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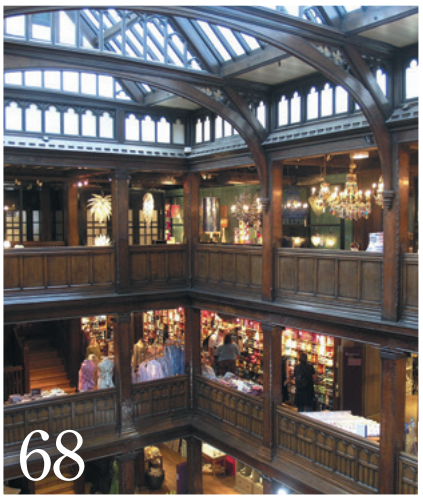














## REFLECTIONS MAGAZINE MARCH 2025

**Editor: Barrie Farnsworth,**
E: barrief@bannisterpublications.co.uk

**Advertising: Mike Snow,**
M: 07966 445452 E: mikes@bannisterpublications.co.uk

**Advertising: Helen Wragg,**
M: 07973 672582 E: helen@bannisterpublications.co.uk

**Managing Director/Photographer: Robert Bannister,**
E: robert@bannisterpublications.com

**Art Editor: Ben Fletcher-Bates,**
E: design@reflections-magazine.com

**Social Media: Rebecca Bloomfield,**
E: hello@bannisterpublications.com

**Accounts: Helen Holgate,**
E: admin@bannisterpublications.co.uk

**Distribution:**
E: distribution@bannisterpublications.co.uk

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Cover:
'Mother and baby are harbingers of spring', by *Robert Bannister.*

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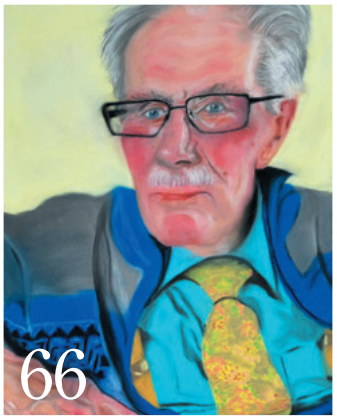
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Kerry and her husband Neil have been fostering with Derbyshire County Council for 12 years, caring for children from newborns to teenagers. "Fostering has been one of the most rewarding experiences of our lives," Kerry says.

Their journey began after their twin sons left for university, fulfilling a long-held desire to foster. "The process is thorough but ensures you're ready to provide thoughtful, professional care." Training has been key, particularly in therapeutic parenting. "Intuition alone isn't enough," Kerry explains. She urges potential carers not to be daunted: "The rewards far outweigh the challenges—the difference you make is immeasurable."

Foster for East Midlands welcomes people from all backgrounds to explore fostering. The key qualities of a foster carer are dedication and a desire to help children in need.

If fostering sounds like something you'd like to learn more about, you can join one of our monthly information events. These take place in person at local community locations across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire or online via Zoom. At these events, you'll hear from our current foster carers, ask questions, and learn about fostering in a relaxed and friendly environment. There's no pressure—just come along for a chat.

**For details on the next information events, or just to find out more, visit fosterforeastmidlands.org.uk, call 03033 132 950, or email hello@fosterforeastmidlands.org.uk.**




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Peak Performance is now in rehearsal for a Spring concert at Whittington Moor on **Saturday afternoon of 29th MARCH 2025 at 2.30pm.**

The concert includes selections from 'Guys and Dolls', 'Phantom,' 'Miss Saigon,', The Greatest Showman,' 'Novello' and a Disney selection. There is definitely something to suit all tastes.

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# 1940s Market set to return in spring

THE popular 1940s Market is set to return to Chesterfield this spring – bringing a range of free entertainment to the town centre for the whole family to enjoy.

The action-packed market will be returning on Thursday 10 April 2025, transporting the town centre back to the 1940s with a variety of music, street performance and fancy dress.

Organised by Chesterfield Borough Council, the event takes place during the Easter school holidays and will happen alongside the popular weekly Thursday flea market.

More information about the event plans and entertainment will be shared closer to the time. Keep checking the council's website and social media channels for details.





Councillor Kate Sarvent, cabinet member for town centres and visitor economy, said: "The 1940s Market is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. There are not too many places you can go to see a range of free street entertainment like we have on offer here.

"We encourage you to put the date in your diary early so you don't miss out."






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# Countywide News




## 'Extraordinary Women' exhibition in Chesterfield

AN exhibition at Chesterfield's West Studios celebrates the extraordinary women who have called Chesterfield home.

'Extraordinary Women' – delivered in partnership by Chesterfield Borough Council's Museum service, Chesterfield College, Derbyshire LGBT+ and local community interest company Kakou – the exhibition includes interactive activities, stories from across the community and a unique collection of artworks created by students.

An art exhibition within an exhibition, local students have each created a pair of shoes with the theme 'Journey & Identity'.

Joby Parsons, events coordinator at Chesterfield College, said: "Chesterfield has a rich history, and it is important to recognise the extraordinary women who have helped shape our town and beyond. Their stories deserve to be told and recognised for the lasting impact they've had."

The Extraordinary Women exhibition looks at the lives of pioneering women who have played a significant role in the history of Chesterfield, including Mary Swanwick, Violet Markham, Florence Robinson and more.

Funded through Arts Council England, the exhibition forms part of the Museum on the Move project, which aims to help people connect with the borough's history while Stephenson Memorial Hall is closed for refurbishment.

The free exhibition is until Thursday March 27, and will be open Wednesday to Saturday from 11am to 3pm.



**Top:** These images show some of the many extraordinary women, including former Mayors Violet Markham and Florence Robinson, who will be featured within the exhibition.

**Above:** Shoes from the museum's collection will be a central motif in presenting extraordinary women's stories. This gorgeous pair once belonged to actress, playwright and biographer Gladys Jones (known as Gwen John).

On Saturday, March 15, Kakou will be hosting a free workshop where visitors can learn about codebreaking during World War Two and learn how to programme a micro:bit to send and receive secret messages with Morse Code. Places are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served, drop-in basis.

The Chesterfield Equality and Diversity Forum will be hosting an International Women's Day talk on Friday, March 7 at West Studios, from 9.30am. Booking is required for this event, go to: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/international-womens-day-talk-teresa-waldron-ceo-deaf-initely-women-tickets-1207159208689?aff=oddtdtcreator

To find out more about the exhibition, visit: www.chesterfield.gov.uk/museum

## Appeal to celebrate 10 years of Dronfield Hall Barn

DRONFIELD Heritage Trust, the charity behind the management of award-winning Dronfield Hall Barn, is celebrating an amazing 10 years since the ancient building was restored.

Now the Trust has launched a 10th anniversary appeal to help raise £50,000 to ensure the long-term future of the community hub. The money is for a wider range of education, cultural and community support programmes along with essential maintenance to secure The Barn's future for generations to come. It will also help fund kitchen upgrades, improvements to communal areas, introduce new technology, and improve volunteer facilities.

Restoration was completed in late 2015 when the Trust turned the Grade II* listed building into a unique Heritage, Arts and Cultural venue which attracts more than 50,000 visitors a year.

The Barn houses an award-winning hospitality business which includes a coffee shop; and the barn, garden and grounds area used for a variety of social and corporate events as well as exhibitions and local history activity. The Barn has also gained a reputation as a high-quality wedding venue.

The £1.3 million project was originally financed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and public donations.

The year's fundraising highlight will be the Medieval Festival and Banquet on Saturday July 5 to be held in the grounds and The Barn Gallery

Details about how to donate, and the events throughout 2025, can be found at www.dronfieldhallbarn.org.

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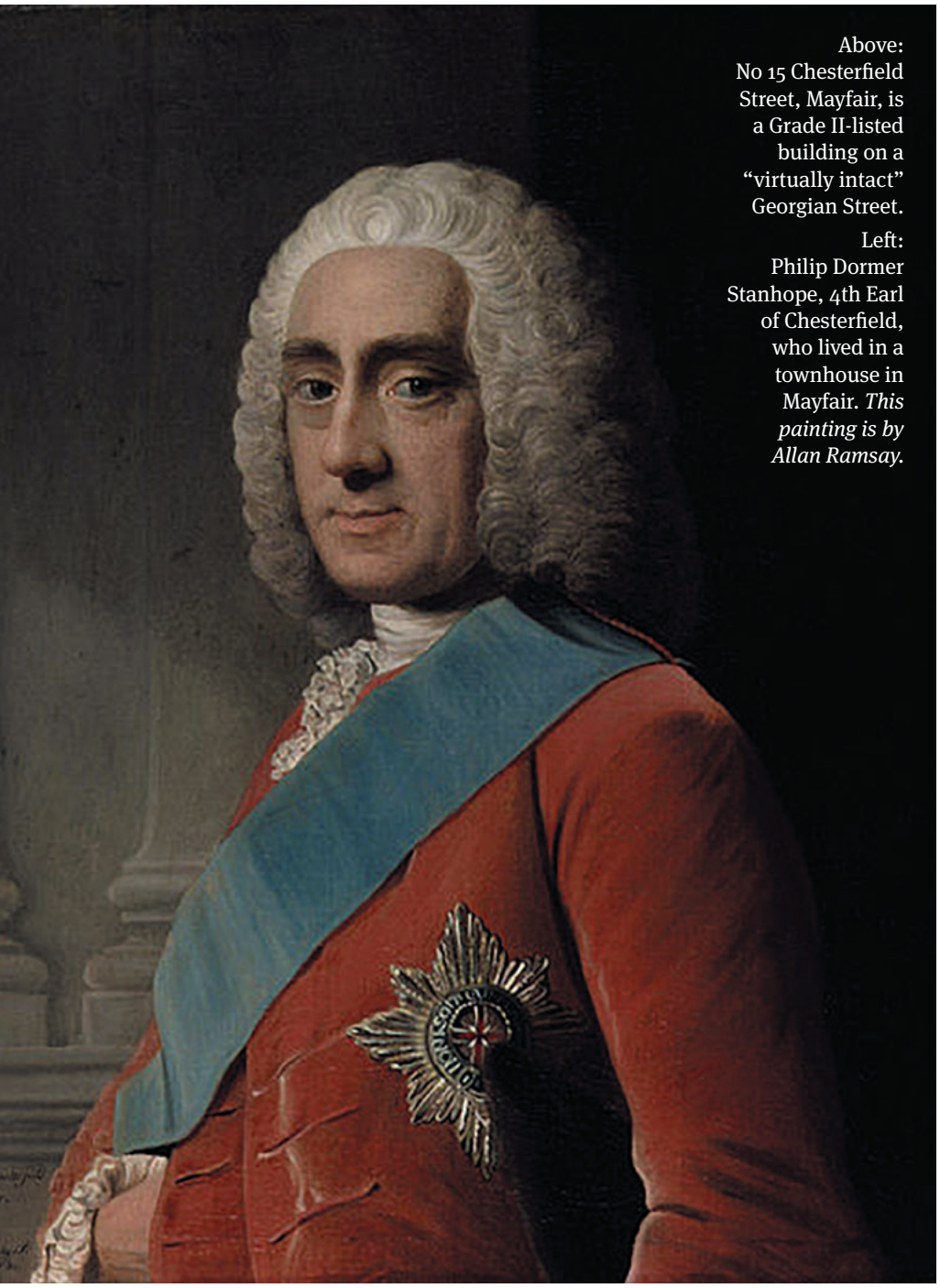
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# Why lots of streets in Mayfair are named Chesterfield...



*Barrie Farnsworth* looks at why lots of streets and buildings in London's poshest area, Mayfair, are named after Chesterfield.



Above: No 15 Chesterfield Street, Mayfair, is a Grade II-listed building on a "virtually intact" Georgian Street.

Left: Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield, who lived in a townhouse in Mayfair. *This painting is by Allan Ramsay.*

LOTS of Grade II-listed buildings have a connection to Chesterfield around the country... including plenty in one of the poshest parts of our capital city.

In Mayfair, there are ten listed buildings on Chesterfield Street alone; five on Chesterfield Gardens and two on Chesterfield Hill.

And, would you believe it, there are two Grade II-listed bollards at the junction of Chesterfield Hill and Hill Street in Mayfair!

Chesterfield Gardens, Chesterfield Hill and Chesterfield Street – known as a 'virtually intact' Georgian street – were named after Philip Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield, who owned a mansion nearby in the 18th century.

His mansion, Chesterfield House, stood on the north side of Curzon Street, between South Audley Street and what is now Chesterfield Street. It was demolished in 1937 and on its site now stands a block of flats of the same name. There is also a Chesterfield Hotel, Mayfair, nearby.

The 4th Earl of Chesterfield, KG, PC, (1694-1773) was a British statesman and diplomat. Upon his father's death in 1726, Stanhope became the 4th Earl of Chesterfield and assumed his seat in the House of Lords.

In 1728, in service to the new King George II, Chesterfield was sent to the Hague as ambassador to The Netherlands, where his tact and linguistic dexterity served him well. As a reward for his diplomatic service, Chesterfield received the Order of the Garter in 1730.

In 1733, the 4th Earl married Melusina von der Schulenberg, the Countess of Walsingham; who was the illegitimate daughter of the Duchess of Kendal by King George I.

Chesterfield turned down a dukedom offered to him by George II.

In 1751, Chesterfield distinguished himself in the debates on establishing a



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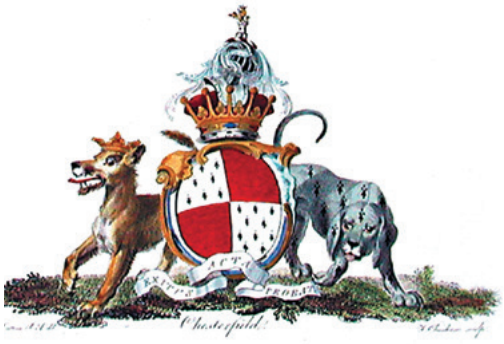



definitive calendar for Britain and the Commonwealth. With the Calendar (New Style) Act 1750, he successfully established the Gregorian calendar and a calendar year that began on January 1 for Great Britain, which had lagged behind other European countries in adopting this calendar. Informally, the Act was also known as "Chesterfield's Act".

