

Hafod y Rhedwydd

<http://www.hafodyr.co.uk>

Advice, instructions and hints for guests, Summer 2020.



Welcome! We hope you have a most enjoyable holiday and a unique experience at one of the highest houses in Wales.

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nb: this is the “house” copy, there is a separate copy of the generator instructions on the wall of the shed.

Countryside Code

Please remember the [Countryside Code](#), in particular “Our heritage matters to all of us – be careful not to disturb ruins and historic sites.”

Our long hut ruins are all that is left of the original Hafod yr Edwydd (Edwydd’s house), mentioned in records from 1631 and possibly much older; at some point we plan to tree-ring date the remaining timbers. Much has been lost over the past 40 years but we are trying to preserve what is left, “as is”, since they contribute so much to the sense of peace and history here.

We have just been shocked to see some of our recent guests had built themselves a fire pit, pulling 86 stones from the wall and then burning one of the centuries-old roof timbers on it. Please, we did not put the wood there as firewood, nor intend the wall to be some kind of quarry.



We have also (unbelievably!) seen parents looking-on fondly whilst their children pull stones from the wall and drop them in the stream to make a nice splash.

Unfortunately even the best stone walling enthusiasts cannot recreate a historic wall, merely make a modern facsimile, and there are no longer even any quarries producing this kind of stone.

Please, value and preserve the surroundings so that something is left for future generations.

The generator (see pictures on pages 6–7).

The generator runs on unleaded petrol. The main things to remember are:

- (i) **make absolutely sure you always put the choke off** within a few seconds of starting
- (ii) do not overload it
- (iii) It is essential that the door is kept wide open and the extractor fan running while the generator is in use.

Starting procedure (see pictures on page 6–8):

- Ensure the outhouse door is held open by its magnetic catch (Hold it with a rock too if windy).
- Turn on the fuel tap. It points down when off, to right when on.
- Turn on the ignition switch
- Put the choke on (unless engine is still hot)
- Pull the starting cord (you must pull **horizontally** so the cord is not kinked too much, then it will last more than a week without fraying!) 1. [if you ran it out of fuel, will take 15–20 pulls to start]
- Once it starts, after a couple of seconds move the choke to half off; after another 10–15 seconds or so **put it off completely** (see photo). *(If you don't put it off you will soot up the plug and have to make do with no electricity!)*



(Wall box not currently in use)

Isolator switch (best left on).

Please make sure you shut down the generator and lock up at night, before you go out for the day and when leaving.

Stopping the generator:

- If the generator is very hot (just been boiling kettle etc – engine note will change), allow to run for half a minute or so to cool down.
- Turn off ignition.
- If leaving for long time, turn off fuel tap (downwards).

Refuelling:

Stop the engine; wait a minute for it to cool slightly; take one of the green petrol containers (not any other containers – *probably not petrol!*) and fill the tank using the flexible spout (nb. two types of spout for the different containers) or funnel. Please be careful not to spill fuel. If you are not restarting it immediately, make sure the fuel tap is turned off.

Try to avoid filling it brim-full because then the petrol wets the filler cap and clogs the breather. The generator will run for a few seconds but die when it cannot suck any more from the tank. You can use the syringe to suck the level down 1–2 cm; just put it back in the petrol container.

Please take care not to overload the generator – you must not exceed the generator's rated power output (1500 watts) or it will be damaged.

As a rough guide, electricity usage is as follows:

- All the lights: 400 Watts
- Television and Sky box: 100 Watts
- Refrigerator 65 Watts (but more when starting)
- Small kettle 1000 Watts
- Microwave 1400 Watts
- Toaster: 1000 Watts
- Hair dryer: 1200 Watts (our low power one – *please do not use your own – or hair straighteners – as they are almost certainly too powerful*. If it trips out the generator you may not manage to start it again).
- Vacuum cleaner: 1200 Watts

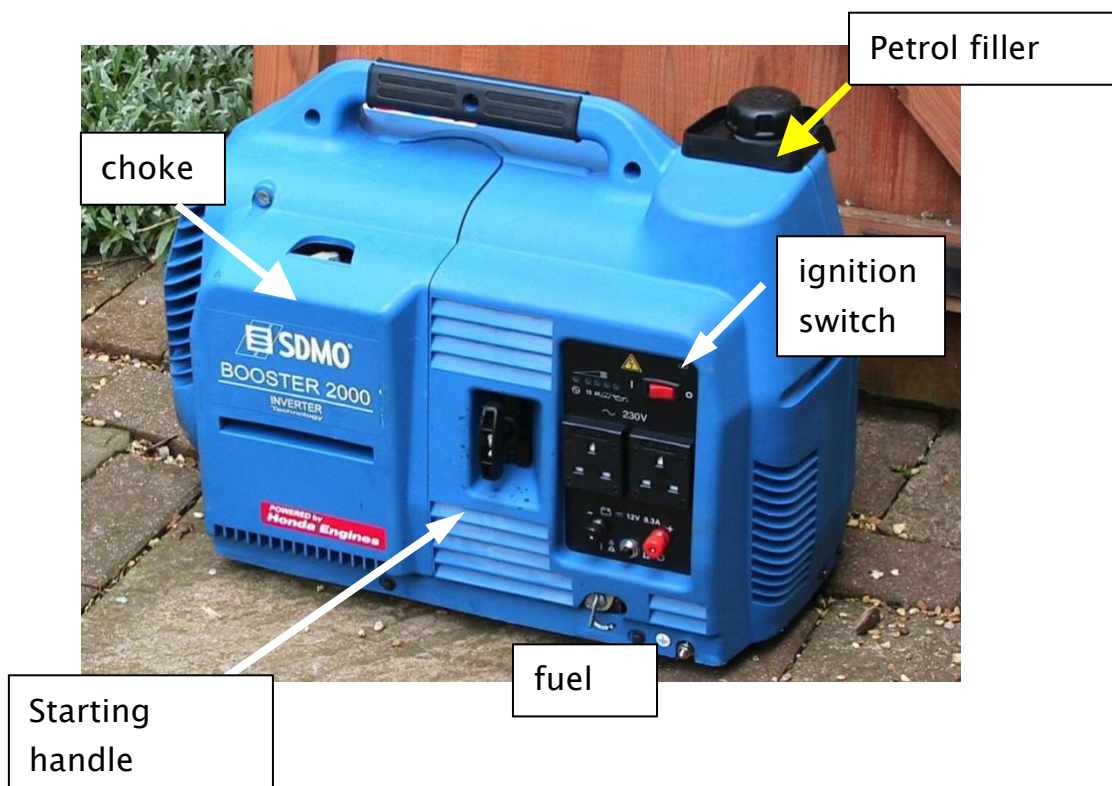
Only one of the last 5 items should be run at a time: if the lights start flashing on and off, turn something off immediately.

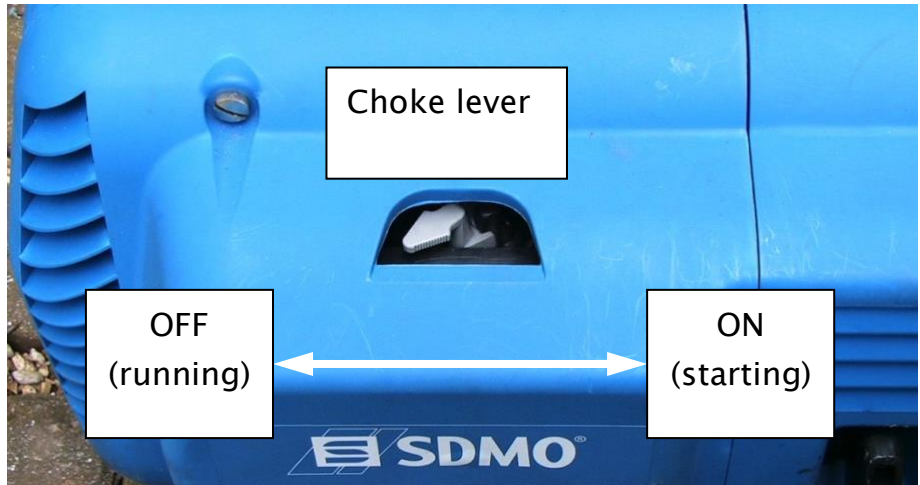
Troubleshooting

Our caretaker will have used the generator shortly before your arrival and ensured it is working properly: you should find it just works. If however you have no electricity:

