

Travel Club Newsletter

March 2021

Welcome to our latest newsletter , where you can catch up with what has NOT happened during the last year, but at least see what is planned for the future when we are back on the road again. Upward and onward !

Most importantly, we hope you are all safe, fit and well, and looking forward to getting out meeting old and new friends. As always with our Tours and Day Excursions we try to provide a variety of geographical locations, as well as a variety of themes in order to stimulate, educate and amuse. We hope you like what we have currently advertised, including the next Day Excursion programme (July to October) included with this newsletter, though please be aware coronavirus restrictions may mean alterations may need to be made. The next Holiday Tour programme for 2022 will be published (all being well) by the end of October this year. If you need another copy of our current published programme, then please call the office and we will be glad to post another one to you, or look on our

Coronavirus Restrictions Update March 2021.

With the days getting longer and a bit warmer, and the vaccine rollout continues to gather momentum, there is at last hope on the horizon that we can start to think about getting out and about again, and actually speak to people rather than avoid them !

The Good News is we are planning (fingers crossed), to start running our Day Excursion and Holiday programme from Monday 17th May 2021 onwards. The Bad News is we have been left with no choice but to cancel all Holiday Tours and Day Excursions that were due to take place between now and Sunday 16th May 2021 due to Government restrictions still being in place.

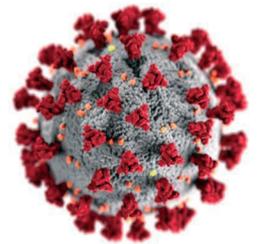
If you were booked on any of the effected tours or excursions, you will be contacted by our office to discuss what is happening, and your options as some of the tours and excursions have been rescheduled.

Booking can now be made for any excursions or tours by phone or email. In person bookings can be made when the office reopens to visitors on Monday 12th April 2021.

At present we will continue to socially distance our coaches whilst restrictions remain in place to keep everybody safe. So places will be limited - please book early to avoid disappointment.

If further amendments are required we will contact everyone booked on excursions and tours, and issue an update on this website (www.jaktravel.co.uk) and our Facebook page.

Thank you for your patience, continuing support, and kind words, especially when we are the bearers of bad news of cancelled trips etc. It is very humbling to know we are so appreciated. Please follow the guidance and stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.



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.

Well, 2020 - how was it for you ?

Last year I mean...was it good or bad? With any situation there are always winners and losers: for instance toilet roll manufacturers were winners, whilst those of us working in the leisure tourism industry, and you, our loyal customers, being losers, with what turned into a year from hell !

The first shock was how fast everything unravelled. In the space of three days in March, we went from operating normally, and preparing for the Torquay Tour departing the following week, to being at a complete standstill parking vehicles up, cancelling and postponing coach private hire bookings, tours and excursions. It was scary, frightening, upsetting and bewildering as we tried to get organized.

We needed to make decisions quickly, often without guidance and information being available from Government, hotels, attractions, etc, as to what we were planning to do. Then we needed to communicate that to those of you booked on the tours and excursions, and then organize the transfers, credits and refunds. A mammoth administration task for which Gina must be commended for, and which unfortunately had to continue as the months went by and more cancellations and postponements had to be made.

Whilst this was on going we were also trying to plan this year's holiday and day excursion programme, which was made doubly difficult as we could not contact people for information about 2021. So apologies in advance if we need to alter itineraries due to inaccurate information being obtained at the time.

As we got to July with restrictions easing, confidence and desire to get out increasing, the decision was made to try and operate some excursions and tours. We undertook our required risk assessments and we were Good to Go! At this point we then encountered some issues we were not expecting as tourism venues refused to accept group or coach party bookings. This was often with no forthcoming explanations, and has continued into 2021 and is why some of this year's programme does not have as many "inclusive attractions" as usually it would have.

We had by this time expected things to have improved, but of course we all now know that was not the case and a second lock down was imposed in November with further travel restrictions, and closed non-essential businesses. Effectively we couldn't go anywhere and it wouldn't be open anyway if we got there !! Plus with the uncertainty of what was going to happen next we took the decision to cancel the Christmas and New Year Tours, and with Covid restricted entertainment packages would there have been any Christmas spirit and new year festivity to enjoy ?



As the year turned we thought things would improve, but no, the start of 2021 has followed the pattern of 2020, leaving us in a state of flux and bewilderment, awaiting developments and that elusive ray of sunshine. At least spring is now springing.

Some may have thought 2020 has been a good year, us no – it was a year we never expected to experience after 33 years of continuous growth and improvement to have been bearers of so much negative news. Having said that ,one silver lining has been speaking to so many of you and receiving so much understanding and good wishes, it has made us realise how much we are appreciated, and reinvigorates our desire to overcome this adversity and continue to grow and improve what we do at J.A.K Travel.

Travel Insurance.

From 1st January 2017 we are no longer able to 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.



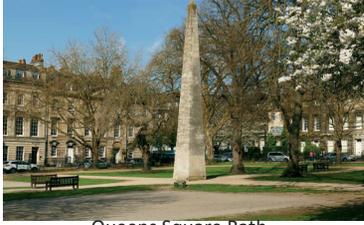
In the autumn of last year, we introduced our new refreshed website which can be found at www.jaktravel.co.uk . Please have a look, we hope you like it. So if you lose the hard copy of our brochures, have a look on line, and a digital copy is there, plus some bits of company history as well as previous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

To help us go a little bit more green if you have an email address please contact us and update your details. We may be able to update you with new tours digitally.

Holidays.

As usual the Holiday Tour programme has been put together to give a good geographical coverage of the British Isles, and provide itineraries that will delight, amuse, and entertain – and if they don't do any of that, rest assured they will be a good talking point ! So, what is new for 2021 that has not been rearranged from our disrupted 2020 year.



