## Travel **WEEKEND TV - P40&41**





Cerys Caffery and Owen Caffery admire the waterfall from nside the artists' Grotto at Rydal Hall



## The Welsh Marches Express Steam to Cardiff

Sunday 27th November 2016

Departs Birmingham Int. 07:30, Birmingham New St. 07:55, Barnt Green 08:15, Droitwich Spa 08:25 (times approx.) Travel by steam train to Cardiff. Our vintage train will be hauled by historic loco No. 70013 Oliver Cromwell for a journey to remember through Worcestershire and the Malvern Hills and then along the Welsh Marches line. A stop in Cardiff will provide chance to explore the Capital of Wales with its shops, castle and restaurants plus Cardiff Bay, with the Dr Who exhibition, just a short bus ride away.

- Our price includes:
- Standard £109pp/£332 family a reserved seat usually at a
- First £159pp/£486 family morning coffee & Danish pastry, toon tea – a selection of sandwiches, scones, jam and crean Premier £249pp/£760 family – full English breakfast and a four course dinner silver served at your seat.

Quote JSZ for a £5 per person discount





## **ADRIAN CAFFERY** explores Beatrix Potter's legacy on an action-packed short break in the Lake District

and a high ropes course without the fear of bouncing or falling to We had a similar kind of sur-

The answer to your prayers lies

Treetop Nets, near Winder- explore. mere, is a mix of giant trampotrawling.

And it's suspended between secret. rees, nine metres up.

ers gain access to the highest can- pool. opies of the Amazon rainforest.

sailors and fishermen to the Lake during the Picturesque move-

young daughter was a very happy

course with a series of rope bridg- Potter. es, daredevil leaps and zip wires.

Both Treetop attractions are at lasting legacy in this part of the Brockhole, the Lake District Visi- Lakes, especially this year with Visitors tor Centre, where you can take many events planned to com- walk of Beatrix's beloved Cum- band's office. your pick from boat trips, pony memorate the 150th anniversary brian countryside, with 360rides, trails, biking, archery, mini of her birth. golf, an adventure playground or simply splashing around on the aged five and two, we spent a day tional scene to life.

edge of Lake Windermere. off to a frustrating start when the stunning scenery. booked with The Good Life Cot- dermere, which brilliantly recre-

But those pesky jams turned ters. out to be a blessing in disguise Ou because when we drew back the bedroom curtains in the morning we had a glorious surprise.

Holly Tree Cottage, in the vil- Mrs Tiggywinkle's Kitchen. lage of Chapel Stile, a few miles north-west of Ambleside, has bronze statue of three children ture in the story. superb views across a mountain with Jemima which was unveiled

■ HOLLY Tree Cottage is in Chapel Stile, which has a

village store and inn. It's in a

row of traditional quarrymar cottages, built around 1870 to

house workers in the nearby

slate and gunpowder works. The wash houses over a

the row are still there. The love that owners John and

Hazel have for the Lake District is clearly reflected in

the cottage, which has a lounge with open fire, a newly

fitted kitchen / dining room.

main bathroom (with shower

en suite shower room, and a

drying closet which comes in

over), double bedroom with en

suite toilet, twin bedroom with

mountain stream at the end of

NEED TO KNOW

WANT the fun of a trampoline valley towards Lingmoor and The

prise at nearby Rydal Hall, a grand house dating back to 16th century at a UK first attraction in the Lake with woodlands and gardens District. which are free for the public to

Walking through the gardens, lines, bridges, walkways, slides alongside a stream, we found our and tunnels all made from ropes way blocked by a simple little and nets traditionally used in stone-built house which, unbeknown to us, held a magical

With trepidation, we opened The course was designed and the door, stepped inside, and built by Frenchman Cedric Chauwere gob-smacked by how a large vaud, a renowned sailor and rope window on the far wall so perfectexpert who has helped research- ly framed a waterfall and plunge

The Grade II-listed summer-Having already created several house, called the Grotto, was built treetop playgrounds in France, he in 1668 to allow artists to paint in prought a team of seven former comfort, and became famous District to hand-sew the nets. ment (1780s to 1830s).

