



June 2010
Newsletter
With dates and
details of walks in
June and July

Hello fellow hikers and countryside lovers.

The Peak District is now at its very best. All the trees are in leaf, there are wonderful wild flowers everywhere, the sun is shining (well it was when I started writing) and the traditional custom of Well Dressing is well underway.

The half-term holiday was a particularly busy week for me with walks and shifts at the Bakewell Visitor Centre as well as having two dogs to look after - my daughter and family have been away and I got to 'dogsit' Coco the rottweiler/Alsatian cross (granny's have all kinds of additional duties!). Alfie is fond of Coco who is a real softie and he quite likes it when she comes to stay, as long as she doesn't play too hard and get too loving with him as she's a hefty girl and he can get a bit squashed. Although she has the run of the house, Coco is not allowed anywhere near Alfie's bed as this is the one place that he can get some peace. The two of them pull like mad when we go out for a walk in a competition to see who can be in front which is great if I take them down the Dale because I come back up the steep hill like a rocket - I'm thinking of hiring them out to visitors who need a pull back up!

A bit of good news last month - I am pleased to advise that I shall be leading and hosting walks for Spice South Yorkshire once a month as from July. They have given me three dates so far and we will see how it goes. Hopefully this will fill the gap that Adventura left. The walks are being promoted as 'Walks with a Twist' - (for more information please see www.spiceyorks.com).

My Regular Rambles, Silver Strollers and Family Walks have been fun and I am offering some more in June and July - details below.

As most of you know, I am passionate about guide stoops and last year I wrote a series of articles for the Peak Advertiser "Walking with Alfie in search of Guide Stoops" which ran for several months. As a result of this both Alfie and I recently received a rather exclusive invitation to the unveiling exhibition of the 'Arts in the Peak' project for 'Companion Stones' www.companionstones.org.uk. This was a posh do fronted by the Duke of Devonshire as well as several local

dignitaries and bigwigs. I ditched the walking boots and slapped on some lippy and did my best to mingle as I tucked into the champagne and mini cup cakes whilst wandering around the exhibition - the stones are currently on display outside the Moorlands Visitor Centre at Edale. However, I wisely decided to decline Alfie's invitation as he is a bit of a 'tiddler' and takes any opportunity to cock his leg up on any exposed rock or stone - can you picture the scene had I taken him?? An interesting fact I discovered is that there is a term for 'guide stoop anoraks' like me - I am officially now known as a Stoooper!

Fat Phillip Pheasant and his ladyfriend are still around but his visits are less frequent. However, this picture was taken on mum's path at the beginning of May.



Forthcoming Walks

If you are interested in booking onto any of the following walks or would like to know more, please do not hesitate to phone 01629 814108/07989 622692 or email me at mail@sallymosley.co.uk.

Friday June 18th - Padley Pilgrimage (Silver Stroller) - Starting at Longshaw Lodge at 10am, this walk of approximately 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles heads down off the moors to follow the gurgling and tumbling waters of Burbage Brook as it rushes through Padley Gorge. This path leads us to Padley Chapel where we hear a fabulous talk and have an exclusive guided tour by custodian Celia White who tells us the fascinating story of Padley Manor which is thought to date back 1,000 years. Although famous for its Martyrs, there is far more to the talk than the religious history. Prepare to be spellbound! After a break at the 'Brief Encounter' café we head for the moors up 'Tumbling Hill' before returning to Longshaw along a lovely drive with far reaching views of Carl Wark and Higger Tor. Walk + talk + tour **£10**.

Saturday June 26th - An Indiana Jones Adventure (Regular Ramble) - Starting at Millers Dale Station on the Monsal Trail at 9.30am, this walk takes us (weather permitting) on a ramble into the deep dark gorge of Chee Dale where we walk beneath overhanging cliffs and

on stepping stones in the river to reach Wye Dale which is a dramatic valley with high buttress cliffs either side. After climbing up a steep bank which in summer is carpeted with wild flowers, we head for the village of Taddington and hopefully a pub! Little miners paths and ancient grassy tracks take us over the hills and on a dramatic descent back down to the River Wye where we complete our walk by heading over the high metal viaduct which has been featured several times recently on TV in railway walks. Strenuous but with a real feel good factor, this walk is about 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles but may vary on the day depending on weather conditions - after heavy rain the stepping stones are not passable and we would have to follow an alternative route. Cost of walk £10.

Saturday July 10th - 'Heading for the Hills!' - (Regular Ramble). We start this walk in Rowsley before heading for a woodland path which will take us to the little hamlet of Tinkersley. An old packhorse route from Northwood Lane then leads us up to the moors for stunning views over the Peak District landscape. Wading through a sea of heather we arrive at Flash Lane and descend the old coach road to Two Dales (formerly known as Toad Hole). After finding a pub or tearoom for a well earned comfort stop we then head back to Rowsley on paths and through fields and stiles on a section of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way, at one point walking beside a stretch of line belonging to Peak Rail where we may well be able to wave to the passengers like 'The Railway Children'. This is a strenuous walk of about 9 miles and is packed with interesting snippets! Cost of walk £10.

July (exact date to be confirmed) - 'Buxton, Inside & Out!' - I am hoping to offer a walk on either 12th/13th/14th July which will start with a tour of the famous Buxton Dome with a specialist guide who will show us around this wonderful building. Afterwards we descend into the town to see the Crescent and St Ann's Well, source of the renowned Buxton Water, followed by the wonderful Pavilion Gardens before heading off for the hills. You will hear about Diamond Hill and how Burbage was established with the chance to see a rare surviving limeburner's hovel before heading up to Solomon's Temple for an almost aerial view of the town before walking down through part of Buxton Country Park to Poole's Cavern for an incredible underground experience. Known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Peak, Poole's Cavern is amazing! We end the walk of approximately 5 miles by wandering back through High Buxton where a string of old coaching inns line the route. Cost of

this walk is **£15** to include the Dome Tour + entry into Poole's Cavern.

