

# HERITAGE WALKS AROUND DISLEY

No.2

## Stanley Hall and Peak Forest Canal



### Walk 2 – Stanley Hall and Peak Forest Canal

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.



### The Rams Head - crest of the Leghs of Lyme

Until about 1820, when the present A6 was made, the main road was down Jackson's Edge and up Buxton Old Road.

Opposite the Ram, where RBS Bank (a former post office) and what used to be the police station and jail house (built 1895) now stand, were the Ram fields.

The first Agricultural Show was held here in 1859.

Continue to walk up Jackson's Edge Road away from the village.

Most of the houses here were built after the railway came, with the exception of Old Brow (Nos 16 and 18) built in 1645, Grey Cottage (No 20, where playwright Allan Monkhouse once lived) which dates from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and, on the left, White Cottage, built in the early 1600s.

Further up the hill, you enter the hamlet of Stanley. Homestead Road and Leafield Road are comparatively new. On the right before Dysteleghe Grange (an old golf clubhouse) was a farm called Broads with another one opposite called the Asps.

**A** Turn right down Stanley Hall Lane and continue on to the golf course. Follow the 'keep left' sign.

Ahead see Stanley Hall farm-house (a late 16<sup>th</sup> century building with 19<sup>th</sup> century exterior). The original hall may have been the large barn at right angles to the house. It has a timber cruck frame construction.

Stanley Hall was given by the Black Prince to the Stanleys in 1388 and bought by the Leghs in 1488.

Part of the old barn was the first golf clubhouse in 1889.



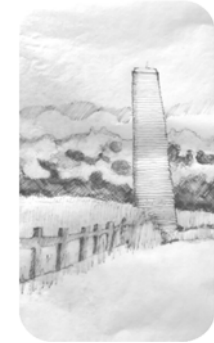
### Stanley Hall

Bear left along the track (FP 3) past the 'Disley Golf Club' sign with Stanley Hall to the right.

Follow the track across the course for approximately 300 metres. Turn right between stone walls observing the railway air shaft on your left hand side.

After the bunkers, and at the way-marked junction of three paths, take the path to the right (FP2) and continue down the grassy slope to enter a roughly cobbled path between the trees.

Cross the stile into a field. The Chimney is the remains of the old bone mill – properly called Springwater Mill because the spring never dries up.



### Springwater Mill Chimney

The mill (probably built in the late 1790s) supplied dye for the Strines Print Works, using madder and ground-up bones.

Bear right to follow the path below the chimney. Once through a small gate, turn left and then right some 200 metres later to follow the waymarked track down to, and under, the canal (at Strines Aqueduct).

**C** Take the steps to the left up to join the towpath (FP66), turning left to head back towards Disley. Strines Wharf was on the south side of the aqueduct, serving both Springwater Mill and the print works at the bottom of the hill. Pass Bridge 23 at Little Woodend, one of several listed bridges along the canal.

This stretch of the Peak Forest Canal was opened in 1796 to serve the canal/tramway interchange at Bugsworth Basin near Whaley Bridge.

Produced by:

Disley Parish Plan Implementation Group

With thanks to:

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

Inland Waterways Protection Society  
Mark Aldcroft

Illustrated by Cliona Henderson



## Peak Forest Canal

Limestone was brought from quarries near Chapel-en-le-Frith and transported into Manchester and North Cheshire via connections with the Macclesfield and Ashton Canals

Pass one more bridge (a lift bridge) and at the **D** next (No 25: a swing bridge), cross back across the canal.

Bear left up the lane, where you will pass Higgin's Clough and Hagg Bank Farm (Hagg = Hawthorn in Anglo-Saxon) which was built for the owner of Hagg Bank Mines in 1695.

There are many old coal-mine workings under the fields here.

Bear right, up Hollinwood Road to the Dandy Cock Inn which marked the outskirts of Lower Disley before 1820. The original entrance used to be off this road but was later turned round when the new main road was built.

To the right, where the town houses are now, there used to be two steep streets of very old cottages, Gee Brow and Taylors's Fold, and some say, the site of the old Grammar School founded in 1597, and a very small non-conformist meeting house. The cottages were demolished in 1957.

The space in front of the Dandy Cock Inn used to be "The Square". Crossing this brought one to shops and cottages.

The present shops include the post office where the post box has been painted gold as a tribute to the achievements of cyclists Sarah and Barney Storey at the 2012 Paralympics.

