



The Coniston Hotel

NEWS from The Coniston Hotel

Winter 2008 Newsletter



Ten out of ten

The Coniston Hotel - a decade in the making

December 16th marks a very special day for us here at The Coniston Hotel - it is our tenth anniversary and we are extremely proud of the monumental changes we have made over the last decade to make Coniston Hotel what it is today.

The Hotel forms part of the Coniston Estate, which has been home to the Bannister family since the late 1960s. The estate comprises of the magnificent Coniston Hall, the Hotel itself, Coniston Shooting Ground & Falconry Centre.

Once the Bannisters bought the estate they became aware of the need to diversify into areas other than farming and set about converting one of the outlying barns in to a farm shop which sold produce from the estate including homemade preserves and fish. Back in 1998, farm shops were simple outlets rather than the sophisticated retailers that they sometimes are today but it was still a popular place to shop and it was soon evident that it was a big hit with visitors. The farm shop soon gathered momentum and attracted a strong customer base so a tearoom was added to meet the ever growing demand.

The tearoom become more and more popular and was soon converted to a restaurant and then again when the first bedrooms were added, the farm shop made the transition to hotel. The popularity of locally sourced ingredients and demand for regional produce has led to the shop's steady growth into one of Yorkshire's finest independent eateries.

Louise Bolton, the hotel's general manager has been at Coniston Hotel since the beginning. She said: "It is thanks to the dedication of the Bannister family that the Coniston Hotel stands as it does today. I have been with the hotel since the very beginning and am aware of the monumental developments which have taken place over the last decade. I am fortunate to have been part of what has been an incredible journey for all of us. This is a very special place the tenth anniversary is certainly cause for much celebration."

Commenting on the milestone, managing director, Tom Bannister said: "Although there are now 50 bedrooms and the hotel has grown considerably, the cornerstones of Bannister values still remain and there continues to be a family led influence throughout the whole estate which enhances rather than compromises the innovation and growth of the business. In fact I can still often be found pulling the last pint for a guest late at night! There are also plans for the coming years which we are all very excited about so watch this space for news coming soon in 2009."

We would love you to come and join us and help celebrate this magnificent occasion, our tenth anniversary year - you will be very welcome!

Christmas and New Year

With the festive period just around the corner, The Coniston Hotel with its roaring log fire and the welcoming hints of mulled wine, has lots to offer. Whether it's a quiet relaxing break for two over Christmas or a company 'get together' in January, you can be sure that the hotel, with its stunning surroundings and sumptuous restaurant will have something on the menu for you.

Enjoy a relaxing 3 night Christmas break

Let someone else take care of Christmas for you with this fabulous stress free Christmas break. This includes afternoon tea served by the log fire on arrival, three course dinner on 24th and 26th, five course Christmas Day lunch with buffet supper, full Yorkshire breakfast on each morning and of-course three nights accommodation. The price for a standard room is great value at £360.50 per person or £435.50 per person in a luxury room.

...Or a two night Christmas break

This two night break includes afternoon tea served by the log fire on arrival, three course dinner on 24th, five course Christmas Day lunch with buffet supper, full Yorkshire breakfast on each morning and of-course two nights accommodation. The price for a standard room is great value at £273.50 per person or £323.50 per person in a luxury room.



Field writer hits the headlines with record catch at The Coniston Hotel

When Adrian Dangar of The Field magazine paid The Coniston a visit earlier this year with his girlfriend, June, no one expected him to leave having made the record catch of the season. But Adrian, a features writer from the specialist country magazine, managed to triumph with a record fish catch from the River Aire.

A great, long standing fan of The Coniston, Adrian was delighted to have the weekend organised for him and a day's fishing was on the hotel's agenda for him. After a quiet morning fishing on the 24 acre lake, Adrian spent the afternoon upstream on the River Aire where he managed to catch a 4lb brown trout which was 100% wild!

Commenting, The Coniston MD Tom Bannister said: "I know Adrian was looking forward to his trip to the Coniston as he loves to have the River Aire and the Coniston Lake right on the doorstep. However, I'm sure he didn't expect to be so triumphant - he certainly surprised the Coniston team who were delighted that his trip was made so memorable!"



Shooting for success

A masterpiece of Canadian quality constructed for Yorkshire.

The anticipation has been building and now, this Autumn sees the launch of The Coniston's stunning Shooting Lodge on The Coniston Shooting Ground, which is set to be a sure fire hit with leisure and corporate users alike. The incredible work of art has been constructed from the best Cedar wood from the Canadian Forest, chosen for its attractive appearance in addition to the extremely durable nature of this material.

Incorporating its very own open fire, guest relaxation area and non alcoholic drinks section, the Coniston shooting lodge will be one of the premier shooting venues in the UK.

The lodge was originally built and erected in Vancouver, Canada and used hundreds of trees in its clever construction. But as with the construction of all masterpieces, it wasn't all plain sailing - an intricate logistics plan had to be adhered to, to ensure the lodge could look how it does today. All the trees used were carefully selected prior to the build for quality and shape. Some trees had diameters of 7 foot!

Because of the location and the landscape, the huge quantities of wood were picked up by helicopter and carefully lowered into the river where they were duly floated downstream to where the initial build took place. Each log was painstakingly marked up for ease of identification once on site. The build even took place in Canada prior to being dismantled and forwarded on to the UK, in order that the look of the final masterpiece could be confirmed prior to its departure to UK soil. Once all the logs were delivered into Coniston it took only 4 months to build.

Peter Manley, the Lodge's shooting specialist explained that the Canadian logs were a considered choice: "In the lodge's planning stages, Michael Bannister and I considered many other wood sources including Sweden, Norway and Scotland before making the decision to use the Alpine Cedar from Canada. These logs not only look great but their durability is key. The sheer scale of the logs used is incredible and we are delighted with the finished article. The sourcing, construction and final fit of the Lodge has been a major feat in itself but we sincerely hope our guests will be as thrilled with this facility as we are."



The shooting lodge is aimed at both corporate companies, members, leisure guests and anyone who is interested in the clay pigeon shooting. It will be officially launched on 17th November: