

Digital Editions

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Guide to Rural England

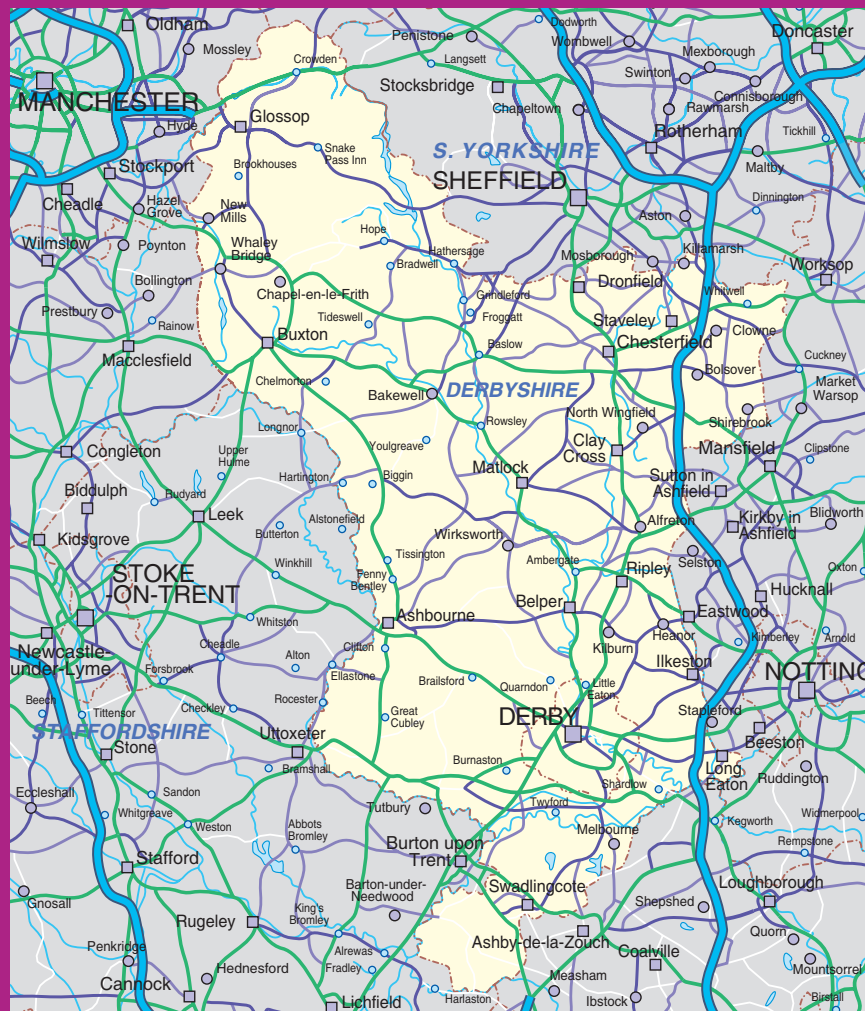
DERBYSHIRE



WHERE TO GO | WHAT TO SEE | WHAT TO DO
WHERE TO STAY | WHERE TO EAT | WHERE TO BUY

Fully illustrated with detailed directions and maps

LOCATOR MAP



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Derbyshire

Traditionally, Derbyshire marks the start of the north of England, and the county was also at the forefront of modern thinking at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. The chief inheritor of this legacy is Derby, the home of Rolls-Royce and Royal Crown Derby porcelain, and it remains a busy industrial centre today. An early landmark of this new age is Richard Arkwright's mill and associated village at Cromford. In the south of the county are Calke Abbey and the charming ancient town of Repton.

However, the county is dominated by the Peak District National Park that covers much of its area. The first of the 10 National Parks, it is often divided into White and Dark Peak as the landscape changes from deep limestone valleys to bleak, isolated moorland.

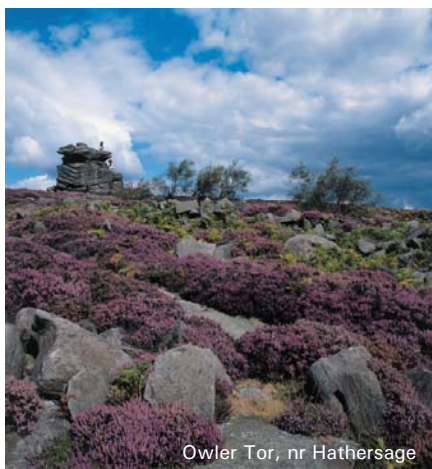
Along with numerous attractive villages and small towns, ancient monuments and caves and caverns, the park is home to two of the finest stately homes not just in Derbyshire but in the whole country – Haddon Hall and Chatsworth.

The southern section of the Peak District is probably best-known for beautiful Dovedale. The large car park near Thorpe that gives general access to the Dale is often crowded, but there is plenty of room for everyone and the wonderful valley, just a few hundred yards from the car park, is well worth exploring. It is also the place to have a go at crossing a river on stepping stones, something that has delighted children for many, many years. The River Dove is also a Mecca for keen fishermen. It was a favourite spot for Izaak Walton, who wrote his book *The Compleat Angler* in the area. Lord Byron praised the beauty of the county, writing that "there are

prospects in Derbyshire as noble as any in Greece or Switzerland".

The ancient custom of well-dressing is almost exclusively confined to the limestone areas of the county. The porous rock, through which rainfall seeped leaving the surface completely dry just a few hours after heavy rainfall, meant that, for the people of these close-knit communities, the well or spring was of the utmost importance. If this dried up, the lives of the whole community were at risk.

The area of northeast Derbyshire with the District of Bolsover centres around Chesterfield. This was the heart of the county's coal-mining area and many of the towns and villages reflect the prosperity the mines brought in Victorian times. Sadly, the vast majority of the collieries are now closed. For a while the country suffered a period of decline, but visitors today will be surprised at the wealth of history and fine architecture to be seen throughout the region.



Owler Tor, nr Hathersage



The Peak District

In 1951, the Peak District National Park became the first of Britain's National Parks to be established, and ever since then its 555 square miles of glorious scenery have been protected from 'inappropriate development'. Of all the world's national parks, it is the second most popular – only Mount Fuji in Japan attracts more visitors each year.

Referred to as the Dark Peak as well as the High Peak, the northern area of the National Park is not as foreboding as its name might suggest. These high moors are ripe for exploring on foot, and a walk from the Kinder Reservoir will lead to the western edge of Kinder Scout. This whole area is really a series of plateaux, rather than mountains and valleys, with the highest point on Kinder Scout some 2,088 feet above sea level. In this remote and

wild area the walker can feel a real sense of freedom – however, it is worth remembering that the moors, with their treacherous peat bogs and unpredictable mists, which can rise quickly even in summer, should not be dismissed as places for a casual ramble.

To the eastern side of this region are the three reservoirs created by flooding of the upper valley of the River Derwent. Howden, Derwent and Ladybower provide water for Sheffield and the East Midlands but their remote location, along with the many recreational activities found there, make them popular places to visit. The Derwent Dam is particularly famous as the site of practice exercises with Barnes Wallis' bouncing bombs for the Dambusters of World War II. The topography of the area was very similar to the Ruhr Valley and it was here that preparations were made for the attack on the Ruhr reservoirs

BON APPETIT (BUXTON) LTD

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e-mail: bon-appetit@hotmail.co.uk

Long famous for its spa water, the largest community in the Peak District National Park is now on the map as a centre of good food. **Bon Appetit** has been attracting lovers of good food from Buxton and the surrounding area for several years. Behind the big window in the cheerful green-painted frontage the chill counters, shelves and tables are filled with good things to eat.

Locally sourced meat is to the fore in home-cooked hams, organic pork pies, home-made pies and pâtés, and Bon Appetit also stocks a selection of other English and Continental cooked and cured meats. Excellent pastry features in quiches, tarts and a wide array of home-baked cakes, and sandwiches, baguettes and panini are made to order with a variety of hot and cold fillings. There are salad boxes, soups, jams and chutneys, Derbyshire oatcakes, biscuits, pasta, sauces and condiments, fruit juices and hampers and picnic baskets made up to individual requirements. Bon Appetit is open from 9 to 5.30 Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 Saturday.



by Lancasters of 617 Squadron in 1943. The Derwent Dam was also used in the making of the 1954 film *The Dambusters*.

Buxton

 The Crescent	 Opera House
 St Anne's Church	 Devonshire Royal Hospital
 Museum	 Pavilion Gardens
 Church of St John the Baptist	

With a population of barely 20,000, the elegant and lofty Georgian town of Buxton is nevertheless the largest settlement within the boundaries of the Peak District National Park. (The second largest town, Bakewell, has fewer than 5,000 inhabitants.) Buxton's gracious architecture can be attributed mainly to the efforts of the 5th Duke of Devonshire who hoped to establish a northern spa town that would rival, possibly surpass, the attractions of Bath in the southwest. In both locations it was the Romans who first exploited the healing waters of apparently inexhaustible hot springs as a commercial enterprise. The Roman name for Buxton was *Aquae Arnemetiae* – the Spa of the Goddess of the Grove. The waters still bubble up at Buxton, always maintaining an incredibly constant temperature of 28 degrees centigrade. Buxton water is reputed to be particularly pure and especially effective in mitigating the symptoms of rheumatism. Countless sufferers from rheumatism are on record attesting that the balmy Buxton water helped to soothe their painful symptoms: Mary, Queen of Scots, a political prisoner detained at nearby Chatsworth but allowed out on day release to Buxton, was one of them.

In the 18th century, the 5th Duke of Devonshire commissioned the building of **The Crescent** to ensure that visitors would

flock here. Designed by John Carr of York, the building is similar to the architecture found in Bath and, after suffering from neglect, is about to undergo a huge restoration programme. As with many places, the coming of the railway to Buxton in 1863 marked the height of popularity of the town. Nothing, however, could be done to alter the harsh climate, and the incessant rainfall meant that the Duke's dream of making Buxton the 'Bath of the North', was never truly realised.

Among the other notable architectural features of the town is the **Devonshire Royal Hospital**. This was originally built as stables for hotel patrons of The Crescent and, after their conversion by the 6th Duke in 1858, the largest unsupported dome in the world (50 metres in diameter) was built to enclose the courtyard in 1880.

Originally built in 1905, the attractive **Opera House** was restored in 1979 to its grand Edwardian style. After being used as a cinema for many years, it once again hosts live performances on one of the largest stages in England, offering a comprehensive and popular programme throughout the year.

The **Pavilion Gardens** have a conservatory and octagon within the grounds – antique markets and arts shows are often held here – and it is a very pleasant place to walk around at any time of the year. Laid out in 1871 by Edward Milner, with money donated by the Dukes of Devonshire, the 23 acres include formal gardens, serpentine walks and decorative iron bridges across the River Wye. The conservatory was reopened in 1982 following extensive renovation; there is also a swimming pool filled with warm spa water.

The **Church of St John the Baptist** was built in Italian style in 1811 by Sir Jeffrey Wyattville. That same year Wyattville laid out

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The Slopes, the area below the Market Place in Upper Buxton. The grand Town Hall was built between 1887 and 1889 and dominates the Market Place. Further down Terrace Road is the **Buxton Museum** (see panel below), which explores the Wonders of the Peak through seven time zones. As well as housing an important local archaeology collection, the Museum also has a fine collection of Ashford Marble, Blue John ornaments, paintings, prints, pottery and glassware. It also contains some of the collection from the Derbyshire Constabulary Memorabilia Museum previously housed in Derby.

St Anne's Church, built in 1625, reflects the building work performed here before Buxton's 18th-century heyday when limestone was the most common construction material rather than the mellow sandstone that dominates today.

Buxton, which rivals Ambleside for the title of the highest town in England, is surrounded by some of the most glorious of the Peak District countryside. These moorlands also provide one of the town's specialities – heather honey. Several varieties of heather grow on the moors: there is ling,

or common heather, which turns the land purple in late summer; there is bell-heather, which grows on dry rocky slopes; and there is cross-leaved heather, which can be found on wet, boggy ground.

Around Buxton

 Poole's Cavern  Axe Edge

To the west of the town lies **Axe Edge**, the highest point of which rises to 1,807 feet above sea level. From this spot on a clear day (and the weather here is notoriously changeable) the panoramic views of Derbyshire are overwhelming. Just beyond, at 1,690 feet above sea level, the Cat and Fiddle Inn is the second highest pub in England. Axe Edge Moor, which receives an average annual rainfall of over four feet, is strictly for hardened walkers. It should come as no surprise that this Moor is the source of several rivers that play an important role in the life of the Peak District. The River Dove and the River Manifold, which join at Ilam, rise not far from one another; the River Wye rises above Buxton to join the Derwent further south; the River Goyt, a major source of the Mersey, rises to the west of Axe Edge.

Buxton Museum & Art Gallery

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e-mail: buxton.museum@derbyshire.gov.uk
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Explore the Wonders of the Peak through seven time zones. Discover when sharks swam in warm 'Derbyshire' seas; when lions and sabre tooth cats terrorised mastodons. Meet the Roman Legionaries, and the scientists unravelling the history of Earth. An audio tour, 'Time Moves On', helps to enhance your visit. For art lovers, enjoy intricate Ashford Black Marble inlay and Blue John ornaments, and a regular programme of exhibitions, featuring work by national and local artists, photographers and craftworkers. Activities for all the family accompany the exhibitions.

The entire length of the River Goyt can be walked, from its source to its confluence with the River Etherow to the north and just outside the boundaries of the National Park.

Those who venture to Errwood Reservoir will be surprised to see rhododendrons growing near the banks of a man-made lake. They once stood in the grounds of Errwood Hall, which was built in the 1830s for the Grimshawe family. The house was demolished before the Reservoir was flooded, but the gardens were left to grow wild. Not far away can be seen the strange-looking Spanish Shrine. Built by the Grimshawes in memory of their Spanish governess, it is a small stone building with an unusual beehive roof.

Also to the west of town, **Poole's Cavern** on Green Lane is a natural limestone cave that was used by tribes from the Neolithic period onwards. It was visited by Mary, Queen of Scots and the 'chair' she used is pointed out during the regular tours of the cavern that are available. Above the cavern and about 20 minutes walk away is Grin Low Country Park and the prominent folly and scenic viewpoint, built in 1896, known as Solomon's Temple.

COMBS

3 miles N of Buxton off the A6

Chestnut Centre

Combs Reservoir, southwest of Chapel-en-le-Frith, is crossed at one end by Dickie's Bridge. 'Dickie' is said to have lived at a farm in Tunstead where he was known as Ned Dixon. Apparently murdered by his cousin, he nevertheless continued his 'working life' as a sort of guard-skull, alerting the household whenever strangers drew near. Various strange occurrences are said to have ensued when attempts were made to move the skull.

On Castleton Road just a few miles northeast of the town, the **Chestnut Centre** is a

fascinating wildlife conservation centre, popular with children and adults alike. It is famed for its otters, with award-winning otter and owl enclosures set along an extensive circular nature trail that meanders through some historic wooded parkland. The Centre is open all year round from 10.30am to 5.30pm.

CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH

4 miles N of Buxton off the A6

Chapel of St Thomas

This charming town is often missed by travellers on the bypass between Buxton and Stockport, but it repays a closer look. In 1225, the guardians of the High Peak's Royal Forest purchased land from the Crown and built a **Chapel** here, dedicating it to St Thomas à Becket of Canterbury. A century later the chapel was replaced with a more substantial building; further modernisation took place in the early 1700s. The building of the original chapel led to the foundation of the town and also its name, which is Norman French for chapel in the forest. A curious legacy has been passed down allowing owners of freehold land in the district the right to choose their vicar. The interior of the church boasts 19th-century box pews and a monument to 'the Apostle of the Peak', William Bagshawe of nearby Ford Hall, a Nonconformist minister of the late 17th century. In 1648, the church was used as a gaol for 1,500 Scottish prisoners and the dreadful conditions arising from such close confinement caused unimaginable suffering. Their ordeal lasted for 16 days; a total of 44 men died.

WHALEY BRIDGE

6 miles N of Buxton off the A5004

This small industrial town at the gateway to the Goyt Valley grew up around the coal-mining and textile industries. Both have now gone, but the Peak Forest Canal flowing

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through the town remains very much the centre of activity. The 'bridge' of the village's name crosses the River Goyt, on the site of what may once have been a Roman crossing.

Many of the old warehouses in Whaley Bridge have been restored and converted to meet the needs of the 21st century and, where once narrow boats transported goods and raw materials to and from the town, boats can now be hired for recreational use. The Toddbrook Reservoir was built in 1831 to be a feeder for the Peak Forest Canal. The wharf here is dotted with picturesque narrowboats.

LYME PARK

8 miles NW of Buxton off the A6

Lyme Park (National Trust) is an ancient estate originally granted to Sir Thomas Danyers in 1346 by a grateful King Edward III after a battle at Caen. Danyers then passed the estate to his son-in-law, Sir Piers Legh, in 1388. It remained in the family until 1946, when it was given to the Trust. Not much remains of the original Elizabethan manor house; today's visitors are instead treated to the sight of a fantastic Palladian mansion, the work of Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni. Not daunted by the bleak landscape and climate of the surrounding Peak District, Leoni built a corner of Italy here in this much harsher countryside. Inside the mansion there is a mixture of styles: the elegant Leoni-designed rooms with rich Rococo ceilings; the panelled Tudor drawing room; and two surviving Elizabethan rooms. Much of the three-dimensional internal carving is attributed to Grinling Gibbons, though a lot of the work was also undertaken by local craftsmen. As well as the fantastic splendour of the mansion, the estate includes a late 19th-century formal garden and a medieval deer park.

HAYFIELD

9 miles N of Buxton off the A624

Kinder Downfall Kinder Scout

This small town below the exposed moorland of **Kinder Scout** is a popular centre for exploring the area and offers many amenities for hillwalkers (see walk on page 178). Like its neighbour New Mills, Hayfield grew up around the textile industry, in this case wool weaving and calico printing. Many of the houses seen today were originally weavers' cottages. One of Hayfield's best-known sons was the much-loved actor Arthur Lowe (1914-1982).

Three miles northeast of the town is **Kinder Downfall**, the highest waterfall in the county, found where the River Kinder flows off the edge of Kinder Scout. In low temperatures the fall freezes solid – a sight to be seen. It is also renowned for its blow-back effect: when the wind blows, the fall's water is forced back against the rock and the water appears to run uphill. There are not many natural waterfalls in Derbyshire, so Kinder Downfall appears on most visitors' itineraries.

GLOSSOP

13 miles N of Buxton off the A624

Snake Pass

Glossop is an interesting mix of styles – the industrial town of the 19th century with its towering Victorian mills, and the 17th-century village with its charming old cottages and cobbled streets.

From Glossop, the A57 east is an exhilarating stretch of road with hair-pin bends, known as the **Snake Pass**. The road is frequently made impassable by landslides, heavy mist and massive snowfalls in winter but, weather permitting, it is an experience not to be missed. For much of the length of

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Customers are invited to enjoy a stylish, relaxed shopping experience that will delight all lovers of fine food. The range of products includes cheese, pâtés, oils, vinegars, salamis, olives, wines, local ales, chutneys, preserves, antipasti and much more!

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DERBYSHIRE CLOCKS

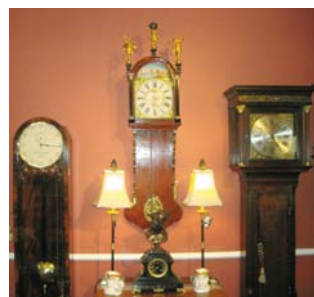
104 High Street West, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 8BB

Tel: 01457 862677

Serving the people of Derbyshire for more than 30 years, Derbyshire Clocks is highly recommended if it is a high quality of service you are after. Restoring and trading in antique clocks and barometers is what owner Terry Lees does best and his passion for his job is evident in his careful restoration of the clocks, which come through his door. He carries out a

full restoration service to all types of clocks and has had a showroom in the area for three decades. His restoration work includes long case clocks (Grandfather clocks), wall clocks (Vienna, Tavern, Drop Dial etc) bracket clocks among many more.

Located in the small market town of Glossop, the shop has an extremely good reputation in the area for its restoration work which consists of casework (the cabinet of the clock), movements and dials (brass and painted). Terry is well known for his friendly manner and high standard of work and many also visit him to buy antique clocks and traditional style lamps. If required, there is a collection and delivery service available. Customers include locals as well as those from further a field, with the shop about 14 miles from Manchester.



