



## When Staying at the Farmhouse:

**This is the Foel Ortho 13-point Survival Guide for the deeply confused...**

**Most answers are at: [www.farmhouseinwales.com](http://www.farmhouseinwales.com)**

1. Where the hell am I?
2. You can't find anything in this place.
3. A load of rubbish!
4. Just understand this - I have to shop.
5. But what about Corrie & Top Gear?
6. Hey, my tooth just fell out.
7. How can I relax without my laptop?
8. Look - Now my leg's dropped off.
9. Oh no - I've got cow muck on my ball gown.
10. How can you be cold when I am so hot?
11. I just told you - my dog has manic depression.
12. I don't believe it - I've forgotten my ... & my...
13. it's all gone dark - or have just died?



**FOEL ORTHO**  
*a unique and magical adventure*

Even as we speak, help is on h&....

## 1. YOU ARE HERE:

Address of this house - Foel Ortho, Penybontfawr, near Oswesty, Salop, SY10 0HU. Situated 15 miles from the English border, in the northern tip of Powys, (once Montgomeryshire) it is just ten minutes from Lake Vyrnwy, twenty minutes from Llanrhaeadr waterfall & just over an hour from Snowdonia & the coast.

Nearest petrol station is at Lake Vyrnwy (see maps).

The Wi-Fi code for the Farmhouse is stuck up by the kitchen in the "kiosk". In the other buildings & garden you don't need a code. The Wi-Fi is good, but very expensive 4G & not finite. So please use it fairly.

The meaning of Foel Ortho? Foel is an exposed shoulder of rock/mountain, but as to 'Ortho' a trio of Welsh professors could not agree on this in a recent radio discussion (one suggested a fortification, since it lies at the head of this valley & would have been good for keeping an eye out for those pesky Romans).

## 2. FINDING THINGS

In the Farmhouse it is a good idea to use the "kiosk" in the dining room to keep your small items (like keys, cameras & iPod) that are easy to lose in a big house like Foel Ortho.

FARMHOUSE KEYS - the back door into the garden has a key, but the garden room (looking out on to the front terrace) just has a bolt.

## 3. TALKING OF RUBBISH & RECYCLING

### (a) BURNABLE RUBBISH

Greasy chip paper or other paper unsuitable for recycling can be used to start the log fires, when laying them or at any time.

NB. Put nappies on the fire when it is going really well. Do not worry, it's outside vented, so no smell!). It saves them going into the dreaded landfill (one at a time though - it will not deal with a whole pile of gungy nappies at the end of your stay!). Alternatively, if you cannot bear the thought, park them in the black bin in the garage for incineration. (Also, the council will not take Tetrapaks so please put them in the black bin in the garage – thanks). Please regard the big log fire in the lounge as an incinerator – as long as you get it going well.

See notice nearby – "Taming the Dragon".

(b) RECYCLING BINS IN FARMHOUSE GARAGE – NB the council only collect black bags every 3 weeks, which is why we are so keen to avoid unnecessary filling of black bags.

Please use the bins in the back porch – just collect your recycling items in them & bring them down to the garage; open all the blue cupboards with green knobs (there is a light in there too), & all is revealed. Either put items in the boxes or take your bags out with you to recycle while you are out. If you have room in the car, please feel free to take anything you can cope with back home.

Please make sure all recycling & rubbish is put in the garage by Wednesday afternoon so that it can be taken up to the roadside collection, which is early Thursday a.m.

#### (c) LOCAL RECYCLING

Penybontfawr car park - paper - sometimes glass.

Llanrhaeadr – paper, clothes & cardboard.

Oswestry – paper, cardboard, Tetra-packs, glass, metal, tins, landfill & much more.

Welshpool – Potters Yard – absolutely anything you could think of!

## 4. SHOPPING (GO GREEN- SHOP LOCAL & MEET THE LOCALS!)

Nearest villages & towns are:-

**Llanfyllin** – 8 miles. Biggish Spar, Danby's chemist, launderette, doctor's surgery & dental practice, veterinary centre, wishing well gift shop, charity shop, Seeds restaurant (ex Savoy chef - fab), Eagle cafe, fish & chips, butcher, Cain Hotel.