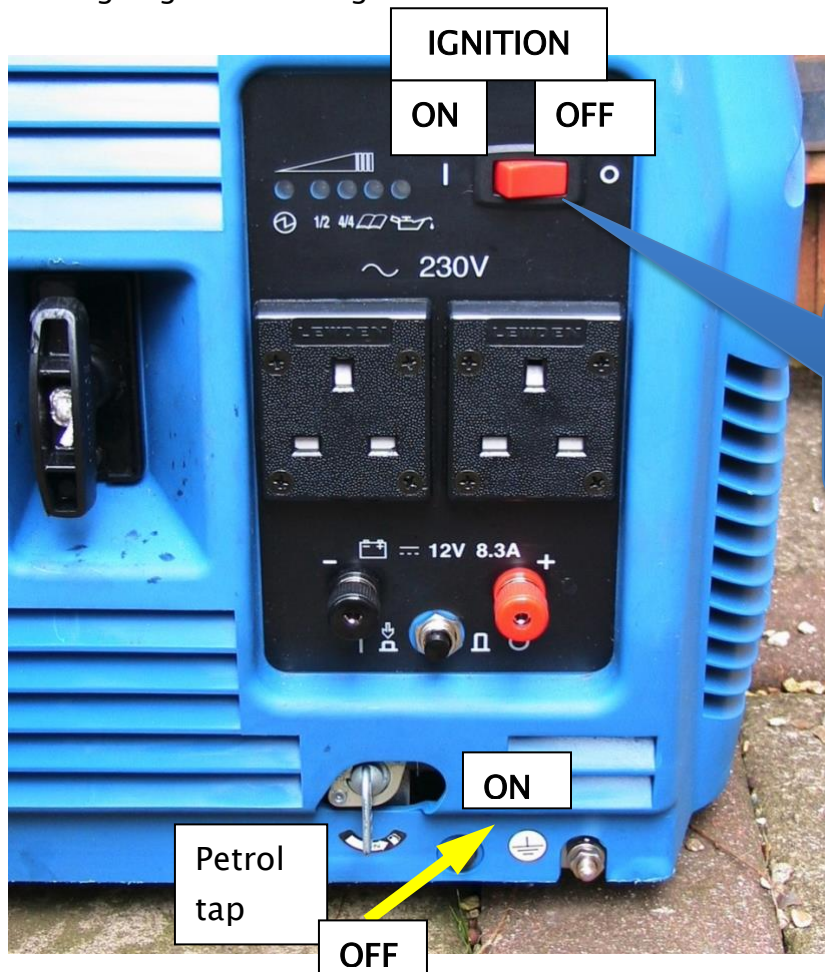
- (i) If the generator starts but makes no electricity:
 - Make sure wall switch is on (and that nothing has tripped in consumer unit – the earth leakage and MCD trips should be upwards)
 - it may have been overloaded. Once the thermal cutout has cooled down after 10–20 minutes it should start generating again. You can test by plugging a table light into the spare socket on the generator.
- (ii) If it will not start:
 - has it run out of fuel?

(iii) if it starts but then dies, it may be over-full with petrol (see above) or getting low on oil (please let us know).





Apart from lighting the sitting room stove the generator is not required for the operation of the stove or the range. Hot water comes from the range and does not require the generator. If you do not want the lights on there is no need to keep it running. Even with no load the generator still uses fuel – we would suggest that you stop it when not required. Please always stop it and lock the outhouse before going to bed at night.



Please don't do this:



Pull it this way

-
- A pull cord should last for 10 years, not 1 week. It takes over an hour of workshop time to strip down the generator and replace a frayed pull-cord - we simply cannot do this every Friday.

Cooking on the Rayburn

The Rayburn burns continuously. The heat from the burner is set by the oil control on the side; please note, however, that it contains 5 cwt of cast iron and can take a considerable time to change temperature. It is designed to operate at a fairly constant temperature – it is not the kind of cooker where you turn it up to bring something to the boil and then turn it down to simmer it a few minutes later. We would suggest that you boil water in the electric kettle first rather than putting vegetables in a large pan of cold water and waiting for it to boil. In mild weather we tend to leave it on 2–3 and then turn it up a while before we want to cook.

Hot water circulates from the range to the airing cupboard where it passes through both the hot water cylinder and heat-loss radiator (in parallel). Please do not adjust the radiator valve (it is carefully set up to stop the range from boiling).

n.b. If turned down below 3 only the inner of the two wicks will be alight – this does not heat the water. You need to keep it on 3 or higher for the water in the airing cupboard cylinder to warm up: this is a gradual process.

Lighting the range

If you turn the range down even slightly below “1” it will go out in a few seconds. The oil control is like a tap – turn it anticlockwise for more oil (max = 6), clockwise for less

- It will also go out if you accidentally knock the lever on the front of the oil control unit. It this springs up, the oil is cut off. (If you put it back down immediately the burner may still have a flame; but if it has gone out, you must not try to relight it with a match as the vapourised oil may blow back). Don't touch it!

