

THE NITTY – GRITTY.

THERE YOU ARE...

Check-in is at 4pm and check-out is at 10am except by agreement. Thank-you.

Depot rd, Cwmavon, SA12 9DF. Easily reached from junctions 40 and 41 of the M4.

From junction 40 (heading west) take the third exit on the roundabout under the motorway. After 200m take the first exit on the mini roundabout. After a few miles at the first set of traffic lights turn very sharp left and down the hill. Turn right at the T junction. Keep going straight and pass the Afan Tavern on your left. Follow the road round to the left and at the junction turn right. We are located 50m up on the l.h.s. opposite the car wash and between Lodge Cycles and the library.

From junction 41 (heading east) take the slip road and continue straight. Take the first exit at the roundabout. After 100m turn left to Cwmavon. Keep going a few miles into the village. The road swings right then left at 'Oakwood Inn'. We are located 400m up on the l.h.s. opposite the car wash and between Lodge Cycles and the library.

A HELPING HAND...

Please contact Helen, our wonderful cleaner 077796 797659 / 01656 733381. John, in emergencies only, (07870853497) down the road, at Tidy Tyres is a top bloke and keeps an eye on 'depot rd' for us, should you be in difficulty, he is always ready to help. There is a food van here, great value for calorie laden snacks. There is also one over the road at the Car wash, but John is such a great guy I'd recommend you to go there and say HI. All emergency numbers and trade contact numbers are listed below.

NOT JUST BLAH BLAH BLAH...

Although it may appear quite boring please read the blurb below as it outlines how everything works here and should help to make your time here as stress-free and enjoyable as possible. Please forward this to all members of your group. Thanks.

Above all we want you to have a brilliant stay, to come back again and recommend us to friends, family and colleagues.

There is usually a copy of all this information in 'depot rd' for reference.

...keep going.....you will find this useful...honestly...keep going.....

ENTER HERE...

You can park on the road outside 'depot rd'. The off-road parking is on the gravel areas and the bike and equipment store is at the end of the gravelled driveway. The front door is approached up a small ramp. You will have your unique 4-digit entry code already. The keypad entry is to the left of the door. The same code also opens the equipment/bike store. This door may need a push in to release the lock after the code is tapped in. If you find the door shuts on you the light switch is on the left internally, as is the internal latch. **YOU CAN'T GET LOCKED IN SO DONT WORRY, BUT IT IS VERY DARK!**

All the room keys will operate the deadlocks should you wish for extra security. The latches stay in the open position for about 15 seconds and they will not latch securely until after this time. All the room keys will also operate the rear courtyard gate padlock. The bike wash area has an outside tap, the hose is found in the bike/equipment store. Please put it back afterwards so it doesn't get nicked! mucky stuff... Please put all your rubbish from the outset into black bin liners, tie tightly and leave in the bike store. Helen will organise the removal of these at the end of your stay. Un-bagged rubbish in bins is unpleasant to deal with.

The drying room with the laundry leads off the foyer as does the toilet which also has a fridge/freezer (the mops are here and a bucket is under the sink).

We have put a lot of thought and effort into providing a drying room and it WILL dry your kit overnight if you do the following: -

Please get rid of as much mud as possible outside. If your kit is muddy, wash off in one of the deep sinks, thoroughly, then put directly into the spinner and spin for 4 minutes. Then hang up on the racks over the radiators. Please check the blue plastic grid is on top of your clothes before spinning and hold the machine until it is up to speed as it can walk across the floor to begin with. There are two large thermostatically controlled radiators under the racks normally set to level 2 on the Radiator valve. Turn these up to 4-5 if your stuff is wet and there's lots of you. The extractor fan comes on with the light but is also humidity controlled at all times. Please feel free to use the deodorizer provided if the room gets a bit 'ripe' or open the window while you are out. Don't put wet or muddy things into the tumble dryer. The tumble dryer (for laundered clothes only) is not really necessary unless you need to dry things quicker than overnight. Henry Hoover and a soft broom also live in the drying room. Laminated instruction leaflets are here for all the appliances. (Please keep them here for future guests).

LOCKED UP TIGHT...

