

A BRIEF HISTORY

BY WILL SWALES



WELCOME

Welcome to a brief history of The Rutland Arms Hotel, Bakewell. During the late spring and early summer of 2016 we had the good fortune to be able to revitalise and refurbish one of our fabulous sister inns, The King's Head in Richmond, North Yorkshire.

During the planning stage of this project we started to look hard at the building and its many historical attributes, at how some parts of the building had been added during its 300 years of existence. And whilst contemplating the small changes and additions we wanted to make, it dawned on me that we will only be its custodians for a generation or two at most. I can't foretell who will follow but started thinking about who had been its keepers in the past.

Therefore, we asked a good friend if he would research The King's Head and try to separate the fact from the fable; what's true and what has been elaborated during the storytelling process over the years.

Will Swales made such a good job of The King's Head that we then asked him to complete the same task for The Rutland Arms Hotel.

What follows is that research. We think it's as accurate as can be, but naturally there are many gaps and we would welcome any additional information.

I hope you enjoy this small booklet and the hospitality and service we provide within The Rutland Arms Hotel. Please feel free to take this copy with you.

Kevin Charity
Managing Director
The Coaching Inn Group

www.coachinginngroup.co.uk





“DERBYSHIRE’S MOST FAMOUS INN”



SCHEME THAT REDEFINED THE TOWN



John Henry Manners, 5th Duke of Rutland, engraving by Joseph Brown, after J. Robson. © National Portrait Gallery.



A view across Rutland Square to the imposing Rutland Arms Hotel

The foundation stone of The Rutland Arms was laid on 17 June 1803 by George Fillingham, land agent to the 5th Duke of Rutland. The inn was under construction immediately behind the town's old principal inn, The White Horse.

The duke was 26-year-old John Henry Manners, who although living 55 miles away at Belvoir Castle in Lincolnshire, was the principal landowner in and around Bakewell; his family's former seat being Haddon Hall, just two miles south-east of the town. In 1804 The White Horse Inn was demolished along with a row of ramshackle shops in front of it to create a new open space, called Rutland Square. By September that year The Rutland Arms was trading, and the completed scheme had redefined the centre of the town.

Bakewell had long been considered the capital of Derbyshire's beautiful High Peak district, and it's clear the new inn was designed to provide sumptuous hospitality for the upper echelons of society, who visited from around the country to enjoy the increasingly popular pastime of tourism. It was also to be a perfectly equipped coaching inn, aiming to establish the town as a staging post on the rapidly expanding national network of public coach services. Unusually, the stables were not built at the rear of the inn, but to the side and on the other side of a road. They were modelled on those of a stately home, with an imposing entrance, inner and outer yards, and the whole enclosed by buildings to house 50 or 60 horses along with hay lofts, tack rooms, carriage houses, and accommodation for stable staff. It must have been one of the finest stables of any English coaching inn.

TRAGEDY AND RECOVERY

The first tenant innkeepers appointed to run The Rutland Arms were James Hudson, aged 27, and his wife Ann, 26. In line with common practice, they also took on the tenancy of a farm to grow hay and oats to feed the inn's stock of horses; although at about 100 acres it was unusually large.

Tragedy struck on 19 April 1805 when James Hudson died, leaving Ann with two toddlers and a baby. A record of June 1805 reveals that in addition to running the inn, she was also the postmaster of Bakewell. It was obvious that Ann needed help; a problem she solved on 30 October 1805 when she married William Greaves junior, aged 34. The tenancy and the role of postmaster transferred to him. In 1807 the couple had their only child, William, known as Billy, who during his long life would extend the family's management of the inn to 90 years.



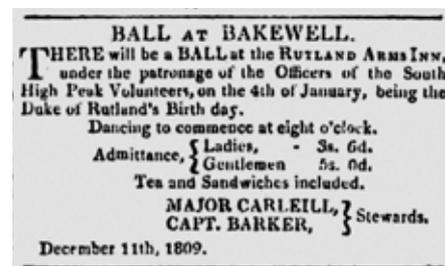
Gravestone of James Hudson in All Saints Churchyard, Bakewell. Image courtesy Paul Hudson.

TOWN'S FIRST PUBLIC COACHES

There was another important arrival at The Rutland Arms in 1807. The Defiance coach was a new service operating three times a week in each direction between Sheffield and Birmingham.

It is the first-known public coach to have been routed through Bakewell. While passengers were dropped off for refreshments at the inn, the horses were changed in the stables, and the coachman and guard could take a drink and a bite in a taproom separate from the inn, in what was probably a converted part of the old White Horse stables. It's now the hotel events suite.

The most-entrepreneurial innkeepers in this period collaborated to establish new coach operating businesses, and so within a year William Greaves was listed as a joint proprietor of a new coach called The Victory, which called at Bakewell on a route between Manchester and Nottingham.



A notice in the Derby Mercury of 28 December 1809 indicating that The Rutland Arms had become the town's principal venue for society events. © The British Library Board. All rights reserved. With thanks to the British Newspaper Archive. www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.

THE POLYMATH AND THE COAT OF ARMS



The Duke of Rutland's achievement of arms, carved by White Watson, above the hotel's main entrance porch.



White Watson, a self-silhouette. From the Bateman Collection, 'Letters to White Watson', Sheffield Museums.