There's no need for a harness William Wordsworth, who lived

because you are completely sur- at nearby Rydal Mount, menrounded by a three metre high tioned it in verse and his friend wall of netting. So, while I described how he took "much bounced around like Tigger, my pleasure in exhibiting this beautiful retreat".

Back at Holly Tree Cottage, the If this sounds a little tame for visitor's book revealed that a preadrenaline junkies, they can get vious sale of the house was han-their fix at Treetop Trek, an adja-dled by the solicitor William Heecent Go Ape!-style high-ropes lis, the husband of author Beatrix

learning all about the children's Our weekend in the Lakes got author, who found inspiration in ter it was a short car ferry journey

ment as they discovered Jemima Puddle-duck's woodland glade,

With Peter Rabbit-loving kids narrations bringing each inspira- on the shores of Lake Winder-

From the World of Beatrix Pot- first trip to the Lakes. to the author's home, Hill Top

tage Company, until after night- ates the sights, sounds and even century house has remained explorers. smells of her celebrated charac- untouched since she died in 1943, so you can easily imagine her Adventure rooms or they can Our kids were wild with excite- working away at the writing desk.

and copies of her books have bricks. Mr Tod's underground home and been placed around the house, In the Peter Rabbit Garden is a room, or items in the room, fea-

Just down the road in Hawks-

by Bridget Jones actress Renée head is the Beatrix Potter Gallery There's no escaping Beatrix's Zellweger, who played Beatrix in a where originals of her watercolour illustrations are on display in Visitors can also take a virtual a building that was once her hus-

SOLIHULL NEWS

And five minutes from there is degree computer projections and the mock medieval Wray Castle, mere, where Beatrix staved on her

Rather than the paintings, furniture and antiques you might delays on the M6 meant we didn't First stop was the World of Bea-arrive at our holiday home, trix Potter, in Bowness upon Win-bequeathed to the National Trust. property, the tired-looking interi-As Beatrix requested, the 17th or is now a playground for little

> They can enter the Peter Rabbit dress up as princes and princess-Hill Top helped inspire Beatrix es and build a castle out of foam

> After such a busy day on the bookmarked at pages where a trail of Beatrix Potter we were left panting more than her famous Mr McGregor!



handy for the Lake District's valley over a meal or a coffee. occasional rainy days. There is It's very centrally located for private parking for one car the Lake District's many directly outside the door and attractions. Other must-sees an outdoor seating area to include Dove Cottage & eniov the views across the

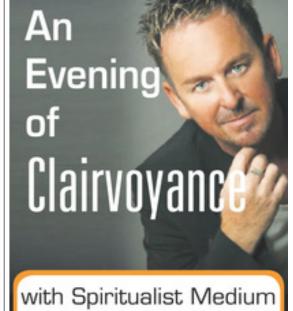
miles) and Coniston Gondola

■ FOR more information visit www.thegoodlifecottageco.co. uk or call 015394 37417.





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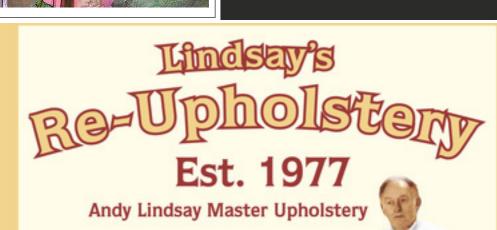
Steve Holbrook

Ramada Hotel, Solihull Tuesday 22nd November

Doors open 6.45 for 7.30 start Ticket Price £17 in advance or £18 on the door

To book call **01823** 666292

Tickets also available online 24 hours at www.steveholbrook.co.uk



All work is fully guaranteed. Insurance work approved

Cerys Caffery at Treetop Nets, Brockhole, and, below, at the

World of Beatrix Potter in in Bowness upon Windermere

All commercial work undertaken (pubs/clubs/bars)

Free Quotation



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