

Civic Society seeks views for launch of commemorative plaque project

Leek's Civic Society wants to see a well-designed wall plaque scheme established in Leek. Placed on buildings of particular architectural interest or having significant historical associations, they would add interest and information both for tourists and for residents.

Josie Heath, Civic Society Chair said: "We want to make sure that we set up a scheme of which the vast majority of people will be proud. The Blue Plaque scheme in London run by English Heritage is perhaps the oldest and most well-known scheme in the country. We think it is time Leek had such a scheme. Some Civic Societies in other towns and cities, such as Ludlow, Leeds, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Birmingham have run commemorative plaque schemes for a number of years."



Michael Stapleton, Civic Society Secretary, added: "Not only are they a source of information they can stimulate people's interest in finding out more about the person, event or building being commemorated."

The latest development is seen on the blue plaque erected by the

Paddington Development Trust in London. Just above "sir" is a microchip which via the appropriate mobile telephone connects the viewer to the Norman Wisdom website! This plaque and indeed a great many of the plaques around the country are made at Dove Holes, near Buxton.

If you wish to add your views and would like a copy of the consultation paper contact the Plaques Project Co-ordinator, Peter Kent-Baguley on 01538 386946 to leave your name, address and telephone number. Alternatively email: peter@kent-baguley.co.uk for an electronic copy.

**ST13
in and around
Leek**

is published to promote the activities and facilities at the FOXLOWE ARTS CENTRE and other cultural and leisure events.

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Leek
is for everyone**

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Registration with the Charity
Commission pending

Directors/Trustees:
Peter Kent-Baguley
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cups & saucers and tables
& chairs for the cafe

people to clean and paint
a couple of hours weekly

more people to pledge £2
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Issue 1

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Foxlowe Arts Centre: countdown to launch started

Foxlowe Arts Centre is on the verge of being a reality at long last. The application to register the Foxlowe Arts Centre as a limited company by guarantee with charitable objects has been approved by Companies House.

Now that has been accepted we will be in a position to contact all those people who have pledged to donate £2 a week for the community purchase of the Foxlowe.

We have already received two definite pledges for donations of £10,000 and £2,000 respectively.

The initial phase of the purchase process is to lease the property for the first year. This is simply because at the moment we have no assets lined up other than the two very generous pledges above and the 250 pledges for £2 per week. The lease allows us to commence the purchase process before the expiry of the twelve months lease once we have secured £150,000 for the deposit and we are confident that our income generates a monthly surplus of £8,000, that is roughly £2,000 per week.

This may seem an enormous amount but if

we double the number of weekly pledges to 500 that would yield £1,000 weekly. Once the Centre opens we are sure more people will give their support when they see the talking has stopped and activities are taking place.

Exhibitions and a range of entertainments will surely attract people from out of town and contribute to Leek's tourist attractions.



Foxlowe - jewel of the Market Place

In between monthly updates via ST13 you can keep in touch with the progress of the Foxlowe Arts Centre via the web site: www.foxlowe.com

Once we have signed the lease we will arrange a Gala Launch of the Foxlowe Arts Centre, celebrated with good food, music, dance and considerable merriment.

In the (hopefully short) meantime we have much to organise. Apart from getting some money and finalising the lease we are developing several key work groups based on what people have said they will volunteer for.

Administration, catering, grounds and maintenance, events and marketing are the initial five key work groups. Each is led by a volunteer co-ordinator with the responsibility of ensuring key tasks are completed to time.

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