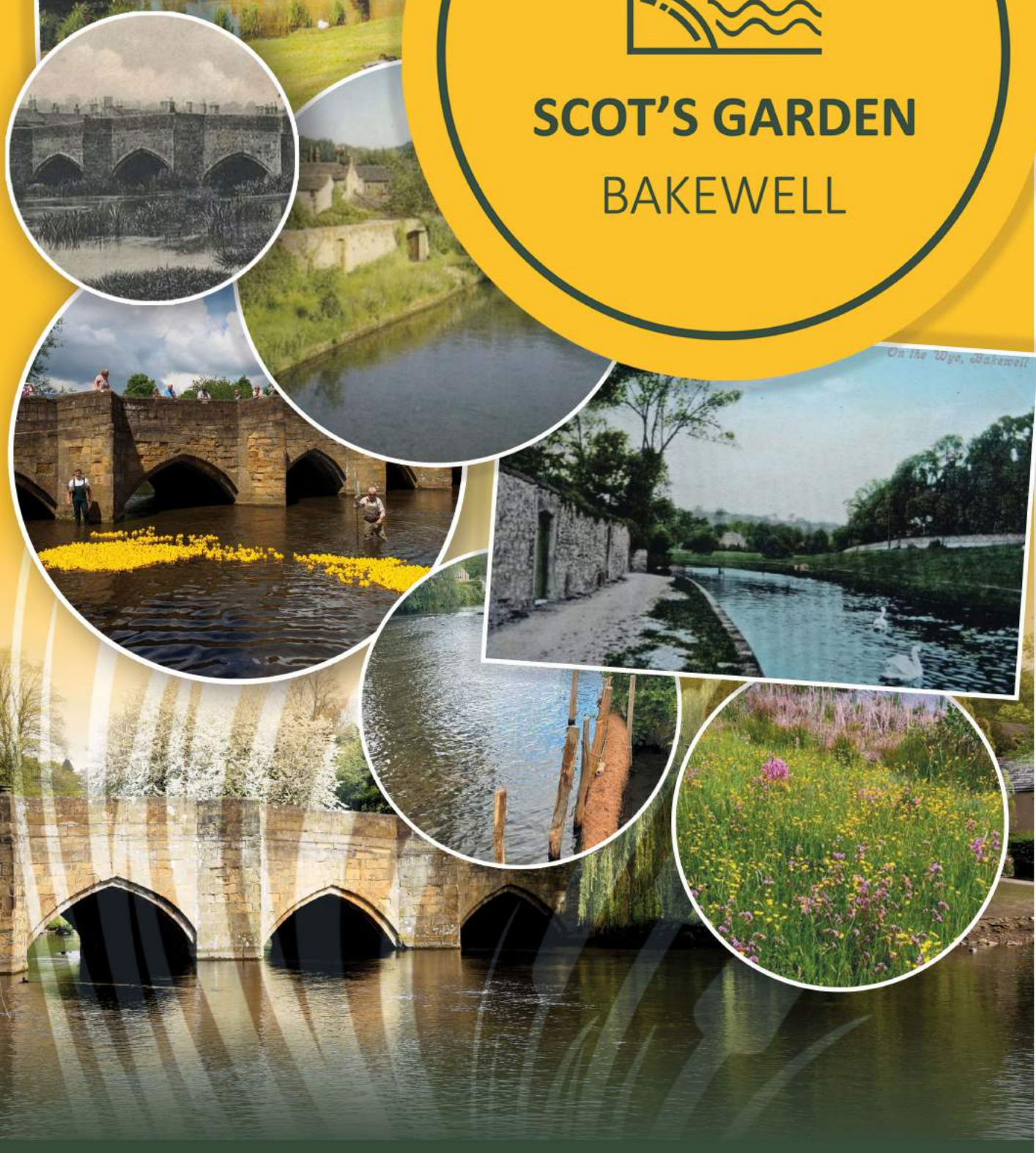


SCOT'S GARDEN BAKEWELL



Water springs eternal in Bakewell

Bakewell's name is said to derive from the warm springs in the area.

