



The Royal Oak
HOTEL

Borrowdale, Keswick

WELCOME TO OUR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Feel Good in February and Book yourself a
holiday!

BOOK ON OUR WEBSITE, IT'S BETTER FOR YOU & BETTER FOR US

We always encourage guests to book directly through our website, rather than using online travel agents. It's the easiest way to get the best value, the most choice and the smoothest stay.

When you book with us directly, you'll always find our best available prices, along with a choice of flexible packages. These include bed and breakfast, or bed, breakfast and evening dinner and on selected winter dates, you can even enjoy a complimentary drink on arrival.

We can also book packed lunches at £11.50 per person and dogs are welcome for £30 per stay. There's no deposit to pay, and your card details are stored securely, giving you peace of mind from the moment you book.

Our restaurant is more popular than ever for evening dinner, particularly following the closure of the Scafell Hotel next door, which previously served pub food. Unless you plan to travel into Keswick in the evening, we strongly recommend booking dinner in advance as part of one of our packages on our website.

If you choose a bed and breakfast package only, please note that we require at least seven days' notice before arrival to book a table in the restaurant.

Why **Not** Use Online Travel Agents?

Online travel agents only offer bed and breakfast. If you wish to add dinner or bring your dog, you'll need to message us separately and wait for confirmation, and they also retain around 20% of the booking value, which doesn't support the business directly.

By booking with us instead, you get instant confirmation, more flexibility and help support an independent Lake District hotel.

For the best prices and widest choice, book direct at www.royaloakhotel.co.uk



THE MAD MARCH HARE DEAL

During March, you can take advantage of our 'Mad as a March Hare Deal'

Indulge in delicious dining and experience unforgettable hospitality. 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 a welcome drink, G&T, or a pint of Local Ale, freshly baked scones every afternoon, and unlimited all-day tea and coffee. How good is that?

All this for just £168 per couple per night in March Sun-Thur (March weekends £178 per night) in a standard double room when booked directly with the hotel.



YOUR NOSE KNOWS, INVIGORATE YOUR SENSES

There's something about Borrowdale that reaches you before you've properly taken it in, before the fells come into focus or the lake catches the light. Often, it's the smell.

Step outside in Rosthwaite and your senses are immediately engaged. The air here is never neutral. It carries stories, damp earth after rain, woodsmoke drifting from chimneys, moss and bracken warming in the sun. Your nose knows you're somewhere different.

Borrowdale has a way of sharpening the senses, particularly after time spent indoors or in busier places. The valley's clean, ever-moving air feels alive. After rainfall, which we know well, there's that unmistakable freshness, peat and stone, wet leaves, and the mineral tang rising from paths and walls. It's an aroma that feels restorative, as though the landscape itself is breathing out.

Each season brings its own character. Spring carries the scent of new growth, crushed wild garlic underfoot, damp grass and blossom on the breeze. Summer smells greener and fuller: warm earth, sun-heated pine, river water stirred by paddling feet. Autumn deepens everything: fallen leaves, fungi, and smoke from early fires. While winter strips things back to something pure and sharp, the cold air is scented with snow, rain, and rock.

And it's not just the natural world. Borrowdale is a lived-in valley, and its human rhythms add to the sensory mix. The comforting smell of food drifting from kitchens, muddy boots drying by a fire, a well-earned pint at the end of a walk, these are smells tied to warmth, rest and welcome.

There's a reason walkers often pause without realising why. Sometimes it's not the view that stops you, but the sudden awareness of where you are, a deep breath taken unconsciously, lungs filling with air that feels good to breathe. Science tells us scent is closely linked to memory, and many visitors carry Borrowdale with them long after they've gone: a smell recalled years later that instantly transports them back to this valley.

So next time you're heading out or heading back, take a moment before you do anything else. Breathe in. Let the valley introduce itself properly.

Your nose knows.



DAFFODILS ON THEIR WAY

February in Rosthwaite is a season of watching and waiting. The fells still hold winter's grip, the light is low and silvery but look closely along hedge banks, in sheltered corners of gardens, and beside old stone walls and the first signs of spring are already preparing themselves.

