The CRAIG-Y-DON HOTEL



WELCOME TO OUR

# What's on November Newsletter

Capture the Magic of the Festive Season!

# BLACKPOOL'S WINTER WONDERLAND IS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER!

Dreaming of a white Christmas? You don't need to go far to find it! Blackpool's hugely popular Christmas by the Sea Village is returning to the Tower Festival Headland this year, and it's set to be an even bigger and more dazzling spectacle than before. Get ready to step into a festive alpine world right here on the coast!

Set against the stunning backdrop of Blackpool's Illuminations, this winter wonderland is the perfect place to get into the festive spirit. The village will feature a free-to-use ice skating rink, where you can glide under the stars, surrounded by magical light displays. You'll also experience enchanting simulated snowfalls and captivating light projection shows that will transform the iconic Blackpool Tower into a festive canvas.

The fun doesn't stop there! The village will be packed with a variety of festive attractions for all ages. Wander through charming Bavarian-style log cabins selling delicious seasonal treats, warm drinks, and unique Christmas gifts—perfect for finding that special present.

For thrill-seekers, the village is bringing back some of its most popular rides, including the towering Star Flyer and the exhilarating 100ft-long Snow Slide. This year, they're adding even more new festive fairground rides, like waltzers and a swing ride, ensuring there's something to get everyone's heart racing.

With plenty of Christmas shopping opportunities and the start of the pantomime season, Blackpool is pulling out all the stops to make sure your winter visit is filled with festive cheer and unforgettable memories. Come and experience Christmas by the Sea! Open 14 Nov-4 Jan (closed Xmas day)





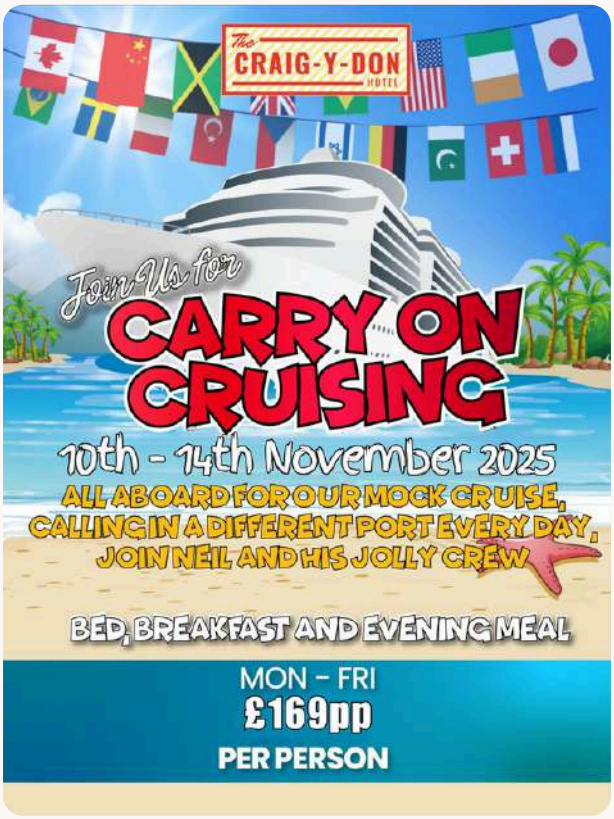
# WHAT'S YOUR FESTIVE PLAN? UNWRAP OUR BEST DEALS

It won't be long before we are in the midst of the festive season and it's time to start thinking about some Fabulous Festive Fun. Throughout November and December, we transform the Craig Y Don into a Festive Wonderland.

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 UK with Captain Neil and his jolly crew. Calling in at a different UK port every day, enjoy hearty breakfasts, delicious, themed evening dinners, competitions, games, and first-class entertainment. Join the staff and enter the spirit of this fab event.







## TURKEY AND TINSEL MIDWEEK THROUGHOUT NOV & 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, even a visit from Santa. A real pre-Christmas tonic.

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## A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS 28 Nov-1 Dec, 5-8 Dec, 12-15 Dec 2N £120 3N £159 BBEM PER PERSON

Come and experience some pre-Christmas festive fun at the Craig Y Don. The price includes cooked breakfast, evening dinner, including a Festive dinner on Saturday evening and fabulous entertainment.







## TWIXMAS 27-30 Dec 2N £120 BBEM, 3N £180 BBEM PER PERSON

New to the Craig Y Don, a two or 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?

## NEW YEAR HANGOVER PARTY 2-5 Jan 2N £120 BBEM, 3N £159 BBEM

New to the Craig Y Don New Year's Weekend, if you are unfortunate enough not to be able to come for New Year at the Craig y Don (we are sold out now), what about staying on the 2 -5 Jan for our New Year's Hangover weekend with nightly entertainment?
Come and check in and chill out after a hectic Christmas and New Year!



# MEET THE STAFF - GARY OUR HEAD CHEF

We are delighted to introduce Gary, our Head Chef, who joined the team this year. We were incredibly excited to have him take over this key role, as his long and varied career has given him a wealth of experience to bring to our kitchen.

A native of Manchester and also a United supporter, Gary moved to Blackpool at the age of eleven when his parents purchased a guest house. It was here that he gained his first insights into the hospitality industry, assisting with duties such as waiting on tables, collecting laundry, and preparing breakfast. This early experience naturally led him to attend catering college at the age of sixteen.