The name was first mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in 924. It was called 'Beadeca's wella', which meant Beadeca's springs. Beadeca must have been a Saxon who settled by the warm springs.

In the same year Edward the Elder ordered a fort to be built in Bakewell overlooking the River Wye. Bakewell was on the border of Mercia and Northumbria and was important. A motte and bailey castle was built to guard the river crossing, the remains of which you can still see today.

In the Domesday Book, Britain's first public record of land, written in 1086, the town is named as 'Badequilla', meaning Bath-well.

Bakewell became a bustling market town and around the year 1300 a stone bridge was built over the River Wye to help with traffic management.



Scot's Garden – how did it get its name?

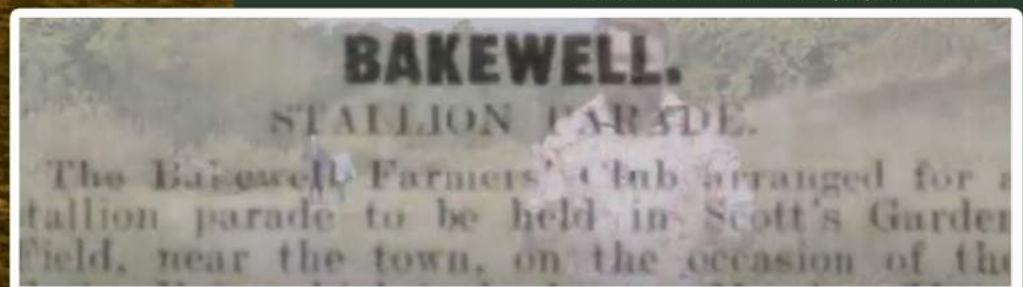
Scot's Garden is an open piece of land by the River Wye, north of the medieval bridge. It was first recorded as a garden in 1381.

Was it open pasture for travellers to rest and feed their animals in medieval times?

The earliest recording of the name 'Scot's Garden' was in 1912 in a newspaper article where Bakewell Farmers Club had held a stallion parade in Scott's Garden. (note it had two t's in the 1912 article)

In 1915, it was called Scot's Garden in a newspaper piece about Bakewell Farmers' jumble sale.

Scot's Garden in newspaper in 1912



DID YOU KNOW?

Scot's Garden was first recorded as a garden in 1381.

Connection with the Dukes of Rutland and Haddon Hall

Was the area named after Sir Walter Scott, who wrote the poem, 'Christmas in the Olden Time' in 1890, describing the festive season at Haddon Hall?

It may have been named after the Duke of Rutland's agent, HR Scot or the 7th Duke's son-in-law, Lord George Scott.



Sir Walter Scott by Thomas Lawrence circa 1820s Royal Collection



Conveyance deeds between Robert Greaves Blake and Bakewell Urban District Council