Chesterfield died in 1773 at his London townhouse. His godson and adopted heir then became Philip Stanhope, 5th Earl of Chesterfield.

The 4th Earl was the great-great-grandson of the 1st Earl, who was also Philip Stanhope and was created Baron Stanhope of Shelford, Nottinghamshire – where he had a manor house – in 1616 and created, by King Charles I, Earl of Chesterfield in 1628. There is no known connection between the Stanhopes and the Derbyshire town.

In the English Civil War, the Earl, leading a 300-strong army, took Lichfield for the King in 1643, but surrendered to Parliamentary forces and the Earl was imprisoned and died in captivity in 1656.








**Top:** The Chesterfield Hotel, Mayfair.

**Above:** The coat-of-arms of the Earls of Chesterfield.

**Left:** Numbers 5-7 Chesterfield Gardens in Mayfair are also Grade II-listed buildings.

**Right:** There is a Grade II-listed telephone kiosk in Chesterfield Walk, south London.

The 13th Earl of Chesterfield, James Richard Stanhope, who never petitioned for a writ of summons to the House of Lords in these titles, died in 1967 and the earldoms of Stanhope and Chesterfield and baronetcy of Stanhope became extinct.

There is The Earl of Chesterfield hostelry – one of Nottinghamshire's finest rural pubs – in Shelford village, which is between Radcliffe-on-Trent and Gunthorpe close to the River Trent.

There is even a telephone kiosk that is Grade II-listed in London: it's of the K6 type – the first red telephone box designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the coronation of King George V in 1935 – on Chesterfield Walk, off Shooters Hill Road, just south of the River Thames.





Around the country, there are lots of Grade II-listed buildings that have the name Chesterfield in them. For example, there is Chesterfield Lodge in the seaside town of Cromer, in Norfolk, that Winston Churchill stayed in during 1885.

Lots of listed buildings are called Chesterfield House, including one in Feckenham, near Redditch, Worcestershire. There is a Chesterfield House in Chipping Sodbury, in the Cotswolds; a Chesterfield House in Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent; a Chesterfield House in Thurgarton, Norfolk; a Chesterfield House in Great Glen, Leicestershire; a Chesterfield House in Sherborne, Dorset; and a Chesterfield House in Henbury, near Bristol. There is also a listed Chesterfield Buildings in Clifton, in Bristol; and a street called Chesterfield Place in the seaside town of Weymouth, in Dorset. ■

**Above:** Chesterfield House flats in Mayfair, built on the site of the 4th Earl of Chesterfield's home.

**Left:** This is Chesterfield Lodge in Cromer in Norfolk.








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**Above:** The springtime garden at Chevin Brae, Milford – open on March 22.

## Enjoy some spring flowers...

SPRING begins this year on March 20, so why not celebrate by visiting an NGS Open Garden at 'Chevin Brae', Milford, near Belper, on Saturday, March 22 to enjoy the spring display, *writes Tracy Reid*.

This garden has lots of spring flowers and beautiful views, but you can't miss their daffodil display! The garden is open from 1-5pm, admission is just £3 (children admitted free). Dogs on leads are welcome. There'll be plants for sale and home-made cake along with hot drinks.

The daffodil, of course, is the emblem of one of the NGS' beneficiary charities, Marie Curie, who they have supported for many years. In 2024, the NGS donated £450,000 to help them deliver their ambitious five-year strategy to close the gap in end-of-life care. Your garden visits this year will help us continue to support Marie Curie and our other beneficiary charities.

All the details of the garden and our beneficiaries can be found at www.ngs.org.uk

## D-Day veteran honoured...

D-DAY veteran Albert Keir has been bestowed with the Honorary Freedom of the County of Derbyshire.

Mr Keir, 99, of Bakewell, is the second person to receive the prestigious title – following England's women's soccer captain, Chesterfield-born Millie Bright, last summer – at County Hall, Matlock, on February 12.

The Freedom honour was given to Mr Keir in recognition of his achievements during his life and career, including the part he played in World War Two.

Mr Keir was presented with a certificate bearing his new title of Honorary Freeman of Derbyshire by county council civic chairman, Coun Tony Kemp.

Mr Keir was born in Aberfeldy, Perthshire, in June 1925. He left school aged 14 and was an apprentice painter and decorator, and around 1939 he helped to camouflage hydro-electric dams and buildings before joining the Royal Navy in 1943 when he was 18.

As a Royal Navy seaman he carried out general and gunnery duties on his ship, the Flower class corvette HMS Potentilla.




He was part of the naval crew that escorted ships ferrying US troops onto Utah beach on D-Day on 6 June 1944. Mr Keir's crew also rescued soldiers and airmen injured in the conflict.

For this he was awarded the National Order of the Legion of Honour (Légion d'honneur) by the French Government in 2015 for his heroism. Mr Keir received his medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire at a service at Bakewell Church.

Following the war Mr Keir worked as a painter and decorator for Derbyshire County Council but left to work at Furness and Hassels in Longstone before returning to the county council in the 1960s. He retired around 1990 aged 65.

Mr Keir married Dorothy in 1954 and they were together for 66 years, having one son, Andrew. Dorothy died aged 87 in 2019. He has another son, Michael, from a previous marriage and two grandchildren.

To honour the memory of fallen comrades, Mr Keir sold poppies for the Royal British Legion, becoming one of the longest-serving poppy sellers in the country, and he returned to Normandy in June last year with other veterans to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day. While there he met HM King Charles and Queen Camilla among other dignitaries.

Mr Keir said: "I was very pleasantly surprised and thrilled to be presented with such an honour and I am extremely proud to accept it."

Son Andrew Keir said: "It was an honour to be at County Hall to watch my dad receive this honour, along with all his family and friends."

Civic Chairman, Coun Tony Kemp, said: "It was a privilege to present Albert with the Freedom of Derbyshire."

## Have your say about the national park

PEOPLE who live, work and visit the Peak District National Park are being asked for their views on walking, cycling, riding and 'wheeling' (wheelchairs/trampers) routes in an online consultation.

An interactive map is also being used to help people pinpoint routes and where improvements could be made. Using the map will help show where people walk, cycle and wheel, and understanding what people use and like will help the authority plan for the future.

The consultation is live now and runs until March 16, with funding from Active Travel England. They are keen to find out where walkers, cyclists, wheelchair users and horse riders want to enhance access across the Peak District.

Access and rights of way officer Sue Smith said: "We want to improve how people get around the National Park and to achieve this we need to find out how people are using local routes.

"There's a short, online questionnaire to fill in which asks people to identify places that are most important to them, how often they use routes, where they would like to see improvements, what the improvements would be, and there's opportunity to make comments about routes too. You can complete the questionnaire as many times as you like for different routes."

The information from the public will then be used to help shape a new Peak District Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Infrastructure Plan. People can take part by completing the questionnaire at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/activetravelconsultation



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## A walking group for new parents

THERE is a free parent walking group in Derbyshire called Blaze Trails which is keen to attract new parents with their babies or toddlers. The organisers understand that getting out of the door can be very challenging in itself but getting to chat to other parents who are in very similar situations can feel reassuring and that you aren't alone.




One of the Derbyshire organisers, Tasha Hall, says they host regular walks offering something for everyone – for parents who use buggies or slings or have a toddler.

Their website is https://community.blazetrails.org.uk/spaces/16824860 instagram: blaztrails_derbyshire and facebook Blaze Trails – Derbyshire baby and toddler walking group. There is also a new Trail Blazer membership where they host events, webinars and workshops, provide kit lists and route planning advice, seasonal support and much more.

The Blaze Trails walks for March are: Monday 3rd: Thrybergh Country Park pram walk; Wednesday 5th: Shining Tor; Friday 7th: Clumber Park pram walk; Wednesday 12th: Lords Seat; Monday 17th: Manvers Lake pram walk; Wednesday 19th: Kinder Scout.

These are Parent Club walks: Sunday, March 30, Derwent Edge; Sunday, April 27, Black Hill; Sunday, May 25, Dove Stones; Sunday, June 29, The Roaches; Sunday, July 27, Edale Skyline.

## 'Derbyshire Makes' kicks off in Chesterfield

DERBYSHIRE County Council secured £780,000 in Arts Council England Place Partnership funding, which uses money from the National Lottery, to deliver a three-year cultural programme, Derbyshire Makes.

Derbyshire Makes aims to celebrate making in all its forms and shine a spotlight on the county's extraordinary making heritage and creative and cultural industries.

The programme launches with a free festival taking place in six locations over five weeks, with Derbyshire Makes Creative Heritage Conference in Chesterfield Town Hall on Friday, March 28. On the Friday and Saturday, March 29, try some traditional skills in West Studios or find innovative ways to transform old materials in a series of workshops led by Clothes-Wise. You can also see Kaleidoscope, a new piece of public art by Lucie Maycock and take part in a fun workshop inspired by the installation.

There's free workshops, too, bookable in advance, March 28 – Box Making and March 29 – Pottery. For more information, go to www.derbyshiremakes.co.uk ■





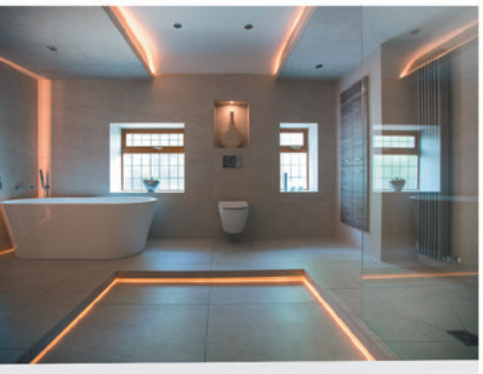




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# A CRIME WRITER WHO KNOWS HIS STUFF!

## *Barrie Farnsworth* meets the police officer who hopes to carve out a new career – as an author.

MARK John is an award-winning major crime detective – and has published three crime novels involving a police officer much like himself.

The 54-year-old, now living in Dronfield, won the prestigious South Yorkshire Investigator of the Year in 2019. For years, he has been tackling 'major crime' – including murders – in Sheffield, and that was not the first award he had won.

But he has been writing in his spare time for many years – first up was a gangster movie – and, in his approach to publishers, he was told to write crime stories, as he knew the way the police actually handled major crime.

So he 'became' the CID detective Charlie Oscar, who has tackled major crime in the publication of three books – The Ashamed, Near Murder and his latest to be published by Vanguard Press, Jack in Time.

His first book, The Ashamed – about historic child abuse – was published in 2021 after lockdown. The second book, Near Murder, is about the hunt for a potential serial killer, They are all available through Amazon, including Kindle versions.

As the publishers rightly say, Jack in Time is "an addictive crime thriller with ancestral tones mirroring the Jack the Ripper murders. With multiple victims sustaining horrific attacks, DNA evidence is identified and is found to belong to the 19th-century killer," who happened to live in Derbyshire.

Obviously Mark, who lived for 15 years in Chesterfield while working in Sheffield, knows how the police work on major crimes and puts it into his books, as I discovered on reading Jack in Time.

As an 'insider', Mark also knows that "many a TV crime drama features detectives who do not work like police officers."

Mark has completed three more books about Charlie Oscar who, in the last book, called 'The Deleted' and involving a UFO sighting in Bonsall, has retired from the police but is taken on by the NCA (National Crime Agency) – which gives Mark scope to carry on writing about him.

While he waits for a good offer to publish his next three books, Mark is happy to promote his first three books and is happy to talk to book clubs and other organisations

*Editor's Note:* Mark's Instagram is @ therealcharlieoscar and his email is therealcharlieoscar@outlook.com




Above: Mark John with the three books he has had published.

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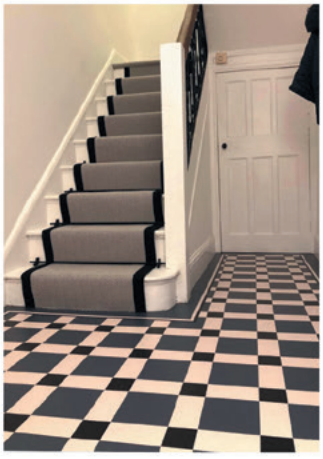


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The fitter-Keith attended a follow up visit with Craig, and we were impressed by his quiet appraisal of the spaces.

Our bathrooms, being larger than average and challenging spaces have taken several weeks to complete. During that time, we have had many opportunities to assess the quality of the workmanship, the attention to detail and the personability of KC Bathrooms.

Keith has shown himself to be a craftsman; he is only satisfied when a particular element of the job is completed to the highest standard and he will go the extra mile to ensure that this is done. We found Keith incredibly easy to get along with and despite our project taking a while, it was a pleasure to work alongside him in our home. We had to go away during our refit, but we had no qualms about leaving Keith with a key as he is extremely trustworthy.

To some extent, our project evolved and developed as it went along. Craig introduced us to some suppliers with which we were unfamiliar and in a particular instance, we were able to visit the supplier and see the products in the flesh; this helped greatly with our choices and decision making. Julian and Paul at The Tile Place have been excellent contacts in helping us to make decisions on the floor and wall tiles and up to date tiling techniques for making the space look its best.

Keith has been a pleasure to work with. He has listened carefully to what we have said and has understood our vision. He has explained clearly and systematically what the options are with regards to a particular issue so that we have been able to make the best choices.