Before long, the daffodils will arrive. In our part of the Lake District, daffodil season usually begins in early March, depending on the weather, and runs through April. A mild spell can bring them on early; a cold snap may delay their arrival. Either way, their appearance is always greeted with pleasure, a sudden wash of yellow.

Borrowdale is particularly well-suited to these early blooms. Sheltered valleys, damp ground and old pasture create ideal conditions, and daffodils often appear first along quieter lanes and around field edges before spreading more widely. For walkers setting out from Rosthwaite, the first clumps of flowers are a reassuring sign that winter is loosening its hold, even if snow still lingers on the higher tops.

Further afield, the Lake District has long been associated with daffodils, most famously through William Wordsworth, whose poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" was inspired by a walk beside Ullswater. Each spring, visitors seek out those lakeside paths and fields to experience the same golden displays that have delighted generations.

One of the most striking modern celebrations of daffodil season can be found at Lowther Castle & Gardens, where spring brings together nature, art and community.

In recent years, Lowther has become known for its extraordinary "Ten Thousand Daffodils" installation, thousands of handmade ceramic flowers spread across the castle grounds. Inspired by Wordsworth's poem, the display is both joyful and thought-provoking and has raised significant funds for charity through the sale of individual ceramic blooms.

Alongside this unique artwork, the estate's real daffodils continue to bloom each spring, softening the ruins and gardens with natural colour and reminding visitors that the tradition runs far deeper than any single display.

Daffodils don't announce themselves loudly. They simply appear, one day not there, the next day they are impossible to miss. In villages like Rosthwaite, they act as a gentle marker of the year turning: lambing not far off, longer evenings ahead, and the promise of warmer days for walking, gardening and sitting outside once more. Spring is already on its way and it's yellow.



ROYAL OAK MINI REFURBISHMENT – NEW ROOMS COMING THIS SPRING

Over the winter months, we've been quietly busy behind the scenes at The Royal Oak, working on a mini refurbishment to improve our accommodation.

We're converting our former bunk barn rooms and the apartment into a selection of new double and twin rooms, giving us more flexible options for couples, friends and walking groups who prefer traditional hotel-style accommodation.

These additional rooms will be available from February onwards and are being fully renovated throughout. Each room is being designed with the same rustic charm, comfort and quality fittings you'll find across the rest of the hotel, keeping the character of the building while offering a comfortable, welcoming space to relax after a day in the fells.

This update allows us to better meet the needs of our guests, particularly those looking for a quieter, more private stay, while continuing to offer the warm atmosphere and personal service The Royal Oak is known for.

We're looking forward to welcoming guests into these new rooms very soon and hope they'll become a favourite base for exploring Borrowdale in every season.



HALF TERM AT THE ROYAL OAK

There are lots of reasons to visit the Royal Oak this February half term, not only are our classic double rooms still only £120 a night including a hearty breakfast and many of the popular attractions are also still open.

Whinlatter Forest is England's only true mountain forest and boasts dynamic views and unique landscapes and is the home to the new GO APE attraction, where families can enjoy high ropes treetop adventures and there are also advanced activities for those looking for something a little trickier, with challenging obstacles, high platforms and longer zip wires. There are still spaces left, so don't forget to book online before you travel. www.goape.co.uk

Honister Mine is another great day out for the adventurous or not so adventurous, depending on which routes you choose to take. Take your pick from the Via Ferrata, Climb the Mine or just enjoy an informative Mine Tour. Honister has a variety of action-packed adventures that will give you a day to remember but don't forget to book online. www.honister.com

Spend a day at the Lake District Wildlife Park and see over 100 species of wild and domestic animals in 24 acres of parkland set amongst breathtaking scenery. Find birds of prey and a rare breed farm animal collection, play areas and a café, making it a fun day out for all the family.

For indoor fun, the Pencil Factory and the Puzzling Place are both fun, all-weather venues for the whole family, including your pet dog.



www.royaloakhotel.co.uk



017687 77214