



J.A.K. Travel

Travel Club Newsletter

January 2013

Welcome to our latest newsletter which, we hope, enables you to catch up with everything that's happened at J.A.K and an inkling of what's going to happen. Hopefully, you've found things to interest you in the new brochure where, as usual, we've included old favourites as well as brand new trips. As always, we appreciate the feedback and ideas we received from you, and where possible we've tried to incorporate them.



Years of J.A.K Travel



Last year saw a milestone reached as JAK Travel passed the 25 years of being a coach tour operator. Time has flown and it seems more like 25 minutes says Alan until he sees pictures of his younger self, and realises that perhaps it is more like 50 years !

From a standing start of not having been in the industry before, and with no contacts or contracts, it is with some pride looking back on the 25 years that JAK Travel now has its own operating base, and five coaches, with 4 being under 10 years old. Plus we have a regular clientele of day trip, short break and private hire customers, many who we regard as friends,

“it is one of the pleasures of the job, being able chat to people about their families, jobs, etc and share a laugh or two.” says Alan.

Over the years we've covered Britain from John O Groats to Lands End and, quiet a number of European Countries as well, “You can see why they say travel broadens the mind “with the scenery that we've passed through, and historical sights visited, as well as the people we've met.”

Of the jobs that stand out the Olympics this year has been of major significance, but so too were the commemorations of the Dunkirk Evacuation and D Day Landings, when

we took the veterans back to France/Belgium. Real living history, and very emotionally moving.



Plaxton Supreme 4

The coaches themselves have changed beyond recognition, our first coach was a 53 seat Plaxton with a Bedford engine and chassis. A nice clean and tidy coach, but show it a hill and it died...”I used to like traffic jams on motorways, especially on climbs like Windy Hill on the M62, it meant you were going at the same speed as everyone else, not left behind! “remembers Alan “ nowadays the

coaches we have don't seem to notice hills!”

As well, the ride is better as we have air suspension, there's air conditioning, and seat belts all round. However there are more electronics on board, and if the “computer says no” – the job stops !

No two days have ever been the same, and there's never a dull moment due to the characters we've either employed, carried or met! From fights between brides and grooms at wedding receptions, to Benny Hill type chases through parks – its all been seen & done to add to life's rich tapestry as a coach operator.

Roll on the next 25 years !



All five of our coaches together

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25 Years of Coaches.

Over the years we have owned many vehicles... but here are a few of the significant ones which may bring back a few memories..



Leyland Tiger/Plaxton Supreme V.

Our second vehicle, that had the power to do anything and go anywhere. A solid, reliable, comfy coach that helped establish JAK Travel "A joy to drive, I'd have taken it to the moon and back, and was very sorry to see it go" says Alan



Daf/Van Hool

A lesson learnt the hard way. Nicknamed the Ducking Faf, never put into JAK colours, this was a bad buy that was mechanically re built from front to back (we made a silk purse from a sows ear) and made us (wrongly) doubt this chassis/ body combination.

Bova Futura.

This was our second Bova. A very clean and tidy vehicle that gave a very smooth ride. The 2 x 90 gallon fuel tanks helped stabilise it on the road but cause consternation at filling stations ! We got rid of it due to concerns over body frame corrosion and its engine ... however its still going strong, with a coach firm in Hull !!



Daf/Plaxton Paramount.

Aquired when we took over Westercroft Coaches in 1997, these two coaches were very clean, tidy and well maintained machines. Like the Tiger, do anything, go anywhere, a joy to driver with their 6 speed splitter gear boxes, you had a gear for every occasion. The only minus point was the single (as opposed to double) glazing, and sadly time caught up with the bodywork.



Volvo B10M/Plaxton Premiere.

The first of this popular form of chassis/body combination that we owned. Another good second hand buy, of a reliable comfy coach. The choice of this particular vehicle from a batch for sale was helped by the fact Alan knew the Transport Manager of the London Company who it came from !

VolvoB12R/Plaxton Panther.

