

THE MONSAL TRAIL, DERBYSHIRE 22nd - 29th JUNE 2013

In June 2013, six members of Surrey County Walkers went to Derbyshire to walk the Monsal Trail, the old railway line from Matlock to Buxton. We stayed in Matlock Bath, which lies in a deep gorge of the River Derwent, earning the town the nickname 'Little Switzerland'.



We stayed in a hotel with views overlooking Matlock Bath.



We arrived on Saturday 22nd June and started walking on the Sunday. We started walking through the woods between Matlock Bath and Matlock



and, after reaching Matlock, we followed the Derwent Valley Heritage Trail

northwards.



In the distance, we saw a steam train of the preserved steam railway, 'Peak Rail', which operates between Matlock and Rowsley.



The walk finished outside Rowsley and we took the bus to Bakewell to stock up on the famous tarts.

The next day, we visited Chatsworth House.



There is a spectacular fountain in the park.



The next day, we took the bus to Bakewell to start walking the old railway line. We left Bakewell by crossing a bridge



over the river Wye.



The walk starts at a viaduct about a mile outside the town.

THE MONSAL TRAIL, DERBYSHIRE 22nd - 29th JUNE 2013



During the walk, we could see Bakewell in the distance.



Along the route, there are various signs describing the walk.



We reached Bakewell station.



The next station was Great Longstone.



The next station was Hassop, which is now converted into a tea room.



The walk now passed through Headstone tunnel.



The tunnels on this route have now been re-opened and equipped with electric lighting.

We left the railway path at Monsal Head to climb up to the road above, to have lunch at the pub. Looking down provides views over Monsal Head viaduct.



Returning to the railway path, we walked over the viaduct.



We saw an old mill in the distance.



The next tunnel was Cressbrook.



After leaving Cressbrook tunnel, we had views over the River Wye



then we passed through Litton tunnel.



We left the railway path at the junction of paths to complete the day's railway walk.

We walked up through a nature reserve,



steeply uphill past an old quarry.



Once we had reached the top, we continued across farmland.



where the farmer was cutting grass for hay. Typical dry stone walls separated the fields.



The walk ended at the village of Taddington where we took the bus back to Matlock Bath.

The next day, we retraced our steps to the railway path and continued along it.



The path was popular with walkers and, particularly with cyclists, even one with a tandem tricycle.

We continued over Millers Dale viaduct



and on to Millers Dale station.



We went through Chee Tor tunnel.



and Rusher Cutting tunnel.

THE MONSAL TRAIL, DERBYSHIRE 22nd - 29th JUNE 2013



We passed limestone cliffs.



until we reached a main road where we could catch a bus to Buxton and then one back to Rowsley, where we caught the Peak Rail train to Matlock.



The railway walk ends at Chee Dale.



We spent the next day in Matlock Bath, going up to the Heights of Abraham on the cable car.



Good views of Matlock Bath were obtained from there.

We continued beside the river through Wye Dale



We visited the underground mines there which showed how important mining for metals once was in the Peak District.

We saw a peacock in the grounds.



For the last full day we walked the Derwent Valley Heritage Trail southwards from Matlock Bath. We visited the textile museum at Sir Richard Arkwright's Mill.



which is situated beside the River Derwent



and saw the old looms in operation.



The walk continued by the Cromford canal.



and past the High Peak Junction railway site.



The walk continued to Ambergate for a late lunch in a pub and the train back to Matlock Bath.

We then returned home from Matlock Bath.