



May 2011
Newsletter

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<p>Saturday May 14th New - 'Step Back in Time at Tissington' Approx 3.5 miles walk around Tissington including a private tour of the house and gardens + tea/coffee & cake £15</p>	<p>Tuesday May 17th New - 'The Trit Trot Trail' Approx 3 mile walk in the beautiful Hope Valley to include a magical hour long ride on a horse drawn dray + ginger beer and cake! £15</p>	<p>Sunday May 22nd 'Longshaw, Padley & Hathersage' A walk over the dramatic moors of the Dark Peak with a stretch of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way. Route to be decided depending on weather but 6-9 miles. £10</p>	<p>Friday June 3rd 'Pagoda to Packhorse' Approx 6 mile walk in beautiful Lathkill Dale to discover some of its secrets whilst passing a medley of pretty little bridges £7.50</p>	<p>Sunday June 12th 'The Ecton Experience, A choice of either a 3 or 8 mile walk in the Manifold Valley with underground and overground tour of the former Ecton Copper Mine + scrumptious lunch £15</p>
<p>Wednesday June 15th New 'Through the Tunnel to Monsal Dale' Approx 6 mile walk from Hassop Station through the newly opened Headstone Tunnel to Monsal Dale and Ashford ending with tea/coffee + cake £10</p>	<p>Thursday June 23rd New 'Following in Julia's Footsteps' Approx 10-mile walk along the Monsal Trail as featured by Julia Bradbury, through the newly opened tunnels, including a bus ride at the start (fare not included) £10</p>	<p>Monday June 27th 'Youlgreave - Well Dressed and Wonderful!' Approx 6 miles walk around Lathkill Dale, Bradford Dale and Youlgreave which will be celebrating its Well Dressing Week (a beautiful floral Peak District custom) £7.50</p>	<p>Sunday July 10th 'The Steam Train Special' Approx 5.5 miles walk along part of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way starting with a steam train ride and including a short town tour of Matlock £10</p>	<p>Saturday July 16th New - 'The Trit Trot Trail' Approx 3 mile walk in the beautiful Hope Valley to include a magical hour long ride on a horse drawn dray + ginger beer and cake! £15</p>

(For further information on the above walks please scroll down. You will also find articles of local interest, a picture quiz, puzzle, snippet of the month, and details of one of my favourite footpaths)

Hello fellow hikers and countryside lovers.

Well what a wonderful month April turned out to be with wall to wall sunshine. I wonder if we are going to pay for this with either a wet summer or a hose pipe ban and drought? Hey ho, these glorious sunny spring days just keep rolling on and I'm in paradise!

The damson tree in my teeny garden was absolutely covered in blossom so I predict lots of jam making and lovely crumbles this autumn. I'm eagerly awaiting the return of my housemartins from their hols in Africa and the incredible creation of more miniature mud huts beneath my eaves and I've even seen my first orchids!

Derbyshire's Stately homes have opened for the season after lots of dusting down of panelling and polishing of antiques. Attractions are stocking up on ice creams and Bakewell is becoming gridlocked every Monday as happens every year as hordes flock to wander around the market. I must say that the quality of stalls is constantly improving. Not only can you purchase household goods, clothes, pet food and accessories etc etc but there is an almost cosmopolitan feel to the market now with food stalls selling anything from locally made bread and cakes, cooked-on-the-spot crepes to assorted olives and even onion bargees!

Down in Lathkill Dale the river has disappeared at the lodge and the level is getting low by the weirs. I recently went a nature ramble one quiet evening with my youngest grandchildren and we saw the most wonderful variety of wild fowl all in breeding pairs including a visiting couple of exotically coloured mandarins, monochrome tufted ducks, territorial coots, Mr & Mrs mallard, long-legged moorhens and our resplendent resident swans (you ought to see their castle of a nest!)

It's not long now until the opening of the tunnels on the Monsal Trail (work is scheduled to finish toward the end of May). You will see that I'm getting in there (literally and physically) with a couple of guided tunnel walks in June - I can't wait!

Best news of all are my two new themed walks which are now tried and tested. I've recently been hobnobbing with the aristocracy and have been granted permission from Sir Richard FitzHerbert at Tissington for small groups to have

a private tour of the house and gardens as well as tea/coffee and cake at the tearoom and a walk around the estate to accompany a walk along a stretch of the Tissington Trail.

