



Newsletter No 11

August 2004

AUTUMN ALMANAC

In this Issue!

- Autumn—golden leaves and red bracken. Hmm...nice!
- Knobbly Stick's favourite kilometres... or are they?
- How to enjoy the British summer weather.
- Staying Alive in 2005.

"I like my football on a Saturday; roast beef on Sunday—all right. I go to Blackpool for my holidays; sit in the open sunlight".

So sang the Kinks way back in the mists of time, but we'd have to point out that Blackpool isn't everybody's cup of tea—or dish of chips. So, what are the alternatives?

Ullswater from the 12th to the 17th of September. A bit early, perhaps, for the full glory of the autumn colours, but the longer daylight hours will compensate, no doubt. If you're interested in this one, please let us know straight away, or it'll be too late.

We're running the same Ullswater Skyline holiday again from the 3rd to the 8th of October, and the famed woodlands of the area should be beginning to change colour by then.

Half term looms, so what about our Walking the Easy Way break during the holiday (Oct 25th to 29th)? Teachers and others please note—no price hike by good old Knobbly Stick during that week.

We've got plenty to go at during October, November and December: all our Lakes and Dales holidays are running at least once. We've had many excellent breaks at this time of year, so come on. Give it a go!

Let's be British... and Talk About the Weather

Well, that wasn't much of a summer weather-wise, was it? Or was it? At least Knobbly Stick holidays did manage to avoid landslides, but we have to be honest and admit that we did get quite wet once or twice.

Perhaps, though, the real value of a Knobbly Stick holiday becomes more apparent when the weather isn't all that great. After all, many people can find a half-decent walk in brilliant sunshine, but what about if it rains? We're proud to say that the weather has never yet stopped us walking—it might have slowed us down once or twice, though. Much of this has been due to the indefatigable enthusiasm of our guests, but we like to be able to take some of the credit for being able to offer walks that are appropriate to the conditions.

So, what were the highlights? We had a walker with us in Keswick who had travelled from New South Wales, Australia—especially to be with Knobbly Stick (!) - and who has therefore beaten the previous long distance record held by a walker from Denver, Colorado. We're still keen to welcome people from even further away—Tasmania, NZ, Mars... special rates for green people with antennae.

In fact, May and June were really good to us, and we enjoyed some great holidays in Grasmere and Keswick. We went up some big hills, like Skiddaw and Helvellyn and Blencathra, but also had a look at the quieter places away from the crowds—like Codale Head and Great How and the Lingmoor Fell ridge.

July was quite kind as well with a good week around Ullswater and some ideal walking weather in the Yorkshire Dales.

In fact, when you look at it, we only got wet towards the end of August, so we shouldn't grumble really. But, being British, we will anyway. If it wasn't too wet, it must have been too hot. Sometimes it actually managed to be too wet and too hot at the same time—don't waste money going to the Amazon rain forest. Come on a Knobbly Stick August special instead! In reality, we've been very lucky with the weather, but complaining about it makes a talking point doesn't it? And, as a wise old lady once replied to the question "Isn't the weather terrible?", "Yes, but it's better than nothing".

CLASSIFIED ADVERT

Tired of having to turn round to see what's behind you?

Get a Knobbly Stick "Seebackascope" only £599 + p & p



The Future is Another Country

Or was it the past? Anyway, we at Knobbly Stick, when we haven't been enjoying ourselves on the fells, have been locked up in our dusty garret thinking about the contents of our 2005 Brochure. Lucky recipients of this Newsletter get a preview of some of the things that will be on offer next year.

We've got a trip to the Alps already inked in for early July. We've been over this year to finalise details on some wonderful walking routes, which we're sure you'll enjoy. We've also arranged accommodation at an excellent hotel and have contacted a local firm to arrange transport to and from the walks. We'll be staying in Samoens, a real Alpine village situated in the French Haute Savoie region, midway between Lake Geneva and Mont Blanc. We already have a group of people keen to join us on this break which, unusually for Knobbly Stick, is a 2-week holiday. There will be about 11 days' guided walking with the opportunity for you to visit other places, partake in other activities or just relax on the other days.

This is very much a WALKING—NOT climbing, mountaineering or yodelling—holiday, and we have a "mini-brochure" available giving further details. So, if you're interested, please contact us for further details.

Talking of France, we're also doing our annual trip to the Opal Coast near Boulogne around Easter. This is less of a walking trip—although we do some coastal walking—and more of a sight seeing and, dare we say it, cultural visit. It's been a great success in the past so, once again, please get in touch for further details. Again, we have a mini-brochure giving more information than we can include here.

We're also planning to do something similar in Normandy, with visits to places like Caen, Rouen and Bayeux complementing the walking.

Both the Normandy and Opal Coast holidays are aimed at those of you who want a relaxing, sociable break tailored to your individual needs. A likely time of year for the Normandy trip is next Autumn—possibly half-term—but nothing is fixed yet. Please get in touch and we'll see what we can fix up for you.

We wouldn't want you to think that the old favourites in the Lakes and Yorkshire Dales won't appear. They most certainly will, even though, sadly, the Chaucer House Hotel in Keswick, which has served us so well, is closing down. We hope to find another hotel in Keswick as it is simply too good a centre for walking to miss out.

So, plan early for 2005.

Think fresh air...
Think exploring the countryside...
Think what endleth blith it mutht be to live in Watendlath...

THINK KNOBBLY STICK!!!

WANTED

CUSTOMERS!

No experience necessary as full training will be given.

Please apply by phone, email or letter.

A splendid time is guaranteed for all

ANORAKS' CORNER—with the KS Archivist, Luke Gormless

Just because we know a bit about obscure 60's bands and other generally useless information, one or two of our guests think we're a bit anoraky. Is that a word? *It is now (ed).*

And, just to prove the point, here is a list of some of our favourite kilometres (or half-miles or whatever) in Knobbly Stick Land. To qualify, the place has to be visited on a Knobbly Stick holiday.

In no particular order, the nominations are:

- 1 the summit ridge of Blencathra. Splendid views whilst walking at an odd angle make this a must (Keswick holiday, Lakes)
- 2 Moughton Scar, Crummackdale. We nearly didn't put this in as it's a KS secret, so don't tell anyone...superb views from an unspoiled limestone pavement (Dales)
- 3 Gowbarrow, overlooking Ullswater. Not in the

high fells but a walk of unsurpassed beauty (Ullswater Skyline)

- 4 Cap Blanc Nez—the only one in the list where you can buy chips—which may, or may not, spoil it. Great views across the Channel and huge amounts of fresh air (Northern France)
- 5 Scafell Pike summit —just grand (Wasdale)
- 6 Trow Gill and Gaping Gill, Ingleborough—always fascinating and, who knows, you may get the chance to be lowered down Gaping Gill, an unforgettable experience (Dales).
- 7 Le Fer a Cheval, Sixt—cheating, really, as we haven't yet taken a group here. But, truly awe-inspiring scenery from a position of complete security (Alps).

We've got loads more...but, more importantly, what are YOUR favourites?? Please let us know!!!!

Knobbly Stick can be contacted on 01539 737576 or by email at info@knobblystick.com