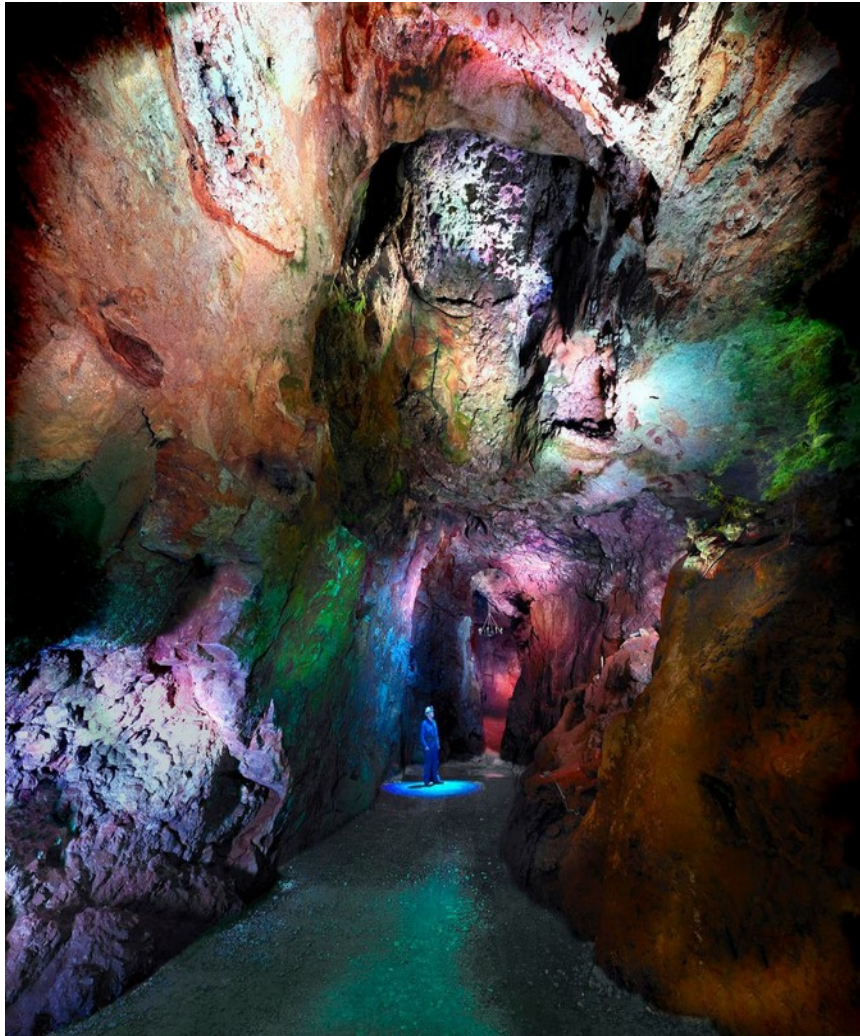


## Bagshaws in Matlock and Thorpe Salvin

Until the early years of Queen Victoria's reign, Matlock was a hamlet whose principal activity was farming with lead mining and quarrying as subsidiary activities. Historians now question whether the Romans mined lead here, but Derbyshire lead mining is undoubtedly of great antiquity. For centuries it provided work for those enterprising enough to stake claims and strong enough to tunnel into the hostile earth. In the Great Masson Cavern dramatic illustrations of the hardship and danger miners encountered can still be seen, and the whole of Masson hillside and much of Starkholmes is riddled with evidence of their efforts.



Great Masson Cavern

In the late eighteenth century Sir Richard Arkwright's mould breaking experiments at Cromford provided factory jobs for a few Matlock people, but it was not until the 1840's that Matlock began its spectacular growth as a Spa Town. John Smedley was not the first to recognise and exploit the effects of water treatment on various illnesses.



John Smedley

Matlock Bath, endowed with natural thermal water, was a Spa Town of some elegance two centuries before he was born in 1803, but it was Smedley whose conviction and enterprise established Hydrotherapy firmly in Matlock, and for a century made it one of the most celebrated centres of the “water cure”. By the outbreak of war in 1939, Smedley’s Hydro was world famous, its guests having included Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Thomas Beecham, Ivor Novello, Jimmy Wilde and Gilbert Jessop, to name but a few. The building that still dominates Matlock Bank was completed in 1886 on the core of Smedley’s more modest establishment, founded in 1853.

Riber Hillside is crowned by the castle that Smedley built as his private residence in 1862. It is said to have been “planned, reared, finished and occupied in four months and one week”. If correct, this is a stunning achievement, given the need to transport huge blocks of stone up a one in five gradient on roads little more than farm tracks. Sadly derelict now, Riber housed a wildlife centre, having been a school, and during the war a food store. Planning Permission now exists for its conversion to apartments.



Riber Castle

Hydrotherapy was given a boost by the arrival of the railway in Matlock, in 1849, enabling patients to travel from London in speed and comfort. By 1867 the line was through to Manchester, and in the heyday of cotton, wealthy mill owners from the North had easy access to the then universally accepted benefits of the water cure and to the many accompanying treatments pioneered by John Smedley. Matlock Station remains largely unaltered from the time that Joseph Paxton, head gardener at Chatsworth and architect of Crystal Palace, had a hand in its design. All that is missing are the through trains to London and Manchester!

John Bagshaw (1808) was born there to Thomas and his wife Elizabeth. In 1834 he married Millicent King and they had a family of 9 children. Their descendants, and there were many, continued to live in Matlock and be associated with St Giles' church for the next 100 years or more including the biblically named Jabez Bagshaw (1843 – 1901).

## Thorpe Salvin

The name Thorpe has Norse roots and is derived from Torp or outlying farmstead. Thorpe Salvin and Nether-thorpe are quiet communities very close to the Notts\Derbyshire border with South Yorks. Mentioned in the Domesday book as part of Roger De Busli's Laughton estate, possibly as Rynkenild Thorp, for its place on the ancient Rynkenild Street highway (also once a Roman road on the same track as modern Packman Lane, and said to be haunted by a squad of eternally marching ghostly Roman soldiers!). In 1315 one Anketyne Salvin was recorded as one of the lords of Thorpe Salvin - hence Thorpe Salvin.

Thorpe fell under the ownership of the Sandford family, one of whom deserted Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth to join Henry Tudor. In 1570 he built a Manor House, the ruins of which are Thorpe Hall, bought by the Osbourne family around 1636 as part of the Thorpe Salvin manor (they were the family who were to become the Dukes of Leeds by 1694 and now looked after by English Heritage. Only the south front remains standing. The public records also record the 'Athorpe family of Thorpe Hall, Thorpe, Yorkshire' who became the first resident lords of the manor in Dinnington in 1678, and who's falcon containing family crest was indicated by the Falcon pub there.



Thorpe Hall

Robert Bagshaw (1862 – 1936) and his wife Mary (Vessey) moved to Thorpe Salvin via Ashover and Bolsover and was there before 1890 when their son Thomas was born. In 1894 they had a son John who died as an infant and in the following year another son, also John, who died in the same year and both are buried in the cemetery of the parish church.