

# Brilliant Businesses

## The Camberley, Harrogate



### Kimberley's Camberley goes green

“Green doesn't have to be scratchy,” says Kimberley Wilson and her business, the Camberley, in Harrogate proves her point.

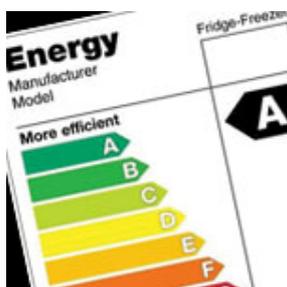
Since buying it in 2005 with her husband, Simon, she has turned it into an upmarket guest accommodation which has impeccably green credentials.



Her most ambitious project was to replace all the notoriously draughty, sliding sash wooden windows, through which a third of the heat in the room used to be lost, with modern, double glazed versions. They have the top 'A' rating for energy efficiency and represent an investment of £35,000 which Kimberley says has been money well spent in terms of guests' comfort and energy savings.

Kimberley has also gone for other items rated A for energy efficiency such as a new washing machine and a tumble drier.

Energy saving light bulbs have also been fitted throughout the hotel – no small task as there are on average six in each of the 12 bedrooms. In the breakfast room, there are 24 bulbs in the ceiling alone.



### Cutting bills

All these initiatives are helping to cut electricity bills. “We save around £20 a month on lighting alone, and around £5 a month on the washing machine,” she says.





She also gets passionate about waste disposal, an important issue because the local council does not collect rubbish from commercial premises in her area.

“We try to minimise waste to landfill by recycling as much as we can and, wherever possible, helping groups in the community at the same time,” she explains.

“We use around 70 eggs a week and we send the boxes to Craven College which uses them for eggs laid by chickens kept by tutors on the college’s behalf. Other cardboard items and wallpaper go to a local pre-school group.

“It’s only a small thing but our jams for breakfast used to come in small plastic containers. They now come in small glass jars and we pass them on to a local primary school where the children make jam from the school’s soft fruit.”

### **Deliciously Yorkshire**

Speaking of breakfast, Kimberley ensures that there are at least five, locally sourced ingredients available each morning – honey from bees on Harrogate’s Duchy Estate, eggs from Nidderdale, Yorkshire tea, Harrogate water and local sausages. This qualifies the Camberley to be a member of the Deliciously Yorkshire group that promotes local produce.

Kimberley uses Northern Environmental to supply an eco-friendly surface cleaner and lavatory cleaner. She has researched shower gel carefully and found a product that both is bio-degradable and also made in Yorkshire.

She is always searching for new green ideas and has a page on the Camberley’s website setting out a whole series of green initiatives and appealing to guests to contribute their thoughts. Even her business cards are on 100 per cent recycled paper.



Contact Kimberley Wilson on  
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