

**BUSKING BADGE SCHEME**  
In Keswick Town Centre  
A Guide & Welcome for Street Performers



**Issued by Keswick Town Council**

**A Guide for Street Performers**

Keswick is a market town set below Skiddaw and on the shores of Derwentwater and within the Lake District National Park; while street entertainment adds colour to our town it is also important that any activity within the Town Centre is appropriate to its setting. To ensure that the good relations between street entertainers, the general public and shop keepers are maintained a 'Busking Badge' registration scheme has been put in place for designated areas in the Town.

Please read pages 1 and 2:

- All buskers and street performers should register with the Town Council at the Council offices in Keswick. Once an application form has been completed you will be issued with a 'Buskers and Street Performers' badge. Once obtained it is obligatory to display this badge prominently at all times. ***Please note Keswick Town Council Office hours are 9.30am to 1pm Monday to Friday (not including Bank Holidays)***
- Acts must base themselves at the lower end of the designated area (facing the Moot Hall), not the upper end (***see page 2 for designated 'busker' area in Market Square – ONLY THIS AREA CAN BE USED IN THE MARKET SQUARE– Street café areas must not be affected either by performers, equipment or their audience.***)
- Musical performers (buskers) should not inconvenience either the general public or shop keepers. The volume of music should be kept to a level where it does not unreasonably bother anyone. Loud music must not be played and the volume kept to a level in keeping with the tranquillity expected within a National Park. ***Excessively noisy instruments are not welcome.***
- All performances must last no longer than 40 minutes. There must then be a break or fallow time of a minimum of 45 minutes where there is no performance of any kind in this area. In other words there are to be no back to back performances. Only 3 performances per day from any one person are allowed.
- **Circle Acts** - The same rules regarding performance length and fallow time apply in this area. While these performances may often attract large (and appreciative) crowds, it is the responsibility of the performer to keep noise to a reasonable level and the audience off the pavements on either side of the show so as not to block off any shop or premises and allow free movement within the Market Square.
- All performances must not start before 10.30am.
- Performances must not occur in the vicinity of the Market Square on Saturday and Thursday (market days).
- All high risk activity such as fire eating, sawing someone in half or juggling with chain saws or anything judged to be a high risk activity by the Town Centre Guidance officer are strictly prohibited.
- The offering for sale of any merchandise within the Town Centre area is illegal under the LGMP Act of 1982. The sale of newspapers or magazines does not fall under this Act.
- Keswick Town Council can in no way be held liable for the activities of buskers and street performers. To obtain a 'Buskers and Street Performers' badge all street performers (circle acts) must have shown that their own Public Liability Insurance up to £2m.
- Contact either a Town Centre Guidance officer or Keswick Town Council, during office hours, for help and advice should any issues arise.

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#### Do's and Don'ts

##### Please do:

- Sign up and collect your 'Busking Badge' from the Keswick Town Council offices (situated across the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of the Market Square). The badge is free and paperwork will only take 5 minutes to complete – Office hours Monday to Friday 9.30am to 1pm.
- Clearly display your busking badge when performing.
- Try to co-ordinate and cooperate with any other buskers or street performers.
- Be considerate to any neighbours when setting your volume and ensure noise is kept to a minimum.
- Restrict all performances including physical street performances (Circle Acts) to the area shown on the map below.
- Ensure that your set lasts no longer than 40 minutes before moving away completely. No return within 45 minutes to the area.

##### Please don't:

- Set up your pitch so as to conflict with another busker or street cafe.
- Spread out your equipment or allow your crowd/audience to obstruct the flow of pedestrians within the Town Centre area. In particular this means keeping your equipment and audience off the pavement either side of the Main Street so pedestrian traffic can easily flow and shop doorways are not blocked.
- Busk near to phone boxes, post-boxes, doorways or cash points.
- Busk in an area where an organised event is about to or is already taking place without obtaining the organisers permission. This is particularly the case during Convention or Jazz Festival time.
- Act or speak aggressively to people exercising their right to ask you to stop.
- Perform under the influence of either drugs or alcohol.
- Behave in a manner likely to cause a 'Breach of the Peace'.
- Use any inappropriate or offensive language at any time.
- Use loud music in the Market Square

