

GREEN POLICY FOR THE OLD VICARAGE GUESTHOUSE

GENERAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:-

We at The Old Vicarage are keen to accept responsibility for environmental issues. We would like to meet the requirements of guests with interests in sustainable living, enjoyment of the outdoors, and wildlife in particular

We seek to minimise our environmental footprint as we carry out our business by:-

- minimising our usage of water
- minimising our use of gas and electricity
- recycling as much of our waste as humanly possible
- reducing waste as much as possible
- encouraging wildlife in and around our Guesthouse
- making available information on the environment and wildlife
- maximising use of local products and so supporting local producers when possible
- encouraging the use of public transport, cycling and walking
- having a staff policy re. saving energy, resources generally and re-cycling

SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO MEET OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Switching to energy saving light bulbs, as old bulbs have to be replaced
- Extending the amount of double-glazing throughout the building
- Installing a modern, more efficient, central heating boiler
- Buying our electricity from renewable sources
- Switching off lights when not needed
- Drawing curtains at night to conserve heat
- Avoiding equipment being left on stand-by
- Installing water saving devices in toilet cisterns
- Encouraging guests not to change towels every day, to reduce laundry
- Continuing to stock "Body Shop" products in guest rooms
- Putting up more bird and bat boxes, shelters for wild-life in the garden
- Installing a web-cam on the bird feeder
- Installing a box plus camera to view breeding birds, monitor in guest lounge

- Continuing to feed birds in the garden and keep records of birds seen
- Avoid using chemicals in the garden - no slug pellets!!
- Keeping a wild-life list for the garden including birds and bees
- Continuing to compost left-overs (two composters and a garden compost heap)
- Setting up a wormery
- Collecting and storing run-off water from gutters for use in the garden
- Growing own herbs, fruits and flowers when possible
- Continue to re-cycle (two blue bins in use and trips to the recycling centre with items not accepted for the blue bins)
- Make available reports on local wild-life - e.g. Berwick Wild-Life Group Reports
- Continue to make available magazines from the R.S.P.B; the B.T.O; BBC Wildlife etc. in the guest lounge
- Continue to offer advice on wild-life locally and lead bird-watching tours
- Maintain membership of organisations to do with wild-life and nature conservation (R.S.P.B; B.T.O; B.W.G; U.W.T; C.B.O; NNBC; NT)
- Continue to take an interest in a local green area - the "Goody Patchy" taking part in litter picks and woodland management (as shown below)

- Using "Eco-Friendly" cleaning products such as "bio D"
- Avoid using plastic bags when shopping
- Continue to support the "Co-Op", usually walking there to shop and using reusable bags
- Walk into town to do business rather than use the car
- Continue to run one medium/small car rather than two
- Have available train and bus time-tables for guests and promote public transport whenever possible, see www.arrivabus.co.uk/coastandcastles
- Continue to promote "Slow Food" and "Cittaslow" by our active membership of the local slow food group - see www.berwick-cittaslow.org.uk
- Continue to make available information on local products and producers and highlight the use of local produce in our breakfasts and evening meals
- Continue to promote local festivals and events such as "The Green Festival" and "The Food Festival" see www.slowfoodberwick.co.uk
- Buy "Fair Trade" and/or "Organic" produce when possible
- Maximise use of "renewable" fuels on open fires (wood blocks) and minimise use of "non-renewable" coal
- make a "responsible visitor charter" available to our guests

- offer advice to visitors on where to go to walk and bird-watch
- make use of electronic billing for our utilities
- reduce the use of chemicals in cleaning and disinfecting or at least use environmentally more friendly alternatives
- make use of J-cloths in cleaning to reduce use of soaps and chemicals
- continue to purchase recycled paper for all printing, including this document

