

# Natural History



Walking in the Sheldon area you will notice we have many flower filled road verges. We still have some hay meadows, which are traditionally managed and full of flowers, grasses and herbs in late spring and summer.

Look for meadow saxifrage, cowslip and lady's smock. These are followed by buttercup, ox eye daisy, hay rattle, dog rose, pignut and sorrel. Late summer brings the blue field scabious, knapweed, meadow cranesbill, giant bellflower and harebell.

Smell the garlic of ramsons in Shacklow Wood in spring and look hard for lily of the valley.

At Magpie Mine you will find the small white flower of the rare leadwort. It tolerates the lead content of the spoil heaps. Smile when you see the beautiful purple or yellow heads of mountain pansy nodding in the breeze. Walk over to Deep Dale where the steep sided valley is a riot of early purple orchids and cowslips in spring. It is now owned and managed by Plantlife but previously was looked after by a local family. Take a stroll up Hage Lane and it will be alive with butterflies, bees and other insects on a warm summer day.

The native trees are ash and sycamore with many shrubs of hawthorn and elder providing wonderful blossom in spring. Many glorious beech trees were planted in Shacklow Woods by the Chatsworth Estate. Look out for hares, foxes and badgers. Stoats and weasels love the dry stone walls.

Hear the evocative sound of the skylarks before you even see them. Tawny and barn owls you may hear in the night.

In spring we welcome back the swallows and house martins with their joyful flight and chatter.

At dusk on a warm summer evening, take a stroll up the village street - the bats will amaze you.

# Sheldon Events

**SHELDON DAY** - held Saturday Mid July - first started in 1984, the village provides a great day of family entertainment for visitors.

**CREAM TEAS** - Bank Holiday Sundays - sumptuous cream teas held in the village hall.

**FELL RACE** - Thursday Two Days Before Sheldon Day - an arduous 4 mile race descending 550 feet to the River Wye and back.

**CHURCH SERVICES** - every second & fourth Sunday of the month - Holy Communion in the beautiful and unique Victorian church.

**HORTICULTURAL SHOW** - last Saturday in August - exhibiting locally grown flowers and vegetables, and cakes and preserves made in the village.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** - held in Mid-December - village lit by engines, fun for all the family and visited by Father Christmas.

**HISTORY GROUP** - meets third Wednesday evening each month - revealing Sheldon's past.

SEE LOCAL ADVERTISING FOR FULL DETAILS

An absorbing read - **THE DIARIES OF MARIA GYTE OF SHELDON, DERBYSHIRE. 1913 - 1920**

*Edited by Gerald Phizackerley. Scarthin Books, 1999.*

Maria Gyte was at various times the schoolmistress, pub licensee and church treasurer in Sheldon. Includes the tragic period when her son Tony was killed in WW1.



# SHELDON

in the Peak District National Park



Small, picturesque Sheldon is a linear village on the edge of a limestone plateau at roughly 1000 feet. It is set in beautiful, rolling scenery of fields and dry stone walls which can be enjoyed from the many footpaths.

It was originally a farming and lead mining community. Evidence of mining is all around in the disturbed ground, spoil heaps, covered mine shafts and the surface remains of Magpie Mine.

Fortunately, Sheldon still has 4 farms and a number of smallholdings. The dairy herd still walk from their fields the short distance along the street to the farm.

Sheldon has wide village greens, bedecked with daffodils in spring. There are majestic trees down the street, which were planted at the beginning of the 20th century and give the village its distinctive character.

Sheldon has a lovely, small Victorian church, just off the main street, which is well worth a visit. There is a public house; transformed from a barn in 1996, a village hall and a playing field with play equipment for small children. Here, there is also a picnic area, a wildflower area, two young woodlands plus the large grass area for games and village events.

Welcome and enjoy your visit to our village.

# St Michael and All Angels Church



The small Victorian church is steep roofed with a beautiful rounded eastern end and a straight west wall surmounted with a one-bell turret. Inside, the roof timbers are magnificent and the long chained lights are the original Victorian oil lamps – now converted.

