

The Lake District

COLLECTION

Herdwicks of Windermere

Limited Edition: 15

Beatrix Potter, so often depicted with her Herdwick wool overcoat and squashed Fedora, had an affinity with the Herdwick sheep that left a lasting legacy on the fells of Lake Windermere in much the same way as her writing is to children, from generation to generation. In the 1930s, she won a number of prizes for Herdwick rams and ewes. Then in her will she left 15 farms and 4,000 acres to the National Trust and specified the need to protect and sustain the traditional farming of Herdwick sheep. In truth, Beatrix enjoyed being the country woman farmer for the second half of her life, living simply with her solicitor husband in the wilds on the Lancashire side of Windermere in Castle Cottage, which she also left to the National Trust stipulating that it should be occupied by a local family.

The name of the house reflects her rather complex personality - the 'castle' created as she adapted a humble cottage to embody her love of special features found in refined dwellings. 'Although you could take the woman out of London, you could never take London out of the

woman,' is how Mandy Marshall, the current tenant of Castle Cottage, describes the way Beatrix developed the cottage. Among the features is an extension with two large rooms, one downstairs with south-facing French windows and a veranda out on to the garden, and one, her upstairs sitting room with a period fireplace and bay windows creating magnificent south-facing views of the surrounding fells, which was her room for writing. This façade is captured by Moorcroft designer, Kerry Goodwin, in Herdwicks of Windermere, complete with the gracious white faces and grey-brown fleeces of Britain's hardest fell sheep, the Herdwicks circle the vase amidst rolling fells of deep mahogany and soft apple-greens.

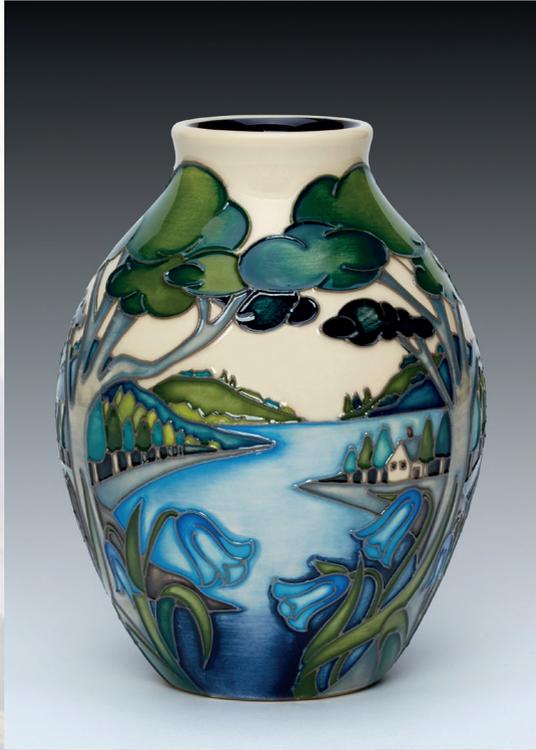




Lakeland Lights

Limited Edition: 30

The Lake District is known for its impressive and rugged mountain terrain, open fells and clear water lakes. Yet sometimes it is the tiniest reflections of beauty that touch a heart. The lesser celandine's cheery, star-like, vibrant-yellow blossoms are so eager to appear that they light up a grey-shadowy landscape even while the chill of winter still lingers. The plant's glossy green foliage and shining yellow flowers quite literally burst out of this demure little vase and raise a joy that inspired 19th-century poet William Wordsworth to praise the flower's "glittering countenance". Lesser celandine was Wordsworth's favourite flower.



Grasmere Bluebells

Numbered Edition

Spring emerges from its battle with winter in the Lake District to rise victorious in a royal carpet of purple, bringing with it a sense of rejuvenation and hope. It is thought that around half of the world's population of the humble bluebells are to be found in the UK. Captured in this design is one of the two small lakes of Grasmere and Rydal Water, separated by a woodland through which the River Rothay babbles merrily. These woods are carpeted with bluebells in spring, and in Grasmere Bluebells bow their heads gracefully under a canopy of clouded, greenish-blue trees as the deep waters and the colours of natural world around them appear to diffuse into sleepy cottages and awaken the soul.



Castlerigg Standing Stones

Limited Edition: 25

The mysterious stone circles of Castlerigg hold secrets to ancient Britain that still remain, without extensive excavation, securely locked. It is composed of 38 free standing stones, some up to 3 metres (10 feet) high. One of Britain's earliest stone circles, believed to date back to the Neolithic period 4000 to 5000 years ago, the entrance at Castlerigg, on the north side of the circle, is flanked by two massive upright stones. Although we do not yet know why Neolithic man built his stone circles, it has been suggested that such outlying stones had astronomical significance – alignments with planets or stars – although examination of those in early stone circles elsewhere in Britain has shown that there are no consistent orientations for them. With over a thousand stone circles in the British Isles and Brittany, Castlerigg is perhaps the most atmospheric and dramatically sited of all, with panoramic views and the mountains of Helvellyn and High Seat as a backdrop. Now captured in clay, the ancient stones stand as noble pillars upon a breathtakingly beautiful natural plateau commanding a superb 360-degree view over the surrounding fells – the designer manages to draw you into an experience of the wonder of creation as the design rises up from the stones. This more than simply a design, it is an invitation to visit a natural amphitheatre of hills, above Keswick, where stones act as signposts to something greater.



Good designs can sometimes make you smile, particularly if its creator endows a familiar household animal with human characteristics. It matters not whether we talk about pantomime's Puss in Boots or a duck from the Lake District. It is a technique used by artists and designers for several centuries, but only the best of them really succeed in endowing them with visible good humour. Moorcroft designer, Kerry Goodwin, has tried three times and we believe that she has succeeded – doubly so because twice she has used cats and just once she has used mice to take centre stage.

Mischievous Mice (1)

Limited Edition: 25

Little mice can cause mischief, running round and round. Dressed in blue, pink and green jumpers with coordinating trousers, Kerry Goodwin's mice work together to lift a large watering can above a demure black cat reading a newspaper on a comfortable garden chair. It is a garden decked out for summer with a friendly house built of Lake District stone or even with grey bricks in

the background. Whimsical the design may be, but it was created with the mischievous intention of making you smile. After all, we can all look back to that time of innocent childhood buffoonery.

Mischievous Cat (2)

Limited Edition: 25

Who can resist the smell of a home-baked fish pie? A rather podgy black kitten certainly failed as he stretches his plump paws towards a fish tail protruding out of the crust. Interestingly, kittens are far more naughty than adult cats. They are without fear and are about to learn that not everyone in the big, wide world around them will be pleased at their pranks. Expect a kitten to be curious, rumbustious, and, let's face it, a bit of a handful. Dressed in breeches and pale blue trousers, the black kitten seems to have avoided the watchful eye of mama cat, now concentrating carefully on placing another precious fish pie into the oven in all her petticoats and frills. This may well be a mistake. Ovens, glass bottles, cupboards and mixing bowls have been added to provide insight into this little home.

The Gentleman Caller (3)

Limited Edition: 25

A black feline of the female variety stands confidently in a well-tailored red coat and floppy-brown hat, endeavouring to hold the eye of a gentleman caller. Bashfully, a smaller ginger cat looks down to the ground, as he clutches his fishing rod. To allow privacy, his friend, dressed in a blue jumper and shorts, looks away towards the rolling landscape around her home. Not so a rather curious black cat who sneaks around the side of the house to eavesdrop.