

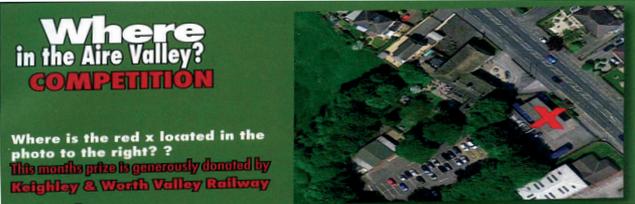
Travel Club Newsletter

2018

Welcome to our latest newsletter, we hope it will enable you to catch up with what's happened at JAK Travel in the past year, and is planned to be happening in the future. There is an explanation why this newsletter is later out than has been the case in the past, plus hints and tips why certain things happen as they do. We hope you've found things to interest you in our current Holiday and Day Excursion Brochures, of which the June to October 2018 Day Excursion program is included with this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you travel with us, and as always your feedback, comments and ideas are always welcome.

Where in the Aire Valley ?

Whilst sat in the dentist waiting room Alan was casually flicking through the February 2017 edition of the "Aire Valley Mag", when the page 13 competition "Where in the Aire Valley is this location ?" caught his eye. This competition shows an aerial view of a place, and you have to guess from the unusual angle where it is. In a rare light bulb moment he realized it was the JAK Depot And was about to enter the competition...when he remembered it was now August, and the deadline was 15th February ! Doooh !



Where is the red x located in the photo to the right? This month's prize is generously donated by Keighley & Worth Valley Railway

Mystery Weekends 2017.



Peckover House

As usual nothing is divulged beforehand so, where did we go last year ? For the three day Mystery Tour in May our ultimate destination was Great Yarmouth, as we had decided it had been a long time since a mystery weekend had been to a sea side resort. On the way south we had stopped at Springfields Outlet Shopping near Spalding, and on the way north our visit was to Peckover House, Wisbech – a classic Georgian merchants townhouse with outstanding gardens. The middle day had a choice of either going for a paddle for the day in resort, or a morning in Norwich, afternoon in resort.



Great Yarmouth Beach



Oakham

For the two day Mystery Weekend in October the overnight stay was near Tamworth, and being in the centre of the country give considerable scope for a wide spread itinerary. The outward journey on Saturday saw a visit to the large garden centre of Dobbies at Barlborough, then on to the picturesque market town of Oakham in England's smallest county, Rutland. Sunday saw JAK Travel break new ground with a first ever visit to Compton Verney – an art gallery set in a grade 1 listed mansion, itself set in 120 acres of



Compton Verney

Capability Brown's landscaped parkland. Then time in nearby Stratford Upon Avon before heading for home.



Culzean Castle

Our final Mystery Weekend was the Scotch Broth which saw us north of the Border based at Irvine. On day one the enroute visit was to Dumfries, then north on the A713 skirting the Galloway Forest. Day two was a morning visit to Ayr, with time for a stroll on the beach if desired. Then via the curious Electric Brae to Robert Adam's 18th Century masterpiece of Culzean Castle, with its stunning views over the Clyde and Scotland's first country park. Sunday (day three), saw a journey south via Cumnock on the A76, and in appalling weather a visit to the narrow gauge railway which runs between Scotland's highest villages of Leadhills and Wanlockhead. This was another first for JAK Travel, but next time we will need to organize better weather!



Leadhills Narrow Gauge Railway

As for 2018...who knows?



It Shouldn't Happen To A Coach Operator

This is the title of Alan's presentation which he does for group meetings, and is becoming very popular with tales of what coach drivers hotel rooms are like, bizarre questions we get asked, and how Alan managed to find himself shut in a prison with the coach party awaiting his return! As part of the presentation Alan shows a picture of himself (aged about 28 years old), with a tag line of "Now he was a good driver, I wish I knew who he was and what happened to him!". To his surprise he has been offered numerous suggestions as to who it might be, by people who obviously don't recognize his elder self! "Worrying, that I've aged that much!" Alan says . If you think this may be of amusement and interest for a group you are a member of, please contact the office for further details.

Michael Walton RIP

Sad news in 2017 saw the passing of a much loved driver and friend Michael Walton. As well as his role as Keighley Town Crier, Michael was a larger than life character and coach driver of JAK Travel, who after a short battle with cancer, passed away in the summer 2017. Our thoughts are still with his family Janet, Michelle and Bobby.



Who knows their Suffolk from their Sussex?

Clearly Alan doesn't !

On page 28 of our latest brochure the tour is titled "Sussex & Essex, Rivers, Coast and Gardens". The snag is we're going nowhere near to Sussex! The title should have said Suffolk, but somewhere between Alan's handwritten notes and his computer keyboard Suffolk became Sussex. Apologies for his senior moment and a well done for all those who spotted this gaff.



Travel Insurance.

