

Southside

THE QUALITY MAGAZINE FOR CHESTERFIELD, DRONFIELD & SOUTH SHEFFIELD

Out & About

Free things to do
in Derbyshire

Chatsworth International Horse Trials

17-19 May

Here to help

Rescuing
and rehoming
animals

LUXURY LIVING AT ITS FINEST

An outstanding 1897
residence in Nether Edge

SEE PAGE 6



Blenheim

Park Estates



Welcome to our May edition. Our attention turns to the Chatsworth International Horse Trials this month, which return to the Derbyshire estate from 17-19 May. Chatsworth will once again host the British leg of the FEI Nations Cup which brings an international focus to the competition.

Elsewhere we look out how you can keep the family entertained in Derbyshire without breaking the bank, visit Thornberry Animal Sanctuary to find out how they rescue and rehome animals, and speak to some 'men in business'.

We also look at how you can be part of this year's restaurant awards and have our usual mix of fashion, beauty, homes, motoring and more.

See you next month.

Richard Abbey
Executive Editor



10
Fashion
From stylish monochrome to bursts of colour, this summer you're spoilt for choice

12
Beauty
Whether it's a staycation, or a vacation, ensure you have packed skincare, makeup and haircare heroes from our edit with Harvey Nichols, Leeds

18
International focus
Taking place from 17-19 May, the Chatsworth International Horse Trials will once again host the British leg of the FEI Nations Cup - but there's much more to enjoy over the weekend

23
Eating Out
We dine at The Ashford Arms

24
Wine
Trevor Langley, our resident wine expert, picks out some favourites from Italy

24
Men in Business
We speak to two local success stories

26
Put yourself in the running
The nominations for the 2024 Westside Restaurant & Bar Awards are now open. Find out how you can be part of this year's event

27
Gnome
Have you been caught on camera?

28
The best things in life are free
Entertaining the family doesn't have to cost the earth. From parks and gardens to museums and walks, we've found lots of things to do, and it won't cost you a penny

32
Home & Garden
These radiant hues effortlessly inject a little bit of summer sun into your space throughout the year, so it's no wonder that they're one of our top picks for 2024

40
There to help animals
Established in 1988, Thornberry Animal Sanctuary is one of the largest rescue centres in South Yorkshire. We sent Kiera Wilcox to find out more

47
Motoring
The German car companies are excelling with their latest releases

50
The Diary
Our monthly round-up of what's happening in your area

For all advertising enquiries please contact:
PUBLISHING MANAGER Sally-Anne Sharp:
07712 660800
sallyanne.sharp@rmcmmedia.co.uk
SALES EXECUTIVES Sam Warsop:
07772 627320 sam.warsop@rmcmmedia.co.uk
Mandy Ogle:
07702 176988 mandy.ogle@rmcmmedia.co.uk
PUBLISHING DIRECTOR Amanda Roy:
07843 633184 amanda.roy@rmcmmedia.co.uk

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Richard Abbey
Tel: 07989 358215
richard.abbey@rmcmmedia.co.uk
DESIGN Dan Wray dan.wray@rmcmmedia.co.uk
DISTRIBUTION Chris Clayton Tel: 07843
633188 chris.clayton@rmcmmedia.co.uk
ACCOUNTS Steve Wasden Tel: 07503 154498
Email: steve.wasden@rmcmmedia.co.uk

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The best things in life **ARE FREE**

Entertaining the family doesn't have to cost the earth. From parks and gardens to museums and walks, we've found lots of things to do, and it won't cost you a penny. By Kiera Wilcox.

Ways to Play trail at Chatsworth Estate

Ways to Play is a trail for children – big, small and young at heart. Located in the beautiful Chatsworth Estate in Bakewell, the grounds offer many free activities for families to get stuck into. Though the trail through the garden does require a house and garden ticket, the trail through Stand Wood is completely free for children to explore and enjoy. The trail gives children the chance to use the materials given to them by nature and use their imaginations, such as building a secret den, racing boats made of leaves and sticks down the stream or use them to make their own art. Become a detective and identify all the amazing wildlife the woods are home to like birds or butterflies. The trail encourages kids to take in their surroundings, noticing every smell, sound and sights that the great outdoors offers.

