

Travel Club Newsletter

January 2020

Welcome to a leap year and our latest newsletter, this time with some coach tour history, as well as information about our Tours and Day Excursions, where we try to provide a variety of themes and geographical locations in order to stimulate, educate and amuse. We hope you like what is currently available, and the next Day Excursion brochure July to October 2020 is included with this newsletter. The next Holiday Tour programme for 2021 (where is the time going?) will be published (all being well) by the end of September this year. If you need another copy of our current published programme, then please call the office and we will be glad post one to you, or look on our website (www.jaktravel.co.uk) for an online version.

We look forward to seeing you traveling with us, whether you are one of our many regular friends, or someone we have yet to meet...as always, feedback, comments and new ideas are always welcome.

Going Green.

No, Alan's not been on a boat again!

It's a reference to how the coaching industry is reacting to the desire to improve air quality and reduce emissions. For years our vehicles have had tighter controls on diesel engine emissions, the latest being a Euro 6 specification. But what for the future ?

You are probably aware of electric powered cars and buses...but there is now an electric powered 49 seat coach available from Yutong, the Chinese company

where our two smaller coaches come from. The drawback for a coach is of course they tend to roam far and wide from base, and without a nationwide charging network, problems would soon be encountered. At present the electric coach has a 200 mile range on a battery charge, whereas our current coaches have 800-900 miles in a tank of diesel. The cost of the vehicles is higher too, starting from £310,000+vat.

With improving technology the range is bound to increase, as is the support structure, so is electric power the future ? Will you see an electric coach at JAK Travel ?
- Only if Alan can set up his Scalextric in the office !!

Brexit.

By the time you read this newsletter, the dreaded "B" word may (or may not) have happened. Like many companies we have not been immune from the effects of all the uncertainty of what is going to happen. Through our national trade association the Confederation of Passenger Transport we have been updated on a regular basis about what "paperwork" we would be expected to carry if our vehicles ventured overseas...however words like "may", "expected" "possibly" etc, do not give any confidence of certainty, and as "unexpected" legislative changes were made without warning whilst we have been members of the EU club...I dread to think what will appear from left of field when we are not members of the club...one of the reasons why we do not do European tours like we used to, and will not do so, until a confidence of certainty returns.



General Data Protection :- If you no longer wish to be contacted by ourselves or remain on our database please contact the Office on 01274 566200 and we can sort that out for you.

Mystery Weekends.

With a couple of Mystery Weekends arranged last year, we can now divulge where we ended up, and as usual from the variety of destinations we visited, some were more popular than others, but, isn't that the enjoyable mystery of a mystery trip? As always we try to include somewhere we have not been to before, and or places not featured on our advertised itineraries.



Wollaton Hall

In May we started at Wollaton Hall in Nottinghamshire, a place made famous as a location in the Batman film, The Dark Knight. On then to our hotel base for two nights in Milton Keynes, which was ideally situated for the shopoholics near the MK shopping centre. The following day was spent at Stowe House and Gardens, with a guided tour of the house (now part of Stowe School), and free time to roam in the gardens which have



Stowe House

been regarded as an earthly paradise since the 18th Century, being full of hidden meanings and classical references. The final day was spent in the "City of Dreaming Spires" – Oxford, starting at a place we had never been to before – the Oxford University Natural History Museum.

The Scotch Broth's first port of call once north of the border, was at the town of Biggar, a place we normally only pass through, but which surprisingly has a few smaller size attractions including the unique Gas Works Museum, Upper Clydesdale Museum and Art Gallery. Our hotel was situated over the Forth Bridge, in Dunfermline, a large town which was once the capital of Scotland, and with buildings



Forth Bridge

to reflect this heritage. Day two started with a scenic trip to the Gartmorn Dam visitor centre, and then on to Falkland Palace, a splendid renaissance palace inspired by the Grand Chateaux, a favourite palace of Mary Queen of Scots. Our final visit north of the border was to Edinburgh, with its plethora of attractions to suit all tastes.



Falkland Palace

What's in store this year? Even we're not sure yet! It gets harder each year to find new places we haven't been to before, in order to make the Mystery weekends even more mysterious.

Brochure Corrections.

Despite our best intentions we always seem to end up with a "gremlin" or two that gets into our holiday brochure, which only become apparent once they are out in the public domain.

- Firstly we have published the Edinburgh Tattoo dates for the week before we intended – dates should read **Monday 10th – Wednesday 12th August 2020**, with the itinerary in the same order.
- Secondly a number of tours show we only appear to have double bedded rooms available, this is not so, we also have twin bedded rooms allocated for availability – please ask.

Also, it is always an issue trying to organise a brochure 12 months ahead, as it is surprising how many attractions do not know what their plans are beyond a year end or change their plans after we've spoken with them! Our apologies for any inconveniences caused if we have to change what we have advertised.