Hayfield and Lantern Pike

Distance: 5.6 miles (9.0 kilometres)

Typical time: 180 mins

Height gain: 300 metres

Map: Explorer Outdoor Leisure 1

Walk: www.walkingworld.com ID:2905

Contributor: Jim Grindle

ACCESS INFORMATION:

The start of the walk is at the junction of the A624 and the A6015 and is not far from New Mills on the A6. There is a bus connection with Manchester and a well signposted car park at the start.

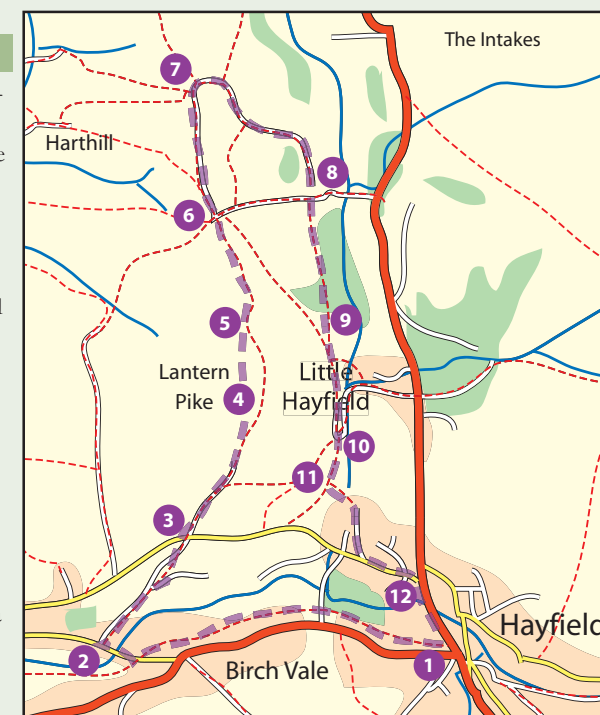
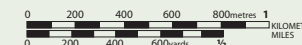
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Sett Valley Trail is traffic-free and was bought from British Rail in 1973 to provide a walking, cycling and horse riding route. Previously it was a popular holiday line for Manchester as well as an essential part of the industrial scene of the valley with its many cotton mills, calico printing works and paper mills. The route has been developed for wildlife, too, with numbers of reed-beds and copses. Lantern Pike is owned by the National Trust to whom it was presented by the Ramblers Association as a memorial to a past president, Edwin Royce. There is a viewfinder/memorial on the

summit. The Pennine Bridleway now runs as far north as Burnley and is suitable for mountain bikes and walkers as well as for horse riders.

DESCRIPTION:

This short circular walk has a reasonable height gain, but the summit of Lantern Pike is easily attained by a very gradual climb. Much of the walk follows the Sett Valley Way and the Pennine Bridleway, which means fewer stiles than usual. There are outstanding views, of the Kinder Scout plateau in particular.



FEATURES:

Pub, Toilets, Church, National Trust/NTS, Wildlife, Birds, Flowers, Great Views, Butterflies, Cafe, Gift Shop, Food Shop, Good for Kids, Industrial Archaeology, Moor, Public Transport, Restaurant, Tea Shop, Woodland

WALK DIRECTIONS:

- 1 | Walk past the Information Centre/Toilet block to join the Sett Valley Trail. Continue along until it is interrupted by a road. Leave the Trail and turn right following the road. Drop to a bridge over the Sett and then look for a Pennine Bridleway sign by a cobbled track going uphill on the right.
- 2 | The Trail climbs to another road by a group of houses.
- 3 | Cross the road, turn right and, almost at once, left to continue on the Trail. This climbs slowly again and brings you to a gate with a National Trust sign behind it. Go through the gate and up to the left to reach the summit of Lantern Pike.
- 4 | The well-worn path leads over the hill and down to the exit from the National Trust land.
- 5 | Follow the direction of the signpost across the open moorland to a wall on the far side. There you will find a signpost with five arms.
- 6 | Just to the right of the signpost (and out of shot) is a bridleway gate with a Pennine Bridleway sign. Go through on to an enclosed track and follow it until it divides at Matley Moor Farm.
- 7 | Turn right and pass the farm. After 100m there is another division in the track. Ignore the turning on the left. Carry on downhill for

1km on the tarred track and look for another tarred track coming from the right.

- 8 | Here you turn right, doubling back on your route and climbing steeply. Just before a green metal footpath sign about 200m away is a turning on the left leading to a farm. Follow this to a stile and gate at its end. Go through and ahead at first before turning left and following a path across the slope. Cross a stream and avoid taking paths leading downhill on the left. The path leads through a wood and to a high stone wall with a ladder stile by two Scots pines. If you can't see the stile it will be because you have not kept high enough - just go uphill almost to the corner of the field.
- 9 | Once over the stile keep by the wall on your right to another stile. Cross it and maintain direction with the wall now on your left. The path ends at a stile by a tarred drive with some houses. Cross this stile but not the one immediately opposite across the track. Continue on the drive until it bends sharply to the left. On the right you will find an enclosed track.
- 10 | Turn down this track until you see a stile on the left just before a bend to the right.
- 11 | Cross this stile and go down a steepish enclosed path. This leads you down to the outskirts of Hayfield. Turn left on joining a road and watch for a footpath sign by a gate on the right just before you reach a flyover.
- 12 | The sign directs you across a playing field to the riverbank. Follow the river on your right to a footbridge. Cross the bridge and follow the path to a road. Just over a wall is the car park.

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the turnpike road that Thomas Telford built across Snake Pass in 1821, the route follows the line of an ancient Roman road, known as Doctor's Gate, which ran between Glossop and a fort at Brough. The route was so named after it was rediscovered, in the 16th century, by Dr Talbot, a vicar from Glossop.

HADFIELD

14 miles N of Buxton off the A624

Woodhead Chapel Longendale Trail

The small village of Hadfield is the terminus of the **Longendale Trail**, a route following the line of a former railway line and part of the Trans-Pennine Trail. Old Hall in The Square is the oldest building in the village,

built in 1646. The Roman Catholic Church of St Charles was built in 1868 by Baron Howard of Glossop; members of the Howard family are buried here.

The Longendale Trail continues eastward from here. Longendale itself is the valley of the River Etherow, and is a favourite place for day-trippers. Along the footpath through this wild and desolate valley there are many reminders of the past, including **Woodhead Chapel**, the graveyard of which has numerous memorials to the navvies, and their families, who died in an outbreak of cholera in 1849 while working on the Sheffield to Manchester railway line. Hadfield is the setting for Royston Vasey in the TV series *The League of Gentlemen*.



HALCYON

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e-mail: pamela.hadcross@virgin.net

website: www.halcyonofhadfield.co.uk

The little village of Hadfield lies in the Longendale valley at the beginning of the Longendale Trail, a popular walking, cycling, and horse-riding route – part of the Trans-Pennine Way. On arrival in Hadfield - head for Halcyon – less than 2 minutes from the Station. Halcyon offers a self-catering apartment, pot painting studio, and soon, Victorian tea rooms and restaurant.

The top floor of the Victorian shop has been transformed into a luxurious 'city apartment in the country' with hi-tech facilities and magnificent moorland views. The bathroom boasts a spa-bath and double shower wet area. The kitchen is equipped with all appliances. The dining area leads to the 2 bedrooms - Stay in the stylish master bedroom with king size and sofa bed or step back in time in our 'Thirties' themed double room. The spacious living room offers a comfortable corner suite and king size bed settee sleeping an extra 4 persons if required. Visit our website www.halcyonofhadfield.co.uk to see for yourselves.

The studio is set within the elegant stone courtyard behind 101. Choose from our range of over 40 items and paint at your leisure. Your pot is then glazed and fired for you to collect, or can be posted.

The street and courtyard levels, will be traditional tea rooms and superb English restaurant with 50 covers, opening in summer 2010. Produce will be local – Moorland game, Glossop wild boar and Kinder lamb. The arrival of our classically trained head chef is eagerly awaited. He is well respected by Mark Gregory and comes highly praised by Phil Hobbs of Pinewood Studios - 'I would recommend Yuseph to anybody who enjoys the best that food can give. He is a master of his trade and second to none.'



EDALE

8 miles NE of Buxton off the A625

Pennine Way

In the valley of the River Noe, Edale marks the start of the **Pennine Way**. Opened in 1965, this long-distance footpath follows the line of the backbone of Britain for some 270 miles from here to Kirk Yetholm, just over the Scottish border. Though the footpath begins in the lush meadows of this secluded valley, it is not long before walkers find themselves crossing wild and bleak moorland before heading further north to Bleaklow. Many travellers have spoken of Derbyshire as a county of contrasts, and nowhere is this more apparent than at Edale. Not only does the landscape change dramatically within a short distance from the heart of the village, but the weather can alter from brilliant sunshine to snowstorms in the space of a couple of hours.

Tourism first came to Edale with the completion of the Manchester to Sheffield

railway in 1894, though at that time there was little in the way of hospitality for visitors. Today there are several hotels, camping sites, a large Youth Hostel and adventure and walking centres.

CASTLETON

8 miles NE of Buxton off the A625

 Peveril Castle  Winnats Pass

 Blue John Mine & Caverns  Mam Tor

Situated at the head of the Hope Valley, Castleton is sheltered by the Norman ruin of **Peveril Castle** with its spectacular views over Castleton and the surrounding countryside. The Castle, originally called Castle of the Peak, was built as a wooden stockade in 1080 by William Peveril, illegitimate son of William the Conqueror. Later rebuilt in stone, the keep was added by Henry II. It remains the only surviving example of a Norman castle in Derbyshire, and is among the best preserved and most complete ruins in Britain.

CAUSEWAY HOUSE CRAFTS

Castleton, Hope Valley S33 8WE

Tel: 01433 620343

Fax: 01455 620258

e-mail: enquiries@cinnamon-bear.co.uk

website: www.cinnamon-bear.co.uk

Causeway House Crafts was established by Roger Vincent in 1979 as a small craft shop selling hand-thrown pottery. It has gradually developed to become the largest gift shop in the Peak District

village of Castleton, one of the most popular tourist and holiday centres in the area. The shop stocks the world-famous Steiff Teddy Bears; a range of jewellery in modern, vibrant designs by Carrie Elspeth, a young designer based in South Wales; and a wide range of toys, specialising in those by Orchard Toys and Fiesta Crafts - both of which are well-known British brands. The shop also stocks a selection of pictures and prints by well-known artists, including a number of local Peak District artists. Other items on sale include books and maps, greetings cards, studio pottery, handbags and other fashion accessories, candles, garden ware and much more. A limited selection of the stock is available via the shop's website.

To the rear of the craft shop is the Cinnamon Bear Coffee Shop serving lunches, cream teas and some wonderful locally made cakes.



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Peveril Castle, Castleton



Approaching Castleton from the west along the A625, the road runs through the **Winnats Pass**, a narrow limestone gorge. Thought to have been formed under the sea, from currents eroding the seabed, the gorge has been used as a road for centuries and is still the only direct route to the village from the west.

Originally laid out as a planned town below its castle, the shape of the village has changed little over the years and it has become a popular tourist centre. The mainly 17th-century Church of St Edmund was heavily restored in 1837, but retains its box pews and a fine Norman arch, as well as a Breeches Bible dated 1611.

The hills to the west of Castleton are famous for their caves. The **Blue John Mine and Caverns** (see Treak Cliff Cavern opposite), which have been in the hands of

the Ollerenshaw family for many years, are probably one of Derbyshire's most popular attractions. Amazing trips down into the caves themselves can be taken. Above ground, in the gift shops, various items can be bought made with the distinctive Blue fluorspar with its attractive purplish veining. It was once prized by the Romans, and it is said that Petronius paid the equivalent of around £40,000 for a wonderfully ornate vase carved from the stone. It is said that in a fit of petty-mindedness he preferred to smash the vase rather than relinquish it to the Emperor Nero.

At the bottom of Winnats Pass lies Speedwell Cavern, a former lead mine that used boats on an underground canal to ferry the miners and lead ore to and from the rock face. Visitors can follow the same boat journey underground in the company of a guide. The mine had a short life: it started up in 1771 and, despite an investment of £14,000, closed in 1790 after only £3,000 worth of lead ore had been extracted.

Peak Cavern, reached by a delightful riverside walk, has the widest opening of any cave in Europe. Up until the 17th century, little cottages used to stand within the entrance. The rope-makers who lived in these tiny dwellings used the cave entrance, dry in all weathers, for making rope. The ropewalk, which dates back some 400 years, can still be seen. Guides re-enact the process of making rope, and one rope-maker's cottage is still extant. The cave was used by the BBC to film an episode of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series. Over the years successive Kings and Queens would entertain deep within the belly of the cave, which would be festooned with candles and other open flames – visitors can see the ledge on which the royal musicians would perch. Peak Cavern was originally known as

TREAK CLIFF CAVERN

Castleton, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S33 8WP
Tel: 01433 620571

website: www.bluejohnstone.com

An exciting and educational few hours is guaranteed on a visit to **Treak Cliff Cavern**, an ancient underground wonderland in the heart of the Peak District National Park.

Treak Cliff Hill is the only place in the world where Blue John stone occurs naturally, and visitors will learn all about this mineral, a unique colour-banded form of fluorspar. (The generally accepted explanation of the name is that it derives from the French bleu et jaune – blue and yellow – which the Derbyshire folk adapted to Blue John.) Tour guides explain how miners in the 1750s constructed a tunnel with hand tools to reach the prized deposits inside the hill.

Visitors will see veins of the stone across the cave roof and marvel at The Pillar, the largest piece ever found, and the fossils in the rocks. In the Witch's Cave richer deposits are revealed, before the tour goes deeper to other caves to show the wonders of underground limestone cave formations. The guide will explain where Blue John came from, how the caves were shaped by rushing water and how stalactites and stalagmites are formed – the most extraordinary of the former looks like a stork standing on one leg!

Back on the surface visitors can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee made with water collected from inside the cavern, or take in the marvellous views with a picnic they have brought along. The cavern is of international fame and geological importance and has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. By agreement with English Nature all the deposits on the visitor route are preserved, but Blue John is regularly mined here in parts not seen by visitors. This is cut, polished and made into beautiful ornaments and jewellery which can be bought in the little shop at the cave entrance.

The Castleton Gift Shop, half a mile away in the centre of the village, displays a fine collection of antique and modern ornamental Blue John pieces, along with Blue John mineral specimens, as well as rocks, minerals and fossils from around the world.

The entrance to the Cavern lies on the east-facing slope of an ancient carboniferous reef laid down about 310 million years ago. The Cavern is open throughout the year, weather permitting, but times may vary, so it's best to call before setting out on a visit. All admissions are by guided tour. Children under 16 must be accompanied, dogs are allowed if on a lead. There is no wheelchair access. Polish Your Own Blue John Stone is an activity usually available in school holidays, when visitors can choose, prepare and polish a slice of Blue John to take home. Other activities include Carols by Candlelight at Christmas time.



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The Devil's Arse, but the fastidious Victorians felt this was 'inappropriate' and changed it to the name it carries today.

No description of Castleton would be complete without a mention of **Mam Tor**. The name means Mother Hill, and locally the tor is referred to as Shivering Mountain, because the immense cliff face near the summit is constantly on the move with landslips of grit and shale owing to water seepage. A climb to the top of the ridge is worthwhile, as the views are splendid – in particular of the two diverse rock formations which separate the White (limestone) Peak from the northern Dark (gritstone) Peak.

HOPE

9 miles NE of Buxton off the A625

Church of St Peter

Hope gets its first mention in AD926 as the site of a battle won by King Athelstan. By the time of the Domesday survey of 1086, the parish of Hope had extended to embrace much of the High Peak area and included places such as Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith and Tideswell. It remained one of the largest parishes in the country until the 19th century, though a market charter was not granted until 1715. Hope lies at the point where the River Noe meets Peakshole Water; the stream rises in Peak's Hole (better known as Peak Cavern), hence its name.

The parish **Church of St Peter** was built at the beginning of the 1200s; the only part remaining from the original church is the Norman font. The Latin inscription on a chair in the north aisle reads (in translation) 'You cannot make a scholar out of a block of wood' and is said to have been carved for Thomas Bocking, the vicar and schoolmaster here during the 17th century. His name also



Saxon & Steeple Cross, Hope

appears on the fine pulpit; his Breeches Bible is displayed nearby. The Hope Agricultural Show is held every year on August Bank Holiday Monday.

BAMFORD

11 miles NE of Buxton off the A6013

Church of St John the Baptist Bamford Mill

Ladybower

This charming village situated between the Hope Valley and Ladybower Reservoir, stands at the heart of the Dark Peak below Bamford Edge and close to the Upper Derwent Valley Dams. When the Derwent and Howden Dams were built in the early years of the 20th century, the valley of the Upper Derwent was flooded, submerging many farms under the rising waters. The 1,000 or so labourers and their families were housed at Birchinlee, a temporary

village that came to be known locally as Tin Town because of its plethora of corrugated iron shacks. During World War II the third and largest reservoir, the **Ladybower**, was built. This involved the flooding of two more villages - Derwent and Ashopton. The dead from Derwent's church were re-interred in the churchyard of St John the Baptist in Bamford. The living were rehoused in Yorkshire Bridge, a purpose-built hamlet located below the embankment of the Ladybower Dam. There is a Visitor Centre at Fairholmes (in the Upper Derwent Valley) that tells the story of these drowned villages.

The topography hereabouts was similar to that of the Ruhr Valley and the Lancaster bombers of 617 Squadron, the Dambusters, used the reservoir to practise dropping Barnes Wallis' bouncing bombs prior to their attack on the Ruhr Dam in 1943. Parts of the film *The Dambusters* were filmed here in 1954.

Bamford's **Church of St John the Baptist** is unlike any other in Derbyshire. Designed in 1861 by the famous church architect William Butterfield, it has a slender tower and an extra-sharp spire. Also worthy of note, particularly to lovers of industrial architecture, is **Bamford Mill**, just across the road by the river. This cotton mill was built in 1820; it retains its huge waterwheel and also has a 1907 tandem-compound steam engine.

The village lies in the heart of hill-farming country, and each Spring Bank Holiday Bamford plays host to one of the most famous of the Peak District Sheepdog Trials.

Along the A57 towards

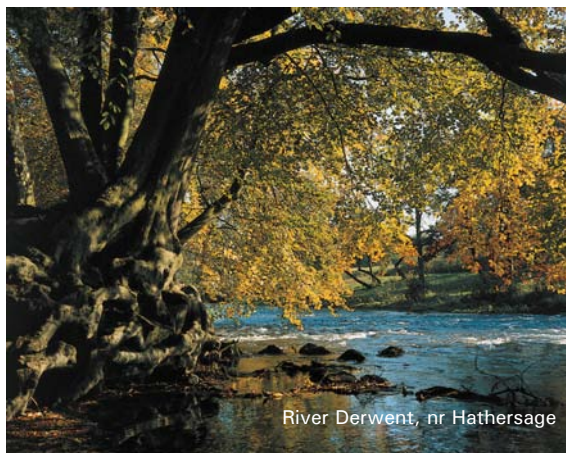
Sheffield, the road dips and crosses the gory-sounding Cutthroat Bridge. The present bridge dates back to 1830, but its name comes from the late 1500s, when the body of a man with his throat cut was discovered under the bridge that then stood here.

HATHERSAGE

12 miles NE of Buxton off the A625

 Moorseats  Churchyard

Once a centre for needle-making, it is difficult to know whether to classify Hathersage as a large village or a small town. In either event, it is a pleasant place with interesting literary connections. Charlotte Brontë stayed at Hathersage vicarage, and the village itself appears as 'Morton' in her novel *Jane Eyre*. The name Eyre was probably gleaned from the monuments to the prominent local landowners with this surname, as can be seen in the village Church of St Michael and its churchyard. The 15th-century head of the family, Robert Eyre, lived at Highlow Hall. Within sight of this Hall he built seven houses, one for each of his seven sons. North Lees was one, and another was **Moorseats**,



River Derwent, nr Hathersage

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where Charlotte Brontë stayed on holiday and used as the inspiration for Moor House in *Jane Eyre*.

