



March 2011  
Newsletter

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<p><b>Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup></b> <b>'The Mill Race Ramble'</b> A walk of approx 6 miles from Bakewell along the old coach road south to see Caudwell's Mill at Rowsley in operation. <b>£10</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup></b> <b>'Sally and the Chocolate Factory'</b> <b>AS SEEN ON TV!</b> Approx 2 ½ mile walk from Castleton with tour and tasters at Cooadance <b>£10</b></p>	<p><b>Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup></b> <b>NEW!</b> <b>'Sally and the Station Walk - Beautiful Bakewell'</b> Approx 3.5 miles with town tour and section of Monsal Trail including lunch at Hassop Station <b>£10</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup></b> <b>'The Ecton Experience,</b> A choice of either a 3 or 8 mile walk in Manifold Valley with underground tour of Copper Mine + lunch <b>£15</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup></b> <b>'The Padley Pilgrimage'</b> Approx 6 mile walk from Hathersage incorporating an exclusive tour and talk at historic Padley Chapel <b>£10</b></p>
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**(For further information on the above walks please scroll down. You will also find snippets of local interest, a picture quiz, puzzle, snippet of the month, and details on one of my favourite footpaths)**

Hello fellow hikers and countryside lovers.

I was hoping this month's Newsletter would be a very fancy production using the Publisher software on my new 'all singing, all dancing' computer, but I'm blowed if I can work out how to use it. I think a bit of tuition or a few evening class lessons on the basic functions are required!

The weather is warming up a bit and my thermals have been packed away. There are lambs in the field along the lane full of bounce and mischief as well as a pair of curlews that recently arrived from their winter hols and a whole host of skylarks singing whenever a ray of sunshine or a patch of blue sky appears.

Down in Lathkill Dale the recent heavy rains have eroded away the earth supporting two huge boulders at the top of a high bank which the other day

came crashing down the hillside and collided with the substantial stone gate post by the mill, causing it to lean over and squash the attached gate. Fortunately nobody was in the vicinity at the time or they would have been squashed as well! The boulders have now been moved to the riverbank to make two nice new stone seats and the gate has been repaired.

Work is still in progress on the opening of the tunnels on the Monsal Trail which is hoped to be completed in late Spring. I recently called to see Duncan Stokes at Hassop Station to see if it would be possible to offer guided walks from there which in time will include a tunnel walk. Meanwhile, you will see that the first of my 'Sally and the Station Walks' is to be held on March 26<sup>th</sup> - further details below.

A new series started on BBC1 last week on Wednesday night at 7.30 called 'The Boat That Guy Built'. It features TT racer Guy Martin and an old canal narrowboat called Reckless. Guy is like a young Fred Dibner with a fascination for anything mechanical and spends the whole time in a boiler suit with grease and oil on his hands.



Guy has a passion to know everything about engineering history, and during his travels around the Midlands, discovers how England's industrial heritage was created. Look out for Episode Three on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> when 'yours truly' is featured taking Guy on a guided tour of Cromford - Oh boy am I nervous! We spent a whole afternoon filming last October for what will probably be just a two-minute slot and I just hope that they have edited out the bad bits!

Despite some cold and grey days, I have managed a string of wonderful walks since the last Newsletter. My current articles for the Peak Advertiser - 'Make Mine a Shandy,' which incorporate a pub en route, are really good fun to do and I am becoming a bit of a connoisseur of Real Ale.

The Steam Train Special guided walk which included a ride on the Peak Rail steam train was really good fun and I hope to repeat it in a few weeks time. I also took a group for a Totley Tunnel walk which involved heading over the moors to Sheffield to ride on a train through this famous and historic tunnel which is the longest underland tunnel in England, before heading back up Padley Gorge to Longshaw. It was the most amazing contrast between National Park countryside at its best as well as suburban sprawl and a stretch of city pavement as well as muddy paths and tracks. I seem to be turning into a real railway enthusiast!!

