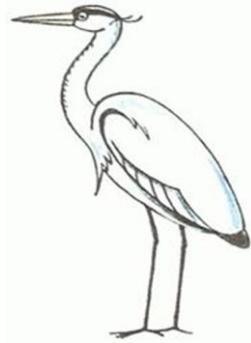


**Hope Park Farm**

**Holiday Cottages**



# **Heron Cottage**



# **Guest Information**

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## Fire safety procedures

In case of fire evacuate the cottage – close all doors behind you as you leave the building.

Meet in front of the car port and check that all occupants are accounted for.

Contact the owners who will then phone the fire brigade.

## Information for your safety during your stay.

- There are fire alarms connected to the electrical supply on both floors of the property:

Ground floor – in the inter-connecting hallway

First floor – landing area

- Each property is supplied with a fire blanket and a fire extinguisher which can be used in an emergency.
- In some of the rooms windows have been fitted that open fully to enable exit if necessary. Please make a note of their location at the beginning of your holiday.
- All keys to outside doors must be removed from the locks especially at night so that access can be gained by emergency services if required.
- The storage heaters get very hot, especially at night, and must never be covered with items of any sort. Clothes airers must be kept a sensible distance away.
- Wood burning stove and fire lighting materials (Heron Cottage only):

Make sure supplies of wood, paper and matches are kept away from the wood burner when it is alight.

Keep matches out of reach of children

Open doors can be a serious fire hazard – logs can easily fall out and sparks can ignite rugs and/or furniture

Fire guards are provided

- Try to remember to close the kitchen door before going to bed.
- The cottage is a no smoking area, so please ensure that you only smoke outside on your patio area and that all cigarette butts are safely disposed of and not left on the ground.
- At the beginning of your stay familiarise yourself with the layout of the building and all possible escape routes.
- Torches are provided, one in the kitchen and one in the main bedroom bedside drawer, in case you should need them.

The points mentioned above are to help keep you safe during your holiday and we would be grateful if you would bear them in mind during your stay which we hope will be enjoyable and hazard free.

# Heron Cottage

Welcome to Heron Cottage. We hope that your stay here will be a memorable one.

If we can make your stay more comfortable or you have any queries then please don't hesitate to ask, otherwise we will respect your privacy at all times. However please remember to respect social distancing at all times so best to contact us by text or phone first : 07905 636569.

On the day of your departure please **vacate the cottage by 9am**, leaving the door unlocked with the key in the lock on the inside.

## About the Cottages

The cottages were converted from the original single storey barns by the previous owners some years ago. All of the stones to the kitchen and bathroom extensions were dug from the garden by hand, hence the two large ponds!

The gardens are a wildlife haven, filled with birds, mammals and insects all year round. In the spring you may be lucky enough to see young hares. They are left to hide amongst the flower beds during the day while their mothers go off to feed. In the evening she returns to feed them before leaving again. We have a large population of sparrows which may not be the most beautiful of birds but they have become quite a rare sight in towns and cities so we welcome them and they can be seen using the many nesting boxes. Pheasants and red legged partridges regularly walk through the garden and are surprisingly tame. If you hear a strange haunting call then you have probably heard the curlew. They regularly fly low over the garden and can be seen feeding in the fields.

The fields around the property of approximately 20 acres once belonged to the farm although now they are owned by a local farmer.

The farm itself has an interesting history and was once a local pub where miners used to buy their beer before going home. The beer was brewed on site using water from the well which is still in the garden.

## Electricity

The main switch for the electrical supply is on the wall above the television.

An electrical fault will result in the on/off switch tripping.

This switch will need to be returned to the ON position in order to resume supply to the cottage.

If the switch will not return to the ON position it is because the electrical fault has not been rectified. For example, if there is a faulty light bulb it will have to be removed from its socket.

There should be a selection of light bulbs under the kitchen sink but please ask (by text or phone) for new bulbs if you need them.

When the storage heaters come on, using Economy 7 electricity at night time, there may be a buzzing noise from the box above the television.

## Storage Heaters

During cold weather storage heaters will provide background heat. They can be switched off and on at the switch beside them on the wall.

The storage heaters only store heat overnight which is then released during the next day and so they will only provide heat the day after they have been switched on.

If you lift the flap on the top right hand side of the heater you will see two dials. The larger dial is best left on 1. This will allow a small amount of heat to be released throughout the day and into the evening. If you do turn this dial to 4, for example, then you will find that all the heat stored will be released in the first 3-4 hours of the day and there will be nothing left for the rest of the day. The smaller dial dictated the amount of heat stored overnight, 6 being the maximum and 1 being the minimum amount. It is best never to place this on a setting greater than 5.

**The storage heaters get very hot at night and so they should never at any time be covered and should never have items that are combustible placed too close to them.**

# The Wood Burning Stove

Please ensure that there is a bed of ash in the wood burner before lighting it. You should **never need to empty the grate** during your stay.

