

Information About Hartland

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. From brass band to carnival, from skittle team to football team, from dart board to cribbage board, from Church bell to child's yell, from Harvest Suppers in the village hall to Carol Services in the village Square, 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. The footpath back starts besides the local tennis courts in the village and brings you over a small river back up the side of the valley through lovely woodland to Cheristow and then back to Downe. Beware; the walk can be very muddy.

In April when the bluebells are in flower the walk through the Vale is a walk through a Monet painting. In autumn when the blackberries are ripe the walk is likely to stretch well past its allotted time.

In Hartland there is a small collection of village shops including a grocery shop along Fore Street (*The Pop In*). The Pop In supplies groceries, vegetables, fresh bread, fresh and frozen meat from nearby butchers, cheeses and cold meats and alcohol. It offers a useful cash back service, and daily newspapers can be bought there. The Pop In is open from 8.00 a.m. until 7.30 p.m. every day.

Hartland has a *Post Office on the High Street* (where you can buy newspapers and a limited selection of groceries, fresh bread, locally made cakes, alcohol etc.) - it is possible to order your newspaper at the Post Office if you are staying for a few days. There is a small hardware shop next to the Post Office.

In the main car park near *The Hart Inn* are the Church Rooms where you can get refreshments and cakes. This is open most mornings when the sign is out and is run to raise money for the Church.

On the corner of The Square in the centre of Hartland you will find the *Old Bakery Coffee Shop* which serves good coffee, simple breakfast items, light lunches and lovely cream teas. The Old Bakery Coffee Shop is open every day.

The Pop In and the Post Office are open on Sunday.

Hartland boasts an antique shop, a couple of potteries, artists and furniture makers.

The antique shop, called *The Darville Gallery*, is on West Street just as you turn into the centre of the village. It provides an enjoyable browse even if you're not interested in purchasing a new dining room table.

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 some of their pottery is exceptional.

Sarah Lander has her own pottery at No. 39 Fore Street and offers Pottery Sessions on weekday mornings throughout August. Please do phone to make an appointment as numbers are limited (01237 441883), sarah.j.lander@btinternet.com.

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

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 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 landscapes taken on the Hartland Peninsula. He exhibits 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. Many of her woodcuts reflect the local landscape. She is a member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen. Merlyn also runs short courses in print making for holiday makers.

The White Hare Gallery is on The Square. This gallery is owned and run by Clive Brocklehurst, a water colourist. Everything stocked in the gallery is made on the premises.

A delightful few hours can be occupied by strolling down to Hartland and visiting the pottery, the White Hare gallery, Bob Seymour and Merlyn Chesterman and the Darville Gallery. Very simple but very relaxing and artistically quite varied. If you walk back through Cheristow you can enjoy a cream tea at the Cheristow Lavender Farm. The Tea Room is (open Easter-October – please check for days of opening). Cheristow is a very pleasant five minute walk away.

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.

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. A variety of courses are available and the standards are quite exceptional. If you are interested in furniture making do visit David’s website at www.davidcharlesworth.co.uk. David’s work is simply outstanding and he has students from all over the world who come to Hartland for short courses or one year long courses.

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 the Lavender Farm. It makes for a very pleasant afternoon's stroll.

Stoke Church is a landmark that gives a bearing to many a walker as they travel around Hartland Point. The church is framed by beautiful rolling countryside and rook filled woods. 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.

The graveyard is lovely and has the peace that only an old English churchyard can provide. On a summer's day time seems to slow when you stroll amongst the gravestones and listen to the rooks in the high trees.

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.

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. Although few of our guests use the bus service to journey into the towns many use it as a drop off or collection service for the longer walks along the coastal path (e.g. for the return journey after a walk to Clovelly). The service isn't frequent so planning ahead is required if the service is to be useful.

It is possible to take a train from Barnstaple to Exeter although we do not find that service of much assistance. 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 is a delightful community that continues to surprise us. One of its continuing surprises is the strength of its musical life.

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 location often transforms highly professional performances into something quite memorable.

The Brass Band frequently performs on Hartland Quay on Sunday evenings during the summer. If the weather is kind these concerts can be magical. The backdrop of the cliffs and the Atlantic and the occasional pint from the Wreckers create something quite special. 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 is very professional and regularly gives concerts in Hartland and nearby villages.

The Chamber Orchestra's concerts in Stoke church are often lovely evenings. You can experience the orchestral music of Haydn, Bach, Beethoven and Mozart in the way that most of the generations before radio and recording contracts experienced this music: arrangements dictated by the musicians available to the orchestra and played by accomplished neighbours and friends.

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.