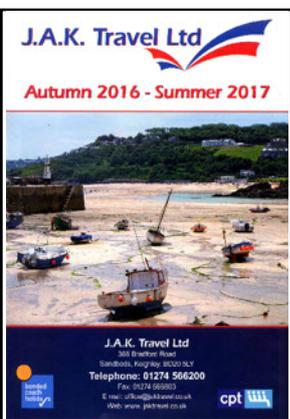


Welcome to our latest newsletter which, we hope, will enable you to catch up with everything that's happened at JAK in the past year, and some hints what's going to happen in the future. There are also some of our thoughts behind why some trips are planned the way they are. We hope you've found things to interest you in the latest Holidays brochure and Day Trip leaflet, and we look forward to seeing you travelling with us. As always your feedback and ideas are always welcome.

Holiday Brochure Cover.

As much as we like our coaches, for the first time we have used a cover picture without a coach on it, as we want to emphasise the places we go, rather than the vehicles themselves. However, from time to time, in future the coaches will reappear. If you have taken any photos of our coaches with a scenic or interesting background, which you think might be a suitable brochure cover, and don't mind us printing, then please e-mail us a copy. Our preference is for the coach to be part of a picture, but not necessarily the focal point.



Web Site.

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 like it, and hope you do to. 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.



Talking of the world wide web, a new development this year is for us to have a 'facebook' page – watch this space.

New Computer System.

At the start of last year we introduced a new computer booking system for our Day Trips and Tours. After some early teething issues, we have managed to get to grips with its idiosyncrasies, though, of course, we are still learning and often finding new ways to do things. This is, I suppose not surprising, as we used the old system for some 20 years !

Even though we like to think the new system is foolproof (its not !), we still recommend you check the paperwork, and if something doesn't look right please contact the office.



Travel Insurance.

From 1st January this year we will no longer be offering 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.

Kiddy Corner.

No this is not an advert for someone to run our facebook page, but an update of the staffs children, who I know a lot of people have seen them grow up and like to know what they're doing.



A new arrival last year was Rosalind, born in February, another daughter to Martin and Charlotte. Elder sister Juliet (who's now 3) is Daddy's Little Helper, unwittingly aiding Martin fit out his "Man Van" at his otherwise all female household!

As Alan's two are now in their 20's they hardly qualify as kiddies! However, Michael is studying Sports Science at Chester University, whilst also continuing to coach younger children to swim. Jennifer is now in the wide world of work having obtained a Degree in Engineering.



In Pauls household there is now a extra car driver, as his eldest James has passed his driving test and being "car mad", is considering a career as an automotive technician (that's a mechanic to those of us over 30!). His youngest Ella is still studying for her GCSE's, and like her brother is getting interested in horse power – but the hay eating variety!



Barry's two boys – Jordan is now a fully qualified Chef, whilst Nathan continues to pursue his aim of career in football.



Mystery Tours.

As usual nothing is divulged beforehand so, where did we go last year?

For the three day May Mystery Tour, on the outward day our main call was at the picturesque Cotswold village of Bourton –on –the –Water. This was en route to our hotel near Swindon in Wiltshire, from where the next day we visited in the morning the McArthur Glenn shopping outlet, situated in Swindon on the site of the now closed railway engineering workshops. A bonus here is that if you don't like shopping there is the Museum of Steam on the same site dedicated to the history of the town and the works. The afternoon was spent visiting Buscot Park and the Farringdon Collection, a property we had never visited before. On the way home our call was at the city of "dreaming spires" Oxford.



Bourton –on –the –Water



Buscot Park



High Force Falls



McArthur Glenn Shopping Outlet



Oxford



Stokesley

The plan for our two day Mystery was that day one was to be "intense", then day two to be a "relaxed" itinerary. Day one started with a call at the market town of Stokesley, followed by a visit to the sea-side town of Redcar, then finally arriving in Darlington, with an overnight stay at our town centre hotel. The following day was spent visiting High Force Falls and nearby Raby Castle.

As for 2017...who knows ?

Holidays.

For 2017 we are certainly travelling the length and breadth of the British Isles. Furthest north is Dunrobin Castle (north of Inverness) in June, then down, to Penzance and the Scilly Isles in the south in September. Eastwards we visit Norfolk in May, and furthest westward might be Aberystwyth in July, or Isle of Man, or Isle of Skye or Scilly Isles – we'll let you decide which !



Penzance

As usual we start the year "gently" with a popular overnight stay in Southport in February, followed by a visit to see some winter colour in the form of snowdrops, and vibrant silks in Cheshire.

