



The Yorkshire Bridge Inn

Multi-award winning 4 star inn and country hotel at the heart of the peak district

Spring / Summer 2011



At last the sun is here and the Peak District has changed from the dramatic to the verdant.

When you're staying at the Yorkshire Bridge Inn you're right at the heart of things among the internationally-important and specially-protected landscapes in Britain's first National Park.

There is a great range of themed attractions, events and activities here in Derbyshire – from opera and music festivals to theme parks and well dressings, walking and cycling holidays, not to mention a rich and diverse cultural heritage and nationally important historic homes.

From rugged moorland to rolling hills and

dales, and lush meadows to leafy forests, we have some of the country's finest scenery, just waiting to be explored.

Add Hollywood film locations, historic houses, glorious gardens, awesome attractions, world-class theme parks and fabulous festivals and you have the perfect recipe for a brilliant break.

Just a short drive from bustling shops and markets, you can explore magnificent historic houses or a 17th century castle, discover sleepy villages and meandering river valleys, wander through meadows or stride out across rugged moorland.

Here at the crossroads of England you can also check out our lesser known 'secret cor-

ners', including Chesterfield, renowned as much for its markets as for its dramatic landmark, the iconic crooked spire of St Mary and All Saints church.

At 228 feet high, the famous crooked spire of St Mary and All Saints Church towers over Chesterfield town centre and you can even take a trip to the top, but it's equally impressive from ground level.

Legends of how the spire came to be twisted are as colourful as they are varied – some say the devil himself twisted the spire in anger after the Bolsover blacksmith had driven a nail into his foot; others claim that the spire twisted itself while turning to witness an extremely rare sight in the town... that of a virgin being married in the church!



Granted a charter by King John in 1204, the origins of the town's market can be traced back at least as far as 1165, when the Sheriff of Derbyshire recorded its takings of 'one pound, two shillings and seven pence' – a prince's ransom in today's terms! The tradition continues to this day and the town's open air market, one of the largest in England, sits right at the heart of this thriving community, still occupying the same site it did in King John's reign.



Visit on Monday, Friday or Saturday and you'll find more than 200 stalls packed into the town centre, while Thursday is the day to rummage among the stalls at the flea market, snap up a bargain and perhaps uncover a valuable antique. There are also farmers' markets on the second Thursday of every month.



From the dramatic to the verdant. The sun is back.

Home to the Sitwell family since the early 17th century, Renishaw Hall is set in acres of stunning gardens. The remarkable Italianate gardens, designed in the 19th century by the

eccentric George Reresby Sitwell, are open to the public and there are also woodland trails, lakeside walks, a sculpture park, museums and galleries to enjoy.

For something a little more energetic, the beautiful Cordwell Valley has great trails, with superb displays of colourful rhododendrons in late spring, or you can climb Ashover Rock, known locally as The Fabrick, at Alton – at almost 1,000 feet above sea level, the panoramic view from the top takes in six counties!

If you prefer wheels to boots, slip into the saddle and head for the Five Pits Trail, which follows the path of the old colliery railway lines, explore the Cuckoo Way which runs alongside Chesterfield Canal

into the town, or set out along the strenuous Trans Pennine Trail – the famous coast-to-coast route passes through the Historic Borders Country from Rother Valley Country Park to Chesterfield.



It's Twitter Time: you can now follow us on Twitter.

Following much user demand, overwhelming popularity and the phenomenal explosion of Twitter, we have decided to create an account and we are pleased to announce that you can now follow us on Twitter for up to the minute updates!

It's pretty much the same as our web page which is, by the way, more detailed and a better way to stay up to date with the latest happenings, offers and general goings on but another solution of connecting to you, our customers.

So, if you're a fan of Twitter you can "follow us" and get notifications delivered directly to your desktop or phone.

It's really very simple to do, just go to <http://twitter.com/yorkshirebridge> and click FOLLOW! And hey presto – we're now friends.

