

## Canal idyll beats chaos at the airport

By **Giles Sheldrick**

LIZ Smailes has seen record interest in families wanting to hire her narrowboats this summer.

She runs Blue Otter Boats with husband Ben Hopkins, based in Skipton, North Yorks, and Wootton Wawen, Warks.

Liz said: "Chaos at airports, rising costs in fuel and living expenses make narrow boating an affordable choice."

She added: "In many ways it's the perfect holiday."

"You have the freedom to move at a relaxed pace, choose where to stop and you are in your own confined bubble."

Relaxing... Liz and Ben with a narrowboat

## Staycation sites after we snub

HOLIDAYMAKERS are shunning breaks abroad for staycations to avoid airport chaos, the increasing spread of Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis.

But operators warn that accommodation is running out, with just a fortnight until schools break up. Gill Haigh, of Cumbria Tourism, said: "We always recommend booking in advance."

The UK tourism industry

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By **Giles Sheldrick**  
Chief Reporter

has been decimated by coronavirus, with Visit Britain estimating the economy took a £97billion hit because of the virus. Last year the industry lost £58billion alone.

Some 70 per cent of Britons say they will holiday here rather than risk travelling abroad, according to analysis

## running short resorts abroad

by Visit Britain. The worsening situation at airports, where thousands of flights have been cancelled, massive queues for check-in and security, and strikes throughout Europe means this summer could be the best opportunity for Britain to sell itself as a top-table holiday destination.

Oliver Barker, who runs Catgill Farm campsite in the Yorkshire Dales, said: "Bookings have been good

this year and we are definitely seeing an increase.

"The weather forecast is great, airports look like a nightmare .

"When combining this with the squeeze on everyone's income due to the high rate of inflation, it's leading to more people holidaying in the UK.

"Camping is very affordable, and when the sun is shining you really wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

IT IS regrettable many people will not be able to follow through on their plans for a holiday abroad this year, either because it has been cancelled or they are concerned about the challenges at airports and have decided not to book.

No one likes to see plans ruined, especially for holidays which are very important in bringing loved ones and families together to create wonderful memories that will last a lifetime.

For those whose plans for an overseas break have been thwarted and fear they have missed the chance of booking a UK holiday, especially in popular places such as Cornwall, I have good news.

Bookings have been good, but unlike the last two years there is still plenty of availability – and even more importantly, a range of affordable holidays.

Although Cornwall has many high-quality premium accommodation providers which command a premium price, there is quality and value for money across the range.

These include holiday parks, self-

## COMMENT

**MALCOLM BELL**

Head of Visit Cornwall



catering apartments, bed and breakfast, as well as camping and glamping sites.

And for those worried about the cost-of-living crisis there are many things to do at no or very little cost.

With over 300 beaches, 400 miles of coastal paths, wonderful towns, villages, and National Trust and English Heritage properties, there is so much to see.

Although we have wonderful Michelin star restaurants, we also have many great cafes, bistros and pubs where a family can eat well and affordably. So you can have a wonderful break in Cornwall and around the UK without breaking the bank.

My message is do not miss out on a great holiday where you make lifelong memories with friends and family.