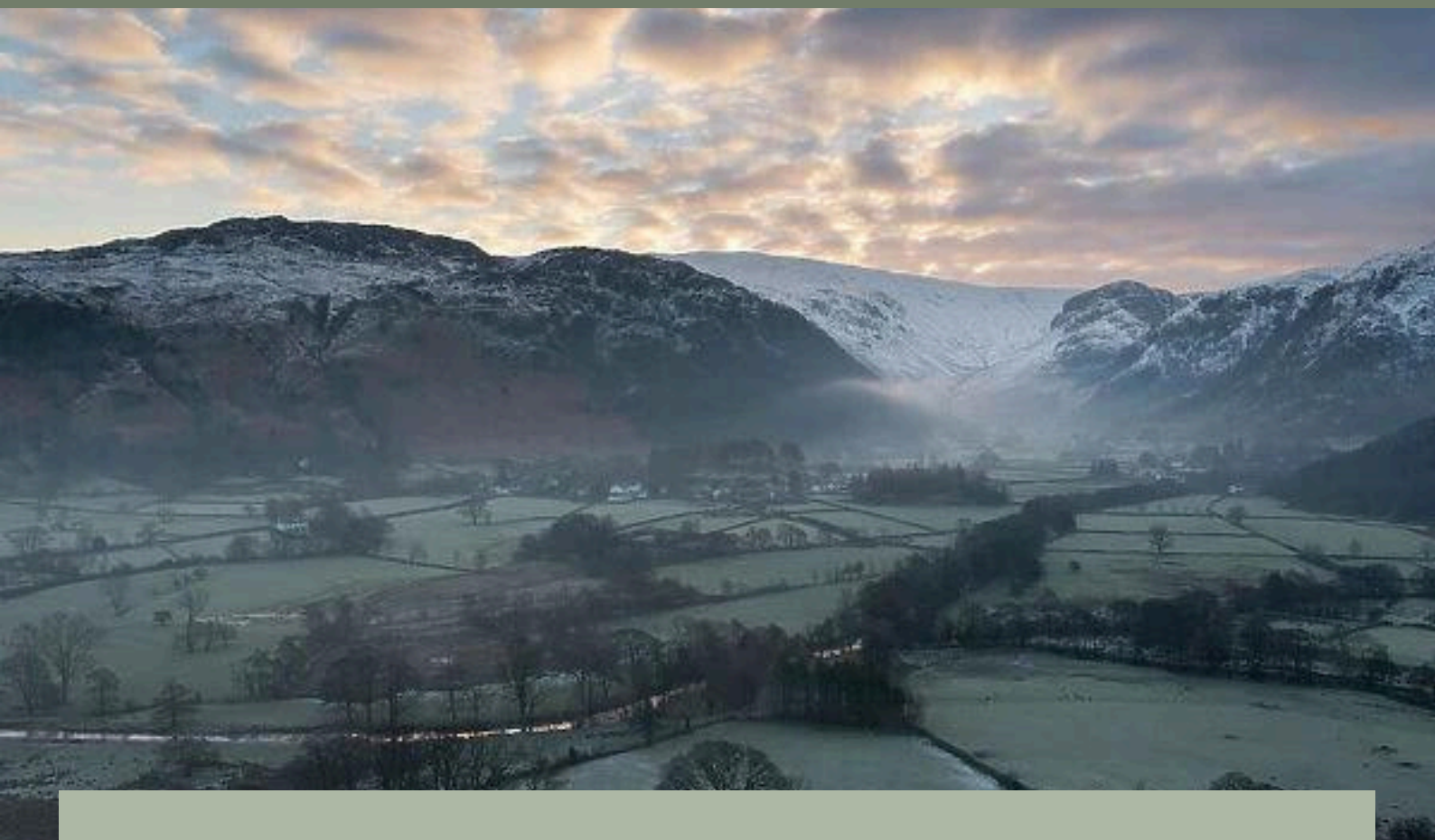




The Royal Oak
HOTEL
Borrowdale, Keswick

WELCOME TO OUR
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

We're bringing you Christmas Wishes!

THE CUMBRIAN WAY WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF WORDSWORTH

In 1799, William and Dorothy Wordsworth set out on a simple journey that would quietly shape literary history. Returning from Germany, they walked from Keswick through Borrowdale, climbing over Greenup Edge and down into Easedale, before reaching Grasmere. It was on this journey that they first saw Dove Cottage — the little white house that would soon become their home and the heart of the English Romantic movement.

The 14-mile route, the heart of what many now think of as the Wordsworth's Cumbrian Way, took them through some of the Lake District's most breathtaking scenery, each step offering the views and moments that found their way into William's poetry and Dorothy's Grasmere Journal.

Today's long-distance Cumbrian Way, created in the 1970s, runs for about 73 miles from Ulverston to Carlisle. The modern path is much longer and purpose-built for walkers. It follows much of the same ground and can be completed in five to seven days. But even a single day's walk gives a sense of why the Wordsworths fell so deeply in love with this landscape, the quiet valleys, tumbling becks, and timeless fells that still inspire poets and walkers alike.

