



## HAMMOON MANOR

### **Guest information**

#### **Welcome Letter**

1. Travel Directions
2. COVID 19 - Your Health & Wellbeing (Important)
3. House Rules
4. Wi-Fi Gadgets & Things
5. Heating & Wood Burner
6. Appliances & Housekeeping
7. Spa hot tub
8. Safety information
9. Food Shopping
10. Eating Out
11. Places to visit
12. Activities
13. Useful Contacts



## HAMMOON MANOR

Firstly, a very big **WELCOME** to Hammoon Manor and we are sure that you will have a wonderfully relaxing, and peaceful stay with us.

Hammoon, sounds so strange to the English ear that one can be forgiven to thinking that it is a small village in the central provinces of India! As it happens, Hammoon Manor was originally gifted to Thomas de Mohun of Moyon in Normandy following his support of William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Moyon being a bit of a mouthful for Dorset folk anglicised it over the centuries from the 'Ham of Moyon' to 'Hammoon'. Perfect sense when you think about it.

The Manor House as you see it today has changed little over the centuries except for the addition of a few farm buildings' here and there. And has been described 'as one of the most picturesque houses in Dorset'.

Hammoon Manor Barn where you are staying formed part of the original manor farmyard. In 2019, we converted the barns to luxury holiday accommodation and created courtyard gardens where there had previously been hard standing. We were thrilled with the results – we hope you are!

As you probably know you are in the heart of the Blackmore Vale and of course the heart of Thomas Hardy Country.

Hammoon is only a couple of miles from Sturminster Newton where Thomas Hardy lived with his new wife Emma - an area he described as idyllic. Hardy used made-up names when talking about real places, 'Tess Of The D'Urbervilles' is meant to be based on the local surroundings, even if it was more as Hardy remembered them than how it really was!

During these strange COVID times, we appreciate more and more how blessed we are to live in such a beautiful and peaceful place where life really seems to have just stood still and carried on as normal. We hope you enjoy the same peace during your stay 'Far from the Madding Crowd'!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven &amp; Georgina". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. A horizontal line is drawn underneath the name "Georgina".

Yours,

Steven & Georgina

## 1. Travel Directions

Hammoon Manor is near the A303, A30, A37, A35 and A31, and A357 and situated 2 miles East of Sturminster Newton deep in the Dorset countryside. It is in the middle of Thomas Hardy's "vale of little dairies". We are at the centre of a triangle of the country towns of Sherborne to the west, Shaftesbury to the north, and Blandford Forum to the south. Hammoon Manor is 2½ hours by car from London, and 1 hour 50 minutes by train from London Waterloo to Gillingham Dorset (our nearest station) and within easy reach of Bournemouth, Dorchester, and Salisbury.

### By Car

The SAT NAV and google maps/directions to our postcode **Hammoon Manor, DT10 2DB** works really well and will bring you to a 'tiny church' (St Paul's) in the middle of the village which is adjacent to a small turning circle of grass with a Saxon stone cross in the middle (although not so recognizable these days after so much time)!

If you have found the church, you are almost there. If you look past the church down a 'no through road' you will see a large stone thatched house straight ahead of you. This is Hammoon Manor – you can't miss it!

- **Check-In:** Anytime between 4:00 PM and 10:00 PM but it would be helpful if you could give us an approximate ETA by text or email.
- **Check-Out:** 11:00 AM on the day of departure. Please leave the barn open on departure and keys on the dining table.
- **Parking/Arrival:** On arrival please park in the large drive in front of the Manor and text 07540 599 143

### By Train (from London)

Our nearest train station is Gillingham Dorset (1:50 mins from London Waterloo) stopping at Clapham, Woking, and Basingstoke). Trains run 20 mins past the hour. From 15:00 -19:00 there are also trains running 10 mins to the hour but best to check the timetable to be sure. There are plenty of taxis at Gillingham Dorset station that will take you to Hammoon. The typical fare is around £20.

Local Taxis and Private Vehicle - 01258 860730 [edwardstaxis@live.co.uk](mailto:edwardstaxis@live.co.uk)

**Bon, voyage!**

## 2. COVID 19 - Health & Wellbeing - The 'New Normal'!

We certainly live in the strangest of times! Barely a few months ago I could never have imagined that I would be writing such an introductory notice to guests such as this. Yet is it not amazing how quickly we adapt to changed circumstances knowing we are doing it for all our mutual benefit?

Your health and wellbeing, and those of others are paramount to us. So long as COVID 19 is around we have to assume that any of us may be able to transmit it. North Dorset has, fortunately, had a very low incidence of COVID 19. Accordingly, we have taken certain measures consistent with both government and industry guidelines to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of our guests and others – without limiting the enjoyment of your stay.

This 'Guest Handbook' covers most of the important things you might need to know while staying with us and hopefully a few useful tips.

### Our interaction with you

In normal circumstances, we would welcome you with a handshake and walk you around inside the accommodation showing you everything plus little tips that catch people out and leaving you with a very comprehensive Accommodation Guide detailing everything you may need to know.

**Arrival** - On arrival please text us on 07540 599 143 – unless I am already outside to greet you - I will give you a 'virtual tour' in Dorset fresh air and not come inside with you.

