

BOX ROCK CIRCUS

Charles Hiscock

August 9th 2012 saw the opening of the Rock Circus in the village of Box, Wiltshire. A short ceremony led by Pauline Lyons, chairman of Box Parish Council, marked the completion of construction of the Box Rock Circus.



Elizabeth Devon and Pauline Lyons opening the circus

The Rock Circus is an installation of rocks and sculptures that has been built so that the ancient and modern stories told by rocks, fossils and minerals can be more widely known.

The circular area on Box recreation ground is intended to be a space for everyone – to meet, learn and play or simply enjoy.

The four huge quarried blocks document Britain's slow movement over the last 400 million years from the southern hemisphere to our present position.

Children are encouraged to climb and explore the two sculpted blocks, which are packed with different minerals and fossils, or they can



The obelisk is built from Box Stone, and illustrates the importance of this famous building stone, upon which the origins of this village are based.



Imaginations, young and old, can run wild making-up stories to explain the two sets of dinosaur footprints that run through the circle!

make rubbings from a wide variety of fossils that have been set into a Box Stone table.

A team of skilled craftsmen has built the circus under the leadership of stone mason Marcus Mitchell. The project is the brainchild of Box-resident Elizabeth Devon, who is a geologist and Earth Science educator.

The project has received full support from Box Parish Council and many local organisations. It has been mostly funded by a Landfill Communities Fund grant from The Hills Group Limited through Community First, the Community Council for Wiltshire with a third party contribution from the Corsham Area Board. The Geologists' Association's Curry Fund sponsored the fossil rubbings.

Further details about the project and all the donations can be seen on the website <http://www.boxrockcircus.org.uk>



The Bath stone table