A well-known character of Bakewell, who had close associations with The Rutland Arms in its earliest years, was the multi-talented White Watson (1760-1835).

He was a grandson of the sculptor Samuel Watson, whose much admired stone carvings adorn Chatsworth House, the palatial home of the Dukes of Devonshire, just three miles to the north-east of Bakewell. White earned his main living in the town as a stone carver and monumental mason, but he was best known for his scientific achievements. He was elected a fellow of the internationally renowned biological institution, the Linnean Society of London, and by the early 1800s he was regarded as one of the country's leading experts in the new sciences of geology and mineralogy. He was the author of influential papers on the subject and he maintained a large and impressive collection of locally found fossils and minerals, in which he also traded. He further supplemented his income by creating portraits of local worthies in silhouette, either on paper or as marble inlays.

While deservedly considered a polymath, his many talents did not include financial acumen. He spent most of his adult life on the verge of penury. A distinguished friend in Sheffield recorded that White Watson 'takes a glass of spirits and water at the inn in Bakewell every evening,' and so it is not surprising that when he went bust in 1805, aged 45, it was William Greaves, keeper of The Rutland Arms, who was appointed his assignee in bankruptcy, and who organised an exhibition and sale of Watson's collection of minerals at the inn in order to help clear his debts. Watson had many sympathetic and powerful friends who no doubt helped him to keep his home and business.

He earned £10 for carving the Duke of Rutland's achievement of arms, which was erected above the front porch of the Rutland Arms on 30 March 1815 and is almost certainly the one that survives there to this day. It was carved in the local Hopton Wood stone – a marble-like, fine limestone, which is widely used in sculpture because of its suitability for carving.

THE HUMPHRY DAVY CONNECTIONS

One of the most distinguished and influential visitors to The Rutland Arms in the early 1800s was the brilliant young scientist Humphry Davy (1778–1829). Best known for inventing the miners' safety lamp that bears his name, he was a leading scientist of much wider and greater importance, and someone who would become especially influential on the family of William and Ann Greaves.

The only account of Davy being a patron of The Rutland Arms is a brief mention published in 1886, which was 57 years after his death. Circumstances suggest that he must have been a frequent visitor, who got to know the host family very well. He was a passionate angler, a sport that had become fashionable among the elite, at a time when The Rutland Arms was a renowned angler's inn. William Greaves controlled the licences to fish a seven-mile stretch of the River Wye downstream from Bakewell bridge. Davy wrote about fishing in the River Wye in Derbyshire and was sometimes referred to as the 'father of modern fly fishing'.

Among Davy's many scientific interests he was a founder of the Geology Society of London. He conducted expeditions around Britain to collect samples of minerals, and one of these is known to have included a visit to Derbyshire. It seems highly likely that he would have met and consulted with White Watson in Bakewell, probably while staying at The Rutland Arms and at the same time fitting in some fishing.

Further, in his role as Professor of Chemistry to the Board of Agriculture, Humphry Davy lectured for several years from 1803 to promote the application of science in farming, and it becomes apparent that William Greaves was one of his early followers. It's a measure of Greaves' talents that in addition to being an innkeeper, postmaster and coach operator, he had also become one of Derbyshire's most innovative farmers. His adoption of Davy's ideas is revealed in his contributions to a report on the county's farming practices, which was submitted to the Board of Agriculture in 1813. Further evidence clinching the connection between Davy and the Greaves family follows.



Humphry Davy, by Thomas Phillips.
© National Portrait Gallery.

THE INN AND THE BAKEWELL SHOW



The lavish dining room at The Rutland Arms.

Bakewell Show, which is nicknamed the Little Royal because of the premier status of its exhibitors, and which is claimed to be the largest one-day agricultural show in England, owes much of its beginnings to William Greaves and The Rutland Arms.

The association with the hotel began at the formation of the Scarsdale and High Peak Agricultural Society in Chesterfield in April 1819. Within three months, the society's first annual exhibition was held in a field next to The Angel Inn, Chesterfield. The second exhibition, in 1820, was held in the yard and grounds of The Rutland Arms, Bakewell, and thereafter the annual exhibitions alternated between the two venues.

On the afternoon of each exhibition, the members gathered for their annual meeting and a lavish dinner at the host inn. While the society's name changed a couple of times, and from 1828 the Bakewell exhibition venue moved from the inn's grounds to the town's new cattle market, it remained the rule, with rare exceptions, that The Rutland Arms hosted the society's annual meeting and dinner every second year.

THE BANKS CONNECTION

Sir Humphry Davy's election as president of the Royal Society, was in succession to Sir Joseph Banks, who among his many interests was the owner of the Admiral Rodney Inn at Horncastle in Lincolnshire, now another member of the Coaching Inn Group.

HUDSON, DAVY, AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY

During the 1820s, William and Ann Greaves' four children came of age. It's apparent that their sons, James Hudson, and Billy Greaves, had benefited from first-class educations and were young men of considerable abilities and potential.

James Hudson came to the attention of Humphry Davy, who by this time had been awarded a knighthood and a baronetcy, and in 1820 had become the nation's premier scientist on his election as president of the Royal Society. He would be described later as the patron and friend of James Hudson, who in 1826, aged just 21, he helped to secure the prestigious position of assistant secretary and librarian of the Royal Society.

