



Peak Village QUIZ WALK

Written by Sally Mosley



ROWSLEY QUIZ WALK FROM PEAK VILLAGE

DISTANCE: Approximately 1 mile (1.6 kilometres)

TERRAIN:

This walk is relatively flat, following paths and pavements with a short ascent to the church (disabled access to avoid the steps is provided). There is a section of cobbled pathway and a gate in the Caudwell's Mill complex. When crossing over the main road, please use the pedestrian crossing with traffic lights where advised in the directions. This walk is suitable for standard pushchairs. However, some of the paths and pavements are narrow. Please watch out for traffic and other road users.

DESCRIPTION:

This short walk is a tour of Rowsley village incorporating places of interest, historical features and a few curiosities. It also includes a fun quiz and picture puzzle to help you discover some tucked away secrets.

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DIRECTIONS:

1. Start your walk in the centre of Peak Village which was constructed on a site originally occupied by railway sidings. Notice the wonderful old stone building with three tall chimney stacks and an overhanging roof supported by large wooden brackets.

The Midland Railway reached Rowsley in 1849, but its progress north was held up for 14 years until 1863 whilst the route forward was decided, as both the Duke of Rutland from Haddon Hall and the Duke of Devonshire from Chatsworth objected to plans for the railway to run through their estates. The 6th Duke of Devonshire finally relented and a station designed by the famous architect Joseph Paxton was built, but the Duke died before the line could be laid and his successor once again objected. Finally the Duke of Rutland gave permission for the line to pass Haddon Hall as long as it was hidden from view by a tunnel.

The railway was accordingly re-routed but this left Paxton's station in the wrong place and another passenger station was therefore built on the opposite side of the A6. The later station was demolished a few years ago but Paxton's architectural masterpiece remains as an iconic surviving feature of the Victorian railway era and is an impressive centrepiece to Peak Village.

Question: When was Peak Village built?

(Look around and you should be able to see the date on a stone)

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2. Walk out towards the car parks using either exits and turn left following the path to the Grouse & Claret. This was originally called The Midland Hotel, providing overnight accommodation for rail travellers and visitors as well as being 'the local' for Rowsley residents and railway workers. On reaching the main road turn right and head across the bridge above the Derwent which is Derbyshire longest river. This former 15th century packhorse bridge has been an important crossing point for hundreds of years, but it had to be widened to cater for modern traffic. If you look upstream you can see another high-arched bridge which carried the railway line, heading for Bakewell.

Question: When was Rowsley Bridge widened?

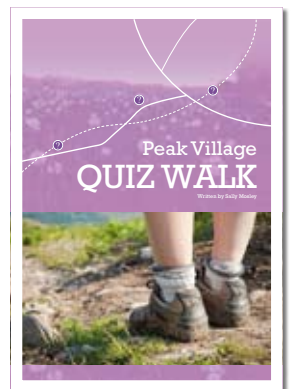
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3. After crossing the bridge you will come to The Peacock Hotel, constructed in 1652. It is topped with a stone peacock which is the crest of the Manners family from Haddon Hall, located just over a mile to the north. For many years this was the dower house to the Hall and would have been occupied by the dowager or widow to the estate if she outlived her husband. There used to be two old posting houses or inns in Rowsley known as the Nags Head and Red Lion. When these closed in 1828, the Peacock Inn was established, later to be renamed the Peacock Hotel.

Question: Look above the door. Which letter has been carved in the stone the wrong way around?

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4. Head up Church Lane to the rear of the hotel and continue up the pavement as it starts to ascend gently. Just after Home Farm Cottage on your right notice how strong and reinforced the walls are on



either side of the road. These at one time supported a low bridge which carried the railway over the road. Following its closure the bridge was demolished to allow access for high vehicles. Shortly after this you will come to steps leading up to the lych gate entrance to Rowsley Church. Disabled access is provided a little further up Church Lane off St. Katherine's Close.

Question: To which Saint is Rowsley Church dedicated?