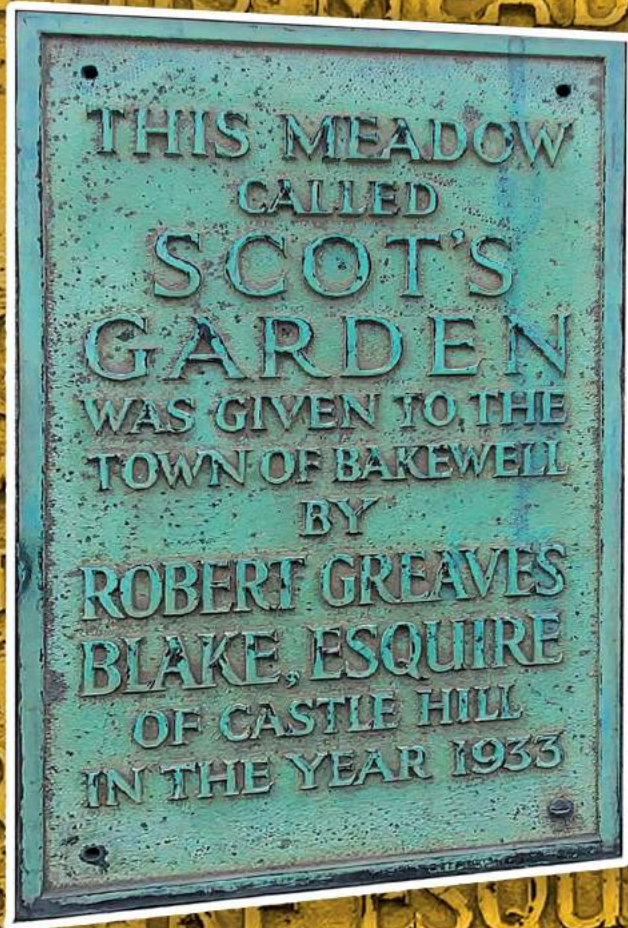
Robert Greaves Blake

Castle Hill House, a grand mansion, was built by Alexander Bossley in 1785. It sits just below the remains of the twelfth century castle, overlooking Scot's Garden.

In 1846, the Duke of Rutland bought the house. It was once a residence and office of the manager of the Rutland Estates. In 1920, Robert Greaves Blake, a local Justice of the Peace, bought Castle Hill House and Scot's Garden.

In 1933, Greaves Blake bequeathed Scot's Garden to the Town Council for the town of Bakewell.

Today, Bakewell Town Council still own and manage Scot's Garden for people to enjoy and for wildlife to thrive.



Conveyance deeds enlarged map



Mills and mines

The river Wye has always been important to Bakewell. From its early Saxon settlement to medieval markets to the industrial revolution and Victorian times, the river has provided a means for generating business.