Additional to our bathroom refits; we decided to adapt our cloakroom by replacing the sanitaryware and including under sink storage. Keith has adapted this space beautifully without the need to replace the existing tiles.

Our project required input from other trades- joiner and electrician. This was managed and coordinated by KC Bathrooms so that everything came together smoothly.

We have no hesitation in recommending KC Bathrooms to anyone who is looking to update or refit their bathroom in the future.

*Julia and David Cryans.*

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Celebrant Sarah Barnes and a wedding couple. *Picture by Steven Bradshaw Wedding Photographer.*

# A SENSE OF COMMUNITY... WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

**Across centuries and cultures, people have shared a need for connection, especially in times of celebration or solace. *Fiona Stubbs* learns how celebrancy is increasingly important in modern life.**

A WEDDING on a farm; a memorial service in a pub; a divorce ceremony on a beach...changing times offer increasing opportunities to mark life's most meaningful moments in ways which are as unique and individual as we are.

And, as Sarah Barnes has discovered, they have also opened up new career prospects – as a celebrant. "Celebrancy is about being there for people in times of celebration and sadness," says Sarah, who swapped life as a teacher to train as a celebrant. "As I get older, I see the value of community and people coming together more and more."

A celebrant conducts authentic, tailored services, including weddings, naming ceremonies and funerals, working with people to plan personalised experiences, which reflect their beliefs and interests. Currently, the legalities of a marriage ceremony need to be conducted separately by a registrar in what's known as a statutory marriage registration.

Sarah believes the recent growth in celebrancy reflects cultural changes in the UK. "Religion is still relevant for many people and I appreciate that," she explains. "I went to Sunday School and attended a Jesuit Catholic school. As an adult I'm not a religious person, but I respect others' beliefs.

"It's a reflection of the world we live in where we, as celebrants, can offer so much choice on how to mark those big milestones in life, so that everyone can feel included. It is my job to create a service to fit the individual, couple or family, rather than adhere to an organisation or system's rules.

"Traditional, alternative, elegant, formal or relaxed, your ceremony really can be what you want it to be. It's that feeling of community and ritual that people still look for and need – whether it's for weddings, naming ceremonies, funerals or any other significant life event."

Indeed, celebrancy is rooted in human history, ever-evolving from the rituals of ancient societies through to the modern, personalised ceremonies of the 21st century. At its heart remains the need for connection, celebration and solace, helping to make sense of life and death.

Sarah's journey to celebrancy feels like a natural progression. Born and raised in Chesterfield, she began her training and career in the hospitality industry – "looking after people and making sure everyone was cared for whether that was catering,



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Sarah Barnes. *Picture by Helen Rowan Photography.*

running a festival tea tent or arranging conferences and events" – before re-training as a food and textiles teacher.

Her teaching role expanded to include all areas of technology, Personal and Social Education (PSE) and pastoral roles, along with being backstage and costume manager in many of the school plays.

"The pastoral side of teaching always interested me the most," recalls Sarah, who now lives in Matlock. "I went into teaching because I care about the welfare of people; I thrive on being around people and I deeply valued that sense of community that you get in a school setting. It's a microcosm and your role is to support your students through all aspects of life.

"I also wanted to be creative and to be cooking and creating with children is wonderful. I think teenagers get a bad rap but they are inspiring. They have an insight and enthusiasm that maybe adults don't. I was a very happy teacher for a long time, but I just felt it was a natural time to move on. It still gives me great joy though, when ex-students shout 'Hi Miss' in town and want to tell me where their life has led them since leaving school."

A series of bereavements became the catalyst for Sarah to re-think her career. "I lost my dad, grandad, a friend and both of my in-laws within a few years and, at their funerals, I found myself thinking about the services, the stories and how we celebrate someone's life," she says. "All roads lead somewhere and suddenly the skills I'd built up over the last 25 or 30 years all made sense and I began investigating how to train as a celebrant. My life experience has led me to this moment. In my first ceremony – a funeral – I knew I was in the right place."

She reveals: "People ask me how I can remain so calm during funeral and memorial services. My answer is that I'm a custodian of other people's stories, I have a responsibility to take the helm and keep the boat steady in their grief.

"Memorial services can be a beautiful way to honour a loved one and give an opportunity for people to take their time, rather than (or as well as) being confined to a time slot at the crematorium. I led one memorial service in a pub. Several people spoke lovingly about the lady who had passed away and we lit a Unity candle. These small but significant rituals in funerals and weddings mean an awful lot to families."

Sarah finds joy in creating unforgettable and authentic wedding ceremonies, in a variety of settings. "One of my favourite weddings was outdoors, on a farm. I love it when a wedding is all about the family and, in this ceremony, one of the mums arranged all the flowers, a friend made the cake and guests helped to decorate the farm.

"I've also officiated at weddings in museums and I love traditional ones, too. Families are so diverse now and there's a growing importance on having a ceremony that's deeply personal to them. There are so many ways to get married – you can have a wonderful party with everyone you know or an intimate celebration with just the two of you."



After a marital break-up, a friend of Sarah joined up with her and other friends on a North Sea beach and they all threw paint at her wedding dress before going for a dip in the sea!

She adds: "Creating naming ceremonies, especially for babies and children born through IVF, are so special. I went through IVF myself and, when it works, it's incredible.

"All babies are special but people who've been through IVF are a different breed. It can be a very lonely, hard place to be. I don't think people always realise how precious that child is when you've had to work so hard to become a parent. A naming ceremony is a great way for it to be celebrated."

One of Sarah's most memorable assignments was a divorce – or liberation – ceremony for her friend on a blustery North Yorkshire beach.

"My friend had been through an acrimonious break-up after nearly 10 years of marriage," Sarah explains. "She was having a really hard time and said 'I just don't know who I am any more. I don't know my role. I don't know how to get back to being me again.'

"I jokingly said 'you should have a divorce ceremony' – but the idea prompted me to look them up online. The examples were all very brash, very over the top – which was not what we were after.

"Despite her difficulties, I still recognised my friend as one of the strongest people I know. She's resilient and dealt with everything with such grace. I thought 'that's the thing about her that needs celebrating'.



**Above:** Sarah Barnes after a celebrant event.

"When she felt ready, a group of us – including members of a choir my friend was part of – joined her on the beach on a cold September day. We created and gathered around a stone circle and friends read poems and words of support. Friends who couldn't join us sent messages which I read out. The choir sang.

"My friend put on her wedding dress and we all threw Holi (Indian) paint at it! After a dip in the North Sea, she changed into a sequinned jumpsuit, we reflected on her journey and placed the poems and messages into a vase. Then we went for chips. It was just lovely.

"My friend says that she still fairly frequently reads the poems and messages and they're still uplifting. She says it was very much a focus in regaining herself... and she is now in a much happier place. I saw this ceremony as supportive but also pragmatic. It was about celebrating what was good in the marriage, what she could take from the experience and be able to move forward."

Looking ahead, Sarah is keen to expand her celebrant creativity. "I'd love to do Steampunk weddings," she says. "I'm also really interested in re-enactment and themed ones. I love dressing up and already have a few suitable outfits!"

She adds: "To me, celebrancy is storytelling the chapters of our lives in the most beautiful way, ensuring that everybody involved feels included and supported in the most appropriate way.

"It's being connected to others and sharing your journeys, just like when I was teaching. You are part of people's lives during a significant time – it's an honour and a privilege."

*Editor's Note:* To find out more, go to https://www.sarahbarnescelebrant.co.uk/

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WINDOW systems, conservatories, and extensions from Eco Windows and Building Services have been setting the standards for many years in terms of service life, energy efficiency, and responsible use of resources. Their premium quality products help make an important contribution to the protection of the planet and the economy. Managed and owned by Richard, Eco Windows and Building Services demonstrates all the hallmarks of an independent, friendly, family-run business. Uncompromising integrity, unparalleled personal service, affordability, longevity, and, most importantly, sustainability is at the heart of everything they do. Every home improvement project, whether it be window systems, triple glazing, conservatories, orangeries, extensions, soffits, fascias, bi-fold doors, composite doors, warm roofs, or complete home re-models, is overseen by Richard himself. From initial meeting, through the design stages, to the final installation, Richard project-manages the entire works programme. Two in-house fitting teams undertake the works with meticulous craftsmanship.

Excellence comes as standard. REHAU uPVC window systems meet the highest requirements of BS7412 for the standard of a manufactured window. That's why Richard insists on using them. "We only use absolute premium quality products," said Richard. "And REHAU fits the bill perfectly! So does the Leka Warm Roof, for which we are a Platinum installer. Leka Roofs are expertly engineered with high-performance insulation and thermally efficient materials, enabling customers to enjoy a naturally bright and airy space without succumbing to cold drafts in winter or stifling heat in summer."

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"I am very happy with the communication by Richard both in attending to assess the problem, estimate the cost and in planning the commencing of the work. Richard identified the problem on the flat roof and devised a solution that I feel has solved the problem long term. He took photos at the various stages of his team stripping back all previous work and the reconstructing of a fibreglass roof that will not sag and pool. I am very happy with the work and would definitely recommend the company to anyone wanting a job doing at a fair price."
Reviewed on 02/05/2024



# WHEN CHESTERFIELD HAD A MARKET PLACE STATION…



**Above:** Market Place Station, Chesterfield, next to the Portland Hotel. *Picture courtesy of Derbyshire Victoria County History Trust.*

THE Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway (LD&ECR) opened in 1897 – with a station in the centre of Chesterfield – and was built to connect coalfields in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire with the Manchester Ship Canal at Warrington and a new port on the Lincolnshire coast at Sutton-on-Sea. It was a huge undertaking, and the company was unable to raise the money to build its line.

With the financial help of the Great Eastern Railway, it managed to open between Chesterfield and Lincoln. The passenger business was never buoyant, but collieries were connected to the line. The Great Eastern Railway, and other main line companies, transported coal to London and the southern counties, and the company's engines took coal to Immingham in great quantities.

Hopes of reaching the Lincolnshire coast were never fulfilled and the LD&ECR's dependency on other lines limited its future. It agreed a merger with the Great Central Railway and was absorbed by the GCR in 1907.

The Lancs, Derbys and East Coast railway station was called the Chesterfield Market Place station. The station was demolished in the early 1970s.

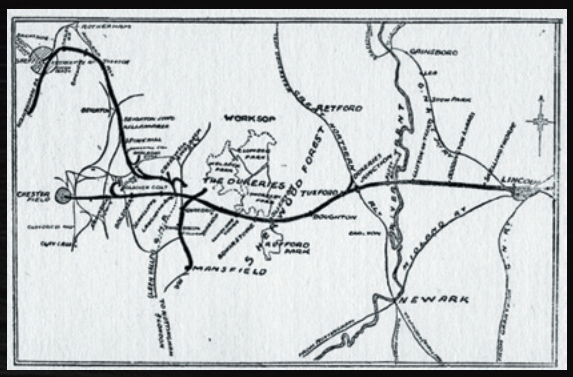
You could catch trains to Arkwright Town, Bolsover, Scarcliffe, Langwith Junction, Mansfield and Lincoln. The line became known as 'The Dukeries Route'.

The Bolsover tunnel – one mile and 864 yards long – hit problems during construction which were never satisfactorily resolved throughout its life.

Chief among these was heavy water ingress. This was tapped to supply the town of Bolsover and at 200,000 gallons (909,218 litres) per day was sufficient to supply its needs. The water problem was exacerbated by mining subsidence.

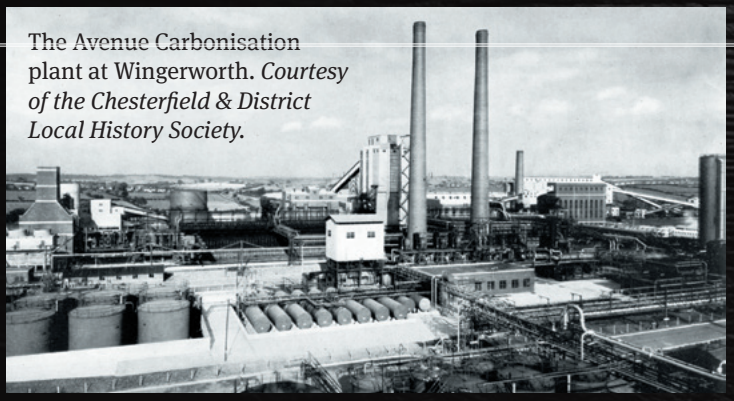
Continuing problems with the tunnel brought about the line's closure between Chesterfield and Langwith Junction in 1951 – the last passenger train was in December that year – with the whole line finally closing in 1955, with all stations closed between Shirebrook and Lincoln.

The deep cutting that took the LD&ECR line through Scarcliffe is still clearly visible from the footpath running south from the main street. It is marked by a line of dense vegetation from the site of the tunnel mouth which took the line from Bolsover under the Magnesian limestone escarpment, on which Bolsover Castle stands.




**Left:** The 'Dukeries route' from Chesterfield to Lincoln.

# IT ALL HAPPENED LOCALLY IN THE LATE FIFTIES…



The Avenue Carbonisation plant at Wingerworth. *Courtesy of the Chesterfield & District Local History Society.*

In 1956, the National Coal Board's Avenue Carbonisation plant at Wingerworth opened at a cost of £10 million.

Ogston Reservoir was created in 1958 to supply water to the Carbonisation plant, and destroyed most of the village of Woolley, with the villagers relocated into council houses in the nearby hamlet of Badger Lane, which eventually became known as Woolley on the Moor.

A year later, the National Coal Board opened its Grasssmoor Training Centre at a cost of £77,000 on the site of the former Grassmoor Colliery complex.

In the same year, 1957, the new Chesterfield Fire Station opened on Sheffield Road by Derbyshire County Council, at a cost of £74,000.

