

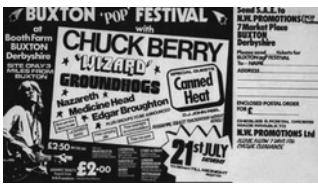
## Buxton Pop Festival



Buxton 'Pop' Festival 21st July 1973, two days before my 17th birthday

Been to lots of concerts Kings Hall, Cleopatras in Derby, Regency Rooms Ilkeston, DeMontfort Hall Leicester, College

All in one day festival, but you could camp overnight . Free car parking, Free overnight accommodation in large marquee.



Tickets £2 for festival, Tickets from Dixons in the Strand Arcade. At work 2nd year apprenticeship earning £10 a week. Al Jackson, just passed driving test borrowed mum's car.

Looking forward to Groundhogs and Chuck Berry.



Buxton area originally named High Edge, Buxton Speedway Track, only 3 miles but quite remote.



Arrived on bleak site, freezing cold wind, middle of summer. Started weather was tolerable, then rain became heavier and heavier. Mud got thicker and thicker, cars stuck in mud.



'It wasn't a festival it was an endurance test'

None of photos are mine. No videos from festival, but picked them from the same year.



I wore RAF great coat and 6ft scarf, my girlfriend who didn't come afghan coat (goatskin, fleece inside, very smelly when wet). Big sheet of polythene to sit on or use as umbrella. Make the best of things.



Security provided by Hells angels, usually paid in Beer. More and more drunk as day went on. Quite intimidating. Smell of weed throughout.



As per normal for time, toilets disgusting, refreshments extortionate. Instant constipation. Toilets were scaffolding over pit, boards with hole and toilet seat, see all effluent. Question: how much money would I have to drop to think about try to get it back.

Can't remember the running order, made my own up. There was a timed program, but nothing happened as planned.



First Band, Medicine Head. Duo, guitarist played drums as well as guitar. Quite melodic would have been great on a sunny day, picnic glass of wine. Quite catchy tunes. Album called 'Dark Side of the Moon' before Pink Floyd's. Heavily promoted by John Peel who also compared the festival. Biggest hit, One is One, reached number 3 in charts



Alex Harvey. From Glasgow fantastic live performer, great band. Most famous for singing Delilah the Tom Jones song. Seen them 3 times, best at the Kings Hall. Zal Cleminson, competent guitarist, dressed as a mime artist. Joined Nazareth, then Elkie Brooks, Midge Ure, Bonnie Tyler etc. Played just before the rains came. Song: Framed



Derby Telegraph quote 'Weather topped the bill at Buxton festival'.



Edgar Broughton Band, an acquired taste similar to Captain Beefheart. One time playing all festivals, continuous touring. Most famous song is 'Out Demons Out' shouting at audience and audience shouting back, another was 'Apache Drop Out' based on Shadows Apache and Captain Beefhearts Drop Out. Awful, how long is this band going to play. Best Track I could find. 'Evening Over Rooftops'.



Canned Heat US boogie band. Most famous songs 'On the Road Again', 'Going up the Country' and 'Let's Work Together'. Really good live, blues. Did 'Bullfrog Blues' also performed by Rory Gallagher. 'Let's Work Together', became a protest anthem, Vietnam, race riots etc. Better known in UK by Brian Ferry version Let's Stick Together, smoothy lounge song, but radio friendly sold a lot of singles. Great saxophone solo.



Groundhogs and Wizzard never appeared, don't know why. Could have been the rain not safe to play or maybe the Hells Angels getting more and more out of control. Alex Harvey's brother Les was electrocuted on stage playing with Stone the crows in 1972. Picture looks like Roy Wood, joined festival goes but not in a good mood. Somebody later asked Tony McPhee of Groundhogs why they didn't play. Just said it was 'politics'.



Nazareth, Scottish band. Great album, Razamataz, included Razamataz, Broken Down Angel and Bad Bad Boy. Biggest hit was Everly Brothers song 'Love Hurts' in 1975.



Chuck Berry, headliner. What I didn't know about Chuck was, didn't take a band, would play with anyone. Performances were hit and miss. More often miss. Travel alone with guitar and just plug-in. Performances sometimes short, paid in cash, often ask for more money before playing an encore. Notoriously difficult to work with.



Rain was terrible, mud bath. Chuck Berry came on, crowd went wild, bit of a free for all. Hells Angels on stage doing duck walk. He went off during Johnny B Goode and didn't return. We waited for more, but he had left the site after about half a dozen songs. He was great but played a very short set.



Finally, another band appeared, crowd shouting for chuck, throwing cans and mud. Brewers Droop, Cajun band. Very good at blues, piano guy disabled, on crutches playing a squeeze box, singer bashing tambourine on stomach. 90% of songs about drinking rest about women. Great fun. Famously Mark Knopler played for them and later formed Dire Straits with Brewers Droop drummer. When Brewers Droop were playing Chuck Berry left in a helicopter



Good fun to end the night. Arrived home at about 3 in the morning. Only 3 festivals at Booth Farm, everyone was cold and miserable.

Glory days. Well, they'll pass you by, glory days  
In the wink of a young girl's eye, glory days  
Glory days (Bruce Springsteen)