Peak District Myths and Legends: Robin Hood

Myths and legends in the Peak District are as common as the frequent mists which descend on its hills, adding to the sense of it being a place apart, where weird and wonderful things can happen.

Perhaps the most common legends are those concerning England's most famous folk hero and outlaw Robin Hood, who, if placenames are anything to go by, was a frequent visitor to the Derbyshire hills.

Robin Hood's Stride, near Winster, is an amazing gritstone outcrop with two isolated pinnacles, about the length of a cricket pitch apart, indicating that the legendary outlaw must have been a giant as well. The alternative name for the outcrop is Mock Beggar's Hall, from its resemblance to a ruined building when seen from a distance especially at dusk.

Robin Hood's faithful lieutenant, Little John was a giant and allegedly born in Hathersage

in the Hope Valley, where he was a nail-maker. You can still see his enormous grave, cared for by the Ancient Order of Foresters, between two stunted yews just outside the porch in the churchyard of St Michael's.

Nearby on the gritstone escarpment of Stanage Edge, Robin Hood's Cave has been a convenient bivouac for generations of climbers, and there are also Robin Hood's and Little John's Wells on the National Trust's Longshaw estate, and a hamlet and pub called Robin Hood on the A619 Chesterfield road.

The medieval Arthurian legend of Sir Gawain and the Green has links with the outcrop of The Roaches in the Staffordshire Moorlands, and the Green Chapel, where the gloomy defile known as Lud's Church in nearby Back Forest has been suggested as the scene of Gawain's fateful rendezvous with the Green Knight.

Lud's Church was certainly used by Lollards during the 16th century as a remote place where they could worship away from the prying eyes of the authorities, and there's a legend that during a raid, leader Walter de Ludank's innocent daughter was shot in the ravine, and that she still haunts it.

Another foul deed which has entered legend is the murder and robbery of Alan and Clara in the Winnats Pass, just outside Castleton, in 1758. Each of the drunken lead miners who were thought to be responsible each met gruesome and violent deaths themselves in the ensuing years, ensuring that justice was done.

A happier outcome befell jilted lover Hannah Baddeley of Stoney Middleton, who in 1762 threw herself to what she imagined would be her death from the steep cliffs of Middleton Dale, only to be saved by her voluminous petticoats, which acted as a parachute and deposited her safely in a thorn bush.



Viewed from Monsal Head, the Monsal Trail passes over Headstone Viaduct, and then on towards Millers Dale

Ride or Walk - The Monsal Trail is a "must do".

The Monsal Trail is a cycle and walking trail and follows a section of the former Manchester, Buxton, Matlock and Midlands Junction Railway, built by the Midland Railway in 1863 to link Manchester with London. The line closed in 1968 under the Beeching Axe, and remained unused for twelve years before being taken over by the Peak District National Park.

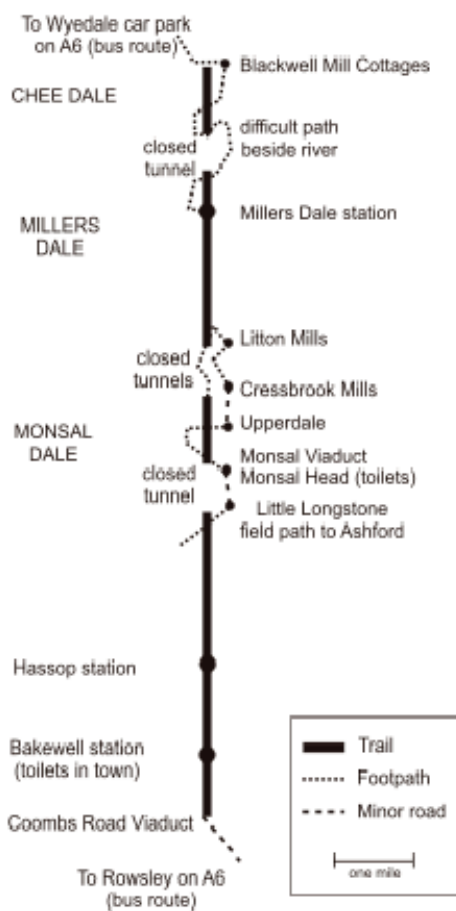
The Monsal Trail is about 8.5 miles (13.7 km) in length. It starts at the Topley Pike junction (in Wye Dale, 3 miles (4.8 km) east of Buxton) and runs to Coombs viaduct, 1 mile (1.6 km) south-east of Bakewell. It follows the valley of the River Wye and runs parallel to the A6.