Buxton Museum and Art Gallery

Learn about local history at the Buxton Museum and Art Gallery. With a focus on a collection of geology, history and archaeology mainly from the Peak District and Derbyshire, there is a plethora of information to be learned for visitors of all ages. Entrance to the museum and exhibitions is free of charge, giving people the opportunity to view over 12,000 objects on display, each telling the story of the area. Kids will especially enjoy The Wonders of the Peak District exhibit, showcasing the fascinating fossils of mammals that once roamed the Peak District such as scimitar-toothed cats and cave lions. There are

quizzes and activities that are sure to keep the kids entertained and engaged during their visit.

Hall Leys Park – Matlock

This picturesque park in the heart of Matlock is just a short walk from the station. Since it's opening in 1911, it has received awards and gained its 15th consecutive Green Flag Award from the Keep Britain Tidy group in 2022, making it one of the best parks in the UK. With its ample space with many seating options, it has hosted events, competitions and festivals, and the stunning surroundings of flower beds and trees make it a wonderful destination to take a stroll or enjoy a picnic in the grounds. Kids will want to make a beeline to the play areas and paddling pool open from Easter through to the summer months, making it a perfect place to visit during the school holidays. Families are spoilt for choice with a variety of activities in the park, such as the boating pool, skate park, miniature railway and bowling green. On the hotter days, delicious ice cream is available from one of the ice cream vans dotted around the park or grab a drink from the café. There is also an outdoor market held on Wednesdays, with a number of stalls to browse.

Queens Park - Chesterfield

Off Boythrope Road, Chesterfield is Queens Park, a stunning public park free for visitors to spend a relaxing day on the grounds. The park opened in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. In its heyday, the park brought in many visitors and was a popular

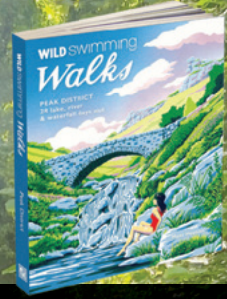
location for rallies and demonstrations. The Derbyshire Minors association even held their rally here in the 1890's with swingboats, coconut shies and roundabouts. Nowadays, the park has undergone a big restoration and offers a range of facilities. Located in the north side of the park is a café, situated ideally near the toddlers play area for any parents wanting to take a seat and grab a refreshing drink while the little ones play.

There's something for everyone as the park offers many fun activities to try out such as a boating lake, cricket grounds, tennis courts and a miniature railway. On occasion a local live brass band play in the park on Sunday afternoons during the summer, for everyone to sit and enjoy.

Robin Hood's Stride Walk

Robin Hood's Stride is a rocky formation near the village of Elton in Derbyshire. It is one of the best walks in the Peak District for any budding young climbers in the family as the boulders act as a perfect natural climbing frame for kids to play on and explore the local area whilst the parents kick back and relax with a flask of coffee. With an easy climb to the top, they will reach the viewpoint that promises fantastic views of the surrounding area including the Nine Stone Close stone circle.

On the walk there is a larger rock formation, Cratcliffe Tor, with a small cave at the base known as a "Hermit's Cave" and a stone crucifix dating back to the 13th-14th centuries. When you combine these sites, you end up with the perfect 3km walk for kids that will take a few hours to complete to allow further exploring time.



Wild swimming in the Rivelin Valley

Wild swimming offers a multitude of benefits, both physical and mental. It is a great way to stay active, disconnect from the stressors of day-to-day life and immerse yourself fully in nature and the water-based gems the region has to offer. Not to mention a refreshing break from the heat in the summer months (fingers crossed). Luckily, there are many options in the Peak District to choose from if you want to take a dip, many of which are revealed in a brand new book – *Wild Swimming Walks Peak District* by Matt Heason.

Just a short walk on the very edge of Sheffield, you'll find Rivelin Plunge Pool, a generously sized natural pool. Upon approaching you may hear the sound of children laughing as it is a popular spot for families to visit with good jumping potential of 3m, although it is best to be safe and check this out before taking the plunge.

