

Downe Cottages – Hartland Information

Shops

We are one mile from Hartland.

Hartland is a real village with the sort of community and spirit long abandoned by most of England, Hartland is what an English village was fifty years ago.

There is a lovely circular walk to Hartland from Downe that takes you to the village through the picturesque Vale and back up through a wooded hillside by Cheristow to Downe. The walk takes a lazy half- hour there and a lazy half-hour back. The footpath through the wooded Vale runs beside a small river before leading you into the centre of Hartland. Beware; the walk can be very muddy.

In Hartland there is a small collection of village shops including a grocery shop along Fore Street (The Pop In). The Pop In also supplies dvds and alcohol and frozen meat from a nearby butchers. It also offers a useful cashback service, and Sunday newspapers can be bought there. The Pop In is open from 8.00 a.m. until 7.30 p.m. every day and from 8.30 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays (closing between 1.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. on Sundays).

Hartland has a *Post Office on the High Street* and a small hardware shop (The Handy Store) which sells fishing tackle and bait. The Handy Store has a wide and eclectic range of goods from socks to kitchen equipment. It is possible to order your newspaper at the Post Office if you are staying for a few days.

At the far end of the High Street is the *Hartland Farm & Tea Shop*. David and Diane Heard run the Shop which sells vegetables (many of which they grow themselves), fresh meat from their own sheep and rare breed pigs, home made preserves and fresh home made cakes. They also run a small cafe in the back which serves breakfasts, light lunches and afternoon teas. The *Pop In* and *Post Office* are open on Sunday.

If you want to order flowers for a special occasion whilst staying at Downe do ring 01237 441 291 and ask for Christine. Christine will deliver arrangements or bouquets to your cottage at Downe but she does need at least a day's notice. She doesn't take payment by credit card but a cheque can be left with Jeremy or Lynda who will make sure Christine receives it.

The antique shop, called *The Darville Gallery*, is owned by George Morgan and can provide excellent value. It is on West Street just as you turn into the centre of the village.

Springfield Pottery is run by Philip and Frannie Leach. Philip is a grandson of Bernard Leach, the doyen of Twentieth Century English potters. They make earthenware pottery hand-made from local clays. We think their pottery is exceptional and very collectable.

(The standard of the pottery in the immediate area is very high – see Local Potteries in the section entitled 'Day Trips'.)

Clive Pearson runs a small boat (the Jessica Hettie) which you can take from Clovelly to visit Lundy Island. Phone Clive on 01237 431 405 or 07774 190 359 to make bookings. You can charter the boat or take one of his scheduled trips on a Wednesday and Thursday. *Clive's boat trip* to Lundy is not for the faint hearted if it's at all choppy and we do advise you to wear waterproofs as the trip can be a wet one. On a beautiful day with a calm sea it can be magical.

Milthorne Chairs is also located in Hartland (at 10 Fore Street) and supply handmade Windsor chairs in Beech, Ash and Elm. The chairs reflect traditional designs and (although very expensive since Dutch Elm disease) they still use elm with its beautiful grain and its resistance to splitting for the seats. Beech and Ash with their straight, close grains are used for the turned parts and also for the hoops.

Bob Seymour, the proprietor of Milthorne Chairs, is a very talented photographer. Some of his photographs of objects found on the beach are remarkable and take on the shape and mood of abstract paintings. In addition he has a number of breathtaking landscapes taken on the Hartland Peninsula. He is starting to exhibit the more abstract of his photographs in galleries and to gain a reputation well beyond the Hartland parish boundaries.

Merlyn Chesterman is a painter and woodblock printmaker who has a tiny studio at No.2, Harton Manor just off the Square in Hartland. She is a member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen.

Three times a year (Easter, Summer and Autumn) the Hartland Arts and Crafts Society holds a 'Craft Fayre' in The Parish Hall just off The Square in Hartland. Well worth a visit if it's on while you are staying at Downe.