Also in the same year, Hardwick Hall and its contents were accepted in lieu of death duties by the government. The Dukes of Devonshire, who had owned Hardwick Hall for hundreds of years, transferred it to the National Trust in 1959.

Chesterfield's last remaining brewery – The Scarsdale Brewery Company, which dated back over 150 years – was taken over by Whitbread in 1958, and ceased brewing early the following year. Forty-six Scarsdale Brewery pubs and off- licences in and around Chesterfield and Sheffield were taken over by Whitbread. Its offices survive on 42 St Mary's Gate but the brewery at the rear, on Spa Lane, has been long demolished.



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Laura Jane Clark is a leading architect and interior designer as well as a much-respected TV presenter. "The revolutionary hup! home extension system is so flexible," says Laura, "it gives homeowners access to a premium, bespoke design, which can be built in a matter of days with control and reassurance over the final cost."

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"I've been totally blown away by the engineering behind the whole thing.

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# WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES, RACHEL!




READER ***Rachel Leah*** took this photo at Chatsworth at the end of January for our 2025 competition, and she says: "I noticed what looked like a person standing in the fountain, then realised it was a statue!" We all make mistakes, Rachel!

A snowy morning at Chatsworth on January 5, 'giving a monochrome effect' to the picture, taken by ***Russ Teale***, of Newbold.

Next is this image of Hardwick from ***Ken Parker***, of Matlock, taken on February 6. He says: "Snowdrops and sunshine at Hardwick Hall – harbingers of spring."

This photo was taken on January 1 at Darley Dale by ***Peter Wigglesworth***, of Matlock, showing Peak Rail's steam engine, Cathryn, in action.

Our readers' photographic competition for 2025 has a simple theme – it's 'Derbyshire Events & Attractions' – and it includes events, markets and festivals, stately homes, well dressings, sporting events and attractions from escape rooms and caverns to train rides.

The picture(s) you send into the competition must be taken in 2025 and must be in Derbyshire; and you can enter as many times as you like. We want entries from amateur snappers – commercial photographers are barred from the competition – and drone images, or pictures altered beyond recognition via software like Photoshop, will not be accepted.










Please email your entries to barrief@bannisterpublications.co.uk, giving your full name and address, a contact telephone number and a description (including the date it was taken) of the image, which should be attached as a high-res jpeg. The winner will receive a meal for two at a top local restaurant, plus the chance to have a selection of their images published in *Reflections*.

The deadline for entries is noon on Monday, October 13, 2025... so there's plenty of time to enter! ■



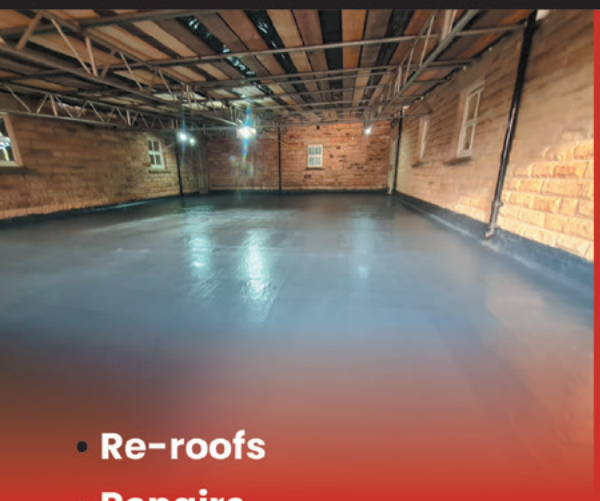
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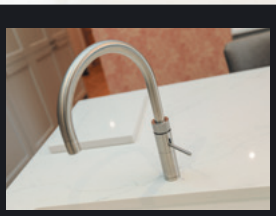
An independent, family-run business, the ethos here is focused on offering the ultimate in customer service, uncompromising integrity, and unmatched craftsmanship. The business is owned and managed by Dan Ashcroft, who works alongside his wife, Jess, and Jess's' mum, Amanda.

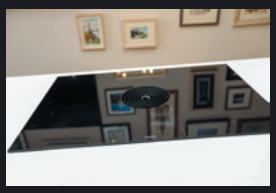
With a creativity that sits well above the norm, and a vision that sees possibilities rather than obstacles, Dan project manages the entire works – from initial concept, through to the CAD designs, installation, finishing touches, and after-sales service.

Dan coordinates all the tradesmen, who are all expert craftsmen in their respective fields, and who are all wholeheartedly committed to the company's overriding philosophy of meticulous attention to detail, exceeding expectations, and











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## A RECENT PROJECT IN CHESTERFIELD TOWN CENTRE...

This recent home improvement in Chesterfield town centre encapsulates the breadth of Dan's expertise and the scope of his creative vision.

The kitchen in itself is a masterclass in the art of maximising storage opportunities, but converting a lift shaft into an upstairs dressing room and downstairs boot room pushes the boundaries of innovative thinking even further.

The building itself had a rich heritage, with many original features. The skill was, therefore, blending the authentic characteristics with a contemporary kitchen, living, and dining space in keeping with modern-day living. Dan managed this with great aplomb. Matching existing skirting boards was one example of paying respect to the traditional aspects of the building.

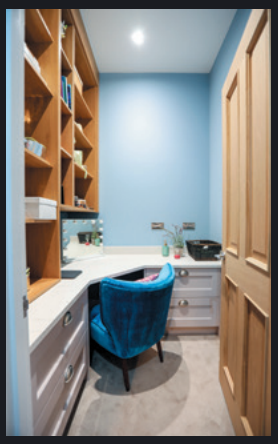
The new kitchen is a dream for a family environment. There is an island kitchen with a breakfast bar with ample sockets to cater for the demands of working

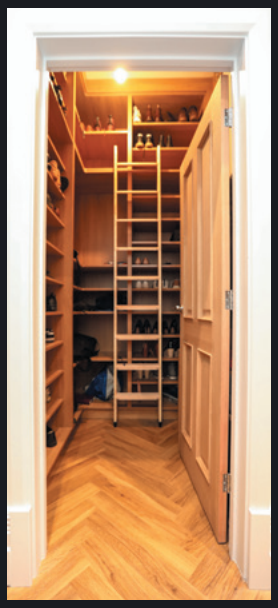
from home. There's also a peninsular island with wine fridge and fridge drawers. The colours throughout are all bespoke Farrow and Ball with 'mole's breath' and 'Purbeck Stone' being the preferred choices..

The BORA hob comprises an extractor and a cooktop with classic and surface induction. There's an amazing Qooker boiling water tap, full-length integrated fridge and full-length freezer, quartz worktops, an undermounted 1.5 sink, and substantial storage – as much as you could ever wish for.

With the high ceiling, Dan was able to maximise storage possibilities. Floor to ceiling storage at every opportunity!

LVT herringbone flooring with underfloor heating, pendant lighting, spotlights, and designer radiators completed the job nicely.









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The hidden pantry is something to behold. Just open the doors, and it appears before your eyes. And you wouldn't know it was there if you'd just come into the kitchen for the first time.

The custom-made Crittall doors on the outhouse were also a well-thought-out addition – both in terms of aesthetics, practicality, durability, and overall functionality. ■

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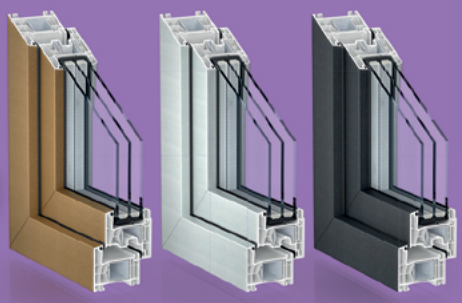
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### Traditional values

Steve is proud of the old-fashioned values which have underpinned the success of Holywell Carpets. "If I wouldn't have a particular carpet in my home, I won't put it in yours," said Steve. "Martin and I always tell customers the truth. Our business is based on a high moral code and honesty and truthfulness are at the very core of this."

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The Carpet Foundation is the UK carpet industry's lead body. As a member of the Carpet Foundation, Holywell Carpets is bound by a Code of Practice approved by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute. The Code gives customers peace of mind that they are dealing with people they can trust. Carpet Foundation retailers are audited annually by the TSI to ensure compliance.

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retailers like Holywell Carpets can pass on the savings to customers, making their prices much more competitive. ACG membership has a good number of benefits for Holywell Carpets, including enabling them to trade on equal or better terms than members of other groups or multiple outlets.

## Derbyshire Trusted Trader Reviews for Holywell Carpets

*JUST LOOK AT THESE DERBYSHIRE TRUSTED TRADER REVIEWS....*

TRUSTED TRADER
DERBYSHIRE County Council

### *Highly recommend them.*

***Reviewed on 23/01/2025***

Have used Holywell Carpets before, so felt confident that I would get a good service. Very happy with my hallway, stairs, and landing carpet. Steve and Martin give good advice and are very helpful when you're trying to choose your carpet, there is vast choice at the shop. An appointment to measure up was very prompt and once the size is confirmed they point out which carpets, because of the width required, would be the best, to avoid unnecessary waste and therefore unnecessary cost. The two fitters were very nice young men, pleasant and polite who worked quickly and efficiently together. They removed and took away the old carpet; there is a small fee for that, but I think it's well worth it. Will certainly use again; they made the whole process much easier than other companies I've used.

### *Very happy to recommend Holywell to others.*

***Reviewed on 29/11/2024***

We've used Holywell Carpets before – did a good job, so asked them about some LVT flooring for our dining room. The fitter Gareth was tidy, professional, worked hard and did a great job. He even helped with a kitchen flood we had after placing the order. We will be contacting them again.

### *Needless to say, we are extremely happy to wholeheartedly recommend Holywell Carpets.*

***Reviewed on 18/11/2024***

Don't bother to go anywhere else!!! Now that I've got your attention, read the rest, this place is excellent. Steve has been committed throughout the whole process of choosing the flooring, been flexible about paying, has kept my artistic director, the wife, very happy with his suggestions for the flooring that is! and ensured that we got what we wanted. This was all topped off today by a brilliant pair of fitters.

### *Highly recommend, will definitely use again*

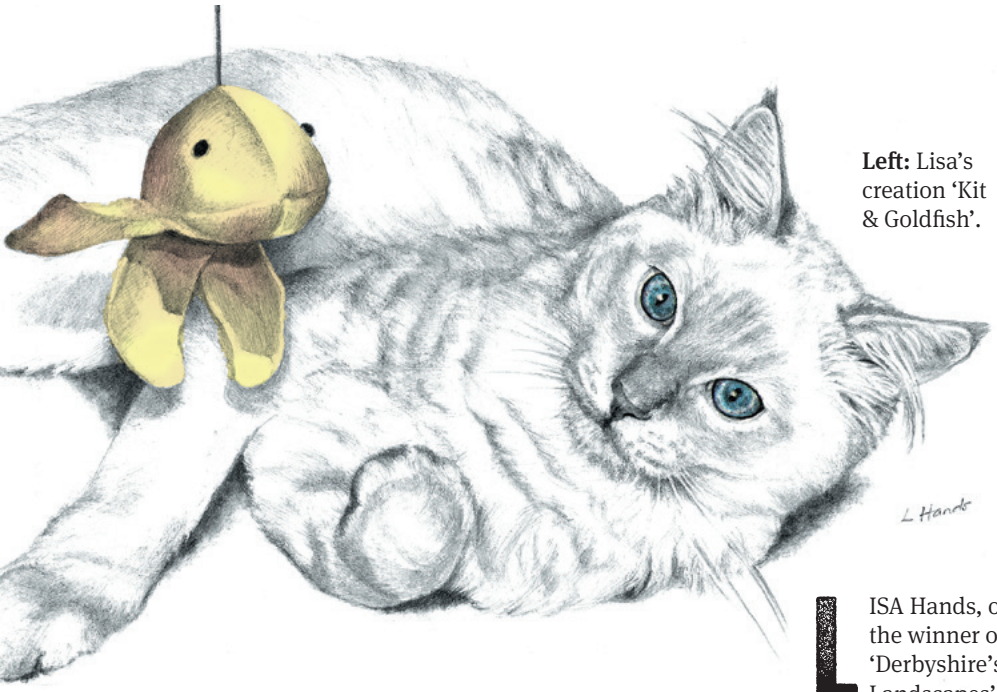
***Reviewed on 30/08/2024***

From start to finish I was very impressed with the high-quality service from Steve and also extremely pleased with my carpet. Dale fitted 3 sets of stairs and landings perfectly.

**If an honest, reliable, and courteous service is what you're after, look no further than Holywell Carpets.** ■

**Holywell Carpets,**
40 St Mary's Gate,
Chesterfield, S41 7TH
T: 01246 272 835 M: 07733 889430
E: enquiry@holywellcarpets.co.uk
**www.holywellcarpets.co.uk**

# LISA'S AN ARTIST AS WELL AS A PHOTOGRAPHER




**Left:** Lisa's creation 'Kit & Goldfish'.



**Above:** A pencil portrait of Gladys by Lisa Hands.

LISA Hands, of Sheffield, the winner of our 2024 'Derbyshire's Lovely Landscapes' photographic competition, is also an artist – so here we have a mix of her artwork and her pictures of our marvellous landscapes.

Lisa told us: "In 1980, I graduated with a Fine Arts degree from Sheffield Polytechnic (before it became Sheffield Hallam University). I've been lucky to have had work included in exhibitions locally including the Graves Gallery, 'Great Sheffield Art Show' and 'Art in the Gardens' at the Sheffield Botanical Gardens.

"I won a Best in Show for the Portraits of Distinction in 2006 when the artist Joe Scarborough was the subject and judged the portrait competition.

"Circumstances meant that I became an unpaid carer for several years and I tried to continue with my art while caring; undertaking commissions for portraits of pets and people.

