

Sedbergh (pronounced 'Sedber') might appear like a quiet little market town, but

DID YOU KNOW...



That there is an air raid bunker next to Howgills Barn...?

Castlehaw Tower is a small well preserved motte and bailey castle. The oval motte is around 30 feet high and surrounded by a ditch some 15 feet wide except on the south where there is a steep cliff dropping down to the houses below. The top of the motte is dish shaped, possibly caused by the removal of a building. The bailey, which lies to the west of the motte and slopes to the west is 30 metres east to west by 20 metres north to south. The motte was used as an air raid look out during World War II.



Sedbergh is in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, yet confusingly it is also in Cumbria and the South Lakes!



Howgills Barn was once a humble hay store and cattle byre for Castlehaw Farm. Its origins can be traced back to the 18th century. It was converted in 2006 and in 2017 the barn made local history as it took on a new role as a civil wedding venue.

If history's your thing, relish the fact that Sedbergh is mentioned in the Domesday book, and the name's a derivative from the Norse 'Set Berg' meaning 'flat-topped hill'. The town was granted a market charter by Henry III in 1251. In 1652, in the early days of the Quaker movement, George Fox, founder of the Quakers, preached to a congregation of a thousand from a large rock on the fellside just outside Sedbergh, which became known as Fox's Pulpit.

The Howgill Fells are often called 'Sleepy Elephants' which was inspired by a reference in A W Wainwright's book 'Walks on the Howgill Fells' where he describes the Howgills as "likened to a huddle of squatting elephants"

The Sleepy Elephant Shop on the Main High Street, is a medieval building which Bonnie Prince Charlie was said to have hidden in a chimney there during his retreat north in 1745.

Sedbergh Private School has an impressive history as well as the beautiful historic buildings which are all around Sedbergh. One of our guests recently said that she felt like she was in 'Harry Potter' world and this is perhaps due to the impressive stone architecture of the local buildings.