MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

The CRAIG-Y-DON HOTEL



WELCOME TO OUR

What's on September Newsletter

Illuminations front row seats!

PEERING INTO THE FUTURE, FORTUNE TELLING IN BLACKPOOL

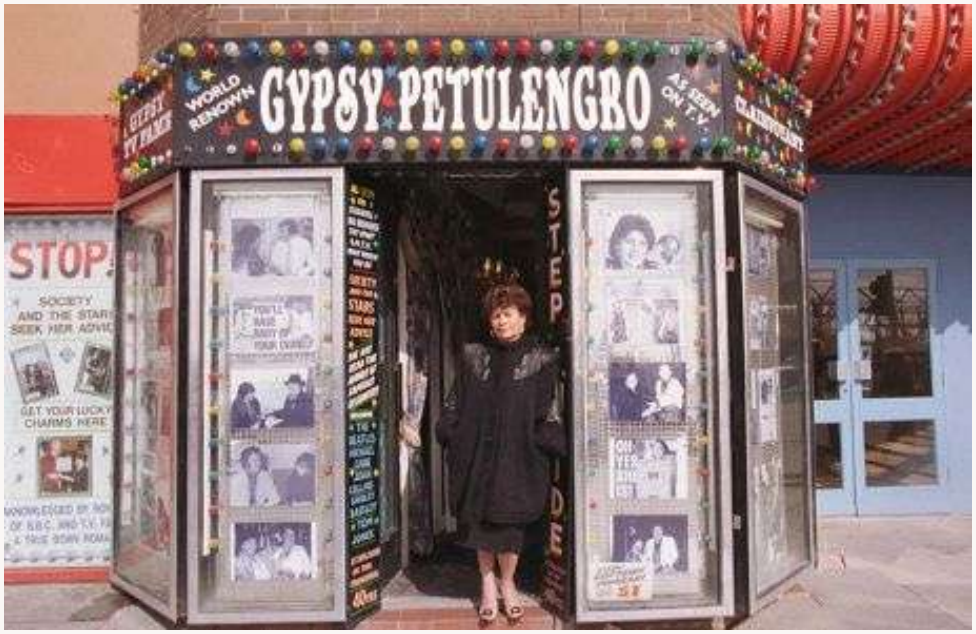
Blackpool, a town synonymous with seaside entertainment, has a long and captivating history with fortune-telling. This tradition is deeply woven into its identity as a popular tourist destination.

Fortune telling in Blackpool dates back to the late 1800s, with Romani families establishing encampments on the South Shore sandhills. Their tents offered fortune-telling readings and crafts, becoming a significant early attraction for tourists even before the iconic Tower. Despite laws against fortune telling, Blackpool authorities often tolerated it due to its popularity.

In the 1900s, fortune-telling became a firm fixture along Blackpool's famous Golden Mile. Alongside other sideshows, booths offered palmistry, crystal ball readings, and tarot cards. The "touts" enticing passersby were as much a part of the entertainment as the readings themselves.

The art of fortune-telling in Blackpool has often been passed down through generations. Families like the Petulengros, Townsends and the Lees have become well-known, with their booths on the piers and promenade attracting countless visitors, including celebrities. Fortune-telling remains a recognisable charm. You'll still find palm readers and clairvoyants on the promenade, offering personal readings.

In a town built on entertainment and escapism, fortune telling offers a unique blend of curiosity, tradition, and perhaps, a comforting belief in a guided future. It stands as a testament to Blackpool's ability to retain its unique character and provide diverse experiences for its millions of annual visitors, reminding us that sometimes, a little peek into what's to come is just as thrilling as the biggest rollercoaster. Have you ever been told you are going to meet a tall, dark stranger??



MEET THE STAFF - NEIL

This is the one you've been waiting for! Your one and only receptionist and compere. Neil's a true Yorkshire man born in Ripon in 1964, the year colour TV was invented, Harold Wilson became Prime Minister and 'I Want to Hold Your Hand' by the Beatles was the biggest selling single of the year.

Neil was a bit of a sportsman by all accounts and not only was he smashing the Three-Legged Race and Sack Race on Sports Day, by the time he was 16, he was crowned the County Tennis Champion. He's also a die-hard Leeds United fan, so you know he's no stranger to a bit of drama.

At 16, Neil packed his bags for London's bright lights, promptly lied about his age to get a pub job, and spent his days and nights at iconic clubs like Embassy, Scandals and Bangs. He says he was a bit of a looker back then—a claim we have no way of verifying, but we'll take his word for it!

After his wild year, he returned north, trained as a nurse, and spent many rewarding years in the care industry at the Esplanade Care Home in Scarborough, caring for patients with dementia. He worked in the care sector for many years, which he found very rewarding Neil's always been a self-proclaimed bingo queen and he found a part-time gig at a bingo hall, which paved the way for his role we all know and love him for.

When he turned 40, he moved to Blackpool, as he had several friends already living here and found a job at the Craig y Don as a receptionist. In 2011 the Whalley family bought the hotel, and Neil was sold along with the fixtures and fittings!

We've had some great fun over the years with Neil; the list is endless. His three-day 60th birthday bash at the hotel last year sold out in two weeks and that is testimony to his popularity.

