

## Postcard from Haddon Grove Farm Cottages - Peak District

**We are** Kath and John Fisher, Andrea and Jeff Tomlinson with children Conner, Arran, Ashley, and Lily.

**We stayed at** the Farmhouse, a four bedroom house, fully renovated to a high standard and three bathrooms came in very handy when there are eight people to accommodate. The gardens to the front are ideal for a lively family, the children made use of the lawn to play games of football on. On site is a games room with table



tennis, a pool table and a big plus is a heated swimming pool, all the family enjoyed the facilities. Also on site was a small playground overlooking a very nice view of the surrounding countryside.

**John and I** visited the small Old House Museum in nearby Bakewell which has a wonderful collection of items displayed to show the social and local history of the area. We spent an enjoyable two hours looking at all manner of

things from a bygone age; we found some items brought back memories of our Grandparents houses, I especially liked the collection of toys and dolls on display in one of the upper rooms. There is a costume collection ranging from the nineteenth century through to 1930 and a very dark and musty looking "Garderobe" it is reputed to be the oldest toilet in the town.



**All the family** went for a walk in the National Nature Reserve at Lathkill Dale. We followed the river Lathkill past woods of ancient ash; the boys were quick to explore the openings of the caves left from a thousand years of lead mining. Conner took lots of pictures and he even managed to persuade his siblings to throw stones in the river so he could try to capture the results on camera. We crossed a bridge to view a ruined house; when the house was built in 1830 it had a twelve metre deep shaft which was used for draining nearby lead mines. It was never very successful and the house was then lived in by agent Mr Bateman and his family. You can if you wish descend the shaft by way of a metal ladder to see and try the pump. Some of the more daring of our party did but I was not one of them. Mr Bateman so it is told did in fact do a little secret mining of his own in the tunnel underneath his house. I should think in that day and age you would need to try supplement your earnings but it would have been a little risky to be down there with no back up.



**Pool Cavern** also in Bakewell was enjoyed by all, we were guided in by a lady who gave us lots of facts about the place, the children got a little bored by it but they liked the idea of people living in the caves. A visit to the shop for a souvenir was a must for the young ones, but not me. The Cavern is set in a parkland with woods and at the top through the woods is Solomon's Temple (pictured right) it was built in 1890 and stands at an altitude of 1,440 feet on a Bronze Age barrow. It is well worth the trek up through the woods and out onto the pasture land to climb to the top of the temple and view the surrounding countryside from every angle. We seemed to lose our way a little on the way back to the car but it all added to the day.



Below - walking back down from the temple



**We ended the week** with a trip to Bridgemere Garden World in Cheshire and it was a little disappointing, John and I had been before a while back with Mother and it was very nice, lots of gardens to wonder around and a nice shop and restaurant. However what we did not know was it had been taken over by one of the big firms and was in the process of refurbishment, I do not think it will be any way as nice again. We called in at Leek to see our niece/cousin on the way back; it is always nice to see family although I think she was a little surprised to get eight visitors' in one go.

A very good week was had by all and we hope to visit again soon.

Submitted by Kath Fisher

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