**Penybontfawr** 2 miles - with post office / general stores (tel: 01601-860-280). Delyth is the shop owner & plays Welsh harp too.

Railway Inn - Best to phone to check for reservations. To book a table ring Susan or Ken on 01691 860 447.

**Oswestry** 18 miles. Market Day is Wednesday, Friday & Saturday. Boots, W.H. Smith, New Look, Dorothy Perkins & several charity shops etc. There are delightful individual shops like Honeysuckle (organic co-operative), The Gates (unusual presents), Rainbow's End {ditto}, plus various eateries like Aroma (coffee/cake), Wynnstay Hotel for old-fashioned atmosphere, or Gillam's or Pickles (informal cosy eateries).

Lepone's for Italian food!

Opposite the main car park is M & S Just Food. Fishmonger has a lovely stall in the indoor market.

The market is on the Bailey Head - park the car in the main car park, walk through Boots & you are nearly there. If you do go on a Wednesday, best plan is get there reasonably early to get a parking space; otherwise, you have to cruise around until you find one.

**Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant** (home of the famous waterfall) – 6 miles. Dave Keegan is the best butcher around for miles, (you cannot miss him - he is the only one). Spar, A.T.M (st&alone), & general stores just by the bridge (another individual enterprise), &

The Falls Hair & Beauty.

This is the village where the Hugh Grant film "The Englishman who went up a hill & came down a Mountain" was shot.

Great fun was had by all.

**Welshpool** -18 miles - Award winning fish & chips, Boots, M & Co, Tesco, Morrison's, Aldi & Sainsbury's, Royal Oak - great choice – full meals in dining room or coffee / snacks / soup / etc. in casual setting. Canal-side walks / canal trips. 3 miles beyond Welshpool is

Coed y Brenin, huge country store selling everything from wellingtons to clothes & kitchenware & a busy restaurant & garden centre.

A cautionary comment on Supermarkets. They are extremely useful but they are methodically killing off every British town centre!

NB. If you simply cannot exist without them, ASDA will deliver to Foel Ortho & in Oswestry we have Aldi, Lidl, Morrison's, Sainsbury's & M & S Just Food.

## **5. TO BE OR NOT TO BE? FREE RANGE OR BATTERY?**

Brace yourself, grit your teeth & breathe in - there is no television here! Knowing that you are here for a holiday, with friends & family we thought you might like to take the unprecedented step of talking to each other! This you could do over a beer or a glass of wine, around the log stove or at the long dining table or the card table. There is a stack of cards & board games waiting for you in the old oak chest of drawers in the lounge. If you begin to suffer from screen withdrawal symptoms, there is a DVD room - aka Hillside Room (try finding it) with a few films for kids & adults.

## **6. DENTIST**

Located in Llanfyllin Medical Centre, or a good private practice in the next village, Llanrhaeadr.

## **7. LAPTOP LIFE**

The Wi-Fi code for the Farmhouse is stuck up by the kitchen in the "kiosk". In the other buildings & garden you don't need a code (in the Bunkhouse, you may need to turn the modem off & on again on arrival). The Wi-Fi is good, but very expensive 4G & not finite. So please use it fairly (definition of fairly is covered on Q & As on website – although we would never want you to miss something really important such as the Welsh Rugby team winning the 6 Nations competition!). Perhaps give it a break if you can, you're supposed to be on holiday. Talk to somebody, face to face!?

## **8. FIRST AID - In Farmhouse Buttery, left h& cupboard.**

Emergency details are displayed in the back porch. DOCTOR – Llanfyllin practice 01691 648 054. Getting there – go to Penybontfawr, turn right, past shop & everything, uphill & keep to the right, (don't turn left, signed Oswestry). In 8 miles you reach Llanfyllin. Look out for the car park on your left just past the Spar, it's free, & at the far end you will see a somewhat futuristic building – that's our local surgery.

## **9. LAUNDRY**

In the Farmhouse Buttery (down five steps from the Cruck Hall, there's a washing machine. Please note - water is so soft that you only need about a dessert spoon of powder.

