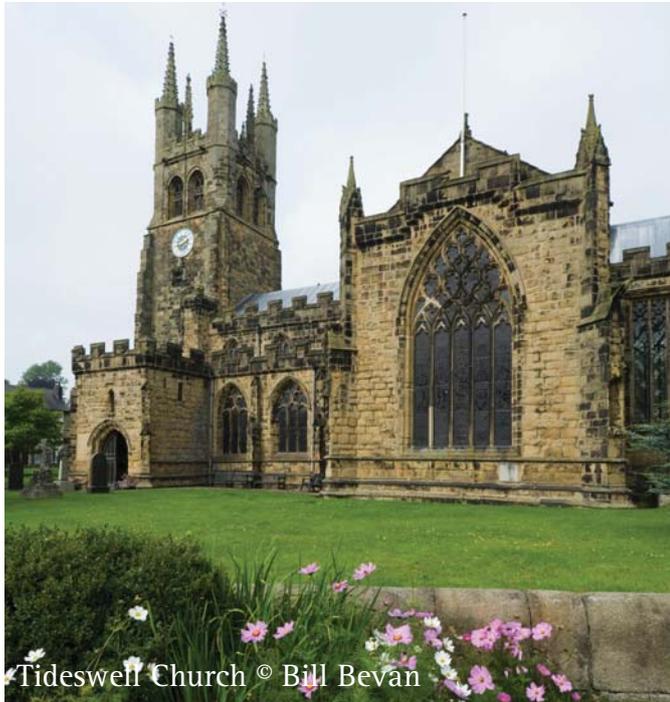


Explore

Tideswell's Hidden Histories *a self-guided trail*



Tideswell Church © Bill Bevan

Travel back in time to discover there is more than meets the eye in this ancient village that boasts the Cathedral of the Peak and once had a thriving silk industry, cattle market and picture house. Follow in the footsteps of characters whose stories lit up Tideswell's streets.

Start and Finish: Bank Square Garden.

Distance: $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, 1km

Time: Allow 1 hour

Difficulty: Easy

Route: The trail is along the footpaths and lanes of Tideswell village. It is suitable for buggies and mobility scooters as well as walkers. Most of the route is level with one moderately steep incline up and one longer one down. There are drop kerbs along the length of the trail. Cafes, pubs and shops offer refreshments, and children's playgrounds are at either end of the village.

Transport: For buses visit www.traveline.org.uk or call Traveline on 0871 2002233. There is no pay and display car park in Tideswell.



Begin at the visitor panel next to the Co-Op in Bank Square Garden.

1 Cathedral of the Peak

The church of St John the Baptist is known as the Cathedral of the Peak because of its size and beautiful design. It gets its stately uniform appearance because it was built in just 60 years during the 1300s AD. The lofty arches and airy windows so enthused Sir John Betjeman he called it a 'grand and inspiring church'.

Walk past the church as if heading out of town and go along Commercial Road. The hollows in the pavement are above old graves. Look across the road for the house to the left of Tindall's.

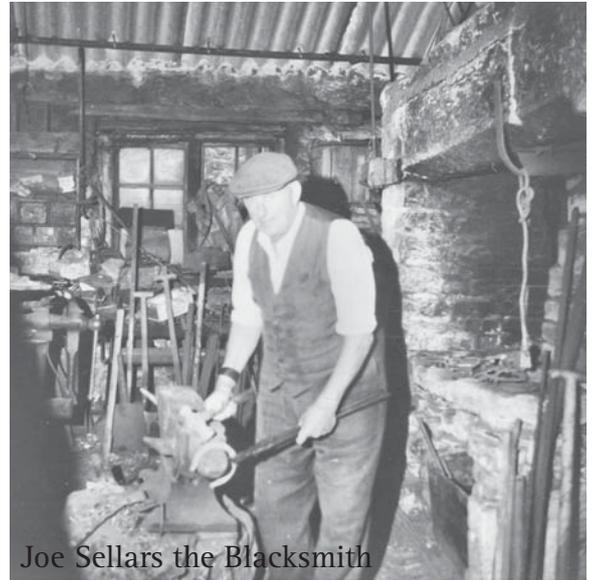
2 Saddle Up

Can you see the big nails on the house wall? Bill Palfreyman used to hang saddles and harnesses from the hooks during the early 1900s.

