

# Buxton Town Team CLOSING REPORT: BIG RAILINGS CLEAN 2017

## 1. OVERVIEW

The big railings clean to remove green algae from iron railings in the public park, took place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April and was the fourth year such an event has run in the Pavilion Gardens, Buxton. This year it involved pupils from 3 primary schools (Fairfield Endowed Juniors, Burbage Primary, St Anne's Primary) and 1 secondary school (Buxton Community School) with students from Buxton & Leek College and Derby University. Adult volunteers came from local firms, Town Team members and the Fire Service.

### AIMS

- To work with Buxton & Leek College, local schools and the University of Derby to clean the railings around the Pavilion Gardens
- To encourage a sense of pride, ownership of and responsibility for the town
- To raise the profile of the Town Team and to engage with existing, and recruit new, members.

## 2. DETAIL OF WHAT TOOK PLACE

Work with students from Buxton & Leek College to plan the activity

Contact schools, the University and voluntary organisations for volunteers

Advance media coverage to raise awareness and call for individual volunteers

Contact key businesses in town for their in-kind support

**Planning** began in the beginning of January with Town Team members, Tina Heathcote and Suzanne Pearson, meeting with Buxton & Leek College Public Service students and their tutor Laura Billingham, enrichment co-ordinator. This became the planning team for the event, which met regularly to report progress.

- BTT were responsible for contacting schools, liaising with Pavilion Gardens, resourcing protective aprons and gloves for the volunteers, checking the stored cleaning equipment from previous years, liaising with local businesses, asking for adult volunteers via local press and BTT newsletters, publicising the event via Communications Group, being responsible for insurance cover for the day.
- BLC students were responsible for creating a map of the railings, planning school groups, resourcing plastic milk bottles, asking local firms for additional cleaning materials, liaising with local supermarket, inviting local services (police and fire brigade), creating posters to advertise the event, developing a timetable for the day, bringing a banner to advertise on the day, organising First Aid cover, approaching Students' Union for support on day, inviting VIP guests.

## 3. ASSESSMENT AGAINST AIMS AND SUCCESS CRITERIA

All aims met:

- **To work with Buxton & Leek College, local schools and the University of Derby to clean the railings around the Pavilion Gardens.** Railings cleaned in worst affected areas of park. Feedback from schools and adult volunteers was very positive and children enjoyed the activity. Following tradition, it did snow during the day, but fortunately this was during the lunch hour when all were inside and the sun returned in the afternoon.

- **To encourage a sense of pride, ownership of and responsibility for the town.** All children welcomed by the project leader and a clear message delivered as to why they were there 'Whose railings are they?' This year the students invited three VIP guests who also welcomed the children and emphasised the importance of the event and civic pride it generated. The VIPs were: Buxton Town Crier (Bill Weston), Buxton & Leek College Principal (Len Tildsley) and Mayor of High Peak (Councillor George Wharmby)
- **To raise the profile of the Town Team and to engage with existing, and recruit new, members.** The event was publicised at Ideas & Action meetings prior to the day and also Communications Group who promoted via the local press which resulted in a team of adults helping throughout the day.

#### 4. ANY FURTHER BENEFITS

New links made with 'Interserve' at H & S Laboratory via Amie Whibberley who contacted us to offer adult support as part of the company's "Give a day of your time scheme." Amie and 4 other members of staff came on the day, she also provided cleaning materials, plastic bottles and spray bottles. They expressed an interest in being involved again next year and were terrific help in packing away at the end of the day.

#### 5. COSTS

The project leader approached stores in town to ask if they could donate cleaning materials, and students in the organising team followed this up by actually visiting the stores and collecting the supplies. Waitrose lent 3 trolleys for transporting the full bottles of water to the railings on the day. Individuals and firms saved plastic bottles. There was a good supply of scrubbers, spray bottles and bin bags from previous years (stored at Tina's).

Money was required to buy tabards and gloves to protect the volunteer cleaners. The project leader asked for assistance from Councillor Matthew Stone and applied to the Councillors Initiative Fund for a sum of £150. This covered the cost of postage on 10 school packs of tabards from Keep Britain Tidy (£50.00), 8 boxes of plastic gloves (£23.92) and additional packs of brushes (£10.00). The total cost was £83.92, leaving a surplus of £66.08.

#### 6. LEARNING POINTS FOR THE FUTURE

Contacting schools was difficult at times and two schools who had been involved in previous years could not participate this time. Perhaps having an initial contact in the Autumn Term to discover which schools are definitely interested would help with planning.

The BLC students started with 6 members in the organising team (less than in previous years), but only 3 stayed the course and worked on the day. This meant they were over stretched, although being brilliant and working extremely hard. Perhaps we need to look at sourcing students from other courses to help.

The event went very well, and is a worthwhile day to give young people the opportunity to understand how they can make a positive impact on their environment and have fun.

Suzanne Pearson

26.9.17