

Newsletter No 5

March 2003

Walking Without Worry with Knobbly Stick Special Offers for 2003

In this Issue!

- Special Offers for 2003!!
- Coming soon— Britain's newest long-distance trail—the Knobbly Way! And remember—you saw it here first!
- Knobbly Stick at the Outdoors Show at the NEC



What, me worry?

Some say modern life is rubbish—well, we don't know about that, but it's certainly got its fair share of worries, annoyances and minor irritations. Why not take a break from it all and join us on a worry-free walking holiday this spring or summer? Just imagine sitting on a grassy hillside admiring the view and soaking up the sun. When all you can hear is the distant sound of a Lakeland stream, and all you can feel is the gentle breeze on your face, life seems such a sweet thing! Well, all right, sometimes it rains...but it's still great, especially when you've got a comfortable hotel to go back to in the evening.

Our trip to northern France in April is already fully-booked and we're looking forward to revisiting the clifftops and beaches, the fortified towns and cathedrals and the museums and markets that all make this part of the world such a fascinating holiday destination.

But what about these special offers on our Lakes and Dales holidays?

And we're visiting some new places this year that we thought you might want to know about.

Some Lakes Classics

The South and West Lakes Classic runs for a week starting on 31st May. We meet at the Crooklands Hotel, not far from Kendal and spend three days walking around some of the best countryside in South Lakeland. How about the elegant Howgills, ideally situated between the Lakes and the Dales; Kentmere with its ancient settlements and seemingly unchanged for centuries; and the rugged but friendly Coniston fells.

Even if the hills look too big, we can always have a walk round the fascinating Coppermines valley.

The remaining three days are over at the Low Wood Hall Hotel in the less frequented western Lakes. Wasdale and Eskdale offer almost limitless walking—and non-walking—possibilities. Muncaster Castle, the miniature railway of "La'al Ratty", the wonders of Stanley Ghyll, the little known waterfalls of Nether Beck as well as the better known hills such as Great Gable and the Wasdale Screes. All waiting to be explored by you.

For this holiday, our normal price of £655 has been cut to just £599, and remember there is no single supplement.

As usual, our prices include all accommodation and meals, guiding on the hills, transport to and from all walks, transport to and from a non-walking activity if you fancy a day off, and collection from a convenient railway station if you want to travel to your holiday by train. So, no worries about getting to your holiday, getting around while you're with us, and getting fed and watered. Bliss, eh?

Wasdale—the Connoisseurs' Valley

A full week's walking in this breathtaking part of the world and based at the Low Wood Hall Hotel overlooking the famous screes. Your holiday starts on Saturday 14th June and ends with a final night on Friday the 20th at the Crooklands near Kendal (so that you don't have so far to travel on your way home). Our brochure price of £745 is reduced to £695—this is sure to be a magical week!

Settle in the Yorkshire Dales

Starting on Sunday evening, May 18th, we're running our Dales mini-break, based at the Falcon Manor Hotel in Settle, in Yorkshire's Three Peaks country. There are three days available for walking and we spend four nights at the delightful Falcon Manor, where you're guaranteed a comfortable stay and a warm welcome.

We say that the aim of the holiday is to get to the top of each of the famous Three Peaks of Wharfedale, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent. Instead of doing this at breakneck speed, however, we take our time and manage just one top a day. Each summit is well within the capability of your mythical "average" walker but, if the weather's not too kind, or the party wants something different, we've got a selection of lower level walks to choose from. All in all, this is a great area for walking or just getting away from it all.

Our normal brochure price for this break is £335 but, for a limited period only, we're offering it at the special rate of just £295. And remember, this includes all meals and guiding, and, as usual, there is no single supplement.

Good Old King Arthur—Cornwall Anyone?

We've had a request to change our northern France holiday in July to one in Cornwall instead. This is a new venture for us, but we do have experience of walking the north Cornwall coast path—and excellent it is too.

The intention is to walk the Cornish coast path at its western end around Land's End and St Ives. No hills as big as the ones in the Lakes and Dales, but plenty of mini ups and downs along a switchback coast of almost unbelievable beauty and grandeur. And, of course, there's the seaside for those who want to bring a bucket and spade.

Prices will depend on what hotel we find but please contact us for more information if you're interested. If there is sufficient demand, we may be able to collect people en route in our minibus—provided you're roughly on the M6 / M5 corridor.

The Not So Wild West

Weekends in St Bees, Cumbria's westernmost point—magnificent B&B—off the beaten track, bird-spotting at St Bees Head and a walk round tranquil Ennerdale Water. Just great. Ask for details.

Keswick and the Alps

Don't forget our North Lakes Classic weeks, based at the Chaucer House Hotel in Keswick. Borrowdale, Newlands, Buttermere, Skiddaw, Blencathra, Whinlatter—all possibilities awaiting you. All magnificent and all for just £495.

We're still hopeful that the trip to the Alps in August will go ahead. We had enquiries about this break from interested parties at the NEC a couple of weeks ago. Remember, it is walking we're doing, not mountaineering. A wonderful part of the world. Why not enjoy it the worry-free way with Knobbly Stick? If the prospect of the long road journey is too daunting, Easyjet fly into Geneva and we'll be happy to collect you from there—nothing's impossible!

Knobbly Stick Make an Exhibition of Themselves

For three days a couple of weekends ago Knobbly Stick had a stand at the Outdoors Show at the NEC—good to meet lots of people, and to be mixing with some big names like Berghaus and Brasher. Even better to be placed opposite the Jennings Brewery stand. See you there next year??

The Knobbly Way Not Your Average Long Distance Walk

Taking note of the old adage that time in the hills is to be spent and not saved, the Knobblymen have put their heads together and come up with the idea of a long distance walking route which zig-zags for 600 miles through some of the best scenery in the Lakes and Dales. Unlike most long distance trails, this one—unsurprisingly called the Knobbly Way—is in the form of a star shaped circle. This means you can start the route anywhere on the circle, walk for as much or as little as you like and pick up your journey again whenever the fancy takes you. The fine detail of the Knobbly Way is still being worked out but, in essence, the route visits all the major valleys of the Lake District and the Three Peaks of Yorkshire. It has optional "there and back" days around some of the higher fells and there will be low level alternatives in case of bad weather or tired feet. It will also visit plenty of places big enough to replenish stocks—Kendal, Ambleside and Settle for example.

The walk is not really for peak-baggers, record-breakers, tough nuts and roughnecks—it's very much a Knobbly Way in all senses. We want people to take their time and savour the experience, and our hope is that the lack of official starting and finishing points will remove the feeling of pressure that many long walks carry with them. We hope to be able to publish a detailed guide to the route before the end of the year, so that those of you who love discovering hidden corners as well as visiting the more familiar places will be able to have a go. Of course, if the idea of the Knobbly Way appeals to you, and you'd rather do it in a group with a Knobbly guide, that would be even better. Just let us know. We're thinking of offering it as an eight week walk in 2004, where you could join and leave just as it suits you—what do you think? Please let us know! The names of all those offering an opinion will be put into a woolly hat—winner will get £50 off a Knobbly Stick holiday!