



# The Chester Civic Trust

## **BUXTON: WELLS, SPA AND FRIVOLITY: 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016**

We begin our visit with a short break at the Dome. Set slightly above the main town it was constructed by the fifth Duke of Devonshire in 1785. It was part of his plan to develop the town as a popular spa and was a stable, accommodating 110 horses and carriages, as well as an indoor riding circus for inclement weather. In 1858 it became a hydropathic hospital. A huge unsupported dome was added to the building. At the time it was the largest in the world, and it is still the largest in the UK. The Royal Devonshire Hospital finally closed in 2000. It became part of Derby University and has had a substantial and impressive restoration.

We will then have a guided tour of this Georgian spa. The most imposing feature being the Crescent, which was completed in 1784. John Carr of York regarded it as his masterpiece. It has been on the English Heritage at risk register for many years, but is now in the process being restored.

We will have a light lunch at The Pavilion, opened in 1871 and standing in the Pavilion Gardens. These were developed by Edward Milner, an associate of Paxton.

There then will be some free time. We have chosen this week, because it will be possible to see some dressed wells. Well-dressing is a Derbyshire custom, related to its numerous springs. Specific ones are decorated with pictures made from natural items. Henry VIII's commissioner had tried to stop this 'idolatry and superstition' being practiced at St. Anne's holy well, Buxton. In more modern times the wells in Buxton have been known to be regularly dressed since 1840.

The cost of the visit will be £32. This includes coach, the guided tour, a light lunch and gratuities.

Closing date is **30<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

We will leave Handbridge at 8.15 a.m., the Railway Station at 8.20 a.m. and Boughton at 8.25 a.m.

We will be back in Chester at approximately 6p.m..

Please choose your lunch from honey roast salad, served with new potatoes or Derbyshire ploughman's with cheeses, crusty bread, pickle and red onion chutney. Both served with cake and tea or coffee.

**To book your place cut off this slip and send it to:**

**Chester Civic Trust, Bishop Lloyd's Palace, 51/53 Watergate Row, Chester CH1 2LE, enclosing a cheque payable to Chester Civic Trust. Please note tickets will not be issued, but you will be notified by e-mail or telephone.**

**Buxton, 5<sup>th</sup>, July 2016**

**Name (s)**

**I/we enclose a cheque to the value of**

**My/our contact details are telephone** \_\_\_\_\_ **and/or e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I/we will be getting on at Handbridge/the Railway Station/Boughton. Please circle.**

**Lunch: ham salad/cheese platter (as described above) Please circle.**