



# *The Royal Oak* HOTEL

*Borrowdale, Keswick*

## WELCOME TO OUR AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Come and Check in and Chill out

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US!

Happy Anniversary to us! It's been three years since we reopened our doors after an 8-month closure to undergo extensive renovations. We have celebrated our third anniversary following an eventful three years filled with noteworthy accomplishments, tremendous growth, impactful partnerships and industry accolades.

In a recent conversation with owner Matthew Welbourn, reflecting on the last three years, he stated that it has become evident that the hotel and location are a sanctuary for our guests to come, detox from the stresses of modern life and the intensity of the everyday world, relax, find solitude, and enjoy the great outdoors. Especially the "door to fell" access to some amazing walks.

His ambition was to create a ski chalet vibe, where the guests can feel comfortable in their walking gear but be in a luxury setting and enjoy relaxing in our charming lounges and restaurant. With extra touches such as installing pressure showers, boot/coat drying room and pocket-sprung mattresses to give support, with a 2-inch padded topper to give a sumptuous cushion feel for comfort after a hard day's walking on the fells.

Matthew thinks he has an amazing team, from Mark the general manager, who with Robi, leads the team out front to David, who heads up the kitchen, delivering award-winning cuisine every day.

He enjoys reading the reviews we receive, which resonate that we've got it right at the Royal Oak. It makes him happy to see how many guests genuinely seem to enjoy the service of the hotel and the position in the valley.



# DON'T SKIP THE SUMMER – EMBRACE BORROWDALE AT THE ROYAL OAK!

August in Borrowdale is pure magic, don't let the summer slip away – seize the opportunity for an unforgettable escape amidst the Lake District's most breathtaking scenery.

From our doorstep, you'll find an incredible array of activities. Lace up your boots and explore world-class hiking trails – from gentle strolls along Derwentwater to challenging ascents up Scafell Pike. If you prefer two wheels, the local cycling routes offer stunning vistas and exhilarating rides. For water lovers, kayaking, paddleboarding, and wild swimming in the pristine lakes and rivers are simply essential. After a day of adventure, our comfortable rooms and welcoming atmosphere are exactly what you need.

Perhaps your idea of summer bliss is a little more relaxed and you just want to come to recharge. The Royal Oak is the perfect base for simply unwinding. Enjoy leisurely afternoon tea and scones in our garden, get lost in a good book in our charming lounges, or simply breathe in the fresh mountain air. Our bar offers a selection of local ales and fine wines, ideal for recounting the day's adventures or planning tomorrow's.

Our restaurant celebrates the best of local produce. Indulge in hearty, delicious meals crafted with fresh, seasonal ingredients, ensuring a true taste of the Lakes. Whether it's a full English breakfast to fuel your day or a delightful dinner to round off the evening, dining with us is an experience in itself.

With long daylight hours and the fells alive with vibrant summer colours, August is the ideal time to visit Borrowdale. Spaces fill up fast, so don't skip the summer – secure your stay at The Royal Oak Hotel today and create lasting memories in this stunning corner of the world. We've even got 20% off our normal prices Sun-Thur.

Visit our website or call us directly to book your perfect summer getaway!



# WHAT ABOUT A ROAD TRIP? GET READY TO HIT THE ROAD.

Road trips have increased in popularity and the Lake District, with its stunning landscapes of fells, lakes, and charming villages, is indeed perfect for a road trip. Combining it with a stay at the Royal Oak in Borrowdale will immerse you in one of the most picturesque valleys. Here's a suggested road trip itinerary, focusing on scenic drives, walks, and key attractions.

A multi-stop road trip is a fantastic way to explore the diverse Northern Lake District. This condensed itinerary provides a great balance of scenic drives, iconic sights, and walks, while ensuring comfortable stays in different areas, including the Royal Oak Borrowdale.

**Keswick (2 Nights):** Vibrant hub, great for exploring Derwentwater and nearby fells.

**Borrowdale (Royal Oak – 2 Nights):** Immersion in a classic, dramatic valley, perfect for hiking.

**Ullswater Area (1–2 Nights):** Serene eastern lake, offering different views and activities.

## **Day 1 & 2: Keswick & Derwentwater Delights**

Stay: 2 nights in Keswick.

**Explore:** Arrive in Keswick and settle in. Spend your time exploring this vibrant town – browse shops, visit the Derwent Pencil Museum, or take a stroll along the shores of Derwentwater.

**Must-Do Drives/Views:** Drive the scenic B5289 to Ashness Bridge and Surprise View for classic lake panoramas.

**Activities:** Take a Keswick Launch cruise on Derwentwater (consider hopping off for a walk-up Cat Bells for amazing views). Head to Whinlatter Forest for forest trails or a Go Ape adventure.

## **Day 3 & 4: Borrowdale Immersion & Royal Oak Stay**

Stay: 2 nights at the Royal Oak Borrowdale in Rosthwaite.

Check out of Keswick and enjoy the stunning drive south into the Borrowdale Valley. Settle into the Royal Oak and enjoy your complimentary homemade scones and tea.