Back in its day, the Rivelin Valley boasted 28 water-powered mills, with the earliest dating back to 1580. The walk first takes you through the wildness of the ancient woodlands, through to the remnants of the mills that can be seen to this day through the extensive network of goit channels, holding pools and dams that are still standing.

Fuel up for the walk at the delightful family-run Apple Shack Café, a lovely little shed just at the base of the idyllic Blackbrook Woods. Stop for a refreshing cup of tea or coffee and enjoy one of their delicious cakes.

Wild Swimming Walks Peak District is available from Wild Things Publishing and readers can receive 25 per cent off and free P&P with coupon code westside24 (offer price £11.25).

There to help **ANIMALS**

Established in 1988, Thornberry Animal Sanctuary is one of the largest rescue centres in South Yorkshire. We sent Kiera Wilcox to find out more.

At a time where rising costs are putting a strain on the nation, it's important that we commend and celebrate the charities doing their part to support animals who have been surrendered due to the cost-of-living crisis.

One of those charities committed to caring for relinquished animals is Thornberry Animal Sanctuary. What started as a muddy field in North Anston, Dinnington, Sheffield has now developed into the one of the largest animal rescue centres in South Yorkshire. Caring for animals since 1988, Thornberry Animal Sanctuary has since helped rescue and rehome around 20,000 animals, from dogs and cats to rabbits and horses. The organisation is passionate about rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming vulnerable and neglected animals.

“At Thornberry, we believe that every

animal deserves a second chance at a happy and healthy life,” said the fundraising team (FT). “We provide a safe haven for animals in need, offering them medical care, nourishment, and most importantly, love.”

Thornberry is made up of four sites. The main site, The Stables located at Todwick Road, is where most of their animals are surrendered to or brought in as strays. In order to manage the magnitude of animals being surrendered, owners are asked to complete a relinquishment form that can be found on Thornberry's website and subsequently put on a waiting list.

“Due to being at full capacity, this is the only way we can manage the intake and outgoing flow of animals. Maintaining a waiting list is crucial for this purpose.,” added FT.

It is here where, through their adoption

process, they can find each animal the home that is best suited for them to ensure a happy situation for both owner and animal. As many animals in their care have different medical or behavioural issues, they take great care in finding the perfect match.

There are many things that set Thornberry aside as a rescue centre, with one of them being their Farm and Equine Centre in Ravenfield. The farm and their team work tirelessly, braving the Yorkshire weather every day to provide a safe environment and rehabilitation for all species of farm animal. The team never fail to keep busy with the farm being a home to horses, ponies, pigs, sheep, goats, ferrets, cockerels and hens. While their aim is to rehome as many of the animals as they can, some of the farm animals are permanent residents at Thornberry.



“Certain animals have medical conditions or other circumstances that may pose challenges for re-homing,” said FT. “Therefore, it’s in their best interests to remain under our care. The animals have formed strong bonds with our farm team and have grown to love Thornberry as their home.”

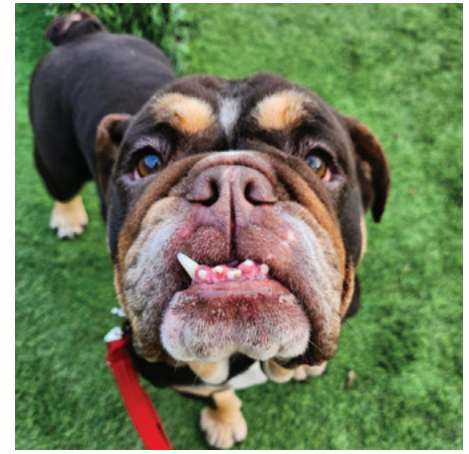
When the animals are in their care, their dedicated team, alongside volunteers, work hard to ensure all the animals needs are catered for. With no two animals the same, each has different needs that the team assess when an animal is surrendered or rescued. Each department is committed to making the animals comfortable in their homes, well fed, watered and loved whilst they strive to find them their forever homes.

“It’s important to understand that animals rely on us every day, considering us as their family,” explained FT.

