



## **WELCOME TO THE FORGE AND BLUEBELL CORNER**

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

### **GYPSY CARAVAN**

Our vintage gypsy caravan is over fifty years old and was lived in by a family and pulled by a real horse for many years. More recently it has been refurbished back to its former splendour and we've added a few more modern home comforts, whilst keeping many of the original features. The steps are as they would have been – take care going up and down as these are quite steep – hence the handrail! It would be really helpful if you could leave any muddy wellies under the steps if possible, as we've just laid a nice, new carpet.

The main feature is the double bunk, complete with memory foam mattress and lots of cosy blankets and bedding. Rest assured that all soft furnishings are quarantined for 72 hours between guests to minimise the risk of infection from Covid-19. If you need extra blankets let us know and we can provide these for you. There is a small red step ladder to help you climb up into the bunk – do be careful if the wood burning stove is on as it gets very hot. We have added in some wooden slats to protect you from the flue. Keep an eye on anything falling off the bunk while the stove is on!

There is a surprising amount of storage in the caravan – do please feel free to use what space you need. If you use the extra pillows or hot water bottle, please could you leave these out on the bed when you leave so we can change and wash these. In the cupboards to the left of the door as you walk in you will find the fire-lighting equipment. We recommend that you use a small eco firelighter and the smaller sticks to start the fire then larger logs to build the heat. To keep the stove ticking over all night while you're asleep there are some briquettes – add a few of these before turning in and you will be nice and toasty till the morning. If you run out and need any more logs or briquettes during your stay just let us know. Also, if you would like your dog to sleep with you in the caravan, under the bed is a great spot!

### **LOG CABIN**

The kitchen area has mains running water which is perfectly safe to drink and a gas hob which 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 under the worktop, where you will also find all the kitchen equipment you could possibly need. There is a solar powered hub on the shelf to the right of the door as you walk in which will power the lights and you can also charge your phones here. The battery is finite, and when it's gone, it's gone, so please switch it off when you are not using it. The log burning stove is identical to the one in the caravan, so start with a firelighter and small sticks, building up to logs for fast heat or briquettes for a slower burn. You will also find some tea light candles – we just ask that you use the storm lanterns provided to avoid anything catching fire from the naked flames. We will empty your bins daily, asking you to leave the cabin while we go in to do this. If you would like new ice packs or clean tea towels during your stay, please 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, to separate out the different types of waste. 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 to activate the composting process and use the anti-bac gel to wash your hands.

## **SHOWER**

There is a small copper stop cock under the boiler which you just need to turn anti clockwise to activate the hot water. The water drains away naturally into the stream. You can adjust the heat using the hot water dial on the boiler. Please do not touch the cold-water dial.

## **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.

## **CAMPFIRE**

There is a fire bowl 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.

## **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. Regrettably, until we are advised differently by the Welsh government, this cabin will remain closed to guests to minimise the risk of infection, unless you are a party booking out the whole site.

## **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 per bag

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

Bag of marshmallows - £1

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

The Forge mugs: £7.50

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 everyday 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. Booking is advisable, especially at the weekend and during school holidays. 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 season 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 of 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. There is also an inland surfing lake under an hour away in Dolgarrog.

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....



## OUR LOCAL SECRETS FOR THE BEST 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 and 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.

**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

**For a slap-up breakfast** – you'd have to go a long way to beat the *Rhug Estate Farm Shop's* breakfast! Whether you are after a quick bacon roll or a more leisurely brunch they have options to suit everyone – and best of all, pretty much all of it is grown or reared on the farm. 01490 411100

**For open water swimming** – *Llyn Brenig* is a great place for a paddle or even a swim on a hot day. The *Horseshoe Falls* near Llangollen are also ideal for cooling off and waking up the senses! There is the added incentive of grabbing an ice cream or lunch at the *Chain bridge hotel* afterwards.



## 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 during your stay please call Jamie on 07989 447 835 or Sheena on 07766 230 042.

We hope you have a wonderful stay!