**Local Exploration:** Take a walk from the hotel along the River Derwent or visit the Bowder Stone.

**Mountain Thrills:** Drive up the dramatic Honister Pass (consider visiting Honister Slate Mine).

Descend into the beautiful Buttermere Valley for a picturesque walk around Buttermere Lake

For a different scenic return, take the narrow Newlands Valley road.

## **Day 5 & 6: Ullswater's Serenity & Departure**

Stay: 1–2 nights in the Ullswater Area (e.g., Pooley Bridge or Glenridding).

Check out of the Royal Oak and drive to the Ullswater area.

**Lakeside Charm:** Experience Ullswater by taking a Steamer cruise. Don't miss Aira Force Waterfall.

**Final Views/Departure:** Enjoy a final morning by the lake, perhaps a short walk up Hallin Fell for panoramic views. Depart the Lake District, taking one last scenic route home.

This itinerary balances iconic sights with the relaxation of different bases, giving you a comprehensive taste of the Northern Lake District. Are you ready to hit the road?



# DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR NIFTY NOVEMBER DEAL

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:

- Lakeland Gin and Tonic: A refreshing and aromatic cocktail perfect for warming up.
- Pint of Tyrrells Real Ale: A classic ale brewed locally for a taste of the region.

Our Winter Warmer Offer includes:

- Overnight stay: Relax and unwind in a classic room.
- Hearty breakfast: Fuel up for your day with a delicious breakfast.
- Three-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 £148 per night for two guests in a standard double/twin room throughout November.



*The Royal Oak*  
HOTEL  
*Borrowdale, Keswick*

*Nifty*  
November

Standard Double or Twin Room |  
Evening Meal for Two |  
Free Welcome Drink

**Just £148 per night!**

Offer Valid Throughout November

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# AFTERNOON TEA AND SCONES

The quintessential British tradition of afternoon tea, complete with delicate scones, emerged in the mid-19th century as a solution to a rather fashionable problem: a growing gap between a relatively early lunch and a late evening dinner. It was Anna, the seventh Duchess of Bedford, who is credited with popularising this delightful ritual. Suffering from a "sinking feeling" in the late afternoon, she began requesting a tray of tea, bread, butter, and cake in her room. This private indulgence soon evolved into a social occasion as she invited friends to join her, and the trend quickly spread among the upper echelons of society, transforming into the elegant affair we recognise today, adorned with fine china and tiered stands.

Scones, though seemingly a cornerstone of afternoon tea now, actually became a popular addition, truly solidifying their place in the early 20th century.

This cherished tradition offers a moment of respite and indulgence, a chance to slow down and savour delicious homemade delights.

Experience this wonderful British tradition first hand when you stay at the Royal Oak . We offer all our guests complimentary homemade scones and tea every afternoon. After a day exploring the stunning Lake District, there's no better way to unwind than by settling into our charming lounges, enjoying freshly baked scones and a warming cup of tea – our special treat to make your stay even more memorable.



# FRED WHITTON CHALLENGE

Every year, we look forward to this event as the riders cycle right past the Royal Oak. Here's some general information about the race.

The Fred Whitton Challenge is one of the most renowned and challenging cycling sportives in the UK. It's a charity event held annually in the Lake District, known for its extremely demanding 112-mile (approx. 180km) route with over 3,500 meters (11,500 feet) of climbing. It takes in all the major Lakeland passes, including the infamous Kirkstone, Honister, Newlands, Whinlatter, Wrynose, and the brutally steep Hardknott Pass (with gradients up to 30%), which comes late in the ride.

Often dubbed "The Daddy of them all" by Cycling Weekly, it attracts cyclists from all over and is a true test of endurance and climbing ability. While some top riders complete it in under six hours, it's not uncommon for average sportive riders to take eleven hours or more.

Entry to the Fred Whitton Challenge is highly sought after and primarily conducted through a ballot system due to limited places.

The general ballot typically opens for about 10 days in December for the following May's event. Successful applicants are notified via email. First-time riders are often prioritized in an initial draw; if unsuccessful there, they re-enter the main ballot. You can enter individually or as a group of up to four using a shared "group name," meaning the entire group either secures places or none do. The fee is around £105 plus processing charges.

For a guaranteed entry, Special Charity Entries are available, usually opening in November. These entries have a higher fee of around £205 plus processing charges, which includes a non-refundable £100 donation to partner charities like Northwest Air Ambulance or Furness Mountain Rescue.

## Key things to remember:

- You cannot enter on the day of the event. All entries must be made in advance.
- Keep an eye on the official Fred Whitton Challenge website for exact dates and opening times for the ballot and other entry types, as these can vary slightly year to year.
- The event is extremely popular, so securing a place can be competitive, especially through the general ballot.
- It's a very tough ride. The organisers strongly recommend that first-time entrants have experience with 100-mile sportives and/or hilly sportives with significant elevation gain before attempting the Fred Whitton.



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