‘BECOMING A GREAT THOROUGHFARE’

William Greaves gradually leveraged the facilities of The Rutland Arms to persuade some of the country's major coach operators to adopt new routes that passed through Bakewell.

A national trade directory of 1825 showed that by then he had secured contracts to service the daily Royal Mail coach between Manchester and Sheffield, two other Manchester coaches, connecting to Nottingham and Gainsborough, and another service running between Sheffield and Birmingham. Other northern services were soon added, but the big break-through came in 1828 when William Greaves became a joint proprietor of The Royal Bruce, a new coach running on the highly competitive road from London, through the East Midlands, to Manchester.



A Royal Mail coach, by John Frederick Herring. From the Berger Collection, Denver, Colorado.

The previously established route through Derbyshire passed south and west of Bakewell, running through Ashbourne, Leek and Macclesfield. Greaves must have been instrumental in arranging for The Royal Bruce to run north from Derby, through Belper and Matlock to Bakewell, and then north-west to Buxton, Whaley Bridge and Stockport. The superior qualities of this route's roads and inns, and the pleasure of the ride through the High Peak scenery proved so appealing that within two months it attracted two more London-Manchester coaches – The Times and The Peveril of the Peak. The development encouraged one newspaper to report in May 1828: 'The town of Bakewell is now becoming a great thoroughfare, while a few years back there was no coach passed through it. At this time it is supposed there are no fewer than twenty daily.'

From 1829, during the summer months, more coaches started calling at The Rutland Arms, carrying passengers between Sheffield and Buxton for the increasingly popular spa town's bathing season.

ANN GREAVES – ORIGINATOR OF THE BAKEWELL PUDDING



A traditional Bakewell pudding made with puff pastry, served at The Rutland Arms.

THE 1835 RECIPES

Hannah Anthony's 1835 recipe for a Bakewell pudding gives instruction to line a baking dish with a puff-pastry case, add a layer of raspberry preserve and candied lemon peel, fill three parts of the dish with a mixture of clarified butter, sugar, the white of one egg and the yolks of four, all flavoured to taste, and then bake. In the same manuscript recipe book, a second recipe for Bakewell pudding is only marginally different, and a third adds chopped almonds, providing the flavour most-commonly associated with Bakewell puddings today.

Part of the early success of The Rutland Arms must have been attributable to the quality of the catering, overseen by Ann Greaves. The speciality of the house was a confection of pastry, jam, egg, butter, and sugar, that became the world-famous Bakewell pudding.

Speculation abounds over when and how it was created. Some food historians have noted that the Bakewell pudding is more-or-less the same as the 'transparent pudding', which is known to have existed since Tudor times. But it's clear there was something about Ann Greaves' recipe that made it special. The earliest reminiscences of the story might be considered the most reliable.

An editorial comment in the Derbyshire Times of 1886, in praise of the Greaves family, recalled that Ann was given the recipe by a foreign guest at The Rutland Arms 'some 70 years ago', i.e. in the 1810s. This chimes with another story from a local baker, Alfred Rose, who was born in 1864 and was a member of the third generation of Rose family bakers in Bakewell. In 1950, then aged 86, he told a reporter from Confectioner and Baker magazine that he had been told the foreign guest at The Rutland Arms who passed on the recipe to Ann Greaves was an Italian nobleman. Other stories, said to originate from Ann Greaves and passed down through generations of her family, describe how the pudding was created by mistake when a cook or a maid at The Rutland Arms messed-up another recipe and accidentally invented the tastier new pudding.

The earliest known fact about the Bakewell pudding is that three slightly different instructions for making it appeared in a book of manuscript recipes, dated 1835, and now owned by food historian and confectioner Ivan Day. It reveals that by this time, Ann Greaves was not the only innkeeper in town noted for making the Bakewell pudding. One of the recipes was attributed to Mrs Anthony of the Castle Inn. Hannah Anthony was hostess there from at least 1825 until the early 1850s.

HOW IT BECAME THE 'FAR-FAMED PUDDING'

If word of mouth alone had created widespread awareness of the Bakewell pudding up to 1835, then within a couple of years it would be exposure in the press that cemented its national and international fame.

The first issue of an annual publication, *The Magazine of Domestic Economy*, published in London in 1836, advertised that an item to appear in the next issue would be a recipe for the 'far-famed Bakewell pudding'. It duly appeared in the 1837 issue with instructions similar to those in the 1835 recipe book, but this one containing 'almond flavour'. Later the same year, the identical recipe appeared in two American publications, heralding the start of the pudding's world renown. Other slight variations of the recipe, dated around 1835-7, survive in other private and public collections.

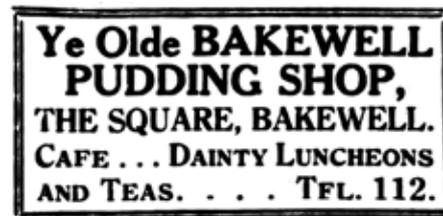
In February 1841 the *Derby Mercury* newspaper reported on a ball at The Castle Inn, Bakewell, where among the fayre served by hostess Mrs Hannah Anthony, it was said: 'there was no lack of the far-famed Bakewell pudding' – an interesting repeat of the exact phrase used in the London magazine four years earlier. A subsequent gap in the records of Bakewell pudding recipes is broken by a private manuscript recipe collected in Derbyshire and dated 1863. It named Mrs Greaves as the source, and interestingly it omitted any mention of almond or any other additional flavouring.

