

Our contribution to the local community and the environment

We have made a commitment to supply guests with fair trade teas, coffee and sugar. Keswick is a fair trade town and we feel that, as a local business, we should support the town in its aim to help third world countries.

We have recently had our annual audited by an environmental expert from the Cumbria Business Environment Network (CBEN) and are pleased to have retained our silver award. To achieve, and retain, the silver award we have to demonstrate a commitment to environmentally sound practices and put into place goals, both long and short term, for the future and to be committed to working towards and achieving those goals. For example, we have replaced light bulbs to low energy bulbs as they have needed to be changed and installed extra loft insulation in an effort to reduce our gas and electricity consumption. We pledged support to the Tourism and Conservation Partnership which operates a scheme to 'fix the fells', we felt this was something all our visitors would find worthwhile. This year we received recognition for 'Most Creative Fund Raiser'. This was not for the amount of money we raised as some of the bigger organisations raise much more, but in recognition of the variety of ways we raise the funds. Donations from packed lunches, sales of Pure Lakes toiletries, books, table top sales and coffee afternoons all helped with our donations, as well as the donation envelopes in the bedrooms and the collection box in the dining room. Details of how much has been raised can be found on our notice board. Longer term aims are to fit 'sava' flush cisterns to all the toilets as the bathrooms are upgraded and our most ambitious (and costly) long term plan is to replace the front window with double glazing. Not only should this help make the front room warmer and cut down on gas usage, it should also make the house look more attractive (hurrah!!).

We have an Environmental Policy Statement on our noticeboard and, should anyone be interested, our environmental review is available for you to read.

As a result of the audits we

- have sourced our bacon and sausages from a local butcher, Thomasons. If you wish to take anything home from Thomasons they can vacuum pack your purchases on request to preserve shelf life. We can vouch for the quality of their meat, not just their bacon and sausages.
- use locally produced free range eggs.
- use organic cereals and jams/marmalades where possible.
- supply hand wash and shower gel from Pure Lakes. They are a local company who make their own environmentally friendly products. Should you wish to purchase any of their products then we have a selection for sale in the dining room.
- use environmentally friendly cleaning products from The Green Housekeeper, who are based in Coniston. Obviously cleanliness is a priority to us and we use other cleaning products when deep cleaning is necessary. Our laundry products are phosphate free.
- use 100% recycled toilet rolls/paper products.
- recycle paper, plastic, cans, bottles, etc. Please leave anything for recycling next to the bins in your rooms.
- replace all light bulbs as they fail with low energy bulbs.

We are currently working towards our gold award and hope to achieve it in the near future.