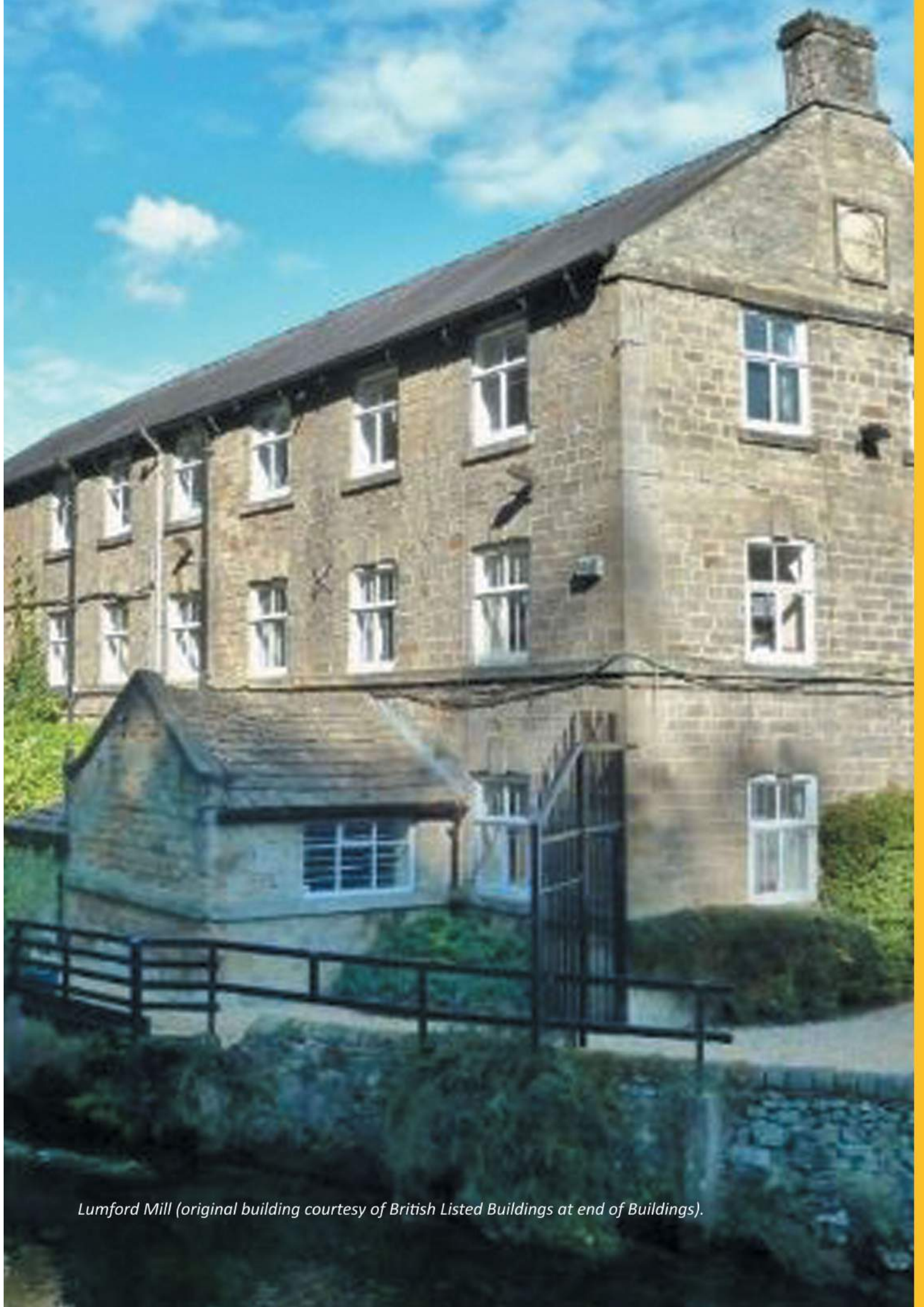
Cotton comes to Bakewell

In 1777, industrialist Richard Arkwright leased a stretch of land by the River Wye and built Lumford Mill to spin cotton. His son became the manager but there were problems with water rights. Arkwright had not sought to gain permission from the Dukes of Devonshire or Rutland. He built dams and ponds, extracted sand, gravel and soil from land on the Rutland estate, altering the course of the river, and interfering with the Duke of Rutland's fishing.

This resulted in court cases in which Arkwright admitted trespass and paid compensation and a rent of £10 a year. From then on the mill prospered.

There were difficulties in recruiting locally, so girls were brought in from Manchester. The mill was sold in 1860 to the Duke of Devonshire, but it burned down and was rebuilt in around 1890. At its peak it employed some 350 people.





Lumford Mill (original building courtesy of British Listed Buildings at end of Buildings).

D.P. Battery

It was whilst on holiday in the Peak District in the late 19th century, that one of DP's directors saw that the mill site was for sale. He realised the potential of the waterwheel to generate electricity and in 1898 moved his company, the D.P. Battery Co. to Bakewell from London.

The wheel generated 70kw of electricity to produce large batteries for electrically powered vehicles, emergency lighting for large buildings and power for submarines.

D.P. Battery Co. employed 300-400 workers and was a major employer in Bakewell, just as the Arkwright cotton mill before.

The factory operated for about 70 years before closing in 1970.



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Holme Bank Chert Mine

Holme Hall (privately owned) is a Jacobean manor house built in 1627 on the bank opposite the river Wye at the northern end of Scot's Garden.

Near to the hall was a chert mine. Chert, a fine grained, flinty silica, is found in limestone.

Known as 'white china stone', chert was used in the Potteries for making china tableware. Josiah Wedgwood highly recommended using Derbyshire Chert.

Holme pack horse bridge which crosses the river Wye is mentioned in 1562; the present bridge was built in 1684.