I would be grateful if we could maintain social distancing at all times during your stay as we have vulnerable people in residence. I am afraid it is a wave rather than handshakes but equally well meant!

Similarly, you may see Claire our gardener and her young son around and about, or perhaps other staff, locals, and family during your stay. I would be grateful if you could extend them the same courtesy. We do have vulnerable folk in our community and their wellbeing is important to us.

**Departure** - On departure please leave the keys on the kitchen table, the accommodation open and if windows or skylights are open please leave them open to air the accommodation. See also ('Sanitation and protection of staff' below).

Ordinarily, we always love to hear how you have enjoyed your stay so please text or call me before you leave - we can at least waive! Because we do a deep clean after your departure, we would be grateful if you leave promptly no later than 11:00AM on the departure day to give us time to air and clean the accommodation.

### Questions during your stay

If you have any questions during your stay then you can text us on 07540599143, or email [steven@hammoonmanor.co.uk](mailto:steven@hammoonmanor.co.uk) or even Zoom video if you prefer. Alternatively, we can just meet outside at a safe distance.

### Staying in the 'Walled Garden or the Appleyard

If staying in the entirety of Hammoon Manor Barn, then you need not read this bit! If, on the other hand, you have booked the '**Walled Garden**' or the '**Appleyard**' then this does apply to you and is important.

**Your interaction with other guests** - Some of our guests are often older and might broadly fall into the 'more vulnerable category'. They will likely be staying in adjacent accommodation. We obviously want everyone to have a wonderful stay at Hammoon Manor whatever age they may be.

The 'Walled Garden' and 'the Appleyard' have gardens on both sides. To maintain social distancing, and to provide you and other guests complete privacy, we will show you on arrival which garden space is for your exclusive use thus ensuring both your privacy and appropriate social distancing.

Should you interact with other guests we would be grateful if you would respect their privacy and maintain social distancing at all times. On no account may different independent guest booking parties congregate together in the other's accommodation.

**Children & other guests** - Children of course find it difficult to maintain or understand social distancing or the concerns of others. If you are staying in the Walled Garden or Appleyard with children, we would be most grateful if you could convey to them the need to respect others' privacy and social distancing concerns even if not shared by them.

**Burning off steam** - Immediately behind Hammoon Manor Barn is a large field (about the size of a football pitch) and which leads down to the river. We deliberately keep it closely cut specifically as an open run around and play area for the hyperactive! We would be grateful if you are playing games with children such as football or the like you do so in this space rather than in the gardens immediately adjacent to the accommodation.

### Cleaning

We maintain a minimum of 24hrs + between visiting guests. Our cleaning regime now entails a normal clean followed by a deep clean. You will find in the accommodation a spray bottle marked 'Disinfectant'. This is in fact an odourless 'virucidal' spray also safe for cooking and food areas. Please feel free to use this if a special clean-up is required of bodily fluids that could pose a particular risk to incoming staff or others. In all other normal circumstances, soap and water and the cleaning material (under the sink) will suffice.

### Sanitation and protection of staff

In each bathroom, there is a lined bin for disposal of wipes, sanitary products, and nappies, etc. We would be most grateful to ensure that absolutely nothing goes down the loo (wipes etc.,) only loo paper – even if it says flushable – it isn't! **We have a treatment plant** that can block very quickly if the wrong thing goes down causing sanitation and health problems for the staff or ourselves having to clean it out.

### On departure please ensure

All bathroom waste and personal waste items (e.g. nappies, wipes, etc.), are placed in a black bin bag and securely tied. This can be placed in the marked 'Personal Waste Bin' in the rubbish area (see 2. 'House Rules' below). For health reasons we are segregating 'personal waste' from normal rubbish and recycling as it will be dealt with differently.

1. Please leave any dishes in the dishwasher cleaned but please do not empty. We will do that otherwise we will have to re-wash them!
2. Please strip your beds of sheets and pillowcases only - nothing else and leave in a pile. Used towels can be placed in the bathroom on the floor or in the bath. This is to reduce airborne transmission to cleaning staff while stripping beds etc.
3. Please leave skylights and windows open – need not be all just some. To move fresh air through.

There is hand sanitizer placed in guest bathrooms which is for your use when going out. We do have a supply of masks and gloves so just ask if needed or desired.

**Illness during your stay** If any of your party becomes symptomatic of COVID 19 (whether confirmed or not) you should call us immediately and arrange to return home to self-isolate as soon as possible. Please see our terms and condition here <https://www.hammoonmanor.co.uk/book-your-stay/>

### 3. House Rules & Tips

**Parking** - There is plenty of parking. Please park your cars at the front of the Manor House close to the lawn/field except during loading or unloading (or for disabled guests) where there is hard standing near the Manor barn. The rear of the Manor is for our own private parking.

