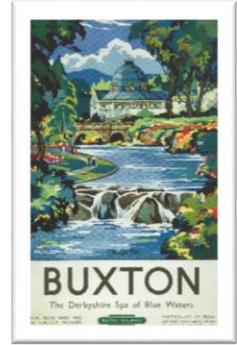




# COSTELLO UK GATHERING

## BUXTON AND THE PEAK DISTRICT

JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> 2015



Following on from the successful Costello gatherings of the past few years we propose a gathering for 2015 based at the spa town of Buxton in the beautiful Derbyshire dales. Buxton is the highest market town in England and has a long history being based on Roman and Medieval towns. The Peak District area around Buxton holds much more than we can cover in a weekend; it is truly a beautiful area and it seems that every route has fabulous scenery.

### FRIDAY

Meet up together in the Wine Bar at the **Old Hall Hotel** at 8 pm for drinks and/or meals as people want (the Wine Bar menu is on the Old Hall Hotel web site). The Old Hall Hotel is only a short walk from the accommodation and is positioned at the entrance to the Pavilion Gardens. The current hotel building dates back to 1573 and was used as secure accommodation for Mary Queen of Scots when she came, as a prisoner, to take the thermal waters. The bars are good too 😊

### SATURDAY

Meet up 9.00 - 9.15 am for the days run which will total around 100 miles.

The first part is from Buxton to Ashbourne for a coffee stop around 10.30. We will pass through a number of villages including Hartington (which is one of only 6 creameries licensed to make Blue Stilton) and **Tissington** (which is famous for their well dressings at the end of May). The scenery is typical of the Peaks with hills and fertile valleys and sheep!

**Ashbourne** will be our mid morning coffee stop.



Ashbourne is an attractive historic market town with lots of tea shops together with many antique and gift shops. It has a lovely old church with carved skulls over the entrance gate! The old railway tunnel in the centre of Ashbourne is the start of the Tissington cycle trail which uses part of the old railway line to Buxton.



After our coffee stop we leave Ashbourne and drive towards Staffordshire getting up to around 1000 feet above sea level. After about 30 minutes we reach the Roaches just north of Leek.



**The Roaches** is an area much used for rock climbing and we will drive around the area on a high single track road for 15 minutes with some fantastic views! The name comes from the French *Les Roches*, meaning 'the rocks'.

After the Roaches we drive for about 30 minutes north to **Langley** in the **Macclesfield Forest** where we will have lunch at the **Leather's Smithy** pub.

After lunch we will drive through the forest to the **Goyt Valley** which is a famous beauty spot in this area and is a drive along a small (one way) track which clings to the side of the valley and comes out by the **Cat and Fiddle** pub on the high moors.



We will then drive around Buxton and continue to **Castleton** known as the 'Gem of the Peaks' where we will have our afternoon coffee break. The drive into Castleton is down **Winnats Pass** which is a spectacular descent into the town.



There will be time for a walk around Castleton which could include including a look at the **Peak Cavern** entrance (otherwise known locally as “The Devils Arse “because of noises that come from the cavern when it floods). Actually the walk up to the Peak Cavern is quite short and very pretty – you follow a stream up from the town centre and pass lots of cottages along the stream path which ends at the cave entrance. Castleton has a number of places of interest including **Peeveril Castle** and three other show caves.

The photo below shows Peeveril Castle on top of the hill and the entrance to the Peak Cavern below.



After leaving Castleton we will drive back to Buxton to arrive around 5 pm which will give us a couple of hours to prepare for our dinner at the **Columbine Restaurant** which is only a short walk from our accommodation. Dinner is arranged for 8pm.

## SUNDAY

The Sunday run will start around 9.30 am and we will travel over towards **Monsal Head** and take in a viewpoint of **Miller’s Dale** on the way. We will then drive through Ashford in the Water and aim for a mid morning coffee stop at **Hobbs Cafe** at Monsal Head (see photo below).



Monsal Head is a famous Derbyshire beauty spot with a view up the river Wye valley. The former Midland Railway line from **Bakewell** to **Buxton** makes its way along Monsal Dale and was carried by viaduct over the river and then into a tunnel under Monsal Head. The old railway line is now the Monsal Trail for bikes and walkers.

After this we will travel southwards to **Rowsley** and pay a visit to the **Caudwell Flour Mill** which is a very pretty working water mill powered flour mill which you can see close up and you can also purchase the mill produced flour of various types.

After leaving the Flour Mill we will drive via Beeley and Edensor to our lunch stop at **The George Hotel** at Tideswell which is at 1 pm. After lunch we will be able to have a look at the magnificent 14th Century church next door to the pub which is known locally as “The Cathedral of the Peaks”.



Then we will drive across to **Chatsworth House** which is the seat of the Duke of Devonshire. Chatsworth House has been used for many film locations, including *Pride and Prejudice*, and is set in beautiful parklands. As we drive in we will cross over the River Derwent on a lovely bridge.



Then if time permits we can the drive to **Eyam** – the plague village which closed itself off to the outside world to avoid the spread of the disease. There is a small museum in the village which can be visited.

Then we will travel back to Buxton for a rest!

On Sunday evening we will go to a local restaurant or pub within walking distance of our guest houses.

## MONDAY

Monday morning, leisurely breakfast, explore Buxton for a while and leave when you are ready.

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