



Newsletter #5
April '25

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Click for ivythwaitecottages.co.uk



Stargazing



We are encouraging our guests to 'look to the stars' during their stays and have worked with Cumbria Tourism and Friends of the Lake District to support guests who wish to take advantage of the dark skies in the Lake District National Park. We have a resource folder and a kit bag for loan for those new to stargazing and are promoting the following apps and websites to study in advance of visiting.



[Go Stargazing](#) - the best starting point for beginner stargazers.

[Google Sky](#) and [Sky Safari](#) - apps which allows a phone to be held to the sky to reveal the constellations, stars and planets in that direction.

BBC Sky At Night [website](#).

Jodrell Bank's [website](#), listing the planets, constellations and moon phases visible on specific days.



Andrew will be happy to share his first experiences of stargazing in the Lakes with guests. He took his daily walk on a Monday in February in the dark of night at Blea Tarn in the Langdales. The cloud free sky and new moon gave the perfect stargazing conditions. The -4°C temperature and 30 mph winds added to the drama. A simply stunning experience of being at one with nature that he would wholeheartedly recommend during a stay in the Lake District National Park.



Book Direct



Please bear in mind the following when using Booking.com, Airbnb, Expedia and all other online travel agencies (OTAs). OTAs are fantastic tools for comparing accommodation options in an area, especially when it is an area you are unfamiliar with. OTA reviews tell a very true and accurate picture of what you can expect from a place. You are able to use them to make informed accommodation choice yet not book through them, even though they can be very persuasive. Any booking through an OTA incurs a commission, typically 15-20% of the total price. Our most competitive rates are to be found directly through our website and our terms and conditions are the same so your booking is just as secure. In our experience, there are no advantages to booking through an OTA compared with booking directly. OTA customer services are often based overseas and will take up to 48 hours to answer a question or resolve a problem (by in turn asking us then reporting back to you) that we can sort in a fraction of the time.



Opa Restaurant



Opa is a fabulous Greek bar and restaurant which opened last year in Windermere village centre. We are big fans of Greek food and it takes a lot to impress us. We used to find excuses to go to Carlisle to take in the wonderful Alexandros restaurant but we now have a place that serves delicious Greek food a 10-minute walk from our guest house. The zucchini patties, moussaka and baklava are the stars of the menu. We recommend you reserve a table, especially at weekends in the high season. Click [here](#) to visit the Opa website for menu and booking page.

Use these links to get the latest news from [Ivythwaite Lodge](#) and [Ivythwaite Cottages](#)



Use these links for our very best rates on our online booking pages - [Ivythwaite Lodge](#) [Ivythwaite Cottages](#)

Walking the fells – from Grasmere

The 555 and 599 buses depart Windermere throughout the day in the direction of Grasmere. Tweedies Bar and Lounge is a great pit stop following one of these walks. We will happily lend you pocket-size walking guides for both of these walks.

Easedale Tarn from Grasmere village centre

One of the most popular walks from Grasmere and will suit most abilities. Route finding is easy and the setting of the tarn and surrounding fells is stunning. The paths are well maintained using large stones and boulders. There are no stiles but a number of gates divide the lower meadows. The route takes almost 3 hours, is 5 miles in length, and has a climb of 250m.

Helm Crag from Grasmere village centre

Also known as the Lion and the Lamb because of its distinctive profile at the summit. There is a steeper, direct route or a longer, windier route. The steep route up and windy route down takes 2.5 hours, is 4.5 miles in length, and has a climb of 350m.



Local Suppliers



Lakeland Free Range Eggs

We purchase all our eggs from an outstanding local supplier at Bannerigg Farm, a mile from Windermere village. Lakeland Free Range Eggs provide superb customer service, phoning us to take our order every Thursday morning and delivering without fail every Friday morning. The product is always exceptional and the service a joyous throwback to a time when customer service was not accessed via a call centre or an app.



Penningtons

We purchase our teas, coffees and hot chocolate from Penningtons, a family-owned tea and coffee merchants based in Kendal. We use their English Breakfast tea and Olde Kendal Blend coffee which get rave reviews from our guests. Their service is exemplary and we believe excellent value for money. Their products are widely available in stores in the Lake District and can be ordered via their website – click [here](#).



Save Windermere



The Save Windermere campaign began due to the simple statistic that in 2020 over 7000 hours of untreated sewage was flowing, mainly from our rivers, into Windermere.

Excessively high nutrient levels are destroying England's largest lake. Save Windermere are on a mission to return the lake to its natural state and demand an end to all treated and untreated sewage discharges into the Windermere catchment.

The campaign has been tenacious and resilient, securing several important victories, but there is still much to do. Click [here](#) to find out more and see how you can help.