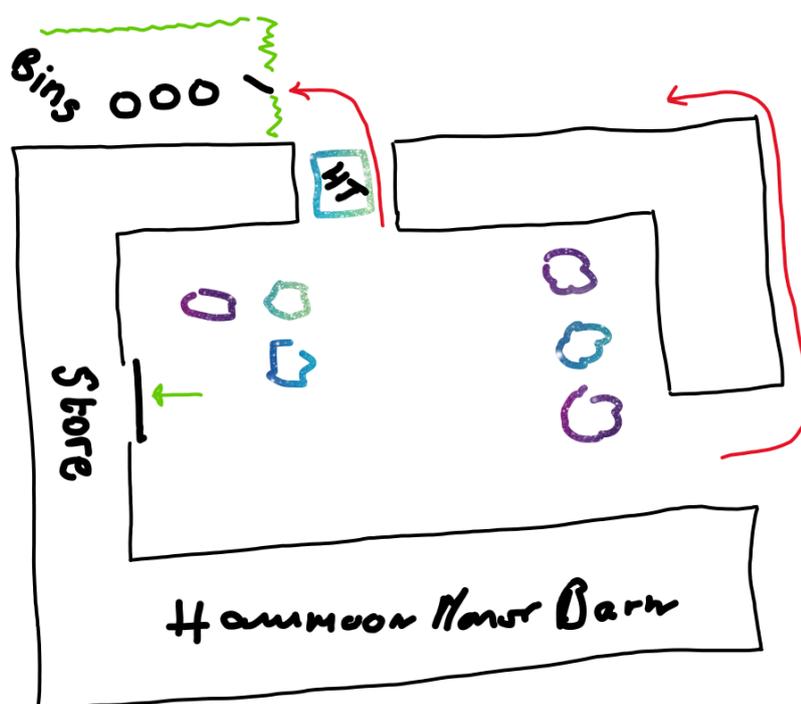
**Gardens & Grounds** – Hammoon Manor Barn has large adjoining gardens. The gardens are for your enjoyment. We may access these areas for grounds keeping and gardening but will endeavour to do so at convenient times.

**Behind the Manor** - There is a field that runs down to the River Stour and there is a cut footpath to the small bridge that enters the village. You will often see Grey Heron, Cormorants, Egrets, as well as swan and ducks and occasionally King Fisher, etc. Feel free to stroll along the river but please be aware that there may be sheep in the field and therefore we would be grateful if you ensure all farm gates are securely closed behind you. Also, watch your step as occasionally mole runs collapse creating holes!

**Storage** - If you have suitcases, bikes, or any large items you wish to get out of the way then we have plenty of storage in the adjacent barn marked 'store below'. However, please do not leave any valuables in storage as this is a communal area open to other guests.

**Rubbish** - We like to recycle but also know what it's like to have your kitchen overflowing with bins yuk!! We provide 4 bins all marked (non-recyclable) (recyclable) (personal waste) and (bottles). We deal with each differently and would be grateful for your cooperation. Under the sink in the kitchen are plenty of bin bags. If for any reason you need more just let us know.

**Finding the bins!** They are located through the walkthrough where the hot tub is located toward the fields at the rear of the barns. If you walk through the covered hot tub area or around behind the barns if other guests are present - immediately to your left is a laurel hedge with a wooden garden gate, they are in there.



**Loos** - Our loos are **VERY SENSITIVE!** We have a treatment plant so nothing can go down the loos other than loo paper otherwise we will have a frightful blockage/mess!

This also includes any wipes even if they say flushable – don't believe it!! We provide sanitary disposal bags and would be most grateful if you could pop anything in them and/or in the bins provided in the bathrooms.

**Breakages/Damage** - If something is broken please let us know. We know the temptation is to hide it. We do know that accidents can happen and would rather know as soon as possible so we can arrange for repair or replacement. If you can replace it so much the better. If not, we will have to charge you as we carry out an inspection following your stay.

**Barbecues – Fire poses a very special special risk for us living in a large thatched house.** If you are lighting a barbecue in the Walled Garden which is closer to the Manor, please can you keep a close watch, and attend it at all times to ensure no sparks escape. The barbecue has been positioned to make sure it is a safe distance away from the Manor.

**Roman Blinds** - In a number of the rooms are Roman blinds with chords to pull them up and down. For some reason, they appear to get regularly broken requiring us to remove them for repair.

**In one instance they were yanked clean of the wall!** We would be most grateful if you could raise and lower them gently with the chord, they will not break – thank you.

**Insects** – we do live in the country with lots of farming activities. If you leave windows open for extended periods, you may get flies around during the height of Summer. Under the sink is fly spray a 'zapper' and some fly tape – not attractive but does the trick.

**Noise** - We provide a Bluetooth enabled speaker system (*see gadgets and things*) for your enjoyment. Please be aware that others might not enjoy your taste in music quite as much – particularly if it is too loud! Please be considerate of other guests are staying.

**Smoking** – We are afraid smoking or vaping is not permitted anywhere on the premises.

## 4. Wi-Fi & Gadgets

(For the technically challenged – like us!)

**Wi-Fi** – Password is **hammoon1** (all lower case and number one)

**Television** - All free view channels are available. If you have a NETFLIX account, then there is a button for remote access. If you have other streaming subscriptions, then most are accessible by clicking on the 'APS' button on the remote.

**Audio Pro T5 Speaker** – To stream music from your phone or Computer:

1. Turn Speaker on
2. Press PAIR button - it will start flashing
3. On your phone enable Bluetooth
4. Under Bluetooth devices, you will see Audio Pro T5
5. Enable and you are good to go!

**Lighting** - There are always some lighting gadgets that are just plain annoying to work out how to switch on unless you know where to look – our bathroom vanity lights fit into this category!

