

The Environment



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CWO

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CapeWomenOnline serves as a venue for the women of Cape Cod to share their ideas, experiences and resources while inspiring each other in their life's journey.



It may simply have been the culture, or philosophy of that particular pub, but we felt as though we had stumbled into a hidden pocket of the world that carried on in a simpler, saner old tradition – and it was fantastic!



Lynne Delaney



The Rugglestone Inn, England

"We will return the container tomorrow," we said, but the waitress waved away the promise. "Don't worry about it," she replied.

As we left, I thought about all the take-away containers we use in the United States. The picture of thousands of plastic, Styrofoam and cardboard containers cluttered my mind. On Cape Cod alone there are scores of restaurants, each one sending innumerable boxes, bags, buckets and containers home with their guests.

What if everyone brought their own container when dining out? A little square of Tupperware would do for a casual fish dinner with the family. Or a nice ceramic bowl, with a lid, for a more upscale night on the town. We could match the take out container to fit the atmosphere of the place, or, better yet, be even more conscientious and have a one-container-fits-all policy.

Such a simple solution could do wonders to help create a better environment on the Cape. It could start with the patrons and, hopefully, expand to the restaurants themselves. Perhaps we could launch a "bring-your-own-container" program, maybe with a discount thrown in to sweeten the deal. That way, the savings could be spread around from saving trees, easing the strain on the landfills, cutting business expenses and taking a little off of the bill all at the same time.

To finish the story... The next day, we walked back to the Rugglestone Inn and returned the container. The pub owner was a little surprised, but happy at our gesture. It seems that little village in England has evolved to the point where the dishware itself is part of the take home package. But here, at home, we have to start somewhere. So, the next time you go out to eat, bring your own "take home" container.

Lynne Delaney is Spiritual Consultant who offers conscious living advisement. She believes taking care of our environment is everyone's business.

Lynne is a regular contributor to CWO. She works out of her home in Brewster.

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Visit The Rugglestone Inn online: www.rugglestoneinn.co.uk

Bring Your Own Container

by Lynne Delaney

Last spring, my husband and I traveled to southern England. Among the small knot of buildings in the little village called Widecombe-in-the-Moor was a medieval-era pub, and an important revelation about American eating habits.

At the charming Rugglestone Inn, we were greeted by the "pub dog," Walter, who would not let us enter the building until we had thrown, and he fetched, an old tennis ball a dozen or so times. We then took one of the four tables in the dining room, where we were served plates filled with beautiful, fresh food, all locally grown and picked earlier that day.

I had a melt-in-your-mouth appetizer of goat's cheese with raisins in sherry and oil, then a delicious main course of fisherman's pie. My husband, Josh, had breaded mushrooms in garlic butter and sea bass for a main course. Each plate came with vegetables and salad in healthy serving sizes that ensured there would be plenty of food left over.



Rustic Charm at The Rugglestone Inn

When the waitress came to give us our check, we asked if we could take what we had not eaten with us. She looked a bit perplexed. "You mean like a doggie-bag?" "Yes," we replied. "Okay, let me check..." she said and retreated to the kitchen.

She came out a few minutes later carrying a ceramic bowl with a plastic lid. That's when we realized that in these parts of the world a doggie bag was a bit of an event. There was no plastic bag emblazoned with "Rugglestone Inn" or pile of plastic containers reserved for transporting left over food home.

