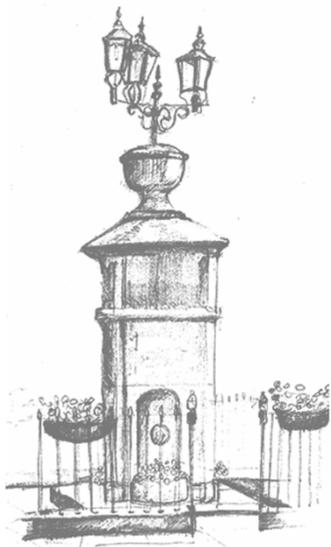


# HERITAGE WALKS AROUND DISLEY

## No.1 Ring O'Bells and Higher Disley



### Walk 1 - Ring O Bells and Higher Disley

Start from The Ram's Head Pub - close to the railway station and bus stops servicing Buxton, Stockport & Manchester.

The inn was built by the Leghs about 1640 although the present Tudor Gothic exterior dates from some two hundred years later.

In 1790, Viscount Torrington, after three visits, voted the Ram's Head "Dishely" the best inn in England. It was the only mailing house in the area, with coaches and chaises for hire and many coaches changing horses there each day.

A tremendous block of stabling is now largely gone, likewise the very large fishpond which was reduced and dammed back to the Park gates when the railway was built in 1857 and the station erected.



Leghs of Lyme Crest

Walking up Buxton Old Road on your right is The Schoolhouse Surgery which was built in 1823 as both a Day and Sunday school.

The small alley by the side leading to two cottages was called Angel's Whisper and the cottages below the present road level were situated on Pipe Street.

Above is the White Horse Hotel. Bears were kept here until the mid-19th century for public bear-baiting in Fountain square.

Turn right and walk up Ring O Bells Lane which was the original way to the Church.

The Friends Meeting House at the top is an 18th century building which was once an inn. In 1850 Lady Newton refused to grant a further licence for it, so it became a coffee tavern.

Take the footpath at the side, to the right, crossing the stream and climbing up the other side to pass St Marys church, built in the 16th Century and much altered in Victorian times.

In the churchyard near to the front entrance gate are two Anglo Saxon cross bases.

Pass by the Woodland Garden Project and well where the annual well dressing is held.

**A** At the junction just past the old Vicarage turn back on yourself and walk along Green Lane (FP28, now part of The Gritstone Trail), soon passing a marker for "Underground Pipeline" which runs between oil refineries on the Mersey and the edge of the Humber.

Enjoy the views of Lyme Park, enclosed as a deer park in the 14th Century, and the Cage, built in the 18th Century as a hunting lodge, and pass Stoneridge farmhouse.

The reservoirs are Horse Coppice, 1861 and Bollinhurst, 1872.

**B** On reaching Higher Stoneridge turn left and follow Long Lane (FP31) to reach Buxton Old Road and Muslin Row, five 18th Century weavers' cottages.

[Continuing straight on along Green Lane will lead you to the East Lodge entrance to Lyme Park and also the Millennium Woodland nature reserve.]

You are now in Higher Disley (Dystiglegh), the oldest part of the village and where a roman coin from the 4th century has been found

Turn right and walk a short distance up Buxton Old Road passing Spencer Hall on the right, a mid 17th century house, to the junction with Mudhurst Lane and Ward lane.

Lane Ends farmhouse complex on the corner is an 18th century building with mullioned windows and in the grounds is the Owls Nest outdoor centre owned by Manchester Grammar School and rebuilt after being bombed in WW2.

**C** Turn left down Ward Lane; [continuing along the busy main road leads to Longside service reservoir (1940) and to the Murder Stone (on the left) brought from Eyam to commemorate William Wood, murdered in 1823 whilst walking from Manchester to Eyam].

Ward Lane leads to another ancient farmhouse, Brines, rebuilt in 1735 using earlier timbers.

Mow Hole, the cottage after the small reservoir, was once the family home of the engineer responsible for building the Peak Forest Canal and later a meeting place for non-conformists.

Produced by:

Disley Parish Plan Implementation Group

With thanks to:

The late Margery Hobson,  
Disley Footpaths Society,  
Disley Local History Society  
Mark Aldcroft

Illustrated by Cliona Henderson

Turn left here, over the stream to join Corks Lane, which enjoys views over Derbyshire towards Kinder Scout.

Continue past Seven Springs Guide Camp. This was originally a holiday camp for poor children but was transferred to the Guides in 1958.

There are a number of 17th and 18th Century properties along the lane as well as on the left, up the small lane set back behind Bees Cottage within the farm complex, Disley Hall with its outside stone staircase. This was the home of one of the three foresters who lived in Disley in the 11th century and one of the 5 halls of Disley.

**D** Return to Buxton Old Road, noticing opposite the Wesleyan Sunday School of 1863 (now a Nursery).



**Wesleyan Sunday School**

Come down the hill, passing the Ploughboy and Foxholes, Number 41 – where the 20th century porch carries the inscription M 1547 E, which may suggest its original date.