The Trit Trot Trail walk is absolutely wonderful and brilliant fun. Can you imagine walking from Castleton with a backdrop of dramatic and divine Peak District hills for about 3 miles to Brough, the site of the old Roman Fort. Nearby are the stables of Peter Eyre (a surname which is synonymous with the area) where we watch him harness up his majestic shires to a dray and then climb on board for an hour long ride back to Castleton, with ginger beer and lemon drizzle along the way. I felt so incredibly special and privileged as we trit trotted through Castleton with people waving and taking our picture - it's called queening it up!!

With another Ecton Experience and Steam Train Special planned for the summer as well as general hikes around the glorious National Park, I'm buzzing with excitement and enthusiasm - just like the bees on my blossom!

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.

Thursday 5th May - 'The Magic of Manifold' - Also sponsored by the Camping and Caravanning Club, this leisurely walk of approximately 4 miles starts at Heathy Roods Farm, Butterton and is not restricted to those staying on site. We head through the wonderful Manifold Valley on packhorse paths taking us back in time on a journey of historical snippets amid a picturesque landscape with glorious views. **The cost is just £3 per person but must be booked through the Walking Festival booking line as above. Places are limited and booking is essential.**

Saturday 14th May - 'Step Back in Time at Tissington'

Your visit to the fabulous estate village of Tissington starts with tea/coffee and cake at The Old Coach House tearoom at 10.30 a.m., before heading to the Jacobean Hall for a private tour inside the house and a stroll around the gardens.

This has been the ancestral home of the FitzHerbert family for eight generations. We then head off on a leisurely and scenic walk of approximately 3.5 miles around the village with its chocolate box pretty cottages, village green and picture postcard duck pond. After a stroll along the famous Tissington Trail, we cross fields and stiles to return to the village at approximately 2 p.m.

This is an English stately home at its very best!

£15 per person (includes tour, walk and refreshments)

Booking Essential as limited places available

Tuesday 17th May - 'The Trit, Trot Trail' – A glorious walk in the wonderful Hope Valley beneath the rugged hills of Mam Tor, Lose Hill and Win Hill incorporating the picture postcard villages of Castleton and Hope. The morning walk heads for the stables of Peter Eyre to watch him harness up his pair of majestic shire horses to a dray and then we climb on board for an hour long ride with the treat of ginger beer and lemon drizzle cake as we trit trot along the valley. The afternoon walk has the dray ride first leading out through the quaint streets of Castleton to head back to the stables at Brough which are located by the site of the old Roman Fort at Navio, after our ride we wander back beside Peakshole Water to return to Castleton. **The cost is £15 per person for the walk and dray ride (either in the morning or afternoon). Booking is essential as numbers are restricted to 14 in a group.**



Sunday 22nd May - 'Longshaw, Padley and Hathersage'

The walk will start at Longshaw Lodge car park at 10am, the exact route to be decided on the day depending on the weather conditions. It is likely to include Padley Gorge and a section of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way as well as a visit to the lovely village of Hathersage for lunch in a pub or tearoom. Weather permitting we will venture up to Carl Wark and Higger Tor, rugged high summits from where there are far reaching views. Little wonder that Iron Age man chose this site for a hillfort and strengthened the natural features of Carl Wark with a section of dry stone wall to create a stronghold. Several thousand years old, this is believed to be the oldest drystone wall in the country. The walk will be a moderately strenuous hike of between 8-10 miles.

£10 per person

Friday 3rd June - 'Pagoda to Packhorse'

The walk starts at the pay and display car park in Over Haddon at 10am. From there we descend into Lathkill Dale which is a National Nature Reserve packed with lead mining history hidden amongst the trees beside the crystal clear waters of Derbyshire's most picturesque Dale. A string of pretty bridges span the river which you will see including pagoda, packhorse, clapper and medieval. Our walk of approximately 6 miles takes you downstream to Alport and a quick flit up to Youlgreave before heading back across elevated fields with an aerial view down into the dale and ending at the pub!

£7.50 per person

Sunday 12th June - 'The Ecton Experience' Located on the Staffordshire side of the Peak District National Park, Ecton Hill is steeped in history. Hidden from the outside world are a labyrinth of shafts and passageways leading down almost 1400 feet (most now flooded and inaccessible) that formed Ecton Copper Mine. In its heyday during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Ecton was the richest copper mine in Europe and possibly the world. The mineral rights were owned by the Dukes of Devonshire from Chatsworth who used the vast profits to stock their stately home with treasures and to build the famous Crescent and indoor Riding Stables at Buxton (now known as Buxton Dome).

