HPK/2012/0189

02 MAY 2012

'THE GLASSE WINDOWES AT BUXSTONS'

Project Outline

To install a copy of the 'Window' written upon by Mary Queen of Scots and others, back into The Old Hall, where it was originally sited in the 16th century.

Buxton occupies an important place in Elizabethan history with this unique record of the Scottish Queen's sojourn at the spa. It was a fairly common practice amongst notables to write to each other by scratching poems, notes and homilies on a window. Examples are to be found at Haddon Hall, Montecute House, and Hatfield House amongst others.

A copy of the writing on the window at The Hall was made by William Cecil's secretary and rests with the Portland papers at Longleat. Buxton Museum has a facsimile and it was also used by Mike Langham in his article for the Spring 1998 copy of Derbyshire Miscellany '*Things written in the glasse windowes at Buxstons*'

Apart from a small display at the museum some years ago, showing the facsimile with notes, this piece of nationally important history has been little publicised.

It is intended to restore a copy of the window back into The Old Hall where it can be seen by the public. A booklet explaining the window and its history will also be made available.

This project is being supported by the Buxton History and Archaeological Society, the Buxton Museum and High Peak Borough Council.

4. **Total Cost**: Provisional estimate of £5200.00

5. **The Benefits**: As an historical document, reproduced for display on the site where it was originally found, it will benefit the town in a number of ways.

Education. To provide pupils and students with a copy of Elizabethan writing in situ. It provides a useful record of the use of various languages and in some cases, cryptic messaging - Elizabethan 'texting'

Visitors. Mary Queen of Scots holds an enduring fascination for people from around the world. The windows could be used as part of the attractions of the town.

Archive. The writers are of national historical significance. Apart from Mary herself, there are writings by the Earls of Leicester, Pembroke, Francis and Anne Talbot, the Earl of Rutland, Sir William Knollys, the Countess of Sussex, Countess of Essex and the notorious Catholic hunter, Richard Topcliffe amongst others. These are public statements that show the feelings and thoughts of the Queen and those who came up to take the waters in, arguably the most formative period of British history.

6. Consultation: The project has been developed with the assistance of Frank Barrett of the History Society, Ros Westwood, Curator of Buxton Museum, Sarah Brown, Director of York Glaziers Trust, Cathy Shrank, Professor of Tudor and Renaissance Literature, Sheffield University.

7. Costs: All costs are provisional estimates for the glass windows only.

Antique glass	£200.00
Engraving	£4,200.00
Mounting	££200.00
Special Courier/Postage	£100.00
Contingency	£500.00

The antique glass will be procured from the York Glaziers Trust

The engraving will be carried out by Charmian Mocatta, of Ledbury, Herefordshire, a registered engraver of many years experience in this kind of work. (references and examples of her work on request)

The accompanying booklet will be separately costed and placed on sale to recoup the costs of printing.

9. **Timing**:

Charmian Mocatta has committed to completing the work by June if the glass can be provided and financing agreed by the end of January.

It is intended to have the window placed in readiness for the Queen's Jubilee and the Buxton Festival.

Patrick Chapman,