*Bathrooms Mirrors* - To switch on the surround vanity lights on the bathroom mirrors:

*Pink Bedroom – 'The Walled Garden'* – there is a touch button bottom right on the mirror itself

*Family bathroom – 'The Appleyard'* – You have to wave your hand underneath the bottom right-hand corner of the mirror to switch it on and off – not sure who came up with this idea!!

**Electric Blinds 'Walled Garden'** - The large window in the Walled Garden has two electric blinds (left and right) with a control box at the bottom of each staircase.

To lower press the  button to raise press the  button. Pressing once will lower or raise all the way. To stop at any point, press the 'My' button in the middle.

**Telephone** – Mobile usage can vary depending on the provider. **The strongest signal here is EE.** In either case, the signal inside the barns is poor due to the high level of thermal insulation. However, there is an easy fix if you set up wi-fi calling on your mobile.

To set up Wi-Fi calling on most phones:

1. Go to **your phone's Wireless and Network Settings**.
2. Select the 'More' or 'More Networks' option.
3. Find **Wi-Fi Calling** and **enable** it.

Your phone will now make and receive calls as normal.

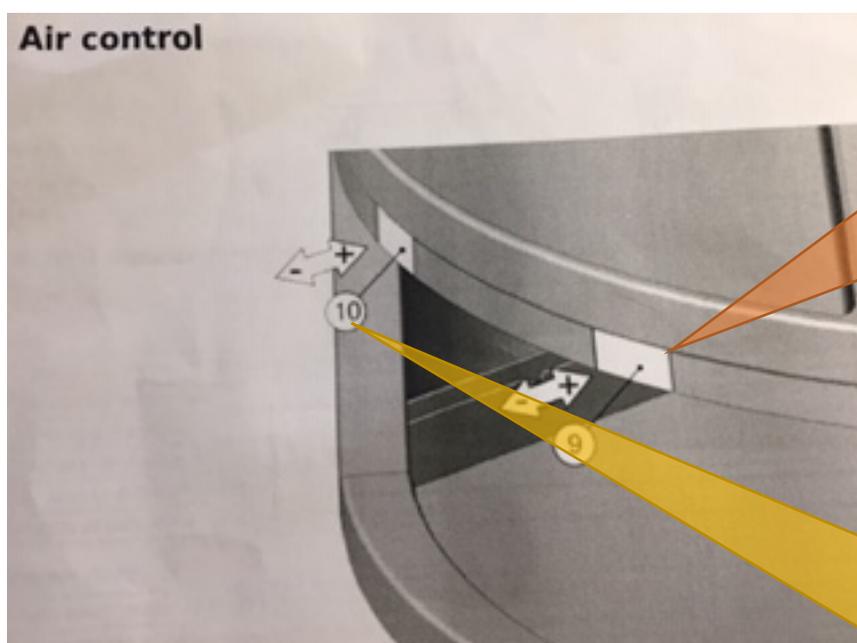
## 5. Heating & Wood Burner

**Heating** – The heating is all underfloor (except for the bedrooms in the Walled Garden – where there are radiators) and the temperature is set at 20 degrees C during the day and slightly lower at night. Generally, the barns stay very warm being so well insulated. The hot water is plentiful and should be available at all times as needed.

**Wood burner** – We all love to make fire. Big fire however doesn't always make for big heat! Below are a few useful tips on how to become a Master Woodburner!

Please make sure the door is ALWAYS securely locked at all times to avoid the danger of fire through sparks escaping – Please check this before going to bed or if the fire is unguarded. The burner will get extremely hot so please be very careful around the fire and warn children to keep clear to avoid accidents. Gloves are provided please use while the fire is lit.

### OPERATING WOOD BURNER



#### **FOR STARTING ONLY**

(9) 'Right hand' is Primary air and is only used to start the fire. Push in for more air and pull out for less. Once started the lever should be fully out – otherwise, your logs won't last very long!!

#### **ONCE ALIGHT**

(10) 'Left hand' push in will give more air and increase power/ heat and visa-versa. E.g. If you go to bed at night and want the fire still alight in the morning you would pull it out fully.

## 6. Kitchen Appliances & Housekeeping

**Appliances** – Under the sink is a binder containing operation manuals and quick start guides for:

- Dishwasher
- Washing Machine
- Hob
- Oven
- Microwave etc.,

You will also find cleaning materials, bin bags, torch, and medical kit, fly spray and zapper – we do live in the country!

Please familiarise yourself with how to operate all appliances before doing so.

### Housekeeping

**The Walled Garden** – In the utility room there is:

- Iron
- Ironing board
- Broom and dustpan
- Bucket and mop
- Vacuum cleaner

**The Appleyard** – In the corridor next to the washing machine there is:

- Iron
- Ironing board
- Broom and dustpan
- Bucket and mop
- Vacuum cleaner

## 7. Spa Hot Tub

The Hot tub is exclusively reserved for those staying in Hammoon Manor Barn (the whole barn) or if not, for the Appleyard. If visiting and staying in the Walled Garden and no other guests are staying during your visit, then you may use the hot tub but please ask first.

We are afraid that no guests may use the hot tub unless they have completed the '**Hot Tub Rules & Disclaimer**' – a copy of which is on the next page. Please read them carefully sign and return to us.

