

Trail Guide:



Start at Bakewell, a town founded on its 'wells' - its name from 'Bade quelle' - meaning bath wells or springs.

Bakewell Puddings, alleged to have been 'invented' through a mistake by the Rutland Arms cook, are also claimed by other bakeries - the Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop, Bloomers and others. Pudding Wars could break out if you say tart!

The 'Fancy That' Factor

Learn how the famous Bakewell Pudding was invented

Travel across an ancient packhorse bridge dating from the 1300's

See the house where Sir Lawrence Olivier once lived

Visit the famous 'plague' village

The pretty Packhorse bridge over the Wye, dating from the 1300's, was widened in the 1800's to take traffic. Packhorse Bridges were built for the salt trade coming from Chester to the North Sea ports and Packhorse trains often had 40 horses carrying panniers led by a 'jagger' - a type of strong pony from Germany. **Well-dressings** take place here in July.

Start at **Tourist Information Centre**, head north on A6 towards Ashford in the Water. Turn **right** up the A620 then left onto **B6465** to **Ashford in the Water**, a very picturesque village on the Wye, much painted and photographed. Its medieval Packhorse bridge has an attached sheep wash still used until very recently.

Ashford was famous for its black 'marble' - really a poor grade of polished dark limestone - and very popular with the Victorians who made inlaid tables, obelisks and vases. Examples are in the church and also in Chatsworth, and the Old House Museum at Bakewell. Ashford church has "maiden's garlands" or "virgin crants" - small bell shapes of lace or crepe paper which contain a person's belongings instead of a clapper, usually a kid glove or lace handkerchief. They were put on the coffins of maiden ladies in the village, who had no husbands to bury them, and thought to be a Scandinavian custom brought across by the Vikings. Ashford Hall, built in 1785 for the Cavendish family, now belongs to the Olivier family and Sir Lawrence lived there for a time. **Well-dressings** thrive in the village, revived 40 years ago

Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance

Difficulty Rating for walks:



Easy



Moderate



Strenuous

This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

over 12,000 visitors flock to the church to see them every June.

Next is Monsal Head overlooking the great Monsal railway viaduct which caused uproar when proposed in the 1860's, John Ruskin being the chief agitator, and again when closed in the 1960's by Dr Beeching. Now open for cyclists and walkers as part of the Monsal Trail created in the 1980s, it is a listed monument with wonderful views across the Wye Valley and Monsal Dale!

At Wardlow you will see long thin medieval field strips on either side of the road and **mine working** at the top of the hill - this was where the lead was taken from the surface, leaving spoil heaps – all the bumpy ground around. These are now being turned over again by a new generation of miners who are looking for other minerals, chiefly barites and fluorspar. You will find fluorspar in your toothpaste and barites in Teflon coating on pans or in the reflective paint used on roads.

Wardlow Mires used to have a toll gate outside the Three Stags Head. Here in 1812 the lady tollkeeper was murdered and the culprit was found because he stole her shoes which were made in nearby Stoney Middleton, which you will visit later on this trail. The cobbler there made his shoes and always put a personal message in each heel and so the culprit was hung for the murder in nearby Cressbrook Dale - the large stone in the middle of the Dale, Peter's Stone, being the site of the gibbet. Now in the spring the banks of the Dale are full of spring flowers including masses of early purple orchids.

At the T-junction turn right onto the **A623** towards **Eyam** - pronounced 'eem' as in stream – famously known as the "Plague Village". Here in 1665 a local tailor brought in the bubonic plague through fleas in a package of cloth from London and within days villagers were dying. What followed was an extraordinary act of self-sacrifice, as the village cut itself off to prevent the disease spreading. Money was left for supplies at the edge of the village, the Duke of Devonshire provided food and medicine such as there was, but 260 villagers died. William Mompesson and Thomas Stanley were the rectors who helped sustain the self-imposed isolation. A small museum tells the story and the churchyard contains touching testimony.

Well-dressings are held here at the end of summer.

Next is **Stoney Middleton** which is very much a quarrying community, and famous for *Lovers Leap* –

Hannah Baddley jumped from the cliff after a lover's tiff and sailed down to the ground safely, courtesy of her ballooning petticoats which saved her. There is an eponymous café and tapas bar now.

Famous for boot and shoe manufacture there is still a family run company which make 'rigger boots' the sort quarry men wear, and the area is known for climbing and caving.

The octagonal church, where the congregation sits 'in the round' is next to the old hall built by Lord Denman, the great Victorian reformer. Any WI member has heard of the WI's Denman College, Lady Denman being a founder and first national chairman of the WI.

Near the church is the Nook, the site of Roman Baths, and the village children still play in its warm-ish water!

The chip shop is actually a former Toll House.

Calver Sough the boot and shoe factory shop and garden centre is worth a visit as is **Calver Craft Centre**. Calver Mill was used as the base for the TV drama *Colditz*.

Continuing along the **A623** to **Baslow** you will see **Curbar Edge**, one of the well known gritstone edges of Baslow, Froggat and Curbar, dominating the Derwent valley and beloved by climbers.

Baslow Church has a wonderful clock face with Victoria 1897 instead of numbers – for Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. Note the dog whip in the porch from when the church employed a dog whipper to keep order.

The high-arched 1603 bridge is the only bridge across the Derwent never to have been destroyed by floods and on one end the tiny hut remains from the time when able-bodied men had to keep a 24 hour flood watch on its wooden predecessor.

In the late 19th century until the 1930's Baslow Hydropathy Establishment, with bowling greens, croquet lawns and tennis courts dominated the village but now nothing exists except in street names.

And the Cavendish Hotel's gentlemen's toilets are famed for their very interesting graffiti!

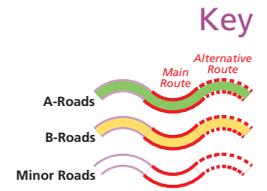
From Baslow continue along the A619 and turn **right** onto the A6020, then at the roundabout take the first exit onto the **B6001** to return to **Bakewell** – and remember never to say Bakewell Tart within earshot!

Bakewell Trail No. 36

Puddings, Plague and Purple Orchids



24 km
15 miles



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