Neil has earned his title as Mr Craig Y Don, he's very much the face of the hotel and does a brilliant job entertaining the guests, he also genuinely cares about everyone and enjoys meeting all our guests and has made some life-long friends.

In his spare time, he loves to go to Mecca Bingo, chasing that big win and enjoys nights out with his friends. Favourite TV programmes, he loves a good drama.



OKTOBERFEST

Celebrate Oktoberfest at Craig Y Don Enjoy a midweek break filled with Bavarian cheer and get ready to raise your Stein!

29 Sept - 3Oct: £199pp includes:

- Hearty breakfast & Evening Dinner
- Nightly Live Entertainment
- Drinks package – five vouchers per night for complimentary beer, wine and shorts,
- Bavarian festive atmosphere and great company





OUT OF THIS WORLD WEEKEND

£159 3 Nights or 2 Nights £120 with breakfast and dinner per person

Step into our "Out of This World" weekend! Prepare to be amazed by a master magician's illusions, delve into the depths of your mind with a captivating hypnotist and enjoy top cabaret.

This exclusive event promises an unforgettable escape, where the extraordinary becomes reality. Join us for a weekend of wonder, laughter, and pure entertainment.

WHAT'S YOUR FESTIVE PLAN - UPWRAP OUR BEST DEALS

It's 116 days to Christmas and as we enter September, we all know it won't be long before we are in the midst of the festive season.
It's time to start thinking about some Fabulous Festive Fun because throughout November and December, we transform the Craig Y Don into a Festive Wonderland and Blackpool is pulling out all the stops to ensure visitors can visit during this period and be assured of plenty of things to do. Enjoy Bavarian-style log cabins, festive-themed fairground rides ice skating rink, simulated snowfalls, Illuminations and light shows. With many of the main attractions remaining open, lots of Christmas shopping and the start of the Pantomime season, come and experience Christmas by the Sea.

TAKE YOUR PICK FROM OUR FESTIVE DEALS. WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE?

CARRY ON CRUISING: 10-14 NOV £169 BBEM PER PERSON
All aboard for our mock cruise and set sail around the world with Captain Neil and his jolly crew. Calling in at a different port every day, we experience hearty breakfasts, delicious, themed evening dinners, games and first-class entertainment. Join the staff, enter the spirit of this fab event.





TURKEY AND TINSEL MON-FRI: 17 NOV - 15 DEC £169 BBEM PER PERSON
Pack your Christmas jumper and get into the festive spirit, Christmas has come early at the Craig y Don. Our 4-night midweek getaway includes cooked breakfast, sumptuous evening dinner with all the trimmings, afternoon bingo, tea/biscuits and festive-filled entertainment, a real pre-Christmas tonic.

TAKE YOUR PICK FROM OUR FESTIVE DEALS. WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE?



A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS: FRI-MON: 28 NOV - 12 DEC
2 NIGHTS £110 & 3 NIGHTS £159 BBEM PER PERSON
Come and experience some pre-Christmas fun at the Craig Y Don. The price includes hot breakfast buffet, evening dinner, including a Festive dinner on Saturday evening and fabulous festive entertainment.



TWIXMAS: 27-30 DEC 2NIGHTS £120 & 3 NIGHTS £180 BBEM
New to the Craig Y Don, a two/three-night mini break between Christmas and New Year, why not extend your Christmas or New Year stay or just come and have a relaxing and restorative break after a hectic Christmas before the festivities ramp up again for the New Year celebrations?

HACKS FOR FAMILIES WITH TEENAGERS

Visiting Blackpool with teenagers can be a blast, but it's all about finding the right balance between classic family fun and things that feel a bit more "grown up." Here are some hacks to keep everyone happy:

For thrill-seekers, head straight to Blackpool Pleasure Beach. It's home to some of the UK's most famous rollercoasters, like "The Big One" and "Icon."

If you have water lovers, Sandcastle Waterpark is the UK's largest indoor waterpark and has some huge, fun slides.

Choose go-karting, Formula Kart is located on North Prom. It boasts a challenging 750m outdoor track with powerful karts reaching speeds of up to 60mph. It's a fab choice for teens who want a serious, adrenaline-fueled racing experience.

For the cool factor, what about the Blackpool Tower Dungeon? This interactive experience is a great mix of spooky history and live actors, perfect for teens who like a bit of a thrill.

Madame Tussauds is a great place for teens to grab selfies with their favourite celebrities, superheroes, and sporting stars.

Coral Island, this classic arcade is the largest indoor family-friendly attraction of its kind, perfect to keep teens happy for hours.

For high-energy, Laser Tag and Quest is located right on the Promenade, featuring a classic multi-level indoor laser tag arena. It's a great option for a rainy day and the futuristic, sci-fi themed environment is perfect for teens who want to get competitive.

AirHop Trampoline Park, formerly known as Ascent, is a great way to burn off some energy. Teens can enjoy a variety of activities like a ninja assault course, dodgeball, climbing walls, and a caving system.

Clip 'n Climb: This is an indoor climbing experience that is a step up from a standard climbing wall. With 24 different themed climbing challenges, it's a brill way to test your courage and strength in a fun and safe environment.

Did you know there is an ice rink at the Pleasure Beach? If your teens are into ice skating or want to learn, it's a great activity.