Travel Insurance.

Since 1st January 2017 we are no longer able to offer you Travel Insurance on our holidays, as we took 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. This includes channel Isles and Isle of man and all EU member States.



Please note that photo ID is required for travelling in to the Channel Islands and Isle of Man, Northern Island and ferries crossings, acceptable forms of ID are:- Full new style driving licence, bus pass, armed forces ID card, Student ID card, firearms certificate, photographic disabled badge or a Citizencard (which can be obtained from your local post office)

The Golden Age of Coaching.

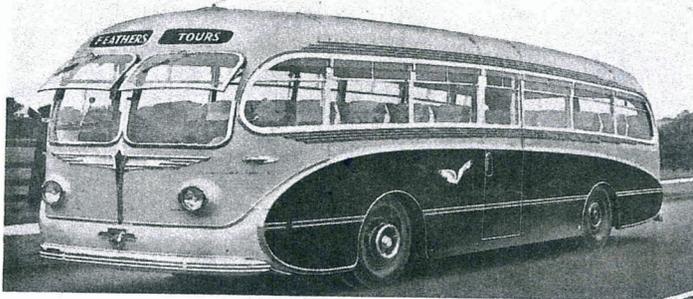
LONG-DISTANCE TOURS
ARE
COMPLETE with every COMFORT
3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 DAYS' TOURS

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EXCURSIONS DAILY FROM THE ALHAMBRA TO COAST
AND COUNTRY AND RACE-MEETINGS

Agents:

PLEASE SHOW THIS TO YOUR FRIENDS
BOOK ON OUR XMAS TOUR

A little while ago one of our regular travellers brought in a tour brochure dating from 1954 for us to see how things were done in the Golden Age of Coaching. A copy of one of the tours is shown. Now we often get accused of including too much on a tour, or the journeys took too long, so reading this was a real eye opener. Bear in mind in 1954 there were no motorways, so journeys would be on the A road network with few bypasses, so just look at your route to and from resort, and the confident timings. That said the volume of traffic (hopefully) would have been lighter. You wouldn't have gone hungry, if you see what meals were included, though we love the comment about bringing your ration book, soap and towel !

If your wondering how the price of £15.00 per person compares ... that price would take 10 days of wages for a skilled tradesman to earn....



Fort William

Whilst looking at this, and mulling over a comment received that we go too far on some of our Day Excursions, it reminded me of what another company I had come across years ago used to undertake on their day excursion programme ... how does Fort William or Torquay grab you for a day trip?

I can only assume that people taking these trips must have loved coach travel...hence the moniker "The Golden Age of Coaching " !!



Torquay

Tour No. 3.

STARTS WHITSUNTIDE AND THEN EVERY SATURDAY
TO END OF SEPTEMBER.

7 DAYS

BOURNEMOUTH

and

ISLE OF WIGHT

VIA CHATSWORTH PARK, MATLOCK, DERBY, COVENTRY, BANBURY, OXFORD, NEWBURY, WINCHESTER, FULL DAY TOUR OF ISLE OF WIGHT, LULWORTH COVE, SALISBURY, NORTHAMPTON, etc.

1st day—7.30 a.m. A long day before us, so we make an early start and proceed through Sheffield when we begin to climb over the Derbyshire Moors to Chatsworth Park passing the residence of the Duke of Devonshire, on to Matlock Bath, Derby, Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Nuneaton. After lunch at Leamington Spa passing through Coventry, and on to Banbury where we see the famous Banbury Cross. We are soon at the University City of Oxford and so on to Newbury and Winchester, the old capital of England. We now touch the edge of the New Forest, passing through Romsey and Ringwood to arrive at Bournemouth, making our headquarters the Cluny Lodge Hotel. Tel. 5889.

2nd day—This day is spent exploring the beauties to be found in Bournemouth and district. Lunch at hotel.

3rd day—Full day. 8 a.m. Tour of the Isle of Wight. Lunch at Ryde. Return to Bournemouth in time for late dinner at the hotel.

4th day—Morning and afternoon free. Lunch at hotel.

5th day—Morning free for shopping, etc. Lunch at hotel. Lulworth Cove, etc., afternoon excursion, arriving back at hotel for dinner.

6th day—This day is spent free to further explore the beauties of Bournemouth. A visit to Swanage is suggested, or Southampton.

7th day—7.30 a.m. Homeward bound via Ringwood, Salisbury, Andover, Newbury, Oxford, (lunch Banbury), Towcester, Northampton, Leicester, Nottingham, Ollerton (tea), Bawtry, Doncaster, Wakefield, Bradford, etc., 8.15 p.m.

