

28 May 2013, Yorkshire Dales

Cottage in the Dales, providing three luxury holiday cottages in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, has been shortlisted as a finalist in the self-catering category of the prestigious Green Tourism Business Scheme GOLDSTAR Awards 2013.

As a finalist, Cottage in the Dales goes forward to the glittering annual GOLDSTAR awards ceremony which is to be held at the first Green Tourism conference on Friday 8 November in the @Bristol venue as part of Green Tourism Week 4-10 November 2013.



"The Goldstar Awards are a recognition of the best of the best," said **Andrea Nicholas, Director of the Green Tourism Business Scheme**. "The Awards are intended to honour the highest GTBS achievers of the last 12 months in terms of innovation, ambassadorship & cost savings. Sixty six green tourism businesses were shortlisted for the final this year across a number of categories, out of more than 2,400 contenders."

Speaking specifically about Cottage in the Dales, Andrea said : "Cottage in the Dales are one of our leading green businesses and the assessor was particularly impressed with their achievements in greening the local destination. By working proactively in partnership with other organisations and businesses to help each other they have been successful in encouraging a network of green minded businesses. Also by providing excellent guest information detailing local producers and services, local walks and attractions their guests gain a real sense of place when staying. They are true ambassadors for Green Tourism and a great example for others to follow."

Commenting on the news, **Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire** said: "We are thrilled that Cottage in the Dales has been shortlisted for this national award which shows its commitment to keeping the Yorkshire Dales clean & green for visitors. They play a vital part in attracting & keeping people coming."

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Sustainable Tourism Officer Kathryn Storey said : "We'd like to congratulate Cottage in the Dales for making the shortlist for the Green Tourism GOLDSTAR awards. As a Yorkshire Dales 'Brilliant Business', Diane's energy and enthusiasm for continually making improvements to her business is infectious. She is a great ambassador and she's always happy to share with other businesses in the Yorkshire Dales her own experiences while providing practical examples which can be replicated by others. We would like to wish Diane well and look forward to continuing to work together."

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust Director, David Sharrod said: "Cottage in the Dales has been a great supporter of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust for many years. Their scheme to plant a tree for returning customers has supported the creation of new native woodlands through-out the area. This is an excellent example of how businesses in the Dales can support the local environment and show their customers how much they care for this special area in a simple and cost-effective way. I'd like to congratulate Cottage in the Dales for making the shortlist for the Green Tourism GOLDSTAR award and hope that their achievement will inspire more businesses in the Dales to give something back to this area."

Cottage in the Dales, Diane Howarth, Owner & Director said : "We are absolutely delighted that Cottage in the Dales has been shortlisted for this prestigious award - it is a real testament to show that a business can deliver a high quality product and customer service whilst still minimising the environmental impact of our business activities...even with buildings that are Grade II listed in a conservation area within a National Park. By doing so we hope in our own small way to help reserve our natural heritage and landscape for the enjoyment of visitors and local people alike."

About Cottage in the Dales

Cottage in the Dales provides luxury holiday cottages for couples, families, friends, walkers, and cyclists, accommodating 2-4 people in 3 beautiful cottages in Wensleydale and Bishopdale in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Since Cottage in the Dales was launched in 2003, it has won a number of awards and accolades including Finalist in the Self-Catering Holiday of the Year in Yorkshire 2008, Finalist in the Green category for the Yorkshire Rural Awards 2010 and recommended by the Sunday Times in 2009 and 2011 as one of their top 50 cool cottages in UK and Ireland.

All three cottages are either 4 or 5 star Gold, which means the best of the best for accommodation and customer service. The first two cottages have held the Gold award from the Green Tourism Business Scheme for the last 4 years with the new cottage The Byre due to be assessed soon to hopefully also receive the same award.

Further information / Contacts

For more information please contact:

- Diane Howarth, Cottage in the Dales
www.cottageinthedales.co.uk e: stay@cottageinthedales.co.uk
01969-662766 / 07880-622291
- Andrea Nicholas, Green Tourism Business Scheme
www.green-business.co.uk e: andrea@green-business.co.uk
- Jo Francisco, Welcome to Yorkshire
www.yorkshire.com e: jfancisco@yorkshire.com
- Kathryn Storey, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
www.yorkshiredales.org e: kathryn.storey@yorkshiredales.org.uk
- Lindsay Wallace, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
www.ydmt.org e: lindsay.wallace@ydmt.org