"I've used different medium but my favourite is pencils. I love the effects you can get from pencils plus they are easy



**Above:** A Lisa drawing of a 'Dappled Pegasus'.

**Below:** A Lisa drawing from a faded family photo with her grandfather (far right) as a 12-year-old working on the omnibus, his first job.






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to use – and no palette with paint for a cat to walk upon! Animals are a favourite subject, as well as fantasy and portraits.

"In different phases of my life, art has been either a passion, a pleasure or a form of relaxation and, along with photography, has been a major part of my life."

Editor's Note: You can see more of Lisa's photographs, and her artwork, on RedBubble. For photos, the link is https://redbubble.com/people/HandsinFocus and for artwork, it is https://redbubble.com/people/HandsonHart

To email Lisa about her artwork, use lisahands.artist@gmail.com ■

**Above:** The Tower at Alport Castles.

**Right:** Bentley Brook flowing through Lumsdale, near Matlock.

**Bottom left:** On Stanage Edge.

**Bottom right:** Ladybower Reservoir at dusk.

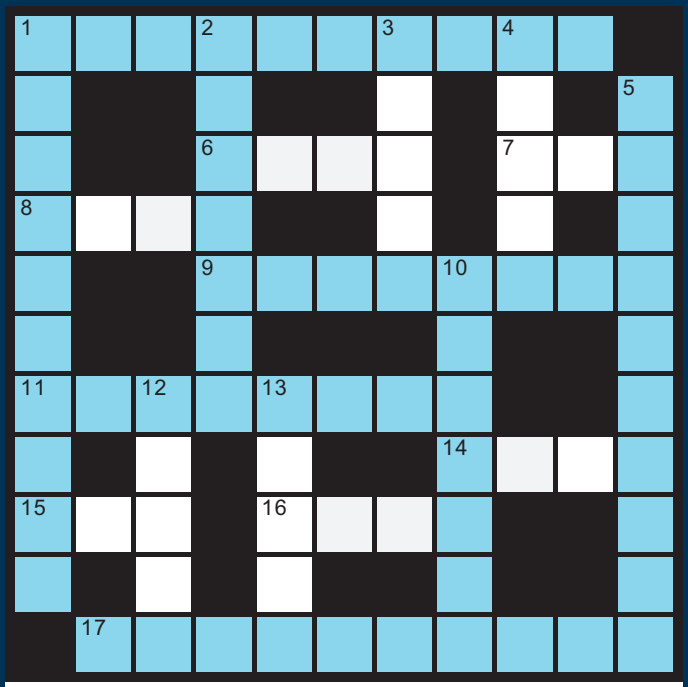




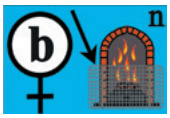





# Pitcherwits



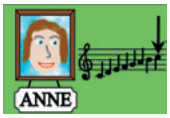
## ACROSS



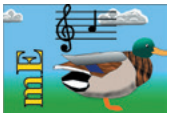

**1** Her brag, at the end, is that she can make a flavour plot (4,6)




**9** a Stress, but not strain at sham pies on display (8)




**11** Add explanatory notes to atone for ant damage (8)



**17** Greet in t' North, making cake for a pud? Yum! (2,2,2,4)

## DOWN




**1** Doggedly persist in Mayhem? A war almost! (6,4)



**2** Can be outed or caused by (2,3,2)




**5** Clearly, it's for a light wall (5,5)



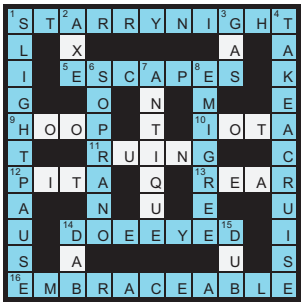

**10** End made better when modified (7)

## ACROSS

6 Prima donna is greedy, right? (4)
7 Not against a parasol for the Sun god (3)
8 Food list forever popping up on screen? (4)
14 A line around the centre is a bit close (4)
15 It's partly contained in skill (3)
16 Require to make bread, say (4)

## Down

3 Andromache, not named as a fish! (5)
4 Alleviates with measures of rum drawn off (5)
12 Spruce. Something of a gnat type? (5)
13 Put on strange gear for 100 at least (3-2)




## Pitcherwits

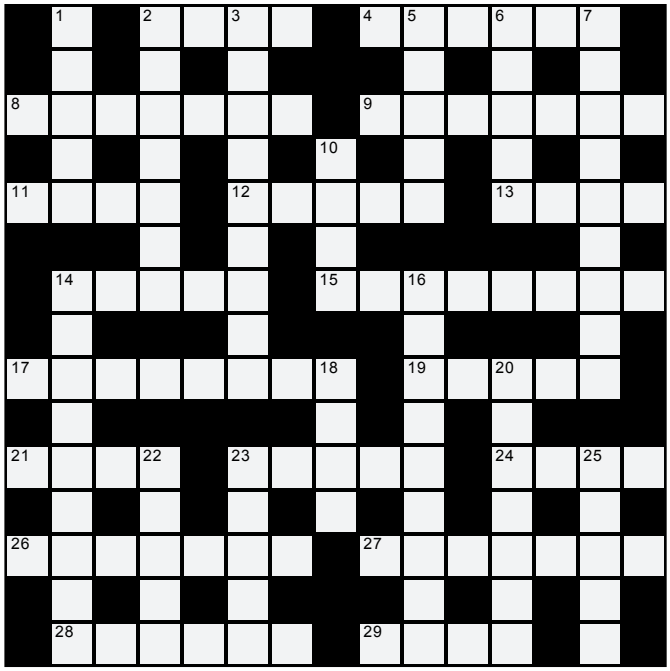
The solutions for the February 2025 Pitcherwits are shown left. The answers to March's Pitcherwits will be published in the Arpil 2025 issue.

For more free puzzles go to
**www.pitcherwits.co.uk**



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# Reflections Prize Crossword



**ACROSS**

2 Fishy, final, golden handshake (4)

4 Rye breads are not for cooking in this little county! (6)

8 "No ball!" given the Old Bob treatment in the village (7)

9 ATM hopelessly awry at the museum (7)

11 Continent is like a back-road (4)

12 Mis-trial to follow Tissington (5)

13 Prophet said to scorch (4)

14 Totted up 500? Dead silly! (5)

15 A beautiful area here; could it be likened to the Matterhorn? (4,4)

17 And 23 d. Carl's leg screws broken in border caves (8)

19 Asian river flowing from one's industry (5)

21 Grid to be found in a game shop section (4)

23 A cowl specially made in Chesterfield (5)

24 Do we give it an annual dressing down? Or is it up? (4)

26 Patriarch at the top of his game in Matlock Bath? (7)

27 Buxton Templeman, with wisdom of Biblical proportions (7)

28 Ovens are built in the East, nevertheless (4,2)

29 Viciously sued, then employed (4)

**DOWN**

1 Rooms left in a mess at Beeley and Howden (5)

2 Owns a parcel North of Grassmoor? (7)

3 Deletes Greek, unfortunately for Ashover neighbour (9)

5 Loner, unlikely to join (5)

6 MP got on the bus for bruising birthday 'celebrations' (5)

7 Serpentine way has a '57' quality about it (5,4)

10 Dispatch disc from a walkway (4)

14 Pleasant beer but, shockingly, it has algae in it! (9)

16 A door to swing randomly near Solomon's Temple (4,5)

18 It'll produce a musical rhythm! (4)

20 Stock answer for watering hole (3,4)

22 The agent's including the windmill site (5)

23 See 17 a. (5)

25 Release of easy virtue? (5)

**Name:** ..... **Address:** .....

.....

.....

..... **Telephone:** .....

We will give a prize of £25 to a randomly-drawn correctly completed crossword. Cut out the completed puzzle and send by March 21st, 2025, to: ***Bannister Publications Limited, Office 2A Market Hall, Market Hall, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 1AR***. The solutions for the February 2025 crossword can be found on page 82 of this issue.

Crossword by *Prof Rebus*




# Wedding Trends in 2025

Over recent years weddings have seen a shift in focus. Traditions are optional now.



CELEBRATING your love in a way which fits your personalities is what modern weddings focus on. Planning a day for your favourite people and making it one that they'll tell you afterwards was "so YOU!" is the goal.

If the 2020s has a wedding trend, it's authenticity. It's couples embracing who they are and styling a wedding to fit. It's realising that not everything on a wedding checklist is obligatory.

Wedding photography has become a masterclass in genuine storytelling. It's rarely about group shots or poses, but about capturing and preserving the feeling of your day.

Below are a few trends emerging in modern-day wedding planning...

**Personality.** Oodles of whatever will make your day 'you'. Not a theme, more an approach to planning, a nod to styling and a day that has your names written all over it. Couples are incorporating more of their cultural traditions into their services, as well as embracing experiential, immersive guest experiences.

**Understanding of colours, tones, and palettes.** Bold and colourful themes are in style. Couples are really savvy in styling their weddings according to what they love – and colours are at the hub of this.

**Celebrants** with all the flexibility in the world, and available everywhere, celebrants can assist greatly in helping you to translate your dream wedding vision into reality.

**New traditions.** Grandparents walking you down the aisle, pizza for breakfast, getting wed at 4pm. Keeping a firm hold on your bouquet and avoiding clichés. Some ideas to think about which go against the traditional focus.

**Less stuff.** There are 2 ways of thinking when it comes to weddings: It used to be that you have to buy stuff to have a wedding. In 2025, reconsider how much you're spending on single use wedding 'stuff' – and see weddings as experiences, not festivals of stuff!

**Sustainability.** Couples are choosing eco-friendly practices, such as zero-waste dresses, reusable decorations, and locally-sourced flowers.

**Outdoor.** Outdoor ceremonies, garden receptions, and woodland-inspired settings are popular.

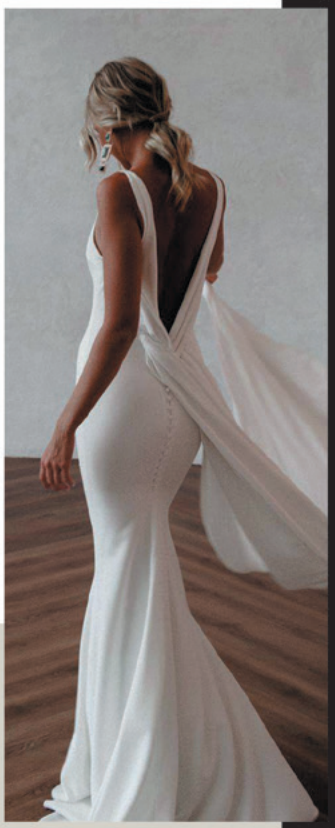

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At our Wedding Showcase events we bring our Chatsworth Suite to life to show you how your big day could look. From elegant décor to thoughtful details, our expert stylists will inspire you at every turn.

Join us for an evening of wedding inspiration and let us help you imagine your celebration at The Maynard!

| Tuesday | Sunday | Tuesday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|---|
| **18th March** | **29th June** | **23rd September** | **23rd November** |
| 5.30-8pm | 12-3pm | 5.30-8pm | 12-3pm |

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2026 offers available for January – April

## WEDDING FAYRE DATES

Join us for an afternoon of wedding inspiration at The Maynard! This is the perfect opportunity for newly engaged couples to explore our stunning venue and meet a curated selection of local suppliers, all ready to help you plan your dream wedding.

*Please enquire for menu tasting dates*

| Sunday | Sunday |
|---|---|
| **16th March** | **21st September** |
| 12-3pm | 12-3pm |



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# The Sitwell Arms Hotel
## – Your Dream Wedding Awaits in Derbyshire

THE SITWELL ARMS




NESTLED in the picturesque parish of Renishaw, Derbyshire, The Sitwell Arms Hotel stands as a beacon of timeless elegance and modern sophistication. This Grade II listed former coaching inn, dating back to the 18th century, has recently undergone a remarkable £1 million investment, seamlessly blending its historic charm with contemporary luxury.



### A Venue Like No Other

Set amidst six acres of meticulously landscaped gardens, complete with a serene lake and enchanting rose orchard, The Sitwell Arms Hotel offers an idyllic backdrop for wedding celebrations. Couples are spoilt for choice with three stunning function rooms to exchange their vows, each exuding its unique character and ambiance. For those dreaming of an alfresco ceremony, the hotel now proudly offers outdoor wedding options, allowing couples to say "I do" amidst vibrant flower beds and greenery overlooking the tranquil lake.

### Tailored to Perfection

Understanding that every couple's vision is unique, The Sitwell Arms Hotel offers a variety of wedding packages designed to suit diverse tastes and budgets. Their bespoke services ensure that each celebration reflects the couple's personal style, with experienced wedding coordinators guiding them through every detail to bring your dream day to life.



### Girl Tribe Getaways!

Looking for the ultimate girls-only getaway? Gather your Girl tribe and escape to The House at The Sitwell Arms for an unforgettable Party Weekend! Perfect for HEN PARTIES. Overlooking the beautiful lake and gardens, this spacious self-catering house sleeps up to 11 guests across 5 bedrooms, each with its own ensuite bathroom and comes with everything you need for an amazing stay—including a hot tub and games room!



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## Experience the Spring Wedding Showcase

Prospective couples and their families are invited to the hotel's **Spring Wedding Showcase on Saturday, 15th, and Sunday, 16th March 2025, from 11am to 5pm.** This exclusive event offers an opportunity to explore the newly enhanced facilities, find out about the exclusive special offers, with complete packages from as little as £3,500! Meet dedicated wedding coordinators, and envision a perfect wedding unfolding at The Sitwell Arms Hotel. Attendees can choose to browse at their leisure or schedule a personalised appointment to discuss their specific requirements. You are invited to stay for Lunch or Dinner, or a refreshing beverage in the Lounge Bar.