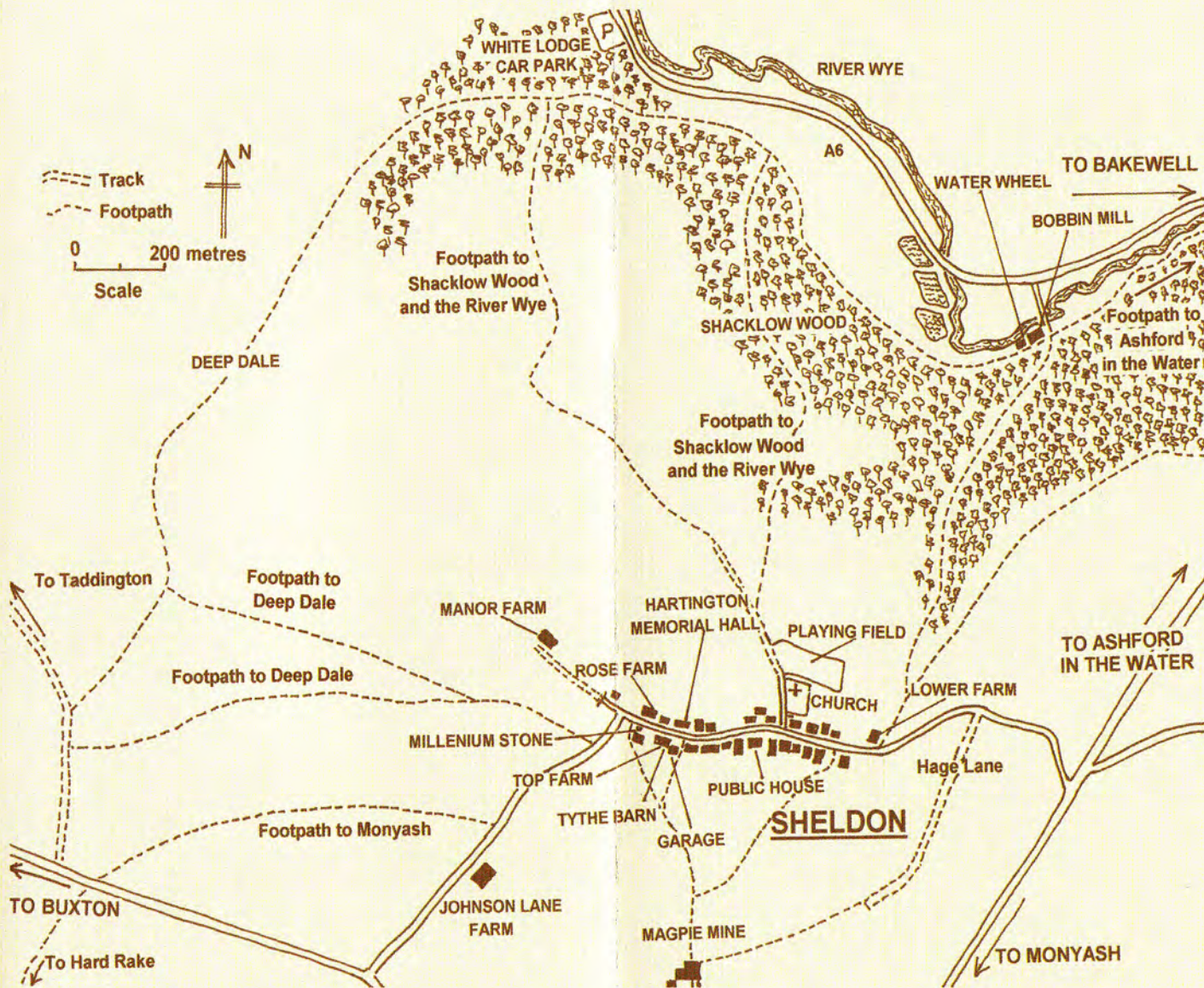
The poignant social history relating to The Great War is the marble memorial tablet with the names of 5 young men from this tiny village who were killed. The original, small chapel of the 15th century once stood in the middle of the village street.

# Magpie Mine



Magpie is one of the best remaining examples of a 19th century lead mine in Britain. It has a fascinating history including fights and disputes ending in 3 deaths, the widows' curse, and a legacy of repeated disasters and failures. There was an influx of 20 Cornish miners who brought their skills in the 1840's.

The mine finally closed in 1953 and the remains have been preserved by the Peak District Historical Mines Society.



The village SCHOOL was built in 1878 but closed in 1935. The building is now the VILLAGE HALL called the Hartington Memorial Hall as it was given to the village by the Cavendish family in memory of William Cavendish, Marquis of Hartington.

He would have become the 11th Duke of Devonshire but he was killed in action in WW2.

Opposite the hall was the original TYTHE BARN. The buildings in the village are mainly 18th and 19th century and made of local limestone.

There used to be a PUBLIC HOUSE in the middle of the village called The Devonshire Arms, which sold beer from the same brewery for 100 years. It was served in the front room of the Gyte family farmhouse and the three elderly Gyte ladies who eventually ran it, called time in 1972.

In the late 19th century, drinking water was eventually pumped 600 feet up from the River Wye by a water wheel close by the BOBBIN MILL. The water was stored in a metal tank on top of a stone structure at the top of the village.