Saturday 17th July - 'SPICE Ramble with a Twist - The Tipple Trail'. This walk of approximately 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Chatsworth to Bakewell and back includes a visit and tour of the Peak Ale Brewery as well as a sample of traditional Bakewell Pudding. For further details or to book places please see the terms and conditions on the SPICE website at www.spiceyorks.com.

Wednesday 28th July - 'Sally and the Chocolate Factory' (Family Walk). This is another opportunity to visit Coadance on a short route (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles) walk from Castleton which incorporates the Odin Mine and a section of 'earthquake movie set' road! AS SEEN ON TV! this walk takes us to chocolate heaven through breathtakingly beautiful scenery and an opportunity to visit the Hope Valley's best kept secret. Don't miss this 'Golden Ticket' opportunity! **Adults £10, Children £7.50** (to include the cost of the tour + tasters)

Saturday 14th August - 'SPICE Ramble with a Twist - The Summer Special Walk'. A walk of approximately 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles around Ilam Park and Dovedale, incorporating a luxury picnic buffet at Thorpe Village Hall. For further details or to book places please see the terms and conditions on the SPICE website at www.spiceyorks.com.

Saturday 28th August - 'More Moors & Ice Cream!' (Regular Ramble) This walk starts at Hope which is accessible by rail for anyone wishing to travel to the start by train. From Hope we are heading to the remains of the Roman Fort at Navio and then on to Bradwell, home of the famous Bradwell Ice Cream. Hopefully the quaint little ice cream parlour will be open and we can slurp on cornets as we ascend the steep climb to Bradwell Edge. After a lovely old track to Wolf's Pit we head over Abney Moor to Offerton Hall and then descend to Shatton for a fabulous section of ancient holloway which takes us to Brough and the return to Hope along a roadside path. Total distance approximately 10 miles **Cost £10**

MY FAVOURITE PICTURE OF THE MONTH



This gate-vaulting granny has had too many pies!!

Test your knowledge of the Peak District

This strange shaped stone from last month's Newsletter is a Parish boundary marker. The Parish of Hartington covers such a large area that it was divided into four 'Quarters'. This particular marker was placed at the boundary of the Upper and Middle Quarters and can be found at the side of the A515 Buxton to Ashbourne Road about half a mile north of the Duke of York at Pomeroy.



Where can you find this impressive stone?



PEAK DISTRICT QUIZ QUESTIONS

(Answers at the end)

1. What is the name of the Roman fort at Glossop? (8)
2. This tree has keys but no locks? (3)
3. Where would you find the Cathedral of the Peak? (9)
4. This miners hat was made in the Hope Valley (7,6)
5. Built to hold stray animals (7)
6. Derbyshire's largest stone circle (5,3)
7. Is there a dairy mountain in this Staffordshire village? (9)
8. A foxy feature in Dove Dale (8,4)
9. Where would you find St Bertram's tomb? (4)
10. This little bird looks like a monochrome robin (6)

AN EXTRACT FROM 'ALFIE'S DIARY'

Written in 2007

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

Monday 11th June

It's been muggy lately, not my favourite weather as I get hot under the collar when I go for walks - talking about collars though, I had a rather embarrassing incident this week!

Mum was taking me down the Dale for my morning constitutional and who should be coming towards me in the distance but Boomer the black Labrador - he was given the name because of his extremely loud voice and his fondness for booming out barks at every dog he meets.

Whenever I see Boomer coming I puff myself up to make myself look big and tough and then we have a little game of who can bark the loudest and look the fiercest. I pull on my lead to make Boomer think that I would eat him up if I could get at him - it's quite normal practice for two male dogs, just bravado and showing off really. The only trouble was that my tatty old collar snapped and I suddenly found myself hurtling head-long in Boomers direction!

It was time for a 'SHarp' exit as they say because when punch comes to shove I am really a bit of a wimp and don't like fighting, so I did one last pathetic little woof in Boomers direction and then ran off towards the grass where I pretended that I had smelt something interesting, but I kept watching out of the corner of my eye to make sure that I was safe!

Mum laughed as she tied a knot in the lead and wrapped it around my neck. Oh well, this means that I get a new collar - I wonder if it will be one of those leather studded ones that tough dogs get. I just hope it isn't a pampered pet 'designer special' with fake diamonds; I'd never live it down, twinkling my way around the Peak District!

Alfie (all mouth) Mosley X



SNIPPET OF THE MONTH

THE ALPORT CASTLE WOODLANDS LOVE FEAST

High on the hills above Ladybower is a barn at Alport Castle's Farm (SK135911) where an unusual custom takes place on the first Sunday in July. This is not some weird hippy gathering or swingers get together, but a serious and ancient religious custom - a 'Love Feast' is actually a 'Feast of Charity' where the rich reputedly feed the poor. The tradition was established centuries ago by non-conformists who met in the barn to worship in secret. It was revived in the early 18th century by Methodist worshippers - the renowned John Wesley is reputed to have preached in the barn at one time. As a reward for the difficult journey to reach this remote place of worship, cake and water are handed around which form the Love Feast.

An interesting Old Advert!

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Quiz Question Answers

1. Melandra
2. Ash
3. Tideswell
4. Bradder Beaver
5. Pinfold
6. Arbor Low
7. Butterton
8. Reynard's Cave
9. Ilam
10. Dipper

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