Our first brand new coach. A major milestone. In terms of power it is the strongest coach we have, with an engine output of 420bhp. It was the first to have what has become a standard feature of all our subsequent coaches namely double glazing, air conditioning, and supplementary heating system that can be used when the vehicle is parked up.



Olympic Involvement.

As mentioned in last years newsletter we had one coach involved in the Olympics, but didn't know what we were doing. Well, its been and gone and we've been a credit to the nation ! or at least Barry, Michael and Steve were!



One coach with 3 drivers headed south for the 3 weeks. Training for security protocols and route learning was undertaken before we met with the Olympic Sponsors who we would be working for, who turned out to be the card company VISA, with their guests from around the world.



Olympic Stadium Rehearsal

Other than some accommodation and initial scheduling issues things got into gear and the drivers spent their time running between the sponsors hotel in central London and the Olympic stadium. Long days ensued but the drivers met some very nice people from around the world, and had viewpoints of the opening and closing ceremony fireworks from just outside the stadium itself. If asked Barry, Michael and Steve say they wouldn't want to be involved again, but at least they have been part of an event that did the country proud.



Our coach in London with all it stickers

If you would like to see first hand the Olympic stadiums then we are again running an Olympic Legacy Tour (5th-7th April 2013).

Celebrity Spot.



Alan and Eric

Last years tour "Countryfile" in the Cotswold's was one which certainly had a spot of celebrity about it. We were visiting Adam Henson's Country Farm Park on day one, with Alan (being a regular viewer of BBC's Countryfile) looking forward to meeting Eric the Bull, but on day two at the excellent Morton in Marsh Agricultural Show things got better as he met Adam Henson himself. "He's a very approachable pleasant bloke with time for a word with everyone" says Alan " and I said we'd enjoyed our visit the day before to his farm, and would be back in 2014".

So if you want to meet Eric or Adam keep a look out for our 2014 brochure!



Adam and Alan





View of Short Breaks.

This years brochure seems to be the year of the Isles – Wight, Man and Scilly – all being visited with varied attractions to experience and already proving popular.



There is a mix of sightseeing and gardens – including Hampton Court Flower show, and some in Scotland in the Aberdeen area. Transport attractions have not been overlooked with a mixture of railways, tramways, vintage car museums, aircraft and balloons – at the spectacular Bristol Balloon Festival in August.

Television has not been overlooked with a visit to Downton Abbey (Highclere Castle), and there is the chance to visit the new Titanic Experience in Belfast.

Old favourites of the Edinburgh Tattoo feature, as does once again the Tower of London and the Ceremony of the Keys.

View of Day Trips.



Fred Dibnah

There is the usual mix of sightseeing, gardens and transport some of which have come about after very positive reports coming back from when we have visited on short breaks. Specifically the National Memorial Arboretum, and the Lincolnshire Aviation Centre (with its non flying Lancaster).



Lincolnshire Aviation Centre

Last year a River Cruise with lunch on the Tees proved popular, so this year we are doing the same thing, but on the River Trent.



Concorde

The winter day trips have been planned to take account of the shorter daylight hours and possible inclement weather, hence indoor attractions like Concorde, Fred Dibnah's and Nostell Priory. As (hopefully) the weather improves the trips get longer and we hope to see the spring and summer flowers at places like Newby Hall,

Renishaw Hall, Bodnant Gardens and Arley Garden Festival. History hasn't been neglected as we visit Hadrian's Wall Country and find out about the Roman Army at Vindolanda, and see how Robert Dudley tried to impress Queen Elizabeth I at Kenilworth Castle.



National Memorial Arboretum

Overseas Tours.



Castle Hotel Black Forest



Annecy

In response to requests after a break of a few years we have re introduced longer overseas tours. These are ones that we have run in the past which have proved popular, last years trip going to the Black Forest in Germany, and this year sees a return to the picturesque

lakeside town of Annecy and the French Alps. (29th August – 4th September). "Not everyone enjoys flying, and there's always the changing scenery en route" being the reasons for this change of mind.



French Alps

Mystery Weekends.

