

Environment Policy for Mere Brook House

Mere Brook House occupies a total of four acres made up of garden, grazed paddocks, woodland and a brook. Our aim is to manage all of these areas in such a way; we encourage wildlife, flora and fauna. Since opening in 2008, we have/are:

- Added a pond to increase the diversity of wildlife and planted several hundred saplings around the outer edge of the paddocks. The pond uses a natural reed bed filtration system.
- Constantly striving to reduce our energy requirement and to date have insulated the roof, fitted double glazing throughout and purchased electrical appliances with an 'A' rating. We have also had air source heat pumps installed that yield the energy available from the outside air and utilise it for central heating and hot water.
- Replaced all indoor light bulbs, where possible, to energy efficient LED bulbs.
- Used paint that is supplied from the first UK paint manufacturers to achieve the European environmental standard BS EN ISO - 'Little Greene Paint'
- Reused existing fittings during the renovation of the Main House. For example, the bath in the Balcony room's ensuite is the original which has been re-enamelled and all five of the original sinks have been recovered.
- Furnished both houses with second hand, antique furniture
- Replaced the original open fire in the hall with a wood burning stove, using logs from fallen branches in the wood.
- Recycling paper, cans and bottles and composting any vegetable and salad waste which is then used on our vegetable patch. Plastic bags and clear plastic trays are given to the adjoining farm shop for their use when serving customers.
- Supplying fair-trade fruit teas and coffee and providing milk in jugs - reducing the use of plastic containers.
- Providing soap and shampoo by Sedburgh Soap Company in Cumbria who use 100% natural ingredients from sustainable sources and organic where possible.

- Supporting local business by purchasing a lot of our produce from the local butcher, Whieldons and Vineyards, a nearby farm shop. We also harvest produce from our own vegetable patch, have 40 hives producing our own Mere Brook honey and send our own apples off to Dunham Massey apple press so we can serve our own fresh apple juice & cider to our guests!
- Providing timetables of local transport and the Mersey Ferry in the Oak Lounge. We recommend that if you wish to visit Liverpool, you take the train from Spital to Birkenhead and then catch the ferry across to Liverpool. This is not only supporting the environment but is also very enjoyable!
- Members of the Green Business Tourism Scheme which means we have regular visits from one of their advisors to help us make further improvements to develop a sustainable tourism operation. Our first grading saw us receive a Silver award which we recently retained. We have high hopes of receiving the Gold award next time round!

Guests can support us by:

- Placing towels that need replacing in the bath/shower to reduce the number we wash.
- Switching lights and TV's off when not in use.
- Putting cans, bottles and paper in the additional bin provided so we can recycle them.
- Using our excellent public transport system, particularly when visiting Liverpool and Chester.



Merebrook House
Thornton Common Road
Thornton Hough
Wirral
CH63 0LU
07713 189949

www.merebrookhouse.co.uk
lorna@merebrookhouse.co.uk