## Why Choose The Sitwell Arms Hotel?

- **Historic Elegance Meets Modern Luxury:** The recent investment has elevated the hotel's facilities, blending rich heritage with contemporary amenities to offer a unique and luxurious setting for weddings.
- **Versatile Ceremony Options**: With three exquisite function rooms and the newly introduced outdoor ceremony space, couples have a range of options to suit their preferences.
- **30 en-suite accommodation Options:** Including luxurious bridal and honeymoon suites, and introduces "The House at The Sitwell," a new luxury group retreat featuring five en-suite bedrooms, a games room, and a hot tub.
- **Personalised Service:** The experienced team have been creating Dream Weddings for decades and is committed to bringing each couple's wedding vision to life, offering personalised service to ensure every detail is meticulously planned and executed.
- **Unbeatable Value:** As a privately owned venue, The Sitwell Arms Hotel prides itself on delivering exceptional quality and service at competitive prices, making luxury accessible.

## Reserve Your Place Today

Spaces for the Spring Wedding Showcase are limited. To secure a spot or to learn more about the wedding packages, interested parties are encouraged to contact the wedding coordinators at:

**Email:** weddings@sitwellarms.com
**Phone:** 01246 435226

Embark on the journey to "happily ever after" with The Sitwell Arms Hotel, where historic charm and modern elegance converge to create unforgettable wedding experiences.

**www.sitwellarms.com/**

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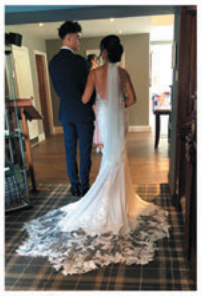
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# The Peacock at Rowsley CHANGES HANDS




THE custodianship of The Peacock at Rowsley, one of Derbyshire's historic hotels and restaurants, has passed from Rutland Hotels Ltd, owned by Lord Edward Manners, to local independent hospitality business, Longbow Venues.

The Peacock at Rowsley has been a beacon of hospitality for over 400 years. Originally a manor house built in 1652, the luxury hotel and fine dining destination has long been synonymous with elegance and excellence.

Under Longbow Venues' stewardship, The Peacock will continue to uphold its award-winning four Silver AA stars and three AA rosettes. The hotel boasts 15 bedrooms, a cosy bar and a stunning riverfront garden, designed by Arne Maynard.

All existing staff will remain, ensuring the same dedicated team continues to deliver the high standards of service and warm hospitality that guests have come to expect.

Lord Edward Manners says: "Having owned The Peacock for the last 22 years, I am delighted to now pass it on to Rob and the team at Longbow Venues; a superb local company who are doing a brilliant job with all their venues nearby. I know it is in a safe pair of hands. I wish Longbow and The Peacock a prosperous future."

Longbow Venues plans to honour the legacy of The Peacock at Rowsley, whilst listening to customers and developing new offerings.

Planned future enhancements include: reintroducing Sunday lunches and an inviting afternoon tea experience; refreshing the interiors to create a light, airy ambiance while preserving the building's historic charm; strengthening ties with local suppliers and continuing to use produce from the Haddon Estate.


Head Chef Dan Smith.





**Top:** Lord Edward Manners handing custodianship to Rob Hattersley MD of Longbow Venues.

**Above:** Longbow Venues welcome new General Manager Róbert Ciulinaru (third from left).

"The Peacock at Rowsley holds a special place in my heart, my family's, and the wider community," says Rob Hattersley, Longbow Venues' managing director. "While we are committed to maintaining the hotel's exceptional standards of food and service, we want to open our doors even wider."

Joining The Peacock as General Manager is Róbert Ciulinaru, bringing a wealth of experience from some of the UK's most prestigious establishments, including Alchemilla—a Michelin-starred fine dining restaurant in Nottingham, and Grantley Hall—a five-star luxury country house hotel in the heart of Yorkshire.

At the helm of The Peacock restaurant is head chef Dan Smith, who has been there for 18 years. Michelin-trained under Tom Aikens, Dan is known for his seasonal, high-quality approach to fine dining.

Dan's vision for the restaurant will be further refined, ensuring that the outstanding culinary standards that have long defined The Peacock at Rowsley continue to flourish.

Founder of Longbow, Rob Hattersley, while known for his premium inns and hotels, is also a classically-trained chef.

Longbow Venues is committed to preserving The Peacock at Rowsley's legacy while enhancing its offering, ensuring the restaurant continues to evolve and thrive at the highest level.

The freehold of The Peacock is being acquired by Coverland UK, which will lease the property to Longbow Venues. Longbow has a strong working relationship with Coverland, which owns three of its other properties. The Peacock reopens on 28th February

Longbow currently operates five venues: The Maynard at Grindleford; The George Hathersage; The Ashford Arms, in Ashford-in-the-Water; The Peacock at Owler Bar; and The Peacock at Rowsley. ■

# The Heart of Bakewell on a Plate

PUDDING COUNTRY
WHEATSHEAF
PUB & PANTRY











LOCATED right in the centre of Bakewell, between the river and the roundabout, lies the Wheatsheaf, a family and dog friendly country pub serving old school wholesome food prepared exceptionally well.

The Wheatsheaf was taken over by Nick and Jemma Beagrie in the summer of 2016. Nick and Jemma also run several other long established and highly reputable businesses in the local area including The Scotsman's Pack in Hathersage, the Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop, The Bakewell Bakery; The Prince of Wales and Robin Hood – both in Baslow – and The Bull's Head in Foolow.

"We're passionate about the local economy," says Jemma. "We enjoyed drinking in the pub in our younger days. Developing our businesses here seemed an obvious choice because we know the place and the people well – and we keep things local by using local suppliers, which is good for the town."

The Wheatsheaf is managed by husband-and-wife team, Jack and Lucy Fitzgerald, who boast a whole wealth of experience within the hospitality industry. Jack, the Sous Chef, has plied his trade in France for a year, and the couple have run top-quality dining establishments together in Cornwall and North Yorkshire.

The Wheatsheaf has become a mecca for locals and tourists alike. On a Sunday, they can serve as many as 200 covers – the Sunday Roast is a firm favourite here! With room for 120 seated diners at any one time, the pub has a relaxed, homely, and informal feel. The original artefacts, quirky lighting, unique ornaments, and original décor add to the comfortable ambience. Families and dog-walkers are especially welcome, with children eating free.

The driving passion is fresh, seasonal food using local ingredients complemented with local ales, fine wines, and spirits. It's a modern gastro pub with a twist, and the one thing you can most certainly guarantee here is that the portions are generous!

We were treated to a range of starters, main courses, and desserts with a view to highlighting the diversity of the menu offering. Trust me, if we'd consumed everything before us, we would have, without doubt, exploded!

The first starter to arrive before us was the Peak Platter. I would have happily cut off there, as this was a masterclass of the best of all local produce. Peakland white cheese, homemade sausage roll, locally cured ham, salad, pickles, pickled onions, and fresh bread and a Bakewell pudding, of course, from the in-house bakery.

The emphasis nowadays, as we're still in the depths of



To advertise call **01246 550488**






winter, is on well-seasoned, well textured, comfort food. Warming, flavoursome, and satisfying! This was epitomised in the leek, bacon, and stilton soup.

The Meze platter, featuring Bakewell Bakery focaccia, olives galore, red peppers, hummus, feta, olive oil, and balsamic vinegar, offered another delectable fusion of flavours. This starter/sharer can also be served as a gluten-free dish without the focaccia.

The last starter we got to sample also provided a nice mixture of creaminess, texture, and crunch. The parmesan-crusted baked camembert incorporated beef dripping and parmesan crumb, crostini, and red onion marmalade.

Here, the desire to satisfy the guests takes precedence over the chef's ego. Head chef, Joe Clayton, has carefully curated a menu, where raw honest ingredients are combined with flair and innovation to create interesting and well-balanced textures. Every single element is cooked to perfection and in harmony with the other ingredients.

The Tomahawk pork cutlet was possibly the pick. But with all the dishes being of such an excellent standard, choosing one above another was no mean feat! The pork was perfectly cooked – juicy and succulent. Served with bacon-infused mash, spring greens, wholegrain mustard, and real ale cheddar sauce, this was certainly a standout dish – the fusion of tastes testament to the talent of the chefs.

The homemade Southern Fried Buttermilk Chicken Burger with the best chips imaginable revealed the most juicy and tender chicken pieces you're likely to find anywhere. The Colonel would do well to get a few tips from these culinary craftsmen!

Our final main course came in the form of the Beef Ragú, which was slow cooked in a tomato sauce, and served with rigatoni pasta, crispy shallots, and chives. A nice balance of texture, crunch, and complementary flavours.

For desserts, we were given a winter option and a spring one. The winter option was the Sticky Toffee Pudding – indulgingly decadent, with the rich fudge, bouncy sponge, and the sweet, creamy ice cream working perfectly together. The Spring option, arriving on the menu in March, was the Pimms Tiramisu. This fresh tiramisu is a twist on the classic and features layers of Pimm's-soaked sponge and a further kick of Pimms at the bottom. Thoroughly refreshing!

The Wheatsheaf is a cosy and relaxing retreat, where a warm welcome, superbly cooked cuisine, and a full tummy are wholeheartedly guaranteed. ■

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# DERBYSHIRE'S 'TOP PET' PHOTO CONTEST

THESE are the last entries into our Derbyshire's Top Pet competition, which is now closed. Now's the time to vote if you have not already done so - see below for details of how to vote. The winners will be announced next month.




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2. Head over to the competitions page and place your vote online at: **www.reflections-magazine.com**
3. Post to us the name and number of who you want to win to: **'Top Pet', Bannister Publications, Office 2A, Market Hall, Chesterfield, S40 1AR**

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# The 'people person' who loves doing pastel portraits



Melissa Speed at work in her studio.

There are many sayings or anecdotes which refer to the human face, its appearance and expressions. However, I doubt that many could visually depict the feelings and character behind any face quite like Cressbrook artist Melissa Speed, *as Steve Brown reports.*



In the Sky Artist of the Year 2023, her self-portrait in period costume as a volunteer at Boscobel House, a hunting lodge in Shropshire, was selected by the judges as one of the winners.

MELISSA is an artist who has honed her lifelong fascination with the human image to create pastel portrayals where the onlooker is drawn into the portrait and its inner meaning. While many artists in Derbyshire have portrayed its wonderful landscapes, Melissa prefers to concentrate on the people who live and work in our county – hence her 'We Are All Derbyshire' project, doing portraits of local heroes.

Melissa hails from Bilston in the Black Country, eventually going on to university in nearby Wolverhampton to study Film and American History. Her university dissertation was based on the concept of stardom and she went on to take an MA in Film History.

Melissa fondly recalls putting together a jigsaw of a well-known portrait of King Richard III with her grandmother. However, on leaving university, she had no immediate artistic career plans to develop this further, taking on roles as a research assistant, then as a part-time librarian, as family life took over and a house move to Penkridge, between Stafford and Wolverhampton, went ahead. This was followed by a move to her present home in Cressbrook. It was on a family visit to Haddon Hall that she was inspired to pick up her pens and pencils and to start to draw again.

Her talents quickly became apparent to others at galleries and in exhibitions but, as she recalls, after experimenting with several different mediums



**Above:** A self-portrait entitled 'Something on my Mind'.

such as pencil to acrylics and oils, nothing really felt quite like "me". It was the owner of a gallery in Altrincham, where she sometimes exhibited, who suggested that she tried pastels.

This had been a medium which Melissa had thought of but lacked the confidence to try. However, she bought pastels and as soon as she started using them, realised that this was the medium for her. She felt as if the pastel sticks became an extension of her fingers and loved the tactile contact with the pastel sheets on which she painted her works. It felt like the images she constructed really stood out on the page.

Melissa likes to think of the people in her portraits having lives different to every viewer that engages with them. Having discovered pastels, a second defining moment for Melissa took



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**Above:** A Melissa portrait of singer Fleur East.

**Top right:** Entitled 'King of Folk', this is Melissa's 2023 portrait of John Tams, a Derbyshire singer-songwriter and actor.

**Right:** Another Melissa portrait entitled 'John In Thought'.

place in front of the television screen in her own home when her son Caelan persuaded her to enter a self-portrait in the Sky Artist of the Year competition in 2023. This is a televised competition where artists enter with a self-portrait created within the last five years. She decided that it should reflect when she was happy and chose when she was dressed in period costume as a volunteer at Boscobel House, a picturesque hunting lodge in the Shropshire countryside now owned by English Heritage, where King Charles the Second took refuge in 1651 and famously hid from Cromwell's soldiers in an oak tree. Her portrait was selected by the judges from thousands of entries to compete on the televised show at the Battersea Arts Centre in London and be interviewed there by Joan Bakewell! She had also been long listed for the prestigious Ruth Borchard self-portrait prize in 2023, the Jacksons painting prize and the Women in Art prize in the same year.

When she has chosen a subject, she takes many photographs of them from different angles while making mental notes of mannerisms and character while they are talking. She needs to feel that she really knows and understands a person before attempting a portrait. If this isn't possible, such as portraying an historical figure, she will take time to think about her own reaction to their image and what stands out to her to help her decide on the composition.

The first part of the process of constructing a portrait is to do a pencil sketch then start in light colours within the outlines. Once marked out, Melissa will start to work on the face, then building the features through layering and blending until satisfied with the results before finally highlighting any distinctive features or shadows. The positioning of the subject is a key element of Melissa's portraits. For example, if it is of a shy or lonely person there could be a lot of space around them in the picture. Finally Melissa will choose carefully a suitable background colour for her subjects and block this in; this will always be plain but can vary in tone and colour depending on such factors as skin tone and clothing.

While Melissa has done commissions, she very much prefers that her art reflects what is right for her. She has an extremely busy life in any case as her son Caelan is still at home and she is involved in accessibility advisory work.