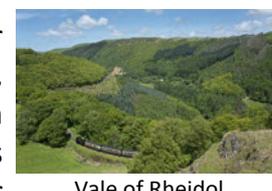


Aberystwyth



Borders Railway

We are doing a new tour with a railway theme at the end of March, however there are very scenic rail journeys with a trip on the Settle – Carlisle line, followed by a ride on the newly opened Borders Railway to Edinburgh. Even the hotel fits the bill as it's the former Station Hotel at Dumfries! Always popular has been a week of rail journeys in Scotland in the summer, however this year we have decided to try Wales – same idea – good hotel and journeys through wonderful



Vale of Rheidol



Tall Ships Festival in Gloucester

If you prefer boats to trains then we have plenty to interest you too. We visit the Tall Ships Festival in Gloucester in May, and we have now discovered that our Liverpool Weekend in June coincides with the Mersey River Festival. We take to the River Thames in August including the Thames Barrier, as well as a more unusual cruise on a waterbus giving a different view of London going to Regents Park. If you like the sea, then we have a harbour tour of Portsmouth included with our Iconic England tour, and a day out to the Scilly Isles from Penzance with our tour to Cornwall in September.



London



For the gardeners amongst you there is plenty to tempt you with gardens to visit in Devon, Northumberland, the south of England and Scotland. These include the Royal Horticultural Society sites of Rosemoor and Wisley. Plus Armadale on the Isle of Skye, and Achamore on the Isle of Gigha – a place we have not been to before.



Rosemoor Gardens

Another "new" place to visit is the Royal Mint in July. Only opened in 2016 it is our chance to see how coins of the realm are made, though we can guarantee only one thing – no free samples !



Armadale Gardens



Our overseas trips take in the delights of Killarney in Eire. Keukenhof Gardens for the spring bulbfields in Holland, and the spectacular Glacier Express and Centovalli Railway based in Switzerland and Italy. From feedback from a similar tour a couple of years ago, we travel out and return with P&O North Sea Ferries from Hull, plus have overnight stops en route to make the journeys less arduous.



Killarney

As for future trips beyond the current brochure, there are plans for stargazing, autumn colours in the Cotswolds, lights at Longleat and Durham, and of course the regular popular Christmas tours including our Christmas Tour being based at the excellent Stourport Manor near Worcester. Next brochure planned to be out in April.



Mobile Phone Numbers.



When booking on a day excursion or holiday we always ask for a contact number. This is in case we have any queries with your booking before the trip runs, however, it would also be a major advantage to let us have your mobile phone number when you book. This is to help make contact with you in case of problems on the day – for example on pick ups runs, if you are late but en-route, its pointless us ringing your home number, as you won't be there !

And, if you get lost in a strange place, and are panicking the coach is going to leave you, we have a chance of finding you and guiding you in !

Day Excursions 2017.

With the mince pies eaten and the Christmas trips a distant memory, what treats are in store for 2017? As usual the idea behind the trips earlier in the year, are that they are planned with an idea that shelter should be available should the weather turn nasty, and as the days lengthen, and it warms up, we can be more adventurous with longer more outdoor type excursions. Some tweaks and changes have been brought about by comments we have received, so we hope these will improve the enjoyment of the day.

On some of the early trips we have included a bite to eat, with a slice of cake and tea when we return from a guided tour of "The Golden Valley", where is the Golden Valley? That we find out from the guide! Plus we have a fish & chip lunch

arranged following a morning excursion on the Kirklees Light Railway...this fine narrow gauge line is developing all the time, but doesn't seem to be well known this side of the M62! Another new day trip is "Looking for King Richard III", where since our visit on a short break a few years ago, a new visitor centre has now opened in the centre of Leicester, which we will visit to hear about his disappearance and subsequent finding under a car park.

Also included in the programme are some favourite horticulture trips, we are returning to Thorp Perrow, not only does it have wonderful autumn colours, but the springtime daffodils are a splendid sight as well. New this year will be the RHS Show at Chatsworth, with its theme "Design Revolution", which takes its lead from the now demolished, but in its time revolutionary glass house designed by Joseph Paxton for Chatsworth.

Some regular popular trips are included in the programme like Cheshire Choice and Liverpool, though there are extra choices with the Cheshire trip available, and if our timings are right, Liverpool will have a new museum to visit – The National Museum of Popular Music – due to open in February 2017 and located in the historic Cunard Building on the waterfront (admissions will be applicable).



Kirklees Light Railway



Richard III
Snowdrops at Fountains Abbey



Fountains Abbey



Chatsworth House



Thorpe Perrow



Liverpool

Some of the trips might appeal from taking children out, like to Forbidden Corner, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, The Deep in

Hull – (which is the UK City of Culture for 2017, so other events may be happening as well), and the North York Moors Railway to Whitby, and for the " big kids" we have a trip to Chillingham Castle in Northumberland, where the alarming dungeons and torture chambers have a certain fascination !

As a taster for the programme beyond June (we're hoping to publish in April) – look out for scarecrows, a new air show, and a stately home not visited before, plus some old favourites, and maybe even an auction !



The Deep



Day Excursion Child Prices.

You may have noticed that on some day excursions a child price has been published. This is in response to a number of requests we have had, and we are pleased to do this, especially for trips that fall in the school holidays, when either a parent or grandparent wishes to take a youngster on a day out. Child prices apply to 4 – 14 year olds, with the under 4's being free.

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!

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.



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