He was a saddler, and made all sorts of leather horse equipment for local farmers before tractors took over the heavy farm work. These hooks are a clue to the days when horse-power was fuelled with oats rather than petrol. Business must have been good as Bill lived in the grand house next door.



Palfreyman's Saddle Shop



Joe Sellars the Blacksmith

Continue along Commercial Road until you reach The George Hotel next door.

3 The Strongman and the Anvil

The George Hotel was built in 1730 as a coaching inn. Within sixty years it was famous for its cold roast beef and pigeon pie.

More recently it was the scene for a strong-arm dare that left five Tidza men with an eye-watering challenge in the early 1900s. Local strongman Bertie Blackwell worked as a dustbin man and could easily lift the bins even when pesky kids filled them with stones. One night someone at the George annoyed him so much he carried the blacksmith's anvil across the road and dropped it in the pub. It took five men to carry it back again.

The blacksmith's shop was in the small building with the large garage doors next to the Tideswell Dale Rock Shop. It was common to see the blacksmith shoeing horses in the street until the 1960s.

Look along Commercial Road to spot the large Markovitz building.

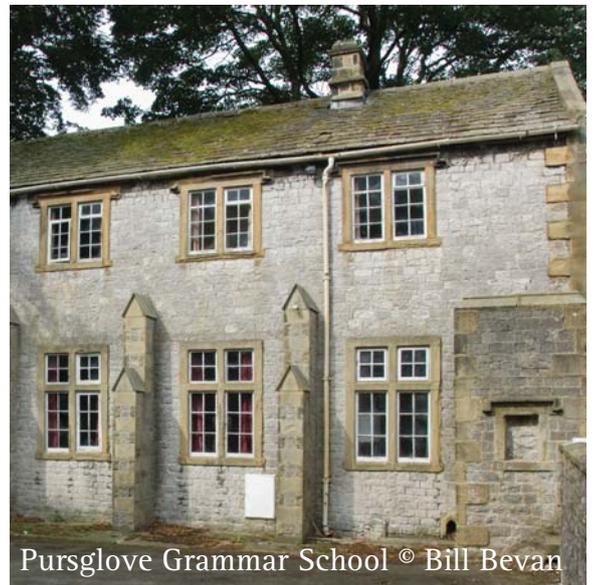
4 Grit and Polish

You might guess that Markovitz isn't a local Derbyshire surname. In fact it comes from 1,200 miles to the east in Plock, Poland. Phillip Markovitz brought his

family to Manchester in the 1880s where he set out across the Peak District selling wares from a horse-drawn travelling shop. He was so attracted to Tideswell he moved his family to the village. His sons Maurice and Max founded M. Markovitz Ltd as ironmonger, hardware dealer and motor engineer. The business is still family-run and has expanded into building supplies, kitchens and bathrooms.

There is a playground a short distance beyond Markovitz if you are with children who need to let off some steam.

Take the alleyway between the George and the church and continue behind the church.



Pursglove Grammar School © Bill Bevan

Continue between the library and the church to exit the churchyard through the gates in front of you. Before you leave the churchyard, look out for the graves of two famous eighteenth-century Tideswell folk by the wall on your right.

William Newton was the manager of Cressbrook Mill who gained fame as the Minstrel of the Peak for his poetry.

Singer Slack was a bass singer who became a favourite of Georgina, Duchess of Devonshire, and sang for King George the Third. After he sang in a competition for a place in Cambridge's College Choir none of the other entrants had the nerve to compete against him.

Keep going straight ahead then turn right along the narrow lane to pass the grand Old Vicarage and enter the Market Square.

5 School Books

This is a library with a past. The books are shelved in what used to be the Robert Pursglove Grammar School, founded in 1559 by Bishop Pursglove who twice lost office because of Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries. The building set-back to the left was also part of the school.

