

every little counts

Following on from our green focus in the last issue, here we discover how The Black Horse is cutting its carbon footprint while saving hard cash.



Pub retailers Julie and John Freeman have made several improvements during the eight years they have run the Black Horse in Thurnham, Kent, including the addition of 16 letting rooms.

But while expanding their business, the Freemans have tried to put as much back into the environment as they can. From recycling menus to planting 20 trees in the grounds, their considerate approach to conserving natural resources rings through just about every facet of the venue.

“We try to be as sustainable as possible,” said Julie. “We have notices in our rooms asking guests to switch lights and electrical appliances off and let us know when they want towels washed so we can avoid wasting water and energy. And we have thermostats

on all the radiators so we can control temperatures.”

“We try to be as sustainable as possible”

Other energy – and money – savers include long and short flushes on the toilets, low-energy lightbulbs in all rooms, intermittent lighting in hallways and timers for the heating and lighting in the outdoor smoking area.

Water butts

In their menu they use local produce and outside there are water butts to collect rain for use in the garden, a duck pond with various types of wildlife and even a drainpipe that feeds rainwater into it, keeping the foliage healthy.

“We were very impressed as last summer we didn’t have to top it up with the hosepipe at all. We’re obviously on a water meter so not

only is it green, it has saved us money, too,” added Julie.

For advice on how to put The Black Horse’s tips into practice at your pub, visit www.hospitableclimates.org.uk, www.recyclenow.com and www.letsrecycle.com.



RENEWED RESOURCES: Manager Michelle Bagnall uses rainwater collected from the butts to drench the Black Horse’s gardens