

Bath and North East Somerset**Personal Details:****Name:** Val Lyon**E-mail:****Postcode:****Organisation Name:** Combe Down Atone Legacy Trust**Comment text:**

The community of Combe Down was once a busy industrial hub; the heart of Ralph Allen's Stone quarrying business for mining the limestone that built Georgian Bath. These underground workings extended from Entry Hill in the west to Combe Grove Manor at the eastern edge of Combe Down leaving the whole area precipitously perched over fragile underground caverns. Current residents are bound by this heritage, most having lived through the shared experiences of bats emerging from air vents in their gardens to sink holes appearing unexpectedly. But no homes were lost and the innovative stabilisation project to secure the village was completed in 2010. Some older residents remember the shaft wall on Firs Field, now just a circle of stones in the grass, but importantly the only remaining evidence of this history available for public view. On behalf of Combe Down Stone Legacy Trust, Combe Down Heritage Society and Friends of Firs Field, I am managing a project to create a memorial on this site. An initial excavation was carried out by local teenagers last summer (2017) and the exercise to excavate, stabilise, conserve and restore a section of this shaft wall to create a low wall/seat as memorial to the stone mines will take place during the early summer of 2018. The locally sourced Bath coping stones will bear text cut into the vertical edge by level 3 student stone carvers from Bath City College to indicate the significance of the wall. Local residents including those in the Tynning Road area and along North Road as far as, and including Ralph Allen School are contributing funds to this project. So far, the local funding has reached over over £2000; it only started this month. Significantly, this shaft wall represents an important element in the Heritage of the wider UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath and is being seen by B&NES and WHE Team as an important OUV, creating an opportunity to raise awareness of the WH accreditation and all that that implies. By fracturing the ties within Combe Down village, an important strand of local shared history and pride in community will be damaged. This proposed division of the Ward will leave a significant section of the village artificially detached from their own heritage. We are working for the whole community of Combe Down within the overarching aims of local government and UNESCO World Heritage accreditation and enhancement. Val Lyon, on behalf of CDSL, CDHSoc, FoFF

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded