



J.A.K. Travel

January 2011

Travel Club Newsletter

We hope you like the new 2011 Short Breaks and Day Excursions programme, We have a few trips this year that we haven't done before and we hope you will find these interesting, as well as some old favourites. Last years news letter was also popular and we hope you like this one as well with a mixture of news and information.



A rare chance to see all the coaches together

Thank you for all the feedback we have received, we have taken this on board and have tried to include some of the suggestions you have made in putting our Day Trips and Tours together.

Mystery Tours

In the last newsletter we told you about the mystery tours and all the secrecy involved, but now we can tell you some of the places we visited in 2010.

In 2010 there was a bit of a nautical theme, with a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia as part of a Scotch Broth trip. The yacht is situated in Leith Harbour in Edinburgh, alongside the Ocean Terminal shopping centre for the less maritime inclined. There was an opportunity to see how those below deck fared as well as how the Royal Family travelled, and was a great chance to experience recent history.



Royal Yacht Britannia

Less regally, but equally enjoyable, was a canal trip in the Peak District! there was also a trip to Liverpool's Albert Docks with its superb maritime museum with memories of the RMS Titanic and the Lusitania.



Woburn Abbey

As always Stately Homes proved popular with both Woburn Abbey, home of the Duke of Bedford and Waddesdon Manor, the magnificent 19th Century home of the Baron Rothschild included. Waddesdon Manor is particularly impressive, built in the style of a french chateau, and furnished to reflect the Barons love of antiques. Another popular destination



Waddesdon Manor

was Longleat, home of the 7th Marquess of Bath and regarded as one of the finest Elizabethan houses in England, and set in grounds landscaped by Lancelot "Capability" Brown.



Erdigg House

Erdigg, an 18th Century house situated outside Wrexham is one of Britain's finest houses reflecting life both upstairs and downstairs. Erdigg has an impressive range of outbuildings including stables, smithy and sawmill, and both formal gardens and parkland.

Who knows what treasures we will visit in 2011, old favourites or brand new attractions. In any case we'll try and give you a variety of interesting venues and exciting experiences. We know we have many regulars on these trips, so we try and rise to the challenge of new venues. Remember, we really value your feedback, especially where there are places you think we could feature in our tours, or just good hotels you'd like us to use again.

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Our Staff

As with any organisation during the course of a year there have of course been some staff changes, this section introduces you to the “new “faces, and maybe help you solve a conundrum!



Jim.

A part time driver who may be new to you, but who could be said to be JAK’s longest serving staff member! We first met Jim back in 1987 and he was Alan’s co driver on one of JAK’s first private hires, a day trip to London on 1st February 1988. If you like motor bikes, Jim is the man to talk to!

Nick.

Another part time driver who we have known since 1991, of Italian decent, Nick is a very well travelled and versatile member of our team, and who despite being a Blue Badge Guide for Yorkshire, we can still manage to surprise him where we send him!

William.

Since retiring from full time driving, William has continued helping out part-time mainly at weekends, a regular job being the driver for the Bradford CHA Rambling and Social Club, where his years of experience were of great benefit in getting them to some far flung little known parts of the universe for their rambles! He has now hung up his coach driving gloves permanently, leaving quite a gap for us to fill, but we wish him well and maybe he will get time to complete his model railway!

Mystery Twins.



At JAK we have our own Ant and Dec, (also known as Alan and Paul), who everyone knows who they are, but no one knows which is which! Over the course of the last few years when out and about it has become apparent that there is an identity problem “ People start taking about which trips I’ve taken them on, and I think, I didn’t do that one, Alan did that” says Paul, “and I know the same in reverse happens with Alan”.

So to end the confusion here is a picture of the two of them. Alan on the left, Paul on the right - or is Paul on the left, Alan on the right ?

Barry.

Many of you will be aware of Barry’s two boys, the eldest Jordan is now a member of the Junior Fire Brigade, and Nathan is doing very well with his football, now playing at Liverpool FC Academy. With Barry now a qualified referee, he is looking forward to sending his own son off!

Do you know of any groups looking for a day out?

Let them know that we also hire our coaches out.

Some of our long standing group customers are:-

Bradford C.H.A Rambling & Social Club

British Gas Retired Employees

Sunwin House Retired Employees

Unison Retired Members

Contact Details

As mentioned in previous news letters we have are collecting mobile phone numbers to enable us to contact you if you have not arrived at the collection point at the specified time for your booked trip.

