**WELCOME TO THE LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOOD**

Please make yourselves at home

We hope that you have a wonderful and memorable stay here at The Little House. This is a very special place and you are sure to leave with happy memories of your time spent here. You will find helpful maps in the information folder. Walk and explore the ancient woods, take time out for a picnic, or just pause and listen to the birds. Here you should be able to slow down, enjoy a slower pace of life, and return with your batteries recharged.

Departure time is 10:00am. If you would like to stay for longer then please speak to me and if we don’t have guests arriving the same day, it is often possible to extend your visit.

When you leave, please leave the key in the door.

**Water**

Our water is mains water but it is very limey therefore we have a kettle with a built in filter. Please make sure you fill the kettle via the filter not the spout or the kettle will quickly become scaley.

The water is heated in a small tank in the upstairs toilet. The water comes out very hot so be careful and always add some cold. It provides plenty of hot water to fill the sink but needs time to refill and reheat so hot water is not limitless. If the heater becomes noisy, please just switch it off for a while and cool down a bit and ideally please switch off overnight.

**Fire extinguisher and fire blanket**

These are stored in the cupboard under the kitchen sink. Please familiarise yourselves with them.

**Wood-burning stove and fuel**

Logs, kindling, paper and matches are supplied in the log basket. Extra logs are outside in the log store. It is worth making sure there is always kindling warming indoors for the next fire as this makes the fire easier to light. If you run out of kindling, you will always find some lying around in the woods.

Firstly, open both vents. One is a circular dial to the left hand side of the burner and the other is along the bottom. Once you have got the wood burner going, it’s very important that you reduce the air flow by closing the vents slightly, otherwise the fire will burn too quickly. The fire lights very quickly so it’s important you don’t leave it unattended when you first light it. Never close the vent fully as some air is required to maintain the clear view on the glass. Burning the fire too fiercely will very quickly degrade the seal on the door. Please use the fire glove provided and don’t let children touch the stove. The ash in the bottom tray will need to be removed daily; you can just tip it outside over the fence – just make sure the wind isn’t blowing towards you!

Just to remind you of the basic laws of Physics – warm air rises – you may want to let the fire die down a bit before going to bed as whatever the temperature is downstairs, it’ll be much warmer upstairs!

If you have any problems, let us know.

PLEASE NEVER LEAVE THE STOVE DOOR OPEN AS FALLING LOGS ARE A FIRE HAZARD.

**Wi-Fi**

The Wi-Fi is from the access point situated on the shelves in the bedroom. If there is any problem try switching this off and back on. The bandwidth here isn’t great but then the pace of life is just that little bit slower here! The password is ‘LittleHouse’.

**Dogs**

Please keep dogs under control and tidy up after them. Dogs are only permitted downstairs and not on the furniture.

What to do with Dog mess – when you are out walking it is OK to flick it into the undergrowth if walking off the beaten track. On a more well trodden path - bag it! Any dog mess in the garden, please dispose of in the “dog toilet” AKA the metal bin sunken by the five bar gate. You will find a trowel in the garden for this purpose. This is an eco dog composting toilet which we monitor adding compost accelerator if required. if bringing dog mess back from your walk please dispose of mess into the dog toilet and the bag into the black bin at the end of the drive – if you are using the bio degradable bags these can go into the “dog toilet”

**Shops**

The Brockweir Village Shop - back down the hill towards the village, turn left at Merricks Lane, then right at the end down Mill Hill and the shop is on your right. Open 9am – 6pm Monday – Saturday and 10am – 4pm on Sunday. This shop is run by volunteers and has a very good selection of produce; however, it doesn’t sell newspapers. The nearest shop for this is Browns Store in Llandogo (back down to Brockweir Bridge, turn right and follow this road for two miles. The shop is on your left.) For a wider variety of shops, the closest towns are Monmouth or Chepstow.

**Cooking**

The hob is an induction one so responds very quickly; however, it only works when a pan is on the element. If you need any further instructions you will find them in the folder.

**Places to Eat – all dog friendly. Please check opening as all vary at the moment**

**Brockweir Inn** – Shut for refurbishment

**The George** (St. Briavels) – Lovely local pub next to the castle. Both worth a visit.

[www.georgeinnstbriavels.co.uk](http://www.georgeinnstbriavels.co.uk) England rules apply

**The Anchor** (Tintern) – Recently refurbished but some of the décor still dates back to the 12th Century although not quite the same after the refurb. Beautiful views of the Abbey. [www.theanchortintern.co.uk](http://www.theanchortintern.co.uk) Wales rules apply

**The Ostrich Inn** (Newland) – 20 minute drive away but some great food. A real ‘pub’ pub, and a local favourite and an Alistair Sawday recommendation. Well worth the drive.

[www.theostrichinn.com](http://www.theostrichinn.com) England rules apply

**The Royal George** and The Wild Hare Bar (Tintern) – A recently taken over pub with great food and cocktails. Lovely atmosphere and occasional live music. Take a voucher and enjoy 10% off all food!

[www.theroyalgeorgetintern.co.uk](http://www.theroyalgeorgetintern.co.uk) Wales rules apply

**The Fountain Inn** (Trelleck Grange) Recently won CAMRA accreditation.

[www.fountaininntrellech.co.uk](http://www.fountaininntrellech.co.uk) Wales rules apply

If you discover any wonderful new places, please let us know and we’ll add them to the list! Thanks.