This is a very easy fire to light, and it will be set ready to light when you arrive, but for those with little experience here are a few tips:

1. The stove should never be allowed to burn with the doors open.
2. Open the air vents above and below the doors fully.
3. Cover the bottom of the firebox with a layer of scrunched up balls of newspaper and then cover with a good layer of kindling, criss-crossed to allow plenty of air in.
4. Put a light to the newspaper in various places and close the doors.
5. When the kindling is burning well and blackening at the edges, after only a few minutes, and the chimney is starting to feel warm place 2 or 3 logs on top, again criss-crossed to allow air to circulate. PLEASE NOTE that burning one log at a time is not ideal as the flue will not get hot enough and the fire will not burn efficiently.
6. Please try to ensure that no logs touch the door glass as this will cause the glass to become sooty when they start to burn.
7. Within 10 minutes the logs should be well ablaze so start to close the lower air vents. Once burning properly the vents should be fully closed in order for the wood to burn most efficiently. If you leave the vents open you will burn a great deal of logs unnecessarily and a lot of heat will be lost up the chimney. However if the fire does start to die down, opening the vents might start to get it going again.  
The top air vents can be adjusted to slow down the fire. Less air will dampen the fire down.
8. Add more logs as and when required to keep the fire burning at its optimum temperature.
9. When the fire is not in use please leave the doors open slightly in order to maintain the upward draught. This will help when lighting the fire.

If you have any difficulty lighting the fire or would like to be shown, please don't hesitate to ask for assistance.

The initial basket of logs is free but **subsequent baskets cost £2.50 each**. There is no charge for kindling. The logs and kindling are stored in the back left corner of the large car port near the guest parking spaces. When you require more logs please take your basket and refill it, keeping a note of how many basketfuls you have used during your stay and leave the correct amount of money to pay for the logs in the cottage on departure.

## En-suite Shower Room

The switch for the shower is in the bedroom behind the shower room door.

The fan is activated by turning on the shower room light.

Waste water from the cottages is fed into a septic tank which is emptied annually. It is essential that only tissue is flushed down the toilet. **Any other items MUST be placed in the waste bin provided.**

## Internet Access

Network **HopeParkGuestWiFi\_2EX**

Password **hopepark**

Sometimes the router needs to be re-booted. If you experience problems with the WiFi please first of all switch off the router (located in the main bedroom) at the power socket, wait 20-30 seconds, then switch it back on again. If this does not solve the problem please let us know but **DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, PRESS THE RESET BUTTON ON THE ROUTER.**

## Cupboard under the Stairs

The cupboard under the stairs contains the following:

Ironing board

Floor mop

Sweeping brush

Vacuum cleaner

Linen basket

Clothes airer

Parasol for garden table

## **Bins and recycling**

There are two recycling bins outside the back door which are clearly marked with what to put in each bin.

All other non-recyclable and food waste goes in the kitchen bin and needs to be put into black sacks at the end of your stay and placed in the large brown box just outside the workshop. It makes our job of taking it up to the top gate for collection so much easier if all of the rubbish is already in black sacks so thank you in advance for your help.

## **Parking**

There is enough space to park your car with ease and we ask holiday makers using the cottages to park in front of the open car port. If there is a car parked in the car port we are unlikely to need it while you are here so no need to worry about blocking it in.

You are, however, welcome to drive to the front of Heron to unload and load up your car at the beginning and end of your stay.

## **The Garden**

You have the sole use of the area of garden directly at the back of Heron Cottage so feel free to make the most of it and enjoy the views from here. The rest of the gardens, apart from the area at the front of the house, are for our own use so we would be grateful if you would respect our privacy.

## **Local shops**

There is a Co-operative store at the Texaco petrol station in Minsterley (on the main Shrewsbury road) and there is also a butchers in Minsterley (turn left at the roundabout and it's just over the bridge on the right).

There is also a good butcher and baker at Pontesbury (Hignett's), as well as a Co-operative store.

The nearest larger supermarket is Tuffins at Churchstoke, approximately 8 miles away.

Pontesbury has a fish and chip shop as well as a Chinese and an Indian takeaway.

For much larger supermarkets it is necessary to go to Welshpool (Aldi, Morrisons, Co-operative, Tesco and Sainsbury's) or Shrewsbury (Aldi, Lidl, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Asda, Tesco etc).

## **The Stables Inn**

Within walking distance and dog friendly.

It's a good idea to ring to check their current policy, opening times and whether it's necessary to book.

Please see separate list of Local Pubs for contact details.

## **The dogs**

We have a black Labrador called Monty and a Norfolk terrier called Bertie.

They both try very hard to be well-mannered but sometimes just can't contain themselves so you may need to be firm with them.

We do our very best to pick up after them as soon as possible but please let us know (by phone or text) should you find any unpleasantness on the ground. We will take immediate action.

For their own good please don't feed them any tit bits or treats and don't be tempted to invite them into the cottage.

