

DERBYSHIRE: UNUSUAL & QUIRKY

Andrew Beardmore

Derbyshire, the most central county in England, is full of glorious countryside, historic buildings and thriving cities, towns and villages. However, lurking not far beneath its surface is a host of oddities and peculiarities that turn the apparently staid and conventional into something much more intriguing.

Although most definitely unusual and quirky, this book still has plenty to offer in terms of conventional reference – albeit delivered in a lateral and humorous format never seen before. And despite the fact that it is divided into two sections called *Conventional Derbyshire* and *Quirky Derbyshire*, even the *Conventional* half is riddled with quirkiness. So although you get key facts and figures along with a detailed history from the Stone Age to the present day, the whole section is interspersed with the book's idiosyncratic "Quirk Alerts", too; like an anecdote called "Splat-Nav" showing up in the thirteenth century chapter, all the way up to twenty-first century nods towards *I'm A Celebrity* and Muggles!

However, understandably it is the *Quirky Derbyshire* section where things turn really strange, and where 77 Derbyshire places have their quirkiest facts laid bare with trivia galore: like Derbyshire's Gretna Green and Derbyshire's Grand National; or how about the World Head Balancing Champion, Harry Potter's owls, Naked Racing and Colditz Castle; and not forgetting award-winning urinals, Britain's most haunted pub, and a woman who lived in a bacon box! If you think you know Derbyshire, read this fascinating and profusely illustrated book and think again...



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

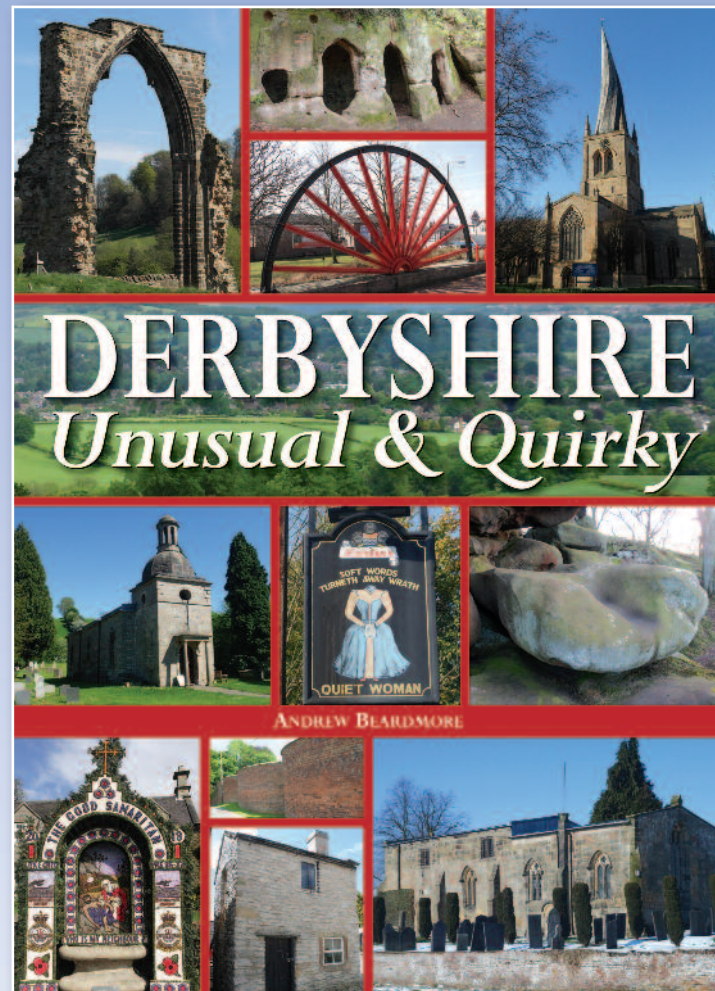
Born in Derby, Andrew Beardmore has lived in Allestree for the last 24 years with wife Karen and children James and Lucy. He developed a love for his home county as a child through regular walks in the Derbyshire Dales and Peak District with his family. He has unsuccessfully attempted to repeat history with his own children, learning the hard way that times have a-changed!

Despite a childhood love of history and geography, Andrew graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Computer Science and has since embarked on a 27-year career in I.T. Still a full-time I.T. Capacity Manager, Andrew writes in his spare time. Having initially written short story fiction and poetry to some critical acclaim, this is his first attempt at non-fiction.

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Crich Tramway Village.



Below: In the centre of Curbar is this horse trough, some old millstones and the old well.



Cast-iron mile-marker on what is today known as the A6187 between Sheffield and Manchester but which was turnpiked in the 1750s.

Example of a double-page spread.



Above: View to the north-east from Bunkers Hill.

Left: The Hunting Stand built in the 1580s and which is located high above Chatsworth House.

Below: The Cat and Fiddle windmill, the only surviving post mill in Derbyshire.