Where have we been last year ? As usual things have been mixed up with a variety of itineraries and new or rarely visited attractions seen. Destinations stayed in have seen us in Solihull, Redworth and Cricieth. With attractions of Penrhyn Castle, Lamport House and Belsay Hall all explored. The visit to West Midlands Safari Park was not without incident and the coach still has the scars to prove it after one of the animals became curious and tried to get on!



Lamport House



Redworth Hall Hotel

Tour Update

We have availability on all our tours unfortunately we have sold out of single rooms on the following

Scarborough & Whitby Mini Break 27th - 28th January 2013

Isle of Wight 8th - 13th April 2013

Scottish Boats & Trains 28th April 3rd May 2013

Three Day Mystery Weekend 25th - 27th May 2013

Llandudno & Snowdonia 7th - 10th June 2013

Castle & Gardens of Eastern Scotland including Balmoral 20th - 24th June 2013

Cornwall & the Silly Isles 30th June - 4th July 2013

Eastbourne 29th July - 2 August 2013

Downton Abbey & Avebury Manor 6th - 9th September 2013

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!!





Weather Disruption.

With an increase in extreme weather conditions there is often a concern about whether a tour or 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 a trip in sunshine, with clear roads, when television would have you believe Armageddon has arrived!

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 as well, that would be useful we have a note of it when you book.

Safety Around Coaches.



Just a reminder that it is now law that seatbelts are to be worn at all times when our coaches are on the move. If you have a problem with your seat belt at any time, please advise your driver who may be able to fix the problem.

Always store things securely on the racks, as we do not want you to think the lights have gone out when your coat lands over your head! Very funny to others, but we do not want heavy objects landing on your head either.

Aisles and exits need to be kept clear, and it is wise to remain seated until the coach has stopped. Unfortunately, a person who was stood up on a slowly manoeuvring coach (not one of ours), fell, hit their head, which ultimately proved fatal. Patience is a virtue, and we do not want to hear of this happening again.

Be aware too in coach parks when boarding or alighting, especially of moving vehicles, coaches have blind spots, and car drivers regard you as a target!

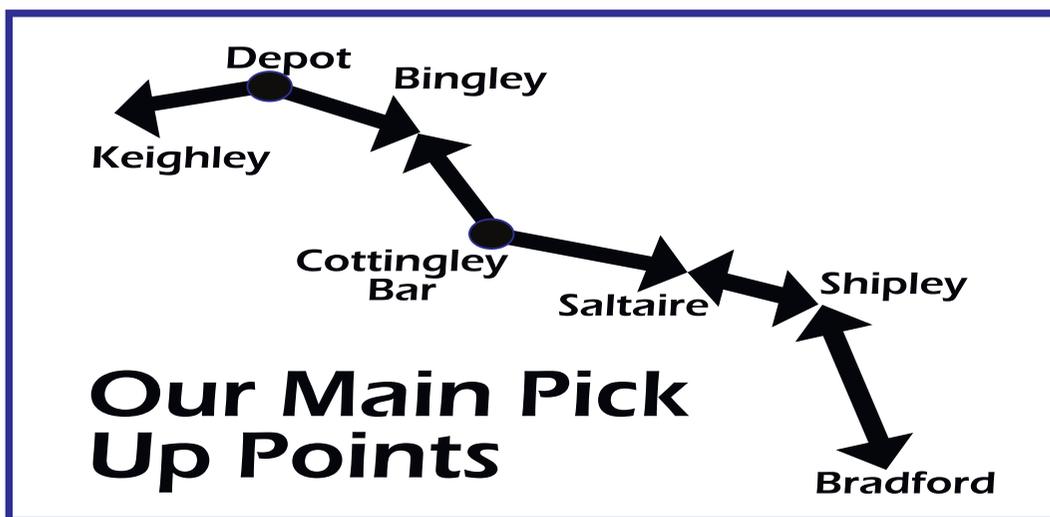
Pick Up Run.

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

A stands for AFTER Bradford, B for BEFORE Bradford.

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

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

We have been complimented 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 over the 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 that we get complimented for!

What 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.



CPT - Confederation of Passenger Transport

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

