



HOLIDAY COTTAGES

Going Out & Local Interest – Summer Update 2024

Basic Food Shopping

Oswestry is a quirky market town (the market is on Wednesday and Saturday) and like most markets it is struggling a bit. As far as other shopping goes we are oversupplied with supermarkets, charity shops and coffee shops.

There are two Aldis', a Morrison's, Sainsbury's, a Lidl, a Co-op and a Marks & Spencer food hall. There is a Thai food shop and noodle bar called Tams on New Street for a small selection of Oriental ingredients.

There are several butchers – we tend to go to M Battan's on 54 Beatrice Street.

Honeysuckle Wholefoods on Church Street, opposite the church itself, stocks a good selection of locally grown seasonal vegetables as well as other various wholefood ingredients.

Covent Garden Fruit Market, on English Walls by the large central car park in town, have a wide selection of fruit and veg. We leave eggs in the cottage as part of our welcome pack (if the girls are laying.) If you would like more just ask – we sell them at £2.00 per half dozen.

Coffee Shops

Booka Book Shop - 26-28 Church St, Oswestry SY11 2SP.

An award winning independent bookshop, it also has a small café offering decent coffee and cakes.



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The Old School House - 1-3 Church Terrace, Oswestry SY11 2TE

Situated in the Churchyard behind Oswald's Church is this lovely old building. It serves food too, all day and sometimes at night - do check opening times as it's not all week.

Square One - 1a Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2PA

The coffee here isn't our favourite, although the food is reasonable and it's nice to sit in the square on a sunny day – our son is fond of the crepes served here!

Niche Patisserie - The Black Gate, 7 Salop Rd, Oswestry SY11 2NR

A family run business of three dedicated owners, the pastry chef is Adam Cleal Semi-finalist from "Bake Off the Professionals" 2019, he produces some exquisite pastries, although if you arrive late they have often sold out! Good coffee too.

Gilhams Deli - 27 Church St, Oswestry SY11 2SU

Here you will find a selective range of English and continental cheeses, a sandwich bar, and an okay café with some good seasonal, homecooked food options. Not our favourite coffee, but okay as long as you don't mind your coffee served in a soup bowl!

Other Local Shops & Art Galleries

Textile Express - 42 Church Street, SY11 2SY

Here you will find an extensive range of wonderful fabrics at a fraction of their usual price, definitely worth a rummage - it's an Aladin's cave of pure textile delight.



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Upstairs Downstairs - 35-37 Legge Street SY11 2NN

A large independent award winning cookshop where you will find all manner of things from cookware to tableware, home décor and gifts.

The Qube - Oswald Road, SY11 1RB

A charitable organisation serving the local community through art, exhibitions of local artists, makers and recent graduates.

The Willow Gallery - 56 Willow Street, SY11 1AD

The Willow Gallery houses local and nationwide artists – a good place to pick up some affordable art.

Antiques & Salvage

Lisa has visited them all, so can advise but do check opening times in all cases!

Cambrian House Antique Emporium - Gobowen Rd, Oswestry SY11 1HS

Housed in the old Cambrian Railways engine sheds is a great place for a rummage with a wide collection of antiques, vintage, ceramics etc. There are about 35 different sellers here so something for everyone. There is also a café where you can get an okay coffee, decent cakes and a selection of sandwiches, soup etc.

John Reid Antiques - 59 Church St, Oswestry SY11 2SZ

A small shop but here you will find a good variety of pieces, some of high quality, and reasonably priced – and there is also an old bookstore adjoining.



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The Old Yard - 5 Wootton Cottages, Queen's Head, Morda, SY11 4LJ

A family run business run by Elaine and Andy and their daughter Hannah, viewings are by appointment only; they are often there so just call. They sell good quality antique lighting and decorative pieces and are super knowledgeable and always happy to help.

Further Afield

Whitchurch Antique Emporium - Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD

The Emporium offers two floors of interesting and unusual antique and vintage pieces including furniture, glassware, ceramics, books and vintage clothing.