From 1st January 2017 we are no longer able you offer Travel Insurance on our holidays, as we have taken the decision not to renew our authorisation given by the Financial Conduct Authority for the direct sale of travel insurance. The process was becoming extremely time consuming, bureaucratic and expensive to operate for just the one insurance product we sold, so we have said enough is enough. We will now recommend an insurer for you to contact, as we believe it is extremely prudent for you to be insured, though of course, you are free to make your own decision whether you take the travel insurance through the company we recommend or go elsewhere. It is not compulsory to take out Travel Insurance (though recommended) for tours within the United Kingdom, but it is compulsory for tours outside mainland U.K. and we do need proof of adequate insurance being in place before travelling to destinations outside the U.K.



Website

In the autumn of last year, we introduced our new refreshed website which can be found at www.jaktravel.co.uk . Please have a look, we hope you like it. So if you lose the hard copy of our brochures, have a look on line, and a digital copy is there, plus some bits of company history as well as previous newsletters like this one.

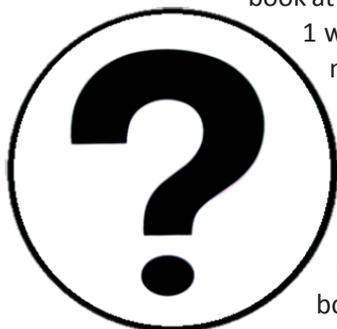
For the past year we have had an official 'facebook' page, this lets you know weekly what day trips we have going how things have gone . So why not head over to our page JAK Travel and see what we are up to.

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.



Mobile Phone Numbers

We have started to request mobile phone numbers, the reason for this is if you are on one of our day trips or tours and you are running late getting to the coach, or you have not arrived at the collection point at the specified time the driver is able to contact you and find out where you are and wait or arrange some other pick up.

So please contact the office to update this information if possible on 01274 566200

Brochure Publication Dates.

We're having a slight change with how our Holiday and Day Excursion brochures are published. The plan is to only produce one main holiday brochure per year in the September, which will cover the following calendar year. However we will still produce two Day Excursion brochures per year, which will be published in September and early spring. So in September you will receive a Holiday and Day Excursion brochure, and in early spring you will receive the next Day Excursion programme along with our annual newsletter.

The main reason behind this is to give us more time to organize the next programme, with less worry about meeting publication dates, as we have been concerned we have not published brochures when we would like to have done.

Day Excursions Programme.



Pendle Hills

As usual our day excursion programme starts gently with a scenic drive around Pendle, and then continues with indoor destinations and some with meals, until we hope the weather warms up and we can spread our wings wider. We've kept in some old favorites at the start of the programme like the BBC Tours at Salford Quays, Oswaldtwistle Mills with a popular guided tour, Bury Market, and the scenic delights of the high Pennines travelling from Penrith to Durham. A couple of new excursions are the East Lancashire Steam Railway including eating the engine drivers fish and chip lunch (bet he'll not be pleased!), and seeing the snowdrops at renovated Brodsworth Hall near Doncaster.

By popular demand we have repeated the trip Tennants Auction House, though following feedback from last year there will be more time at the auction house. Also repeated are the popular trips to



Lancaster canal Cruise

Barton Grange Garden Centre (with a different canal cruise from last year), Cartmel and Grange and the Tyne Cruise Cruise, this year heading down river towards the sea.

One change though to draw your attention to is a change of hall to be visited on Monday 28th May. Due to a booking mix up we cannot go to Rode Hall as planned, but will instead go to the famous Cheshire Tudor black and white fantasy hall of Little Morton Hall near Congleton. The morning will still be spent as planned at Bridgemere Garden World. Hopefully, you will enjoy the next part of the years programme enclosed with this newsletter.

As well as the normal day time trips we have put in a couple of evening excursions to the Yorkshire Vineyard, and Black Sheep Brewery. As well as an introductory tour of the sites, food is included, and I'm sure you may wish to sample the products as well!

On the full day excursions we have the usual mix of stately homes to visit, Sledmere, Althorp, Ripley, to name but three. Plus the popular river trips with a cruise on the River Tees, Manchester Ship Canal, and High Peak Canal.

Further to a transport theme two new excursions take in the oldest air show in

Britain - Blackpool Air Show, and the Midland Railway in Derbyshire for a nostalgic day out on a preserved railway.



Yorkshires Vineyard

As it is the summer we have not forgotten seaside destinations with trips to Lytham, Skegness, Llandudno, Southport and Scarborough – so don't forget your suntan lotion !

After the summer trips we move on to an autumn programme with a chance to see the countryside in its autumn hue in Dalby Forest, and Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire, and then we are back round to the Christmas excursions (due out September) ...and it only seems like 5 minutes since we finished the turkey curry !!



East Lancashire Steam Railway



Little Morton Hall



Sledmere House



Clumber park

Pick Up Run

There is some confusion on how our pick up runs are organised. Our published depart times are always for Bradford, Nelson Street. It then depends wether the times are for an A run or B run.

A stands for AFTER Bradford.

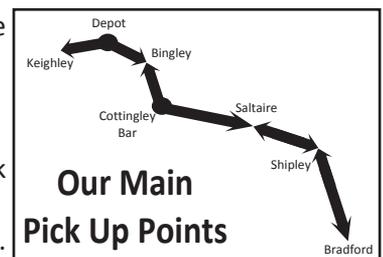
B stands for BEFORE Bradford.