Look out for the plaque on the library wall. It refers to child workers from Litton Mill buried in the churchyard. Litton Mill was infamous for its cruelty to its child workers in the 1700s. The mill owner brought child orphans from London where they were subjected to slave-like conditions and brutal punishments. Life expectancy was sadly very short.



Tideswell Cattle Market

6 Cattle Market

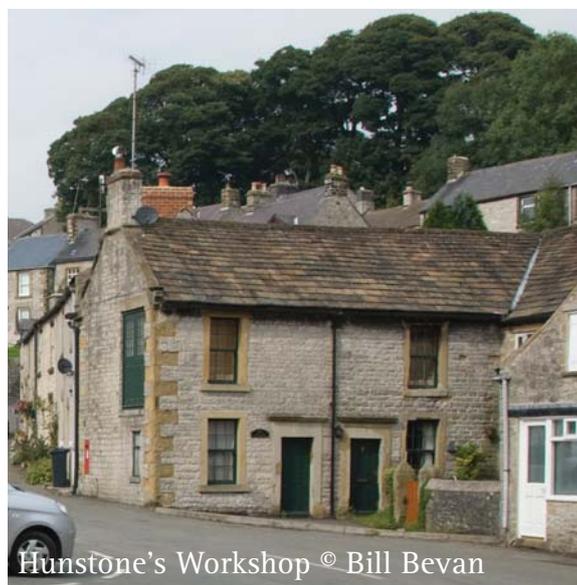
Imagine jostling for space in this small market square with cattle, pigs, sheep and auctioneers. Livestock, farmers and merchants descended on the square for a monthly cattle market and quarterly cattle fair. The noises of the animals were matched by the shouts of buyers and sellers. The square also filled with the smells of the farm and meant a lot of cleaning up afterwards – which was good for someone's roses.

Tideswell was granted its market charter in the 1250s to sell butter and eggs as

well as livestock. It ran for almost 700 years until the last cow was bought here in the 1930s. The market was ringed with inns to satisfy the thirst and hunger of everyone attracted to Tideswell for the day.

Tideswell's cattle market was so famous in its heyday that D.H.Lawrence mentions it in 'The Virgin and the Gypsy', written in 1926 - "I hope to see you again one day, maybe at Tideswell Cattle Fair."

Look across the market square to the tall building with the ornate front.

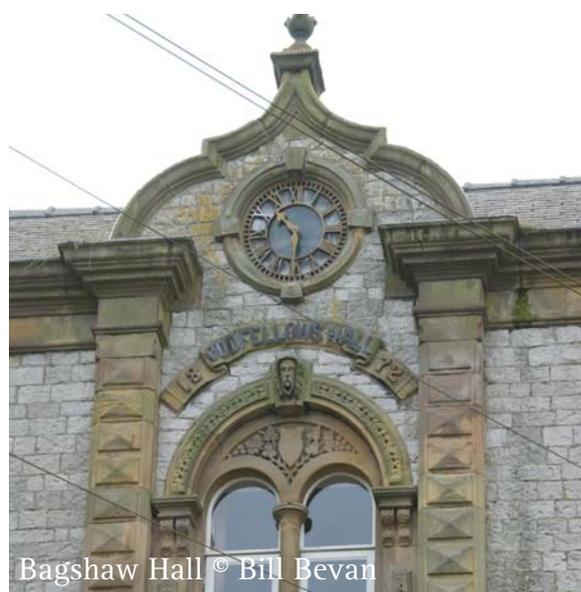


Hunstone's Workshop © Bill Bevan

7 Picture This

The grand Bagshaw Hall opposite Hunstone's workshop is an unlikely looking place for Tideswell's kids to follow the yellow brick road to Oz. It was originally built in 1872 as a meeting hall for the Oddfellows, a mutual friendly society founded in 1810 and still going strong. It was converted into 'The Picture House' in 1921. Generations of filmgoers were entertained here, queuing down the steps three times a week to see the latest Hollywood epics, romances, comedies and thrillers.

