

The Thomas Fowell Buxton Monument

Preserving Weymouth's Heritage for Future Generations

Web site: www.thomasfowellbuxton.org.uk



The Thomas Fowell Buxton Society was set up in Weymouth in August 2010 to celebrate the life and achievements of **Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton**, one of Weymouth's most illustrious MPs. While the slave trade was abolished in 1807, the main goal - to abolish slavery itself - was still outstanding. Buxton who succeeded William Wilberforce as leader of the abolitionists in Parliament, achieved the liberation of the slaves peaceably through Act of Parliament in 1833.

Mr Ainsley Harriott, the celebrated TV Chef has agreed to become the Society's Patron.

The **Mayor of Weymouth** is Honorary President.

Weymouth and Portland Borough Council has granted planning permission to build a monument to Thomas Fowell Buxton's memory on the Manor Roundabout, at the end of the new relief road, and the gateway to Weymouth.

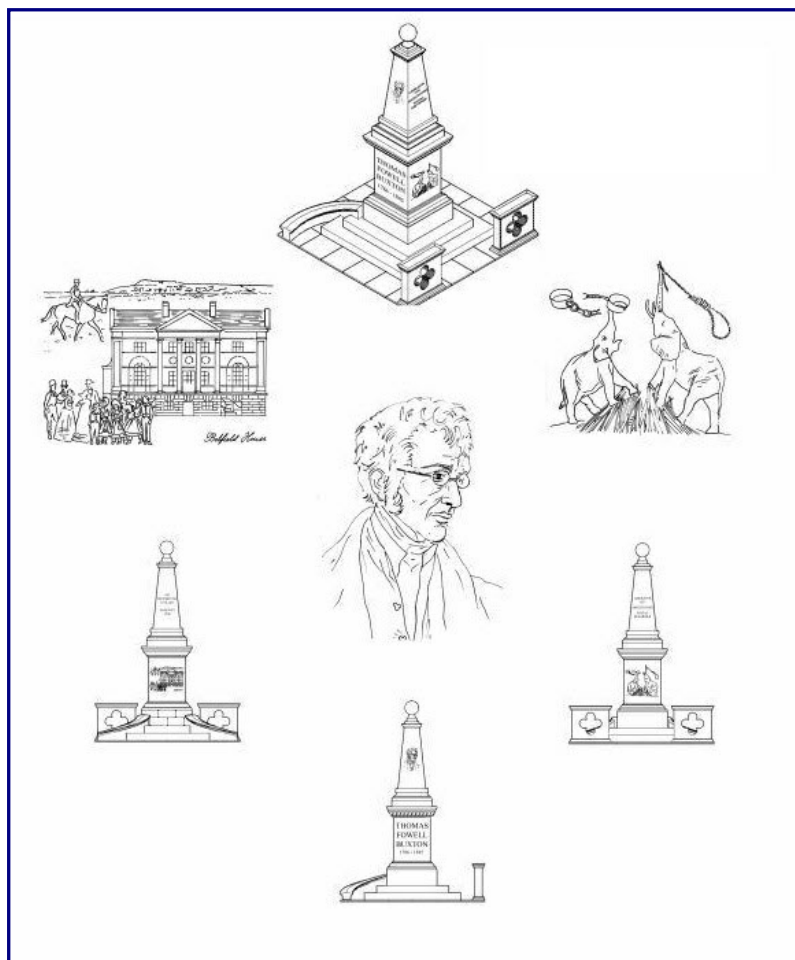


The monument, a fitting tribute to this great man will also be a credit to Weymouth. The design is by Mr Peter Loizou, a student at Weymouth College. He is the winner of a competition amongst the students of the stone carving department, based at the Dorset Skills Centre, Poundbury.

Thanks to the generous donation of stone from Albion Stone Quarry at Portland and the offer by Weymouth College to incorporate the building of the monument into their stone carving curriculum for 2011-12, the major part of the cost of the monument will be covered.

The stone carving is now well advanced but funds are needed to lay the foundations for the monument, to provide the materials for blockwork to support the stone cladding, to build the monument, to carry out the necessary structural engineering calculations. In addition, literature for tourists and educational material for schools explaining the background and support activities as described overleaf.

The Monument and its Symbolism



In developing the design, Peter wished to have a monumental style which would have been current during the height of Buxton's career. Peter was also mindful of the need to incorporate techniques that would be taught during the course. This meant that students assisting in building the design could do this as part of their course.

Visitors approaching Weymouth from Dorchester will see the visually pleasing obelisk and its plinth as they approach.



Supporting Projects

To support the monument project, the Thomas Fowell Buxton Society is planning a number of complementary projects.

With the monument situated in the centre of the roundabout, some of the inscriptions will be impossible to read at distance. An **engraved information board and stand** will therefore be built and positioned at the end of the underpass next to the roundabout. Monument inscriptions will be shown on the plaque with explanations of the imagery.

A **Tourist Booklet** will be produced, to give more details of Thomas Fowell Buxton's life and work. There will also be references to the continuing need to combat modern day slavery.

A **Memorial Service** on the day of commissioning. It would be appropriate if this were held at All Saints Church Wyke Regis, where Thomas Fowell Buxton once worshipped.

A **Comprehensive Educational Programme** involving local schools

A **Tribute Book** will be produced, which will recount the story behind the monument and those who contributed in its design and building. There will be a prominent place to list the benefactors who have contributed funds to assist the monument and its complementary projects. The Tribute book will be displayed in a prominent and appropriate place in Weymouth. It will become a valuable archive and part of Weymouth's history.