Bryn-Y-Grog Hall Emporium - Bryn-Y-Grog, Marchwiel, Wrexham LL13 0SR

Antique and collectable emporium with over 50 units including, glass, china, antique furniture etc.

Nook Antiques - 10 Bridge St, Llangollen LL20 8PF

A great shop selling country furniture and folk art alongside an eclectic mix of advertising wares, vintage luggage and kitchenalia. Do call as it's not open all the time.

Cultural Activities

There are two small museums, a railway one and a town museum: both do at least what they say on the tin and if you have an interest are worth a visit.



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Cambian Heritage Railway - The Old Railway Station, Oswald Rd, SY11 1RE

The newly restored heritage railway operates on selected days using Steam, Vintage Diesel or Diesel Multiple Units. Trains operate between Oswestry and Western Wharf; adjacent to Western Wharf you will find the Stonehouse Brewery - a good stop for a burger and a locally crafted beer!

Local Things to Do - (By no means an exhaustive list, but enough to get you started we hope!)

National Trust - Within half an hour - we have four National Trust properties:

- **Chirk Castle** – Chirk, Wrexham, LL14 5AF
- **Erddig** - Wrexham LL13 0YT
- **Powys Castle and Garden** - Welshpool SY21 8RF
- **Attingham Park** - Atcham, Shrewsbury SY4 4TP

Horse Riding

Penycoed Riding - Llyncllys Hill, Blackbridge Ln, Pant, Oswestry SY10 8LG

Offer private tuition, private lessons, with tacks for all ages and abilities. Booking essential.

Golf

There are one or two local golf courses – **Oswestry Golf Club** and the **Vale of Llangollen**, visitors welcome at both subject to prior booking.



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Park Hall Countryside Experience

To be found just outside Oswestry on Burma Road, Whittington - A farm park, animal fun, action and adventure for the kids, particularly the young ones. There is a WW1 trench experience, oddly. A little tired in parts, but if you need to keep the kids happy for a few hours, a good choice. The pig race event is not to be missed!

Whittington Castle

About a fifteen-minute drive from Oswestry, the village of Whittington has its own ruined castle – there's a shop and you can get an Ice Cream and a coffee. Its not huge, but there's enough of it to keep the kids happy for an hour or two.

Further Afield

Zip World

Within about an hour's drive we have Zip World. Just some of the many offerings, and in no particular order.

The UK's longest zip wire at the Penrhyn former Slate Quarry; the Forest Coaster at Betsy Coed; Underground Golf at Blaenau Ffestiniog; as well as Caverns, Bounce Below, the Deep Mine Tour. Please check their website – there is so much. As usual, booking essential.

The Revolution Extreme Bike Park - Llangynog, Oswestry SY10 0EP

One of the UKs premier downhill mountain bike parks – definitely not for the beginner. About half an hour's drive from us, in Llangynog.



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River Kayaking

In nearby Llangollen, Rapid Horizons offer River Kayaking, White Water Rafting and climbing.

Llandegla Forest Park

One Planet Adventure located at Llandegla, in Denbighshire, about fifty minutes' drive from here, offer a family orientated forest park – café, walking, cycling and mountain biking routes with bike hire.

Delamere Forest – Frodsham, WA6 6NBA large forest, with multi use trails, summer concerts and a visitor centre with a café. About an hour's drive.

Blue Planet Aquarium – Longlooms Rd, Ellesmere Port CH65 9LF

Good for the kids on a rainy day. Check opening times. About 45 minutes' drive.

Conwy Castle - Rose Hill St, Conwy LL32 8AY

One of Edward the First's thirteenth century castles – from his invasion and occupation of Wales at the time. Impressive, and Conwy itself is an enjoyable visit with plenty of shops, cafes, and a pleasant harbour. An hour and fifteen minutes depending on traffic and time of year.