So if your trip is a B run, all times will be before the stated time with Bradford Being the last pick up.

If your trips is an A run, all times will be after the stated time, with Bradford being the first pick up. Our pick up to/from Bradford, starts or finishes at Keighley, and takes around 45 minutes and we

hope we can meet up at convenient points with many bus services, be near train services , plus with free car parking offered at our premises, give good coverage for a reasonable amount of pick up time.

We have been complemented on may on many occasions that once you are on our coach you are quickly on your way for the trip, and not trailing round for hours loading up. We have been asked for years why don't we pick up in Skipton, Ilkley, Otley, Cleckheaton, Huddersfield, Halifax, Brighouse- with a geographical spread like that we'd lose the very thing we are complimented for.



Holidays.



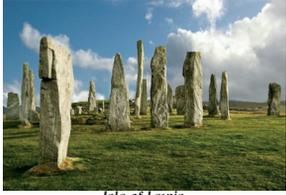
Newquay

As usual we are travelling the length and breadth of the British Isles with our 2018 programme. Furthest point south will be Newquay, with the Highlights of Cornwall Tour at the beginning of May, though Torquay in March and Bournemouth in June give it a run geographically for its money ! Furthest point north will be to Thurso on the Great Highland Railway Tour in September, as for the first time we are taking a trip on the Far North Line, as well as going to Kyle of Lochalsh, and Malaig with the Jacobite Steam Train.



Jacobite Steam Train

Pushing that geographically is the Isle of Lewis on the Hebridean Odyssey in July, though we are only going as far north as Stornoway on the Isle. As for furthest east and west we'll let you decide for yourselves !



Isle of Lewis

We have tried to mix up the themes of the holidays be it gardens, houses, events, shows, scenic tours and alternative types of transport – hopefully there will be something there for everyone, but as Eric Morecambe once said “not necessarily in the right order!” We have also tried to make some itineraries less intense with more time to relax after feedback received.



Abby Cwm Hir



Lowther Castle

To make some tours more interesting we have included some perhaps less well known attractions like Lowther Castle in Cumbria in April, a scenic cruise on Loch Katrine in April and the River Deben in July, Ford and Etal Estates in May, and a first time visit to Abbey Cwm Hir in August.

Northumberland is always popular with its spectacular scenery, and there is both a spring and autumn tour to the area.

Our only overseas tours this year are to Killarney in Eire in May, and Northern Ireland in September, which along with spectacular houses the tour takes in the history of the Titanic, and a well known location from “Game of Thrones”.



Edinburgh Tattoo

Old favourites of tours such as Free Time in London, Edinburgh Tattoo, and the Mystery Weekends feature, as well as this time a Special Mystery Tour in August complete with a show. It might not be what your expecting, but we'll be surprised if you don't enjoy it !



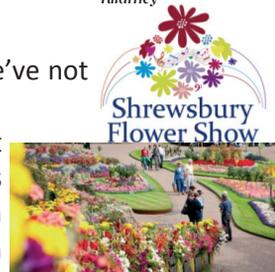
Killarney

Flower shows are always popular and this year we take in two major ones we've not visited in a while, Hampton Court in July and Shrewsbury in August.



Thursford Christmas Spectacular

As this current brochure is a full calendar year already we have thought of Christmas starting with the Thursford Spectacular, and other favourites such as Chatsworth House Dressed for Christmas, Southport, and a return to Cambridge for our Christmas Festivities tour which went down very well in 2016. New this year will be visits to Edinburgh Christmas Market, based at a centrally located hotel in the Haymarket area, and for our “overseas” Market we take in the German Christmas market in Birmingham, one of the largest markets held outside Germany.



Shrewsbury Flower Show

Not all tours have been mentioned here, so if you've lost your copy of the brochure please give the office a call and we'll send another, or view our website, the brochures online.



German Xmas Market in Birmingham

And like a merry go round, we're already on with the brochure for 2019.....planned publication September 2018.

Weather Disruption

With an increase in extreme weather conditions, there is often a concern about whether a tour or day excursion is going to go ahead or not, especially during the winter months. In Such cases decisions whether to run are taken last minute after much studying of weather forecasts for here, en route and at the destination. We will make contact with Hotels (if required) and local tourist information offices to ascertain what local conditions are actually like, as we have found that television coverage sometimes likes to over dramatise a situation, and we end up doing the trip in sunshine, with clear roads, when the television would have you believe Armageddon has arrived.

An our of hours contact number is on our 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 as well, that would be useful if we have a note of it when you book.

Address Database.

If you do not receive a brochure when your friends do, and you are expecting one, please contact the office so we can check if we have your correct, and up to date contact details. Equally if you no longer wish to receive a brochure, please ask us to remove your details off our system.

Any details we hold are only for JAK Travel Ltd use, in order to send you our latest mailings, booking confirmations, or maybe contact you directly in emergency if there is a problem. **No details are given out to third parties.**