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GOING GREEN WITH WHEILDON'S

R & M WHEILDON (WHEILDON'S) ARE TRUSTED EXPERTS IN ALL ASPECTS OF HEATING, PLUMBING AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE NORTH WEST.

Wheildon's was founded by Roger and Margaret Wheildon in 1972 with a loan of £500 for a company van and the guarantee of a few weeks' work upgrading the plumbing and heating in a row of terraced housing.

Forty years later with Roger still at the helm, Wheildon's is a well-established family firm. They provide domestic and commercial plumbing, heating and renewable energy solutions to homes and businesses in the North West and the Yorkshire Dales.

Roger and his team are passionate about the industry they work in and its role in conserving the earth's natural resources. So much so, that their office is fully equipped with a (bore hole) ground source heat pump, solar thermal hot water and underfloor heating. Clients can also benefit from the on-site showroom where they can view these technologies in full operational capacity.

Amongst a growing portfolio of renewable energy projects is a ground source heat pump system installation for The Lake House Hotel.

Solar panels and a ground source heat pump from Vaillant were installed in one of the UK's most innovative heating projects at the luxurious boutique hotel, near Windermere, recently featured on ITV's The Lakes. Instead of digging down, the team went underwater to install the heat pump system in the hotel lake, Knipe Tarn.

Using Knipe Tarn to provide a heat source was the brainchild of architect Ben Cunliffe, whose family owns

and runs The Lake House, but it was left to Mick Lloyd, Director of Wheildon's, and renewables experts from manufacturer Vaillant to design a heating system and devise a scheme for the installation.

"Combining our knowledge we came up with some very satisfactory solutions," says Mick. "Lakes are a good source of energy for heat pumps, in my opinion better than a horizontal layout and almost as good as a borehole. Knipe Tarn is around 5m deep, which is a good depth for a lake heat pump application. The installation has successfully provided heat during its first winter and has provided the cosy environment needed for the guests of this luxury hotel."

A more recent project was the installation of a biomass log burning boiler at Hole House, Claughton.

"Our clients, Mike and Rachael Thomas, were using oil-fired heating and contacted us to try and find a solution to address the extortionate fuel bills they were receiving," says Alison Wheildon, Marketing Director.

"Following a site visit and investigation into alternative

heating sources we suggested installing a biomass log burning boiler system."

"Wheildon's planned where to site the boiler and tanks and the installation itself went smoothly," say Mike and Rachael. "The two heating engineers installing the system were very professional, polite and trustworthy. They worked hard with the project, which looks to us very complicated, taking care that all insulation within the system was up to standard and they were prepared to adapt and modify their plans if necessary."

"At the beginning we were anxious this system was the right one as it was a sizeable investment, however

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with Wheildon's workmanship and the running of the boiler so far we feel this has been the right choice."

"Following the prolonged winter of 2012/13 we've received a number of enquiries from other oil users looking for a way to address these rising costs," says Alison. "If gas is not an option, then you have to look at renewable energy."

"Biomass offers a much more affordable method of renewable energy heating than say ground source heating which requires a greater initial investment," says Alison.

"For the farming community, which makes up a large proportion of our client base, it is particularly attractive. Farmers are very practical, 'hands-on' types, and quite often maintain their own machinery; they also have logs lying around. Like any business, they are also keen to have a return on their investment. For these reasons we envisage a big uptake in biomass heating systems in our region and we are very keen on being a part of that."

"Our intention is to offer our clients an in-house one-stop shop for all aspects of plumbing, heating and renewable technologies. A concept to completion service, this includes offering the government required 'green deal assessment' to help our clients access and apply for grants and feed-in tariffs. Here at Wheildon's there are exciting times ahead," says Alison.



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