In Hathersage **Churchyard** lie the reputed remains of Little John, Robin Hood's renowned companion. Whether or not the legend is to be believed, it is worth mentioning that when the grave was opened in the 1780s, a 32-inch thighbone was discovered. This would certainly indicate that the owner was well over seven feet tall.

Bakewell and the White Peak

This region of the Derbyshire Dales, sometimes also known as the Central Peaks and occupying the central area of the Peak District National Park, is less wild and isolated than the remote High Peak area. The two main rivers, the Wye and the Derwent, which both have their source further north, are, in this region, at a more gentle stage of their course. Over the centuries, the fast-flowing waters were harnessed to provide power to drive the mills situated on the riverbanks; any walk



Medieval Wye Bridge, Bakewell

taken along these riverbanks will not only give the opportunity to discover a wide range of plant and animal life, but also provide the opportunity to see the remains of buildings that once played an important part in the economy of north Derbyshire.

Bakewell

 Haddon Hall  Church  Museum

The only true town in the Peak District National Park, Bakewell attracts many day-trippers, walkers and campers as well as locals who come to take advantage of its many amenities. The beautiful medieval five-arched bridge spanning the River Wye is still in use today as the main crossing point for traffic. A stone-built town set along the banks of the River Wye, Bakewell enjoys a picturesque setting among well-wooded hills. With only 4,000 inhabitants it is nevertheless generally acknowledged as the capital of the Peak District National Park.

However, for most people it is a dessert that has made the name of Bakewell so famous, but please remember it is referred to locally as

a pudding and most definitely not as a tart. Its invention is said to have been an accident when what was supposed to have been a strawberry tart turned into something altogether different. The cooking mishap took place in the kitchens of the White Horse Inn (now the Rutland Arms Hotel), which was built in 1804 on the site of a coaching inn.

Bakewell is the market



thestylehouse sells a full range of products to turn your house into a home, from large items of traditional and contemporary furniture to fabrics, wallpapers and paints, china and glassware, cutlery, candles and cushions as well as handmade cards and exquisite wrapping paper and ribbons. The building is one of the oldest in Bakewell and behind a deceptively small exterior the ground floor is given over to smaller items while the first floor is set out as room settings to display the furniture and accessories to their full potential with the design studios on the second floor.

THESTYLEHOUSE

Anchor Square, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1DR
 Tel: 01629 813030 Fax: 01629 814432
 e-mail: enquiries@thestylehouse.co.uk
 website: www.thestylehouse.co.uk

Ceri Rocca began her career in interior design at the age of 17, then, after qualifying with a degree and a post grad diploma, she spent several years designing the interiors of 5-star hotels, palaces and offices in Dubai and worldwide. She established **thestylehouse** in Bakewell in 1999 to provide a professional interior design service for both commercial and domestic projects as well as offering beautiful interior accessories for the discerning buyer at affordable prices. The consultancy undertakes any level of project, from a refurbishment to a complete rebuild, right through from the initial concept to the complete design, full working drawings, project management and supervision to handover.

town for this whole central area of the Peak District – markets were held here well before the granting of a charter in 1330. Monday is now Bakewell's market day and the cattle market, one of the largest in Derbyshire, is an important part of the area's farming life. The annual Bakewell Show started in 1819 and has gone on to become one of the foremost agricultural shows in the country. Across the River Wye stands the enormous, new Agricultural and Business Centre, where the livestock market takes place.

The large parish **Church of All Saints** was founded in Saxon times, as revealed by the ancient preaching crosses and stonework. Its graceful spire, with an octagonal tower, can be seen for miles around. Bakewell is one of the few places in Derbyshire in the Domesday

Book to record two priests and a church, and the churchyard and church itself contain a wonderful variety of headstones and coffin slabs and, near the porch, a most unusual cross. Over 1,200 years old, it stands an impressive eight feet high. On one side it depicts the Crucifixion, on the other are the Norse gods Odin and Loki. The Vernon Chapel in the south aisle contains impressive monuments to The King of the Peak, Sir George Vernon of Haddon Hall, who died in 1567, and also to Sir John Manners, who died in 1584, and his wife Dorothy Vernon – these latter two feature in one of the great romantic legends of the Peak District.

Behind the church is the lovely **Old House Museum**, housed in a building on Cunningham Place that dates back to 1534. It

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ID INTERIOR DESIGN

Matlock Street, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1EE
 Tel: 01629 813263 Fax: 01629 814361
 e-mail: interior.design@btconnect.com

On one of the main shopping streets in the centre of Bakewell, **ID Interior Design** has gained a reputation starting in Sheffield over 60 years for providing a high-quality, personal design service. The studio provides a bespoke interior design consultancy service, and the team of professionally trained designers led by Sarah Cooper are able to undertake a wide range of projects, from individual rooms to complete houses, offices or hotels. The specialists include craftsmen for paint effect, carpet fitting and upholstery, and the workrooms are undoubted leaders in making up of curtains, pelmets, bedspreads and loose covers. Quality and attention to detail are to the fore in everything they do, and no job is too big or too small.

The showrooms on two floors are home to an exciting and inspirational mix of fabrics and upholstery, carpets and rugs, wallpapers and paints, furniture and mirrors, curtain poles, lighting and unusual gifts to suit all budgets. Every item is chosen for good design, quality and individuality.

Owner Sarah Cooper came here in 1982 with a Degree in Interior Design and her customers will testify that she is as keen as ever: her reward is the satisfaction of successfully transforming a room or a whole house for her clients.



Saxon Cross in Churchyard, Bakewell

is thought to be the oldest house in Bakewell. This beautiful building narrowly escaped demolition, and has been lovingly restored by the Bakewell Historical Society and now displays its original wattle-and-daub interior walls. Established as a folk museum, it houses a fascinating collection of rural bygones.

The town is full of delightful, mellow stone buildings, many of which date from the early 1600s and are still in use today. The Old Market Hall is now the Peak District National Park Visitor Centre. Few buildings remain from the days when Bakewell was a minor spa town, but the Bath House, on Bath Street, is one such building. Built in 1697 for the Duke of Rutland, it contained a large bath that was filled with the spa water and kept at a constant temperature of 59 degrees Fahrenheit.

South of Bakewell down the Matlock Road,

on a bluff overlooking the Wye, the romantic **Haddon Hall** (see panel below) stands hidden from the road by a beech hedge. The home of the Dukes of Rutland for over 800 years, the Hall has enjoyed a fairly peaceful existence, in part no doubt because it stood empty and neglected for nearly 300 years after 1640, when the family chose Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire as their main home. Examples of work from every century from the 12th to the 17th are evident in this architectural treasure trove.

Little construction work has been carried out on the Hall since the days of Henry VIII and it remains one of the best examples of a

medieval and Tudor manor house. The 16th-century terraced gardens are one of the chief delights of the Hall and are thought by many to be the most romantic in England. The Hall's splendour and charm have led it to be used as a backdrop to television and film productions including *Jane Eyre*, *Moll Flanders* and *The Prince and the Pauper*. Nikolaus Pevsner described the Hall as, "the English castle par excellence, not the forbidding fortress on an unassailable crag, but the large, rambling, safe, grey, loveable house of knights and their ladies, the unreasonable dream-castle of those who think of the Middle Ages as a time of chivalry and valour and noble feelings. None

Haddon Hall

nr Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1LA
Tel: 01629 812855 Fax: 01629 814379
e-mail: info@haddonhall.co.uk
website: www.haddonhall.co.uk

Only a mile to the south of Bakewell down the Matlock Road, on a bluff overlooking the Wye, the romantic **Haddon Hall** stands hidden from the road by a beech hedge. The Hall is thought by many to have been the first fortified house in the country, although the turrets and battlements were actually put on purely for show. The home of the Dukes of Rutland for over 800 years, the Hall has enjoyed a fairly peaceful existence, in part no doubt because it stood empty and neglected for nearly 300 years after 1640, when the family chose Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire as their main home. Examples of work from every century from the 12th to the 17th are here in this treasure trove.

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Calton Lees and Edensor

Distance: 4.2 miles (6.7 kilometres)

Typical time: 120 mins

Height gain: 140 metres

Map: Explorer Outdoor Leisure 24

Walk: www.walkingworld.com ID:2434

Contributor: Phil and Sue Eptlett

ACCESS INFORMATION:

The start point is from the Calton Lees car park (chargeable) adjacent to the Chatsworth Garden Centre just off the B6012. From whichever direction you approach, just follow the signs for Chatsworth House

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

There is an abundance of wildlife to be seen including fish and birds of all types and deer that are free to roam on the estate. In about 1760, the 4th Duke of Devonshire asked Capability Brown, a noted landscape designer, to improve the park the results of which can be seen today. Most notably the creation of Stand Wood, which provides an impressive backdrop to the house and the wide open pastures to the front. He also altered the course of the river.

Fine views of the surrounding area can be seen from Waypoint 6, including Froggatt Edge, Curber Edge and the house surrounded by Stand Wood.

DESCRIPTION:

Starting from the car park at Calton Lees the walk soon follows the bank of the River Derwent across rolling meadow towards Chatsworth House, which is open to the public from Easter to Christmas. Upon reaching the river bridge leading to the house cross the road and take the path to the village of Edensor, which up until the 1830s was sited across the river from the house but was moved to improve the view for His Lordship. After passing through the village

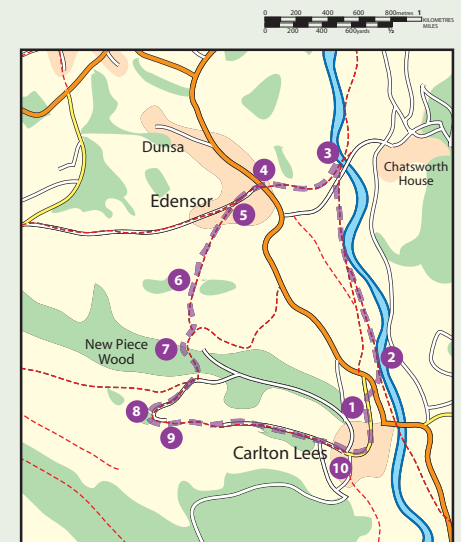
you take a path rising up a large landscaped meadow towards woodland with panoramic views all across the estate and surrounding countryside. Proceeding through the wood and a field, a farm track is soon reached that leads back to the car park. Refreshments are available at the Garden Centre.

FEATURES:

Toilets, Church, Stately Home, Wildlife, Birds, Flowers, Great Views, Butterflies, Food Shop.

WALK DIRECTIONS:

- 1 | Leave the car park by a path adjacent to the access road and go through the white gate. Immediately cross the road and go directly across the grassland to a weir on the River Derwent.
- 2 | From the weir walk upstream, keeping the river on your right. As you proceed, the house comes into view with its impressive west face and the Emperor Fountain can be seen in the gardens if it is working. Follow the river until you reach the bridge carrying the access road to the house. If you wish, this is the point to visit the house and gardens



3 | Cross the road and take the path opposite going diagonally across the open parkland to the B6012 road and the village of Edensor.

4 | Cross the road, go through the white gates at the village entrance and proceed taking the road to the right of the church. As you pass through the village, which has not changed since it was moved in the 1830s note the mix of architectural styles, particularly Hollybush Cottage with its unusual spiral chimneys.

5 | Shortly after Hollybush Cottage take the footpath on the left signed to Rowsley. Go up the steps and turn left up further steps immediately before a cottage, then go through a small gate on to open countryside. Here the path is non-existent so starting with your back to the church spire walk across the rising open ground following the very infrequent footpath markers. Upon reaching the first crest head to the right side of a fenced-off copse of trees.

6 | From the copse keep going upward in a straight line towards woodland on the horizon. As the woodland is approached head for the gate in the wall adjacent to some benches. This is the perfect spot to sit and rest and take in the fine view of the house, parkland and surrounding countryside.

7 | When suitably rested go through the gate and follow the track through woodland to a further gate. Go through this gate and proceed across the meadow to a wall, then follow this wall keeping it on your left, until another gate is reached.

8 | Go through the gate and follow the stone track between two cottages and yet another gate.

9 | Keep on the track as it winds down a meadow to the bottom where it turns sharp left. Now follow this track keeping the wall and a stream on your right.

10 | Eventually you come to the final gate, go through and proceed straight ahead where the track becomes a tarmaced estate road. Follow this back to the car park.

other in England is so complete and convincing”.

The Hall's chapel is adorned with medieval wall paintings; the kitchens are the oldest extant part of the house, and feature time-worn oak tables and dole cupboards. The oak-panelled Long Gallery features boars' heads and peacocks in the panelling.

Around Bakewell

EDENSOR

2 miles NE of Bakewell off the B6012

 Chatsworth House

This model village (the name is pronounced Ensor) was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton and built by the 6th Duke of Devonshire between 1838 and 1842 after the original village had been demolished because it spoilt the view from Chatsworth House. The village church was built by Sir George Gilbert Scott; in the churchyard is buried the late President Kennedy's sister Kathleen, who had married into the Cavendish family. Both she and her husband, the eldest son of the 10th Duke, were killed during World War II.

The home of the Dukes of Devonshire, **Chatsworth House**, known as the Palace of the Peak, is without doubt one of the finest of the great houses in Britain. The origins of the House as a great showpiece must be attributable to the redoubtable Bess of Hardwick, whose marriage into the Cavendish family helped to secure the future of the palace.

Bess' husband, Sir William Cavendish, bought the estate for £600 in 1549. It was Bess who completed the new house after his death. Over the years, the Cavendish fortune continued to pour into Chatsworth, making it

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an almost unparalleled showcase for art treasures. Every aspect of the fine arts is here, old masterpieces, furniture, tapestries, porcelain and some magnificent alabaster carvings.

The gardens of this stately home also have some marvellous features, including the Emperor Fountain, which dominates the Canal Pond and reaches a height of 290 feet. It was built by Sir Joseph Paxton to celebrate a visit by the Tsar of Russia in 1844. Paxton also built the world's largest greenhouse here as a prototype for the Crystal Palace, built for the Great Exhibition of 1851. The glasshouse was demolished in 1920. There is a maze and a Laburnum Tunnel and, behind the house, the famous Cascades. The overall appearance of the park as it is seen today is chiefly due to the talents of Capability Brown, who was first consulted in 1761. Sir Joseph is buried in the churchyard of St Peter's Church.

GRINDLEFORD

6 miles N of Bakewell off the B6521/B6001

 Padley Chapel  Longshaw Country Park

This is one of the smallest Peak District villages, and from here each year in July there is a pilgrimage to **Padley Chapel** to commemorate two Catholic martyrs of 1588. The ruins of ancient Padley Manor House, found alongside the track bed of the old railway line, are all that remain of the home of two devout Roman Catholic families. It was from the manor house that two priests, Robert Ludlam and Nicholas Garlick, were taken to Derby and sentenced to death by hanging, drawing and quartering. The then owner of



Longshaw Country Park, nr Grindleford

the house, Thomas Fitzherbert, died in the Tower of London three years later, while his brother died at Fleet Prison in 1598. In 1933, the charming chapel seen today was converted from the still standing farm buildings.

To the northwest of the village is the **Longshaw Country Park**, some 1,500 acres of open moorland, woodland, and the impressive Padley Gorge. Originally the Longshaw estate of the Dukes of Rutland, the land was acquired by the National Trust in the 1970s.

STONEY MIDDLETON

4 miles N of Bakewell off the A623

 Lover's Leap  Middleton Dale

This village, known locally simply as Stoney, is certainly well named as, particularly in this part of **Middleton Dale**, great walls of limestone rise up from the valley floor. Further up the Dale there are also many disused limestone quarries as well as the remains of some lead mines. Not all industry has vanished from the area, as this is the home of nearly three-quarters of the country's fluorspar industry. Another relic from the past also survives - a shoe and boot-making company operates from the village

and is housed in a former corn mill.

The unusual octagonal village church was built by Joan Padley in thanksgiving for the safe return of her husband from the Battle of Agincourt in the 15th century. The lantern storey was added to the perpendicular tower in 1759.

Higher up the dale from the village is the dramatically named **Lover's Leap**. In 1762, a jilted girl, Hannah Badderley, tried to jump to her death by leaping from a high rock. Her voluminous skirts, however, were caught on some brambles and she hung from the ledge before gently rolling down into a pit and escaping serious injury.

EYAM

5 miles N of Bakewell off the B6521

 Eyam Hall  Plague Village

Pronounced 'Eem', this village will forever be known as the **Plague Village**. In 1666, a local tailor received a bundle of plague-infected clothing from London. Within a short time the infection had spread and the terrified inhabitants prepared to flee the village. However, the local rector, William Mompesson, persuaded the villagers to stay



Mompessons Well, Eyam

put and, thanks to his intervention, most neighbouring villages escaped the disease. Eyam was quarantined for over a year, relying on outside help for supplies of food. To minimize cross infection, food and other supplies were left outside the village, at either the Boundary Stones, or at Mompesson's Well, high above the village. Out of a total of 350 inhabitants, only 83 survived.

The home of the Wright family for over 300 years, **Eyam Hall** is a wonderful, unspoilt 17th-century manor house. The Eyam Hall Crafts Centre, housed in the farm building, contains several individual units specialising in a variety of unusual and skilfully-fashioned crafts.

BRADWELL

9 miles N of Buxton off the B6049

 Bagshawe Cavern

Usually abbreviated in the unique Peak District way to Bradder, Bradwell is a charming little limestone village sheltered by Bradwell Edge. At one time this former lead-mining community was famous as the place where miners' hard hats – hard, black, brimmed hats in which candles were stuck to light the way underground – were made; thus these hard hats came to be known as Bradder Beavers.

A key attraction here is the massive **Bagshawe Cavern**, a cave reached by a descending flight of 98 steps through an old lead mine. Along the half-mile walk to the main show cave there are wonderful rock formations and other interesting sights. For the more adventurous, caving trips are available.

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CHY-AN-DOUR

Vicarage Lane, Ashford-in-the-Water, nr Bakewell,
Derbyshire DE45 1QN
Tel: 01629 813162

Ann and Stuart Rowland have a warm welcome for guests at **Chy-an-Dour**, their home in a quiet setting overlooking the picturesque Peak District village of Ashford in the Water. The happiness of their guests is the owners' aim, and the number of repeat visits is testimony to their success. The three guest bedrooms, a twin and two doubles, are prettily decorated and furnished, with TV and tea/coffee tray among the facilities. Central heating ensures that the house is cosy even in the cooler months, and guests will find plenty of parking for their cars. A full English breakfast provides the perfect start to a day spent exploring the village and the surrounding area.

Ashford developed around a crossing point on the River Wye. The medieval Sheepwash Bridge, one of three bridges in the village, is a favourite subject for artists and photographers, and visitors should find time to look round the great limestone parish Church of the Holy Trinity. The village offers a choice of shops, pubs and eating places; it is also famous for its beautiful well dressings, an ancient tradition that is renewed each year in early June. This is excellent walking and rambling country, and among the attractions within an easy drive are Chatsworth, Haddon Hall, the town of Bakewell (just 2 miles down the Wye), the Kinder Downfall waterfall and the Blue John caverns at Castleton.



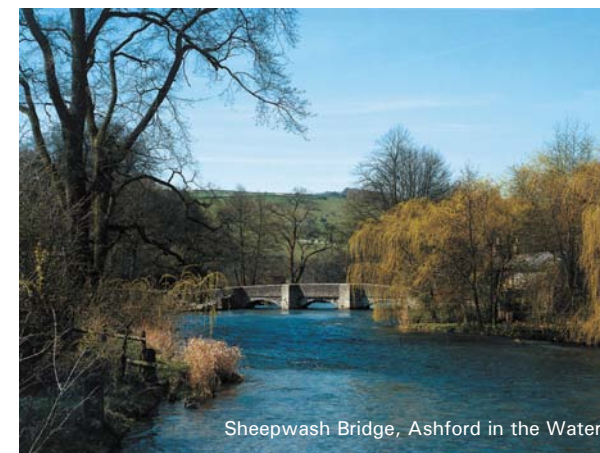
ASHFORD IN THE WATER

1 mile NW of Bakewell off the A6

 Church  Sheepwash Bridge

Not exactly in the water, but certainly on the River Wye, Ashford is another candidate for Derbyshire's prettiest village. It developed around a ford across the river and was once an important crossing place on the ancient Portway. The medieval **Sheepwash Bridge** crosses the Wye, with overhanging willows framing its low arches. It is one of three bridges in the village, and a favourite with artists. There is a small enclosure to one side that provides a clue

to its name, as this is still occasionally used for its original purpose – crowds gather to witness sheep being washed in the river to clean their fleece before they are shorn. Mill Bridge dates back to 1664.



