

2 Givron Cottages, Weythel, Old Radnor, Presteigne, Powys LD8 2RR

Cottage phone number 01544 370221

Information for visitors

Last changed March 2024

Directions See [area maps](#).

To check on availability, see [cottage dates](#)

Rent £30 per night, plus 30p per unit of electricity and contribution to firewood if used. Please pay by cash to T Locke, 73 Paddock Lane, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1TW. Or email me to pay online by BACS and I will send you the bank account details.

Please bring your own

- pillowcases
- sheets (there are three 30-inch wide single beds and a 60-inch wide king double bed)
- duvet covers (lots of single duvets, plus one standard double duvet in the cottage)
- towels
- tea towels

On arrival

- You can drive up the hill (right-hand track in the first photo; the cottage is just in view at the top) to the garden gate to unload but then please park just inside the farm gate avoiding blocking the left-hand track. Also avoid the central (surfaced) parking space which is used by the owner of 1 Givron Cottages.



- Close the gate at the top of the track. Go past No. 1 Givron Cottages (note our neighbour's garden, unfenced, lies to the left; please respect her privacy).



- LOOK FOR THE LAST DOOR (the blue one, for No. 2), by the wooden shed (not the first door, which is 1 Givron Cottages).
- There is a key box, opened by a combination number which we will give you if we haven't already lent you a key. Other keys (to the garden room and shed) hang on a hook in the kitchen.

- Electricity switches on by the switch on the meter box 'Legrand') high up on inside the back door. In kept on, to allow the and fanheater in the come on during cold The switch for the fan heaters are just below and are labelled.



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- Water (switched off only winter) turns on in the under the sink (for the house) and in the the kitchen to the left of the sink (specifically for bathroom, clearly labelled). If water is turned off when you arrive, **please make sure the bathroom water heater fills up with cold water** before you turn on the electric heater, as otherwise the element may burn out.

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Banks There's an ATM in the post office and the Co-op supermarket in Kington, and ATMs at banks in Hay and Knighton.

Bedding Duvets, pillows and blankets on beds upstairs; there are half a dozen single duvets and one double duvet. In all there are three single beds and one double bed upstairs. There are spare mattresses upstairs too. Additionally the couch in the garden room is a comfortable single.

DIY/decorating tools/etc Screwdriver, pliers, screws, paint, brushes, white spirit, decorating clothes etc in tool store; wood sawing stuff in the shed. Miscellaneous string, sellotape, scissors etc in left-hand dresser drawer in sitting room.

Filling station and garage The filling station in Kington (turn off for Kington at the roundabout opposite the A44 to Leominster) is open seven days a week. Just behind it, in the yard, is the Ian Jones garage (0845 600 3291), which does repairs, tyres, MOTs, services etc.

First aid Plasters etc in plastic jar under kitchen sink.

Games/entertainment Scrabble and other games kept in wooden chest in sitting room (Pictionary and a stack of games in the cupboard under the stairs). Pens in left-hand dresser drawer. There's also a small radio that migrates between rooms.

Garden Weed growth may need clearing. The sickle and hedge hook are in the shed, and there's an electric strimmer hanging up on the left inside the tool cupboard, with the battery kept on top of the shelf in the lobby (we also have a petrol strimmer but only use that by prior consultation with Anne or Tim). We sometimes get a man called Gareth to strim the garden. Next door's geese sometimes come in and eat the vegetation (which is useful); close No 1 Givron Cottage's garden gate if you want to keep them out of our garden. Otherwise leave debris in heap at the far end of the garden for bonfire later. The garden has plenty of space for the reclining garden chairs, which are kept in the storage unit in the garden.

Hair dryer In the chest of drawers in the large bedroom.

Heating As well as the fire, there are fan heaters, two oil-filled radiators (with timers and thermostats) and an electric convector heater (with thermostat).

Internet access Excellent high-speed broadband available in the cottage (access code for wireless connection: see bottom of router). There is no charge for use. No code for wired connection: just plug the grey cable (kept in the bottom drawer of the desk) into your computer and proceed.

Iron (electric) in cupboard high up on wall to left of woodburning stove.