Look for the small building on the opposite side of the market place from Bagshaw Hall. It appears to face end-on into the market and has the red post box in its wall.



Bagshaw Hall © Bill Bevan

8 The Woodcarver's House

Advent Hunstone moved here in the 1890s, turning what had been a pub into his woodcarving workshop. It was here that he, his brother and nephews made their ornate carvings for churches across the country including Tideswell church and Blackburn Cathedral.

Continue along the market place on the same side of the road as Bagshaw Hall and take the first road on your left up Sherwood Road.

9 You're Nicked!

You would not fancy spending a night within these walls. This was once the local Constabulary and gaol. The high grey wall enclosed a courtyard and reputedly had rocking stones along the top to prevent prisoners climbing out.

Walk along Sherwood road for quite a while until you come to Summer Cross on your right.

10 Silky Street

You are now in one of the heartlands of industrial Tideswell - once the Peak District's mini Manchester of textile mills. The air rattled to the sounds of wooden looms in three silk weaving workshops and a cotton mill during the 1800s. Silk workshops occupied numbers 7 and 8,

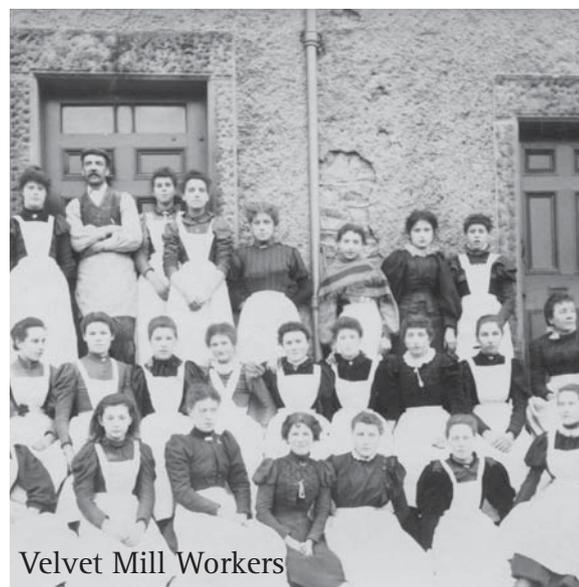
just after the junction with Summer Cross. If you look up just past number 7 you'll see a tall building with rows of windows. This was a cotton mill that then made fancier velvet between 1890 and 1933.

Another silk workshop was in the stone house called Newton's Workshop, which has eight windows on two floors a hundred paces or so along the road on your left.

Weavers worked on handlooms by windows, making silk cloth from thread spun on bobbins in people's homes. The workshop owners could fit in as many looms as they had windows.

Continue along Sherwood Road for a while looking out for the names of the houses named after wells. One of these wells supplied the village water tap in the middle of Fountain Square for everyone to use.

Go down Primrose Lane on your left and turn left at the bottom to come to Cherry Tree Square.



waiting room was the pavement and he was so popular that queues of pets and their owners would back up right past the church whatever the weather.

Walk along the main road (Queen St).

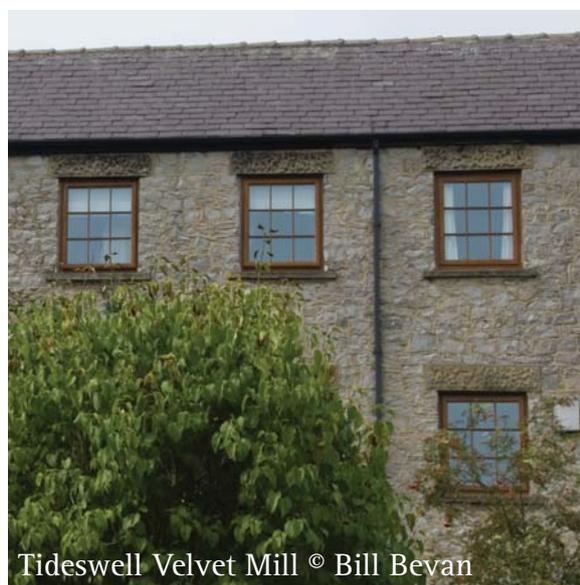
Buggies and scooters will need to use the drop kerb on to the road just after the public toilets.