This fantastic walk is an opportunity not just to enjoy the magical Manifold Valley which is a stunningly beautiful and picturesque Dale, but to experience an underground/overground tour of the mine with specialist guides (no scrambling or ladders!) as well as a miners picnic lunch of home-made soup, bread, cakes and biscuits. The morning starts with a walk to the mine along the Manifold Way which was the route of a former narrow gauge light railway, then follows your Ecton Experience adventure. In the afternoon there is a choice of cutting short your day by returning to your car, or extending your knowledge of the area with a guided walk of approximately 5.5 miles (about 8 miles in total for the whole days hiking) through the Manifold Valley, calling in at the famous Wetton Mill tearooms which are picture postcard pretty!

£15 (includes walk + tour + picnic lunch)

Wednesday 15th June - 'Through the Tunnel to Monsal Dale'

This walk of approximately 6 miles takes advantage of the newly opened and accessible Headstone Tunnel on the Monsal Trail. We meet at Hassop Station cafe at 11 am for tea/coffee and cake before heading off on our ramble along the route of the former Midland Railway line. After passing through the tunnel we will emerge into daylight only a sprint away from the famous viaduct. After a quick skip down to the river we head up to Monsal Head and a fabulous path taking us to Ashford-in-the-Water. From here our route is via Churchdale Hall to return to the Trail and a short wander to the end of the walk.

£10 per person (includes walk + tea/coffee & cake)

Thursday 23rd June - 'Following in Julia's Footsteps'

In recent years the Monsal Trail has been made famous by Julia Bradbury and her Railway Walks. This is our opportunity to go the distance and walk the complete route including all the tunnels which will now be accessible without the need for a Ranger and key to unlock the gates! We will meet at the Bakewell Visitor Centre at 9.30 am with a view to catching the 9.59 Trans Peak bus to Blackwell (fingers crossed that it isn't full of course!). There is then a lovely stretch of path down to Blackwell Mill where we access the Trail. From here it will be a wonderful 8.5 mile wander along the trail through spectacular scenery and a succession of illuminated tunnels to return to Bakewell. (approx 10 miles in total)

£10 per person (this does not include bus fare)

Monday 27th June - 'Youlgreave, Well-Dressed and

Wonderful' Well dressing is one of the Peak District's most colourful customs which dates back to pagan times and is a way of giving thanks for a pure and plentiful water supply. Numerous villages take part in this ancient tradition from May to September. Our walk visits the village of Youlgreave during its well dressing week to admire these artistic floral creations as well as to enjoy a walk through two of the most stunning Derbyshire Dales. Starting at the pay and display car park in Over Haddon at 10 am, we will walk across fields to Conksbury Bridge and a stretch of riverside path to Raper Lodge where Coalpit Bridge is one of my favourite beauty spots in the Peak District. There then follows a wander up into Youlgreave to admire the well dressings before heading down to delightful Bradford Dale and downstream to adorable Alport with its chocolate box pretty cottages. Another stretch of tranquil riverside path and we head for the end of the walk across elevated pasture known as Haddon Fields.

£7.50 per person

Sunday 10th July - 'The Steam Train Special'

This moderate walk of approximately 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles starts by meeting at Rowsley South Station, the northern terminus of Peak Rail. After watching the tender being coupled up to carriages, we climb on board for a trip back in time with a steam train ride down to Matlock. There now follows a short tour of the town with snippets about its transformation in the mid 19th century when Matlock Bank was established as a hydropathic health resort popular with visitors from around the world. After an opportunity to picnic in the fabulous Hall Leys Park, our return to Rowsley South is a leisurely walk along a stretch of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way.

£10 (includes walk + train ride)