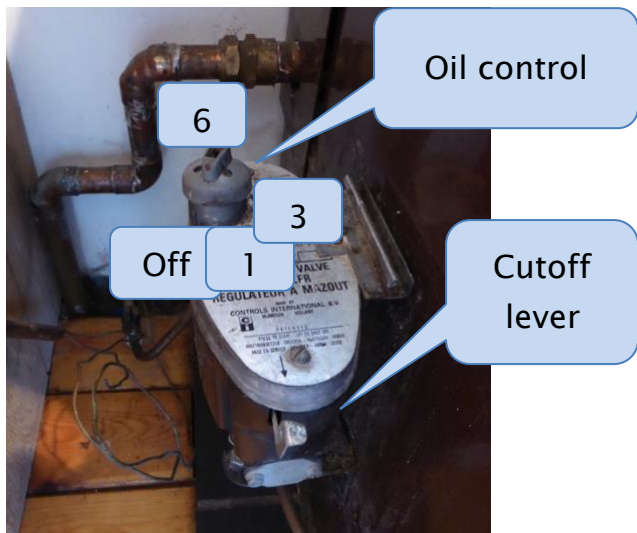
Hopefully you will never need to relight it but if you do:

- Wait for the range to cool down (this will take at least half an hour)
- Turn the oil on “2” and wait 15 minutes or so for the wicks to become thoroughly wet.
- Open the burner door (bottom left) and lift out the inner door (see picture) – should be cool enough to handle.
- Look in and you will see a small port in the burner shell. Lift the little hatch and poke a lighted match through the hole. The wick is just below it, inside the burner shell, and will immediately light if you put the match through slightly diagonally so it touches it. (If not, the wick is still dry – wait a little longer for

oil to soak up it). Close the little hatch by poking it with a knife as it heats up very quickly.

- Replace the inner door (essential, otherwise enamel will be damaged) and close the outer door.
- Leave the range on "2" for at least 1 hour before turning it up higher – it is essential the burner reaches vapourising temperature and does not get too much oil at this stage.

[Please do not fiddle with the lever on the oil control unit or turn off any of the oil stop cocks as it may be impossible for our caretaker to light it again if you leave it with the oil locked off]



Pans

The following should never be used with pans (whether stainless steel or non-stick):

- Any metal implement (only use the silicone/plastic & wooden utensils)

- Brillo pads and scourers (apart from the Tesco “non-stick” scourers supplied)

Hot pans should be stood on the wooden chopping boards, not any other wooden surface (worktop, table, windowsills).

Lighting the oil stove

The Efel oil stove in the sitting room is controlled by an oil control knob to the right of the flue pipe. The numbers on the dial read at the three o'clock position when you stand in front of it. To light the stove, turn the oil onto "2" and immediately hold down the igniter button (with the generator running!) beside the oil control. (nb: the hearth may be sooty: please do not tread in it!).

After 30 seconds or so there will be a gentle pop and a small flame will appear. Leave the oil control on 2 for 20–30 minutes until the chimney is hot before turning it up higher. (If it makes a fantastic trumpeting noise make sure the glass door is tightly closed: the handle closes downwards (clockwise). **The door should always be kept tight shut when it is burning**).

It will start with a yellow flame (below):



but it should soon turn blue.

If it fails to light: open the lower door, give the loop of rod a little twizzle to clear the jet and try again. If it still does not light, it is possible that you have flooded it and the igniter is submerged in oil, in which case it will need lighting by hand.

It is *possible* to light it by hand if required: open the glass door, take the special hook tool (usually lying on the left side of the fireplace), poke it up through the centre of the Christmas tree-shaped metal thing and lift it out. Practise putting it back bang in the centre (sitting on the two C-shaped inserts) so it does not tip sideways; it must sit on the C-shells, not on the bottom of the pan. Look down inside the stove with a torch and you will see a small metal pan. Turn the oil on and, as soon as you see a wetness of oil spreading out across the base of the pan, drop a little scrap of toilet paper into it to act as a wick, set fire to it, replace the tree thing and shut the door tight before sooty smoke comes out everywhere. (NB: it is impossible to do this without getting very sooty, which is why we suggest using the electric igniter. Washing-up liquid will remove soot from hands. You should be able to light it, replace the tree and shut the door in about 5 seconds flat).