From the Wyedale car park, the easiest access point for the northern end of the trail, there is a walk of about 1 kilometre (0.62 mi), with the last part up steps, to reach the Trail. Starting at the south of the trail, "from Market Place in Bakewell, follow Sheffield Road and cross the five-arched bridge of the River Wye, turn right and ascend Station Road to the former Bakewell Station and car park on your left."

The trail passes through such places as Blackwell Mill, Millers Dale, Cressbrook, Monsal Dale, Great Longstone, Hassop and Bakewell. In the case of Longstone and Hassop, although a station was provided, it was some distance from the village.

The Trail does not follow the trackbed at all times, for where tunnels have been closed for safety reasons such as at Monsal Head and Cressbrook, the path is locally diverted (but were walked by the BBC's Julia Bradbury in *Railway Walks: The Peak Express*).

Many of the access points and paths diverting around the closed tunnels are unsuitable



Hassop Station as it was and now as a popular watering hole for weary walkers and cyclists



for those using cycles, in wheelchairs or with difficulty walking as they often have steep uneven stone steps or narrow paths.

Plans to make the tunnels safe and re-open

them to the public were given the go-ahead at a cost of £3.785m.] The tunnels will be open for use on the 25th May 2011.

Apart from these diversions from the trackbed, the trail is virtually level, and can therefore even be used by wheelchair users with level access onto the trail at Bakewell, Hassop Station (disabled toilet at Hassop Station) and Millers Dale.

The notorious Litton Mill, downstream from Millers Dale station, is where orphans from major cities were abused by Ellis Needham, with the graves of many to be found in local churchyards. William Newton's 1783 Cressbrook Mill (on the site of a herb distillery) was used by Richard Arkwright.

Several miles to the south and south-west of this trail lie two other cycle/walking trails, which similarly utilize former railway trackbeds, namely the High Peak Trail and the Tissington Trail.

Headstone Viaduct

Headstone Viaduct, at Monsal Head, is one of the more impressive structures on the line, although when it was built it was seen as destroying the beauty of the dale. John Ruskin, a poet and conservationist of the time, criticized the folly of building the railway:

"The valley is gone - and now every fool in Buxton can be in Bakewell in half an hour and every fool at Bakewell in Buxton"

His words are displayed on the viaduct. However, when the railway closed and there was talk of demolishing the viaduct, there was considerable opposition. In 1970 a preservation order was placed on the structure.

Equally impressive, though less easily viewed, are the twin viaducts at Millers Dale, where a branch line ran to Buxton. The Trail runs across the older of the two.

Places to see: Haddon Hall

The origins of the hall date to the 11th century. William Peverel, illegitimate son of William the Conqueror, held the manor of Haddon in 1087, when the survey which resulted in the Domesday Book was undertaken. The Vernon family acquired the Manor of Nether Haddon by the 13th century marriage to the Haddon heiress.



Though it was never a castle, the manor of Haddon was protected by a wall from 1195, when Richard Vernon received permission to build it.