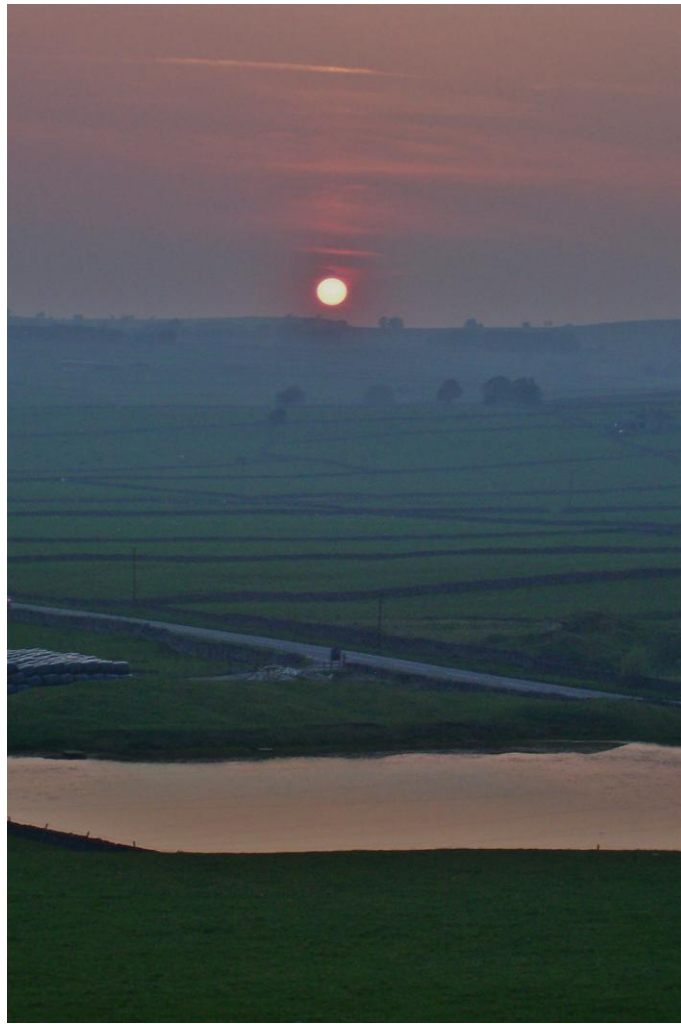
Saturday 16th July - 'The Trit Trot Trail'

A glorious walk in the wonderful Hope Valley beneath the rugged hills of Mam Tor, Lose Hill and Win Hill incorporating the picture postcard villages of Castleton and Hope. The morning walk heads for the stables of Peter Eyre to watch him harness up his pair of majestic shire horses to a dray and then we climb on board for an hour long dray ride with the treat of ginger beer and lemon drizzle cake as we trit trot through the valley. The afternoon walk has the dray ride first leading out through the quaint streets of Castleton to head back to the stables at Brough, located by the side of the old Roman Fort at Navio. After our ride we wander back beside Peakshole Water to Castleton.

£15 per person for the walk + dray ride + refreshments (either in the morning or afternoon) Booking essential as numbers are restricted to 14 in a group

01629 814108 or 07989 622692 to book your place

MY FAVOURITE PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Taken one evening in April when returning from a lovely walk around Foolow, the setting sun was low down in the sky casting long shadows and I couldn't resist the temptation to pull up the car and try to capture this stunning sight. Not bad for a cheap little Kodak camera, even if I do say so myself!

Test your knowledge of the Peak District

Last month's picture puzzle



Did you spot the red herring?

This notice which is headed Bakewell Union Rural Sanitary Authority can actually be found on the end wall of a house on Church Street in Tansley! It goes on to read - "Notice is hereby given that any person or persons found depositing any refuse or other matter injurious to health in any public thoroughfare will be prosecuted as the law directs. By Order of Albert Toft, Inspector of Nuisances February 20th 1885."

This month's picture puzzle



Where can you find this unusual chapel which looks like a house?

TALES FROM THE VISITOR CENTRE

This story dates back a year or so. On duty one day I was faced by a man holding up a little picture of the famous Sheepwash Bridge at Ashford. "Do you know where this is?" he asked "it's where I proposed to my wife many years ago"

Now that's an easy one I thought!

"It's Ashford Bridge, just a couple of miles up the road" I replied with a smug smile thinking that was the end of his query.

"Well I wonder if you can help me" he continued "I recently buried my wife's ashes under that tree one quiet evening as it was going dark so that nobody would see me. I now want to get permission from somebody so that I can write it into my will that when my time comes my ashes can be buried with her but I don't know who to get in touch with from the village council"

I could hardly answer for the lump in my throat and the tears running down my cheeks!

PEAK DISTRICT QUIZ QUESTIONS

(Answers at the end)

1. Who carved biblical references on stones around Curbar? (5,7)
2. Where can you find the Cathedral of the Peak? (9)
3. Which large Buxton hotel was demolished in 1964? (6,5)
4. What is the name of the pub at Monyash? (5,4)
5. Idol leaf nest - a village anagram (12)
6. Which family of butterfly are almond-eyed, dewy, mountain or false? (7)
7. Where can you find the Salt Cellar? (7,4)
8. Youlgreave's smallest house (7,4)
9. Is this moorland pub where Basil Brush lives? (3,5)
10. In which month is the true Padley Pilgrimage held? (4)

AN EXTRACT FROM 'ALFIE'S DIARY'

Written in 2007

Monday 7th May

I hate bank holidays!