Kitchen

- Feel free to use stocks of tea, sugar, oil, herbs, washing-up liquid etc but please replace anything you finish.
- Electric frying pan (with a heavy glass lid) is very versatile (there are two metal plates - one for grilling, one for frying; no need to use both together as it then cooks very slowly!). The boiling ring works quite fast.
- The oven has facilities for microwaving, conventional oven, grilling and dual (microwave and conventional or microwave and grill). **Please read instructions before using.** If you doing anything other than simple microwaving, you must use the metal tray (kept on the shelves at end of the kitchen, top left). Note that metal objects should not be used if you are microwaving or cooking on the dual facility - that is, except for the circular wire rack (for dual use, not microwave) kept on same shelf.
- The induction hob is turned on by the central 'on' switch, then you select the flame OR the temperature motif on the hob you want to use (they both heat up very quickly; all our pans work on this device - the left hob heats up to a higher temperature; it may be easier to change the temperature by selecting 'power'). When it is cooling down it beeps for a short while.
- **Instructions**, including our own 'Givron quick start guide' for oven, hot plate and electric frying pan, are hanging up from the cupboard above the hot plate. Please check you have



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switched off all cooking appliances at night.

- Washing up: use grey bowl for washing up - the blue one is for washing hands and face.
- Peelings can be kept in blue colander on small orange bucket and disposed of anywhere near the privy at the end of the garden.

Laundry Washing liquid in bucket under sink. Spin drier in store room (plug in by sink). Pegs in lobby. If the lid gets stuck, press the catch sideways with a spoon handle!

Loos One in bathroom (conventional flush loo). There is also a chemical loo (in the privy at the end of the garden), which can be useful if you have a large party but is very rarely used. This is left ready to use; *do not add any more liquid.*; for emptying, see departure checklist). There are also potties under the beds.

Medical emergencies Minor injuries unit in Leominster and Llandrindod Wells. A&E in Hereford.

Pets Are welcome if well behaved. Please keep dogs on a lead when crossing farmland, as there are sheep and cattle about; on the moors there are game birds. Some pets might be nervous of the geese next door, but most cats and dogs love it at Givron, and many are very reluctant to leave.

Phones Mobile phone signals can be erratic (often best in the garden or in the corner of the garden room, or climb the stile and go up into the field above the cottage). There is a landline phone you can use (01544 370221): no charge for use. It is not possible to make premium-rate calls from this phone.

Phone numbers Anne and Tim Locke 01273 475381 or 07516 524223; Stephen Locke (Tim's brother) 020 8690 1898. Electricity emergency (Swalec) 0800 052 0400; Welsh Water emergency 0800 052 0130. Cottage phone number 01544 370221.

Power cuts After a power cut (much less common than previously but might happen in a strong storm), you may need to re-set the 'on' switch on the electricity meter. Candles in high cupboard to left of fire, and kitchen drawer.

Pubs The best place nearby for a pub meal is the **Harp** at Old Radnor; note that it is closed weekday lunchtimes and all day Monday and Tuesday. A lovely old building overlooking Radnor Forest, with a pubby old bar and a separate dining room. The **Stag** at Titley is very famous and very foodie (and in the Good Food Guide), but more of a restaurant than a real pub. The **Old Tavern** in Kington is a tremendously atmospheric little ale house between the youth hostel and the roundabout of the Presteigne road; this is like stepping into a pub 60 years ago - there aren't many left like this one (note odd opening times). The **Royal Oak** at Gladestry is very pleasant and does standard pub food, while the **New Inn** at Pembridge is in a lovely half-timbered building. The **Roast Ox** at Painscastle has is in a lovely and extremely remote Welsh hamlet; can feel a bit deserted, though.

Rubbish It is probably easiest to take your rubbish with you when you leave. Recycling is collected every week: the colour-coded plastic boxes in the shed can be left on Thursday mornings at the corner by Greystones bungalow (before 8.30am - do not put out the night before because of foxes). General rubbish is collected every third Thursday (see calendar in the blue information file near the desk in the sitting room) and must be in special transparent purple sacks (also kept in the shed). Unless you are here that day, please take your rubbish away with you (use the black sacks in the shed). Small amounts of clean recycling can be left in the plastic boxes. There is a glass recycling bank in the Co-op car park in Kington, and a larger range of recycling bins in the large layby on the bypass in Presteigne.