Dorothy Vernon, the daughter and heiress of Sir George Vernon, the owner of Haddon Hall, married John Manners, the second son of Thomas Manners, 1st Earl of Rutland in 1563. Sir George disapproved of the union, describing his daughter's suitor as "the second son of an impoverished Earl." In addition, the Manners were Protestants, and the Vernons were Catholics. According to legend, 18 year old Dorothy eloped with Manners during a wedding party for her older sister.

However, they must have later reconciled with Sir George, as the couple inherited the manor.[3] Their grandson, also John Manners of Haddon, inherited the Earldom on the death of his distant cousin the seventh Earl of Belvoir Castle.

The 9th Earl, when made Duke of Rutland in 1703, moved to Belvoir Castle, and his heirs used the Hall very little, so it lay almost in its unaltered 16th-century condition, as it had been when it passed in 1567 by marriage to the Manners family. In the 1920s, the 9th Duke realised its importance and began a lifetime of meticulous restoration, with his restoration architect Harold Brakspear.

The current medieval and Tudor Haddon includes small sections of the 11th-century

structure, but mostly comprises additional chambers and ranges added by the successive generations of the Peverel, Avenel, Vernon and Manners families.

Major construction was carried out at various stages between

the 13th and the 17th centuries. The banqueting hall (with minstrels' gallery), kitchens and parlour date from 1370 and the St. Nicholas Chapel was completed in 1427.

For generations, whitewash concealed and protected their pre-Reformation frescoes. There is a 16th-century Long Gallery.

Described by Simon Jenkins in 1000 Best houses as "the most perfect house to survive from the middle ages", this remarkable old house is surrounded by terraced Elizabethan gardens and is set amongst the rolling countryside of the Peak District National Park.

Haddon has welcomed visitors for hundreds of years and its beauty and atmosphere never fails to enchant.

The house is open to visitors from April to October, with a number of special events including Ruth Goodman (BBC's Victorian Farm) and the Tudor Group running Science, Folklore and Magic on the 18 - 19 June and In My Lord and Lady's Chamber on the 10-11 September.

Haddon has featured in many films and TV programmes including, most recently *Pride and Prejudice* starring Keira Knightly, Mathew MacFadyen, and Dame Judy Dench. Also BBC's 2006 production of *Jane Eyre* starring Toby Stevens and Ruth Wilson.

In September, Haddon will more more become Thornfield Hall, this time for a new big screen version for the Bronte classic, *Jane Eyre*.



What's on?

Behind the scenes days at Chatsworth

Behind the Scenes - Day 3, 4 June
Behind the Scenes - Day 4, 14 September
Behind the Scenes - Day 5, 17 September

Chatsworth Young Farmers Plus

All the hands-on involvement of caring for the animals including exciting duties such as collecting eggs, grooming, milking the cows and taking the animals out to the fields.

- The day runs from 1pm to 5.30pm
- Suitable for children aged 2 and 16
- Children don't need to be accompanied by an adult
- Maximum of 8 places available.

14/05/2011, 18/06/2011, 04/08/2011,
11/08/2011, 25/08/2011, 24/09/2011

Chatsworth brew-a-beer day

Spend a day discovering the secrets of the brewing process, visit our historic beer cellar and taste some of our modern creations.

- The day runs from 10am to 4pm
- Enjoy behind the scenes access at Chatsworth followed by a visit to the estate brewery
- You'll be provided with lunch and refreshments and exclusive beer tastings
- You'll also get free admission to the house and garden.

18/06/2011 (Fathers day!)

Hands-on garden floristry day

An introduction to floristry and the way we use flowers at Chatsworth including tours and a practical session where you get to have a go yourself.

- 9.30am to around 3.45pm
- It includes tea/coffee on arrival and a buffet lunch.
- You'll also get free admission to the house and garden
- You'll get to make your own hand tied bouquet to take home
- Please bring gloves and suitable outdoor clothing
- There are a maximum of 12 places available for this day.

13/07/2011

Hathersage



Hathersage, a ten minute drive from the Yorkshire Bridge Inn, is an attractive, prosperous and busy gritstone village, cum small town.

