

# Tourism that doesn't cost the Earth!

The Oxford Studios is a small locally owned and run business committed to sustainability and green practices. In 2017 we were awarded a silver award by GTBS and in 2018 we plan to continue to improve with the aim of achieving the gold award.

## Values

Minimizing our environmental impact and making our property friendly for local wildlife

Involvement with local community and support for local business

Sourcing supplies carefully all through the supply chain

Sustainable practices are important! Re-use, recycle, reduce

Getting our guests involved

## What this means in practice

- The Oxford Studios recently organised to have bike hire available from our business, working with a local bike shop. We also offered the drive as parking for the rent-a-bike schemes that are prolific at the moment (OFO for example) after there were complaints in the village over them being left in awkward places.
- We support Headway, a charity based in the village that supports people with acquired head injury in Oxfordshire.
- We use the local Suma order for bulk supplies, organised by someone in the village.
- When choosing suppliers, The Oxford Studios looks at green policies in place and checks if the businesses we use are ethical and sustainable in turn
- Doing a lot of upcycling and recycling especially in terms of furniture.
- The garden has bird feeders and tall trees, and we're looking at where we can build a bird bath. We have spotter sheets for guests in the communal areas and rooms that look onto the garden to encourage guests to join in, and are looking to add a wildlife album to our Facebook in the Spring and again encouraging guests to contribute, adding their own photographs.
- The Oxford Studios commits to always looking for new ways to green our business, we have visitors book for guests to add their suggestions to, we're signed up to the Green Tourism Business Scheme
- Energy consumption is monitored – we're always looking for ways to keep our guests comfortable while still making our environmental impact smaller. Recently this has

meant switching to a green energy supplier, Ecotricity, which will take effect early 2018.

- Staff are embedded in this process, their experience with environmentalism and knowledge of local efforts is drawn on and they are encouraged to make suggestions and keep an eye and ear open for opportunities, and to share anything they find.
- The Oxford Studios looks to the local community, in 2018 we are looking to make more connections with local green businesses to share tips and ideas.

Where guests can contribute

- The welcome packs provided in rooms have suggestions for locally owned businesses and attractions, green and sustainable activities and days, and information on greener transport options.
- Guests are encouraged to use the regular bus service (Oxford Bus Company, number 35) or take advantage of our bike hire service.
- There are recycling bins in all rooms and communal spaces
- We welcome any suggestions from guests! We have a visitor book in the communal areas and are available on email at [stay@theoxfordstudios.co.uk](mailto:stay@theoxfordstudios.co.uk)

The Oxford Studios commits to upholding equal opportunities and being a socially responsible business.

- Our building has two ground floor rooms that are fully accessible, including access to the communal areas and gardens
- handles, taps, and shower controls are all levers, bathrooms on the ground floor have level access.
- There are low lighting options in rooms for guests who may have process sensory information differently and outside lighting to make walkways accessible.
- We have made a commitment to both our staff and guests to continue looking for ways to make progress in these areas.

The Oxford Studios is commitment to legal compliance – to environmental legislation but also the Equality Act 2010 and Modern Slavery Act 2015

Thanks for reading! Clare Newland, owner