



## **WELCOME TO THE FORGE!**

Here is some useful information to help you get the most out of your stay.

### **BELL TENT**

The bell tent has a double set of doors – one with a mosquito net and then an outer set of waterproof doors. You can roll them both open and pin them back for greater access and ventilation. It's a good idea to keep the outer doors shut at night and when the weather is wet to avoid water getting into the tent – also please close them when you leave. In the wooden chest you will find extra pillows and hot water bottles – to help us keep everyone safe in the wake of Covid-19, if you use them during your stay please could you leave them out on the bed when you leave so we can make sure they are washed and changed when you leave. Rest assured that all the soft furnishings (cushions and throws) are quarantined for 72 hours between use. If you need extra blankets let us know and we can provide these for you. The LED lights pull up to switch on and push down to close and can be hung from the hooks on the central pole. When it's a bit wet and mucky it would be helpful if you could leave your muddy boots on the deck outside or in the kitchen area.

### **CAMP KITCHEN**

The camp kitchen has mains running water which we collect in a barrel under the sink and use for our young trees. The gas hob lights easily with a match – just turn the knob anti-clockwise and then press the yellow button in. There is a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit by the doorway and a solar powered phone charger on the windowsill that works with your regular USB cable. We will empty the grey water and bins daily during your stay and will ask you to leave the kitchen area while we do this to respect social distancing rules. If you require additional tea towels or ice packs for the cool box during your stay, please just let us know and we can leave these out for you.

### **COMPOSTING TOILET**

Very simple to use and very clean and eco-friendly – we use all the compost created to feed our new woodland. You just have to pee in the front part of the toilet and poo into the main chamber. After a poo throw down a couple of scoops of sawdust and all toilet paper goes into the main chamber too. Always make sure you close the lid when you leave and use the anti-bac gel to wash your hands.

### **CAMPFIRE**

There is a fire circle next to your deck where you are welcome to start a fire. We have supplied firelighters and kindling in the camp kitchens for you to get this started – just let us know if you need a hand getting it all going. You can buy additional bags of logs from us if required at £6 a bag.

### **SHOWERS**

There are hot showers for the use of all guests by the main gate to the car park. These are operated on a timer - all you have to do is press the main button. Press once to ignite the gas and a second time to get the water flowing. You will be assigned a specific shower upon arrival which you will share with just one other tent for the duration of your stay. We will deep clean the showers thoroughly each day and upon request.



### **HAMMOCKS**

We have a number of hammocks available for you to use free of charge – let us know if you'd like to borrow one. We are required to leave a 72-hour quarantine period between guests so please be aware they may not always be available immediately.

### **HILL FORT & FIRE CIRCLE**

You are welcome to wander up to the hill fort above the tents to enjoy the views and the fire circle. All we ask is that you don't wander over any gates or fences into the farmer's field next to where the bell tents are located, especially during lambing season! Also please observe the 2-metre social distancing rule around other guests and Forge members of staff.

### **DREWYN**

Drewyn is our communal games cabin named after Caer Drewyn, the local Iron age hill fort that you can easily walk to from The Forge. In here you will find a pool table, table tennis table, books, board games and a large comfy sofa and log fire.

### **BUSHCRAFT ACTIVITIES**

Jamie and Ed are our resident bushcraft experts and will be very happy to show you how to light your campfires and share their top tips on cooking over an open fire. During the school summer holidays we will also be running a programme of FREE activities each day. Check out the blackboard or ask us when you check in if there is something you are particularly interested in. We will be offering fire lighting, campfire cooking, foraging, nature & history walks and axe-throwing.

### **FARM TOURS**

We have a large vegetable garden and lots of farm animals at The Forge so let us know when you check in if you would like to meet them or have a tour of the farm. Depending on the season you may be able to pick your own fruit and veg and collect your own eggs for breakfast from The Forge hens.