## 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](mailto:mail@sallymosley.co.uk).

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March - 'The Mill Race Ramble'** This walk starts in Bakewell where we meet outside Bakewell Visitor Centre at 9.45 with a view to setting off at 10am. The route follows the old coach road over the hills to Rowsley for a tour of Caudwell's Mill. Built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century this is the only mill in Derbyshire which is still in working order. See the mechanisms in action; listen to the wonderful sound effects of the old chains and metalwork systematically clanking amid the swish and rush of the waterwheel. We will allow time to visit the craft centre and call in at the popular tea room before heading back to Bakewell. **£10 per person to include the tour of Caudwell's Mill**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March - 'Sally and the Chocolate Factory' (as seen on tv!)** This easy going walk of approximately 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles starts in the Visitor Centre car park in Castleton where we meet at 9.45 with a view to setting off at 10am. The walk heads through the remains of Odin Mine to the base of Mam Tor (The Shivering Mountain) where we call at the Coadance Chocolate Factory (the Hope Valley's best kept secret) for a talk and demonstration lasting approximately an hour. Taste for yourself why their award winning chocolates are so good that they have been sold at Harrod's and Harvey Nic's! After a short walk up the closed road which appears like the set from an earthquake movie, we wander back to Castleton on a high of chocolate happiness! **£10 per person to include the tour and tasters**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March - 'Sally & the Station Walks - Beautiful Bakewell'** A leisurely stroll of approximately 3.5 miles along part of an old Roman road and a section of the Monsal Trail to enjoy a town tour of Bakewell with interesting snippets along the way of local history, fascinating facts and a bit of gossip! On returning to Hassop Station your reward will be a bowl of hot and wholesome soup with fresh bread and either tea or coffee. Hopefully this will be the first in a series of walks in association with Hassop Station Cafe which last year underwent a complete transformation making it one of the best tea rooms in the Peak District. Limited places are available so booking is essential. **£10 per person to include lunch.**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March - 'The Ecton Experience'** Standing majestically at the entrance to Manifold Valley is Ecton Hill which during its heyday concealed one of the richest copper mines in the world. Abandoned more than 100 years ago, the deepest shaft which reached a depth in excess of 1,300 feet has now been flooded. However, the Salts Level remains high and dry and is an easily accessible way of venturing into the heart of the hill. Unlike the more commercial caves and caverns to the north of the Peak District, Ecton remains unspoilt and is only available to limited groups. The Ecton Experience is a walk with a choice of 3 or 8 miles which includes an overground/underground tour of the mine as well as a miner's picnic! We meet at the Manifold Visitor Centre at Hulme End at 9.45 with a view to setting off at 10 to the mine. After our tour and picnic of scrumptious home-made food you can decide whether to return to your car or accompany me on a 5-mile walk around the Manifold Valley. **£15 per person to include the tour and lunch**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April - 'The Padley Pilgrimage'** Tucked away beside the wooded slopes of Padley Gorge is an ancient chapel steeped in history but with a tragic story to tell of the Padley Martyrs. We meet at the bottle bank car park opposite the swimming pool in Hathersage at 9.45 with a view to setting off at 10am. The walk to Padley is along a scenic riverside path which forms part of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way. Our route will be carpeted with spring flowers as we head up through mature woodland on old paths to Padley Chapel for an exclusive tour and talk by custodian Celia White who tells the fascinating history of this amazing building. Prepare to be spellbound! Afterwards we will continue along the track to pass the entrance to Totley Tunnel and a chance to visit the 'Brief Encounter' café at Grindleford Station. The return to Hathersage is elevated to appreciate and admire the stunning and far reaching views towards Dark Peak hills which surround the Hope Valley. **£10 per person to include the tour and talk at Padley**

**01629 814108 or 07989 622692 to book your place**

## MY FAVOURITE PICTURE OF THE MONTH



These are two of my grandchildren having fun when they came with me on a walk at half term. The weather was grim and the conditions really muddy but we still managed a lovely walk with happy chatter and lots of laughs along the way.

## Test your knowledge of the Peak District Last month's picture puzzle



This fabulous little building which stands at the side of the busy junction and lights at the bottom of Cromford Hill was built by Sir Richard Arkwright as a barber's shop where his workers could have their hair cut and his 'bigwig' important visitors could have their wigs powdered and combed. It is now a lovely little cafe which serves tasty and well prepared food at very modest prices.

## This month's picture puzzle



Where is this property located and what is the strange carving thought to be which has been placed into the stonework beneath the window. Is that a face?

## TALES FROM THE VISITOR CENTRE

On one of my recent duties at the Bakewell Visitor Centre, I went to serve a small boy whose head barely reached over the counter. In one hand he was clutching one of the small fluffy pink pigs we sell there, whilst in the other was a £2 coin. I reached over and asked him if he wanted to buy the pig to which he nodded and so I held out my hand and he handed over his money. I then asked if he would give me the pig as I needed to scan it through the till. His little face contorted into a grimace and his grip tightened around the little pink pig. I assured him that it would only take me a minute and I would give it him back. Reluctantly the little boy loosened his grip and handed his purchase over to me. However, as I turned towards the till I heard his little voice for the first time saying "One, two, three, four.....".

His father then smiled and said how his son had recently learnt how to count to a minute and it might not be a good idea if I took too long before I gave it him back!

Talk about being put under pressure and keeping the customer happy!