Sewing Sewing kit in high cupboard to left of fireplace, hand-propelled sewing machine in wooden

box to left of stove.

Shopping Kington, 5 miles away, has a full range of shops (produce market on Friday 9–1pm in Bridge St, afternoon closing on Wednesday), some small supermarkets, a fishmonger/greengrocer, an excellent butcher, a deli and a cash machine at the post office and in the Co-op car park. The Spar mini supermarket is open 7 days a week, 7am to 11pm. There's a large free car park just behind the main street (turn right by the market hall at the first obvious junction in the town centre, then immediately left; ignore the pay and display car park you reach first, as the car park beyond is free; if it's full there's always space in the adjacent overflow car park by the Co-op). The Co-op has the best bread.

Kington has a very cheap, surprisingly large Co-op supermarket, which at first sight just looks like a small shop attached to a Texaco garage but once you are inside it opens out. There is a Morrison supermarket on the A44 near Leominster (18 miles), which has a better range of wines and may be convenient if you want to stock up on the way. There is also an HSBC cash machine.

Presteigne has a butchers, small supermarket, bakers and a few other shops. It's a very pretty place for shopping, and a nice bike ride, though the shops aren't as comprehensive as Kington. The artisan bread stall on Fridays is excellent.

There are several farm shops over the border in Herefordshire; you pass some between Kington and Hereford, and between Kington and Leominster.

Smoking Please don't smoke in the cottage.

Stove

- Three stove tools for carrying the ashpan, opening the door and shaking ash (or riddling) through the grate are kept in ceramic pot to the right of the stove. Please keep these all together.
- It is very important that fuel is as dry as possible. Use the wood kept in the cottage if you can, the wood marked DRY WOOD the shed or under the wood shelter in the garden (dry wood left; new/wet/unseasoned wood on right).
- The stove works similarly to an open fire. There are just two air flow controls, which slide from left (open) to right (closed), one at the bottom under the oval panel and one just above the top of the door.
- Start with both controls in the open position. Have the ashpan underneath empty (ash can go at the end of the garden) but if you are burning wood it does not matter if there is some ash on the grate. Light a fire with four or five sheets of rolled up newspaper and some small pieces of wood on top in a pyramid shape. You can also use a firelighter: break it up into pieces. Keep the door slightly ajar at first (to avoid condensation while the glass warms up) and add further small to medium sized pieces of wood as the fire gets going. Close the door.
- Once the stove starts to get too hot to touch you can close the control at the bottom (by sliding it to the right), though it is not necessary to do this. Feed the fire with medium and larger logs when it is well established, but leave the door open until they start to burn. The top control is for regulating the burning rate: close it if you want a slow burn (e.g. if you are going out



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for an hour or two), have it open for a hotter fire.

- If the fire dies down, you can remove any unburned large pieces of wood (keep them away from the wood pile in case they reignite), use the riddle to shake down some ash and start again. It will light quickly if it is already warm.
- You can add some smokeless fuel to a good hot, red fire (use anthracite or another smokeless brand - Taybrite is the best). This can be difficult to get going, but once it burns it stays in longer than wood. If using mainly solid fuel the grate needs to be clear of ash and the controls set to half open once the fire is established.
- Some blackening of the glass is normal but should mostly burn off when the fire gets hot. You can clean the glass (once cool) with damp newspaper, 'but don't use abrasive pads or cleaner.
- Hissing, smoking and excessive glass blackening are signs of wood that is too damp. This can damage the stove, so take it out immediately and try something else.
- If you spill anything you can clean the stove with a little vegetable oil on kitchen paper. Don't leave the metal wet as it may rust.
- If you use a substantial amount of wood please get us another bag of logs (available from garages at £3.50 to £4) or add the amount to your electricity money. Please leave it in the shed.
- If the seal rope inside the glass window comes loose, re-glue with the special Heatbond glue kept in the dresser drawer.

Supplies We try to keep the cottage stocked up with loo rolls, loo cleaner (Ecover for the flush loo), matches and washing-up liquid but please replace these essentials if you happen to run out. The health food shop has Ecover.

Taxis See Yellow Pages; a local firm is Kington taxis (actually based in Lyonshall, east of Kington) 01544 340584.