In the 19th century Hathersage was a dirty place as chimneys from its 5 mills 'belched out thick black smoke'. It had a large needle, button and wire drawing industry then, which ended at the turn of the 20th century. The mills are still standing but have been put to other less polluting uses. Hathersage has also had a long association with the manufacture of millstones and grindstones, used for grinding corn and crushing lead ore.

Charlotte Bronte is known to have stayed with her friend Ellen Nussey at Hathersage Vicarage in 1845 and it is generally believed that she based Morton, in her novel, Jane Eyre, on the village and probably the heroine's surname, from the ancient Eyre family, who had been lords of the manor here for 800 years.

Robert Eyre is said to have built 7 houses in Hathersage for his 7 sons. North Lees Hall, still standing, is thought to have been the model for Thornfield in the book.

Stanage Edge overlooks the village and can be reached by a minor road that leads up Hood Brook. This road passes quite close to North Lee Hall. The edge is a magnet for rock climbers who come from all parts of the country, including many novices as the edge offers all grades of climbing difficulty.

St Michael's Church is thought to date back to the 12th century though building work has been recorded from 1381. It sits in a superb position high up in the village, commanding extensive views of the Derwent valley. It has a Perp west tower and a crocketed recessed spire and contains a collection of brasses to the Eyre family.

Hathersage boasts a superb outdoor swimming pool, open to the public during the summer months.



Thornbridge Brewery takes top award!

Cheers! Thornbridge in Bakewell has been recognised as one of the best in the country after winning a Silver Award in the National Beer Competition held by the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA), announced last week in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Kipling won the Silver Award in the Strong Bitters Category after progressing through a series of regional and then national judging sessions. It was one of only 52 beers to take away a medal – a great achievement considering that over 1,400 beers enter the initial stages of the contest.

Thornbridge also took Bronze with their Jaipur IPA in SIBA's inaugural keg beer competition.

Simon Webster, Thornbridge's Director says, "We work hard to make our beers the best they can be and it's fantastic to receive this public recognition. I'm grateful to everyone at the brewery, to the pubs who sell our beers and to our many loyal drinkers locally, for helping us to win these Awards. We promise to go on producing our great beers in cask, keg and bottle.

Julian Grocock, chief executive of SIBA, said, "The quality of craft beers produced by SIBA brewers improves every year, so our Awards go to brewers who are truly 'the best of the best'. Thornbridge's skill, passion and dedication to creating great craft beer, make it a deserving winner."

Thornbridge is one of around 450 local brewers belonging to SIBA. Last year, sales of local beers grew by 8.8%, compared to an overall decline in the UK beer market of -3.9%, thanks to growing demand for the quality, flavoursome beers produced by local brewers.

The Yorkshire Bridge Inn serves Thornbridge's **Lord Marples**, a classic British Bitter, surprisingly smooth with a light toffee and caramel characters, a mixture of floral and spicy hope notes and a pleasing bitter finish. First produced in February 2005 the range of Thornbridge cask and bottled beers has gained considerable success, having won more than 60 CAMRA and SIBA awards.



If you love luxury, you'll absolutely love these.

If you are looking for luxury accommodation, you need look no further. Ladybower Apartments are superb 5-star self-catering holiday apartments located in the former pump house for Ladybower Reservoir.

Restored in 2004, the building sits in a truly unique position adjacent to the reservoir, amidst wonderful walking country, woodlands and a profusion of wildlife.

Against a magnificent backdrop composed from some of the most stunning scenery in the Peak District National Park, the Upper Derwent reservoir area is a truly spectacular location that is considered by many to be the jewel in the Peak District's crown.

The Ladybower Reservoir is the largest of the Derwent Dams, which are famed for the Dambuster training runs.

Guests will enjoy relaxing in these beautiful surroundings, strolling around the reservoirs, or taking in one of the many cycle trails. For the more energetic, there are numerous outdoor activities and some of the best walking in the country.