Your room keys only operate your own room lock but they all work the deadlocks on the front door and cycle store AND THE REAR GATE PADLOCK. Please remember (maybe store it on your phone) your unique entry code for the main door and cycle store. This changes at the beginning and end of each rental for everyone's ongoing security and the safety of your belongings and valuable kit. When you enter the foyer your room keys will be hanging on the unit in front of you. Yellow is room 1, orange is room 2 and red is room 3. Please look after them and replace your keys here when you leave. Any losses must be reported immediately and due to the extortionate cost of these locks and for key replacements, these are chargeable. There is a latch to keep the front door open whilst bringing in your things. Please be aware that the door has quite a rapid self closer to hopefully make sure the door latches as the building is quite airtight. Please check though that the door to the store room and the front door are fully closed and latched every time.

....nearly there...

EAT DRINK AND RELAX...

The post-office look up address (ie. for supermarket deliveries) to **depot rd** is **RAW SPACE 1, NEW METHODIST CHURCH, DEPOT RD, CWMAVON, SA129DF**

We now have a new super-fast (Welsh superfast) fibre broadband with masses of p.p.p.power for all your gadgetry needs.

The main room - - the kitchen and living areas. Most appliances are self-explanatory and laminated instruction manuals are in the drawer under the oven. There is a dustbin for general rubbish and additional recycling bins. Food waste goes in the bin on the work top with the stainless steel lid. Please follow the recycling guide-lines at the end of the Nitty-Gritty. The dishwasher operates best on the all-in-one setting with the all-in-one tablets provided -

normally in the sink cupboard but please replace these like for like if they run out during your stay. 4 sets of sliding doors open onto the inner courtyard which has an AstroTurf lawn. There should be plenty of seating outside on the benches in the back courtyard. A large gas BBQ is in this courtyard, which gets the evening sun. The gas bottle is kept in the r.h.s. cupboard. Please keep the BBQ cover safe and keep it on when cooled down and not in use. There is a spare Gas cylinder usually in the bike store. Let us know if you change it over for a replacement **Please make sure BBQ is well cleaned if you use it – thanks!**

There is a good Co-op which is open 7am till 10pm daily (just turn left from 'depot rd' and left again, two roads up, a 4min walk).

There's a Tesco as you enter Port Talbot (5 min drive). The best supermarket is probably Morrison in Baglan (only 10 min drive) and there are Aldi and Lidl here too. You can access on-line shopping and have everything delivered.

There is an indoor market in Swansea (great for cockles and laverbread!) Howells in Swansea is an excellent butcher. Welsh aged beef is fabulous as is the local salt-marsh lamb. The area also has excellent fish and a wide selection seafood to enjoy. If you find any good food shops please let us know. We are constantly on the lookout for excellent local suppliers. There is a full range of professional knives and an excellent range of pots, pans and cooking equipment in the drawers or on the shelf unit. There is plenty of storage space here for all your supplies and goodies. All the cutlery and other cooking gadgets, chopping boards, spoons, spatulas, presses, oven mitts, tea towels etc etc are in the other drawers under the hob. There is normally a selection of herbs, spices, teas, coffee, sugar etc in the bottom drawers under the cooker. Again please leave bits and bobs for the next guest as you use or add to them. Local supermarkets can supply good Nespresso coffee pods, or please bring your own favourites for the machine provided.

There is also a Bluetooth stereo and a dvd player... Please keep the remotes on the hi-fi rack safely to avoid frustrating searches. There is a USB plug on the rear r.h.s. of the TV for cameras, go-pro etc. Laminated instructions for the DVD and TV should be under the TV. (Please keep them here for everyone's convenience)

FIND SOMETHING NEW...

We have supplied walking and mountain biking info-books/maps, OS Landranger and Active Explorer maps of the area and laminated route maps for the Afan mtb trails. These are on the unit under the hi-fi. Please look after them and put them back here for the next group. Please only take the weatherproof (active explorer) maps out. If you know of any good publications, please let us know and we'll try to get them in for future guests or your return visit. Paperback novels are in bedroom 3 and can be taken away with you but please leave one in return if possible.

***...really nearly there...* DON'T FANCY COOKING...**

Good pub food and beers can be found at the Afan Tavern in Cwmavon (2 minutes on foot, turn right out of 'depot rd' then fork first left and bear to the right. The pub is on your right after 200m). The village also has a very good fish and chip shop by the Co-op. The Pizza Gatti, Indian and Chinese take-always have all had decent feedback (some only take cash). There is a cash-point at the Co-Op. Menus for take-aways can normally be found in the small desk. If they have disappeared, please pop any that you get in here. There are usually other 'things-to-do' leaflets in here too. Again please leave behind for the next guests.