Also we would like to build up a database of your email addresses to enable us to contact you where necessary.

The above information will be used by ourselves only for the purposes of contacting you.

So please contact the office to update this information if necessary.

Christmas Thanks

May we take this opportunity to thank those of you who sent in Christmas cards to the office along with many biscuits and sweets. Your kind words and thoughts are much appreciated by us and our waistlines!!

Decision Time.

Occasionally because of a low number of bookings we have to cancel some of our tours and excursions.

To avoid disappointment please book at least one month before a short break and 1 week before a day trip as this is when we make our final decisions regarding travelling.

Single Rooms

Please also note that we have very limited singles so please book early if you require a single room as they are booked very quickly.

Lost Property.

We have not yet reached the dizzy heights of the London Underground Lost Property which has tens of thousands of items handed in each year. Current items include two human skulls, voodoo masks, a wedding dress, a rabbi dressing up outfit and a stuffed puffer fish.

We do accumulate a number of items (not as exotic as above) which we record and retain for one month (excluding all perishables), and after this they are given to a local charity shop. We would appreciate your help in avoiding lost property by having a final check at the end of your trip.





Coaching Matters.

Coaches



This year saw the last of our Plaxton Premieres leave the fleet, namely N333 GLO, which we had bought in April 2002, so making it our longest serving coach to date with 8 years of service. Its replacement is a brand new Plaxton, (called a Profile) and also like GLO has a Volvo chassis and engine. It too has 53 seats, these having 3 point seat belts fitted. Further differences are the new coach is an automatic, it has climate control, and for the winter has an independent (from the engine) saloon heating system, so it can be kept warm when parked up. All our coaches now have this system fitted, so the coach should always be warm when you return to it, and we have reduced our carbon footprint by not needing to have an engine running.

If your group requires a coach with a large amount of luggage space ask us about this coach. We have 200 square foot available!



TV Appearance.

Fame at last. One of our coaches featured in the Gadget Show, shown on Channel 5 on Monday 29th November 2010. The presenters were doing a feature about personal satellite navigation, filmed near the London Eye and one of the coaches happened to be there with a group from Brighouse High School.

Snow Disruption.

The start of 2010 was bad enough for the freezing conditions, but to then end the year in the same way is enough to make you question global warming! For us snow and ice make the job a nightmare, for instance the first week in December saw a full diary wiped out, with much reorganising of men and machine. For our own tours and excursions decisions whether to run are taken last minute after much studying of weather forecasts for here, en route and at the



destination. The Edinburgh Christmas Market and Durham Tour only went ahead after discussions with the local tourist information centres and hotels as to what conditions were actually like as we have found that the television coverage sometimes likes to over dramatise a situation, and we end up



doing a trip in sunshine with clear roads and glorious scenery!



An out of hours contact number is on our office answer phone, and having a note of phone numbers when you book means we can phone round if we need to. Though if you have a mobile number that would be useful.

Safety on Coaches.

Just a reminder when travelling on our coaches please make sure anything put on the overhead racks is secure - recently we had someone who thought the lights had gone out when his coat fell off the rack and covered his head! Very funny, but it could have been something heavier, and also please keep the aisle and exits clear, and note that seatbelts are now by law to be worn on coaches.



On a very serious note following a fatality on a slow moving manoeuvring coach (fortunately not one of ours), please remain in your seat and do not stand up until the vehicle stops. In this case the unfortunate person lost their balance, fell and hit their head, which ultimately proved fatal. Patience is often a virtue, and we do not want to see this happening again in the coaching industry.



What do the Logos Mean?



Bonded Coach Holidays is a tour bonding scheme that works in a very similar way to the 'ABTA' scheme for air holidays. It is run by the national coach operators association, The Confederation of Passenger Transport.

What it means is that in the very unlikely event of financial failure, any money that you had paid would be returned and if you were away from home, you would be able to get back. This type of protection is required by law for all package holidays and we feel that this offers you the very best security.



Have you run out of ideas for presents?