Upon qualifying, Gary's first professional chef role was at the Highland Hotel on the North Shore. Over the following few years, he held several chef positions at reputable establishments, including Premier Bowl, Fernhill over Wyre, and the Palm Court.

Gary's skills and qualifications provided him with the opportunity to travel, and he spent time living and working in different parts of the country, including Llandudno, Bournemouth, and the Lake District. His career also took him overseas, where he lived and worked in Norway for a few years.

At the age of 30, Gary returned home to focus on the family's new business venture, Knowlsons Desserts. For seven years, he was responsible for baking and supplying high-quality gateaux, cakes, and desserts to hotels and restaurants, primarily across the Northwest and even extending as far as France. After the business was successfully sold, Gary accepted a Head Chef role for Blackpool Promotions, a position he held for fifteen years, right up until he joined the Craig Y Don team.

Gary is thoroughly enjoying his new role. He values his staff and cultivates a supportive but focused kitchen environment, emphasising a positive attitude and a commitment to producing the tasty, home-cooked meals our guests enjoy.

In his free time, Gary enjoys playing snooker and watching TV dramas and documentaries. He is also a dedicated father and enjoys visiting his daughter at Edge Hill University. A passionate fan of rock music, Gary has attended concerts for many famous bands, including Meat Loaf, Guns N' Roses, Aerosmith and Bruce Springsteen.

Fun fact: Gary was once invited on stage to play air guitar with Bruce Springsteen.



# HISTORY OF THE ILLUMINATIONS

The Blackpool Illuminations have a history as rich and fascinating as the dazzling displays themselves. It all started in 1879, when Blackpool was at the cutting edge of technology. In a bold experiment, the town council installed eight arc lamps along the promenade, a full year before Thomas Edison patented the electric lightbulb. At a time when most homes were still lit by candles, this "artificial sunshine" was such a revolutionary spectacle that it drew crowds from across the country, effectively extending Blackpool's traditional summer season. This initial success laid the foundation for what would become a world-famous, annual event.

The modern Illuminations as we know them today began in 1912. To celebrate a royal visit, a much more ambitious display featuring 10,000 light bulbs was installed, which proved so popular it became a regular autumn attraction. Over the decades, the Illuminations have grown in both scale and technology. From the animated tableaux of the 1930s to the modern use of LEDs, lasers, and projection mapping, the display has continually evolved. Despite being suspended during both World Wars, the lights have always returned, cementing their place as an iconic, free attraction that attracts millions of visitors to Blackpool every year.

Did you know the Illuminations only use green energy from renewable sources, comprising of wind, small-scale hydro, landfill and biogas. The procurement of green electricity has reduced the annual Illuminations carbon dioxide emissions to zero, saving 420 tonnes per year into the atmosphere.



# A DAY TRIP TO CLEVELEYS

Forget the flashing lights and frantic energy of Blackpool for a day! Hop on that classic tram and take a quick, scenic glide up the coast to Cleveleys—Blackpool's chilled-out, quirky cousin. You'll swap the pier-to-pier dash for a leisurely wander, arriving in a town that feels like a breath of fresh air. Cleveleys' high street is a treat, with all the usual suspects alongside some brilliant independent boutiques just begging you to pop in for a rummage. It's the perfect place to grab a cheeky new outfit or hunt for a one-of-a-kind treasure.

But the real star of the show is Cleveleys' stunning seafront. This isn't just any promenade; it's a super-cool stretch of coastline home to the "Mythic Coast" trail, where giant, otherworldly sculptures emerge from the sand. You can snap a selfie with the colossal Mary's Shell or find the Ogre that's just chilling by the water's edge. It's like an outdoor art gallery meets a treasure hunt!



When you're done exploring, the high street is a foodie's delight! After your stroll, you can refuel at one of the many fantastic independent cafes that give Cleveleys its cosy, welcoming vibe. From quaint tea rooms to modern coffee shops like The Coffee Bar Cleveleys or Decades Retro Cafe Bar, you'll find plenty of places to grab a slice of cake, a great coffee, or a hearty lunch.

The town's enduring appeal lies in its friendly, relaxed atmosphere and its mix of classic seaside charm with modern touches, offering a perfect day trip for anyone looking to escape the crowds and enjoy the simpler, more refined pleasures of the Lancashire coast.



# BLACKPOOLS NOT JUST FOR SUMMER

Blackpool isn't just a summer fling; it's a year-round relationship with endless fun and entertainment. While many people still picture donkey rides and sticks of rock, the town has truly evolved. Thanks to significant investment and redevelopment, Blackpool has shaken off its seasonal image and become a vibrant destination that welcomes visitors in every season.

Beyond the summer crowds, Blackpool's magic continues. Many of the most famous indoor attractions stay open all year, often with shorter queues and special off-season discounts. This means you can experience iconic spots like the Blackpool Tower or Sea Life without the summer rush.

And don't underestimate the power of a winter walk. There's something truly invigorating about a brisk stroll along the famous promenade. The sea air is revitalising, and the stunning coastal views—even on a grey day—have a calming, restorative effect. Blackpool's unique blend of classic seaside charm and modern attractions makes it a perfect escape, regardless of the time of year.

Best of all, there are some real bargains to be had at the Craig Y Don, giving you more for your money.

Midweek February and March £118 per person inc breakfast and dinner.

Themed Weekends: £120 for a 2-night stay, including breakfast and dinner per person, and £ 159 for 3 nights. Available Jan - March