SAFE AS HOUSES...

The security has been taken very seriously but this has led to slightly quirky sliding doors. The thumb-turn will unlock the door when the handle points upwards. The handles turn to horizontal to unlatch the door and then they pull sideways. Please remember when shutting the doors that the handles must be horizontal to slide, the handle needs to be vertical to latch, and may need a bit of a gentle push, then the thumb turn can be turned to lock. There are night vents on the sills so that you can lock the doors when slightly open. Turn the handle to fully vertical and use the thumb-turn to lock. Once you have the hang of them they are really very easy to work and mean no flapping doors when open and excellent security at all times.

TOASTY...

The underfloor heating is timed on individual zone thermostats. It is on all the time during your stay. We find that 15-20 degrees (seasonally) is the most comfortable as when the floors are warm heat stays in the floor/building for a long time. There are thermostats in each of the bedrooms, the main room, foyer and drying room but please adjust with caution (+or-2 degrees only) as it takes some time for changes to register. The radiators in the drying room and the towel rails are left at level 2-3, which is usually excellent but the TRV's can be adjusted to suit your needs and the weather.

THE INVICTA TEEPEE STOVE in the main room burns very efficiently and kicks out quite a lot of heat. There is an airflow lever underneath on the right. This should be pulled forward to light the fire and as soon as its going pushed backwards to suit. When opening the door please pull the lever forwards first to avoid smoke getting in to the room. Please use the supplied glove and tong-like device to avoid burning yourself when touching any part of the fire. Please operate it with the doors closed. There are logs in the back yard for your use. Logs go in the dustbin by the fire and kindling etc in the bucket. The first dustbin-full is free with further dustbins on an 'honesty dustbin' basis at £10 each (Wales is very expensive for quality hardwood). Let us know at the end of your stay. Extra kindling and firefighters should you need them are widely available locally.

The towel rails are adjustable on thermostatic valves. We have found level 2-3 good, but turn up or down to suit yourselves. The light over the mirror is operated from the switch outside the bathroom door. The fans are humidity controlled at all times. The pull switch in the bathroom turns on the main light and kicks in the fan manually as well. The temperature is preset for hot water. Oxygenic's shower heads give a fabulous shower. Just a side-note to please not put drinks on the table-football or air-hockey tables.

There is no smoking inside 'depot rd'.

...really, truly, nearly there...

WET NOSES...

We like dogs and the local area has great walking all around. The number of dogs we allow is limited, depending on breed, so please ask when booking. Although we love dogs, we appreciate that not every guest here shares that joy. Please be sensitive to their wishes too. We DO NOT allow them in the bedrooms for the benefit of future guests and please clean up thoroughly after them in the courtyards and out in the countryside. There are dog blankets and towels in the basket on the foyer fridge/freezer. Please bring your own bowls. Please be aware that the slower self-closing doors can sometimes trap or let dogs out if they shoot through at the last moment. Please use the dog blankets on the sofas and make sure your dogs are in a reasonable state before letting them in to the building and especially the main room. Most of the Gower beaches are dog-friendly - please look on the 'enjoygower' web page.

ALL EARS...

We have tried to create the perfect place for you to stay but should you have any suggestions please let us know what might improve your time here. Likewise, if you find anything broken, or break anything yourselves, please tell us and we will try to get it replaced or repaired at lightning speed. Many thanks for reading this and have a fabulous time at 'depot rd'. We hope you will recommend it to your friends and family and come back many times to experience all that this area has to offer. Please leave comments and recommend us to friends on Facebook (like us), Trip Advisor reviews are also important and useful for us and please leave your comments in the Visitors Book. We try to update our Facebook page with details when possible. All of your feedback is much appreciated. We have put a range of activities and providers, for all ages and abilities, on our website to help you make the most of your time here. Please let us know any good ones we may have missed so we can add them. Also if you have a bad experience anywhere, let us know and we will investigate. Please, strip the beds and leave all used bedding, towels, tea towel, dog blankets etc in the foyer (or laundry room) at the end of your stay. It really helps with getting the place ready for the next group. If you require additional cleaning during your stay, we can arrange this very reasonably. Helen and her team are fab and do a brilliant job really quickly. Just ask us to arrange this before your stay. Thank-you.

