

Hougham and Marston Heating Oil Syndicate

Frequently Asked Questions

How does it work?

By ordering heating oil in bulk from the distributors we can benefit from lower prices and a reduction in tanker traffic throughout the villages. A database of members will be collated and they will be able to submit their orders several times a year by a specific date. All of the oil companies who deliver to these villages will be contacted to ascertain the best possible price and the order will be placed.

How much can I save?

Oil syndicates elsewhere in the country report savings of around 3-4 pence per litre. A comparison undertaken on 26 January 2011 showed that *minimum* savings of £14 for 500 litres and £18 for 1000 litres would have been achieved by buying in bulk rather than individually. The average savings were £32 for 500 litres and £42 for 1000 litres.

Do I have to arrange all my oil deliveries through the syndicate?

No, should you want to leave the syndicate, or arrange to have your oil ordered directly that is not an issue.

How often will deliveries be arranged?

Ordering will be arranged 5 times a year. The closing date for orders will be: March 4th, June 3rd, September 9th, November 4th 2011 & 6th January 2012

How will I order?

An e-mail (or phone call for those without internet access) will be sent to all members around 1 week before the closing date asking for orders to be submitted. Please submit your orders, via e-mail if possible, to: lincolnshireoil@gmail.com or by post to Rose Farmhouse, Main Street, Marston, Grantham, NG32 2HH by 5pm on the closing date.

What's the minimum order?

500 litres.

Do I have to order in any specific increments?

No.

How will I know when to expect a delivery?

An e-mail will be sent detailing the confirmed delivery date, the price which has been agreed and the company who will deliver the oil.

How long will I have to wait for the delivery?

It is intended that all deliveries will be made within two weeks of the closing date, although this may not always be the case due to demand and weather.

Which oil company will you use?

Whichever one is cheapest! There is no affiliation to any particular company.

What grade of oil will you use?

28 second kerosene.

Is there a cost to joining the syndicate?

No, not at the present time. Dependant upon demand a small annual fee may be introduced to cover administration expenses later in the year.

Who do I pay for the oil?

The oil company who delivers the oil. If they have not previously supplied you they may contact you for payment details before they deliver.

What if I need a small tanker?

It cannot be guaranteed that the lowest price can be provided if a small tanker is required. However, we will endeavour to negotiate with the oil company for you. Please make it clear when you order that a small tanker is required.

I don't live in Hougham or Marston, can I still benefit?

At present, this syndicate is just for homes Hougham and Marston, however if you live outside the villages and would be interested in joining please let us know as we hope to expand if there is sufficient demand.

Who originally formed the syndicate?

Emma and Alistair Ross who live in Marston.

How many people have already signed up?

There are at least 30 homes in the villages which have already signed up which gives the Syndicate around 60,000 litres of "buying power" annually.

I'm interested, what do I do now?

Please also complete the application form on the Marston Village Website <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Marston/>, click on Heating Oil Syndicate, download the application form and return it. If you don't have internet access please call Alistair Ross on 251355.

I've still got questions?

Please e-mail lincolnshireoil@gmail.com or call Alistair Ross on 251355

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