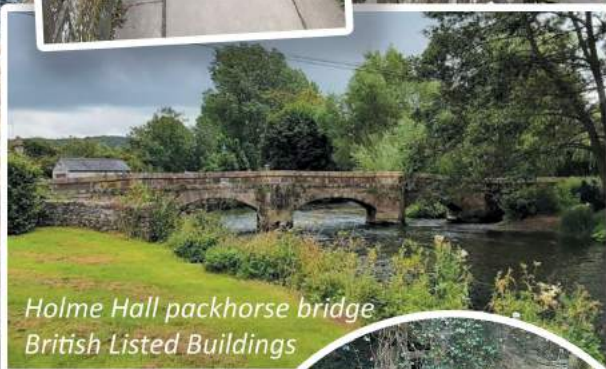
Was the chert from the mines heading to the Staffordshire Potteries?

Before the railway came to Bakewell in the 1860s, the chert was probably taken over the bridge heading to the Cromford canal to go to Stoke. It was then transported by rail.

The mine closed between 1959 and 1961.



Packhorse bridge



Holme Hall packhorse bridge
British Listed Buildings



Chert mine



Crane in the Potteries with chert stone
from Derbyshire - courtesy of transfer ware collectors club

Fishing, poetry and paintings

Derbyshire's fishing history started in the seventeenth century with Izaak Walton's celebrated book, 'The Compleat Angler'. Written in 1676, his descriptions of the idyllic scenes at Charles Cotton's fishing temple on the Dove near Hartington captured the art of fishing.

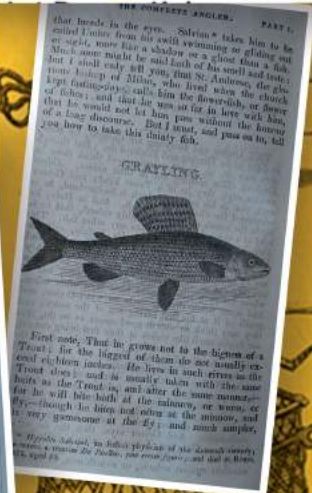
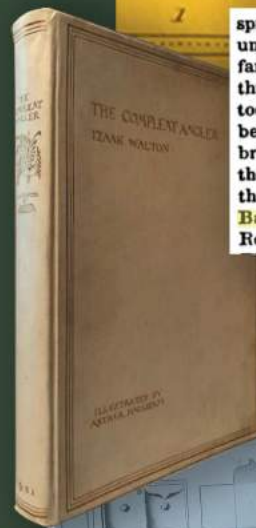
In 1865, James Ogden's revolutionary artificial dry fly fishing was successful when he fished on at the bridge in Bakewell. From the next day, fishermen would no longer be allowed to use live mayfly or artificial flies that sank beneath the surface of the water on the Haddon estate's rivers, so giving the trout some sanctuary.

The river Wye is alkaline providing vital nutrients in the water for insects to thrive. This means the fish have a plentiful food supply. Haddon Estates own and manage the fishing along this stretch of the river Wye.

In the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, pioneering traveller, Celia Fiennes, travelled around England on horseback. In 1697, she visited Bakewell and wrote:

'Thence we came to Bankwell a pretty neate market town 2 mile; it Stands on a hill, yet you descend a vast hill to it wch you would thinke impossible to go down, and we was forced to fetch a Great Compass. There are many fine springs of water purling out of ye Rock on these hills. At Bankwell there was an Excellent Minister in ye Publick who pray'd and preach'd very seriously and his Life and Conversation is suitable, not very frequent in our dayes to be found'.
Celia Fiennes, Through England on a Side Saddle in the Time of William and Mary

springs. The river Wye then has its source near unto Buxton, a town some ten miles from hence, famous for a warm bath, and which you are to ride through in your way to Manchester; a black water too at the fountain, but by the same reason with Dove, becomes very soon a most delicate clear river, and breeds admirable Trout and Grayling, reputed by those who, by living upon its banks, are partial to it, the best of any; and this, running down by Ashford, Bakewell, and Hadden, at a town a little lower, called Rowsly, falls into Derwent, and there loses its name.