Sheepwash Bridge, Ashford in the Water

The great limestone parish **Church of the Holy Trinity**, largely rebuilt in 1871 but retaining the base of a 13th-century tower, has a fine Ashford marble table on show, as well as a tablet to the memory of Henry Watson, the founder of the marble works who was also an authority on the geology of the area. Several of the pillars within the church are made of the rare Duke's Red marble, which is only found in the mine at Lathkill Dale owned by the Duke of Devonshire. Hanging from the roof of Ashford's church are the remains of four 'virgin's crants' – paper garlands carried at the funerals of unmarried village girls.

Ashford is perhaps most famous for its six beautifully executed well-dressings, which are held annually in early June. The village also has a pleasant range of mainly 18th-century

cottages, and a former tithe barn that now serves as an art gallery.

MONSAL HEAD

3 miles NW of Bakewell off the B6465

Monsal Dale

Monsal Head is a deservedly renowned beauty spot from which there are tremendous views, particularly over **Monsal Dale** through which the River Wye flows.

WARDLOW

6 miles NW of Bakewell off the B6465

At a crossroads near Wardlow the highwayman Anthony Lingard was hanged in 1812 for the murder of a local widow. He was the last felon to hang in the county, and his execution drew an enormous crowd – so much so that the

IBBOTSON'S OF ASHFORD

Ashford-in-the-Water, Derbyshire DE45 1QB
Tel: 01629 812528 Fax: 01629 815023

In a handsome old greystone building on a corner site in a pretty village on the River Wye, **Ibbotson's of Ashford** is one of the most delightful and individual food shops in the whole region. It is owned and run by Ken and Kathryn Ibbotson, who have built up a loyal clientele since opening in 2000.

Ken's pickled onions have become a business in themselves, selling to retail outlets and to the trade, and the shop also sells a good range of made-to-order sandwiches, cooked meats, Italian and other products, chutneys, preserves, coffees, ice creams, fresh fruit and vegetables and a range of home-made cakes.



local lay preacher at Tideswell found himself preaching to virtually empty pews. Determined not to waste this opportunity to speak to so large a congregation, he relocated to the gallows in order to deliver his sermon.

TIDESWELL

8 miles NW of Bakewell off the B6049

Church of St John the Baptist

One of the largest villages in the area, Tideswell takes its name from a nearby ebbing and flowing well. Over 900 feet above sea level, the surrounding countryside offers many opportunities to wander, stroll, or take a leisurely (or energetic) hike through some varied and impressive scenery.

Known as the Cathedral of the Peak, the magnificent 14th-century **Church of St John the Baptist** has a wealth of splendid

features. The tower is impressive, the windows are beautiful, there is a fine collection of brasses inside and the 'Minstrel of the Peak', William Newton, is buried in the churchyard.

Today the village is home to a number of craftspeople working in buildings converted from other uses. The excellence of their work is apparent not only in the items they display, but also in the splendid well-dressing they help to enact annually on the Saturday nearest St John the Baptist's Day (24 June).

PEAK FOREST

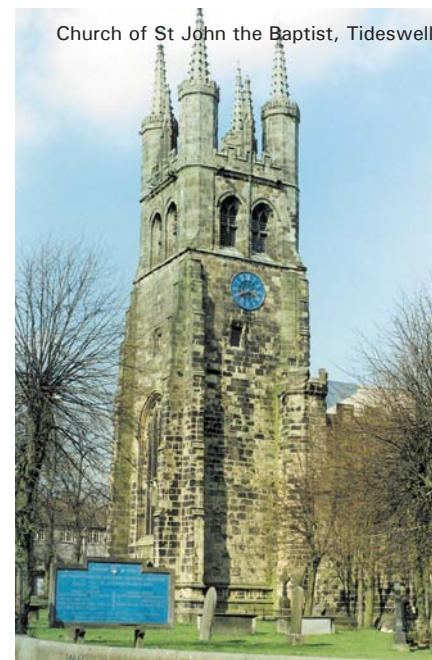
11 miles NW of Bakewell off the A623

Church of King Charles the Martyr Eldon Hole

High on the White Peak plateau, Peak Forest takes its name from the fact that it once stood at the centre of the Royal Forest of the Peak. The parish **Church of King Charles the Martyr** speaks of the fierce independence of the village inhabitants. It was built in 1657 by the wife of the 2nd Earl of Devonshire, during a time when there was a ban on building churches. The church that stands today on the site of the former chapel was built in 1878.

A quirk of ecclesiastical law ensured – up until early in the 19th century – that the village was outside the jurisdiction of the bishop. Thus it was not subject to the laws regarding posting the banns before marriage; hence it became known as the Gretna Green of the Peak. To this day if one or other of the couple has lived in the village for 15 days prior to the ceremony they can still be married in the church without banns being read.

Within walking distance of Peak Forest is the 'bottomless' pit of **Eldon Hole**. Once thought to be the Devil's own entrance to Hell, stories abound in which various people



were lowered down on increasingly longer pieces of rope. They all returned, in differing states of mental anguish, but none ever reached the bottom. However, seasoned potholers, who view the hole as no more than a practice run, maintain that it is, in fact, 'only' 180 feet deep.

SHELDON

3 miles W of Bakewell off the A6

Magpie Mine

Magpie Mine, to the south of the village, produced lead for over 300 years. This important site of industrial archaeology has been preserved, from the Cornish-style chimney stack, engine house and dynamite cabin, right down to the more recent corrugated-iron-roofed buildings.

MONYASH

5 miles W of Bakewell off the B5055

Lathkill Dale

Monyash was once at the centre of the Peak District's lead mining industry and had its own weekly market (the charter being granted in 1340); the old market cross still stands on the village green.

Today, Monyash, which is situated at the head of **Lathkill Dale**, is busy during the season with walkers keen to explore the valley of the River Lathkill, a road-free beauty spot with ash and elm woods that was designated a National Nature Reserve in 1972. The River Lathkill, like others in the limestone area of the Peak District, disappears underground for parts of its course. In this case, the river rises in winter from a large cave above Monyash, known as Lathkill Head Cave. In summer, the river emerges further downstream at Over Haddon.

ROWSLEY

4 miles SE of Bakewell off the A6

Caudwell's Mill

This small village, at the confluence of the Rivers Wye and Derwent, is home to the impressive Peacock Hotel. Built originally as a private house, it is aptly named since the carved peacock over the porch is actually part of the family crest of the Manners family, whose descendants still live at nearby Haddon Hall.

On the banks of the River Wye lies **Caudwell's Mill**, a unique Grade II listed historic flour mill. A mill has stood on this site for at least 400 years; the present mill was built in 1874, powered by water from the River Wye, and was run as a family business for over a century up until 1978. Since then the mill has undergone extensive restoration by a group of dedicated volunteers and, using machinery that was installed at the beginning of this century, the mill is once again producing wholemeal flour. Other mill buildings on the site have been converted to house a variety of craft workshops, shops and a restaurant.

On Chatsworth Road near the terminus of the Peak Rail line, Peak Village is an extensive factory outlet shopping centre offering a range of ladies' and men's fashion, sports and outdoor wear, home furnishings, jewellery, toys and books, and eateries. Also at the centre is the charming Wind in the Willows attraction, created by an award-winning team of craftsmen and designers to bring the adventures of Ratty, Mole, Badger and Mr Toad to life.

Matlock

Church of St Giles Riber Castle

Peak Rail

As the northern, gritstone landscape of the

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Peak District is often referred to as the Dark Peak, the southern, limestone plateaux have gained the equally obvious name of White Peak. Though the hilltops are often windswept and bleak, the numerous dales, cut deep into the limestone, provide a lush and green haven for all manner of wild and plant life. Several of the rivers are famous for their trout, particularly the Lathkill, which was greatly favoured by the keen angler and writer Izaak Walton.

Matlock is a bustling town nestling in the lower valley of the River Derwent, and is the administrative centre of Derbyshire, as well as being a busy tourist centre bordering the Peak District National Park. There are actually eight Matlocks making up the town, along with several other hamlets. Most have simply been engulfed and have lost their identity as the town grew, but Matlock Bath, the site of the spa, still maintains its individuality.

Matlock itself, at one time, had the steepest-gradient (a 1-in-5½) tramway in the world; it was also the only tram system in the Peak District. Opened in 1893, the tramcars ran until 1927 and the Depot can still be seen at the top of Bank Street. The old Ticket Office and Waiting Room at Matlock station have been taken over by the Peak Rail Society and

here can be found not only their shop, but also exhibitions explaining the history and aims of the society. **Peak Rail** has its southernmost terminus just a few minutes' walk from the mainline station; from here the railway runs through the charming rural station of Darley Dale to the terminus at Rowsley South. Manned entirely by volunteers, this lovely old steam train operates on different days throughout the year. A restaurant car is fitted for every journey. The full journey (one way) takes just 20 minutes, and passengers can alight to enjoy the picnic area at the entrance to Rowsley South Station, or the exhibition coach at Darley Dale platform to learn about the history of the re-opening of the line. Special events are held throughout the year, and engine-driving courses can be taken – the perfect gift for the steam enthusiast!

Inside Matlock's **Church of St Giles** can be seen the faded and preserved funeral garlands or 'virgin crants' that were once common all over Derbyshire. Bell-shaped, decorated with rosettes and ribbons and usually containing a personal item, the garlands were made in memory of a deceased young unmarried girl of the parish. At her funeral the garlands were carried by the dead girl's friends and, after the service, would be

HOLLIES FARM PLANT CENTRE

Uppertown, Bonsall, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2AW
Tel: 01629 822734

Website: www.holliesfarmplantcentre.co.uk

Linda Wells and her son Robert own and run **Hollies Farm Plant Centre**, which lies in glorious Derbyshire countryside at Uppertown, Bonsall, off the A5012 on the edge of the Peak District National Park. The friendly, helpful owners raise most of the plants on site, from all-time garden favourites to more unusual annuals and perennials; their award-winning hanging baskets – buy them straight from the polytunnel or have your own filled – can be seen all over the neighbouring villages. Also in stock are planted containers, basket plants, rockery alpines and shrubs, along with composts and other garden essentials, and the Centre also operates as the village general store.



suspended from the church rafters above the pew she had normally occupied.

High up on the hill behind the town is the brooding ruin of **Riber Castle**. The castle was built between 1862 and 1868 by John Smedley, a local hosiery manufacturer who became interested in the hydropathic qualities of Matlock. He drew up the designs for the building himself and spent lavishly on its interior décor. Smedley constructed his own gas-producing plant to provide lighting for the Castle and it even had its own well.

Following the death of first Smedley and then his wife, the castle was sold and for a number of years it was a boys' school. During World War II the castle was used as a food store before it was left to become a ruined shell.

Around Matlock

MATLOCK BATH

1 mile S of Matlock off the A6

-  Peak District Mining Museum
-  Caverns
-  The Aquarium
-  Countryside Centre
-  Heights of Abraham
-  Gulliver's Kingdom
-  High Tor Grounds

As with many other spa towns up and down the country, it was not until the Regency period that Matlock Bath reached its peak. As well as offering cures for many of the ills of the day, Matlock Bath and the surrounding area had much to offer the visitor. The spa town was compared to Switzerland by Byron, and it was much admired by Ruskin, who stayed at the New Bath Hotel in 1829. Many famous people have visited the town, including the young Victoria before she succeeded to the throne.

One of the great attractions of the town is **The Aquarium**, which occupies what was once the old Matlock Bath Hydro that was established in 1833. The original splendour of the Bath Hydro can still be seen in the fine stone staircase and also in the thermal large pool, which is now without its roof. The pool, maintained at a constant temperature of 68 degrees fahrenheit, was where the rheumatic patients came to immerse themselves in the waters and relieve their symptoms. Today, the pool is home to a large collection of Large Mirror, Common and Koi carp while the upstairs consulting rooms now house tanks full of native, tropical and marine fish. Down by the riverbank and housed in the old Pavilion can be found the **Peak District Mining Museum** and Temple, the only one of its kind in the world. Opened in 1978 and run by the Peak District Mines Historical Society, the Museum tells the story of lead mining in the surrounding area from as far back as Roman times to the 20th century. The Museum, which is open daily from 10am to 5pm, also houses a huge engine, dating from 1819, which was recovered from a mine near Winstar.

Located in the Victorian Railway Station buildings is the **Whistlestop Countryside Centre**, which aims to inform and educate the public on the wildlife of the county as well as manage wildlife conservation. Set up by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and run by volunteers, the Centre has an interesting and informative exhibition and a gift shop, and the staff are qualified to lead a range of environmental activities.

For spectacular views of Matlock Bath, nothing beats a walk on **High Tor Grounds**. There are 60 acres of nature trails to wander around, while some 400 feet below the River Derwent appears like a silver thread through

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the gorge. A popular viewing point for Victorian visitors to the town, today rock climbers practise their skills climbing the precipitous crags of the Tor.

On the opposite side of the valley are the beautiful wooded slopes of Masson Hill, the southern face of which has become known as the Heights of Abraham. The name was chosen after General Wolfe's victory in Quebec – this part of the Derwent valley being seen to resemble the gorge of the St Lawrence River and the original **Heights of Abraham** lying a mile north of Quebec. It features steep rocky gorges, vast caverns, fast-running rivers, panoramic views and a cable car. The cable car ticket includes access to all the site's attractions, which include two spectacular underground caverns. The 60-acre country park also features woodland walks, the Owl Maze, the Explorers Challenge, a rocks

and fossil shop, coffee shop, restaurant and play and picnic areas.

In 1812, the **Great Rutland Show Cavern**, on the slope, was opened to the public, a new experience for tourists of the time, and it was visited by many including the Grand Duke Michael of Russia and Princess Victoria. Following this success, in 1844, the **Great Masson Cavern** was opened and construction of the Victoria Prospect Tower was begun. Built by redundant lead miners, the Tower became a new landmark for the area and today still provides a bird's-eye view over Derbyshire.

Matlock Bath's Illuminations & Venetian Nights started in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and is still a popular family-orientated annual event. For several weeks in September and October the event, organised by Darley Dales District

LOOKING GLASS

30 North Parade, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3NS

Tel: 01629 57773

e-mail linlookingglass@aol.com

Opening Hours: 11am to 5pm every day, closed Weds.

Looking Glass is owned & run by Lin Fletcher, a self-taught stained glass artist. Using both lead and copper foil techniques, she works in her studio at the shop and can be seen creating her unique works of art on site. Lin is always happy to discuss commissions for special pieces.

Looking Glass is a small, friendly, independent shop, which began trading in 2006. Since opening it has gone from strength to strength, building up an excellent reputation for quality and choice, both locally and with visitors, many of whom return time and again to find that special gift. You will be offered a warm welcome and excellent customer service, and will enjoy a browse around the interesting and unusual gift ideas on offer.

The shop stocks an eclectic mix of goods from around the world, as well as those from closer to home. With a range of handmade crafts by local artists, a wide selection of Fair Trade & recycled goods, Tiffany style lamps, jewellery and glass, including Murano and Mdina (Malta), there is something for every taste and pocket. As a whole, the shop provides an eye-catching array of bespoke, one-off gifts to treasure for a lifetime.



Council and well supported by local traders, includes lively entertainment in the bandstand, clifftop fireworks and unique parades of illuminated and decorated boats.

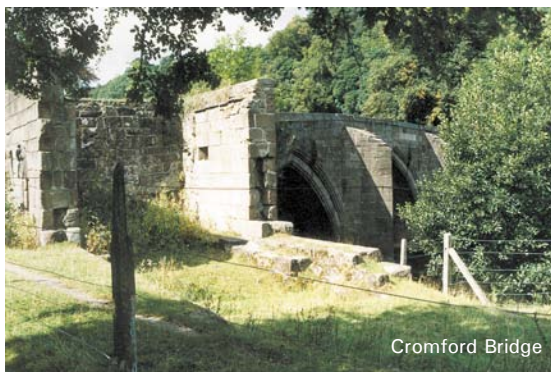
To the south of the town centre is a model village with a difference: **Gulliver's Kingdom** theme park, which makes a great day out for all the family. Set on the side of a wooded hill, each terrace is individually themed and includes Fantasy Land, the Old Wild West and the Royal Mine ride. There are plenty of fun rides, a monorail, water slides and other diversions, as well as a cafe and restaurant.

CROMFORD

2 miles S of Matlock off the A5012

🏭 Mill 🚰 Pumping Station 🌊 Cromford Canal
🚶 High Peak Trail

Cromford is a model village known the world over. It was developed by Richard Arkwright into one of the first industrial towns. In addition to housing, he also provided his workers with a market place and a village lock-up. Born in Lancashire in 1732, Arkwright was the inventor of the waterframe, a machine for spinning cotton that was powered by water. He built his first mill at Cromford in 1771, the project taking a



Cromford Bridge

further 20 years to complete. It was the world's first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill. The area he had chosen proved to be perfect: the River Derwent, described by Daniel Defoe as "a fury of a river", provided an ample power supply; there was an unorganised but very willing workforce, as the lead-mining industry was experiencing a decline and, probably most importantly, Cromford was away from the prying eyes of Arkwright's competitors. In 1792, Arkwright commissioned the building of the village church, where he now lies. The Mill proved to be a great success and became the model for others both in Britain and abroad, earning Arkwright the accolade Father of the Factory System. His pioneering work and contributions to the great Industrial Age resulted in a knighthood in 1786, and one year later he became High Sheriff of Derbyshire. **Cromford Mill** and the associated buildings are now an International World Heritage site. Tours of the mill, its neighbour Masson Mill and Cromford village are available throughout the year.

Cromford has a rather odd 15th-century bridge, which has rounded arches on one side and pointed arches on the other. It was from this bridge, in 1697, so local folklore has it, that a horse and rider took a flying leap from the parapet, plunged into the river 20 feet below and lived to tell the tale.

For lovers of waterways, there is an opportunity at Cromford Canal to potter along the five-mile stretch of towpath to Ambergate. The old **Leawood Pumping Station**, which transferred water from the River Derwent to the **Cromford Canal**, has been fully

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restored. Inside the engine house is a preserved Cornish-type beam engine, which is occasionally steamed up. Close by the Pump House is the Wigwell Aqueduct, which carries the Canal high over the River Derwent.

The **High Peak Trail**, which stretches some 17 miles up to Dowlow near Buxton, starts at Cromford and follows the track bed of the Cromford and High Peak Railway. First opened in 1880, the railway was built to connect the Cromford Canal with the Peak Forest Canal and is somewhat reminiscent of a canal as it has long level sections interspersed with sharp inclines (instead of locks) and many of the stations are known as wharfs. After walking the trail it is not surprising to learn that its chief engineer was really a canal builder. The railway was finally closed in 1967; the old stations are now car parks and picnic areas; there is an information office in the former Hartington station signal box. Surfaced with clinker rather than limestone, the trail is suitable for walkers, cyclists and horses.

WIRKSWORTH

4 miles S of Matlock off the B5023

🏰 Church of St Mary 🏛️ Heritage Centre
🏛️ National Stone Centre
🚂 Steeple Grange Light Railway Society

Nestling in the lush green foothills of the Peak District where north meets south, Wirksworth is home to a distinctive **Heritage Centre** housed in a former silk mill. Visitors can travel through time from the Roman



Wirksworth Close

occupation to the present day. Quarrying, lead-mining and local customs such as clypping the church (a ceremony in which the parish church is encircled by the congregation holding hands around it) and well-dressing are explored with interactive and fascinating exhibits. The Centre is open Wednesday to Saturday. One of the town's most interesting sights is the jumble of cottages linked by a maze of jitties on the hillside between The Dale and Greenhill, in particular the area known locally as The Puzzle Gardens. Babington House dates back to Jacobean times. Another former lead-merchant's house, Hopkinsons House, was restored in 1980 as part of a number of restoration schemes initiated by the Civic Trust's Wirksworth Project. The ancient parish **Church of St Mary** is a fine building standing in a tranquil close and bounded by Elizabethan Gell Almshouses and the former (Georgian) grammar school. The church holds one of the oldest stone carvings in the country. Known as the Wirksworth Stone, it is a coffin lid dating from the 8th century.