Another copy of a recipe said to have been obtained from Ann Greaves has been long held to be a closely guarded secret. It was acquired by the Wilson family, the successors to the Rose family as owners of the bakery in Rutland Square. In 1881 the 16-year-old Alfred Rose, already named here as an informant about the origin of the Ann Greaves recipe, was an apprentice confectioner employed by Joseph Wilson.

Since at least the 1930s the Rutland Square bakery has traded as The Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop. Bakewell folk with memories of the 1950s can recall the shop's purple and white striped paper bags that bore White Watson's silhouette image of the hostess of The Rutland Arms. Today there are three bakeries in the town centre that supply the original style of Bakewell puddings.



Ann Greaves in silhouette by White Watson. Courtesy the Devonshire Collections, Chatsworth, ref. CH27/1.



Advertisement in the *Sheffield Independent*, 28 July 1934.
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www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

"...an important staging post for the national coaching trade..."

BILLY GREAVES INHERITS

After 26 years running The Rutland Arms, William Greaves died, aged 60, on 21 December 1831.

He had established the inn's excellent reputation, had probably exceeded the Duke of Rutland's hopes of making Bakewell an important staging post for the national coaching trade, had become a successful coach-trade operator himself, and become one of the area's leading and most-respected farmers. His son Billy, then aged 24, succeeded to all his father's roles, running The Rutland Arms in partnership with his mother Ann.

ADAPTING TO THE RAILWAY AGE

Billy Greaves proved to be at least as dynamic as his late father, demonstrating astute long-term planning as well as adapting to the immediate needs of the business. It was recorded that on one occasion, for want of a driver, he took the reins and drove one of the public coaches to London and back – a round trip of 300 miles.

But by the mid-1830s the writing was on the wall for the long-distance coaches because of the rapid expansion of a national network of railways. The Royal Bruce coach was discontinued in 1837, while others were switched onto shorter routes, filling the ever-diminishing gaps in the railway network.

Innovative innkeepers were quick to adapt. So, when in the summer of 1840 a railway line opened running through Derbyshire between Derby and Sheffield, and then on to Leeds, Billy Greaves set up a coach service from the nearest railway station, which was 16 miles south of Bakewell, at Ambergate. He brought passengers from there to Bakewell and on to Buxton.



Derbyshire Courier 2 May 1840. © The British Library Board. All rights reserved. With thanks to the British Newspaper Archive. www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

BILLY'S JOY AND DESPAIR

This was a period in which Billy Greaves experienced joy and despair in his personal life. In February 1837 he married Mary Burgoyne, a daughter of the head gamekeeper to the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth.

The couple had two children, Ann, and William. But in April 1839 Ann died aged 16 months. Soon afterwards Mary became sick with consumption. She died in January 1840, aged 26. Billy kept his son with him at the inn, where in addition to his mother, Ann, there was no shortage of female help. According to the census of 1841 the resident staff at The Rutland Arms included 14 young women.

PRACTICE WITH SCIENCE

At around this time it becomes clear that in addition to running the 100-acre farm attached to the inn, Billy Greaves was also the tenant of about 600 acres of farmland around the Duke of Rutland's Haddon Hall, making him the duke's largest tenant farmer in the district.

In 1838 the duke was one of 12 founding trustees of the English Agricultural Society, soon to be renamed the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE). Billy Greaves was a founding member. Like his father before him, he kept up to date with the latest knowledge on the science of agriculture and was a model adherent to the new society's motto 'Practice with Science'.

Then in July 1839, Billy's half-brother, James Hudson, formerly assistant secretary of the Royal Society, was appointed secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society and editor of its journal. The diverse and exacting responsibilities of his new job ranged from managing the society's finances to translating foreign-language scientific papers for publication in the journal.

"...Mary became sick with consumption."



A bookplate bearing an early logo of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

BILLY'S APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE



James Hudson in 1842, by Richard D Ansdell.
Courtesy of the Royal Agricultural Society.

The first issue of the Royal Agricultural Society's annual journal, for the year 1839, ran to more than 500 pages.

It included an article on the diseases of sheep, which was annotated throughout by peer-review comments from Billy Greaves. Being half-brother to the editor probably helped, but it becomes clear from later records that Billy was widely respected as an enthusiastic and accomplished innovator in many aspects of farming science. In the second issue of the journal, published in 1841, Billy Greaves was one of several correspondents who reported on their roles in a nationwide experiment in the application of nitrate of soda as a fertiliser. His report demonstrated a careful scientific approach in which he ran several experiments, each one measured and evaluated with detailed calculations of profit potential.

Given his roles as coaching-inn keeper and coach proprietor, it should be no surprise that Billy Greaves had also become an expert on horses. In February 1841 he gave a report to the council of the Royal Agricultural Society on his own-designed and successful treatment of 30 of his horses suffering from influenza. He declined the traditional method of bleeding and instead opted for nutritious and medicinal feeds administered in warm, dry, and well-ventilated stables.

BAKEWELL FARMERS' CLUB

The Royal Agricultural Society was concerned that county agricultural societies, which had been formed by wealthy gentlemen farmers, did not allow the latest scientific advances to reach poorer, small-scale farmers. So, it encouraged the formation of local farmers' clubs where knowledge could be passed on.

In response, in 1843 Billy Greaves and a few of his farming friends established the Bakewell Farmers' Club, which met monthly at The Rutland Arms. Billy was the first secretary, but the club had barely got off the ground when he decided to pursue a new opportunity that would take him away from the town.

A TWO-HOTEL ENTERPRISE

Towards the end on 1843 Billy Greaves took on the tenancy of The Old Bath Hotel, eight miles along the Derby road at Matlock. By this time, the word 'inn' was frequently replaced by 'hotel' to indicate a superior establishment.

Billy resigned his post in Bakewell Farmers' Club, resigned as the town's postmaster, and gave notice to surrender the tenancy of The Rutland Arms so that his mother, Ann, then aged 65, could retire. In December 1843, the Rutland Estate advertised the hotel to let. The notice confirmed that it came with a farm of 100 acres, together with a Bakewell boarding house, known as Bridge House, which had a 'pleasure-ground' and a garden access to the bank of the River Wye and to the fishery that was licensed to guests at the hotel.

But no taker was found. So, Ann Greaves decided to continue running The Rutland Arms while Billy ran The Old Bath Hotel at Matlock and oversaw the management of the whole family enterprise. Perhaps in need of female support for his new venture, in April 1844 Billy Greaves married Mary Bown, who at 48 was 12 years his senior.

THE PAXTON CONNECTION

A sister of the new Mrs Greaves was married to one of Billy's close friends, Joseph Paxton, the garden designer, and head gardener at Chatsworth House.

Paxton was a regular visitor to The Rutland Arms, and he was a man of many extraordinary talents. In the glass houses at Chatsworth he developed a variety of banana that he named Cavendish; the family name of the dukes of Devonshire, and which long after his death would become the world's most popular banana variety. He also turned his hand to building design and construction, which enabled him to create at Chatsworth the most famous garden in England; a status confirmed in 1841 when he completed construction of the duke's Great Conservatory.

"...the word 'inn' was frequently replaced by 'hotel' to indicate a superior establishment."



The Great Conservatory at Chatsworth: The Interior, from the Central Walk © Artokoloro/Alamy Stock Photo.

It was not the first of the giant glasshouses in the world but it was the biggest – occupying three-quarters of an acre and standing 19 metres high. Inside, Paxton created a tropical paradise of giant rocks and ponds, with palm trees and exotic plants from around the world. The structure was heated by eight underground boilers that fed seven miles of hot-water pipes and consumed coal on such a scale it was delivered by railway directly into the building. During the Great War, the upkeep could not be justified, so the plants died, and the building was demolished in 1920.

VISIT OF THE KING OF SAXONY



Friedrich August II., King of Saxony.
© Austrian National Library/Interfoto/Alamy Stock Photo

Within a couple of months of their connection by marriage in June 1844, Billy Greaves and Joseph Paxton were involved together in hosting a visit to the area by the King of Saxony.

Friedrich August II, aged 47, was in the middle of a nine-week tour of Great Britain, taking in many of the best-known visitor attractions. He and his entourage drove from Chesterfield to Hardwick Hall, one of the Duke of Devonshire's houses, and then continued to Bakewell, arriving at dusk at The Rutland Arms, which the king's physician described in his notes as an 'elegant inn' that 'afforded us excellent accommodation'.

The next day the party drove to Chatsworth House, where they marvelled at the treasures of the palace and were guided by Joseph Paxton on a tour of the gardens and the Great Conservatory. Then they drove to the Duke of Rutland's Haddon Hall, followed by a return to Bakewell for dinner and a second night at The Rutland Arms. The next day the king and his party visited Buxton and Castleton, drove back through Bakewell and then on to Matlock for dinner and an overnight stay at Billy Greaves' Old Bath Hotel, departing the next morning for Derby.

FARMERS' SHOW FIXED ON BAKEWELL

By the start of 1849, the then-named North Derbyshire Agricultural Society was in a steep decline, and it was dissolved in the middle of the year.

Bakewell had been scheduled to host the society's annual exhibition in the autumn, so the Bakewell Farmers' Club, which met monthly at The Rutland Arms and was thriving, stepped in to organise its own exhibition. The first, held in October 1849, was a success, and from then onwards it would be repeated in Bakewell every year and would grow to become the event now known as the Bakewell Show.

CHARLES DICKENS DROPS IN

Another of the great talents of Billy Greaves' friend and relative Joseph Paxton was that for 20 years he published and edited a series of gardening magazines. Their success encouraged him to put up the capital for a new newspaper, *The Daily News*, which was intended to rival *The Times*.