The hot tub is very simple to use. There are 2 buttons. One starts and stops the jets and the other turns on the lights. The jets automatically stop after 20 minutes. Please can you ensure that when not in use the hot tub cover in place and the lights are switched off?

We would highlight some mishaps and damage that are easily avoidable but commonly occur:

Broken glass -Plastic glasses are provided please **NEVER** take any glass containers with you into the hot tub.

**Dirt clogging up hot tub** – the dirt from the path in the garden is very fine can find its way into the tub and causes havoc with the pumps and its operation. We would be most grateful if when entering the hot tub, you ensure your feet are completely clean and free of any dirt and grit. Using shoes when walking to and from the hot tub can avoid this. **We know this can be a challenge with children, but we would be very grateful. If the pumps fail we will have to close the hot tub down indefinitely.**

**Please be gentle with the cover lift** - The cover lift is easy to use but needs to be lifted and closed from the centre. If you try and close from one side only it can twist the lifting arms and break and we would not want to charge you for it as it is expensive.

Please also ensure that the clips are fastened on the cover as the wind has a habit of blowing the cover off which can damage it.

## 8. Fire & Other Safety information

We obviously want your stay to be safe and enjoyable. Most safety is common sense, but it never hurts to be aware of the things you might not have thought of when wandering around an unfamiliar house.

### Wood burners

Please take extra care around the wood burners. They get very hot and if children are present, they can burn their hands please ensure they keep clear. If you decide to use the wood burners, then you do so at your own risk.

If used please ensure, you have read this safety brief, and how to operate the wood burner (page 5).

**Please make sure the door is securely locked at all times to avoid the danger of fire through sparks escaping - particularly at night when the wood burner is left unguarded.**

### Fire

**'The Walled Garden' - A powder fire extinguisher and fire blanket are located under the kitchen sink.**

These can be used on all fires including kitchen fires.

**'The Appleyard' - A powder fire extinguisher and fire blanket are located next to the washer/dryer in the cupboard in the corridor (off the sitting room).** These can be used on all fires including kitchen fires.

A torch is located under the kitchen sink in both 'The Walled Garden' and 'The Appleyard'.

**Fire Detectors-** Fire and carbon monoxide detectors are fitted in both the Walled Garden and The Appleyard.

**What to do if the fire alarm triggers but there is no visible fire?** - Exit the property immediately and call the Manor House on 07540 599 143 or 01258 860 910 and raise the alarm or come to the Manor House and raise the alarm in person. Someone will then come to investigate.

**What to do if there is a visible fire? Time is always of the essence.**

- Raise the alarm
- Exit the building and raise the alarm at the Manor House
- If, a small fire and it is safe and practical to extinguish the flames using the fire blanket and extinguisher then do so immediately. All other guests should leave by the closest available means.
- If ground floor exit is not practicable (*only in the Walled Garden bedrooms*) then close the bedroom door, call for assistance in any way you can, and exit from the upstairs bedroom windows.
- Dial 999

## 9. Food Shopping

### Local

**Child Okeford Village Shop** - (2.3 miles 5 mins DT11 8ED) - Post office and small café and market-place – our local shop good selection of essentials.

**Shillingstone Co-op** - (2.3 miles 5 mins DT11 0QZ) there is also a petrol station close by.

**Sturminster Newton** (3.9 miles 9 mins) Decent sized Co-op and local shops and small cafes restaurants. There is also a wonderful butcher Holebrook's in the main square as well as grocers and other shops and cafes. 'Stur' is also the home of 'Harts' our local department store (next to the Co-op) – there is really nothing they don't have.

**Shaftesbury** – Another large Co-op, Tesco + petrol, and lots of interesting shops (14 mins 7 miles).

### Supermarkets

**Lidl Blandford Forum** - Blandford Forum DT11 7FP (7.8 miles 15 mins)

**Tesco Superstore** - Stour Park, Blandford St Mary, Blandford Forum DT11 9PU (10 miles 20 mins) + petrol

**Waitrose Gillingham**, SP8 4UA (10 miles 20mins) + petrol

For most essentials locally other than food then it's Sturminster, Blandford, or Shaftesbury.

### Food Delivery

Tesco and Waitrose deliver to us regularly. Others may do. Ocado does not. We are happy to receive it provided you let us know by text in advance the arrival time.

## 10. Eating Out

Because of COVID 19, many pubs and restaurants are still closed. But it is worth checking as many have outside garden spaces or have re-arranged their configuration to ensure social distancing.

However, when things do revert to normal – or at least reasonably so here are some ideas and places in the local vicinity we are familiar with. It is by no means intended to be exclusive but is a starting point. If you find a special place, please let us know!

Those with \* are those we personally frequent.

### Pubs & Local Pit Stops!

**Fiddleford Inn\*** - Sturminster Newton DT10 2BX. A Friendly and cosy traditional pub and restaurant just down the road and walkable from the house through footpaths and the North Dorset Trail (about 35 mins).

An unfussy family pub with very good home cooking – not gastro, a smashing landlord, and a favorite among locals. You can also take your dogs into the pub so a good stopping point if taking the dog for a walk.  
[www.thefiddlefordinn.net](http://www.thefiddlefordinn.net) Tel: 01258 472886 (2.1 miles 35 mins on foot – 5 mins by car).