Reflecting her love for King Richard III, she is the Fiction Librarian for the Richard III Society and is currently working on a project of pastel pictures depicting 100 places associated with the king in Ricardian Britain.

*Editor's Note:* You can find more about Melissa, her art and her current projects at http://www.melissaspeed.com ■

## We Are All Derbyshire'

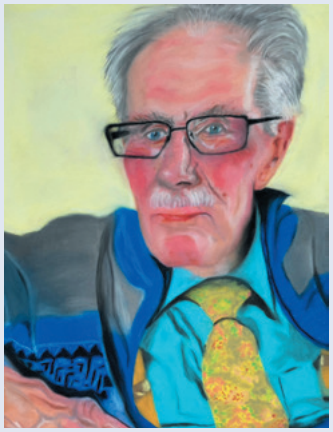
MELISSA'S biggest current project is "We Are All Derbyshire" , a county-wide portrait project which started last August. Nominations for sitters, who have made a real and positive difference to the lives of people and places in the county, were invited via seven of the county's libraries at Matlock, Heanor, Swadlincote, Buxton, Bolsover, Glossop and Ashbourne.

An overwhelming response ensued, but Melissa has finally narrowed this down to the finalists who will have their portraits painted by her and then exhibited.

This is due to start on March 28, at 7pm to 8.30pm, at the unaffiliated Glossop Labour Club then at various locations throughout the county. The portraits will be on show there for a week and will then go on display individually or in small sets across the county in places such as cafes, some libraries, bars and community centres. If anyone would like to exhibit a portrait, or two to three portraits, at their venue, Melissa would love to hear from them. It could be for any length of time up until Saturday, June 21. Email melissa@weareallderbyshire.com

More details of the venues will be found at http://www.weareallderbyshire.com after March 28.

**Below:** A Melissa portrait entitled 'Turning 96' – one of her inspirations for the 'We Are All Derbyshire' project.



# MOORCROFT AND LIBERTY'S: STILL A WINNING COMBINATION!

*By Vivienne Milburn FRICS Independent Antiques Auctioneer & Valuer*





**Left:** Two Moorcroft Hazeldene vases, designed by William Moorcroft and made for Liberty & Co, each one 42cm high, that were discovered in a box in a Derbyshire house. They made £3,900 in a recent auction.

THERE is plenty of competition at auction for big names such as Liberty's and Moorcroft. As with the pair of Moorcroft vases we have pictured, which were designed by William Moorcroft (1872-1945) for the iconic firm of Liberty & Co, London, and decorated in the classic Moorcroft tubeline decoration with the Hazeldene pattern. They made £3,900 in a specialist Modern Design auction.

You just can't stop a good trend for certain things such as Moorcroft pottery. William Moorcroft led the Art Pottery Department at MacIntyre & Co, Staffordshire. His early wares were what is known as "Aurelian" and have a Japanese influence, which was most popular at the time. They were usually printed in underglaze blue, enamelled in red and gilded.

He then went on to develop what is known as "Florian" ware, the most prevalent of British Art Nouveau ceramics. During this time, he developed his technique for "tubeline" decoration – fine lines of slip applied to the surface; these enclosures are then filled with coloured glazes. The Hazeldene pattern reflects the pottery expansion into landscape designs in the Twenties.

Marks on Moorcroft are invariably printed, sometimes impressed 'Moorcroft,' and very often have a signature 'W Moorcroft'.

William Moorcroft had started his career working for MacIntyre & Co but, as his talents became evident, he started his own range of ware as 'Moorcroft MacIntyre' and it was later that he produced designs in his own name only. Patterns are always naturalistic and include anemones, orchids, hibiscus, poppies and others.

William Moorcroft had a financial arrangement with Liberty & Co. in London that supported the production and sales of Moorcroft pottery. Liberty's was established by Arthur Lasenby Liberty (1843-1917). Originally, he was employed by Messrs Farmer & Rogers in Regent Street in 1862.

By 1874, rejected for a partnership, he decided to start a business of his own. With a £2,000 loan from his future father-in-law, in 1875, his shop sold ornaments, fabric and objet d'art, especially from Japan and the East. Within eighteen months, he had repaid the loan.

In 1884, he introduced the costume department, directed by Edward William Godwin (1833–1886), a distinguished architect and a founding member of The Costume Society. He and Arthur created in-house apparel to challenge the fashions of Paris.

In the 1880s, there was an ever-increasing demand for carpets and furniture. The basement of the shop was named the Eastern Bazaar, and it became the most fashionable place in London, Liberty fabrics were used for both clothing and furnishings. Oscar Wilde, a regular client of the store, wrote: "Liberty's is the chosen resort of the artistic shopper".

Editor's Note: Perhaps you have antiques and collectables that might be valuable? If so, it is worth getting the advice of an Independent Antiques Valuer to assess them. For further information, please contact Vivienne on 07870 238788; or go to www.viviennemilburn.co.uk or email vivienne@viviennemilburn.co.uk








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The school is a few minutes' drive from Junction 30 of the M1. Worksop and Rotherham are 20 minutes by car. It is the preparatory school to Mount St Mary's College and is true to the Jesuit principles of a Catholic education.

We truly believe the best way for you to decide if Barlborough Hall School is for you, is to come and see for yourself. Discover more at our open week from 7th – 11th October. Register now at www.msmcollege.com or call our admissions team on 01246 810511. ■








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Tenerife has the perfect mix of relaxation and rugged outdoor adventure. Sure, you could sunbathe on golden sand beaches, treat yourself to a fancy meal, or never leave your all-inclusive resort. But the island's packed with natural wonders that'll have you swapping your sandals for hiking boots in no time. Opportunity is available, of course, to spend the day at Teide National Park and explore its lunar-like landscapes, climb Mount Teide – the highest volcano in Spain – and at night, go stargazing. Or hit the open water for whale watching and next-level views of Los Gigantes Cliffs. For something more low-key, stroll through San Cristóbal de la Laguna and check out the colonial architecture, or stop by a vineyard (there's over 70 to choose from) and sample local wines.

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Rhodes is the star of Greece's Dodecanese Islands thanks to its large size and incredible history. Packed with ancient and medieval sites, gorgeous beaches, and plenty of bars and restaurants, it's easy to see why it's so popular. The UNESCO-listed medieval city is incredibly well-preserved, complete with a castle, 2.5 miles of stone walls, and a maze of streets and their modern additions: shops, restaurants, and bars.

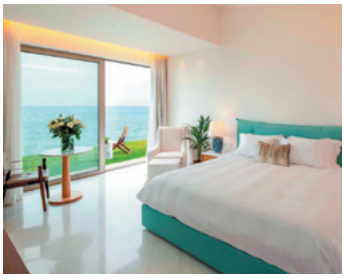
The Acropolis of Lindos is a definite must-see. Towering over the town of Lindos, this fortified historic citadel holds several ancient structures, including the Doric Temple of Athena Lindia, The Castle of the Knights of St John, and an amphitheatre.

### CORFU

Domes Miramare Hotel stands all sophisticated in a serene part of Moraitika. This beachfront oasis seamlessly blends Corfu's rich heritage with a contemporary









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style. On the northern side of the Ionian Sea, Corfu's stunning landscape inspired the setting of stories by Shakespeare and Homer. Today, those picturesque beaches and epic views still draw an audience. Hillsides are studded with whitewashed houses, Byzantine churches, and the remains of Venetian fortresses and Greek temples. Visitors can wander through the ancient streets of the Roman village of Kassiopi or explore the central Esplanade of Corfu Town.

## DUBROVNIK

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Medieval history meets breezy Mediterranean vibes in Dubrovnik, where towering stone fortresses rise from the sparkling Adriatic Sea. Visitors can meander along the ancient walls that surround Old Town to get a sweeping view of the city dotted with monasteries, palaces, and terracotta rooftops.

Lokrum Island, home to a botanical garden, Salt Lake, and Benedictine monastery dating back at least to 1023, is a great escape from the bustle of Dubrovnik.

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Above: Descending a gravel track between the two trails.

Below: Nearing the top of the embankment on the High Peak Trail.



ANOTHER bike ride this month – although one could easily walk the route – that uses both the High Peak and Tissington trails.

The route takes you through the White Peak as it heads south on the Tissington Trail to Biggin. The Tissington Trail was originally used as a passenger service linking London and Manchester.

From Biggin, the route follows lanes and gentle tracks both up and downhill towards Minninglow Grange. The route follows Minninglow Lane as it changes from tarmac to a stone track, dipping at first, then rising to join the High Peak Trail at Minninglow Hill.

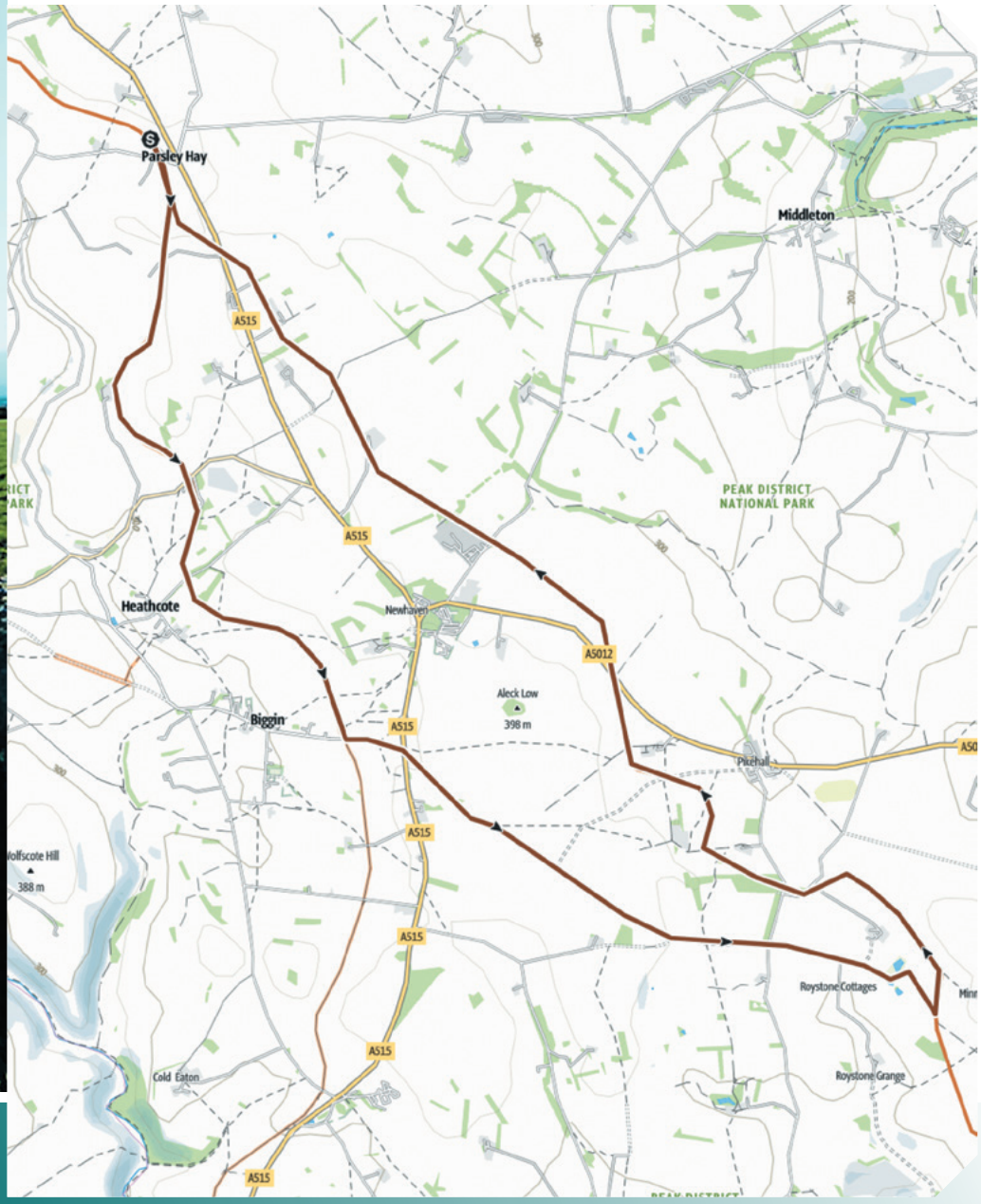
The High Peak Trail was built to carry minerals and goods over hills, linking two canals at Cromford and Whaley Bridge. The route follows the High Peak Trail all the way back to Parsley Hay.