I live close to the car park in Over Haddon which fills up on bank holiday weekends like its Blackpool promenade, and there are all kinds of strangers and their dogs wandering around on my territory!

Do you realise how busy I am after a bank holiday? I have to sniff every tree trunk, lamp post and gateway to see if some strange dog has dared to tiddle on my turf, and then I have to add a bit of my own amber nectar. I have to drink gallons of

water to keep topping up my 'water pistol' and as for the muscles in my back leg – all that cocking plays havoc with my spine!

Mum takes me a walk early on in the day to avoid the rush, and then I get to stay indoors most of the time listening to all the car doors banging, the chitter chatter of strange voices and the occasional woof from some unknown dog. My ears are on permanent alert.

The good thing is though that by tea time they have all disappeared and gone home and I can relax.

I think I'm just turning into a cantankerous old canine, and a bit of a miserable mut. Mum's promised me another nice walk after tea, and there's nothing I like better than to pad my paws around the Peak District, so I might cheer up a bit then.

Grumbles and groans from your old git

Alfie x

SNIPPET OF THE MONTH

The Romans are known to have mined Derbyshire for its valuable lead, Lutudarum being their capital which was located in the Wirksworth area. Since that time the King's Field (the chief mining tract) produced tons of gleaming lead ore known as galena.

There were many laws to govern the lead mining industry, some of which still exist to this day. The ancient Barmoot Court was held to listen to arguments, establish mineral rights and grant permission for new mines to be worked. Even though most mines had closed by the start of the 20th century, the Court is still held once a year even now in the Barmoot Hall at Wirksworth, officiated by the Bar Master, his Steward and the Jury Men.

Edward Manlove, one of the Stewards in 1653 composed a poem which describes some of the liberties and customs of lead mining which begins:

*"By custom old, in Wirksworth wapentake
If any of this nation find a rake
Or sign, or leading to the same, may set
In any ground, and there lead ore may get
They may make crosses, holes and set their stowes
Sink shafts, build lodges, cottages or coes
But churches, houses, gardens, all are free
From this strange custom of the minery"*

(A rake is a perpendicular vein of lead, a stowe is a small windlass or pieces of wood placed together to indicate possession of the mine and a coe is a small building over the shaft, generally used for dressing the ore - dressing is the

process of extracting the ore from the limestone and other rock usually by crushing and washing it)

Can you understand broad Derbyshire?

(Taken from "Ey Up Mi Duck!" By Richard Scollins & John Titford)

Can you decipher the following:

1. AREYUHGUNNACORLUNAYAJAR?
2. AIRBAIRTMEY?
3. YOWLKOPPIT!
4. AHDGORRALLON

(Answers below)

Favourite Footpaths



This fabulous grassy track is an old packhorse route leading down from Eyam Moor to Stoke Ford, and this picture was taken on an extremely cold day in early spring.

Stoke Ford and Bretton Clough appear like a secret valley where Bretton Brook tumbles downhill toward the Derwent from beyond Abney Grange. However, in the 19th century there were five farms trying to eke out a living from the land in this deep clough. Gotheredge Farm, which was built in the 17th century was last owned before it fell derelict by Billy Bingham who staying there until around 1860.

This farm was reputedly the setting of a vicious murder around 1785 when an Abney man named Blinker Bland came with accomplices one night with the intention of robbing the farmer of his savings. Unknown to them his money was safely banked. When the farmer recognised Blinker as one of the intended robbers ransacking his home, he was hit over the head with a milking stool and fatally wounded. His wife ran for help in her nightdress to neighbours at Fairest Clough Farm (also now demolished). The villains were later caught and it is said brought to justice.

Quiz Question Answers

1. Edwin Gregory
2. Tideswell
3. Empire Hotel
4. Bulls Head
5. Alstonefield
6. Ringlet
7. Derwent Edge
8. Thimble Hall
9. Fox House
10. July

Broad Derbyshire Answers

1. Are you calling in for a jar? (meaning: Are you going to the pub?)
2. How about me?
3. You will cop it (meaning: you are in trouble now)
4. I had got a lot on (meaning: I was very busy)

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