Oignies, 6th Buxton Methodist Brownies, St Anne's Community Centre, Riding for the Disabled, Fairfield Buxton Band, High Peak Mental Health Carers Group, Buxton Coderdojo, Peak Dale Tots and the 3rd Buxton (Harpur Hill) Scouts.

FoBS would like to thank the following for their support with various projects:

Charity Trustees from *The Bingham Trust*;

High Peak Borough Council (through their *Councillors Initiative Fund and Mayor's Charity Committee*);

The High Peak & Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership (HP&HVCRP);

Network Rail, particularly Sinead Griffin and Kate Burke;

Northern Rail/Arriva Northern/Arriva Rail North: Simon Brooks, Becky Styles, Lydia Hayes and David Byrne;

Buxton Lions, Jek Jacob, Jim @ Hotline Signs and Buxton Civic Association;

Matt Cooper, Sarah Brindley & More Care Design Collective;

Waitrose; and

Buxton Water/Nestlé (through their *Get Better With Nature* Community Fund).

Please get in contact with *FoBS* if you would like to help with any of the projects or proposals outlined in this Report: you might be the person to make stuff happen!

[www.Facebook.com/friendsodbuxtonstation](https://www.facebook.com/friendsodbuxtonstation)
fobs.buxton@gmail.com