Fully Inclusive FARE: £15-0-0. First-class Hotel. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast, all Luncheons, Isle of Wight tour, Tea last day, and all Tips.

Limited Bookings for this our most comprehensive Tour.

Everything First-class. Book Early.

Please Bring your Ration Book, Soap and Towel

Produced courtesy of Mr G Hall

Lost Your Brochure ?

Mislaid ? Lent to a friend and not returned ? Eaten by the dog ? No worries, just give us a call and we'll happily send you another, or, if you have internet access, have a look on our website www.jaktravel.co.uk and there is a copy there.

Holidays.

As usual the Holiday Tour programme is covering all parts of the British Islands, and we hope there is something of interest there for everyone. Some tours are new, some we have done before, and some have come about through requests...and as ever we have tried to put together itineraries to tantalise and delight, and of course provide good value for money.

On the popular regular list we have Southport (with a new hotel to us), Llandudno, Torquay, Edinburgh Tattoo (please see note about the corrected dates on page 2), and looking towards the end of the year, Chatsworth House and Thursford for their Christmas spectaculars.



Edinburgh Tattoo

Tours repeated from 2019 due to their popularity include the spectacular Kynren, and Dunoon, Argyll and Bute.

From a few years ago we had been asked about doing a return visit to the place where our money comes from – The Royal Mint. Obligated on our Cardiff Tour. Also on our Royal Thrones to Game of Thrones Tour,



Llandudno

based in Belfast, many comments were made about going to the spectacular Giants Causeway. Again obliged. We have been asked too about considering tours to the Bletchley Park, where the now famous Second World War codebreakers led by Alan Turing were based, again obliged, with an itinerary to complement this visit.



Giants Causeway

If you like tours with a spot of history involved, then we are visiting the Mayflower Museum in

Plymouth, to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers journey to the New World. Another famous historic boat we will visit is HMS Victory in Portsmouth, Nelsons Flagship from the Battle of Trafalgar – this is part of our Iconic England Tour. We of course have tours that visit historic houses like Longleat, Audley End, Leeds Castle, Windsor Castle to name but a few, some are better known than others, but all we visit have a fascinating tale to tell.

Scotland is always one of our most popular destinations for the stunning scenery, friendly natives (usually!), and range of attractions. This year is no exception with visits to castles, boats, trains, whisky tasting, and chance to see dolphins. Please see our tours north of the border in May, July and September.

Not to ignore Wales, and its stunning scenery too, Llandudno, and a visit to Snowdonia, has already been mentioned, but we are going to South Wales and the delightful Gower Peninsula in July.



Batsford Arboretum

As spring blossoms we hope to see Yorkshire at its best whilst based in Scarborough for a short visit. The same goes for Northumberland, and the Northern Lakes when we visit these “quieter tourist areas” whilst based near Hexham and Bassenthwaite respectively. In contrast we head to Cricklade for our base to see spectacular autumn colours in the Cotswolds at both Westonbirt and Batsford Arboretums.

Inclusive's. Unless otherwise stated, holidays and day excursion prices include admissions, and if these are either National Trust or English Heritage, discounts are often available for members. If we have not made anything clear please ask.

Day Excursions.

By the time you are reading this our 2020 Day Excursion programme will be underway, with as usual the shorter and mainly undercover destinations, then as the weather improves (hopefully), we travel further afield, though this year perhaps with not so many long running trips following comments received last year.

With this Newsletter is the programme for July – October 2020, so we now have published everything from the blooming of springtime, through the heat (?) of summer, to the golden colours of autumn. We have tried to provide a variety of destinations so you will find, boats, trains, houses, gardens, animals, shows, events and the odd curiosity. One thing is for sure, you'll never starve on our trips, as some include meals, and all include places with access to food and drink. Even if at some places like Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Chester Zoo, and Knowsley Safari Park you might be queuing with the little monkeys! (only a joke).



New destinations for us include BBC Gardeners World Live at the NEC, sorry about the early start, but this is to get chance to get a full day of all that is on offer and perhaps see the TV gardeners presentations. Also new is The Jetty, the newly opened steamboat museum at Bowness on Windermere, as is the restored Auckland Palace, the former powerbase of the Prince Bishops, part of the revival of Bishop Auckland, of which Kynryn on our tours is part also. Also restored and now part of the National Trust is Wentworth Castle Gardens near Barnsley, the plan being to see the fine gardens at their autumnal best. In the same area, is a place which we have not been to on our day excursions - Cannon Hall Farm. With lots of animals and things to do, its one of the trips we have put on to appeal to those who perhaps have families to entertain during the holidays.

Those are what's new, as for the others we hope you'll find some old favourites, and in these “greener times” some recycled ...as long as they provide a grand day out...then we'll be happy too.