Llandudno

A classic Victorian seaside resort – fish and chips, a pier with shops and games arcades – busy in July and August, enjoyable at any time – we often go there on New Years Day for some sea air! Just down the road from Conwy above, so not a bad combination for a day out in Wales proper.



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Walking

The entire area is served by footpaths, canal towpaths, areas of common land and good walking. There is an Ordnance survey map in the cottage. Offa's Dyke is to be found at the top of the hill. Plenty of walks to do directly from the cottage.

Snowdonia's little brother, the Berwyn Range, is a short distance from here and offer a taste of the wild beauty of the local area with opportunities for walking, cycling, wildlife watching and mountain biking – without the crowds of Snowdonia, with paths and trails to yourself.

Pistyll Rhaeadr Waterfalls – Tanypistyll, Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, SY10 0BZ

A spectacular waterfall, at 240ft (80m) high it is Britain's tallest single-drop waterfall, captivating all who visit her. It's a great destination – a great walk, a good climb, and an enchanting view at the end. It's a great place to explore the Berwyn Mountain and surrounding area. Parking is a little limited and it can get very busy at peak times.



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Drinking, Eating & Takeaways

Oswestry has more than its fair share of watering holes. Local beers can be found in most of these and some show sports. The best of these and in no particular order;

- **The Bailey Head** – Oswestry SY11 1PZ
- **The Griffin Inn** – Albion Hill, Oswestry SY11 1QA
- **The Oak Inn** – 47 Church St, Oswestry SY11 2SZ
- **The Fox** - 21 Church St, Oswestry SY11 2SU
- **The Stonehouse Brewery** - Weston Rd, Morda, Oswestry SY10 9ES

A very good local brewery, they are very welcoming, have a bar and serve food. There are brewery tours. You can catch the Heritage Railway from Oswestry to the brewery direct when the railway is running.

Wine, Beer and Cocktail Bars

Knock and Stitch - 28 Cross St, Oswestry SY11 2NG

A new addition to Oswestry at the time of writing; cocktails, wine and craft beer can be found, and occasionally live music.



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56 Wine Beer Boards - 5 Leg St, Oswestry SY11 2NL

Another new addition to Oswestry, it looks a pleasant space from the outside and they do a few nibble boards of cheeses, charcuterie, etc. etc. to have alongside a glass of wine or a G&T!

Takeaways

There are several Indian takeaways, we don't think that they're particularly that good (spoiled by a vast choice of cuisine in London), although ok if you don't want to cook. (For quality Indian Food try The Mumbai – Henlle Heights, see below)

- Cinammon - 26 Leg St, Oswestry SY11 2NN (01691 661117)
- Simla - 42 Beatrice St, Oswestry SY11 1QG (01691 659880)
- Red Rose - 33 Willow St, Oswestry SY11 1AQ (01691 670600)

Chinese Takeaways

Jolly Garden - Smithfield St, Oswestry SY11 2EG

Square View Noodle Bar - Smithfield St, Oswestry SY11 2EG

Situated next door to one another and owned by the same family, both Chinese takeaways are reliable.



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Local Restaurants

The Townhouse - 35 Willow St, Oswestry SY11 1AQ

This was once cutting edge for Oswestry in terms of décor and design - so a bit old hat for most other places. A nice civilised place for a drink, food is a bit hit and miss.

The Wynnstay Hotel and Restaurant - Church St, Oswestry SY11 2SZ

Recently refurbished the Wynnstay houses a restaurant and coffee house and is a vast improvement on what was there before, the décor does look like an explosion from The Great British Interior Design Challenge, but far better than the red patterned carpets from its previous life! The food isn't bad, and the coffee shop serves good coffee and cakes.

The Mumbai – Henlle Heights, Henlle Ln, Gobowen, Oswestry SY10 7AX

This is one of our favourites, innovative classic and contemporary Indian cuisine and is far superior to any of the Indian takeaways in town. Exotic curries and other specialties are prepared, based on time-honoured traditional cooking methods and ingredients. A nice location too.