Through their farm and equine centre, the team have been able to rehome battery hens every year, and it is because of the tireless work from their staff and volunteers that Thornberry was able to rehome an incredible 700 animals last year.

With so many inspiring adoption stories, it’s hard to just choose one, but one that sticks out for FT is Arlo. Never having a place to call home, Arlo was found on the streets as a puppy, and spent two years at Thornberry.

“We all desperately wanted to find him a new home, but due to his big personality and excitable nature, Arlo was a lot to handle.”



Now, Arlo is living his best life with his new family after finally getting adopted in December 2023, giving Thornberry a great way to kick-start a new year of helping other animals like Arlo find their happy ending.

Though rewarding, running an animal rescue centre comes with many challenges, and with the rise in relinquished animals following the COVID-19 Pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, times are harder than ever. Thornberry are at maximum capacity in every department and face pressures with staffing and resources such as medical care and food.

“Charities are facing tough times in general, and we have to prioritise the animals, but to do that we need money,” said FT.

That is why support from the community is vital to continue to provide the services

they do. It is because of the hard work and quality of care they show for their animals that the sanctuary has been able to run for so many years, garnering immense support from the community. Within the areas of South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire, they have built a strong positive reputation that has enabled them to receive the funding they need to blossom into the organisation they are today.

“Without our supporters, we would not be operational,” said FT. “Animal Rescue can be extremely challenging, and we receive no Government funding; therefore, we rely heavily on our incredible supporters.”

Through the love and encouragement of their ever-growing supporters and legacies, the sanctuary welcomed an onsite veterinary clinic for their animals, providing them with a vet and veterinary



nurse four days a week to allow all their animals medical care they need. The support of legacies has further helped them with additions such as the café and charity shop, open to the public seven days a week.

“Our Thornberry café and deli offer excellent food, attracting our supporters to come down, have lunch, and shop in our charity shop, allowing them to be involved in our work and support Thornberry in various ways while having a great time,” added FT.

Fundraising and events are crucial for the sanctuary to keep operating in the way they do today and change the lives of countless animals. They have held numerous events over the years, from dog shows and horse shows to a sponsored burlesque dance and seasonal fairs for the community to enjoy. With challenge events proving to be popular with fitness enthusiasts and adrenaline junkies alike, they will be running an Abseil Challenge and Snowdon Challenge this year and hope to get as many supporters involved as possible.

With all the support they receive, it is important to Thornberry that they give back to the community. Given the variety of animals and departments, there are numerous skills to learn and opportunities to explore. They aim to provide these opportunities to as many people as possible, collaborating with SEND schools and students, giving them hands on experience alongside their studies.

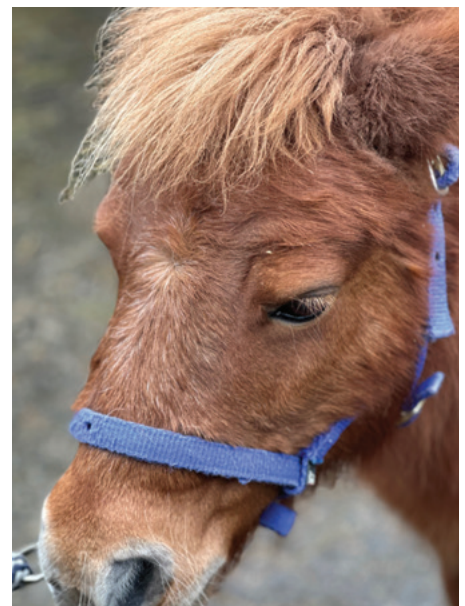
“Much of the volunteer work and skills acquired by students align with their school modules, aiding them in their academic endeavours and ultimately contributing to their success,” explained FT.

It is clear that Thornberry is a special place for the community, as well as its staff and volunteers. When the time comes to say goodbye to an animal that has been in their care for a long time, and finally gets their second chance with their new family, those moments are the memories that will stick with them forever.

“Working at Thornberry, no day is the same!” said FT. “There are new stories and challenges each day, but we all work as a team to give a helping hand when needed, which is so important and has created many memories in itself.”

