

The Peak District's Historic Border Country

- Legends abound as to how Chesterfield parish church's famous 'Crooked Spire' became twisted. The most popular is that it was so amazed to hear of a virgin being married there that it twisted round to try and see such a wonder for itself. It's claimed that, should the same thing happen again, the spire will straighten.
- Though Chesterfield's crooked landmark happened by accident, there are more than 70 European destinations – in places such as Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland – where the local church spire was deliberately built with a twist.
- Railway pioneer George Stephenson came to Chesterfield in 1835 to survey the route for the North Midland Railway from Derby to Leeds. Stephenson died at Tapton House in 1848 and is buried inside Holy Trinity Church.
- The original 'Material Girl', Bess of Hardwick (1527-1608), rose from humble beginnings to amass great wealth and power. Second only to Queen Elizabeth I herself, she married four times and is associated with three great houses – Bolsover Castle, Chatsworth and Hardwick Hall.
- Renishaw is famous for its Italianate gardens, but also has a vineyard planted in 1972 and until 1986 was the most northerly in the world. Today there are vineyards in the Lake District, Yorkshire and as far north as Norway.
- Famous philosopher Thomas Hobbes – who led the change from medieval to modern thinking – is buried in the Cavendish Chapel at Grade I listed St John the Baptist church at Ault Hucknall on the Cavendish estate. The yew tree in the churchyard is said to be between 2,000 and 4,000 years old.
- The sleepy village of Old Brampton is a place where time really does pass slowly, as, for some unknown reason, the church clock counts 63 minutes to the hour.
- Internationally important Creswell Crags, one of the most northerly places on earth to have been visited by our Ice Age ancestors, is the only place in Britain where rock art has been found. The Visitor Centre, opened by Sir David Attenborough in June 2009, tells the story of how early man lived 10,000 years ago.
- Two of Chesterfield's most famous sons were Caleb and Gilbert Heathcote. Caleb emigrated to America and was Mayor of New York three times, while Gilbert stayed at home and became Governor of the Bank of England and Lord Mayor of London.
- The Cock and Pynot (dialect for magpie) alehouse at Whittington Moor was used as a secret meeting place to plan the downfall of King James II in 1688 and hatch the plot that put William and Mary of Orange on the throne. The alehouse, now a museum, is aptly known as Revolution House.