

The Hawkshead Relish Company

From a real pickle to delicious delicacies



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The Hawkshead Relish Company is a small family run business based in the beautiful Lake District village of Hawkshead - a lovely village with plenty of small independent shops, cafes, pubs and places to stay.

Owners, Mark and Maria Whitehead, are keen to point out that "living in an area where other people enjoy coming on holiday is definitely a plus factor. Being inspired by the scenery around us every day makes the work so much easier and less 'work like'!

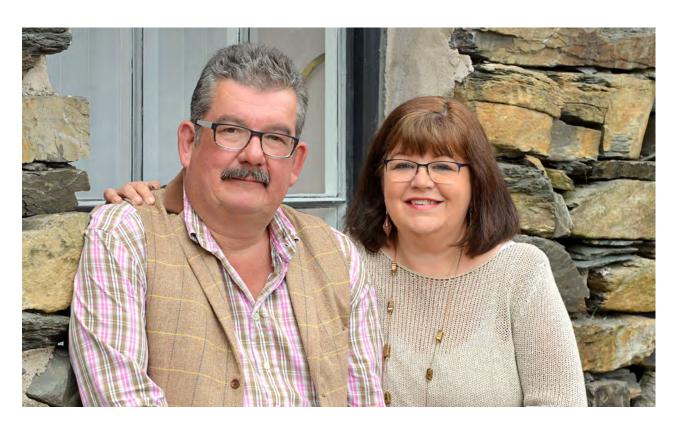
"We all enjoy living and working 'locally', having a weekend away is so easy because you can stay at home and start a mini break in the Lakes every Friday evening!"

They add "Its also never an issue in asking potential customers to come and visit us, no excuses are needed for them to jump on a train in London and we can meet them two and a half hours later, drive through the most idyllic scenery to our 16th Century barn where we have our production and offices, so far removed from a concrete corporate jungle that immediately we have the edge".

Mark and Maria established the company in 1999 and started making relishes, chutneys and preserves to serve alongside the dishes in their busy village centre cafe. However, when the Foot & Mouth epidemic of 2001 hit the region they were forced to diversify and making more of their delicious chutneys and relishes seemed the obvious way to go.

Within a couple of years they decided to concentrate on the production full time and following that decision they have won many awards and accolades for their products. In 2005 they received the Top Producer of the Year award from the Great Taste Awards, and have since gone on to win over 45 of them! But the biggest award was in 2011 when Mark and Maria received joint MBE's from Her Majesty the Queen for services to the food industry here in South Lakeland.

In 2007 Hawkshead Relish moved production into a lovely 16th century restored cruck barn, just a mile south of Hawkshead, ensuring long term employment for the small but dedicated workforce. Supporting the local economy and community is very high on their list of priorities and employ between 26-30 staff members whom are all local and "highly relished" laughs Maria.



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All the products are still made by hand in small batches with no colourings, preservatives, artificial flavourings or padding out. "If it doesn't add flavour it doesn't get added" said Mark, who is the creative influence in the partnership. "Allowing the great quality of the ingredients to speak for themselves is the key to creating a product that bursts with flavour".

Hawkshead Relish now supplies around 500 stores in the UK and export to over 30 countries, each and every little jar is one of South Lakeland handmade loveliness.

The Hawkshead Relish shop can be found in the centre of the picturesque South Lakeland village of Hawkshead and is packed with all sorts of foodie treasures - you will not only find the full range of their Hawkshead relish, chutneys, pickles, preserves, marmalades, jams and pickles but a exciting shop exclusives including cakes, biscuits, puddings, cheese, spices, beers, wines, spirits and old fashioned cordials to name but a few.

At the shop you can have your own choices made up into hampers, boxes and gift bags to your specification and best of all you can taste your way around the range before you buy.

Over the next 5 years Mark and Maria aim to build Hawkshead Relish so that it is widely recognised around the UK as a high quality handmade brand, trusted and loved by customers who often visit them in Hawkshead when holidaying in the area.

The company will continue to grow their sales and look at new markets, whilst "retaining our base here in South Lakeland where our hearts belong".





Hawkshead Relish

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Welcome to South Lakeland

A Breath of Fresh Air for Business



An area known globally for its astounding natural beauty and unique vibrant culture, South Lakeland is also home for a thriving and innovative business environment where companies can become established, grow and prosper.

The entrepreneurial business spirit is strongly encouraged in South Lakeland, reflected in the healthy number of fledgling enterprises setting up each year in our region, and our work also encompasses projects designed to help make the first steps to start-up as easy as possible.

The Economic Development Team at South Lakeland District Council are an inward investment service providing information and support to businesses of all sizes, covering all industry sectors, whether you are already here or are looking to locate your operations in South Lakeland.

The Economic Development Team are here to help your business uncover the exciting potential that exists here. Should you have any questions, we are on hand to assist and tell you more about the opportunities to be found in the most beautiful corner of the UK.

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