## PEAK DISTRICT QUIZ QUESTIONS

(Answers at the end)

1. The remains of this motte and bailey castle are next to the river Dove (8)
2. To whom was Stoney Middleton church dedicated? (2,6)
3. The 20<sup>th</sup> century home of eccentric inventor Sebastian de Ferranti (6,4)
4. Bakewell Head office of the PDNPA (6,5)
5. A sugarloaf hill in the Goyt Valley? (6,3)
6. Is this Ashover hill made of material? (3,6)
7. What colour is Bradwell's ditch? (4)
8. This bird has a Grange on Matlock Moor (6)
9. Whose hole is a mile west of Wirksworth? (11)
10. What meat is traditional served with *Amoracia Rusticana*? (4)

## AN EXTRACT FROM 'ALFIE'S DIARY'

Written in 2007

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

Mum's been glued to the telly for the last few evenings watching something called Crufts. All I know is that every once in a while there would be yapping noises, woofs and whimpers coming from the box in the corner of the room that nearly drove me crackers, and mum has been saying "ah" and "look at that weird dog" or "isn't it cute" all the time!

As you know readers, I am not some pure-bred pedigree pooch, I am special and come from a long line of the Heinz variety. Unfortunately, this is not yet recognised, so I have escaped the embarrassment of being groomed to perfection, paraded around a show ring and had some stranger get his or her hands on my privates!

Horror of horrors though, mum has come up with a way to improve my celebrity status and possibly get me on the road to Crufts – she's trying to get me to dance!!!!!!!!!!!!

If she thinks that I'm going to prance about, twist, turn and pirouette to music she's got another think coming - I've suddenly developed four left paws! I'm sorry to disappoint my mum cos I love her to bits, but a walk is one thing and a waltz is something else.

Lots of love

Alfie (loves to sleep - not Wayne Sleep) Mosley x



## SNIPPET OF THE MONTH

In the days before public transport it was not unusual to find residents of Sheffield and Chesterfield leaving behind the forges, furnaces and cutlers shops to walk over the moors and enjoy a pleasant day of fresh country air. The following verse was written in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by John Hall of Sheffield to describe this event:

*"Here, when the bees begin to hum and orchards are all white with bloom  
The blackbirds, piping through the air, the genial time of Spring declared  
Reminded then of thy dear charms, the town lets loose its busy swarms  
Who long confined in noisome smoke, through dreary winter's tedious yoke  
Like captive birds escaped, take wing  
To sound the first glad notes of spring  
A motley group, of every age  
From laughing youth to manhood sage  
Merchants, mechanics, men of trade, professionals of every grade  
With clerks and shopmen, and their chosen, wives and sweethearts by the dozen  
In open britzka, shay or drag, or hired gig with doubtful nag  
From Owlter's heathered heights they come, to thy sweet vale, Elusium!  
Any through a lengthened summer's day, here pass their joyful holiday"*

## Favourite Footpaths



Living in Over Haddon means that Lathkill Dale is akin to being my back garden, and the perfect location for Alfie's regular walks. However, it can get rather busy during the day, especially in summer or at bank holiday weekends when it resembles Blackpool promenade down there.

If Alfie and I want Lathkill Dale to ourselves then there is only one way to achieve it and that is to get down there early in the morning when most people are still tucked up in bed, or in the evening when the trippers have headed for home. The picture above was taken on a cold and frosty morning when Alfie and I were the first persons to venture on the riverside path and the heron was still on fish watch. A hoare frost coated the foliage whilst a mist of icy vapour was rising up to the heavens.

Lathkill Dale has diverse characteristics - at the top where the overground source emerges from Lathkillhead Cave, it is rugged and dramatic with steep sides, slitherbanks and high rocky crags. The middle section is wooded and contains hidden remnants and remains from the lead mining era which add character and tell the story of Lathkill's industrial past, whilst downstream where the crystal clear river rushes to join forces with the River Bradford, there is a tranquil and serene beauty to the Dale as the tumbling waters are calmed with a series of weirs and pools.

The Lathkill is a disappearing river - in summer there is a long section which completely dries up. However, the river is still there, just hidden, as it flows underground through old lead mine workings and natural channels through the limestone. It reappears downstream of The Lodge from a series of boil holes before dropping into the Blue Waters - a deep crystal clear pool.

On my guided walks through Lathkill Dale I also love to point out the variety of bridges which cross this wonderful watercourse including clapper, medieval, packhorse and even Pagoda!

### Quiz Question Answers

1. Pilsbury
2. St Martin
3. Baslow Hall
4. Aldern House
5. Bunsal Cob
6. The Fabric
7. Grey
8. Cuckoo
9. Godfreyhole
10. Beef (it's the Latin name for Horseradish)

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