### **GAMES & BOOKS**

We have had to remove these temporarily to minimise contact surfaces but please let us know if you would like to borrow some and we can make these available for you during your stay. We will quarantine any that have been used by guests for 72-hours to minimise any risks.



## THE FORGE PRODUCE

If you are interested in buying a few things that we have produced on our smallholding here is the price list. And let us know if you'd like to come and see where it has all come from and we are happy to give you a tour!

### PRICE LIST

Additional bags of logs: £6.00 per bag

Fresh free-range eggs (multi-coloured – the blue ones are from a hen called Houdini): £1.50 ½ dozen

Seasonal fruit and vegetables – just ask us what we've got available at the time and we can let you know the price 😊

Bag of marshmallows: £1.00

The Forge mugs: £10.00

The Forge playing cards: £7.50



## INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOCAL AREA

### SHOPS

**Nisa** – local convenience store which sells all the essentials and alcohol – from the end of the drive turn right and follow the directions into Corwen and it is located on the main A5 through road. Open from 9am – 9pm daily (opens at 10am on Sundays). 01490 413180

**Rhug Estate Farm Shop** – lots of local produce including meat produced on the farm. Excellent bistro and take-away burgers and good coffee available too. Open from 8am – 5pm daily. 01490 411100

### TAKEAWAYS

**Abul's Indian** – very good curry (won Best Curry House in Wales in 2015) and will deliver if the order is over £100 – just mention that you are staying at The Forge. Also a nice restaurant with BYOB. Open every day 5-11pm. 01490 413016

**China Garden** – good Chinese takeaway opposite the Post Office. Open daily from 4 – 10.30pm except Tuesdays. 01490 412243

**Parry's Plaice – Fish and Chips** – yummy family favourites on the A5 main road. Open from 11.30am – 2pm and 4.30 – 8pm every day except Monday. 01490 412346

### RESTAURANTS

**Old Wive's Tales** – Traditional Portuguese restaurant with a keen local clientele and a very homely atmosphere. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 5 – 10.30pm. 07413 965625

**The Grouse** – our 'local' in Carrog, a 5 min drive away, serves up fantastic pub grub and lovely ales all overlooking the river and the old bridge. Food and drink served every day from 12 noon to 10pm. Dog friendly. 01490 4302722

**The Cornmill** – A little drive away (20 mins) in Llangollen, this converted mill sits right on the River Dee and has great food and beers. Open daily. 01978 869 555

**Gales Wine Bar** – also in Llangollen, this beautiful panelled restaurant is super-friendly with a local seasonal menu that changes regularly. Open for lunch 12-2pm Monday to Sunday and for dinner 6-9pm Monday to Saturday. 01978 860089

**Tyddyn Llan** – if you fancy treating yourself we have a Michelin-starred restaurant only 15 minutes away in Llandrillo that serves up amazing food. Well worth the splurge.

**Pale Hall** – and just a little further on is Pale Hall, under executive chef Michael Caines that has a spectacular tasting menu. It's not cheap but the lunch menus are good value.

## THINGS TO DO

**WALKS** – there is a lovely 4km walk up to the top of **Caer Drewyn** which you can see from your tent. This is one of the best-preserved hill forts in the area and you can still see all the stone ramparts. From the top there are stunning views down the Dee Valley and on a good day you can see Snowdon! There are also lots of lovely shorter walks around the river and in the woods behind the town which can range from 0.5km – 5km. This summer there is an art installation called Waking the Giant in the **Pen Y Pigyn** woods where you can see various things that the giant left behind before he fell asleep in Dol Corwenna. The walk up to **Liberty Hall** takes around 4-5 hours there and back from here and is well worth it! Just ask us if you need any more information about walks or trail runs in the area or down into Snowdonia or the Berwyn ranges. We have OS maps available on request.

**MUSEUM** – there is a local museum in the town which has a wealth of information about the area and our local hero, Owain Glyndwr, the last Welsh prince of Wales who is reputed to be buried in our lovely local church. Entry is free and the volunteers are happy to answer any questions you may have.

