

# A Winter's Escape to The Peak District – Twixmas and New Year, 2015-16 Part

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## **Monday 28th Dec:**

Bluebell the motorhome is all settled into our home for the next three nights, **Topley Head CL site** (Caravan Club, £10pn w/electric and hard standing), near Buxton, Derbyshire. We arrived here as the sun was setting but our whistle has been wet, and we are looking forward to daylight as the view looks promising!



We had an uneventful journey up to the Peak District, arriving at Eyam just in time for our

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turkey and cranberry sauce sandwich and sausage roll lunch to be devoured! The weather was dry albeit notably chillier than down in Norfolk, and we set off with Jazz for a wander around this fascinating village- a village in which during the summer of 1665, a parcel of damp cloth from London changed the course of its future, sadly carrying plague infested fleas which spread and went on to kill 260 people in just one small, sleepy village.



It's such a pretty little place, right in the middle of a valley with hills surrounding and the typical white peak brickwork on all the houses. Most of the houses in the village have a plaque outside depicting who within those walls were killed. Some has as many as 9 family members who died in that one house –

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whole generations wiped out. Keith noticed that in many families the wife appeared to survive over the men and the children.



and I found the road where I should live, Lydgate □



What was amazing was that all of these properties are now inhabited and are looking very cosy. Bet there are some serious ghost stories told in the pub these days...

There is a national trust property here, Eyam Hall, that was unfortunately closed today, but we are going to try and come back later in the week.



A short drive from Eyam and we found our campsite for the the next 3 days. It's right on the Monsal Trail, which we hope to cycle on

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tomorrow. The drive was through Millers Dale and reminded Keith of Lord of The Rings scenery!

We are surprisingly the only ones on this site - amazing as it's hard standing with electric and only £10 a night! It's across the road from Beech Croft Farm campsite where we stayed a couple of years ago, a lovely site, but twice the price and looking very full from what we could see from the road!



### **Tuesday**

Dawned a bright winters day, perfect for a bike ride, so we were up and out by 10am after a lovely brew and some brekkie whilst enjoying this view from our window.



The start of the Monsal trail was found just down the road from the campsite- walkers

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have access to a steep path at the end of the farm entrance down to the trail, but on the bikes, we opted for half a mile down the A6 to the Wyedale car park (it's downhill meaning a rather steep incline on our return!)



The Monsal trail is an old industrial railway trail that goes from Wye Bridge to Bakewell covering a distance of about 8.5 miles. It cuts through some magnificent countryside, passing several interesting sites along the way, including Lime Kilns and mills, through several tunnels and over the impressive Monsal Head Viaduct. It's a lovely way to spend a day- and it seemed like the whole world was too, it was packed! Nice to see lots of people out and about in the fresh air, but sometimes a challenge navigating around those who

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thinks its ok to walk 5 a side, leave their bikes mid track etc! Never rang my bell so many times in a day!



On arriving at Bakewell we assumed we would find bike parking, and spent a considerable amount of time trying and failing to find somewhere safe and unobstructive to leave them. Bakewell is such a pretty little town, home to the Bakewell pudding AND Bakewell tart, so it seemed rude not to buy two of each for a tasting later! Bakewell was even busier than the Monsal Trail, it was heaving!



We rejoined the Monsal trail and headed back to Bluebell, the return journey was hard work on our unfit legs, but we really enjoyed

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ourselves nonetheless. I was pleased that I remembered to pack my hip flask – getting back up that hill to the campsite was haaaarr-rrrddd!

We've battened down the hatches as the wind is picking up and more rain in the name of Storm Frank is on the way, so we're bracing ourselves for a blustery evening! We are warm and cozy though inside our home on wheels

### **Wednesday**

Storm Frank passed overnight and during today and although we didn't get hit badly, in fact we both slept through it (!), a day out during high winds and thrashing down rain was unappealing to us, so it was declared as a motorhome duvet day, where we literally stayed in bed til lunchtime watching Shogun,

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ate the leftovers in the fridge up, watched crappy tele, watched more Shogun, I read a book, then we went back to bed! We very rarely do this, at home or away, but enjoyed the chill enormously, and felt very rested, which is what holidays are for aren't they, so will probably try and do more of this on subsequent trips!

Until Next Time

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