**The White Horse Inn\*** - Hinton St Mary Sturminster Newton DT10 1NA. Similar to Fiddleford Inn (perhaps marginally better and better food) another very friendly pub and restaurant.  
[www.thewhitehorsehinton.co.uk](http://www.thewhitehorsehinton.co.uk) Tel: 01258 472723 (3.7 miles 9mins by car).

**White Horse Stourpaine\*** - Blandford Forum DT11 8TA. [www.whitehorse-stourpaine.co.uk](http://www.whitehorse-stourpaine.co.uk) Tel: 01258 453535 - (6.4, miles 14 mins) Good food.

**Hambro Arms Milton Abbas\*** - The Street Milton Abbas Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 0BP.  
<http://www.hambroarms.com> T: 01258 880233 - (9 miles, 20 mins). Set in one of the most beautiful villages in Dorset.

### Other Local Pubs

**The Bull Tavern** - Sturminster Newton DT10 2BS. Friendly pub just down the road – good for a quick pint and pub food (3.5 miles, 7 mins.)

**Bakers Arms and Saxon Inn** – in Child Okeford (3 miles, 5 mins). Perfectly good pubs and frequented by locals mainly for a pint.

**Cricketers Inn Shroton** - (Iwerne Courtney) Blandford Forum Dorset, DT11 8QD. This was a good country pub and food in a pretty village and good if you have children. [www.thecricketersshroton.co.uk](http://www.thecricketersshroton.co.uk) Tel: 01258 860 421 - (6.8 miles, 17mins).

All perfectly good but not our first choice but you may disagree!

### Gourmet Pubs

**The Fontmell\*** - Fontmell Magna, Shaftesbury SP7 0PA. Lovely pub and food we go there often. It has a glassed enclosed stream running through the pub. [www.thefontmell.co.uk](http://www.thefontmell.co.uk) Tel: 01747 811441 - (6.2 miles, 14 mins).

**King John Tollard Royal\*** - Tollard Royal, Salisbury SP5 5PS. Another staple favorite of ours although a little further away although the drive is beautiful. [www.kingjohninn.co.uk](http://www.kingjohninn.co.uk) Tel: 01725 516207 - (12.9 miles, 25 mins).

**Stapleton Arms** Buckhorn Weston Dorset SP8 5HS. We haven't visited however have heard of it in a good way. [thestapletonarms.com](http://thestapletonarms.com) Tel: 01963 370396 - (8.9 miles, 19 mins).

**The Lamb Hindon\*** - High St, Hindon, Salisbury SP3 6DP. The Lamb is one of our favorite gastro pubs set in the most beautiful village. It is a little further away but well worth the visit if so inclined. [www.lambhindon.co.uk](http://www.lambhindon.co.uk) Tel: 01747 820573 (14.6 miles, 27 mins).

### Local Restaurants

**La fleur de lys** – Shaftesbury Bleke Street Shaftesbury SP7 8AN. Fine dining in a small and very cosy and characterful restaurant setting in Shaftesbury with high reviews although never personally visited preferring gastro pubs <http://www.lafleurdelys.co.uk> Tel: 01747 853717 (7.3 miles 16 mins).

**Chutneys Shaftesbury\*** - Excellent Indian food at a lovely restaurant. <https://www.chutneys-restaurant.com> Tel: 01747 852585 - (7.3 miles, 16 mins).

**The Salt Cellar\*** - If you visit Shaftesbury and want to stop for an unfussy lunch then do visit the Salt Cellar Café it is a favorite with us locals. It sits at the top of 'Gold Hill' looking down onto the hill made famous by Ridley Scott's Hovis advert (making it one of the most iconic scenes in England). It is also incredibly priced the food is great and has a wine license to boot! Worth booking during the busy season. Tel: 01747 851838 - (7.3 miles, 16mins).

### Local Take-Aways – we use

**Fish & Chips** - We have a 'traveling' Dorset fish and chip shop. It's very popular so best to phone and book your order in advance otherwise you might have to wait. [www.pilgrimfryer.co.uk](http://www.pilgrimfryer.co.uk) Tel: 07767 024581. There schedule:

Fish & Chip visiting times:

- **Child Okeford** (next to post office) Thursday 5:00PM – 7:30PM. (Quite a crowd can gather) although the Bakers Arms lets you eat it in the pub – presumably if you buy a drink!
- **Shillingstone** next to the Ox Pub 5:00PM – 7:30PM

**Chinese** – Sturminster has the 'Town House Dragon' close to the town square, 31 Church St, Sturminster Newton DT10 1DB Tel: 01258 471 611

There are many other places these are just some we use and like. If you find any others you think are worthy, please let us know?

### Inhouse dining

Inhouse dining either high-end home cooking or gourmet can be arranged by special request. This has to be arranged in advance at the time of booking.

## 11. Places to Visit

Because of COVID 19, some of the attractions may be closed or partially closed so it is important to check first. We are working our way through the list to add the latest news on opening availability and will add more as we progress.

Where to begin – here are some ideas and travel distances:

Outside of the immediate areas of interest, including the national trust Hambleton Hill and it's iron age earthworks, Hodd Hill (both areas of outstanding natural beauty), Grade1 listed Hammoon church dating from the 13 Century and Hammoon Manor itself, there are many towns of historic interest in the area easily accessible by car.