Celia Fiennes

Daniel Defoe, best known as the author of Robinson Crusoe in 1719 was also considered to be the 'father of modern journalism'. His 'Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain' in 1726, revealed that 'Bakewell is the best town in the north side of the Peak'.

In November 1830, the famous English poet William Wordsworth travelled through Derbyshire. He spent the night in Bakewell, perhaps in the Rutland Arms, on 5th November. Wordsworth then visited Chatsworth before travelling on to Derby. He did write two poems about Chatsworth, one being written on the spot and the second being a revised and polished version of the first.

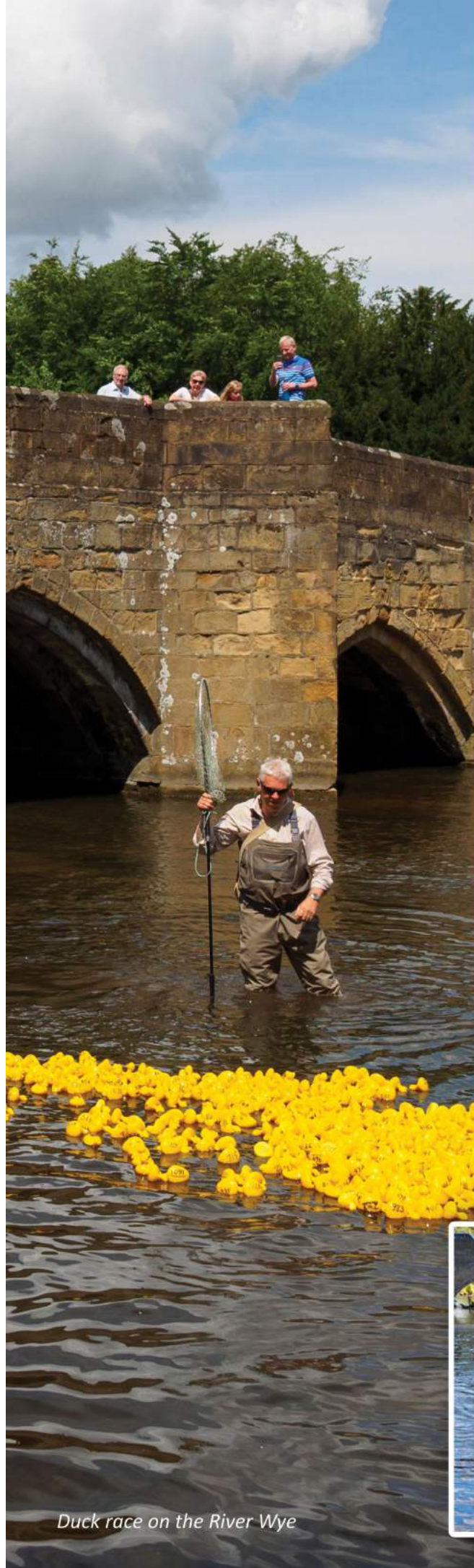
In 1831, JMW Turner visited Derbyshire on one of his tours. He came to Bakewell and sketched the church with the river and bridge over the River Wye.

Today, the river continues to provide much enjoyment for the people of Bakewell. Carnival week in July hosts various events including the raft race a duck race.