## ROUTE

- From the café and cycle hire at Parsley Hay, turn left down the trail and when it forks, keep right, through the steep-sided cutting, on the Tissington Trail. About 3 kilometres from Parsley Hay you will reach Hartington Signal Box, with its picnic area; a pleasant place to stop amongst the trees. Leaving the signal box, continue on the trail, passing through another cutting. The land now opens up and you can see the small village of Biggin, to the right of the trail, in the distance.
- When you get close to the houses on the outskirts of Biggin, don't follow the trail across the bridge, instead, take the sloping path on the left down to the lane. There is a wooden post with a National Cycle Route (blue and red sign) with number 548 pointing you in the right direction. Turn left on the lane and follow it as it climbs up to the A515.
- Go straight across the A515 turning right to take a path beside the road. Turn immediately left up a track as it climbs gently uphill. The riding is easy and soon the climbing eases. Keep straight ahead through a gate, ignoring the green lane to the left. (To cut the route short, turn left here, descending a track to join the High Peak Trail, turning left on the trail to return to Parsley Hay. This will cut the route to 13 kilometres). The track levels out for about 500 metres, to another gate before the descent begins. The descent is on a gently rutted, gravel track. There is another gate on the route after which the track bends to the left, continuing downhill to a crossroads where you go straight across. There might be potholes on this descent. (There is another option to cut the route short here. Turn left at the



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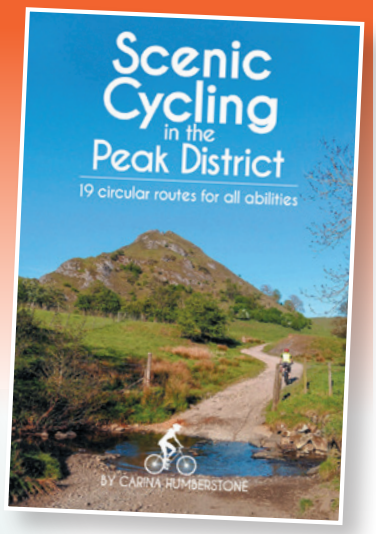
## FACT FILE

**START:** Parsley Hay car park, SK17 ODG, pay and display. There is also a cafe, toilets and cycle hire.

**DISTANCE:** 12miles/20km (with optional short cuts)

**TERRAIN:** Easy lanes and off-road tracks join the route between the two well-surfaced trails.

**TAKEN FROM:** Scenic Cycling in the Peak District (£12.99), by Carina Humberstone, published by Spiral Books (spiral-books.com). Featured are 19 circular rides of varying difficulty, with options for all abilities and different bicycles, including e-bikes.




crossroads, follow the lane for about 400 metres and take the right turn into the car park at Minninglow. From here, turn left along the High Peak Trail to return to Parsley Hay. This route is roughly 15.5 kilometres.)

- About 500 metres after the crossroads, the tarmac ends; follow route 548 as it continues straight on, descending a rough, loose, gravel track, with a gate at the bottom. The track bends left then turns sharply to the right where there is a short climb up to the High Peak Trail. Turn left on the trail to return to Parsley Hay.
- Enjoy the views from atop a number of embankments along the trail. There are several gates along the trail. Pass through the car park at Minninglow, before crossing the road between Newhaven and Cromford about 4 kilometres after joining the High Peak Trail. The brickworks at Friden are about 1.2 kilometres after the main road crossing. Shortly after the brickworks, ride through cuttings, then under a bridge and a short tunnel where the A515 passes overhead. It is not long before you once again join the Tissington Trail. Turn right here, to finish back at Parsley Hay. ■



Following the route along the trail.

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# WHAT'S ON MARCH/APRIL 2025



## WINDING WHEEL

March 21 Harry Hill: New Bits & Greatest Hits



## BUXTON OPERA HOUSE

March 24 Gareth Gates Sings



## SHEFFIELD CRUCIBLE

March 1-29 A Streetcar Named Desire

**ICON KEY**

Film Music Kids Live Dance Comedy Talk

## WINDING WHEEL THEATRE

BOX OFFICE: 01246 345 222 www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk

**MARCH**

1-27 Museum on the Move: Extraordinary Women (West Studios)
1 Peter Andre in: The Best of Frankie Valli
5-6 Far From the Madding Crowd
7 Chris McCausland
8 Sing the Musicals
14 Killer Rhapsody: A Night Of Queen
15 The Drifters
18-19 Dracula
21 Harry Hill: New Bits & Greatest Hits
22 T. Rextasy
23 Lions and Tigers and Bears with Gordon Buchanan
28 The Greatest Star: Barbra Streisand

## BUXTON OPERA HOUSE & PAVILION ARTS CENTRE

BOX OFFICE: 01298 72190 www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk

**MARCH**

2 Jon Culshaw
2 Go Now! The Music of the Moody Blues
3 Mulholland Drive (15) (Pavilion Arts Centre)
5 Kate Mosse
6 The Glam Rock Show
6 An Evening with Jack The Ripper (Pavilion Arts Centre)
7 Alison Moyet
8 Iain Stirling: Relevant
8 Sound of Springsteen
9 The Bench: A Tale from Paradise Heights (Pavilion Arts Centre)
10 Seven Drunken Nights
10 Hard Truths (12A)
11-12 Levellers Collective
13 McGoldrick, McCusker & Doyle
13 Beautiful Trauma
14 Women in Rock
14 Legends of Irish Music & Song: The Fureys (Pavilion Arts Centre)
15 Ireland the Show
15 Ed Patrick: Catch Your Breath (Pavilion Arts Centre)
16 Crooners: Uncaged
17-18 Making Space
18 Hari Budha Magar: No Legs, No Limits
20 September 5 (15)
20 Jason Donovan: Doin' Fine 25
21 Al Murray: Guv Island 2025
22 Mark Harrison Band (Pavilion Arts Centre)
22 Sexbomb: Celebrating the music of Sir Tom Jones
23 Dawn of Impressionism: Paris 1874
24 Gareth Gates Sings
24 Earnest Cole: Lost and Found (15)
25 Speakeasy
26-29 Hairspray
27 Dr Strangelove (NT Live) (15)
28 Discos for Grown Ups (The Octagon)
29 Northern Soul Night (The Octagon)
30 Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy (15)
31 Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers

## SHEFFIELD THEATRES

BOX OFFICE: 0114 249 6000 www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

**MARCH**

1-15 Pig Heart Boy (Playhouse)
1-29 A Streetcar Named Desire (Crucible)
4-8 The Girl On The Train (Lyceum)
8-12 Dear Evan Hansen (Lyceum)
20–May 31 & Juliet (Lyceum)

## Sheffield City Hall

BOX OFFICE: 0114 2 789 789 www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk

**MARCH**

2 Boyzlife
3 Alison Moyet
6 James Martin Live
8 Ellen Kent: Madama Butterfly (Oval Hall)
9 Speakeasy
13 Luther Live: A Luther Vandross Celebration
13 Lou Sanders: No Kissing in the Bingo Hall (Memorial Hall)
14 Matt Goss: The Hits & More
15 John Bishop: Back at It
18 Mike and The Mechanics
19 An Evening with Sheffield Wednesday Legends
20 Seven Drunken Nights
21 Sheffield International Concert Season
22 Kim Wilde
23 Dr Rangan Chatterjee (Oval Hall)
24 The Repair Shop Live (Oval Hall)
26 John Shuttleworth: Raise The Oof
27 David Gray
28 Gareth Gates

## Sheffield Arena

BOX OFFICE: 01142565656 www.sheffieldarena.co.uk

**MARCH**

1 Steelers v Blaze
8 Netball Super Cup
9 Steelers v Clan
15 Steelers v Flames
16 Steelers v Devils
22 Steelers v Storm
29 Steelers v Stars

## Other Events

**MARCH**

1 Mark Boden Flamenco con Fusion at The



To advertise call **01246 550488**

**Grand Pavilion, Matlock Bath.** An enchanting nigh of Flamenco music with Phil Philo on guitar. Tickets £10. Doors: 7.00pm

**2** **Antiques & Vintage Fair at Cromford Mills.** An ideal chance to browse quality antiques, relics and vintage collectables. 10am to 4pm

**4-5** **Ashbourne Royal Shrovetide Football.** Played in Ashbourne every Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, this exciting and dramatic game is thought to be one of the oldest forms of football in the world. The game starts each day at 2pm, when the ball is 'turned up' from a stone plinth on Shaw Croft car park

**5** **Holymoorside Horticultural Society.** Jeff Bates presenting a talk on 'Plant Propagation' at 7.45pm. URC meeting room, Cotton Mill Hill, Holymoorside. All welcome

**6** **Matlock Railway Club.** Duke William, Church Stree, Matlock, 7.30pm. Speaker Colin Boocock on 'Railways through the Mountains'. Non-members welcome. For details call 07900 244 913 or visit www.matlockrailwayclub.wordpress.com

**14:** **Dethick, Lea & Holloway Horticultural Society.** Talk on 'Scents & Desirability' by Dr Andrew Ward at the Florence Nightingale Hall, Lea, 7.30pm. Andrew's tries to unravel the mysteries of why plants produce both scented flowers and aromatic foliage and illustrates why we should use scent to its full potential in our gardens. Plants from Andrew's nursery will be on sale. £2 entry for visitors.

**15** **Chatsworth House, Garden, Farmyard and Playground reopen for the season.** Become a Friend and support the work of the Chatsworth House Trust charity while enjoying unlimited visits to Chatsworth during open season, free tickets to the most popular events including Christmas and country fair, and discounts on shopping, dining and stays. Visit chatsworth.org/friends

**17** **Oxfam Spring Sale at Bakewell Town Hall.** Bric-a-brac, jewellery, books, crafts, plants, home produce and children's toys and games. There will also be a tombola and refreshments, including delicious home-made cakes. Free entry, donations to Oxfam welcome at the door, 10am to 12.30pm. If you have any goods to donate, ring Daryl on 07729 309874; they can be collected.

**20** **Matlock Railway Club.** Duke William, Matlock, 7.30pm. Speaker Stephen Flinders on 'The Ilkeston Electric Tramway'. Non-members welcome.

**22** **Pre-Loved Fashion Pop-Up Market at Peak Village.** Join the slow fashion movement at our Vintage and Pre-Loved Fashion Pop-Up market, hosted by Baxter and Co. 10am to 4pm

**22** **Belper Model Railway Exhibition** at the Strutt Centre, Belper, 10am-4.30pm.

**27** **Film Night at Loundsley Green Community Centre.** The 2024 hit 'Fly Me to the Moon', starring Scarlett Johansson. Doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm showing.

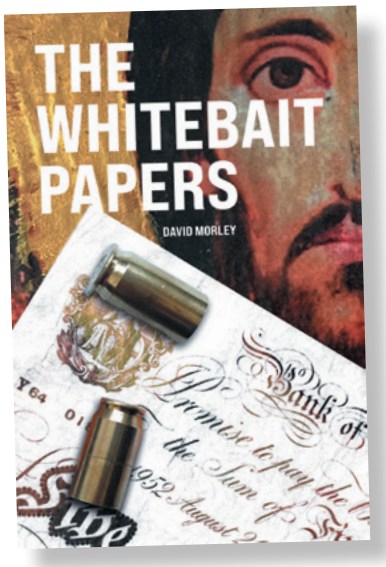
**28** **Darley Dale Horticultural Society.** Pottering with the potty plotters. 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, Darley Dale (temporary venue). All visitors welcome – come along and enjoy an evening with tea and cake

**28-30** **Makers Market at Thornbridge Hall.** Mother's Day Weekend. Celebrating the incredible talent of our local, independent makers and creators! With over 30 stalls, discover a wide range of handmade products, from artworks to fashion accessories, delicious food and much more! For booking and more information, visit: www.thornbridgehall.co.uk

**SUBMIT YOUR LISTING OR EVENT**
Please email your information including dates to **whatson@reflections-magazine.com** before March 21st, 2025, to appear in the April 2025 issue.

BOOKS

# The Whitebait Papers *by David Morley*






DAVID MORLEY'S *The Whitebait Papers* is a unique mix of memoir, real-life policing stories, and personal reflection. Growing up with his father, Detective Inspector Eric Morley, David was exposed to crime scene photographs and police cases from an early age. Eric spent 30 years with Derbyshire Constabulary, mainly in CID, and later worked as an investigations officer for the Jockey Club. His experiences, and the stories he shared, left a lasting impression on his son.

David's own career took a different path. After leaving school, he studied at Chesterfield College before working in sports coaching and education, including with Special Educational Needs (SEN) students. It was during this time that he first learned about ADHD—a condition he would later recognise in himself. His struggle with spelling and punctuation never stopped him from writing, and over the years, he sold story ideas to publishers and scriptwriters. His first book, The Doubleday Connection, was based on a family discovery linked to Special Branch, but after a London publisher tried to reassign it to an in-house author, he withdrew it.

Encouraged by his former tutor Caroline Lucas, David continued writing, eventually pulling together his stories and experiences into *The Whitebait Papers*. Now, thanks to Bannister Publications, he has finally achieved his goal of being published.

Editor's Note: *The Whitebait Papers* is available in paperback from www.bannisterpublications.com or Amazon. ■

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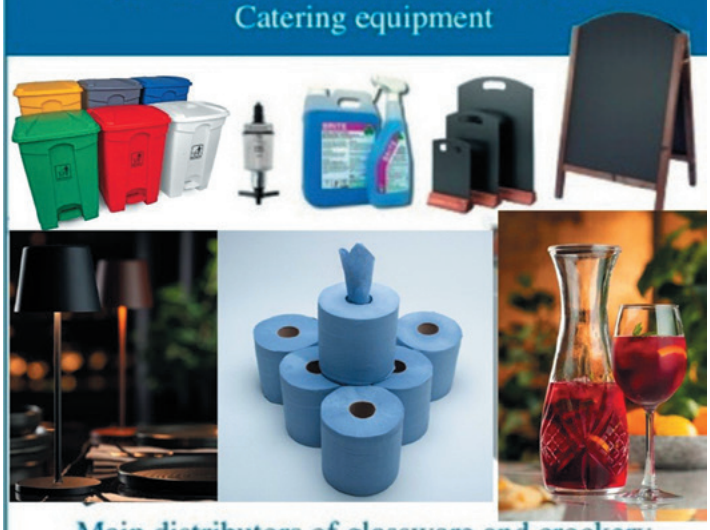
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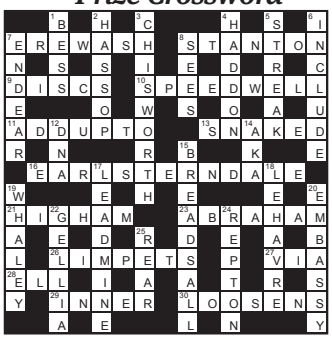
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## Reflections Prize Crossword

WINNER



Congratulations to **A Hulme** of Bolsover, who won the February 2025 crossword. They won £25

Why not have a go at the March 2025 crossword on page 53

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