Return through Fountain Square, with its Victorian fountain in use until 1930s. The fountain was donated by the Orford family to the village in 1834. You can view the four spouts in the form of lions heads. Clean water was fed by the spring adjacent to St Mary's Church.

The garage opposite, The Smithy Garage, was once the village Smithy. A superstitious mother in the 1860s, would bring her children here to tug on the horses tails, as they were shod, to ward off whooping cough.

Returning to the Rams Head Green, via the pedestrian crossings, you can now see the small sculpture of a bicycle at the corner touching Buxton Old Road. This was unveiled in October 2013 as a further lasting tribute to the achievements of Sarah and Barney Storey in the Paralympics of 2012.

*[Look out for a unique rider who sits on top of it !]*

Rams Head Green was once the home of the annual Disley Wakes fair, which was held in early November time. Wakes fairs once a strong tradition in the North West are slowly dying out.

Today it is the site of the village war memorial, the sculpture and a traditional red Telephone box, which is our smallest listed building.



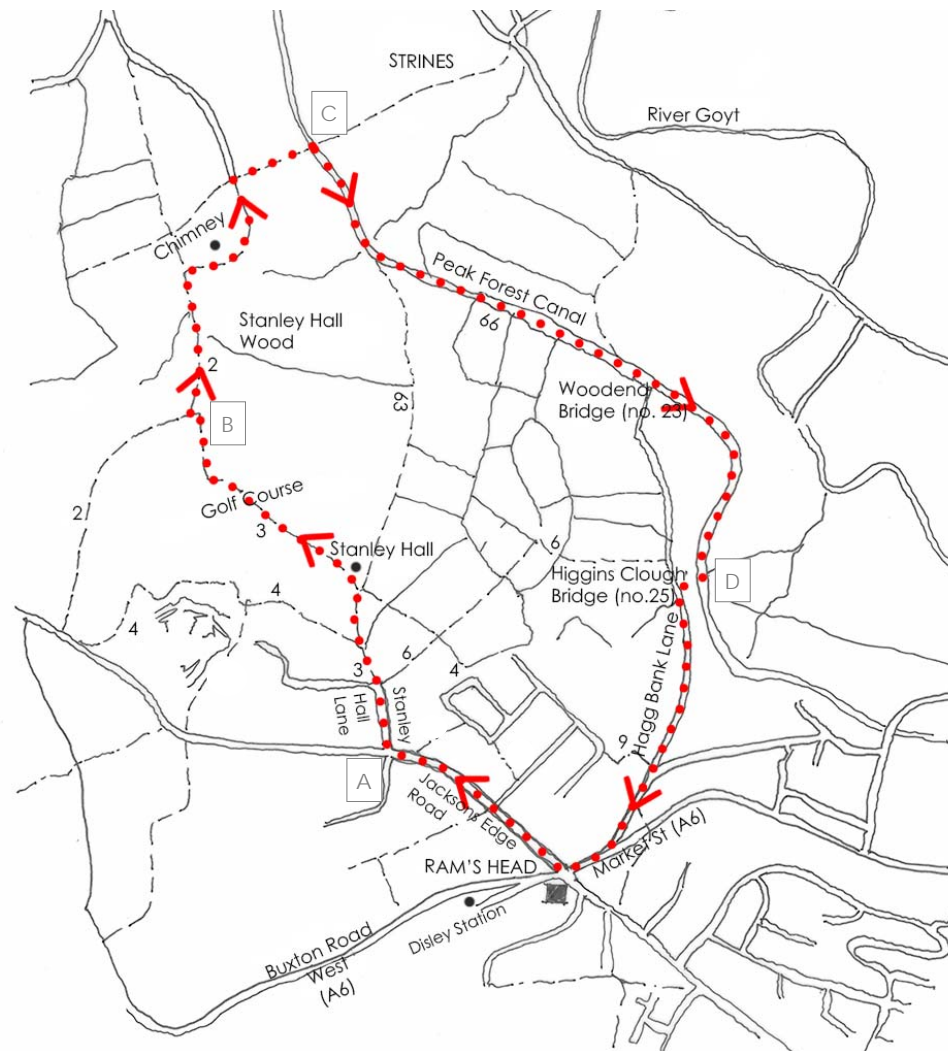
## War Memorial on the Ram's Head Green

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



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## Walk 2 – Stanley Hall and Peak Forest Canal



Disley is a Walkers are Welcome village

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

**Terrain :** mostly lanes and well-marked footpaths; several moderate-to-steep inclines; some uneven ground.

**[Not 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.