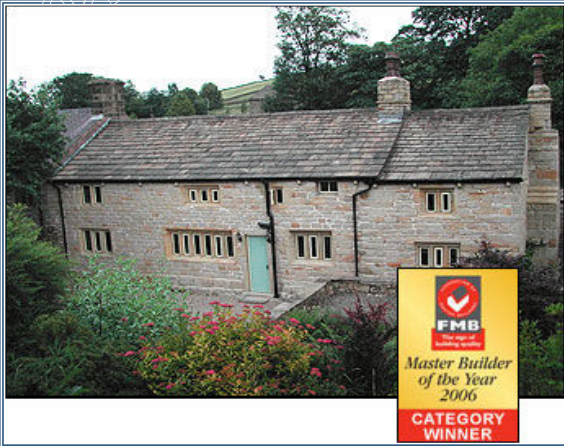


# W N Powell & Sons Ltd - Newsletter



Project:

**Wycoller Cottage  
Wycoller Village  
Nr Colne  
Lancashire  
for Mr Steele**



Jason & Claire Powell from W N Powell & Sons Ltd collecting the Award from Sarah Beeny of Channel 4's Property Ladder.

## North West Building Contractor wins Master Builder Award!

Local Builder, W N Powell & Sons Ltd, are pleased to announce their success in becoming the National Winners in the Category of Small Renovation Projects in the FMB Master Builder of the Year Award for 2006.

W N Powell & Sons Ltd were chosen from hundreds of entries in the fiercely contested Master Builder of the Year Awards for their sympathetic restoration of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed cottage.

To create a refuge in the beautiful village of Wycoller, presented City businessman, Stuart Steele with a challenge; how to sensitively transform a derelict Seventeenth Century Grade II Listed former weaver's cottage into a comfortable character home. Fortunately, help was at hand for this rustic restoration rescue from Bill Powell and his company W N Powell and Sons Ltd, who worked closely with English Heritage and Wycoller Country Park administrators, satisfying their stringent requirements by demonstrating their passion, care and expertise as well as more than matching Stuart's exacting demands.

The cottage was in a sorry state prior to its restoration, with some sections of roof destroyed leaving views of open sky, sections of the first floor caved in and walls missing much of their lime mortar.

Examples of the detailed restoration of the cottage's original features abound. The fabulous oak beams were treated and exposed to best effect, while the oak staircase restored to its former glory and existing oak doors renovated. To comply with the cottage's

Grade II Listed status, detailed work included the use of lime putty and all the rotten window replacements having antique cream woodwork. Bringing the stonework back to its original colour involved extensive sandblasting of the exterior walls and renovation of the stone floors.

Outside, hard and soft landscaping has been carefully carried out, complementing the cottage's village setting.

To prevent flooding from a nearby ford, this work included Bill and his team installing an elevated patio at the front entrance to the cottage.

At Wycoller Cottage, Bill has achieved the delicate art of retaining the best elements of the cottage's rustic charms, while making it suitable for modern contemporary living. Highlights of the high quality specification and workmanship include the stylish kitchen with oak units, granite worktops and stainless steel industrial inspired appliances, and an en-suite to the master bedroom with a sleek minimalist bath, shower and w/c set off by stainless steel fittings.

However, all this work was achieved with the minimum of fuss and to an exceptional level, despite Stuart's busy schedule preventing regular visits to the site. Regular communication and updates by Bill via e-mail and phone calls provided him with reassurance.

Stuart said: "Although I was not present for a large part of the project, I had every confidence in allowing Bill and his team free licence to complete the work, and I'm thoroughly satisfied at the build quality and execution in the rescue of this great property."

**"I had every confidence in allowing Bill and his team free licence to complete the work, and I'm thoroughly satisfied at the build quality!"**