The **National Stone Centre**, open every day, tells the story of stone, with a wealth of

exhibits, activities such as gem-panning and fossil-casting, and outdoor trails tailored to introduce topics such as the geology, ecology and history of the dramatic Peak District landscape. Nearby, the **Steeple Grange Light Railway** runs along a short line over the High Peak Trail between Steeplehouse Station and Dark Lane Quarry. Power is provided by a battery-electric locomotive; passengers are carried in a manrider salvaged from Bevercotes Colliery in Nottinghamshire.

DARLEY DALE

2 miles NW of Matlock off the A6

 Red House Stables  Darley Yew

The charming name for this straggling village along the main road north from Matlock dates only from the 19th century, and was either devised by the commercially-minded railway company at work in the area, or by the romantically-inclined vicar of the parish. Darley Dale makes up one of three stops on the Matlock-to-Rowsley South Peak Rail line.

One of the most unassuming heroines of this part of Derbyshire must be Lady Mary Louisa Whitworth, the second wife of Sir Joseph Whitworth, the famous Victorian engineer. Following his death in 1887, Lady Mary undertook sweeping changes to the lifestyle of the local poor and needy. The Whitworth Institute was opened in 1890, bringing to the community a wide range of facilities including a swimming pool, an assembly hall, a natural history museum and a library. Lady Whitworth died in France in 1896, and is buried next to her husband at the parish Church of St Helen, in the hamlet of Churchtown. The churchyard is also home to the **Darley Yew**, one of the oldest living trees in Britain, which has a girth of some 33 feet. The yew pre-dates the Norman origins of the

Church and may even be older than the Saxon fragments found here in the mid 1900s.

Darley Dale has an extensive park, which is very pretty in all seasons. Another of this small village's attractions is **Red House Stables**, a working carriage museum featuring some fine examples of traditional horse-drawn vehicles and equipment. One of the finest collections in the country, it consists of nearly 40 carriages, including one of the very few surviving Hansom cabs, a stage coach, Royal Mail coach, Park Drag and many other private and commercial vehicles. Carriage rides are available, making regular trips through the countryside to places such as Chatsworth and Haddon Hall. The carriages and horses can be hired for special occasions.



Darley Dale Church and Yew

 historic building  museum  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna

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STANTON IN PEAK

5 miles NW of Matlock off the B5056

 Nine Ladies  Rowtor Rocks  Stanton Moor

The gritstone landscape of **Stanton Moor**, which rises to some 1,096 feet and overlooks the village, is encircled by footpaths and is a popular walking area. There are also several interesting features on the moorland. The folly, Earl Grey's Tower, was built in 1832 to commemorate the reform of Parliament. There is also an ancient stone circle, dating from the Bronze Age, with over 70 burial mounds. Known as the **Nine Ladies**, the stone circle has a solitary boulder nearby called the King's Stone. Legend has it that one Sunday nine women and a fiddler came up on to the moor to dance and, for their act of sacrilege, they were turned to stone.



The nearby **Rowtor Rocks** contain caves that were carved out at some stage in the 1600s. Not only was the living space made from the rock, but tables, chairs and alcoves as well, to create a cosy retreat for the local vicar, Reverend Thomas Eyre. Prior to these home improvements, the caves were reputedly used by the Druids, who did not believe in such creature comforts.

CAUDWELL'S MILL TRUST LTD

Caudwell's Mill, Bakewell Road, Rowsley, nr Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2EB

Tel/Fax: 01629 734374

e-mail: graemethemiller@yahoo.co.uk

Caudwell's Mill is a unique Grade II* listed roller flour mill, the only complete Victorian water turbine-powered example in the country. It stands on the A6 between Bakewell and Matlock in the lovely Wye Valley. A mill has been on this site for at least 400 years and the current occupant was built in 1874 by John Caudwell. Run as a family business for more than a century, it is now managed by a charitable trust.

The four-storey mill is worked by turbines powered by water from the Wye. The main turbine, dating from 1914, drives the flour mill, while the second turbine, built in 1898 to provide provender (animal feed), now generates electricity for the site. Most of the machinery pre-dates 1914 and is still driven by belts (often made of leather) and pulleys from line shafts.

The many displays, descriptions and hands-on models provide a fascinating and educational insight into how the mill turns wheat into flour, and in the mill shop visitors can buy from a selection of more than 20 flours, along with recipe books, souvenirs and a range of tasty biscuits. A visit to the mill can be rounded off with a stroll along the head race or nature trail or around Rowsley village.



 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

YOULGREAVE

6 miles NW of Matlock off the B5056

 Church of All Saints  Lathkill Dale

This straggling village, known locally as Pommeys, lies in Bradford Dale. The village **Church of All Saints** contains some parts of the original Saxon building though its ancient font is, unfortunately, upturned and used as a sundial. Inside, the working font is Norman and still retains its stoop for holding the Holy Water. It is well worth taking the time to have a look at, since it is the only such font in England. The Church also contains a small tomb with an equally small alabaster effigy; dated 1488, it is a memorial to Thomas Cockayne, who was killed in a brawl when in his teens.

Further up the village's main street is Thimble Hall, the smallest market hall in the Peak District and still used today for selling goods. Typical of the White Peak area of Derbyshire, the Hall dates from 1656; there are also some rather grand Georgian houses to be found in the village.

Lathkill Dale, which can really only be experienced by walking along the path by the banks of the quiet river, is noted for its solitude and, consequently, there is an abundance of wildlife in and around the riverbank meadows. The upper valley is a National Nature Reserve; those who are lucky enough may even spot a kingfisher or two. One of the country's purest rivers, the Lathkill is famed for the range of aquatic life that it supports, as well as being a popular trout river. Renowned for many centuries, it was Izaak Walton who said of the Lathkill, back in 1676;

*the purest and most transparent stream
that I ever yet saw, either at home or abroad;
and breeds, 'tis said, the reddest
and best Trouts in England.*

MIDDLETON BY YOULGREAVE

7 miles NW of Matlock off the A5012

 Lomerdale Hall

Just outside this leafy village is **Lomerdale Hall**, once the home of Thomas Bateman, the 19th-century archeologist who was responsible for the excavation of some 500 barrows in the Peak District over a 20-year period – it is said that he managed to reveal four in one single day. Many of the artefacts he unearthed can be seen in Sheffield Museum. The village lies in the valley of the River Bradford, at the point where it becomes Middleton Dale, and is unusual among villages in this area of the Peak District in that it has a large number of trees.

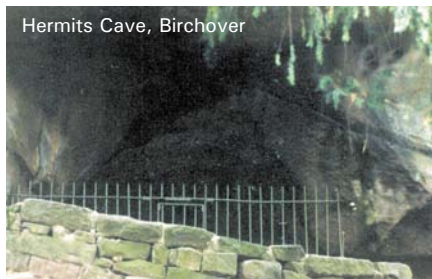
BIRCHOVER

4 miles W of Matlock off the B5056

 Rowtor Rocks

The strange **Rowtor Rocks**, behind The Druid Inn, are said to have been used for Druidical rites. The Reverend Thomas Eyre, who died in 1717, was fascinated by these rocks and built the strange collection of steps, rooms and seats that have been carved out of the gritstone rocks on the summit of the outcrop. It is said that the Reverend would take his friends there to admire the view across the valley below – a view that nowadays is obscured by trees.

The equally strange outcrops of Robin



Hermits Cave, Birchover

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Hood's Stride and Cratcliff Tor can be found nearby. A medieval hermit's cave, complete with crucifix, can be seen at the foot of Cratcliff Tor hidden behind an ancient yew tree.

WINSTER

4 miles W of Matlock off the B5056

 Market House

This attractive gritstone village was once a lead-mining centre and market town. Today, it is a pleasant place with antique shops in the high street and some fine late 18th-century houses. Less splendid than the surrounding houses, but no less interesting, are the ginnels – little alleyways – that run off the main street. The most impressive building here, however, must be the **Market House**, owned by the National Trust and found at the top of the main street. The Trust's first purchase in Derbyshire, the rugged, two-storey Market House dates from the late 17th and early 18th centuries and is a reminder of Winster's past importance as a market town. Built from an attractive combination of brickwork and stone, the House is open to the public and acts as an information centre and shop for



Market House, Winster

the Trust.

Although Morris dancing is traditionally associated with the Cotswold area, two of the best known and most often played tunes, *The Winsten Gallop* and *The Blue-Eyed Stranger*, originate from the village. Collected many years ago by Cecil Sharpe, a legend in the world of Morris dancing, they were rediscovered in the 1960s. The Winsten Morris men traditionally dance through the village at the beginning of Wakes Week in June, finishing, as all good Morris dances do, at one of the local pubs.

Ashbourne

 Market Square  The Mansion

 St Oswald's Parish Church

 Green Man & Black's Head Royal Hotel

Ashbourne is one of Derbyshire's finest old towns, with a wealth of wonderful Georgian architecture as well as some older buildings, notably the Gingerbread Shop, which is timber framed and probably dates from the 1400s. The triangular cobbled **Market Square** was part of the new development begun in the 1200s that shifted the town to the east, away from the church. Weekly markets have been

held in the square since 1296, and still take place every Thursday and Saturday. It was in this market place, once lined with ale houses, that Bonnie Prince Charlie proclaimed his father as King James III, and so started the Jacobite Rebellion. Traditional Ashbourne gingerbread is said to be made from a recipe that was acquired from

French prisoners of war who were kept in the town during the Napoleonic Wars.

Also worthy of a second glance is the **Green Man and Black's Head Royal Hotel**. The inn sign stretches over St John's Street and was put up when the Blackamoor Inn joined with the Green Man in 1825. Though the Blackamoor is no more, the sign remains and it claims to be the longest hotel name in the country. Of Georgian origin, the amalgamated hotel has played host to James Boswell, Dr Johnson and the young Princess Victoria. Ashbourne was, in fact, one of Dr Johnson's favourite places; he came to the town on several occasions between 1737 and 1784. He also visited the hotel so often that he had his own chair with his name on it. The chair can still be seen at the Green Man.

A stroll down Church Street, described by Pevsner as one of the finest streets in Derbyshire, takes the walker past many interesting Georgian houses – including the

Grey House which stands next to the Grammar School. Founded by Sir Thomas Cockayne on behalf of Elizabeth I in 1585, the school was visited on its 400th anniversary by the present Queen. Almost opposite the Grey House is **The Mansion**, the late 17th-century home of the Reverend Dr John Taylor, oldest friend of Dr Johnson. In 1764, a domed, octagonal drawing room was added to the house, and a new brick façade built facing the street. Next to The Mansion are two of the many almshouses established in Ashbourne during the 17th and 18th centuries. Ashbourne also retains many of its narrow alleyways, opening into yards, in particular The Gallery.

In **St Oswald's Parish Church**, Ashbourne has one of the most impressive and elegant churches in the country, described by George Eliot as "the finest mere parish church in England". James Boswell said that the church was "one of the largest and most luminous that

M & G BASSETT

PINE AND DECORATIVE ITEMS

38 Church Street, Ashbourne,
Derbyshire DE6 1AJ
Tel / Fax: 01335 300061
e-mail: mgbassett@sky.com
website: www.antiques-atlas.com

For as long as Mick and Gill can remember they both had a passion for antiques. So when the opportunity arose some 30 years ago to start their own business they jumped at the chance. They could hardly have found a better location in one of Derbyshire's finest old towns. The two floors of their shop are filled with an ever-changing stock that consist of English, French and European country furniture. Tables, dressers, chest of drawers, wardrobes, armoires, faux bamboo, wrought iron and garden furniture. As well as the shop, they also have a warehouse stocked with many more items of furniture and accessories many in the condition as purchased and unrestored.

They also sell a selection of kitchenalia, china, and unusual decorative accessories. All items they sell are antique or vintage.

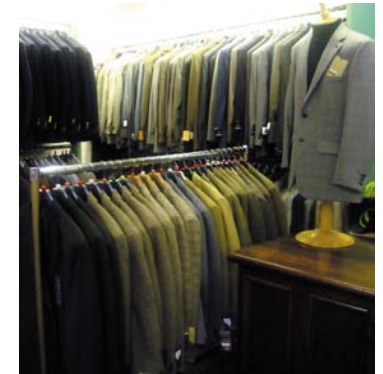


GRAVES OF ASHBOURNE

12 St John Street, Ashbourne,
Derbyshire DE6 1GH
Tel: 01335 342248

Visit **Graves of Ashbourne** for quality top brand names in men's traditional clothing. Paul Kaufman owner of this long established gents outfitters, takes pride in keeping this old fashioned style shop unchanged for the last 130 years. Over two floors, the shop has the largest selection of top brands in Derbyshire.

Top brands include: **Aigle, Bladen, Dents, Double Two, H J Socks, Gabicci, Gurteen, Jockey, Olney, Peter England, Van Heusen, Viyella and Wolsey.**



I have seen in any town of the same size". St Oswald's stands on the site of a minster church mentioned in the Domesday Book, though most of what exists today dates from rebuilding work in the 13th century.

The alabaster tombs and monuments to the Bradbourne and Cockayne families in the north transept chapel are justly famous. Perhaps the best-known monument is that to Penelope Boothby, who died in 1791 at the tender age of five. Thomas Banks' white Carrara marble figure of the sleeping child is so lifelike that she still appears to be only sleeping. The moving epitaph reads: "She was in form and intellect most exquisite; the unfortunate parents ventured their all on this frail bark, and the wreck was total". It is said that Penelope's parents separated at the child's grave and never spoke to each other again.

Ashbourne is home to the famous Shrovetide football game played on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. The two teams, the 'Up'ards (those born north of the Henmore Brook) and the 'Down'ards (those born south of it) begin their match at 2pm behind the Green Man Hotel. The game continues until well into the evening. The two goals are situated three miles apart, along the

Brook, on the site of the old mills at Clifton and Sturston. It is rare for more than one goal to be scored, the ball moves through the town in a series of 'hugs', a rugby-like scrum made up of an unlimited number of people.

Around Ashbourne

HOGNASTON

4 miles NE of Ashbourne off the B5035

Carsington Water

This hillside village, with its extraordinary Norman carvings over the church doorway, lies close to **Carsington Water**, Britain's newest reservoir, owned by Severn Trent Water. There is plenty to do here besides the more usual water sports such as canoeing, sailing and fishing. An eight-mile track, mostly off road can be walked or cycled around the reservoir. Opened by the Queen in 1992, the reservoir has already blended well with the local countryside. Unlike many of the Peak District reservoirs, which draw their water from the acid moorland, Carsington is able to support a whole host of wildlife. One controversial resident is the American ruddy duck. Once unknown

outside wildlife reserves, the duck escaped and in little over 50 years the breed has become widespread throughout Europe.

HOPTON

8 miles NE of Ashbourne off the B5035

This village, now by-passed by the main road, is dominated by the Carsington Water Reservoir. The land rises to the north of Hopton and here can be found the Hopton Incline, once the steepest railway incline in the British Isles. Lying on the High Peak Railway line, carriages on their journey from Cromford to Whaley Bridge were hauled up using fixed engines. It is now part of the High Peak Trail.

BRASSINGTON

7 miles NE of Ashbourne off the B5056

 Rainier Rocks  Harborough Rocks

Protected from the wind by the limestone plateau that soars some 1,000 feet above sea level, the village sits by strange shaped rocks, the result of weather erosion, with names like **Rainier Rocks** and **Harborough Rocks**. Stone Age man found snugs among these formations and there is evidence that animals like the sabre-toothed tiger, brown bear, wolf

and hyena also found comfort here in the caves. As late as the 18th, century families were still living in the caves.

FENNY BENTLEY

2 miles N of Ashbourne off the A515

 St Edmund's Church

Inside **St Edmund's Church** can be found the tomb of Thomas Beresford, the local lord of the manor who fought alongside eight of his 16 sons at Agincourt. The effigies of Beresford and his wife are surrounded by those of their 21 children – each covered by a shroud because by the time the tombs were built nobody could remember what they had looked like. During the Civil War, much of the church and its rectory were destroyed. On returning to his parish after the restoration of Charles II in 1661, the rector resolved to rebuild the rectory, which was all but rubble, and restore the church to its former glory. Both of these he managed. The 15th-century square tower of the fortified manor house, now incorporated into Cherry Orchard Farm – which belonged to the Beresford family and was once the home of Charles Cotton – is a local landmark that can be seen from the main road.



Fortified Manor, Fenny Bentley

TISSINGTON

4 miles N of Ashbourne off the A515

 Tissington Hall  Tissington Trail

Sitting at the foothills of the Pennines, Tissington is, perhaps, most famous for its ancient festival of well-dressing, a ceremony that dates back to at least 1350. Today this starts on Ascension Day and draws many

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WHITE PEAK FARM BUTCHERY

The Old Slaughterhouse, Chapel Lane, Tissington, nr Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1RA
Tel: 01335 390300/07973 120985
e-mail: liz.power@btinternet.com
website: www.whitepeakfarm.co.uk

'Meat at its Peak'

White Peak Farm Butchery is set in the foothills of the Pennines in the stunning village of Tissington. This unique estate village on the A515 3 miles north of Ashbourne, which was built round Tissington Hall, the Jacobean home of the FitzHerbert family, is perhaps best known for its well dressing. But within the local community and for many miles around it is also known for being the home of one of the very best butchers in the land. Owner Richard Hobday sources the best local produce and is renowned in Tissington, Ashbourne and the surrounding area for supplying some of the best meat to be found anywhere in the UK, all from animals leading a happy, relaxed life in and around the Peak District national Park.

For his retail trade he sells meat either home-reared or personally selected from farmers he knows and from local livestock markets. He never compromises on quality, so if he has to source his meat from other areas he will, but always with quality in mind. He is a leading expert in his field and is often asked to use his expertise in judging fatstock shows throughout the Midlands and the North West.

The butchery and shop are situated in a little road off the village square in the Old Slaughterhouse, which was purpose-built in Victorian times and served local butchers in villages and towns for over a century before becoming a butchery in 1984. Richard has been in the trade for more than 30 years and has been running White Peak with his cheerful, welcoming and expert staff since 1999.

The beef, the lamb and the pork are cut to the customers' needs, and the shop also sells poultry and seasonal game from the estate. And the White Peak bacon, sausages and black pudding are essential ingredients for a truly memorable breakfast. The shop also sells a selection of outstanding pies, cheeses, pickles and preserves.

Meat-lovers who can't get to the shop can order anything from the range online: topside, sirloin, mince, brisket, rumpsteak, ribs fillet of beef; legs, chops and racks of lamb; pork chops, legs, gammon, bacon; black pudding, sausages with varieties including Czech with red onion and sage, plain pork, pork & leek, pork & apple, venison. Orders are sent out on Tuesdays and Thursdays for guaranteed next day delivery.



crowds who come to see the spectacular folk art created by the local people.

There are plenty of theories as to why well-dressing began or was revived at Tissington. One centres on the purity of the Tissington wells during the Black Death, which swept through the country in the mid 1300s. During this time some 77 of the 100 clergy in Derbyshire died and the surviving villagers simply returned to the pagan custom of well-dressing. Another plausible theory dates back only as far as the great drought of 1615, when the Tissington wells kept flowing though water everywhere was in very short supply. Whichever theory is true, one thing is certain, that in the past 50 years or so many villages who had not dressed a well for centuries, if ever, are now joining in the colourful tradition.

A total of six wells are dressed at Tissington: the Hall, the Town, the Yew Tree, the Hands, the Coffin and the Children's Wells. Each depicts a separate scene, usually one from the Bible. Visitors should follow the signs in the village or ask at the Old Coach House.

Home of the FitzHerbert family for 500

years, **Tissington Hall** is a distinguished and impressive stately home which was built by Francis FitzHerbert in 1609. The estate consists of 2,400 acres comprising 13 farms, 40 cottages and assorted lettings. The Hall boasts a wealth of original pieces, artwork, furnishings and architectural features tracing the times and tastes of the FitzHerbert family (now headed by Sir Richard FitzHerbert) over the centuries. Tissington Hall and Gardens are open to the public on 28 afternoons throughout the summer.

Following the old Ashbourne to Buxton Hay railway line, the **Tissington Trail** is a popular walk which can be combined with other old railway trails or country lanes in the area to make an enjoyable circular country walk. The Tissington Trail passes through some lovely countryside and, with a reasonable surface, is also popular with cyclists. Along the route can be found many of the old railway line buildings and junction boxes and, in particular, the old Hartington station, which is now a picnic site with an information centre in the old signal box.