...aren't we there yet...?!!!

JUST IN CASE... CONTACT NUMBERS

Ewan Shearer (owner). 07974437885

General and Cleaning "Helen/Rod" 077796 797659/07864503985 - 01656 733381

Hospitals. Minor 01639 862000 Neath Port Talbot hospital Major 01656 752752 prince of Wales hospital Bridgend

Welsh Water (drains). 0800 0520130

Chemists. Cwmavon Adrian D Richards. 01639 896215 Boots, Aberavon Shopping Centre, 01639 883809

Taxis. Paul's Taxis. 01639 898989 6 seater cabs - Cardys Cabs 01639 899661

Vet. Afon Vet. 01639 883834 Council." 01639 686868

Bus and Train - Travel Line Cymru. 0871 2002233

Plumbers - Tony 07929428915

Electrician - Robert 07528004076

General and Garden - Gareth 07974351629

follow the 'links' page on our website for all the great local activities in the area.

RECOMMENDED GOOD VALUE - LOCAL...ish EATERIES

**Our no.1 - The Kitchen Table - great breakfasts, juices and meals, brilliant vegie options
626 Mumbles Road Swansea SA3 4EA www.thekitchentablemumbles.wordpress.com
01792 367616**

The Afan Tavern – Our local pub serves excellent food and two-minute walk. Tel. 01639898283
Vietnam - Vietnamese food 36 Uplands Crescent Swansea SA20PG 01792 650929
Pelican in her Piety - excellent pub and the surrounding area worth a visit Ogmoor Village
Bridgend CF32 0QP www.thepelicanpub.co.uk 01656 880049
The Market Place - good pub food, some fun events too Cowbridge CF71 7AH
www.themarketplace.co.uk 01446 774800

OR - a bit posher!!!!

**Our no.1 - The Beach House, Oxwich Bay, Gower Peninsula. Tel: 01792 390965
www.beachhouseoxwich.co.uk**

The Felin Fach Griffin, Felin Fach, Brecon, LD3 0UB Tel: 01874 620 111
enquiries@felinfachgriffin.co.uk
The Bell at Skenfrith Tel: 01600 750235
The Crown, Whitebrook, Monmouthshire. NP25 4TX Tel: 01600 860254 Email:
info@crownatwhitebrook.co.uk Y Polyn, Nantgaredig, Carmarthenshire. SA32 7LH 01267
290000
The White Swan, Llanfrynach, Brecon, Powys. LD3 7BZ Telephone: 01874 665276
Gwesty Cymru, 19 Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 2AZ Tel: + 44 (0) 1970
612252"" email: info@gwestycymru.co.uk

Any good ones that you discover, please let us know!

And YUM!

There's a little taste of Wales with compliments from depot rd

They are

Welsh cakes, Award winning Jam & Tomos Watkin lager, ale and cider.

You will find the drinks chilled in the foyer fridge, your first drink is on the house, after that can you please leave the correct money on the main table at the end of your stay, so they can be replaced.

beers/cider £3 Cokes £1

at last!!!!!!.....we're there!!!

PLEASE ENJOY YOUR STAY AT DEPOT RD!

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THANK-YOU

IMPORTANT NOTE!

RECYCLING POLICY IN WALES FROM 2017

All rubbish must now be separated at source (this means you) our lovely guests. Bins and bags are provided in the kitchen, so please ensure that the following are kept separated and as follows...

FOOD WASTE - Please use the biodegradable bags and the stainless steel bin in the worktop. When full please tie up and **leave in the black bins** with the general waste. This is most important, as if mixed in, someone has to sort through it - YUK!! - an unpleasant task and it will be charged for! Thank-you.....then separate as follows.....

GLASS

CANS

RECYCLABLE PLASTIC

CARDBOARD/PAPER

Everything else please put in a black bin-liner in the zinc dustbin

Please leave the BBQ as you would like to (and hopefully did) find it

if it wasn't clean please let us know immediately-07974437885

We charge min.£25 for cleaning if left in a mess - once again this is an unpleasant task.

Please let us know of any breakages, so that we can replace them for the next group of guests.

£2 should cover most individual items.

Please leave the money behind when you leave, with a note on what was broken, or contact Ewan on 07974437885

Many thanks

and we **really** hope that you

HAVE A GREAT TIME!