

NEW BUSINESS Longlands Safari Lodges



PHOTOGRAPHY by Andrew Hobbs
and (above, insets far left and third from left) Bella Given



"Lavish, luxurious and snug (three words rarely associated in our minds with the great outdoors!). The safari tent was simply beautiful and the attention to detail was evident in every single aspect and also very practical."



To complete your safari experience, why not end the day under canvas rather than head home? True, Robert Redford is unlikely to be in tow ready to wash your hair as you sip wine and listen to the wind-up gramophone, but apart from that a spectacularly authentic experience is possible right here on Exmoor. Longlands, set amid 17 acres of secluded, rolling hills above Combe Martin, is lion-free but otherwise perfect *Out of Africa* material. Proprietor Bella Given explains her inspiration behind the creation of its three lodges, Lundy, Luscombe and Lee (and two more are on the way!)...

"The idea started with a weekend at the luxurious Button Quail campsite in South Africa seven years ago. There were proper beds, hot-water bottles, a loo and heated shower all in a beautiful safari tent: camping as I knew it did not compare! At last, I was forced to reconsider the unwavering anti-camping stance which I had held to ever since spending eight weeks under canvas on a glacier in arctic Sweden!

"When we found Longlands, in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it seemed the perfect location in which to offer a similar back-to-nature holiday to that which we had experienced in South Africa."

A long process thereby began, starting with a preliminary planning application, followed by six months of liaison with consultants and specialists on everything from bats and drainage, to highways, architecture and tourism guidelines. Finally, there was a long and painful wait, which Bella and fellow business partners (husband Richard, and friends Pam Shephard and Ester Spears) filled fruitfully by sourcing the furniture and decorative details which make Longlands so unique. "We were spoilt for beautiful shops and had great fun before we found out that we had the green light. In May 2012 we were able to break ground and start creating in earnest and by 27 July we had our first guests holidaying in Lundy!"



Longlands Source Book

Albion Canvas, Wellington

www.albioncanvas.co.uk

Safari lodges

Brimblecombe, Dulverton

www.brimblecombeonline.com

Oven gloves, faux cyclamen, tea light holder

Brown's Antiques, Barnstaple

www.brownsarchitecturalantiques.co.uk

Dressers, blanket box, chesterfield, tables, chairs

Cool Calm Collected, Barnstaple

www.coolcalmcollected.net

Fabrics and cushions

Devon Wildlife Trust

www.devonwildlifetrust.org/wildlife-of-devon-print

Exmoor Flowers, Lynton

www.exmoorflowers.co.uk

Baskets

Grace & Glory, Barnstaple

www.graceandgloryhome.co.uk

Clocks, tinware, prints and hooks

Horse & Crook, Dunster

www.horseandcrook.co.uk

Storm lanterns and planters

Kevin Green Pottery, Parracombe

Tel. 01598 763516

Fruit bowls

Lyn Candles, Lynton

www.lyncandles.com

Pillar and scented candles

DJ Miles, Porlock and Minehead

www.djmiles.co.uk

Tins of tea, coffee, hot chocolate

National Trust (Watersmeet/Heddon Valley)

Rugs, torches, maps, books of walks

01598 753348/01598 763402

Nollys, South Molton

www.nollys.co.uk

Dressers, blanket box, crates, chesterfield

Old Favourite

www.oldfavourite.co.uk

Printed cushions, Longlands tea towels

Pots & Pans, Barnstaple

www.pots-and-pans.co.uk

Trays, pots and cutlery

Source for the Goose, South Molton

www.sourceforthegoose.com

Cutlery box, rugs



CONTACT

Bella Given, Longlands Farm, Coulsworthy,

Combe Martin, North Devon EX34 0PD

Email: info@longlandsdevon.co.uk

Website: www.longlandsdevon.co.uk

Tel: 01271 882004 or 07798 526133



"It's not just a camping experience – it's camping meets log cabin, meets B&B, with all the romance of a country escape, coupled with all the comforts of home."