THE BLUEBELL INN

Tissington, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1NH
Tel: 013335 350317 Fax: 01335 350103
e-mail: bluebell350317@aol.com
website: www.bluebelltissington.co.uk

The Bluebell Inn is situated just outside the lovely village of Tissington on the A515 on the Ashbourne/Buxton Road 3 miles north of Ashbourne. It is a traditional pub with a special reputation of delicious cuisine, catering for breakfasts, bar meals, Sunday lunches, banquets, buffets, conferences, weddings, private or children's parties and all special diets are catered for using locally sourced products. The function room is separate to the bar and dining area has seating for up to 100 people, complete with its own bar, disabled activities and dance floor. Food is served between 10:30am-9pm and opening hours are from 10:30am-11:00pm.



ALSOPE-EN-LE-DALE

5 miles N of Ashbourne off the A515

Viator's Bridge

The old station on the Ashbourne-Buxton line that once served this tiny hamlet is today a car park on the Tissington Trail. The tranquil hamlet itself is on a narrow lane east of the main road towards Parwich, just a mile from Dovedale. Alsop-en-le-Dale's parish church of St Michael is Norman, though it was rebuilt substantially during Victorian times. The nave retains Norman features, with impressive double zigzag mouldings in the arches, but the west tower is only imitation Norman, and dates from 1883. One unusual feature that dominates this small church is its extraordinary 19th-century, square mock-Gothic pulpit.

The renowned **Viator's Bridge** at Milldale is only a mile away to the west. It was immortalised in Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler* by a character who complains to another about the size of the tiny, two-arched packhorse bridge, deeming it "not two fingers broad".

ARBOR LOW

13 miles N of Ashbourne off the A515

Stone Circle

This remote **Stone Circle** is often referred to

as the Stonehenge of the Peaks, and although many of the stones now lie on the ground, it is still an impressive sight. There are several stone circles in the Peak District but none offer the same atmosphere as Arbor Low, nor the same splendid views. Built around 4,000 years ago by the early Bronze Age people, there are a total of 40 stones each weighing no less than eight tonnes. Probably used as an observatory and also a festival site, it is likely that the stones, which have been placed in pairs, never actually stood up.

MAPPLETON

2 miles NW of Ashbourne off the A515

Mappleton is a secluded and charming village of the Dove Valley, with attractive views and a wealth of exciting natural beauty. The 18th-century Church of St Mary's is unusual in that it has a dome rather than a tower or steeple.

The village's main claim to fame is its annual New Year's Day charity bridge jump when 10 teams of three people each paddle down half a mile of the River Dove and then jump off a bridge. The Dove is not easily navigable, the bridge is 30 feet high and after the jump there is a 500-yard sprint to the pub. It is a grand spectator sport and hundreds of people come to watch.



Arbor Low Stone Circle

THORPE

3 miles NW of Ashbourne off the A515

 Thorpe Cloud  Dovedale and River Dove

Thorpe lies at the confluence of the Rivers Manifold and Dove, and is dominated by the conical hill of **Thorpe Cloud**, which guards the entrance to **Dovedale** (see walk in Staffordshire Chapter). Although the Dale becomes over-crowded at times, there is always plenty of open space to explore on the hill as well as excellent walking. For much of its 45-mile course from Axe Edge to its confluence with the River Trent, the **River Dove** is a walker's river as it is mostly inaccessible by car. The steep sides to its valley, the fast-flowing water and the magnificent white rock formations all give Dovedale a special charm. Dovedale, however, is only a short section of the valley. Above Viator's Bridge it becomes Mill Dale, and further upstream again are Wolfscote Dale and Beresford Dale.

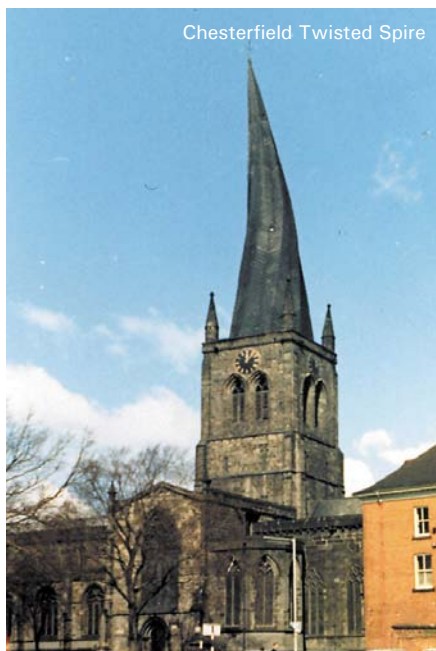
Chesterfield

 Crooked Spire  George Stephenson

This friendly, bustling town on the edge of the Peak District National Park grew up around its open-air market, which was established over 800 years ago and claims to be England's largest. As the town lies at the crossroads of England, the hub of trade routes from all points of the compass, the town's claim seems easily justified. It was earning royal revenue in 1165, as the Sheriff of Derbyshire recorded in the Pipe Rolls and, in that year, the market earned the princely sum of £1 2s 7d for the Crown. The Pipe Roll of 1182 also mentions a fair in Chesterfield. Such fairs were large markets, usually lasting for several days and drawing traders and buyers from a much wider area. Chesterfield's formal charter, however,

was not granted until 1204, but this charter made the town one of the first eight free boroughs in the country. Escaping the prospect of redevelopment in the 1970s, the markets are as popular as ever and are held every Monday, Friday and Saturday, with a flea market each Thursday and a farmers' market on the second Thursday of every month.

The town centre has been conserved for future generations by a far-sighted council, and many buildings have been saved, including the Victorian Market Hall built in 1857. The traditional cobbled paving was restored in the Market Place, and New Square was given a complete facelift. There are several Tudor buildings in the heart of Chesterfield, most notably the former Peacock Inn, which is now home to a café. The Tourist Information Centre that was here is now in a new purpose-built centre in Rykneld Square, near the



Chesterfield Twisted Spire

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FRANK HILL JEWELLER

5 West Bars, Chesterfield S40 1AQ
Tel: 01246 232155 Fax: 01246 278221
e-mail: Andrew@24ctjewellery.co.uk
website: www.24ctjewellery.co.uk

Thirty-five years of experience and expertise go into the design and manufacture of the highest quality jewellery at 24CT Ltd in association with **Frank Hill Jeweller**, with a level of service to match. The main specialities are wedding and engagement rings made in gold, white gold, platinum and titanium. All are made in the workshop on the premises from the highest quality metals hallmarked to British standards. Stones used include diamonds, emeralds, rubies, topaz, sapphire, aquamarine, amethyst and the increasingly popular modern tanzanite.

Clients can browse the website or visit the shop to see examples of what is offered, and can have their own pieces made to their specification. Andrew Thomson and his staff are happy to advise on design and the selection of metals and gemstones. They also offer a jewellery valuation service and a total repair service, including re-mounting stones, re-sizing rings, repairing chains and on-the-spot cleaning. They can also remodel an old piece or melt it down to make a totally new item.



Crooked Spire church. Visitors to the town are drawn to this peculiarly graceful spire reaching high into the skyline; twisting and leaning, it is totally confusing to the eye. The Crooked Spire of St Mary and All Saints Church has dominated the skyline for so long that local folk have ceased to notice its unusual shape. Superstition surrounds it, and sadly the real story to its unusual appearance has been lost over the years. The truth – or at least the best guess – could be the amount of green timber used to build the spire. Green timber is more easily shaped and becomes much stronger as it dries, finally setting like concrete. The builders would have expected the wood to move as it dried and allowed for it, but it's impossible to predict exactly how green timber will dry. It can split, defects can appear and develop – anything

can happen. And, clearly, anything did! As well as this, there's no cross bracing in the eight sides of the spire, and the bottom timbers decayed, which is why it leans. Add to that 32 tons of lead that cover the wooden structure, 600 years of weather and, according to one 'expert', bell-ringing, and you get a crooked spire. However, some stories say it was the Devil who, pausing for a rest during one of his flights, clung to the spire for a moment or two. Incense from the Church drifted upwards and the Devil sneezed, causing the spire to twist out of shape.

This magnificent spire rises to 228 feet and leans 9 feet 4 inches from its true centre point. It is eight-sided, but the herringbone pattern of the lead slates trick the eye into seeing 16 sides from the ground. The Crooked Spire is

MAKING IT4U

414 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire S40 3BQ
Tel: 01246 297615
e-mail: yvonneclarkelimited@live.co.uk

"It's an Aladdins cave, there is so much to look at and the staff are very friendly and always willing to help"

In her shop by the junction of the A619 Chatsworth Road and Walton Road, Yvonne Clarke shares her passion for fashion with her growing band of regular customers. **Making It4U** specialises in all aspects of soft furnishings, and Yvonne and her staff are always ready to assist their clients with design solutions, enabling them to get the very best from their purchases and to enhance their homes. Curtains are a speciality, sold customised from stock or made to individual requirements from a small selection of fabrics kept in house or from customers' own fabric. Also made instore are table cloths, runners and napkins, they can also re-cover caravan cushions and some seating stools and headboards. The shop sells a range of designer clothes from Yvonne herself including prom evening wear, mother of the bride outfits, bespoke wedding dresses as well as hat fascinators, scarves, handbags and jewellery. Making It4U is a stockist of Lunar Shoes, with a selection of Lunar bridal shoes and handbags and the shop also offers an alteration and repair service for customers' garments, wherever they were purchased.

This is one of two shops owned by Yvonne. The other is Silhouettes in Bolsover (qv), which carries a wide range of ladies fashion garments and has an upstairs room where clothes are made to her designs. Silhouettes is at Unit 4, Cavendish Walk, Bolsover. Tel: 01246 827005.



open most Bank Holidays and at advertised times; the church is open all year, Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm (9am - 3pm, January and February), and Sundays at service times only. **George Stephenson** (1781-1848) lived in Tupton House on the edge of town while working on railway construction in the area. He died in Chesterfield and is buried in Trinity Church in Newbold Road.

Around Chesterfield

WHITTINGTON

3 miles NE of Chesterfield off the B6052/A61

Revolution House

During the 17th century, **Revolution House** was part of an alehouse called the Cock and Pynot (pynot being the local dialect word for magpie). It was here that three local

noblemen – the Earl of Devonshire, the Earl of Danby and John D'Arcy – met to begin planning their part in the events that eventually led to the overthrow of James II in favour of his daughter Mary and her husband, William of Orange. The Glorious Revolution took place later in the same year, November 1688, and it was in the year of its 250th anniversary that this modest house was turned into a museum.

Revolution House, a tiny cottage with thatched roof, flower border and charming garden gate, which belies its rather incendiary name, is now open to the public from Easter to the end of September and features period furnishings and a changing programme of exhibitions on local themes. A video relates the story of the Revolution and the role that the house played in those fraught and dangerous days.

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BARLBOROUGH

7 miles NE of Chesterfield off the A619

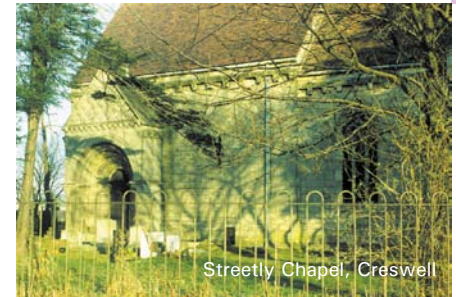
Lying close to the county borders with both Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire, this village still retains its manor house. Lying just north of the village centre, Barlborough Hall (private) was built in 1584 by Lord Justice Francis Rodes to plans drawn up by the designer of Hardwick Hall, Robert Smythson. Those who visit both houses will notice the strong resemblance. As well as building houses, Rodes was also one of the judges at the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots. The Hall is supposed to be haunted by a grey lady, said to be the ghost of a bride who received the news of her groom's death as she was on her way to the 12th-century village church. Barlborough Hall should not be confused with Barlborough Old Hall: this is an easy mistake to make as Barlborough Old Hall is actually the younger of the two! Built in 1618, as the date stone over the front door states, the Old Hall is of a large H-plan design and has mullioned windows.

CRESWELL

9 miles E of Chesterfield off the A616

Creswell Crag

Lying close to the Derbyshire-Nottinghamshire border, the limestone gorge known as **Creswell Crag** is well worth seeing. Formed thousands of years ago by the erosion of a river that cut through the limestone, this rock, which is porous and subject to erosion underground as well as on the surface, contributes by its very nature to the forming of natural chambers. The subterranean movement of water created a vast network of caves, which were subsequently exposed and used by Neanderthal man as shelters while out



Streetly Chapel, Creswell

hunting. Tours can be taken from the visitor centre where there is also a display of artefacts found in the area. Testimony to the artistry of the later inhabitants of these caves was the discovery of a bone carved with the head of a horse. The carving is about 13,000 years old and can now be seen in the British Museum. The largest cavern, Church Hole Cave, extends some 170 feet into the side of the gorge; it was here that hand tools and the only known Ice Age rock art in Britain were found.

BOLSOVER

7 miles E of Chesterfield off the A632

Castle

The approach to Bolsover from the north and east is dominated by the splendid, sandstone structure of **Bolsover Castle** (English Heritage - see panel opposite), which sits high on a limestone ridge. A castle has stood here since the 12th century, though the present building is a fairytale folly built for Sir Charles Cavendish during the early 1600s on the site of a ruined castle. By the mid 1700s, much of the building had been reduced to the ruins seen today, though thankfully the splendid keep has withstood the test of time.

Pevsner remarked that not many large houses in England occupy such an impressive position as Bolsover Castle, as it stands on the brow of a hill overlooking the valley of the

Bolsover Castle

Bolsover, Derbyshire S44 6PR

Tel: 01246 822844

website: www.english-heritage.org.uk

'By an unlikely miracle,' wrote the architectural historian Mark Girouard, 'the keep at Bolsover has survived into this century as an almost untouched expression in stone of the lost world of Elizabethan chivalry and romance.'

Dominating the countryside from its hilltop, Bolsover occupies the site of a medieval castle built by the Peverel family shortly after the Norman Conquest. Sir Charles Cavendish bought the old castle in 1612 and began work on his 'Little Castle' project. Despite its embattled appearance, his creation was not designed for defence, but for elegant living.

Sir Charles intended the house as a retreat from the world to an imaginary golden age of chivalry and pleasure. His son William, later Duke of Newcastle, inherited the Little Castle in 1616 and set about its completion, assisted by the architect John Smythson. An extraordinary survival, the exquisitely carved fireplaces and recently conserved murals and painted panelling of its interiors take the visitor on an allegorical journey from earthly concerns to heavenly (and erotic) delights.

William also added the vast and stately rooms of the Terrace Range, now a dramatic roofless shell. To show off his achievement, in 1634 he invited the Stuart court to 'Love's Welcome to Bolsover', a masque specially written by Ben Jonson for performance in the Fountain Garden. Finally he constructed the cavernous Riding House with its magnificent roof, perhaps the finest surviving indoor riding school in Britain: here he indulged his passion for training 'great horses'. There is also a Discovery Centre in the Stables, with audio-visual displays.

The castle battlements and the Venus Garden are in the process of being restored, and the fountain, with 23 new statues, plays again for the first time in centuries. A series of 'Caesar paintings' depicting Roman emperors and empresses has also recently returned to Bolsover. These were commissioned by William Cavendish and copied from originals by the great Venetian artist Titian - which have since been destroyed - making the Bolsover versions uniquely important.



River Rother and Doe Lea. The first castle at Bolsover was built by William Peverel, illegitimate son of William the Conqueror, as part of his vast Derbyshire estates. Nothing remains of that Norman building. Visitors can

explore the Little Castle, or Keep, which is decorated in an elaborate Jacobean style with wonderful fireplaces, panelling and wall paintings. The whole building later descended to the Dukes of Portland, and it remains a

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SILHOUETTES

Unit 4, Cavendish Walk, Bolsover, Derbyshire S44 6DB

Tel: 01246 827005

The expertise and experience that have made her Making It 4U in Chesterfield such a success are watchwords at Yvonne Clarke's Bolsover outlet **Silhouettes**. This is a ladies boutique of quality and prestige, with a wide, seasonally changing display of garments aimed primarily at the over-40s, catering mainly for sizes 10 to 22. Popular, respected brands regularly in stock include Emreco - making waves with its bright colours, exuberance and vivacity since Emreco Coveri hit the headlines on the Milan catwalks in 1973; Oscar B - clear, contemporary style meets the highest standards of quality and fitting, feminine fashion with casual influences and important little details that surprise; and Adini, Marble and Viz a Viz - created in 1992 to fill the perceived gap in the ladies wear market for discerning women who want to wear fashion that is individual and feminine yet affordable. Silhouettes also stocks a selection of shoes, including the Lunar range (comfort, glitz and glamour) hats, jewellery and other accessories.

Part of the upstairs section of the boutique is given over to designing and making Yvonne's exclusive clothes, some produced for stock to display in the sales area, others made to individual orders from customers. Silhouette is open five days a week, closed Wednesday and Sunday.

Curtains and other soft furnishings, ladies' clothes and garment repair and alterations are the main offerings of Yvonne's other enterprise Making It4U (qv) at 414 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield. Tel: 01246 297615.



strangely impressive place, though even now it is threatened by its industrial surroundings and the legacy of centuries of coal-mining beneath its walls: subsidence.

AULT HUCKNALL

6 miles SE of Chesterfield off the A617

Hardwick Hall

The strange name of this village probably means Hucca's high nook of land, and this pleasant place, standing on a ridge close to the Nottinghamshire border, is home to the magnificent Tudor house, **Hardwick Hall** (National Trust). "More glass than wall", it is one of Derbyshire's Big Three stately homes alongside Chatsworth and Haddon, all three glorious monuments to the great landowning families who played so great a role in shaping

the history of the county. The letters E S can be seen carved in stone on the outside of the house: E S, or Elizabeth of Shrewsbury, was perhaps better known as Bess of Hardwick. This larger-than-life figure had attachments with many places in Derbyshire, and the story of her life makes for fascinating reading.

She was born in the manor house at Hardwick in 1520. The house stood only a little distance from the present-day Hall and was then not much more than a farmhouse. The young Bess married her neighbour's son, Robert Barlow, when she was only 12. When her young husband, himself only 14, died a few months later, she naturally inherited a great deal of property. Some 15 years later she married Sir William Cavendish and, when he died in 1557, she was bequeathed his entire

fortune. By this time she was the richest woman in England, save for one, Elizabeth, the Queen.

Bess began the building of Hardwick House in 1590, towards the end of her life and after her fourth lucrative marriage to George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury. It stands as a monument to her wealth and good taste, and is justly famous for its magnificent needlework and tapestries, carved fireplaces and friezes, which are considered to be among the finest in Britain. One of the highlights is the Threads of Time exhibition, and conservation tours take place between Wednesday and Saturday.

Though Bess is the first person who springs to mind with regard to Hardwick Hall, it was the 6th Duke of Devonshire who was responsible for the Hall's antiquarian atmosphere. He inherited the property in 1811



Norman Church, Ault Hucknall

and, as well as promoting the legend that Mary, Queen of Scots stayed here, he filled the house with furniture, paintings and tapestries from his other houses and from Chatsworth in particular. The philosopher Thomas Hobbes, author of *The Leviathan*, who was tutor to two Dukes of Devonshire, died at Hardwick Hall in 1679 and is buried in the Church of St John the Baptist.

PILSLEY

5 miles S of Chesterfield off the B6039

Herb Garden

The **Herb Garden** in Pilsley is one of the foremost gardens in the country. It consists of four display gardens, the largest of which is the Mixed Herb Garden, boasting an impressive established parterre. The remaining three gardens each with its own special theme and housing many rare and unusual species are the Physic, the Lavender and the Pot Pourri. Areas of native flowers and wild spring bulbs can be enjoyed from March to September.

HOLYMOORSIDE

3 miles W of Chesterfield off the A632

Surrounded by attractive moorland and lying in the picturesque valley of the River Hipper, this scattered village has grown into a popular residential area for the nearby towns. The custom of well-dressing in the village was revived in 1979 after a gap of about 80 years. Two wells are dressed, a large one and a smaller one for children, on the Wednesday before the late summer Bank Holiday in August.

The dressers follow the tradition of Barlow, where only flowers and leaves are used and not wool, seed and shells, though they do not stick to biblical themes. In 1990 the well-dressing depicted a scene commemorating the 50th anniversary of the

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Battle of Britain, one of their most spectacular dressings to date, and won the dressers pictures in the national press.