All three apartments - Bridge Park, Bridge-water and Bridge Suite - have each been graded as 5 Star by Enjoy England. The resident owners personally care for all three apartments.



What to see in the Peak District

Welcome to the Peak District & Derbyshire, a world class destination stretching from the dramatic moorland and breathtaking landscapes of Britain's first National Park to the ancient oaks of the National Forest in the south of the county.

With a fascinating historical and cultural heritage, this unique and diverse region is home to some of the country's finest stately homes, enchanting market towns and picturesque villages.

Established in 1951, the Peak District is visited by people from all over the world. They come to find peace, tranquillity and adventure, experiencing some of England's finest climbing, caving, walking and cycling.

A warm and genuine welcome

Right at the heart of England.

The Peak District's very special qualities are well known to the people who live in the towns and cities that surround the National Park but for visitors from further away, whether from Britain or abroad, the magic of the Peak District is just waiting to be discovered.

A short break, or longer holiday, will allow you to explore some of England's most spectacular scenery and in the towns, villages and hamlets - amongst the prettiest in the country - you will find a warm and genuine welcome wherever you go.

Whatever you want, we've got it.

The Peak District provides opportunities for many types of outdoor activity. An extensive network of public footpaths and numerous long-distance trails, over 1,800 miles (2,900 km) in total, as well as large open-access areas, are available for hillwalking and hiking. Bridleways are commonly used by mountain bikers, as well as horse riders. Some of the long-distance trails, such as the Tissington Trail and High Peak Trail, re-use former railway lines; they are well used by walkers, horse riders and cyclists. The Park authorities run cycle hire centres at Ashbourne, Parsley Hay and Middleton Top. Wheelchair access is possible at several places on the former railway trails.

The many gritstone outcrops, such as Stannage Edge and The Roaches, are recognised as some of the finest rock climbing sites in the world.

Beneath the ground, the potholer enjoys natural caves, the potholes and old mine workings found in the limestone of the Peak. Peak Cavern is the largest and most important cave system which is even linked to the Speedwell system at Winnats. The only significant potholes are Eldon Hole and Nettle Pot. There are many old mine workings, which often were extensions of natural cave systems. Systems can be found at Castleton, Winnats, Matlock, Stoney Middleton, Eyam, Monyash and Buxton.

Some of the area's large reservoirs, for example Carsington Water, have become centres for water sports, including sailing, fishing and canoeing, in this most landlocked part of the UK. Other activities include air sports such as hang gliding and paragliding, birdwatching, fell running, off-roading, and orienteering.

Experience the elements.

Earth, fire, water or air... you'll be in your element here by getting involved in one of the many special interest activities on offer or simply having a relaxing weekend at a luxury spa hotel

There's a great choice of activity and special interest break providers in the area, offering everything from canoeing, map-reading and navigation courses to the more traditional outdoor pursuits.

For something a little different, there's also a fascinating range of breaks, from painting, pottery and spinning courses to beekeeping and birdsong - they're a great way to learn a new skill, gain a new perspective or simply unwind.

Eating out

With an abundance of local organic farmers, butchers and bakers producing a superb range of authentic, goods including breads, cheeses, ales and our world famous local specialities, the Peak District & Derbyshire is a real delight for food lovers.

What could be better than to while away a relaxing hour or two in a village tearoom with a refreshing pot of tea and a piece of famous Bakewell pudding or Ashbourne Gingerbread?!

For a true taste of the Peak District and Derbyshire, don't miss the opportunity to sample traditional produce at the regular farmers' markets held throughout the area in market towns such as Belper, Bakewell, Buxton, Castleton, Chesterfield and Derby or take home some of the local delicacies to share with family and friends. For the more sophisticated palate, the area boasts renowned restaurants and award-winning chefs offering the highest quality food in superb surroundings.