Raft race_peakdistrictonline



Duck race on the River Wye



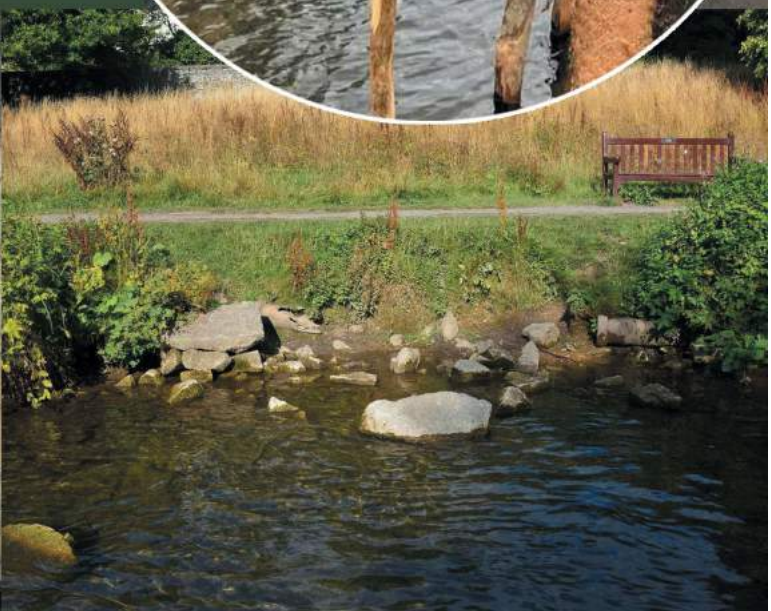
Managing the riverbank and the meadow for people and wildlife

Scot's Garden has always been a popular place for people to enjoy but visitor pressure has increased. This pressure, especially along the embankments of the Wye, where people walk has caused much erosion.

With more intensive rainfall and the resulting floods along stretches of the Wye, the embankments are being washed away. Two sections in particular: Scot's Garden and a section close to the car park on the opposite side of the bridge require management to ensure further erosion is halted.

This restoration project has stemmed that erosion by using natural materials such as coir rope to stabilise the embankments. It has also provided increased vegetation to join wildlife corridors and create healthy habitats.

Restoration work near the medieval bridge



What have we done?

In June 2023, we looked at different ways of restoring the banks. The area upstream from the medieval bridge has experienced erosion which has caused the failure of a concrete and drystone wall bank reinforcement. Continued poaching by cattle and the public entering the water has resulted in continued failure of the bank.

We have installed a rock roll topped with coir roll for vegetation to prevent bank poaching pressure from people, cattle and dogs from eroding the bank whilst getting in and out the water.

We have pre-planted the coir rolls to increase vegetation and improve water quality for wildlife.



Before where the bank was heavily eroded



After with the coir rolls in place

What are the benefits?

By restoring the bank line of the river we aim to:

- reduce silt as it will be filtered out by the brushwood
- reinforce the bank with coir rolls and improve water and habitat quality
- create areas of fish refuge at the bank edge
- reduce sediment deposition which will improve gravel quality

By summer 2025, there should be full vegetation and the bank lines will look natural.

Scot's Garden's Management Plan

As well as restoring the bank lines of the river, we have developed a plan up to 2028 outlining how Scot's Garden should be managed.