Queens Square Bath

We have a nice short two day tour based at Newcastle Quays, (now March 2022!), the hotel actually on the quayside, but the vibrant city centre only a short walk away, and then a visit to the delightful Alnwick gardens to see the spring blooms. The tour title I couldn't resist when I thought of it! (Please see brochure).

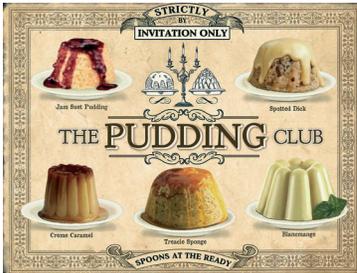
At the opposite end of the year there is another nice short tour this time three days to glorious Bath, with one day having free time to explore from our centrally based hotel situated on Queen Square.

The tours to Suffolk and Essex are unusual, as they are areas that we have not covered for many a year. The Suffolk tour came about after Alan had a holiday in the area and was taken with how delightful Woodbridge, Bury St Edmunds and Southwold were, especially Southwold (main photo for the tour in the brochure) which is a genteel seaside resort without brash bling, but still has a traditional pier and promenade. The Essex tour covers Chelmsford, the Epping Ongar Railway and the Royal Gunpowder Mills – all of which we have never been to. Spookily the Gunpowder Mills featured on Countryfile just after the tour was booked, and it looks a fascinating place. (See separate note about the rearranged hotel for this tour).



Epping Ongar Railway

For those of you with a sweet tooth you might enjoy the tour to the Renowned Pudding Club, where the emphasis is on your pudding rather than your main course. The hotel is situated in a delightful Cotswold village, so you can have a stroll to walk off your excesses whilst taking in the areas charm.



If you have not had enough cake, take the next listed tour to the Creative Crafts Show, whose ticket allows you to visit Cake International also held at the NEC at the same time.

Crafts, Cakes, Cotswolds, Countryside, Coaches, Convivial Company – its all here !

Plus we've not mentioned our regular popular tours to Edinburgh Tattoo, Kynren, Thursford, Scottish Highland Railways, Eastbourne, Isle of Wight, and Llandudno. They are all there along with many more

to delight amuse and entertain !

Finally

If there's not enough in the current brochure to wet your travel appetite, we hope you like the enclosed new tours, such as the Furness area of the Lake District not often toured, and our festive period offerings including a lovely Christmas Tour based in a grand hotel at Pott Shrigley, Cheshire. A Scottish Hogmanay in delightful Oban, plus between Christmas and New Year a "Twixmas" Tour (based in Mold, North Wales) - the idea coming from a customer who felt the period between the two was a bit "flat". There are loads of single rooms at the hotel, so this might be for you if you're looking for something to do, or just wish to get away from the family !!

Tour Amendement.

Explosive Essex - Friday 6th – Monday 9th August 2021.

Hotel Change. Due to circumstances beyond our control, have had to change the hotel for this tour. The new hotel comes with a bit of a history, and if you like art deco architecture this icon might be for you.

Comet Hotel, St Albans Road West, AL10 9RH, Hatfield, 01707 932 700



The Comet Hotel is Hatfield's most iconic building, and following a multi-million pound refit, has been refurbished to give luxurious modernity, period features and refined glamour.

First opening its doors in 1936, the original Comet Hotel was named after the locally built de Havilland Comet racing aeroplane. The eponymous hotel was actually designed around the footprint of the aircraft, which gives the building its unusual and iconic shape known as Streamline Moderne, representing a late type of Art Deco architecture and graphic design that emerged

in the 1930's as response to the new optimism inspired by technology.

A separate building houses the bedrooms which have either a comfortable queen size bed or two twin beds, an easy chair, separate desk and bathroom with walk in shower or a bath and shower and modern art all in Art Deco style. Your room comes with full amenities including flat screen TV, Wi-Fi, bathroom amenities, air conditioning, hair dryer, safe and complimentary coffee & tea facilities.



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.

Day Excursions.

With this newsletter is the programme for July – October 2021, so you now have information for all that we have planned for three quarters of the year. As usual the trips start with more local destinations, with a eye on weather dependency, building up in the increased heat and sunshine to increased distance and venues less weather dependent – well that’s the plan anyway ! We have included a mixture of boats, trains, houses, gardens, animals, shows events and the odd curiosity.

There are some new destinations to enjoy , such as RHS Bridgewater and Auckland Palace which will open this year after last years postponement. We will enjoy a new cruise with Mersey Ferries – the Liverpool Bay Cruise-a familiar sky line but from a different viewpoint. We have planned some new local destinations that we have not visited before, such as The Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield, and Cusworth Hall near Doncaster.



RHS Bridgewater



Cusworth Hall

Each month we have tried to include a railway and/or a boat trip, which we know are popular, and in August the plan also includes a seaside resort per week. Once into September the plan changes to include a more local destination which you may not normally think of visiting. October trips reflect the season, as the days shorten and the autumn tints appear. Then we’ll be back to the November

and the pre Christmas trips of December – the programme being due out with the 2022 Holidays brochure due out end of October – Gosh where has this year gone already !



The Hepworth Gallery



Knowsley Safari Park



Auckland Palace



Liverpool Bay Cruise

Day Trip Child Prices.

If you haven’t noticed we offer a £5 discount for children aged between 4 to 14 years of age travelling on our day excursions. This is to help with the cost of perhaps taking either your own child or grand children on a day out especially during the school holidays. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. (Discount applies unless otherwise stated).

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 or guide you back to the coaches location if you feel you are lost.

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



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.

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.