So, whether it’s through volunteering, taking part in fundraiser, grabbing a coffee and a cake or shopping for a bargain at the charity shop, you can show your support for Thornberry and help them create a world where every animal is valued and cherished.

To find out more, visit www.thornberryanimalsanctuary.org



The Diary

■ THEATRE ■ MUSIC ■ COMEDY ■ EVENTS ■ EXHIBITIONS ■ FILM ■ FURTHER AFIELD...

Words: Kiera Wilcox



Theatre

The Importance of Being Ernest

9 May / Winding Wheel Theatre
chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk

A contemporary twist on one of Oscar Wilde's most beloved plays. The Importance of Being Ernest is a farcical comedy with hilarious satirisation of the Victorian social hypocrisy.

Sister Act

27 May–1 June / Buxton Opera House
buxtonoperahouse.org.uk

The Sisters are coming from Broadway and London to Buxton with the brand new production of Sister Act. Lounge singer Deloris Van Cartier seeks refuge from her mobster ex-boyfriend at a convent after witnessing a murder. Whilst in hiding, Deloris sets about transforming the convent choir, uplifting them with the sound of soul, but with their success comes the risk of her being discovered. Sister Act is a must-see comedy that will surely lift your spirits.

West Side Story

11 May / Sheffield City Hall
www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk

Sondheim lovers will not want to miss this one. Manor Operatic Society will be putting their own spin on the all-time classic musical West Side Story this month. The experience promises beautiful arrangements of iconic songs from West Side Story such as I Feel Pretty, Somewhere, Tonight, America and more.

Events

Simon Reeve: To the Ends of the Earth

16 May / Buxton Opera House
buxtonoperahouse.org.uk

Go on an adventure with TV presenter, author and documentary filmmaker Simon Reeve, as he takes audiences on a journey, telling stories full of laughs and surprises. With this tour Simon hopes to inspire his audience to step outside their comfort zone and into the great outdoors. See what the world has to offer with behind-the-scenes footage from his documentaries.

Chesterfield Area Walking Festival

11-19 May / Various locations
www.visitchesterfield.co.uk

Explore the many walks the Chesterfield area has to offer this May. Whether it's a small stroll through the local parklands, a ten-mile ramble around the railway track beds or the challenging 34-mile Round Walk for more experienced hikers, there are a variety of guided walks available across the whole area for everyone to take part in. The guides are all fully trained and experts on the local wildlife, the history and the best walks (and pubs) to visit.

Comedy

Myles Jupp: On I Bang

7 May / Lyceum Theatre
www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

In 2021 Myles suffered a seizure as a result of a brain tumour and lived to tell the tale, literally. The show takes the audience through the whole story of his seizure, diagnosis and recovery. In keeping with a quintessentially English approach to not taking it too seriously, Jupp puts an amusing yet elegant twist on a life-altering experience.

Music

Tiny Dancer: The Music of Elton John

17 May
Buxton Opera House
buxtonoperahouse.org.uk

Tom Weston wows with his uncanny portrayal of The Rocket Man himself. Watch as he captures the essence of the music legend, performing classic hits like Your Song, Crocodile Rock, Honky Cat and of course, Tiny Dancer. The energetic and electrifying show will have people up on their feet all night as they celebrate Elton John's masterful discography.

Sheffield Jazz 50th Anniversary Concert

18 May / Crucible Theatre
www.sheffieldtheatres.com

Celebrate 50 years of Sheffield Jazz with two all-star bands comprised of award-winning musicians. Renowned UK Jazz musician Tony Kofi leads on saxophone with his quartet dedicated to the music of Thelonious Monk in an ode to Sheffield's Jazz history. The concert will also feature up and comer Emma Rawicz, known for her fusion of afro-Cuban, jazz and funk, she has been shaking things up in the jazz community.

Bryan Adams

19 May / Utilita Arena Sheffield
www.utilitaarenasheffield.co.uk

Returning for the 12th time, Canadian rocker Bryan Adams is back in the UK bringing his "So Happy It Hurts" tour to Sheffield Utilita Arena, performing songs from the grammy-nominated album like "On the Road", "Kick Ass" and "Never Gonna Rain", as well as his biggest hits.