It threads through Coniston, Langdale, Borrowdale, Keswick, and beyond. Parts of this trail, especially the stretch through Borrowdale and over Greenup Edge, follow the same ground the Wordsworths once walked. So, while today's Cumbrian Way is a modern route, its spirit and some of its footsteps remain firmly tied to William and Dorothy's 1799 journey.

Wordsworth's original route (1799) – Keswick → Borrowdale → Greenup Edge → Easedale → Grasmere.

Modern Cumbrian Way (1970s) – Ulverston → Coniston → Langdale → Borrowdale → Keswick → Caldbeck → Carlisle.

Many walkers stay overnight at the Royal Oak, Rosthwaite, as it's a natural break between the Langdale fells and the easier valley section toward Keswick.



A SPECTACULAR DRIVE OVER HONISTER PASS

For those who prefer four wheels to walking boots, few drives in the Lake District are as breathtaking as the journey from Rosthwaite to Buttermere over Honister Pass. It may only be a few miles long, but it packs in some of the most dramatic scenery you'll ever see from behind the wheel.

Leaving the Royal Oak, Rosthwaite, the road winds gently up the Borrowdale valley, following the River Derwent beneath steep-sided fells. As you ascend, the trees thin, the valley narrows, and the peaks of Fleetwith Pike and Grey Knotts rise on either side — a grand gateway to the high Lakeland. At the summit lies the Honister Slate Mine, the last working slate mine in England and a living link to the area's industrial heritage. You can stop for a coffee, explore the visitor centre, or even take a guided mine tour or via ferrata climb if you're feeling adventurous.

From there, the descent into Buttermere is nothing short of spectacular. The narrow road drops steeply, revealing sweeping views over Gatesgarthdale and down to Buttermere Water, framed by the rugged silhouettes of Haystacks and High Crag. It's a road best taken slowly, not just for the hairpin bends, but to savour the sheer beauty of it all.

Whether you're chasing views, history, or just a great pub lunch at the end of the valley, the Honister Pass drive captures the very essence of the Lake District's wild beauty



FESTIVE FUN IN KESWICK

Keswick sparkles in winter, offering the perfect mix of Christmas shopping, festive shows, and seasonal charm. The high street and independent shops are brimming with decorations and gifts, while Theatre by the Lake hosts its Christmas production, ideal for a cosy indoor treat.

Beyond the shops and shows, Keswick's winter atmosphere is unbeatable. Fewer crowds mean more space to enjoy the spectacular scenery, festive lights, market stalls, and live music. It's a perfect destination for families, walkers, or anyone seeking a peaceful, festive break in the Lake District.

Keswick Victorian Fayre, Sun 7 December 2025 in the Market Place & Packhorse Court.

Theatre by the Lake Christmas show The Wizard of Oz, running from Fri 14 November 2025 to Sun 11 January 2026.



EMBRACE THE WINTER

The true heart of a winter break is that moment you step in from the cold and feel the instant, welcoming warmth of a traditional log fire, crackling cheerfully in one of the low-beamed snugs or lounges.

The flickering firelight creates the perfect atmosphere for quiet reflection, catching up on a good book, or sharing stories with friends and family. It's where you truly "get toasty" and feel the stresses of the outside world melt away.

Beyond the fire, your stay will be a restorative blend of relaxation and adventure:

Fuel your days with a hearty Cumbrian breakfast and indulge in delicious evening dinners featuring a daily-changing menu built on local, fresh ingredients.

Retreat to your stylish, refurbished en-suite bedroom for a deep, restful sleep in a dreamy bed. Deluxe and Superior rooms offer beautiful views of the tranquil Stonethwaite Beck.

Walker's Paradise, Rosthwaite, is a haven for walkers. After exploring the surrounding fells and forests, you can take advantage of the brilliant drying room and boot warmers, ensuring you're ready for the next day's adventure.



WINTER BREAKS

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 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 February and March, plus January weekends. (March weekends £178)

The Royal Oak
HOTEL

Borrowdale, Keswick

Winter Breaks

Standard Double or Twin Room Including
Breakfast & Two Course Evening Meal for
Two & Free Welcome Drink

Just £168 per night!

Available on January Weekends and
throughout February & March.
(March Weekends £178 per night)



www.royaloakhotel.co.uk



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SAVE THE DATE 2026

14 Feb: Whinlatter Moon Runner 10k Head Torch Trail Race.

7 March: Derwentwater Head Rowing Event

19 – 22: March: Keswick Film Festival

4 April: The Lakeland Festival of Light

15-17 May: Keswick Mountain Festival

21 June: Lakesman Triathlon

27 June: Party in the Park

20 June: 10 in 10 and family 5 in 5 Challenge

6 Sept: Derwentwater Lakeland Trails

24 Aug: Keswick Agricultural Show

There's far more to the North Lake District than just fell walking, from sporting events and festivals to productions at the amazing Theatre By The Lake.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



CUMBRIA
FOOD AWARDS

We are entering the Cumbria Food Awards in two categories. 'Chef of the Year' and 'Contemporary Restaurant of the Year'.

We would really appreciate nominations in both categories by clicking the link below and filling out the simple form and stating your reason why you think we are worthy winners.



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