



The Royal Oak
HOTEL

Borrowdale, Keswick

WELCOME TO OUR
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

September, the Walking Season

A WHISPER FROM 1843. A TALE FROM THE HEART OF BORROWDALE

Step back in time and discover the story of the Simpson family at the Royal Oak Rosthwaite. If the old stone walls of the Royal Oak Rosthwaite could whisper, what stories would they tell?

Perhaps they would take us back to 1843, when the valley was quieter, the roads were rougher, and weary travellers arrived on foot, by horse, or in a simple carriage, seeking warmth, shelter and a hearty Cumbrian welcome.

Behind the door of the inn lived John and Sarah Simpson, a hardworking couple who had taken over the running of the Royal Oak and were beginning a new chapter in its long history. Their lives were deeply rooted in Borrowdale. Before becoming innkeepers, John had worked as a miner before turning his hand to farming, tending the land around Rosthwaite alongside his family.

The couple knew the valley intimately, its seasons, its storms, its fell paths and the people who called this beautiful corner of the Lake District home. The Royal Oak was not just a place for travellers to rest; it was the beating heart of the village.

Inside, life would have been full and lively. The crackle of the fire would have welcomed guests arriving cold and tired from their journeys. The kitchen would have been filled with the aromas of simple Cumbrian fare, while the sound of conversation and laughter drifted through the inn. Farmers, miners, walkers and visitors drawn to the beauty of Borrowdale would have all shared stories beneath the same roof.

For the Simpson family, running the inn was a way of life. Their days would have been long, caring for guests, managing the farm, looking after their own growing family and preparing for the steady stream of visitors who came to explore the magnificent landscape around them.



A WHISPER FROM 1843 CONTINUED...

As the years passed, the Royal Oak became known as "Simpson's Hotel", a place where travellers could expect comfort, kindness and a genuine welcome. Newspapers of the time recorded gatherings, village events, auctions and celebrations held at the inn, from sporting days with wrestling and races to dinners after local hunts. It was a place where the community came together.

Life was not always easy. In 1863, tragedy struck when John and Sarah's son, William, who had taken on the innkeeping role, suffered a serious accident after being thrown from his horse and breaking his leg in several places. With a young family to care for and another child on the way, his wife Ann stepped forward, becoming the "hearty hostess" who kept the hotel thriving. Visitors praised her warmth, hospitality and attention to detail, describing the comfort and care they found at Simpson's Hotel.

Nearly 200 years later, the spirit of those early innkeepers still lives on.

The horses and carts may have disappeared, and the travellers now arrive by car as well as on foot, but the reason people come to Rosthwaite remains unchanged. They come to escape, to explore, to walk the fells, breathe the fresh mountain air and experience the magic of the Borrowdale Valley.

Today, the Royal Oak Rosthwaite continues the tradition started by the Simpson family, offering a warm welcome, good food, comfortable rooms and a place to rest after adventures among some of the most breathtaking scenery in the Lake District.

So next time you step through our doors, listen carefully...
You may just hear a little whisper from 1843.



COME AND BE A GUEST OF NATURE, WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN SEPTEMBER

September is one of the most magical times to visit Borrowdale. As the summer crowds fade, the valley begins its gentle transition into autumn, revealing a quieter, wilder side of the Lake District.

Step into Borrowdale's ancient woodland and you'll discover one of Britain's rare temperate rainforests, where moss-covered trees, ferns and lichens create a truly enchanting landscape. After the first autumn rain, the forest floor comes alive with colourful fungi, from tiny toadstools to intricate bracket fungi, making every walk feel like a nature treasure hunt.

Keep your eyes peeled for our native red squirrels, busily gathering food for winter, while buzzards soar overhead and jays collect acorns beneath the ancient oaks. Listen for the tap of a woodpecker or the call of a raven echoing across the valley.

September is the perfect time to slow down, breathe in the fresh mountain air and enjoy Borrowdale at its most peaceful. Whether you're wandering beside the River Derwent or exploring woodland trails from our doorstep, nature has something new to discover around every corner.

After a day outdoors, return to The Royal Oak for a warm welcome, delicious seasonal food and a cosy place to relax.

This September, come and be a guest of nature. We can't wait to welcome you.

