Welcome to UP^ we hope you have a fabulous stay here.

The idea is that you feel totally relaxed and at home and here is a few bits of information you may find useful.

**Wifi**  - If you must! The password is **a3FCbU3iaHAF** But, don’t expect it to be fast ☹

**Furniture** – If you want to move the furniture around then please return it to it’s original place when you leave. Note the ladder is for decoration only and not to be climbed on as it is not secure. The dining table is not secured to the trestle legs (so it can be stored to one side if required) so please be very careful if moving it or leaning on it.

**Fires** – The log burner will be ready to light. Please help yourselves to more wood from the porch (not the decorative wood by the window) When setting a new fire it likes to have a bit of ash on the bottom but if there is a big build up of ash you will need to sprinkle some in the garden. The door should be kept closed for it to work safely and efficiently. If you want an open fire then please use the outdoor fire pit. The fire pit can be moved around the balcony but please position it before you light it. As we are on a wooden balcony please don’t leave the fire unattended. Just in case it goes horribly wrong there is a fire blanket on the covered porch and a fire extinguisher by the door.

**Heating** – The central heating will be left permanently on at the boiler but the thermostat turned right down so it doesn’t kick in. If you want the heating on just turn the dial (on the wall behind the dining table) to the required temperature.

**Drains** – we are not on mains drainage so please be careful what you put down the sink and down the toilet – bags provided for anything other than pee, poo or paper!

**Curtains** – When unhooking or hooking the curtains in the bedroom please hold the material and gently support them. Pulling on the rings will soon rip them out of the fabric.

**Shower** – the LED lights can be operated from the remote which should be left on the ladder. The main shower light is operated from the right-hand pull switch.

**Power cut** – these are fairly frequent out here but it is always worth checking it is not a circuit tripped. These can be found in the overhead cupboard by the shower. If the oven trips the clock on the oven will go back to 12:00 and needs resetting (any time will do) before the oven will work again.

**Bins** – Please use the recycling bag on the porch for plastics, cans and paper. Raw food please use the composting bin and cooked food can go directly in the small black food bin at the bottom of the drive. Bin collection is early every other Thursday so if you are staying with us on a Wednesday it would be great if you can make sure any smelly rubbish is put in the bin at the bottom of the drive by Wednesday night.

**Herbs and spices** – please help yourselves. Rosemary is great thrown on the fire pit before cooking.

**Local Information – Shops**

**Brockweir Village Shop**

This is a pleasant 20 minute walk down hill. Walk down the hill until you reach the dog leg junction. Take the left hand turn (Merricks Lane) At the end of this road turn right and walk past Pinewood Studios and a few hundred yards on the right is the village shop. Open 9am-6pm weekdays/Saturday and 10am – 4pm on Sunday. The shop has won awards in the past and is well worth a visit for some wonderful local produce and small selection of gifts. There is also a small café serving home made snacks. Most of the staff are volunteers so please don’t expect to be served quickly! – Note: The café is currently closed and not sure when it will open and the mornings may only be pre-order depending on how busy it is.

**Newspapers**

The nearest place to get a newspaper is Browns Stores in Llandogo – back over Brockweir Bridge and turn right along the Wye Valley Road. Llandogo is about 2 miles along this road and the shop is on the left as you come into the village.

**Supermarkets**

**Chepstow** has a Marks and Spencer Food Hall. As you drive into Chepstow it is tucked behind the bus bays on the left hand side (as you go down the hill)

**St Arvans** (just before Chepstow on the Wye Valley Road) has a Co-Op and is open 7am – 9pm. This is the nearest small supermarket for essentials.

**Monmouth** has a Waitrose and a Marks and Spencer Food Hall. It is a lovely town for a wander round. It has an independent Butchers, a fantastic cheese shop and a cute tea shop. It also has a few independent clothes, gift and coffee shops.

**Eating out**

**Brockweir Village Inn** Currently closed for refurbishment

**Wild Hare, Royal George Tintern** – This has new owners and does great bar food with a great atmosphere (although not cheap) It does a vegan lasagne and also usually a vegan pudding. In Wales so Welsh Covid-19 rules apply

**The Rose and Crown Tintern** Popular with locals, the land lady Sally is very friendly and the landlord has been known to give guests a lift home. Food is hearty steak and chips. In Wales so Welsh Covid-19 rules apply

**The Anchor** – Tintern A large restaurant style pub with a good variety of food. In Wales so Welsh Covid-19 rules apply

**The Ostrich** – Newland (25min drive) A great old pub with a beer garden in summer and open fire in the winter. The food is really good with hearty portions and a good selection. The chef is quite a character and I believe used to write a food column in Playboy magazine. In England so English Covid-19 rules apply

**The Whitebrook** – Whitebrook (20 min drive) A Michelin Star restaurant. Not cheap but does some experimental stuff. Allow a good few hours and indulge in the taster menu.

**The Fountain Inn** – Trellech (15 min drive or a good bike ride) This does a great Pie and Pie night on a Wednesday and good food other nights. Its also a good place to cycle to if you can brave the hills. In Wales so Welsh Covid-19 rules apply

**Activities**

Please check as opening varies for all of these - <http://www.wyedeantourism.co.uk/> is a good source of up to date info

**Walking** – Spoilt for choice with lots of walks from the door – we are only 100metres from Ofas Dyke. There are lots of walks in the folder. Please ask if you want more advice on where to walk.

**Cycling** – A favourite of mine is to cycle to Tintern and then go right after the George Hotel and then cycle up into the woods. The paths are wide, stony and hilly but you can cycle for ages and not see anyone. There is a lovely downhill bit by Cleddon Falls that will bring you down in LLandogo. Alternatively you can head to Peddleabikeaway in the heart of the Forest of Dean just outside Coleford. Here you can follow the easy cycle route (make sure you take the detour to Fancy View and take in the forest panorama) or go on the red or black mountain bike trails.

**Paddleboarding** – Symonds Yat. There are a couple of companies that do lessons and hire out boards and wetsuits. This is a really fun way to enjoy the river but you will get wet! The Saracens Head is a great place to reward yourself after all that hard work with a great meal. Get there early if you want a seat outside.

**Canoeing** – A slightly safer way to enjoy the river. Canoes can be hired at Monmouth when you are taken upstream and you finish at Monmouth or from Symonds Yat. You will need to book and it does get busy at weekends.