Ambers Pizza Co - 3 Beatrice St, Oswestry SY11 1QE

Dine-in and takeaway - Independent, authentic, handmade Neapolitan pizza. The bases here are much doughier than we like, but still a good place to grab a pizza.



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Prezzo - 30 Church St, Oswestry SY11 2SP

One of our local chains, and also reliable. We think it is a little expensive, but our son loves the pizza!

Lisbon Tapas Restaurant - 6 Church St, Wrexham LL13 8LS

Recently reviewed by Jay Rayner in the Guardian, we decided to give this a go one evening before attending a concert close by. Wrexham doesn't really have that much to offer (apart from its new claim to fame in the footballing world), but the tapas that we had here was pretty good, it was nice to have something different. Worth trying if you ever end up in Wrexham! - I'm sure we will visit again.

Country Pubs

Best of the local country pubs with food are:

The Docks – Glyn Rd, Selattyn SY10 7DH

One of our 'go to' places for food, Geof the chef creates a varied menu which tends to be rather more exciting than your average pub fayre.

The Queens Head - Queen's Head, Oswestry SY11 4EB

A rather extensive menu serving honest pub grub at a reasonable price.



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The Hand - Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog, Llangollen LL20 7LD

This is about 25 mins away in the Welsh village of Llanarmon DC, it's one of our favourite drives to do on a glorious day, the drive is spectacular (perhaps not great for those who don't like single-track roads, there is another route), but in our opinion it is worth doing. The food is pretty good and the chef has built a strong reputation for superb cuisine - they have been included in the Michelin guide. The interior is a little dated, but they have a delightful open fire in the bar area for those cold days.

The Boat – Erbistock, Wrexham LL13 0DL

In a beautiful location on the river Dee, about a 30-minute drive away. Another one of our favourites, a good, varied menu – we always have an excellent meal here.

The Three Eagle - Bridge St, Llangollen LL20 8PF

About 20 minutes away in Llangollen, a nice pub with a decent interior and good food.

The Cornmill – Dee Lane, Llangollen LL20 8PN

A waterside pub and restaurant with spectacular views of the river Dee. The decks outside are built directly over the mill race and the rapids, and on the opposite bank of the river, steam trains arrive and leave from the restored station. The menu is varied, and the food isn't bad - we love it for its location!

In all cases, prior booking is strongly advised.



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Taxis, Petrol, Diesel & Electric Cars

Petrol is available 24 hours at the Mile end roundabout at the bottom of town - also the BP garage at Beatrice Street.

We have an EV charging station onsite – if you need to use it let us know. At time of writing, we are charging 0.75p per Kwh of charge which you can pay cash or card.

TAXIS – It's not easy to get a taxi here, but these are the best.

- **Berwyn Cars** - 01691 652000
- **Oswald Cars** - 01691 596596
- **Higgins Taxis** - 01691 652901

Airport/weddings/private hire

- **Tony's Cars** - 07411 061482

Energy

In 2022 we installed a very healthy 16kw capacity of solar panels in the field, supplying green energy to the whole of Underhill House – along with battery storage. We are delighted to be doing our bit for the environment and offsetting the negative effects of the Central Heating Oil that this remote location has been tied to for decades. Please help us to maximize the benefits by utilizing electric power during the day – for the washing machines, tumble dryers and dishwashers for example.



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Hospitals

Shrewsbury and Wrexham Hospitals are both approximately 30 minutes' drive away from the cottage. The minor injuries unit in Oswestry is good for non-urgent medical issues, do check for opening times.

- **Royal Shrewsbury Hospital** - 01743 261000
- **Wrexham Maelor Hospital** - 01978 291100
- **Oswestry Minor Injuries Unit** - 01691 663617

If there is anything we've missed or anything that you think is worth adding to this information sheet – please, let us know. We are here to help and want to make your stay a good one.

Alex and Lisa

01691 657279

07904 120693