CUTTHORPE

4 miles W of Chesterfield off the B6050

Linacre Reservoirs

Before World War II the well-dressings in this village, which take place on the third Friday in July, had no religious links. After the war the custom died out, but was revived again by three people from nearby Barlow in 1978. The three dressed wells are blessed during a service of thanksgiving for the pure water.

Near the village are the three **Linacre Reservoirs**, set in the attractive wooded Linacre Valley. Built between 1855 and 1904, they supplied water to Chesterfield until recently. Today the area is home to many species of fish, waterfowl, mammals and plant life, and is considered one of the most important ecological sites in the area. There are very pleasant walks, nature trails and fishing and a scenic picnic area.

BARLOW

3 miles NW of Chesterfield off the B6051

Barlow is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and was the home of Robert Barlow, the first of Bess of Hardwick's four husbands. Although situated outside the limestone area, Barlow has been dressing its main well for longer than most. It is not known for certain when the custom began in the village, though it is known that, like Tissington, the well here provided water throughout the drought of 1615; this may have marked the start of this colourful practice. The wells are dressed during the second week of August every year. West of the village, Barlow Woodseats are not as uncomfortable as they sound for this

is the name of an irregular gabled 16th-century house, also called Woodseats Hall (private), which has a cruck barn in its grounds. It was home to the Mower family, one of whom, Arthur Mower, was the agent to the Barlow family in the 16th century, and kept a truly remarkable diary from 1555 to 1610. All 52 volumes are now in the British Museum. He records the death of Bess of Hardwick in 1608, recalling her as "a great purchaser and getter together of much goods" and notes that she "builded Chattesworth, Hardwick and Owlcotes".

Alfreton

Alfreton Hall

This historic town dates back to Saxon times and, despite local legends to the contrary, Alfred the Great was not immortalised in the naming of the place. This attractive former coal-mining town stands on a hill close to the Nottinghamshire border. Along the charming High Street can be found the George Hotel, a fine Georgian building that looks down the length of the High Street. There are also a number of other 18th-century stone-built houses, the most impressive of which is **Alfreton Hall**, the centrepiece of an attractive public park. In soft mellow stone, the Hall was built around 1730, with 19th-century additions. The home until fairly recently of the Palmer Morewood family, owners of the local coal mines, it is now used as an Arts and Adult Education Centre. The park is quite extensive, boasting its own cricket ground and a horse-riding track around its perimeter. In King Street there is a house of confinement, or lock-up, which was built to house lawbreakers and catered mainly for the local drunkards. The close confines

of the prison with its two cells, minute windows and thick outer walls must have been a very effective deterrent.

Around Alfreton

SOUTH WINGFIELD

2 miles NW of Alfreton off the A6

 Wingfield Manor

Above the village, on the rise of a hill, stand the graceful ruins of the 15th-century **Wingfield Manor**. Built by Ralph Lord Cromwell, the manor house was used as Mary, Queen of Scots' prison on two separate occasions, in 1569 and 1584, when she was held under the care of the Earl of Shrewsbury. The local squire, Anthony Babington, attempted to rescue the Queen and lead her to safety but the plot failed and, instead, lead to them both being beheaded. One of the less well-known of Derbyshire's many manor houses and mansions, the history and architectural interest provided by the ruins

make it one of the more fascinating homes in the area. A wander around the remains reveals the large banqueting hall with its unusual oriel window and a crypt that was probably used to store food and wine. Whatever its use, it is a particularly fine example and rivals a similar structure at Fountains Abbey.

CRICH

4 miles SW of Alfreton off the A6

 Crich Stand  National Tramway Museum

High up overlooking the Derwent valley, this lovingly restored village, with its hilltop church and market cross, is probably most famous as the home of the **National Tramway Museum**. Referring to itself intriguingly as 'the museum that's a mile long', it offers a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a tram ride along a Victorian Street scene. The beautifully preserved trams are of course the main centre of interest and include one of the ex-London Transport Feltham trams, considered by many to be the most elegant

National Tramway Village

Crich Tramway Village, Derbyshire DE4 5DP
Tel: 01773 854321
e-mail: enquiries@tramway.co.uk
website: www.tramway.co.uk

National Tramway Museum offers a family day out in the relaxing atmosphere of a bygone era. Explore the re-created period street with its genuine buildings and features, fascinating exhibitions and most importantly, its trams. Unlimited tram rides are free with your entry fee, giving you the opportunity to fully appreciate the Village and surrounding countryside.

Journey on one of the many beautifully restored vintage trams, as they rumble through the cobbled street past a traditional police telephone known as the 'TARDIS', the Red Lion Pub & Restaurant, exhibition hall, workshops, children's play and picnic area, before passing beneath the magnificent Bowes Lyon Bridge. Next it's past the bandstand, through the woods, and then on to Glory Mine taking in spectacular views of the Derwent Valley.



ever built. Trams run to and fro every few minutes along the cobbled streets, and the site also has a woodland walk and sculpture trail. The museum is open daily from April to the end of October.

Back in the centre of the village is the tower of **Crich Stand**, a local landmark that looks rather like a lighthouse. In fact, this is the Regimental Memorial for the Sherwood Foresters and, erected in 1923, stands almost 1,000 feet above sea level. From its viewing gallery on a clear day, it is said that seven counties can be seen: a climb to the top certainly offers some fantastic views. This large, straggling village, which retains its medieval market cross, was also a flourishing knitting centre at one time; the telltale 18th-century cottages with their long upper windows can still be seen. The part-Norman parish Church of St Michael has a built-in stone lectern, which, though common in Derbyshire, is rare elsewhere in the country.

AMBERGATE

6 miles SW of Alfreton off the A6

 Shining Cliff Woods

Where the River Amber joins the mighty Derwent, Ambergate is one of the main gateways to the Peak District for travellers going north on the A6. A marvellous bridge crosses the Derwent. The village itself is surrounded by deciduous woodland, including the fine **Shining Cliff Woods**, an important refuge for wildlife. The railway, road and canal here are all squeezed into the tight river valley, and the railway station, standing 100 feet above the road, was one of the few triangular stations in Britain. Built in the late 19th century, the church of St Anne was a gift to the village from the Johnson family of the Ambergate Wire Works, now

known as the business concern Richard Johnson and Nephew.

RIDDINGS

2 miles S of Alfreton off the A38/A610

Riddings, now a tranquil village, has twice been the scene of important discoveries. In the mid 1700s, 800 precious Roman coins were uncovered here. A century later, James Oakes, a colliery proprietor and ironmaster, discovered a mysterious liquid flowing on his property. He called in the assistance of his brother-in-law, Lyon Playfair, one of the most brilliant practical scientists of his day. Playfair found the liquid to be petroleum – then an unknown product commercially, although it had been known as naphtha, 'salt of the earth', from Biblical times.

Playfair summoned the help of his friend James Young, who soon after he came to Riddings approached Playfair in dismay to show him that the oil was in a turbid condition. Playfair recognised at once the presence of paraffin, and instructed Young to extract enough paraffin to make two candles – the first paraffin-wax candles ever produced. With one candle in his left hand and the other in his right, Playfair illuminated a lecture he gave at the Royal Institution. From these small beginnings date the enormous petroleum industry and the rich trade in paraffin and its wide range of by-products.

Ripley

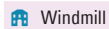
Once a typical small market town, Ripley expanded dramatically during the Industrial Revolution when great use was made of the iron, clay and coal deposits found nearby. The town's Butterley ironworks, founded in 1792

by a group of men that included renowned engineer Benjamin Outram, created the roof for London's St Pancras station. Outram's even more famous son, Sir James, enjoyed an illustrious career that saw him appointed Bayard of India, and earned him a resting place in Westminster Abbey.

Around Ripley

HEAGE

1 mile W of Ripley off the B6013

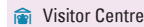


This village is home to a famous tower **Windmill** (see panel below), the only one in Derbyshire to retain all its six sails, fan tail and machinery. The Grade II listed building, situated to the west of the village, is built of

local sandstone. Now more than 200 years old, the mill has been restored to full working order and is open to the public at weekends and Bank Holidays. The mill can be visited between 11am and 4pm, April to October.

DENBY

2 miles S of Ripley off the A38/B6179



Denby Visitor Centre is one of the biggest visitor attractions in Derbyshire. The centerpiece is the famous pottery; it was established in 1809 and, 200 years later, classic ranges such as Imperial Blue and Regency Green are still bestsellers. Other on-site attractions include a Factory Shop, a Cookery Emporium offering cookery demonstrations, and a stock of more than 3,000 kitchen gadgets, supplies and equipment.

Heage Windmill

Chesterfield Road, Heage, Belper,
Derbyshire DE56 2BH
Telephone: 01773 853579
website: www.heagewindmill.co.uk

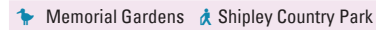
Heage Windmill stands in a very striking position overlooking the village of Nether Heage. A Grade II* listed building, it is the only working, stone-towered windmill with six sails in England and the only working windmill in Derbyshire. The mill started grinding corn in 1797 and, prior to her restoration, was last worked by miller, Thomas Shore in 1919.

The mill has much of her old wooden mechanism in place which drives one of her two pairs of millstones. In the basement, the interpretation centre tells a story of Heage Windmill. The adjacent kiln has been restored as a reception centre with toilets and a shop selling flour, souvenirs and refreshments. There is wheelchair access to the ground floor of the windmill, the interpretation centre and the reception centre. There is a large car park on site.



HEANOR

3 miles SE of Ripley off the A608



The hub of this busy town centres on the market place, where the annual fair is held, as well as the twice-weekly market (Fridays and Saturdays). Away from the bustle of the market are the **Memorial Gardens**. This peaceful setting always promises a magnificent spread of floral arrangements, herbaceous borders and shrubberies.

To the south of Heanor is the **Shipley Country Park**, on the estate of the now demolished Shipley Hall. In addition to its magnificent lake, the Country Park boasts over 600 acres of beautiful countryside, which should keep even the most enthusiastic walker busy. Well known as both an educational and holiday centre, there are facilities for horse riding, cycling and fishing. Restoration over the years has transformed former railways into wooded paths, reservoirs into peaceful lakes, and has re-established the once-flowering meadows and rolling hills that had been destroyed by colliery pits.

Belper



Famous for its cotton mills, the town is situated alongside the River Derwent on the floor of the valley. In 1776, Jedediah Strutt, the wheelwright son of a South Normanton farmer, looking to harness the natural powers of the river to run his mills, set up one of the earliest water-powered cotton mills here. With the river providing the power, and fuel coming from the nearby South Derbyshire coalfield, the valley has a good claim to be one of the cradles of the Industrial Revolution. Earlier, in 1771,

Strutt had gone into profitable partnership with Richard Arkwright to establish the world's first water-powered cotton mill at Cromford. Great benefactors to Belper for 150 years, the Strutt family provided housing, work, education and even food from the model farms they established in the surrounding countryside.

The **Mills** are still standing and, along with them, are some unique mill-workers cottages. To discover more about the cotton industry, a visit to the **Derwent Valley Visitor Centre** is a must. It records the influence of the Strutt family on the town and of Samuel Slater, Strutt's apprentice who emigrated to America in 1789, built a mill there and went on to become "the Father of American manufacturers".

The oldest mill still surviving is the two-storey North Mill at Bridgefoot, near the magnificent crescent-shaped weir in the Derwent and the town's main bridge. Built in 1876, the mill has cast-iron columns and beams, and hollow tile floors that provided a warm-air central heating system. It is now the visitor centre. The massive neighbouring redbrick East Mill was constructed in 1912, but now is largely empty. A Jubilee Tower in terracotta was erected on the mill site in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's 60 years on the throne.

Train travellers through Belper are among those treated to a glimpse of George Stephenson's mile-long cutting, walled in gritstone throughout and spanned by no fewer than 10 bridges. When completed in 1840, it was considered the engineering wonder of its day. In addition to all its industrial history the town goes back to well before the Industrial Revolution. Not only was it mentioned in the Domesday Book (as Beau Repaire - the beautiful retreat), but in 1964 the remains of a Roman kiln were found here.

CROOTS FARM SHOP & KITCHEN

Farnab House Farm, Wirksworth Road,
Duffield, Derbyshire DE56 4AQ
Tel: 01332 843032 Fax: 01332 842175
e-mail: info@croots.co.uk
website: www.croots.co.uk

The Croots family, with Steve and Kay at the helm, are passionate about the quality and freshness of what they sell, and everything on the shelves of **Croots Farm Shop** is testament to that passion. All their efforts are directed towards providing only the very best food and drink for their discerning customers, and the reward for those efforts is a large and ever-growing band of loyal shoppers who come from many miles around to this idyllic farmyard setting signposted on the B5023, a mile off the main A6 running through Duffield. Steve believes that farm shops should be all about food and drink, so there's no place here for the themed giftware that clutters so many inferior establishments.

Steve has been a keen grower of vegetables, herbs and salads all his life, and the farm shop, adapted from the family farm, is stocked with his produce and daily deliveries of fresh seasonal produce, as local as possible to reduce food miles to a minimum. Prominent on display are fruit and vegetables, home-produced lamb, free-range eggs, local ice cream and other dairy products, freshly baked bread, home-made cakes and tarts, pickles and preserves, local beer and fruit juices, flour and other dry goods. The meat counter has its own butcher, which means that everything can be cut to customers' individual needs. The butcher works with local farmers to ensure the highest standards in raising the livestock, and the butchery and preparation for putting the meat on sale. As well as the traditional cuts and joints, the butchery sells tasty home made Award Winning sausages, hams, bacon and pies. From the delicatessen counter come pâtés and pies, quiches, cooked meats, wines, oils and vinegars and hand-crafted cheese, including local Stilton, traditional farmhouse Cheddar, richly flavoured goat's cheese and some from France, Italy and elsewhere on the Continent.

The Kitchen at the farm prepares a wide and mouthwatering selection of food which can be sampled on the premises (accompanied by great views) or bought to take home. Breakfast is served from 9 to 11, lunch from 12 to 2.30, and teas, coffees, cakes and hot and cold snacks are served throughout the day.

**Croots Farm Shop is open from 9 to 5 Tuesday to Saturday,
10 to 4 Sunday; closed Monday and Bank Holidays**



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The **River Gardens** were established in 1905, and today the beautifully tended gardens are a pleasant place for a stroll. Rowing boats can be hired for a trip along the Derwent. The Gardens are a favourite with the film industry, having been used in Ken Russell's *Women in Love*, as well as television's *Sounding Brass* and *In the Shadow of the Noose*.

Around Belper

DUFFIELD

2 miles S of Belper off the A6

Castle

This ancient parish is a charming place, with Georgian houses and cottages lining the banks of the River Ecclesbourne. For such a cosy place, it seems odd that the Parish

Church is situated in isolation down by the river. Inside the Church there is an impressive monument dedicated to Anthony Bradshaw whose great-nephew went on to officiate over the court that called for the execution of Charles I. Also in the village is a large mound, all that remains of **Duffield Castle** (National Trust), which was ransacked and burnt to the ground in 1266.

Ilkeston

Erewash Museum

The third largest town in Derbyshire, Ilkeston received its royal charter for a market and fair in 1252; both have continued to the present day. The history of the town, however, goes back to the days when it was an Anglo-Saxon hilltop settlement known as Tilchestune. Once

ANDREA WELSHER DESIGNS

Dragonflies, 2A Station Road, Ilkeston,
Derbyshire DE7 5LD
Tel: 0115 9326000
e-mail: info@dragonfliesofilkeston.co.uk
website: www.dragonfliesofilkeston.co.uk

The mother-and-daughter team of Christine and Andrea Welsher own and run Andrea Welsher Design, which trades as Dragonflies in the historic town of Ilkeston. What started as a modest cottage business run from Andrea's home has developed into an Aladdin's Cave of crafts, a one-stop shop for craft supplies, bespoke gifts and wedding stationery, all at very realistic prices. Along with their assistant Jane, the owners offer a smile, a cuppa and an amazing array of crafting materials and supplies.

Card making, cross stitch kits and accessories, DMC threads, Dovecraft materials and tools, scrap booking supplies, quilling accessories, glitters, rubber stamps, punches, glues, Gel Gems, Rainbow Toys, jewellery, photo frames, Ashleigh & Burwood candles and incense for home and garden, Aspen Mulling spices, cards and gifts for all ages and all occasions, personalised handmade wedding stationery and cards.....All this and more under one roof, in a warm, friendly ambience that makes browsing and shopping a real pleasure. Shop hours are 9 to 5; closed Wednesday and Sunday.



a mining and lace-making centre, its history is told in the **Erewash Museum**, housed in a fine Georgian house on the High Street. Other fine examples of elegant 18th-century houses can be found in East Street while in Wharnccliffe Road there are period houses with art nouveau features.

Ilkeston commands fine wide views from the hillside above the valley of the Erewash, which here bounds the county. The town's church-crowned hilltop provides a landmark that can be seen from far afield.

Around Ilkeston

WEST HALLAM

2 miles W of Ilkeston off the A609

 West Hallam Hall  The Bottle Kiln

West Hallam stands on a hilltop; its church, set between the great expanse of **West Hallam Hall** and the rectory, is approached via a lovely avenue of limes. The rector's garden has a glorious lime tree, and looks out over the valley to a great windmill with its arms still working as they have done since Georgian times.

One of the premier attractions in the area, **The Bottle Kiln** is a handsome and impressive brick-built former working pottery, now home to contemporary art and craft. Visitors can take a leisurely look at exhibitions (changing throughout the year) of both British studio ceramics and contemporary painting in the European tradition. From figurative and descriptive to abstract, many styles and media are displayed here. In addition, there is a selection of imaginative contemporary British jewellery and craftware on display in and around the old kiln. Two shops filled with jewellery, cards, gifts, objets d'art, soft

furnishings and housewares with an accent on style, design and originality can also be found at this superb site.

DALE ABBEY

3 miles SW of Ilkeston off the A6096

 Windmill  Hermit's Wood

The village takes its name from the now ruined abbey that was founded here by Augustinian monks in the 13th century. Beginning life in a very humble manner, local legend has it that a Derbyshire baker came to the area in 1130, carved himself a niche in the sandstone and devoted himself to the way of the hermit. The owner of the land, Ralph FitzGeremunde, discovered the baker and was so impressed by the man's devotion that he

Dale Abbey Ruins



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bestowed on him the land and tithe rights to his mill in Borrowash. The sandstone cave and the romantic ruined 40-foot-high window archway are popular attractions locally, and a walk around the village is both an interesting and pleasurable experience. Nearby **Hermit's Wood** is an ancient area of woodland with beech, ash, oak and lime trees. It is wonderful at any time of year, but particularly in the spring when the woodland floor is covered with a mist of bluebells.

To the north of the village stands the **Cat and Fiddle Windmill**, built in the 1700s and a fine example of the oldest type of mill. The stone roundhouse is capped with a box-like wooden structure that houses the machinery and is fitted onto an upright post around which it can rotate to catch the wind.

RISLEY

4 miles S of Ilkeston off the B5010

This small village has once again become a quiet backwater now that the main Derby to Nottingham road bypasses it to the south. Apart from ribbon building along the former main road, Risley consists of no more than a small group of old buildings, but they are unique and well worth a visit. In 1593, Michael Willoughby started to rebuild the village church. Although small, even by the standards of the day, it is charming and essentially Gothic in style. In the same year his wife founded a school and, although none of the original schoolhouses exist, those seen today date from the early 1700s and were constructed by a trust founded by the family. The central school building is a perfect example of the Queen Anne style and acted as both the school and schoolhouse, with the boarders sleeping in the garrets. The trustees still maintain this wonderful building, along

with the Latin School of 1724, the English School of 1753, and another School House built in 1771.

BREASTON

5 miles S of Ilkeston off the A6005

 Church of St Michael

On the southern borders of the county, close to Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, Breaston occupies the flat countryside near the point where the River Derwent joins the River Trent before continuing on its long journey to the North Sea. The mainly 13th-century **Church of St Michael** boasts the Boy of Breaston – a small, chubby-faced child immortalised in the 13th century by the mason of the nave arches. He has smiled down on worshippers and visitors for the past seven centuries. The story has it that this boy would come in and watch the masons at work while the church was being built. The master mason decided to make the child part of the church, so that he could always have a good view of it.