**Splashing Out** (not dog friendly so please ask if you would like us to dog sit while you indulge)

Extra Special is **The Whitebrook** Chris Harrod’s (Great British Menu fame) Michelin Star restaurant. For an indulgent treat try the Taster Menu [http://www.thewhitebrook.co.uk](http://www.thewhitebrook.co.uk )

**Walks**

There are some amazing walks from here. Here are a few of my favourites and there are lots more in the back of the folder and in the drawer. Please ask if there is a particular type of walk you would like to do as I have walked many hundreds of miles around here and can probably recommend a walk you will love.

**Devils Pulpit**

You can either walk from here (about 3.5 hours) or you can drive to the village and start (and end) the walk at The Brockweir Inn. See separate download

**The River**

A 2 hour walk taking you up to a lovely view looking across the valley to Llandogo and then down to the river with a stroll back along the banks to the pub.

**Bigsweir Bridge**

This is about 6 miles and takes 4+ hours. The first half is on roads and then from Bigsweir Bridge it is back along the river.

**Wye Valley Walk and Offa’s Dyke – car free Check bus times! Also note Wales currently has a 5 mile rule**

There is a public bus service (69 Bus) between Chepstow and Monmouth (timetable at back of folder) which makes for a great car free day out. Take the bus to either town and then walk back to Brockweir. From Chepstow you can pick up Offa’s Dyke long distance walk signs from Chepstow Leisure Centre and follow it for approx. 9 miles back to Brockweir – take in great views at Devils Pulpit and Eagles Nest. Alternatively take the 69 bus to Monmouth and walk back via The Kymin for amazing views then follow the Wye Valley Walk to Redbrook, crossing the Wye by the old railway bridge, and have a drink at the Boat Inn and walk back on the Welsh side of the river to Bigsweir Bridge then crossing onto the English side for beautiful walk along the river banks to Brockweir.

**For A Reason**

A brief description of some of the eco-friendly approaches that are taken here at The Little House in The Big Wood.

**Wood Burner**

The wood supplied is all grown less than 10 miles from here and is mainly Oak, Ash, Birch Beach and Sycamore. Please don’t use coal or charcoal in the wood burner.

**Electricity**

This is supplied by Ecotricity. This is one easy way to do your bit for the environment – change your electricity supplier to one that is investing in renewable energy sources and it shouldn’t cost any more. Check out their website when you get home! [www.ecotricity.co.uk](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk)

**Bedding**

The bedding and towels are organic cotton or bamboo. They are washed with Bio-D non-biological Eco friendly washing powder that doesn’t come in a plastic single use bottle 😊 and when possible, dried in the fresh Wye Valley air! [www.biodegradable.biz](http://www.biodegradable.biz)

**Hand and Body Wash**

Faith In Nature Seaweed and Citrus Body wash made from organic deep sea harvested seaweed is a known antioxidant removing free radicals and its mineral content is renowned for many skin healing qualities. Vegan and cruelty free, is made in the UK and is free of SLES, parabens and propylene glycol. [www.faithinnature.co.uk](http://www.faithinnature.co.uk)

**Cleaning**

All the products used here are eco friendly. We aim to use eco friendly, UK produced, refillable products – sometimes we have to compromise on the UK or refillable but we always go eco friendly although often we just use vinegar! We are lucky that the Brockweir Village shop allows you to take your own containers for refills for most cleaning products so we use a lot of Bio-d that is eco friendly, ethically sourced and made in the UK. www.biodegradable.biz

We have a septic tank so need to be careful what goes down the drains and of course, we want to look after our environment.

**Recycling**

Wouldn’t it be great it there was no more plastic packaging? Until then we try to limit how much plastic we buy and use recycled products e.g. the washing up bowl is recycled plastic from Senegal from [www.re-foundobjects.com](http://www.re-foundobjects.com) and the birdfeeder is recycled plastic flower pots [www.worm.co.uk](http://www.worm.co.uk)

Please recycle as much as possible by putting items in the green bag - glass, plastic, paper and tins. Uncooked food stuff for the compost ie. fruit and vegetable peelings, can be put in a compost bag. Cooked food leave in a separate compost bag and place in the black food bin by the road. If the kitchen bin is full please place the bag in the black bin outside. If rubbish is left outside it will be scavenged by the local wildlife and leave a horrible mess! Collection day is Thursday so if you are staying Wednesday night it’s a great help if you can put your bin out before 7am Thursday.

**Oven Gloves**

Rather than frequently washing oven gloves, there is a wipe down reusable silicone mit.

**Lights**

We are very lucky to be in an area of low light pollution. Please help keep it that way by turning off lights when you don’t need them!

**Sink, toilets and Drains**

We are not on mains drains here but use a septic tank so please be extra careful what you put down the sinks or toilet. Never put cooking fat down the sink, as this solidifies and causes blockages. Please dispose of fats in the bin once cooled. Coffee dregs should be put in the green compost bags – you can leave these outside the door and I will dispose of them.

The toilet we operate a ‘Pee, Pooh and Paper’ only policy. Anything else is a ‘Bag it and Bin It’ and this includes facial wipes and cotton buds. You will find FabLittleBag disposal bags under the sink, they are made from sustainable material and are a hygienic way to dispose of sanitary products and stop them getting into rivers and the sea.

**Kitchen equipment**

We hope that there is everything you need. If not, please let us know and we’ll try and help.

**TV/DVD Player**

DVDs go in the side of the TV and are operated by the one remote. If the signal is playing up you may need to try adjusting the antennae which are behind the bed.