When the burner has heated up and is burning properly, the tree thing will glow and you will have a blue flame, with little yellow tips (on high, left) or a pattern of blue flames down inside (on low, right):



If it makes lots of yellow flame, turn it down – it needs to reach vapourising temperature! *If for any reason it does not heat up properly and get a blue flame within 15 minutes or so, please turn off and let us know.*



(If oil has pooled in the bottom, there will be huge amounts of yellow flame and the oil control will appear not to work! This is best avoided – if oil has pooled inside, please soak up in kitchen paper, take outside and burn in the garden before lighting. If it's too late for this, turn it off and let it burn itself out.)

nb. When you turn the stove off, it will make the glass slightly sooty as the flame goes out. You may like to clean the glass with kitchen paper (when cold) before you next light it.

The refrigerator

The refrigerator will cool down whenever the generator is running. It is an A-rated highly insulated fridge which will then stay cool for 12 hours or so provided you do not leave the door open. If you have just added groceries you will want to have the generator running for a while to cool them down.

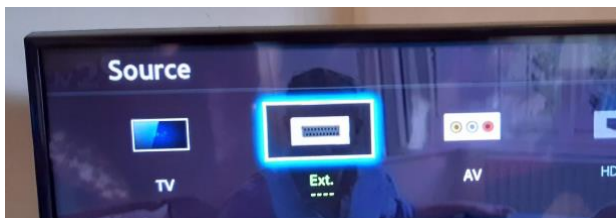
The refrigerator may have been left with the door wedged open to air it when out of use. If so, close the door before turning it on, otherwise it will act as a dehumidifier and gradually flood the carpet underneath.

Satellite TV

The TV receives all the free-to-view and free-to-air channels. You need to have the satellite receiver box (on top of the DVD player) turned on.

To switch between viewing DVDs and TV:

- Use the TV remote control and press the “Source” button. *n.b Not the menu button - this just defines the list of preset options instead of selecting one.*
- Select EXT for satellite TV or AV for DVD.
- The TV and audio leads must not be changed around.



Water

The water supply is not drinking water (though fine for washing, just peaty and very soft). We provide spring water bottles for drinking and will be happy to credit you if you need to buy more (leave receipts).

Satellite broadband and WiFi

The Wifi system gets its internet connection via a satellite. Compared to your broadband at home, you will find it operates in just the same way (you connect and enter a passcode) but that there is a short delay between clicking on a link and the new page appearing. (The delay is simply due to the time it takes the radio waves, travelling at the speed of light, to get from the cottage, up to the satellite, down to a base station and then back again, a round trip of about 100,000 miles).

We are providing a 5 Gb allowance free to each party. This should prove more than ample for browsing the web, email etc. but if you try watching films and videos online you will get through it rapidly (perhaps 1½ hours of iPlayer HD) – *please don't* – use the TV and DVDs instead. For laptops, we suggest you disable automatic system updates – may be a large download.

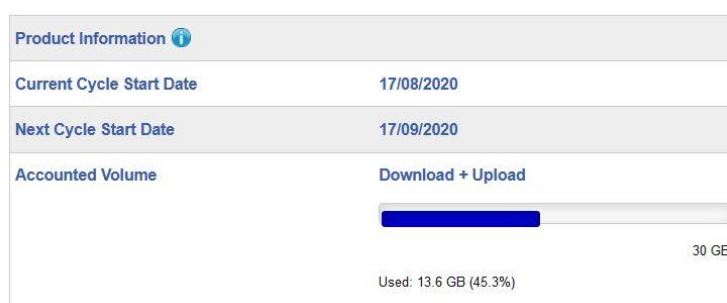
After the 5 Gb is used up, the system will continue to work for you (until the entire month's allowance is used) but we will need to spend at least £60 to purchase additional capacity for subsequent guests within this month's billing period.

Passcode is nt4f78r3y0myj (on back of router also). Please look at

checkportal.skylogic.com

from time to time to check your usage (as is, doesn't need www. prefix). This shows the total used to date in the current billing period (17th...17th of month), e.g.

Consumption Details



When the system is first powered up, it has to establish 2-way communication with the base station in Cornwall. This may take 5 minutes or so. If you get asked for a login, the system is not ready – simply close your browser and try again in a few minutes. It may help to leave the router turned off until the modem has finished booting.

Condensation

Any stone house with solid walls will inevitably have some corners that are cooler than the rest of the room. When warm, humid air meets a cold surface you get condensation. Please help us by not making huge amounts of steam – if you have a very hot bath or are doing a lot of cooking it will help to have a door and window open so the through draught carries the humidity away (even when it is raining outside, the humidity indoors will usually be higher than

outdoors as the warm air can carry more moisture). At this altitude water boils at 98.6°C and the kettle may boil away for a very long time before it decides to turn off. Please watch it and turn it off before it fills the house with steam.

