

Firm goes from green to gold!

A HIGHAM couple have turned green into gold by being eco-friendly.

Their holiday cottages business, Height Top Farm, has been awarded a gold standard from the tourism industry in recognition of the couple's commitment to the environment.

The Green Tourism business scheme is the largest national sustainable tourism certification of its kind in the UK, and the acknowledgement follows a similar success last year, when Height Top was given a silver award.

The cottage industry is run by Janet and Kenneth Sharp.

Mrs Sharp said: "We were absolutely delighted to get it. I had put a lot of effort in.

"It was not until we joined the Green Tourism Business Scheme that I realised there are so many things that we already do that can help the environment.

"Nothing compromises on quality and our guests discover different ways of enjoying themselves.

"There are lots of things within this area that are easily accessible, so there is no need for them to drive off up to the Lakes to find lovely countryside."

Mr and Mrs Sharp have linked up with friends at Cobden Farm,



RECOGNITION: Height Top Farm winners Janet and Kenneth Sharp receive their award from Peter Mileham, High Sheriff of Lancashire. (S)

Sabden, to create "Kettle and Cakes" walks between the farm. Guests staying in either establishment are assured of a warm welcome and refreshments when they reach their destination. Back in their cottages, guests can help themselves to produce from the garden. The couple believe that what they are doing will ensure future generations will be able to enjoy the local countryside.

They manage hedgerows to encour-

age nesting birds, small animals and wild flowers and have bird and bat boxes on buildings around the farm. Visitors are asked to tell them about wildlife sighting for the farm's blog, which is part of the Lancashire Wildlife News website.

Indoors, the couple has a high efficiency boiler, insulation and double glazing, are dedicated recyclers and use eco-friendly cleaning products.