

Short Break to The Peak District

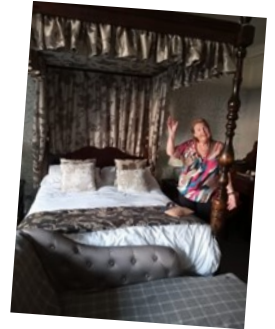
A selection of Members' Recollections

What a treasury of paintings and artefacts we saw. And interestingly no National Trust.

Our jaws dropped at **Burghley House**, each room more stunning than the last. Antonio Verrio's beautiful 17thC painted walls and ceilings including the Heaven room left us spellbound. Burghley's wow factor didn't finish there because once outside we had the delight and fun of the water features in the brilliant Garden of Surprises and Sculpture.



We felt the sense of history in our extremely well positioned hotel in the middle of **Buxton** where Mary Queen of Scots stayed. Joan felt like a queen in her four-poster bed.



We had a great guided tour of Buxton, and some people loved their early morning walks in the Pavilion Gardens and drinking from the natural spring.

At **Tissington Hall** the Baronet welcomed us. We thought how lucky he was to live in such a beautiful place. He said he'd rather have our mortgage than his! The fastidious artistry and commitment to create the temporary **Well Dressings** in the village, including the offerings by the children, was a delight. These flower petal pictures felt a joyful way to celebrate spring.



Bakewell is such a pretty place, and some sampled the tart and pudding. Both delicious.

Chatsworth was gloriously over the top and should be on everyone's bucket list.



The countryside scene from the cable car and the **Heights of Abraham** was spectacular. We thought we were in Switzerland. The caverns at the top had a shivery and slightly scary feel and were not for the faint hearted. It was nice to see daylight again after climbing up 159 steps!

At **Crich Tramway Village** we handed over our old pennies to the conductor in exchange for a ticket from his old-fashioned machine or drank beer in the reconstructed Red Lion pub.



The finale of our week was our stop at **Boughton Hall**. A private tour was followed by a superb buffet lunch.

For the whole 5 days we had glorious weather; the Derbyshire scenery was joyous, resembling a patchwork quilt. A lovely week with a well-planned itinerary and a great bunch of people. What more could you ask for?