You will pass the site of the village's original water tap which was near the modern fountain outside the Methodist church.

Take the left fork at the stone war memorial with the cross. Look for the W.I. notice board on the building wall at the start of a back lane. Pause the audio until you reach the lane.

11 Pavement of Poorly Pets

Look on the other side of Queen Street for No 24, two houses to the right of the Catholic church. This was Michael Gratton the vet's house where many a cat, dog and budgie was brought from as far as Manchester to be treated. The



12 Secret Pints and Dodgy Wheat

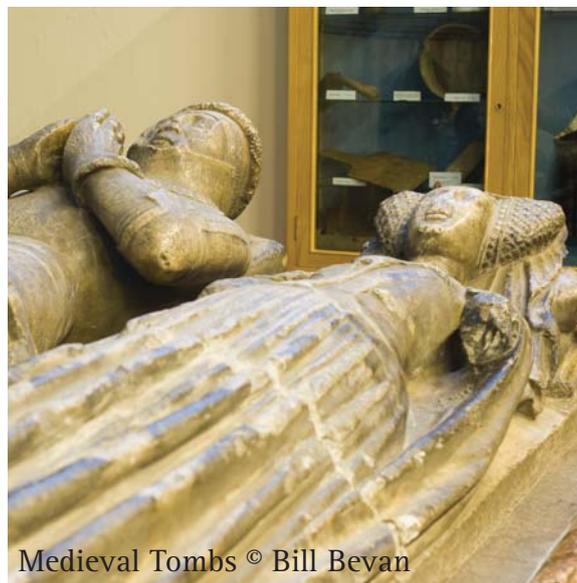
The building at the end of the lane was the Peacock Inn, once run by Freddie Lomas who was something of a World War 2 entrepreneur – or spiv. He sold blackmarket wheat from his barn until someone tipped him off that the Buxton police were coming for him. He began desperately taking the wheat away on the back of his old car. But he set off too quickly with half a ton and it spilled all over the street. He just managed to scoop it up with help of his neighbours before the police arrived.

Freddie also had a little curtain-covered window at the back of the Peacock where he had a pint ready for one of the village bobbies to sup in secret.

Guess who tipped off Freddie about the Buxton police? The local bobbies of course!

Follow the main road around the bends and past the bank. Go past the front of the Co-Op. The little square on your left was the Pot Market.

Cross over the square and enter the church.



Medieval Tombs © Bill Bevan

We hope you have enjoyed your tour of Tideswell's hidden histories. There is also a trail along the Litton Loop from Tideswell to Litton and back.

This trail has been produced by Visit Tideswell Accommodation Group with funding from the Peak District Sustainable Development Fund, Tideswell and District Community Association, Tideswell Parish Council and Visit Peak District.

Historical photographs from Tideswell Traders courtesy of Tony Hill. Original photographs from the family collections of Joyce and Miriam Chapman, Denise Hadjipetrou and Dorothy and Len Sellers. We are grateful to Tidza residents who attended the community mapping day for their memories of the village. Many are included in this trail. Map drawn by Thomas Eccles, inspired by the Advent Hunstone map.

13 Wood and Brass

Go inside to look for the fine woodcarvings. You will find lots of them by the pulpit. Many were created by Tideswell's Hunstone family, including the pew ends which depict the seven sacraments. You will see baptism, confirmation, communion, marriage, absolution, ordination and the last rites. There is a beautifully carved tiny Tideswell church on top of the back of the minister's chair by the pulpit.

The brasses on top of the tombs record the important people buried in the church. Sir Samson Meverill is buried in one. He was a local knight who fought at the Battle of Agincourt.



Baptism © Bill Bevan



Supported by the Sustainable Development Fund

Interpretation and design: www.inheritage.co.uk