Paxton appointed as first editor, the celebrated author Charles Dickens who to seal the deal visited Paxton at Chatsworth in 1845. It seems likely that on this trip, or perhaps on another unrecorded visit to Chatsworth, Dickens dropped in at The Rutland Arms. Only then could he have written in 1850, in one of the early issues of his own magazine, *Household Words*, a precise description of part of the hotel. It appeared in the introduction to a short story called 'The Warilows of Welland, or The Modern Prodigal'. Dickens wrote:

'Many travellers know the Rutland Arms in Bakewell ... [and] in the days of the long coaches and long wintry drives ... will recall one feature of that accommodating inn, which, uniting aristocratic with commercial entertainment, has two doors; one lordly and large in front, to which all carriages of nobility, prelacy, and gentility naturally draw up; and one at the end, to which all gigs, coaches, mails, and still less dignified conveyances, as naturally are driven. Our travellers will as vividly remember the passage which received them at this entrance, and the room to the left, the Travellers' Room, into which they were ushered. To that corner room, having windows to the Market Place in front, and one small peeping window at the side, commanding the turn of the north road, and the interesting arrivals at the secondary entrance, we now introduce our readers.'



Charles Dickens in 1839. An engraving by William Finden of a painting by Daniel Maclise.



The side entrance, altered since Dickens' day, formerly used by those travelling in 'coaches, mails, and still less dignified conveyances'.

THE 'BUSIEST MAN IN ENGLAND' LEND A HELPING HAND...



Joseph Paxton (1803-1865), painting by Octavius Oakley, c. 1850. © National Portrait Gallery.

Charles Dickens described the dynamic Joseph Paxton as the busiest man in England. Among his many commitments he was a director of the Midland Railway Company, which in June 1849 opened a new line from Amber Gate running 12 miles up the Derwent Valley, through Matlock, and finishing at Rowsley, just four miles short of Bakewell.

Joseph Paxton must have had a hand in engaging Billy and Mary Greaves in the project. On the opening day, the press reported scenes of excitement at the arrival of every train: 'many of the pleasure seekers availed themselves of the gay-looking and really costly vehicles placed at their disposal by Mr Greaves of the Old Bath Hotel, Matlock and the Rutland Arms, Bakewell, as well as other conveyances, and made trips to the princely mansion of Chatsworth or the venerable pile of grey old Haddon'. To celebrate the new line, the couple were called upon to host a lunch for about 100 gentlemen at the Old Bath Hotel, Matlock. And by January 1850, Billy was advertising his appointment as the company's sole agent in the district for goods and parcels.



**GOODS AND PARCELS BY RAILWAY
TO AND FROM ALL PARTS OF THE
KINGDOM.**

W. GREAVES

BEGS to inform the public that he has been APPOINTED by the MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY SOLE AGENT for the District of the Ambergate, Matlock, and Rowsley Railway, and that he receives and forwards goods and parcels (in conjunction with Messrs. Chaplin and Horne) at his Offices—

Rutland Arms Hotel, Bakewell,
Old Bath Royal Hotel, Matlock,
Red Lion Inn, Wirksworth,
and at the Railway Stations, Rowsley, Matlock Bridge, and Cromford—where every information can be obtained.

Rutland Arms, Bakewell, Jan. 10, 1850.

Derbyshire Courier, 19 January 1850. © The British Library Board. All rights reserved. With thanks to the British Newspaper Archive. www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.

...AND WAS A FRIEND INDEED

In August 1850 Joseph Paxton took time away from the greatest project of his life to help his friend Billy Greaves when he was in need.

Paxton had just been given the go-ahead to build his design for the hall for the Great Exhibition of 1851, but had only eight months in which to complete it. Nonetheless, he found time to support Billy, who had just lost a high-profile court battle over a claim against him for damages after a road accident. He had ridden his horse at night into an unlit carriage, which was upturned, injuring its three occupants. The damages and legal costs totalled nearly £500, which was a crippling amount even for the well-heeled Billy Greaves. To help him, Paxton chaired a fundraising dinner, attended by about 100 friends, and led the appeal by an exemplar financial donation of £20.

CRYSTAL PALACE DELIVERED ON TIME AND ON BUDGET

Joseph Paxton delivered his promised great hall – the world's new largest glass house – on time, on budget and to a specification even grander than his original plan.

The Crystal Palace, as it became known, was erected in Hyde Park, London, and opened on 1 May 1851. It stood 40 metres tall and extended over seven acres, an area 25 times greater than his Great Conservatory at Chatsworth. Paxton was knighted. After the exhibition, the Palace was dismantled, moved, and rebuilt in Penge, South London, where it was destroyed by fire in 1936.

BACK TO THE INN OF HIS BIRTH

By the beginning of 1858, Ann Greaves was aged 80 and must have wanted to retire from running The Rutland Arms. So, her son Billy decided to give up the tenancy of The Old Bath Hotel at Matlock. He and his wife, Mary, returned to the hotel where he was born 51 years earlier. Ann Greaves retired to Manchester, to be near her widowed daughter Ann.

ONLY CHILD LOST AT SEA

On 5 January 1859, a death notice appeared in the Derby Mercury: 'At sea, on 19th Sept last, William, only son of William Greaves of Bakewell, aged 19'.

The delay of nearly four months from the date of death to the appearance of the death notice seems strange, but probably fits with the shipping news published shortly afterwards. It was reported that the barque *Mimosa* had left the port of Smyrna in Turkey on 19 September 1858, bound for the river port of Boston in Lincolnshire, but: 'nothing having since been heard from her, it is supposed that she and all hands onboard are lost'.



Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace at Hyde Park, London. From Dickinson's comprehensive pictures of the Great Exhibition of 1851. © The History Collection/Alamy Stock Photo.



Memorial stone to William Greaves, 19, in All Saints Churchyard, Bakewell. Image courtesy Paul Hudson.

"...he had a sort of insanity for extravagance... from which he was not capable of extricating himself..."

BROTHER'S SHAME AND DEATH

Within six months of the reported loss of his son, came the death of Billy Greaves' half-brother, James Hudson, the secretary and journal editor of the Royal Agricultural Society in London.

He had often visited Derbyshire to attend local agricultural events, where he was considered a celebrity. But in May 1859, after 20 years in his job, he suddenly fell from grace.

Newspapers reported that he was sacked after nearly £2,000 of the society's money was missing. He and his family immediately moved to live with his sister Ann in Manchester, where within a month he died, aged 55. One commentator reported: 'notwithstanding he received a very liberal salary ... he had a sort of insanity for extravagance as regards books and the education of his children ... which involved him in a labyrinth [of debt] from which he was not capable of extricating himself ... [and] caused his spirits and health to break down and end in rapid decay and death'.

RAILWAY REACHES BAKEWELL

In 1862 the Midland Railway line was opened from Rowsley up the Wye Valley to Bakewell, extended the following year to Buxton, and then in 1867 connected through to Manchester.

The coach trade through Bakewell was much reduced. Billy's contract to operate the daily Royal Mail coach between Bakewell and Sheffield continued, but only until 1870, by which time coaches through The Rutland Arms were restricted to summer-season tourist trips between Sheffield, Bakewell and Buxton, incorporating visits to Chatsworth House and Haddon Hall.

THE ADMIRATION OF FRIENDS

During 1885 the many friends of Billy Greaves in and around Bakewell contributed to a fund to commission a portrait of the genial host, to be given to him as a gesture of their admiration for his contributions to the town and district.

They paid 100 guineas to the Liverpool artist William Barnes Boadle, whose work was presented to Billy by Lord Edward Cavendish, third son of the 7th Duke of Devonshire, and the MP for West Derbyshire, at a dinner at The Rutland Arms in December 1885. The Duke of Rutland's Derbyshire land agent, Robert Nesfield, spoke warmly and described Billy as an institution in the town.

AN ERA ENDS AND ANOTHER BEGINS

Billy Greaves died in February 1894, aged 86, the whole of his life having been spent at or in charge of The Rutland Arms. His widow Ellen, 49, gave up both the hotel and the farm at Haddon, and retired to a nearby village.

Her replacement was an experienced hotelier from Matlock, Thomas Tyack, initially in partnership with another established hotelier, William Fenwick Mill, of Buxton. In 1895, the Duke of Rutland invested in the erection of a single-storey extension at the rear of the hotel to form a large function room, with a sprung floor for dancing. William Fenwick Mill died in 1897, leaving Thomas Tyack in charge. Tyack died suddenly in 1907, aged 72, leaving his widow Elizabeth to run the hotel until her retirement in March 1911.

The new tenant appointed that year was 40-year-old Ernest Wood, who with his wife, Emily, moved from running a smaller hotel in Derby, where he had served as a town councillor. Their arrival was the beginning of a new and important era for The Rutland Arms.



Billy Greaves in 1885, carbon photograph of a painting by William Barnes Boadle. Image courtesy Paul Hudson.



Ernest Wood. Image from Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal, 1 September 1923. © The British Library Board. All rights reserved. With thanks to the British Newspaper Archive. www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.

OPPORTUNITIES OF A GOLDEN AGE



One of the beautiful bedrooms visitors can enjoy today.

In 1911, when Ernest Wood took over The Rutland Arms, it was a time of great opportunity for the hotel business. The 'golden age' of Edwardian Britain had seen rapid growth in tourism.

Increasing numbers of visitors came to Bakewell by train, while there were also new forms of road travel available. Wealthy visitors started arriving by private motor car. And for the rapidly expanding middle classes, motor charabancs carrying 22 passengers – the forerunners of the motor coach - had started arriving at Bakewell from Sheffield as early as 1906. In 1912 there were regular summer arrivals by motor charabanc from Sheffield, Manchester, and other cities. The Rutland Arms stables now had a section converted to a motor garage, but still maintained all its traditional services. In the same year it was still possible to travel to Bakewell from Sheffield by an 'old-times' coach and four horses. Carriages and horses were also still in demand for private hire, as was the horse-drawn charabanc for group travel.



The Rutland Arms stables, possibly around 1911, showing a large sign 'Garage' while carriages and horses are still coming and going. Photo courtesy of Bakewell Old House Museum.

CHARABANCS TO THE SIGHTS



Horse-drawn charabancs ready to leave The Rutland Arms. Photo courtesy Bakewell Old House Museum.

Immediately upon his arrival in Bakewell in March 1911, Ernest Wood saw an opportunity to take visitors on day trips to the sights of the High Peak.

He formed a partnership with a Bakewell coach builder, Harry Woodiwiss, to provide trips by horse-drawn charabancs. In the summer of 1911, when a party of 70 members of Derby Chamber of Trade came to Bakewell by railway, Wood and Woodiwiss laid on a fleet of seven charabancs staffed by uniformed drivers and grooms.