Rubbish

Our caretaker will remove rubbish left in the out-house bins but please make sure it is clean and double-wrapped as it has to go in her car. Please don't leave sacks of interesting food scraps lying around to tempt the local wildlife! Please help her by separating all recyclables from the landfill residue (she will face a fine if any potential recycling is found in her landfill bin).

Telephone.

The house phone works over the internet i.e. whilst the generator is running. (Dial number then wait 8–10 seconds to connect). We can also be contacted by email, roger@hafodyr.co.uk, or via WhatsApp to our mobile.

There is sometimes a mobile signal if you walk 50 m up the track on the far side of the road.

Oil and petrol.

We hate to mention this but stoves can gobble oil! Approximate oil consumption for Rayburn or sitting room stove (double for both) at 65p/litre:

Setting	1	2	3	4	5	6
Litres/day	9.2	12.3	15.3	18.4	21.4	24.5
cost/day	£6	£8	£10	£12.	£14	£16

Over 180 days last year, we used £1700 of heating oil – I suspect that some people are used to having a boiling hot house and try desperately to keep a 19th Century stone cottage at the same temperature. (Whilst we have lots of loft insulation there is little we can do about the solid stone walls without totally spoiling the character of the cottage. Stoves with chimneys have to suck cold air into the house as they burn, which makes them inefficient – it is, unfortunately, not possible to have a modern high efficiency central heating system without a continuous electricity supply).

You can expect the generator to use about 0.8 litres petrol per hour at 1 kW load, dropping to about 0.4 litre/hour at zero load. The generator has a large (8 litre) tank so it will run for perhaps 20 hours at low load – you may not realise how much fuel it has used until it runs out. (This is why the country has

a National Grid with large power stations running as near as possible at full power).

Fire precautions

Please do not use candles or camping lanterns – we are much too far from the nearest fire station.

Leaving

Please leave the generator full and at least two full fuel cans (otherwise our caretaker will have to go out and fill cans and we will, regrettably, have to bill you for an hour of her time and travelling expenses as well as the cost of the fuel). (You are of course credited for any fuel excess!). We have unfortunately on a few occasions found insufficient fuel left for the arriving guests – we do strive to make everything as convenient as possible and this really is not very helpful.

- **Turn off the sitting room stove** (simply turn the oil control knob clockwise and it will go out – please do not turn off the little stop cock).
- Turn Rayburn down to 2
- **Leave open 3 downstairs windows** (at the back) and 3 upstairs windows (front), so the cottage is well-ventilated when our caretaker arrives, and leave a slip of paper under the doormat with your departure time (so she can tell if she has only just missed you).
- **Please strip the beds**, leaving the linen for each in the clear bags provided (above fridge) – thank you.
- **Lock the house front and back door and outhouse** and then replace the keys exactly where you found them. (Please, not where it will take us 20 minutes to find them). If there was a padlock and chain on the gate, please replace also. In the meantime, *please turn the dials to avoid every passer-by reading the combination!*

*Have a lovely time and enjoy your stay!
Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.*

Useful emergency telephone numbers

Drs Evans, Jones, Parry & Jones, Fford Wynne, Blaenau Ffestiniog
01766 830261, 830205

Drs Britt-Compton Ramsey & Johl, The Surgery, Scotland St, Llanrwst
01492 640411, 642303

Craig y Don medical practice, Clarence Rd Llandudno LL30 1TA
01492 864540

[NHS 111](#) (24 hour medical advice service), dial 111

Ysbyty Ffestiniog (community hospital), Ffordd Wynne, Blaenau Ffestiniog, LL41
3DW 01766 831281

Ysbyty Gwynedd (Bangor hospital, with 24 hour A&E) LL57 2PW,
01248 384384

<p>The house phone is 01766 884109. This is registered to our home address, not here, and operates over the internet i.e. whilst the generator is running. You are at Hafod-y-Rhedwydd, LL24 0RF, grid reference SH764458 “What Three Words” emergency address grapes.tricycle.sitting</p>
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Shops

There is a [Londis](#) in Penmachno (bread, milk etc open until 7 pm) and a pub (The Eagles).

Betws-y-Coed has a Spar and a Londis plus a petrol station and various pubs, hotels and restaurants.