Please remember we do

Gift Vouchers

for any value





Looking Forward to 2011

Following the success, in previous years of trips to Scottish Highlands we are offering trips to the 'Orkney's & Shetland's', as well as exploring the Hebrides'. Continuing the Scottish theme we are running a Scottish Railways Tour which includes the famous Jacobite Train from Fort William to Mallaig.



Also on offer is a Scottish Marine Wildlife Tour with an expert guide taking us on a cruise to search for Whales, Basking Sharks and Dolphins.



The most popular trip for 2011, so far, is the 'Isle of Man' which is almost full.

As usual we are running a variety of two and three day 'Mystery' tours, the preferred favourites of Eastbourne, and the ever interesting castles and gardens of Kent.

Scheduled day trips include a chance to see 'Strictly Come Dancing' in Manchester. Castles we are visiting are Warwick in March and Kennilworth in May. If you fancy something with a little floral colour we have a regular trip to the Lakes and Daffodils, Dunham Massey and Spalding Flower parade.



Dunham Massey, Beamish, Spalding Flower Parade, Lakes & Daffodils, Warwick Castle.

Date	Tour	No of Days	Twin/Double	Single	Date	Tour	No of Days	Twin/Double	Single	Date	Tour	No of Days	Twin/Double	Single
Sun 23 Jan 2011	Scarborough, York & Helmsley	2	Yes	Yes	Tue 19 Apr 2011	Keukenhof Garden Kaleidoscope	3	Yes	Yes	Sat 2 Jul 2011	Mystery Weekend	3	Yes	Yes
Sun 13 Feb 2011	Snowdrop Delights	3	Yes	Yes	Fri 22 Apr 2011	Easter in the Cotswold's	4	Yes	Yes	Sun 3 Jul 2011	North Devon Delights	5	Yes	Yes
Sun 20 Feb 2011	Whitby Scarborough Mini Break	2	Yes	Yes	Sat 30 Apr 2011	Free Time in London	3	Yes	Yes	Fri 8 Jul 2011	The Enchanted Palace	3	Yes	Yes
Mon 28 Feb 2011	Torquay House Party	5	Yes	Yes	Fri 6 May 2011	Literature by the Sea in Hampshire	4	Yes	Yes	Fri 15 Jul 2011	Suffolk Scenes	4	Yes	Yes
Fri 4 Mar 2011	Murder Mystery Weekend	3	Yes	Yes	Fri 13 May 2011	Country Houses & Gardens	3	Yes	Yes	Mon 18 Jul 2011	Eastbourne & Scenes of Sussex	5	Yes	Sold Out
Sat 12 Mar 2011	Mystery Tour	2	Yes	Yes	Fri 27 May 2011	Delights Of Cambridge	4	Yes	Yes	Fri 22 Jul 2011	Black & White Heart of England	4	Yes	Yes
Sat 19 Mar 2011	Ironbridge & Severn Valley Railway	2	Yes	Yes	Sat 28 May 2011	3 Day Mystery Tour	3	Yes	Sold Out	Wed 27 Jul 2011	Castles & Gardens of East Scotland	6	Yes	Yes
Fri 25 Mar 2011	Cheshire Delights	3	Yes	Yes	Fri 3 Jun 2011	Llandudno & Welsh Highland Railway	4	Yes	Sold Out	Sun 31 Jul 2011	Southport & The Manchester Ship Canal Cruise	2	Yes	Yes
Fri 1 Apr 2011	Scotch Broth Mystery	3	Yes	Yes	Mon 6 Jun 2011	Scottish Marine Wildlife Cruise	7	Yes	Sold Out	Mon 1 Aug 2011	Castles & Gardens of Kent	5	Yes	Yes
Mon 4 Apr 2011	Isle of Man	5	Twin Only	Sold Out	Fri 10 Jun 2011	Lakeland Literary Inspirations	3	Yes	Yes	<p>Please Contact us on Tel: 01274 566200 Fax: 01274 566803 Email: Office@jaktravel.co.uk Web:www.jaktravel.co.uk</p>				
Mon 11 Apr 2011	Sussex Antiques	5	Yes	Sold Out	Mon 13 Jun 2011	Cheddar, Exmoor & West Somerset Railway	5	Yes	Yes					
Sat 16 Apr 2011	Mystery Tour	2	Yes	Yes	Sat 25 Jun 2011	Orkney & Shetland Mini Cruise	7	Yes	Sold Out					