Notice the Chantry House next door, built at a similar time to house priests for the newly-built church, and on the opposite side Dane Cottage, which appears on old maps as Dean's Lache.

At the bottom of the hill built into the wall of the new flats is the foundation stone of the now demolished Conservative Club, built in 1907.

It marks also the site of the earlier Crab Tree Cottage, where the first Co-Operative Store was opened in 1862.

There is another cottage on the right below road level (originally two Lyme Park Estate cottages) and we are back at Fountain Square, with its Victorian fountain erected in 1837 to provide residents with water.

The shops were originally cottages built in the late 18th Century. The garage opposite was once the village Smithy.

Return to Rams Head Green on which is a tribute to the achievements of Sarah and Barney Storey at the 2012 Paralympics and our smallest listed building the red Telephone Box Type K6 designed 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.

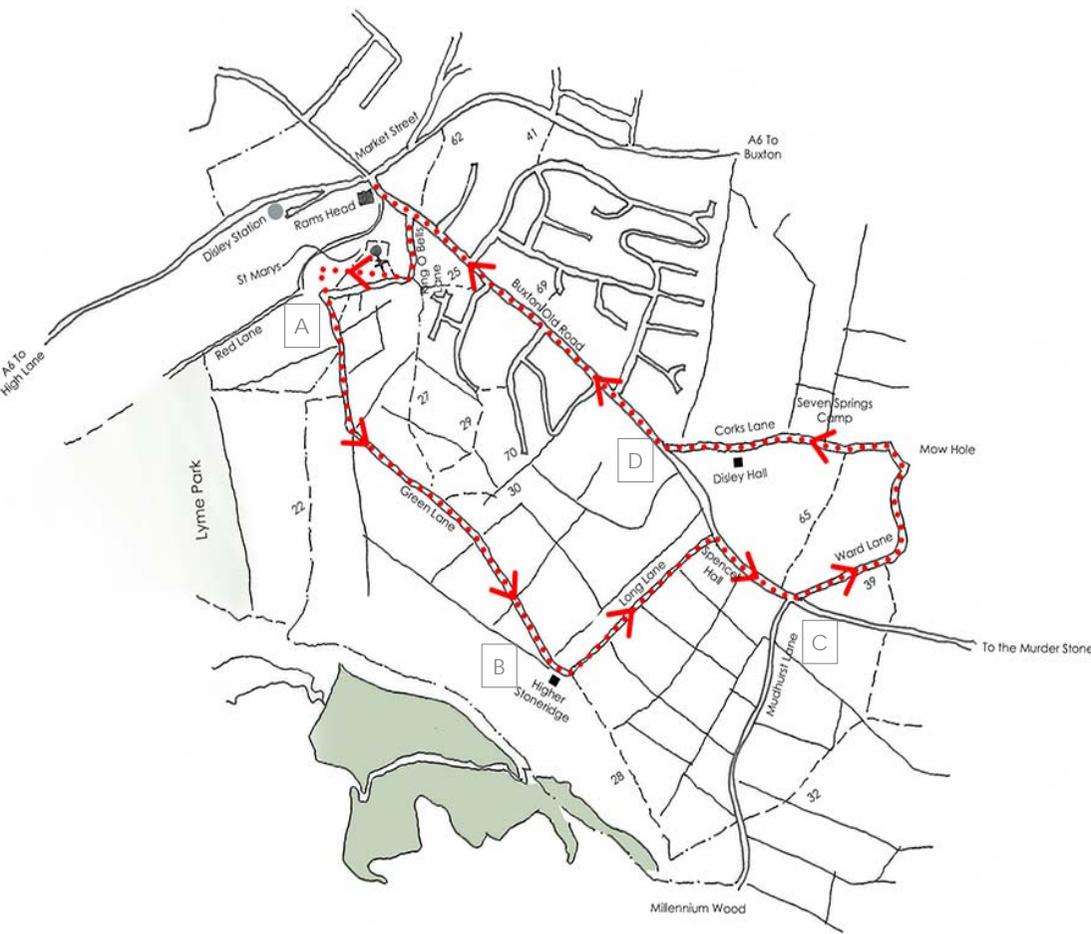


**The Ram's Head**

For further copies of this and other Heritage Walks in the series, please use the QR code or visit the Disley Parish Council Website.



**Walk 1 - Ring O Bells and Higher Disley**



Disley is a Walkers are Welcome village

**Distance:** 4km / 2 1/2 miles approx

**Terrain :** moderate inclines with some uneven ground - mainly lanes and well marked footpaths, returning via Buxton Old Road

**[Not all suitable for prams or wheelchairs]**

**Please note.**

Where appropriate, footpath numbers are given in brackets to aid orientation. A detailed, numbered footpath map ("Disley Parish Paths") is available from the parish office and the village newsagent.

Always wear appropriate clothing/ footwear when out walking