Vacuum cleaner is in the lobby with a supply of bags hanging up on the left inside the store area (the old door in the lobby).

Walks There is a complete set of 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 maps for the area, as well as an excellent 1:100,000 cycling map of Herefordshire. We've written some special walks from and near the cottage: these are in the walks file among the information boxes on the bookcase in the sitting room. Please use the map case (hanging up on the bathroom door in the lobby) if you're going for a walk with a map.

Washing There is a shower and basin, with hot water, in the bathroom. Pull the cord by the shower before using the shower itself. The water heater heats up in a few minutes, and stays warm for several hours; turn off at the switch near the electricity meter after use (it doesn't use that much electricity if kept on, but best to switch off at night anyway). There's a spin dryer in the storage area (old door off the lobby), and a launderette in Kington.

Wet weather The cottage wellies range from size 5 to 11 and there are also some old waterproofs in the outhouse. The Midelec drier (to left of sink) is good for drying wet socks etc and for helping heat the kitchen in cold weather.

Wifi The router may need switching on at the plug. The code is 63774481.

Window frames To open the sitting room window you need to push the key in and turn at the same time. Leave it open all the time for ventilation.



Checklist when leaving

In summer or winter

- *Sweep/mop floors downstairs and vacuum upstairs.* Please don't leave rugs on the tiled floor in the sitting room, as they tend to get damp (please take them upstairs).
- *Anti mouse precautions* Mice do sometimes get into the cottage, so it is best to put soap in a closed jar, put wooden spoons on a high shelf, remove crumbs from the bread bin and toaster, close cupboards securely at all times and put any packets of food in one of the kitchen cupboards with mesh. Please do not leave cloths lying around on the draining board and **take home perishable food** such as jam, biscuits and opened packets of cereal.
- **Store all the cutlery** in the special big plastic boxes with sealable lids when you leave. (Otherwise the mice may make a mess over it, leaving the next guest with a gigantic washing up job on arrival!)
- *Keep everything as aired as possible* - leave fridge door, bread bin and spin drier (if used) propped open. **Leave internal doors and sitting room window open to allow air to circulate.**
- *Fireplace* - don't remove all the ashes - these for a 'bed' for the next fire. Leave unlaid with basket of logs and kindling (leave these on the table in the small porch). In summer, turn off the electricity by the switch just inside the kitchen door, to the right.
- *Fridge* - no need to defrost, just turn off, clean and leave open for ventilation.
- Please leave all **internal doors and the internal window** open for air circulation (except the blue door between the sitting room and the back porch) and take any rugs off the downstairs floors to store upstairs.
- Put bedspreads over duvets on the beds.
- *Shut windows (especially the bathroom)*, bolt and lock conservatory, lock porch, bolt blue Gothic sitting room door (don't bother about iron key - it's very stiff), padlock shed and leave keys on hook in kitchen.
- *Rubbish and recycling* Rubbish day is every third Thursday; recycling is every Thursday. See under 'Rubbish' above for information. Take your rubbish back with you unless your stay coincides with when the rubbish van comes.
- Please check your rucksacks, bags and car to make sure you have put back any cottage maps, torches or other items that belong here.
- *Cottage log* - most important of all, please record your visit in the book with the sheep on the cover (usually on table downstairs). It is a great pleasure for us to read what visitors enjoy most about staying here.
- Record the electricity meter reading and put your reading on the sheet hanging by the meter. Leave electricity money (20p/unit) in the money box over the kitchen door or give it to us later. **During March-October, turn off the electricity. In winter keep it switched on (see below)**
- *Bolt the porch and garden doors* and don't forget to return the main door key to the key box, scramble the number and slide the cover over (unless you have a spare key which you are returning to us).

In winter

- Turn off **water** (under sink, and supply to bathroom - lever tap in corner of kitchen) **Drain off the water** from the bathroom tap, outside tap and heater.
- Take the length of **hose** off the outside tap and put it in the shed, as the plastic fittings tend to split if it gets icy.
- Leave **electricity** switched on, together with the frost/fan switch for the bathroom, but please be extra careful to turn everything else off (including the water heater and shower) and pull out the heater plugs (two downstairs and one upstairs) and boiling ring plug.

Have a great stay,
Tim and Anne Locke