It is almost impossible to list every hidden gem you may find. However, here are some of the more obvious ones frequented by visitors to Dorset.

For more information, the 'Visit Dorset' is a good starting point. It has masses of information and also gives information on guided tours and activities which always surprise me at how reasonable they are. <https://www.visit-dorset.com/things-to-do/attractions>

### History

Sturminster Newton where Hardy lived when writing his novel 'Return of the Native' (10 mins)  
<https://www.dorsets.co.uk/sturminster-newton>

Shaftesbury (20 mins)  
<https://www.shaftesburytourism.co.uk/shaftesbury-2>

Milton Abbas (20 mins)  
<https://www.dorsets.co.uk/milton-abbas>

Sherborne (28 mins)  
<https://www.visit-dorset.com/ideas-and-inspiration/blog/read/2019/10/sherborne-prettiest-town-in-dorset-b121>

Kingston Lacey (27 mins)  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kingston-lacey>

Cerne Abbas - the home of the famous giant (32 mins)  
<https://www.dorsets.co.uk/cerne-abbas>  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cerne-giant>

Dorchester (35 mins)  
[https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardys-cottagerchester - visit Thomas Hardy's Cottage \(39 mins\)](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardys-cottagerchester - visit Thomas Hardy's Cottage (39 mins))

Salisbury Cathedral & home to the Magna Carta (40 mins)  
<https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk>

Stonehenge (45 mins)  
<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge>

Longleat (40 mins)  
<https://www.longleat.co.uk>

Corfe Castle (47 mins)  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle>

Bath (60 mins)  
<https://visitbath.co.uk>

### **Gardens**

Stour Head Gardens (31 mins)  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stourhead>

Mapperton House and Gardens (1:00) Closer to the coast so a great combination to visit both.  
<https://mapperton.com>

### **Beaches**

Burton Bradstock (50 mins) Long beach and the Hive seafood restaurant.  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/burton-bradstock>

Lulworth Cove and the famous Jurassic coast (50) mins  
<https://lulworth.com/visit/places-to-visit/lulworth-cove/>

Kimmeridge Bay Jurassic coast (59 mins) Very good surfing in winter  
<https://jurassiccoast.org/visit/attractions/kimmeridge/>

Chapmans Pool /Cove Jurassic coast (1:00) – A steep climb down keeping the tourists away but worth it!  
Not sandy more a good hike then a picnic than a day on the beach!  
<https://www.viewbritain.com/england/chapmans-pool>

There is of course much more, and if you visit our website – things to do - you will find other suggestions. Georgina and I are happy to advise on local walks, and many other places of interest locally.

## 12. Country Pursuits

### Local Walking

There are plenty of walks directly from the house or longer - if you don't wish to drive to the start.

Here are some of our local favourites there are many, many more nearby and further afield.

**Hambledon Hill** - One of the most iconic sites in Dorset, rising steeply to 190 metres above the Blackmore Vale and the River Stour with fantastic views into the neighbouring counties of Wiltshire and Somerset. It is a Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) and a National Nature Reserve. It is arguably the best-preserved and most notable Iron Age hill fort in Great Britain and one of the best-preserved Neolithic landscapes in Europe and home to many rare species of plant and animal. An amazing 28 species of butterfly have been recorded, including Adonis blue, chalk-hill blue, and dark green fritillary.  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hambledon-hill>

**Fontmell & Melbury Downs** - This area of natural beauty was bought in memory of Thomas Hardy, to protect the landscape in which his novels are set. Fontmell Down and Harding's Down offer stunning views that stretch for miles across the Blackmore Vale. From the car park at the top of Spread Eagle Hill, you can embark on many circular walks across the chalk downland. It's a fantastic place to spot butterflies and orchids, which thrive here. Head north towards Compton Down and Melbury Hill and you will find one of the best displays of glow-worms during June and July (if the weather is good). Melbury Hill, meanwhile, marks the high point of a spur, offering sweeping views across much of the downs. The Melbury Beacon is located 863 feet above sea level and reaching it rewards walkers with wonderful views to the north of the Saxon town of Shaftesbury and across to the surrounding counties. Nearby Melbury Down is a dry valley that cuts the ridge of Cranborne Chase and straddles the counties of Dorset, Hampshire, and Wiltshire.  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/fontmell-and-melbury-downs>

**Hod Hill** - Is also close by. With its Roman and Iron Age period ramparts. Hod Hill is also home to a variety of plants and animals. The thin chalk soils on the steep ramparts are ideal for fine grasses, sedges, and flowers and these attract all manner of wildlife and a wealth of butterflies.  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hod-hill>

### Fishing

The Stour River runs through Hammoon and we have approximately 250 yards of single bank coarse fishing on our land. During the Summer months, it is very 'reedy' which is wonderful for wildlife but less so for fishermen. We do have two spots that are in clear water and you are welcome to try your hand. However, not to put you off completely we do have 2 have fishing permits for guests wishing to fish the River Stour from our local angling association and this provides an additional 10 miles of course fishing on the River Stour all within the vicinity. If this is of particular interest, then please call in advance if you need further information.  
<http://www.s-haa.co.uk>

There are also fisheries close by offering lake fishing including 4 specimen carp lakes, a runs water, and 6 match/pleasure fishing lakes. The lakes are well known for their carp fishing and also provide one of the few places in Dorset to catch a Catfish. There is also an on-site tackle shop - one of the biggest in the U.K.