WAR AND PEACE

In August 1914, when Britain went to war, Ernest Wood was commissioned along with a local vet to procure horses for the army. On one day in August alone, he supplied the Derbyshire Yeomanry with 116 horses purchased from farmers in the district.

After the war, he emerged as a pillar of the community. He served on the committee to raise funds for the Bakewell War Memorial Cottage Hospital. He was an honorary member of Bakewell British Legion, which he presented with its standard. He became secretary of the High Peak Hunt, of which he was a follower, and he was appointed to the committee of Bakewell Farmers' Club.

AN INTRIGUING VERSE IN STONE

A SPORTSMAN'S PRAYER

Let me live, O Mighty Master,
Such a life as men shall know,
Tasting triumph and disaster,
Joy and not too much of woe;
Let me run the gamut over,
Let me fight and love and laugh
And when I'm beneath the clover
Let this be my epitaph:



The curious verse installed in the hotel wall next to the side entrance.

Ernest Wood was a member and supporter of Derbyshire County Cricket and Derby County Football clubs, while in Bakewell he was elected president of the town's football and bowling clubs.

His sporting interests explain his installation of an intriguing stone plaque next to the hotel side-entrance. It bears two verses of an unattributed, frequently amended, and often misquoted poem, thought to have been composed by a famous American sports journalist, Grantland Rice (1880-1954). The plaque is missing the poem's title, which is sometimes given as 'A Sportsman's Prayer', and missing the first verse, which should introduce the remainder to read as an epitaph. The first line on the plaque has been amended from the original, which read: 'Here lies one ...' to read as a toast beginning: 'Here's to one ...' The missing elements are reproduced in the margin above an image of the verse on the plaque.

A CENTURY OF CHANGE

The economic turmoil that followed the Great War caused the owners of large landed estates to sell vast swathes of their land and property.

Between 1918 and 1920 the 8th Duke of Rutland, Henry John Manners, sold tens of thousands of acres including most of his property in Bakewell, except The Rutland Arms. However, in 1926, soon after the 9th duke, John Henry Manners, succeeded to the title, he sold the hotel to the tenant, Ernest Wood. Press reports at the time described The Rutland Arms as Derbyshire's most famous inn.

In 1938, when Wood was aged 67, he sold The Rutland Arms to the Burton-on-Trent brewer Ind Coope. Thereafter it was run by a succession of managers until the 1970s when it was sold back into private ownership. A series of transfers culminated in the hotel's acquisition in 2020 by the Coaching Inn Group, which has now carried out a major refurbishment to revitalise the business while preserving the hotel's history and heritage.

THE JANE AUSTEN CONTROVERSY

A claim that Jane Austen wrote part of the 1813 novel *Pride and Prejudice* while a guest at The Rutland Arms is a story of gradual embellishment that has been the subject of a long-running controversy.

The nucleus of it emerged in a 1905 tourist guide, *Highways & Byways in Derbyshire*, in which the author asserted, without evidence, that two of the novel's imaginary places, Pemberley and Lambton, which Austen located about five miles apart in Derbyshire, were based on Chatsworth House and Bakewell. The idea was expanded in 1936 in another tourist guide, the first to be produced by Bakewell Council. It stated that Austen's location of scenes in Derbyshire were evidence that she visited Bakewell in 1811, the year it is known she revised an earlier manuscript of the novel. The author of this curious claim, also made without evidence, was the town clerk, Vernon Cockerton. Presumably encouraged by Ernest Wood, owner of The Rutland Arms, Cockerton went further and identified a specific room in the hotel as the inspiration for Austen's imagined room at an inn at Lambton, even though Austen gave no description of the room, nor of the inn, and nor of the town.

According to an Austen scholar, Christopher Sandrawich, trouble came in 1958 when Elizabeth Jenkins, author of a seminal biography of Jane Austen, visited The Rutland Arms. She was 'taken aback' to see a notice bearing a version of Cockerton's story, by then embellished even further to state that Austen wrote part of the novel in the hotel room. Jenkins objected, and there followed a heated exchange of letters with the author of the notice. It continued for seven years and concluded with Jenkins observing: 'the mischief is spreading like dry-rot'. In 1999, when Jenkins was aged 93, the committee of the Jane Austen Society sent a letter to the manager of the hotel stating that chronological studies of Austen's life by the society's scholars confirmed she did not visit Derbyshire in 1811, nor at any other time, and urged the removal of all references to Austen from the hotel's promotional materials.

That year's mayor of Bakewell and a local historian, Trevor Brighton, agreed with the society, and placed a rebuttal of the story in a revised edition of the town guidebook. But old myths rarely die, and so the imaginative and wholly unsubstantiated story of Jane Austen and The Rutland Arms has persisted ever since.



The Rutland Arms Coffee Shop.

SOME WHO MIGHT HAVE VISITED

Attendances at The Rutland Arms of the celebrities described earlier in this booklet are supported by evidence. To these names can be added with certainty some of the dukes and duchesses of Rutland and Devonshire. Among others who it has been claimed were visitors, the most frequently cited have been the poets Wordsworth and Byron, and the artist J M W Turner. All three are recorded as travellers in the Peak District in the early 1800s, and therefore could have visited The Rutland Arms, but in each case, there is no evidence.

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