There is a tumble dryer, but even better is to make use of the airing rack (the "Sheila maid"). Make use of the clothes hangers for large quantities of washing, to save space & also for faster drying time. Remember to put scrunched-up newspaper in armholes to allow warm air to circulate in the last-to-dry bits. There is also the spin dryer, which has a faster spin than that on the washing machine. There is a Launderette in Llanfyllin, on the left as you enter the town "SUDS R US".

## **10. FEELING HOT, HOT, HOT? (OR FREEZING, MAYBE)**

Please take control of your own temperatures. The thermostat for the central heating is in hall by the piano & the control panel is in the Buttery by the coat rail. The radiators also have separate controls, as do the under-plinth heaters in the kitchen.

Make use of optional curtains in lounge. If you want to conserve warmth, keep doors shut at all times, e.g. the five dining room doors! The log fires in kitchen & lounge are easy to light & maintain but don't leave them unattended if they're open. Help yourself to logs from the covered log stores facing the farm track.

Please deter the children (or adult pyromaniacs) from burning all the kindling wood. You'll need it.

## **11. DOGS**

If you have brought your dog (by prior arrangement), please check:

- a) He / she has his / her own bed or cage,
- b) Does not lie on bedding or furniture
- c) is under control (in or out doors) at all times.
- d) Please collect all dog poo. The log stove can cope, or put it in the black bin in the garage for incineration.
- e) Please note that local farmers have the right to shoot any dogs left running around unsupervised.
- f) We prefer your dog to be covered by pet insurance.
- g) Nearest vet is Llanfyllin – 8 miles.

## **12. FORGOTTEN TO BRING?**

Shaving kit / toothbrush / paste / soap / portable barbecue / scaffolder's knee wrench / the children / your spouse?

Please ask us - we may be able to help.....

## **13. LIGHTS OR POWER GONE OFF?**

A switch may have tripped. The consumer units are housed in a cupboard above the internal window in the Garden Room.

Take a step-ladder from the Buttery & lift the lid of the cupboard, propping it up with the piece of wood that is there for that purpose.

Check which of the switches have tripped downwards & push them up. If there's still a problem ask Ed!

## 14. EXTRA LINKS:

### Railway Inn, Penybontfawr

Map Location to front door: <https://map.what3words.com/c&les.suspended.spike>

### Lake Vyrnwy Hotel Tavern Bar

Map Location of bar entrance: <https://map.what3words.com/good.collected.paid>

### Pistyll Rhaeadr Waterfall

Wales' highest waterfall & one of the Seven Wonders of Wales. An enchanting natural temple nestling in the Berwyn Mountains in Wales - with cafe & B&B. Map Location to waterfall car park: <https://map.what3words.com/verb.goal.fewer> Waterfall Website: [www.pistyllrhaeadr.co.uk/](http://www.pistyllrhaeadr.co.uk/) Cadair Berwyn Walk (walk from waterfall) Map Location of summit of Cadair Berwyn <https://map.what3words.com/exit.emotional.blackbird> Cadair Berwyn 5 mile walk (8 km) Climb to the highest point in the Berwyn range on this challenging walk in North East Wales. The walk starts from Pistyll Rhaeadr Waterfall. 832 m (2,730 ft.) summit of Cadair Berwyn. Google: 'Foel Ortho Youtube Playlist' for videos of routes.

### Rhiwargor Waterfall Walking Route

Visit these beautiful falls near Lake Vyrnwy on this short walk Map location to the entrance of the car park from the lakeside road: <https://map.what3words.com/civil.bridge.joystick> Map Location of the falls: <https://map.what3words.com/chestnuts.hungry.bliss> Google: 'Foel Ortho Youtube Playlist' for videos of routes.

Please let us know if you think of other items that could usefully be added to this list.

Many Thanks – please come again soon, Ed & Jenny xxx

For help on the above please see: <http://www.farmhouseinwales.com/>

## **In an emergency:**

Please contact Ed & Jenny in the flat or Will Matthews on 077 88 24 40 30 or [wocm@radley.org.uk](mailto:wocm@radley.org.uk)

