

## Derbyshire Dales

- The name 'Derbyshire Dales' has been recognised by residents, travel writers, poets and authors for centuries, and was quoted in a poem by Eliza Cook in 1884.
- It derives from the 90 or so named Dales within its boundaries. A book published by the Board of Agriculture in 1811 lists 50 'Dales of Derbyshire', all but eight of which lie in the present Derbyshire Dales. The name 'Dale' comes from the Celtic word 'dael', meaning valley.
- Robin Hood's faithful companion Little John is reputed to have been buried in Hathersage Churchyard, and the 10 feet long grave can still be viewed today.
- Tideswell Church, known as 'The Cathedral of the Peak', is said to owe its beauty to it being built over only 60 years. The nave, aisles and transepts were started about 1340, with the chancel and tower added at the end of the century. Building is said to have been interrupted by the Black Death.
- Known as one of the Wonders of the Peak, Chatsworth House is the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, and is linked with such famous historical figures as Bess of Hardwick, landscape gardener Capability Brown and Joseph Paxton of Crystal Palace fame.
- In 1665 Eyam isolated itself after the Bubonic Plague arrived at the house of the village tailor via a bundle of cloth from London. It lasted 14 months, and at least 260 villagers died – the last on 1 November 1666. A remembrance service is still held every Plague Sunday (the last Sunday in August) at Cucklett Delf, Eyam.
- Ashbourne is home to the annual Royal Shrovetide Football game on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. First recorded in 1682, the historic event pits one half of the town, the Up'ards, against the other, the Down'ards, between goals set three miles apart. The historic event is portrayed in an abstract statue, The Hug, designed by local artist Neil Hawksworth.
- Author Mary Ann Evans – better known as George Eliot – wrote about Wirksworth in her novel *Adam Bede*, re-naming it 'Snowfield'. The characters Adam Bede and Dinah Morris were based on her uncle and aunt, whose Adam Bede Cottage still stands at the southern end of the town.
- The Bakewell Pudding is said to have been invented accidentally around 1860 at the White Horse Inn, now the Rutland Arms. A visiting nobleman ordered strawberry tart – and instead of stirring the egg mixture into the cake, the cook spread it on top of the jam, leading to a delicious mistake.
- The annual Matlock Bath Illuminations have been staged since 1897, and were first held to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. They transform the river Derwent and its banks into a shimmering rainbow of colour each evening from the beginning of September until the end of October.