See separate information for guest dogs in Heron Cottage.

## **And finally.....**

If the gates on the drive are already open there is no need to close them but if they are closed please ensure that you close them securely after use. We do not want sheep in our garden!

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information and now enjoy your stay in this beautiful corner of Shropshire.....**

Please scroll on down for further information on:

Dogs at Heron Cottage

Useful Contacts

Local Pubs

# Dogs at Heron Cottage

We love dogs and welcome them to Heron Cottage but we do have strict rules for the safety and comfort not only of all our guests but ourselves and our own animals too.

1. All dogs must be **kept on a lead whilst on the grounds** of Hope Park Farm for the following reasons:
  - Whilst most people are comfortable with dogs, some are not used to them and may be scared of them.
  - Our chickens are free to roam wherever they please in the gardens and whilst our own dog is quite used to them, yours may not be.
2. All dogs must be **kept on a lead whilst walking across the fields immediately adjacent** to Hope Park Farm.

All of the fields around the property are interconnected and the sheep, which are always in the fields all year round, are free to move between them all, so do not assume that there are no sheep just because you cannot see any.
3. You must **clean up after your dog(s)**. A separate bin is provided outside the cottage.
4. Dogs are **not allowed in the bedrooms, and must be kept off the furniture**, for hygiene reasons. A stair gate is provided, stored in the cupboard under the stairs if not already in place.
5. You must **not leave dog(s) on their own in the cottage** - a strange place can be stressful for the dog(s) and they might cause damage (for which we might have to charge) and disturbance to other guests.

## **USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Doctors**

Pontesbury Medical Practice

Tel 01743 790325

Hall bank, Pontesbury, SY5 0RF

[www.pontesburymedical.co.uk](http://www.pontesburymedical.co.uk)

Worthen Medical Practice

**Tel 01743 891401**

Worthen, SY5 9HT

**NHS 111 Service**

**Tel 111**

### **Hospital Accident & Emergency**

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

Tel 01743 261000

Mytton Oak Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Full **24 hour service** dealing with **acute illness and injury**.

Victoria Memorial Hospital

Tel 01938 553133

Salop Road, Welshpool, SY21 7DU

**Minor injury services** available 24 hours 7 days a week

### **Dentist**

**Pontesbury Dental Practice**

**Tel 01743 790678**

Minsterley Road, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, SY5 0QJ

Emergency Dental Service - Out of Hours      Call NHS 111 – see above

For serious **dental problems that cannot safely wait** until normal working hours

## **Police**

In an emergency, always call **999** (or **112**). An emergency is when:

- there is danger to life or risk of injury
- a crime is in progress and the offender is still at the scene or has only just left
- immediate police attendance is necessary, such as when a crime is obviously about to be committed.

If it is **not** an emergency:

**101** is the number to call when you want to report less urgent crime and disorder and for general police enquiries. For example:

- if your car has been stolen
- if your property has been damaged
- to report a minor traffic collision

## **Vets**

Malthouse Surgery

Tel 01743 791246

Minsterley, SY5 0AA

[www.minsterleyvets.4mg.com](http://www.minsterleyvets.4mg.com)

## **Garage**

Plough Garage

Tel 01743 790270

Chapel St, Pontesbury, SY5 0RJ



## Local Pubs

Every effort has been made to keep this list up to date but it is advisable to check opening times and food serving times before visiting.

1. **Stables Inn**, Hopesgate 01743 891344  
[www.thestablesinn.co.uk](http://www.thestablesinn.co.uk)

ADVISABLE TO BOOK A TABLE, ESPECIALLY AT WEEKENDS.

2. **Bridges Inn**, Bridges, Ratlinghope 01588 650260  
[www.thebridespub.co.uk](http://www.thebridespub.co.uk)
3. **The Miners Arms**, Priest Weston 01938 561352
4. **The Stiperstones Inn**, Stiperstones 01743 791327  
[www.stiperstonesinn.co.uk](http://www.stiperstonesinn.co.uk)
5. **The Lowfield Inn**, Marton 01743 891313  
[www.lowfieldinn.com](http://www.lowfieldinn.com)
6. **The Sun Inn**, Marton 01938 561211  
[www.sunninn.org.uk](http://www.sunninn.org.uk)
7. **The Herbert Arms**, Chirbury 01938 561216  
[www.herbertarmschirbury.co.uk](http://www.herbertarmschirbury.co.uk)
8. **The Courthouse Inn**, Churchstoke 01588 620305
9. **The Inn on the Green**, Wentnor 01588 650105
10. **The Crown**, Wentnor 01588 650613  
[www.thecrowninnwentnor.com](http://www.thecrowninnwentnor.com)
11. **The Nags Head**, Pontesbury 01743 790060  
[www.nagsheadpontesbury.co.uk](http://www.nagsheadpontesbury.co.uk)

This list is by no means exhaustive and is also not meant to be any kind of recommendation on the part of Hope Park Farm Holiday Cottages.