**MOUNTAIN BIKING** – One Plant Adventure in Llandegla has an outstanding selection of rides through the forest with bike hire and an amazing on-site café. You can also rent bikes at Llyn Brenig.

**FISHING** – the local River Dee offers some of the best river fly fishing in Wales. We can arrange for one day permits with CADAC (Corwen and District Angling Club) which offers you stretches of the River Dee to fish for salmon, trout and grayling.

**WATER SPORTS** – white-water rafting, gorging, canyoning, river-bugging and more are all available with our partners SAS Outdoors and White Water Active in Llangollen.

Our guide to the [Top Ten Things to Do](#) in the local area might also provide some inspiration...

A bit further afield down into Snowdonia and on the coast, there are loads of things to do so let us know if you need some inspiration and we can share our ideas. We can also let you in on a few secrets about the best places in the local area....



## THE BEST LOCAL PLACES...

**To see RAF fighter jets.** Head to the Mach Loop, about a 45-minute drive from here and a real once-in-a-lifetime experience to see the jets fly over you and then duck down and away down the valley. If you are lucky you might catch them flying over The Forge on their way to the loop.

**For a lakeside picnic.** Take the Bala Lake Railway and get off at Llangower for a stunning picnic spot and a fantastic opportunity for a stone skipping competition! Marvel at the crazy tree root in this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) while enjoying your sarnies.

**For afternoon tea.** The Sugar Plum Tea Room in Rhewl, just outside Ruthin and about a 25-minute drive away serves up the best afternoon teas. Make sure you go hungry and if you are feeling decadent, splash out on a glass of fizz while you are at it. 01824 702852

**To spot red squirrels.** We have red squirrels living in Clocaenog Forest just a short drive from here. Go quietly and you might just be lucky enough to see them...

**For a paddle and a pint.** The Grouse Inn in Carrog has a lovely outdoor seating area where you can watch the kids and the dog paddling in the River Dee on a warm day. You can also wander along to the tea rooms at Carrog station for yummy local ice cream.

**For locally made ice-cream (even for dogs too!).** Head to Aran Ice Cream on Bala High Street. They change the flavours regularly and offer ice cream 'tapas' if you can't make up your mind. They also make special ice cream for dogs! 07570 410034

**For local ales and gin** – just across the road from Aran Ice Cream in Bala is Stori – a wonderful cavern of locally produced beers, ales and spirits. They even have a BYOF (Bring Your Own Food) policy so you can enjoy what they have on tap in the little room at the back whilst enjoying your lunch. 01678 520501

**For a romantic meal** – tucked away just off the main square in Ruthin is On The Hill, a proper gem of a restaurant serving amazing seafood and Mediterranean delights. It's so good that it can be hard to get a table to be sure to book in advance. 01824 707736



## OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

We work with two local **taxi** companies who are happy to transport you around the area and have very reasonable rates – just let them know you are staying at The Forge.

Lesley at Global Taxis – 07850 370 232

Tony at Gwyddelwern Taxis – 07970 245 597

Closest **A&E department** is at Wrexham Maelor hospital around a 25-minute drive away. We also have a local surgery for any minor complaints – 01490 412 970.

Rowlands **Pharmacy** can be found in the main square in Corwen and is open 9am – 6pm Mon to Fri and 9-11.30am on Saturdays. Closed on Sundays. If you are stuck over the weekend please let us know and we can help out.

The nearest **petrol station** is in Glan-yr-Afon which is on the road to Bala about 10 mins drive away.

We are very happy to welcome dogs but please pick up after them so we can all enjoy the space 😊. We do have a **vet** in Corwen for any emergencies – 01490 412 276.

For any questions or issues at any time please call Jamie on 07989 447 835 or Sheena on 07766 230 042.

We hope you have a wonderful stay!