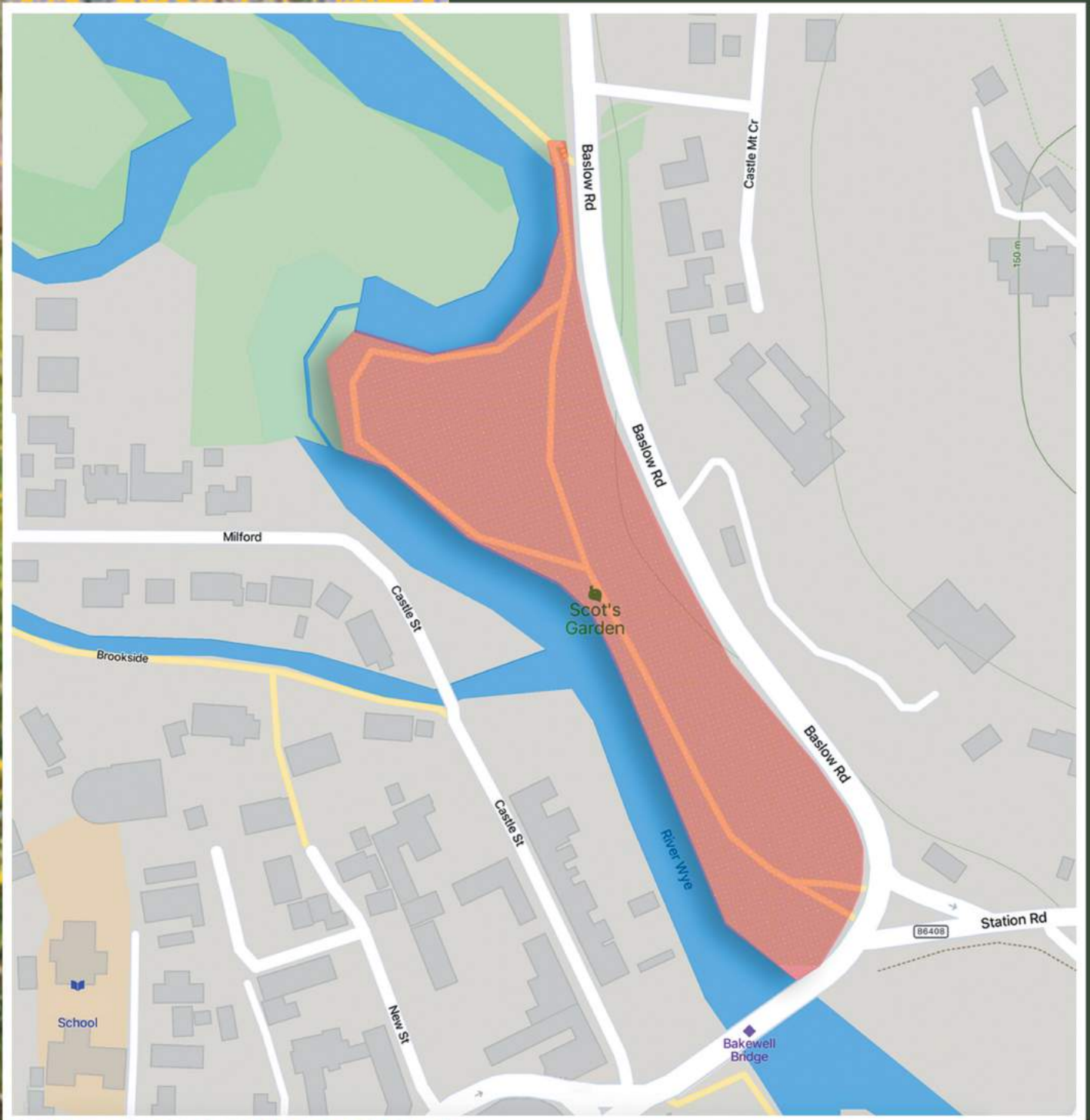
The area is an interface between the town of Bakewell and the countryside of the Peak District.

Our vision is that the area:

- will be rich in wildflowers and wildlife and a welcoming place, being cared for and enjoyed by people, leading them gently out into the wider countryside
- will be maintained principally as a hay-meadow and riverside habitat, with an accessible footpath and a few benches and trees
- is neither a park or garden nor a farmer's field but an interface between town and country



Map showing Scot's Garden area



Scot's Garden link to films:

<https://youtu.be/ONDhg1b5-RE?si=Yn1vZjiXv9EN8Bol>

https://youtu.be/P-oAI_MzwDs?si=TooP5ZECEbFVnV78



SCOT'S GARDEN
BAKEWELL

This booklet is the culmination of a project that has restored the embankments along the river Wye in Scot's Garden in Bakewell.

The project also involved months of research; gathering historical information, photographs and stories of Scot's Garden and the surrounding area.

The booklet has been compiled by Bakewell Town Council. The restoration work was carried out by Environmental Land Management Solutions Ltd, who devised the scheme. Josh Daniels scripted and made two films about the restoration work and Bakewell's history.

A myriad of people have willingly shared information and photographs. It is with great thanks to all those who have contributed.



SCAN ME

Further information about the project is available on our website:
<https://www.bakewelltowncouncil.gov.uk/scots-garden-riverbank-project>

The work has been funded by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with thanks to Lottery players and Derbyshire Dales District Council.