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5. You may wish to look inside the church which is occasionally unlocked. On a window ledge within is a fragment of cross thought to be a 9th century preaching cross. It is carved with braidwork and was found on the bed of the River Wye by two boys having a swim early in the 1900's. In the chapel is the tomb of Catherine, wife of Lord John Manners who became the 7th Duke of Rutland. She sadly died in 1859 at the age of 23. An intricate effigy or monument to her memory shows Catherine as in a peaceful sleep with a baby by her side. Walk back down Church Lane on the opposite pavement until you return to the main road. Notice the old well to your right which is where Rowsley Well Dressing is erected (normally in June). Well Dressing is an old Peak District custom whereby an ornate framed picture is displayed to give thanks for a pure and plentiful water supply. It is created out of petals and organic materials, often portraying a religious or topical theme.

Question: What regal feature can you see above the date 1841?

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6. Walk back in front of the hotel and carefully cross over the main road using the pedestrian crossing. Notice the old stone lamp stand on your right at the entrance to School Lane. This was given to the village by John Holmes the local blacksmith as a memorial and reminder of his fifty years residence at Bridge House.

Question: As well as showing the way to Rowsley Church and Post Office where will you get to if you follow the footpath sign?

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7. Head down School Lane, walking past the Village Hall and School, opposite which is a terrace of former millworkers cottages. This part of the village was at one time known as Great Rowsley with the properties on the other side of the river being Little Rowsley until the two were amalgamated by the local council in 1987. However, Great Rowsley contains much earlier properties including many pretty little cottages with leaded windows. At the end of the lane is a drive to Wyebridge House which has a lovely setting and mature gardens. It is situated on a spur of land at the junction of the rivers Wye and Derwent whose waters unite just a short distance away.

Question: When was the school built?

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8. Enter the car park of Caudwell's Mill Craft Centre and follow the path to enter the Mill complex, bringing you into an old cobbled yard which was formerly the mill forge and stables. As well as being able to go on a tour of the mill, there are also craft workshops here, a gift shop, gallery and tearoom. The present mill, which is listed Grade II, was built in 1874 by John Caudwell and ran as a family business for more than 100 years. It is said to be the only complete water-turbine powered mill left in the country which is still operational. Stand and listen to the swish of water, the rattle and jangle of machinery and the clackety clack of rotating belts.

Question: What is the name of the tearoom at Caudwell's Mill?

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9. Leave the mill by the front entrance onto the main road and turn left on the pavement heading out of the village towards the 50mph signs. You will pass Ivy House which has a date stone of 1651 and is said to be the oldest property in the village. Look across to the last cottage on the right heading out of Rowsley which is a former toll keeper's cottage built in the turnpike era of the 18th century. A fee or toll would have been charged to use the road which helped towards its upkeep. There would have been a gate across the road where travellers would ring a bell to summon the toll keeper and then make their payment. Now turn around and follow the pavement back into the village and head to the pedestrian crossing to cross back over the main road.

Question: What initials are carved into the stone lamp stand above the date 1887?

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10. Walk back over the bridge and retrace your steps to return to Peak Village. To see how many of these 'just for fun' quiz questions you got right, check out the answers at the bottom of the final page!



PICTURE PUZZLE

As you wander around the village, can you find the following structural features?

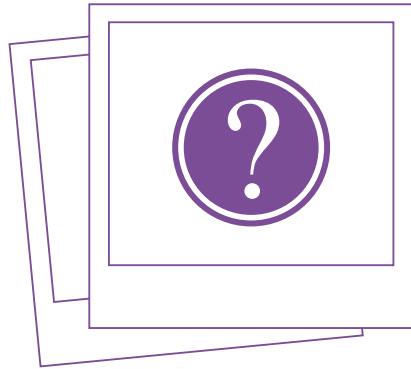
What buildings are they on or where can you find them?

Picture 1 - On which building can you find this lamp?

Picture 2 - On top of which building can you see this bell?

Picture 3 - Outside which building is this piece of machinery?

Answers at the bottom of the page



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This walk has been compiled with care and due diligence. Please follow the instructions carefully and use the pedestrian crossing when advised. No responsibility or liability can be accepted by persons attempting this walk who are injured whilst following these instructions. Anyone following this walk does so at their own risk.

Picture Quiz Answers:
 1. The lamp is on the front of The Grouse & Claret
 2. The bell is on the school
 3. The machinery is outside Caudwell's Mill

Quiz Answers:
 1. 1999
 2. 1925-6
 3. N
 4. Katherine
 5. A crown
 6. Bakewell
 7. 1840
 8. Country Parlour
 9. VR