Coffins had to be carried to neighbouring Church Wilne for burial up until the early 1800s, as there was no burial ground at Breaston until then. For this reason the footpath over the fields of Wilne continues to be known by villagers as the Coffin Walk.

ELVASTON

8 miles SW of Ilkeston off the B5010

 Castle

Elvaston is gathered around the edge of the Elvaston Castle estate, home of the Earls of Harrington. The magnificent Gothic castle seen today replaced a 17th-century brick and gabled manor house; part of the original structure can be seen on the end of the south front. Designed by James Wyatt, the castle was

finished in the early 1800s but, unfortunately, the 3rd Earl died in 1829 and had little time to enjoy his new home.

The grounds of **Elvaston Castle** were originally laid out and designed for the 4th Earl by William Barron. Barron, who was born in Berwickshire in 1805, started work in 1830 on what at first appeared to be an impossible task. The 4th Earl wanted a garden “second to none”, but the land available, which had never been landscaped, was flat, water-logged and uninspiring with just two avenues of trees and a walled kitchen garden (but no greenhouses or hot houses). First draining the land, Barron then planted trees to offer shelter to more tender plants. From there the project grew. In order to stock the gardens, Barron began a programme of propagation of rarer tree species and, along with the tree-planting methods he developed specially to deal with Elvaston’s problems, his fame spread. The gardens became a showcase of rare and interesting trees, many found nowhere else in Britain. Now owned by Derby County Council, the gardens, after years of neglect, have been completely restored and the delights of the formal gardens, with their fine topiary, the avenues and the kitchen garden can be enjoyed by all visitors to the grounds, which are now a Country Park.

No visit to Elvaston would be complete without a walk down to the Golden Gates. Erected in 1819 at the southern end of the formal

gardens, the gates were brought from the Palace of Versailles by the 3rd Earl of Harrington. Little is known of the gates history, but they remain a fine monument and are the symbol of Elvaston.

Derby

 Cathedral  Pickford House  Museums

Essentially a commercial and industrial city, Derby’s position, historically and geographically, has ensured that it has remained one of the most important and interesting cities in the area. Consequently there is much for the visitor to see, whether from an architectural or historical point of



Derby Cathedral

Pickford’s House Museum

41 Friargate, Derby DE1 1DA
Tel: 01332 255363
website: www.derby.gov.uk

Pickford’s House Museum, in the historic Friar Gate area, is a beautifully restored Georgian house, and was the home of Derby industrialist Joseph Pickford. The dining room, drawing room and morning room are as they might have been in Pickford’s time. A Georgian bedroom and dressing room have been recreated on the first floor, while on the top floor there is a servant’s bedroom. The kitchen and laundry have been reconstructed, together with a cellar, pantry and housekeeper’s cupboard, so that visitors can get an idea of what life was like for the servants working below stairs in Georgian times. One of the cellars is equipped as an air-raid shelter of the 1940s. The upper floors feature displays of toys and toy theatres, and several rooms showing some of the Museum’s excellent collection of historic costumes and textiles.



view. There are, however, two things almost everyone, whether they have been to the city before or not, associate with Derby: Rolls-Royce engines and Royal Crown Derby porcelain. When in 1906 Sir Henry Royce and the Hon C S Rolls joined forces and built the first Rolls-Royce (a Silver Ghost) at Derby, they built much more than just a motor car. Considered by many to be the best cars in the world, it is often said that the noisiest moving part in any Rolls-Royce is the dashboard clock! The home of Royal Crown Derby, any visit to the city would not be complete without a trip to the factory and its museum and shop. The guided tours offer an intriguing insight into the high level of skill required to create the delicate flower petals, hand-gild the plates and to hand-paint the Derby Dwarves.

The city’s **Cathedral of All Saints** possesses a fine 16th-century tower, the second highest perpendicular tower in England. The airy building was actually built in the 1720s by James Gibbs. Inside is a beautiful wrought-iron screen by Robert Bakewell and, among the splendid monuments, lies the tomb of Bess of Hardwick. Originally Derby’s Parish Church, it was given cathedral status in 1927.

One of Derby’s most interesting museums is **Pickford House** (see panel above), situated on the city’s finest Georgian street at number 41. It is a Grade I listed building, erected in 1770 by the architect Joseph Pickford as a combined family home and place of work. Pickford House differs from the majority of grand stately homes. Unlike

The Silk Mill

Derby's Museum of Industry and History
Silk Mill Lane, off Full Street, Derby DE1 3AF
Tel: 01332 255308
e-mail: museums@derby.gov.uk
website: www.derby.gov.uk

The Silk Mill, Derby's Museum of Industry and History, is on the site of the world's oldest factories, the Silk Mills, built by George Sorocold in 1702 and 1717. The foundations and parts of the tower from the 1717 mill are still visible. The displays in the Mill tell the story of Derby's industrial heritage and achievements, and of its people. There is a special emphasis on the development of Rolls-Royce aero engines and the railway industry.



most, it does not have a wealth of priceless furniture and works of art. Instead, visitors are able to gain an insight into everyday middle-class life during the 1830s.

Just a short walk from Pickford House is the **Industrial Museum** (see panel above). What better place to house a museum devoted to the preservation of Derby's industrial heritage than the beautiful old Silk Mill? The building stands on one of the most interesting sites in the country and preceded Richard Arkwright's first cotton mill by over 50 years. The tower of the mill is incorporated into the museum.

The **City Museum and Art Gallery** is also well worth visiting. Opened in 1879, it is the oldest of Derby's museums and the displays include natural history, archaeology and social history exhibits. One section of the museum is devoted to a Military Gallery and relates to Derby's local historical regiments. The walk-in World War I trench scene attempts to capture the experience of a night at the front. A ground floor gallery houses the city's superb collection of fine porcelain, manufactured in Derby from the mid 18th century.

Around Derby

DRAYCOTT

5 miles E of Derby on the A6005
(just off the A52)

St Chad's Water

Draycott is a narrow, elongated village situated in the countryside between Derby and Long Eaton, a very short walk from the midshires Way and Route 6 of the National Cycle Route, along the route of the old Derby Canal. The best-known landmark in Draycott is a four-storey mill with a green copper-capped ornamental clock tower. When it was completed in 1907 as part of Nottingham's thriving lace industry, it was the largest manufacturing mill in Europe. Near Draycott is the beautiful **St Chad's Water**, a 12-acre Nature Reserve sitting peacefully beside St Chad's Church. This compact reserve is a haven for birds and other wildlife in the area. Among the migrant birds spotted here are whitethroats, willow warblers, swallows, kingfishers and

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THE BEETROOT TREE GALLERY FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

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e-mail: info@thebeetroottree.com website: www.thebeetroottree.com
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Our visitors say: ...

oh it's heaven in here. (Josie)

*Truly enjoyable, the hairs on the back of my neck
are standing up.* (Travis)

*As ever, beautiful – inspirational and thought provoking.
Thank you, I will be back soon.* (Jenny)

Amazing work –really lovely. Will come back. Xxx (Ann)

Wonderful ambience. (Carol)

On South Street in the old village centre of Draycott you will find a renovated late 17th Century Jacobean barn housing an established and internationally renowned contemporary art gallery. The main exhibition space plays host to a full programme of exciting and eclectic shows running throughout the year showing a range of media including painting, textiles, ceramics, glass, photography, metal, jewellery and more. The gallery also displays continuing exhibitions of work by acclaimed designer-makers and a permanent collection of work by resident artist Alys Midgell-Marsden. The art materials section offers you the means to develop your own creativity, while the workshop space set in the restored stable runs courses throughout the year for skill development, enjoyment and exploration.

The café and landscaped garden allow for peaceful contemplation, relaxation and restoration of body and mind. A knowledgeable and friendly team will be happy to help when you visit and for information, news and updates please see the website.



chiffchaffs as well as the usual water birds. The swans and their cygnets are a popular annual attraction. A second reserve, Orchid Wood Nature Walk, boasts several species of naturally occurring orchids in the grass and woodland around the walk.

KEDLESTON

4 miles NW of Derby off the A52

Kedleston Hall

Kedleston Hall has been the family seat of the Curzon family since the 12th century and, until it was taken over by the National Trust, it had the longest continuous male line in Derbyshire and one of the longest in the country. The present elegant mansion was built between

1759 and 1765 by Robert Adam and it remains one of the finest examples of his work. The house has a fine collection of paintings and sculpture, and the Eastern Room is filled with fascinating objects collected by Lord Curzon when he was Viceroy of India between 1899 and 1905. He died in 1925 and is buried in All Saints Church, which is all that remains of the medieval village of Kedleston. Since taking over the property in 1987, the National Trust have embarked on a major restoration programme. The garden has been restored to an 18th-century pleasure ground, and three different walks allow visitors to explore the historic parkland, which includes beautiful lakes and cascades. An exhibition shows how the

THE ROUNDHOUSE GALLERY

The Firs, Foston, Derbyshire DE65 5DL

Tel: 01283 585348

e-mail: pj.evans@btconnect.com

website: www.roundhousegallery.co.uk

Philip Evans, a potter for 25 years, owns and runs the **Roundhouse Gallery** with his wife Leah. The family business was established in 1989 in Tutbury, Staffordshire, and in 1991 it was selected by the Crafts Council for the quality and variety of the pottery and ceramics on display. In 1999 the business moved to Foston, where it stands just west of the junction with Coplow Lane. It's a short drive from the A50, east of Uttoxeter and north of Tutbury.

In what started life in the 18th century as a coaching inn, loyal regular clients have seen it grow from those small beginnings in Tutbury to become one of the foremost collections of British pottery, a showcase for the pick of Britain's leading contemporary studio potters. Collectors will find an impressive array of work at prices to suit all pockets, from as little as £5. As well as the constantly changing display the Roundhouse holds a much-acclaimed annual Bakers Dozen featuring the work of 13 potters. The whole place has a very friendly, relaxed feel, and visitors can enjoy a cup of coffee while browsing the unique collections.



interior of the Hall was transformed during the filming of the film *The Duchess*, starring Keira Knightley.

SUDBURY

12 miles W of Derby off the A50

Sudbury Hall Museum of Childhood

Sudbury is the estate village to **Sudbury Hall**, the late 17th-century mansion and home of a branch of the Vernon family who lived at Haddon Hall. The house is intriguing, the garden restful. Gifted to the National Trust in 1967, the Hall is an unexpected mixture of architectural styles. A splendid example of a house of Charles II's time, the interior of Sudbury Hall contains elaborate plasterwork and murals throughout, wood carvings by Grinling Gibbons, and some fine examples of mythological paintings by Laguerre. Of

particular interest is the **Museum of Childhood**, which is situated in the servants' wing and provides a fascinating insight into the lives of children down the ages. Fascinating displays range from a wealthy family's nursery and an Edwardian schoolroom, to a 'chimney climb' and coal tunnel for the adventurous. The Hall featured in the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* and *Jane Eyre*. The formal gardens and meadows lead to the tree-fringed lake. Wildlife abounds, including kestrels, grey herons, grass snakes, dragonflies, newts, frogs, toads, little and tawny owls and woodpeckers. Special events are held throughout the year (01283 585305).

Swadlincote

Here at the extreme edge of Derbyshire, well south of the River Trent, Swadlincote shares

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many characteristics with Staffordshire. Among the town's thriving industries, based on the clay and coal on which it stands, are large potteries founded in 1795 as well as brickworks.

Around Swadlincote

NETHERSEAL

6 miles S of Swadlincote off the A444

Netherseal is a picturesque village on the banks of the River Mease. Seal means forested, and Netherseal was recorded in the Domesday Book as a wooded area on the edge of Ashby Woulds. It was once a mining community with a two-shaft colliery and several related industries. The mining activity has long ceased and the centre of the village is now a conservation area with many listed buildings - including some charming 17th-century almshouses.

TICKNALL

5 miles NE of Swadlincote off the B587

Calke Abbey

In 1985 the National Trust bought **Calke Abbey**, a large Baroque-style mansion built in 1701 on the site of an Augustinian priory founded in 1133. However, it was not until 1989 that the Trust was able to open the house to the public, for this was no ordinary house. Dubbed 'the house that time forgot' since the death of the owner, Sir Vauncy Harpur-Crewe in 1924, nothing had been altered in the mansion. In fact, the seclusion of the house, and also the rather bizarre lifestyle of its inhabitants, had left many rooms and objects untouched for over 100 years. There was even a spectacular 18th-century Chinese silk state bed that had never been unpacked.

Today, the Trust has repaired the house and returned all 13,000 items to their original

SCADDOWS FARM SHOP & CAFÉ

Scaddows Lane, Ticknall, South Derbyshire DE73 7JP

Tel: 01332 865709

e-mail: scaddowsfarmshop@hotmail.com

A friendly welcome and personal, attentive service awaits visitors to Scaddows Farm Shop & Café set in beautiful South Derbyshire countryside on the A514 between Ticknall & Hartshorne. The farm is run by the Webster family who are passionate about traditional home-raised and home-grown produce, growing a wide variety of soft fruit and vegetables. They are rightly renowned throughout the region for the Pick Your Own side of the business, with strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries and blackcurrants in great demand in June and July.

The shop and café are open every day where home grown and local produce are available all year round, along with meat from their award-winning butcher, cheese from Leicestershire, local jams, chutneys, bread, cakes and other delicious treats. This top quality produce is the basis for the menu in the café which offers a selection of mouth-watering snacks including homemade soups, quiches, and their popular cream teas.

Also on site is a quiet, secluded 10-van caravan site with extensive views looking out across the heart of the National Forest and surrounded by places of interest.



positions so that the Abbey now looks just as it did when it was bought in 1981. The attention to detail has been so great that none of the rooms have been redecorated. Visitors can enjoy the silver display and trace the route of 18th-century servants along the brewhouse tunnel to the house cellars. Calke Abbey stands in its own large park with gardens, a chapel and stables that are also open to the public. There are three walled gardens with their glasshouses, a restored orangery, vegetable garden, pheasant aviaries and the summer flower display within the unusual Auricula Theatre. Also, house conservation tours and a children's play area (01332 863822).

MELBOURNE

6 miles NE of Swadlincote off the B587

 Church of St Michael and St Mary

 Melbourne Hall

This small town, which lent its name to the

rather better-known city in Australia, is a successful market garden centre. A famous son of Melbourne, who started his working life in one of the market gardens, was Thomas Cook, who was born here in 1808. A strict Baptist, in 1841 he organised an excursion from Leicester to Loughborough to a temperance meeting. He went on to pioneer personally conducted tours and established the famous worldwide travel company.

Full of Georgian charm, Melbourne has many fine buildings that include one of the noblest Norman churches in the country, the **Church of St Michael and St Mary**. This seems rather a grand church for this modest place and, indeed, it is no ordinary parish church. In the 12th century, when the Bishopric of Carlisle was formed, there was a need for a place of safety for the clergy when Carlisle was being raided by the Scots. So this church was built at Melbourne and, while

THE FAIR TRADING PLACE

28 Market Place, Melbourne,
Derbyshire DE73 8DS
Tel: 01332 863619
www.fairtrade-melbourne.co.uk

The Fair Trading Place is situated on the Market Place in Melbourne, a pleasant Derbyshire town with a grand church and many other fine buildings.

The business was started by three friends, Alison, Anne and Christine, to promote fair trade, true to their shared passion for trade justice. The shop was officially opened in 2004 by the well known broadcaster George Alagiah, patron of The Fair Trade Foundation. The shop is a member of BAFTS (the British Association for Fair Trade Shops), an umbrella organisation of fair trade shops across the UK. All the goods in the shop are sourced from recognised fair trade suppliers, predominantly from the third world and developing countries, providing browsers with a guarantee of finding a personal treat or gift that's just a little bit different. Among the goods are a wide range of jewellery, stylish bags and scarves, greetings cards, gifts, crafts, toys and foods.

This friendly place is open from 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Friday and 9am to 12.30pm on Saturday.



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Carlisle was subjected to raids and violence, the Bishop retired to Melbourne and continued to carry out his duties. The church was built between 1133 and 1229 and, in 1299, the then Bishop built a palace on land that is now home to Melbourne Hall.

The birthplace of the 19th-century statesman Lord Melbourne, and also the home of Lady Caroline Lamb, **Melbourne Hall** is another fine building in this area of Derbyshire. A modest building, the Hall is surrounded by beautiful gardens, the most notable feature of which is a beautiful wrought-iron birdcage pergola built in the early 1700s by Robert Bakewell, a local blacksmith from Derby. The house is only open to the public on afternoons in August, but the formal gardens are open on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays throughout the summer season.

SWARKESTONE

9 miles NE of Swadlincote off the A5132

 Bridge

It was at **Swarkestone Bridge** in 1745 that Bonnie Prince Charlie's hopes of seizing the English crown were finally dashed. To everyone's surprise, his advance guard had successfully penetrated so far south and victory seemed within his grasp. But when the Jacobite soldiers reached the bridge with its seven arches and three-quarter-mile long causeway crossing the River Trent, they were confronted by a strong force of King George's troops. If Prince Charlie's soldiers had managed to force their

Swarkestone Causeway



way across the river at this point, they would have faced no other natural barriers along the 120-mile march to London. As it transpired, the Scottish army retreated and fled north. Bonnie Prince Charlie himself managed to escape, but the Jacobite Rebellion was all over bar the shouting.

Legend has it that the original bridge at Swarkestone was built by two daughters of the Harpur family in the early 13th century. The girls were celebrating their joint betrothals when their fiancés were summoned to a barons' meeting across the river. While they were away torrential rain fell, flooding the river, and the two young men drowned as they attempted to ford the raging torrent on their return. The girls built the bridge as a memorial to their lovers. Both girls later died impoverished and unmarried.

REPTON

5 miles N of Swadlincote off the B5008

 Church of St Wystan  College

This village, by the tranquil waters of the River Trent, is steeped in history. The first

REDSHAW'S FAMILY BUTCHERS

5/7 Burton Road, Repton, Derbyshire DE65 6FL
Tel: 01283 703256

Jo and Neil Redshaw welcome one and all to **Redshaws Family Butchers**, which stands near Toyota Island off the A38 south of Derby. It's a very popular place to shop within the village and in the surrounding district, its success based on quality and reliability backed up by good old-fashioned service. There's always a good selection of cuts and joints of locally sourced beef, lamb and pork, along with poultry, seasonal game, superb gammon and bacon, home-made sausages, and pies, cooked meats and Scotch eggs prepared to tried and tested traditional recipes. The Christmas season brings turkeys, ducks and geese, and Christmas cakes and mince pies – everything needed for a great Christmas. Redshaws also sells a selection of preserves and chutneys, and basic essentials such as fresh baked bread available daily. Shop hours are 8.30 to 5.30 (Saturday to 3, closed Wednesday and Sunday).



recorded mention of Repton was in the 7th century when it was established as the capital of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia. A monastery housing both monks and nuns was founded here sometime after AD653 but the building was sacked by the Danes in AD874. A battleaxe, now on display in the school museum, was excavated a little distance from the church. It had apparently lain undisturbed for well over 1,000 years.

The parish **Church of St Wystan** is famous for its Anglo-Saxon chancel and crypt, but it also contains many of the major styles of medieval architecture. When the chancel and part of the nave were enlarged in 1854, the original Anglo-Saxon columns were moved to the 14th-century porch. The crypt is believed to be one of the oldest intact Anglo-Saxon buildings in England. The burial place of the Kings of Mercia, including St Wystan in AD850, the crypt was rediscovered by chance in 1779 by a workman who was digging a hole for a grave in the chancel floor.

The ancient Cross, still at the central

crossroads in the village, has been the focal point of life here for centuries and has stood at the heart of the Wednesday market. Right up until the late 1800s, a Statutes Fair, for the hiring of farm labourers and domestics, was held here at Michaelmas.

Parts of an Augustinian priory, founded in 1170, are incorporated in the buildings of **Repton College**, itself founded in 1557. Sir John Port had specifically intended the college to be a grammar school for the local poor children of Etwall, Repton and Burnaston. These intentions have somewhat deviated over the passing years and now Repton stands as one of the foremost public schools in the country. Interestingly, two of its headmasters, Dr Temple and Dr Fisher, went on to become Archbishops of Canterbury. A third archbishop, Dr Ramsey, was a pupil at the school under Dr Fisher's guiding light. Film buffs will recognise the 14th-century gatehouse and causeway, as they featured in both film versions of the popular story

Goodbye, Mr Chips.

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