If this is for The Royal Oak's monthly guest newsletter, I'd make it even more engaging by giving it the feel of a "This Month in Nature" column, with a title like "What to Look Out for in September" and a quick list of seasonal highlights:

Spot: Colourful autumn fungi in the ancient woodland

Watch: Red squirrels preparing for winter

Look Up: Buzzards and ravens soaring above the fells

Enjoy: The first golden leaves and quieter walking trails



ESCAPE TO A RELAXING ROYAL OAK CHRISTMAS

24TH - 27TH DECEMBER

Enjoy a tranquil Christmas break at The Royal Oak, with cosy log fires, festive décor, and delicious dishes from Head Chef David Lee. Relax, unwind, and make the most of quality time with family and friends in our stunning Borrowdale setting, with recommended local walks available throughout your stay.

Your festive escape begins on Christmas Eve with seasonal treats on arrival, followed by dinner and the house cheeseboard. Christmas Day starts with breakfast and mimosas, followed by canapés and the King's Speech, a traditional Christmas dinner, and evening snacks, with time to relax and enjoy games together.

On Boxing Day, enjoy a leisurely breakfast, explore the local area, and return for afternoon treats and an evening buffet. Your stay concludes on 27th December with breakfast before departure, leaving you refreshed and full of festive cheer.

Prices: £999 per couple / £499 single. Early bookers get a FREE room upgrade!



A Cosy Christmas
at
The Royal Oak
HOTEL
Borrowdale, Keswick
3 Nights
24th - 27th December 2026
£499 for singles
or
£999 per couple

A SPECIAL INVITATION JUST FOR YOU!

Book now: ☎ 017687 77214 🌐 www.royaloakhotel.co.uk

AUTUMN /WINTER DEALS



There's probably no better time than Autumn to walk in the North Lakes, with breathtaking landscapes and the incredible displays of colour that Autumn yields.

The Royal Oak invites you to experience a warm and welcoming escape in October, Sunday – Thursday, for only £180 for two.

Offer includes:

Overnight stay: Relax and unwind in a classic room.

Hearty breakfast: Fuel up for your day with a delicious breakfast.

Two-course evening dinner: Indulge in a delightful meal prepared with fresh, local ingredients.

Plus complimentary afternoon tea and homemade scones. Book directly with the hotel and receive this special offer for just £189 per night for two in a classic double/twin room.

As the chilly days of November approach, the Royal Oak invites you to experience a warm and welcoming escape. Upon arrival, treat yourself to a complimentary drink of your choice:

Our Winter Warmer Offer includes:

Complimentary Welcome Drink: Lakeland G&T or Pint of Local Ale

Overnight stay: Relax and unwind in a classic room.

Hearty breakfast: Fuel up for your day with a delicious breakfast.

Two-course evening dinner: Indulge in a delightful meal prepared with fresh, local ingredients.

Complimentary afternoon tea and scones: the perfect afternoon treat

Book directly with the hotel and receive this special offer for just £149 per night for two guests in a standard double/twin room throughout November.



Imagine snowy peaks and winter fells; the scenery here is just unique and picturesque. Days like these are the perfect excuse to throw on those fleeces and scarves, explore the great outdoors right here on our doorstep and immerse yourself in the beauty of the North Lake District.

Get toasty by the log fire, indulge in a two-course gourmet meal, and after a dreamy night's sleep in one of our characterful rooms, enjoy a hearty Cumbrian breakfast.

But that's not all. We have complimentary treats on offer, including freshly baked scones every afternoon, and unlimited all-day tea and coffee. Plus a welcome drink: G&T or a pint of Real Ale.

How good is that?

All this for just £160 per couple per night in December and January

KESWICK LAUNCH - SAIL THE LAKE

Have you experienced the spectacular scenery of Lake Derwentwater by Cruise Launch? You can enjoy a 50-minute cruise round the lake and hop on or hop off at any of the eight landing stages and take a Lakeland Walk via well-marked paths to famous landmarks such as Ashness Bridge, Lodore Falls and Lingholm, holiday home to Beatrix Potter. It's a very special way to experience the beauty of the surrounding fells, including views of Catbells and Skiddaw.

Lake Derwentwater is the third largest of the Cumbrian lakes and is three miles long and half a mile wide and an average of fifty meters deep. It's also unusual in that it has four islands dotted along its length: Derwent, Lords, Rampsholme and St Herberts. Derwent Island was once the home of German miners working in the area and St Herberts Island was named after the Saint who lived there as a hermit.

Sailing throughout the day from Keswick, an explorer ticket will set you back £16.00 and £9 for children or £34 for a family of four. The four Launches have open and covered decks; rowing boats and motor cruises are also available for hire. Enjoy exploring the lake at your own pace.