Just off the Square is *Harton Manor Workshop*. This is a teaching workshop run by David Charlesworth that has won national repute. David is an author and furniture maker who has specialised in teaching since 1977. He runs courses at Harton Manor teaching fine furniture making to exhibition standard to no more than four students at a time. If you are interested in furniture making do visit David's website at www.davidcharlesworth.co.uk.

In The Square in the centre of Hartland is *The Glorious Wood Gallery* which is a permanent gallery of fine furniture produced locally.

Just outside Hartland in Stoke you will find the best cream teas in the immediate area (other than those at the Health Spa!). These are served at Stoke Barton Farm (just opposite St Nectan's Church in Stoke). The home made cakes are also delicious if you can't manage a cream tea. (Try the Bakewell Tart or the Fruit Cake with a scoop of double cream – they really are something special.) The bad news is that Stoke Barton is only open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and Bank Holidays. Their website is www.westcountry-camping.co.uk if you want to confirm opening hours.

We often walk down to Berry Cove (our nearest beach), then along the Coastal Path to Hartland Quay and then back along the road to Stoke and then to Downe. It takes about two hours at a gentle pace and if we time it well we stop off for a cream tea at Stoke Barton.

Unfortunately it is closed from the end of October until the week before Easter.

Stoke Church is a landmark that gives a bearing to many a walker as they travel around Hartland Point. The tall tower is the reason why the church is known as 'The Cathedral of North Devon'. The rood screen in the church is magnificent and provides a stunning backcloth to the small concerts and musical evenings that are regularly held in the church.

Just a few hundred yards from Downe there is the *Lavender Farm* which is run by Eric and Michelle Heard. At the Lavender Farm they sell a range of locally produced toiletries including hand and body lotions, moisturising creams and bathing toiletries. They also sell a range of homemade jams and preserves and have a lovely tea room which is open most days. Go to www.cheristow.co.uk for details and opening times.

One of Hartland's most precious asset is *The Hartland Times*. A bi-monthly magazine full of local news and community interest it has endured through the decades

Religious Services

Church of England

St. Nectan's in Stoke is the nearest church and holds services every Sunday at 11.00 a.m. There is also a St. Nectan's in Welcome that holds services every Sunday at 9.00 am. Communion is also given at the Catholic Church in Hartland on Sunday at 8.00 a.m.

Roman Catholic

Roman Catholic mass is said every Friday evening at 'Our Lady and St. Nectan' in Hartland at 6.00 p.m. It is necessary to travel to the Stella Maris Church in Bideford for the nearest mass on a Sunday. Phone 01237 472519 for times.

Methodist

There is the Hartland Methodist Chapel at the top of Fore Street in Hartland that holds services every Sunday. Phone 01237 441271 for times.

Public Transport

Hartland has an infrequent bus service seven days a week that runs from Northgate Green in Hartland to Bude in one direction and to both Bideford and Barnstaple in the other. A timetable is available in each cottage.

It is possible to take a train from Barnstaple to Exeter. The nearest mainline station is Tiverton (which is an hours drive away) and it is possible to organize a taxi to collect guests from Tiverton.

Music in Hartland

Hartland has two major musical groups: the Hartland Brass Band and the Hartland Chamber Orchestra. If your visit coincides with one of their concerts given by the Brass Band or the Chamber Orchestra we do recommend that you take the opportunity to attend even if the programme is slightly outside your normal tastes.

The Brass Band frequently performs on Hartland Quay on Sunday evenings during the summer. A lovely sunset makes them quite perfect evenings. Performances in the Square in Hartland after the Carnival or at Christmas can also be delightful.

The Chamber Orchestra's concerts in Stoke church are often lovely evenings. You can experience the orchestral music of Haydn, Bach, Beethoven.

Each year Hartland hosts a music festival called 'One Week in summer'. It takes place in mid to late July and is a celebration of music in Hartland.

The concerts generally take place in St Nectan's Church in Stoke but occasionally take place in Hartland Abbey. The Jazz Concert is usually excellent.