### Clay pigeon shooting

Clay shooting available for experienced and new guns is also very close by. If you have ever wanted to give it a go, then this may be your chance. A gun license is not necessary, and beginners are welcome.

## Children - Out and about

Keeping children and toddlers occupied is challenging at the best of times and even more so following the COVID19 lockdown and the needs of businesses and activities to maintain social distancing – always a challenge for children.

Normally there are masses of activities on offer close by and further afield in Dorset. At the moment things still remain very fluid with some activities starting to open up and other remaining closed.

Things are changing all the time (daily) so if an attraction or an activity looks attractive then phone because in these fast-moving times websites can be out of date and they will be able to update you on opening dates.

Here are some ideas – more will be added:

### Local Activities:

#### Wimborne Model Town & Gardens (30 mins) - Children & toddlers

<http://www.wimborne-modeltown.com/about-us/>

Tel: 01202 881924

(OPEN) - 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020

Wimborne Model Town is a 1/10th scale of the centre of Wimborne as it was in the 1950s which opened in 1951. The charity attraction, mainly staffed by volunteers, sits on a 2/3 acre site with mature gardens and complementary facilities. With increasing details added over the years, you can get really close up and even touch the buildings. Peer into the Butchers, the Ironmongers, the Bakery, and the Fishmongers, not forgetting the stunning interior of the Minster Church.

The fun family quizzes suitable for all age groups which are provided free of charge, lead you through the many Streets and Lanes including the colourful NGS listed gardens, searching for those elusive clues. Eventually, you approach **Wendy Street**, which has recently been refurbished, a designated safe play area for younger visitors.

#### Treasure Trails - Children + 8 and Adults

[https://www.treasuretrails.co.uk/trails-search/Hammoon,Sturminster Newton,Dorset,England,DT102DA](https://www.treasuretrails.co.uk/trails-search/Hammoon,Sturminster%20Newton,Dorset,England,DT102DA)

Tel: 01872 263692

(OPEN)

Very family orientated and suitable for just about everyone whatever the age - so don't be put off. Treasure Trails suits all ages including the very grown-up! Treasure Trails combines the opportunity to discover new historical places while at the same time enjoying a treasure hunt! Once you have finished and collected all the clues you then submit them online for a chance to win £100 on the draw from participants – although I don't think it's for the money!!

You download the treasure trail in advance from the above website. The trails cover numerous places in the immediate vicinity and beyond. Not exactly for toddlers or the very young but ideal if you want to discover a place - learn some history and have a treasure hunt at the same time.

### **Longleat Safari Park (40 mins) Children and Adults**

<https://www.longleat.co.uk>

(OPEN)

Longleat Safari Park is so famous there is really very little to add. Set in 900 acres of parkland, and offering tours of Longleat House, pleasure gardens, exhibitions, and of course the famous safari park. The 'Longleat Experience' truly caters to the whole family and every interest whatever age. After all who isn't excited by experiencing the nearest thing to an African safari without having to leave home.

You will have to buy tickets in advance, and as far as we understand while COVID 19 continues to limit certain access Longleat House itself is closed.

### **Farmer Palmer's (40 mins) – Young children & toddlers**

<https://www.visit-dorset.com/things-to-do/farmer-palmers-farm-park-p152173>

Tel: 01202 622022

(OPEN 11<sup>th</sup> JULY)

Farmer Palmer's is where young adventurers can frankly 'let their hair down' without older children around to stifle their enjoyment! Designed specifically for children aged 0-8years, everything here is aimed at families with little ones.

Acres of adventure and bucket loads of family fun! There are different animal activities every half hour, mix these with the many dedicated and natural play areas and you've got a full day of entertainment! See the cows being milked, bottle/hand feed lambs and goat kids, tickle a pig, groom a pony, cuddle a guinea pig . . . there's so much to see and do, whatever the weather! To find out more about the events on offer daily, and throughout the year, pop over to [Farmer Palmer's Website](#).

### **Dorset for Children**

There is much more information here on potential activities and outings.

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/best-things-to-do-with-your-kids-in-dorset/>

## 13. Important Contacts

We live at the Manor so if you need us just call or text.

Other contacts you may need:

**Local Doctor** – There is a very good surgery 5 mins away - Upper St, Child Okeford, DT11 8EF  
**Tel: 01258 860 687**

### **Hospitals - Minor Injury/ Care Units**

Blandford Community Hospital (20 mins)  
Milldown Road  
Blandford Forum  
DT11 7DD  
**Tel: 01258 456541**

Westminster Memorial Hospital (20 mins)  
Abbey Walk, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8BD  
**Tel: 01747 851535**

### **Hospitals Major Injury/Care Units**

Dorchester County Hospital Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (40 mins)  
Dorset County Hospital  
Williams Avenue  
Dorchester  
Dorset DT1 2JY  
**Tel: 01305 251150**

Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Longfleet Road, (40 Mins)  
Poole, Dorset  
BH15 2JB  
**Tel: 01202 665511**