

### **MARCH OFFER – 15% off**

The weather is getting better – sunshine over the view followed the weekend's snow.

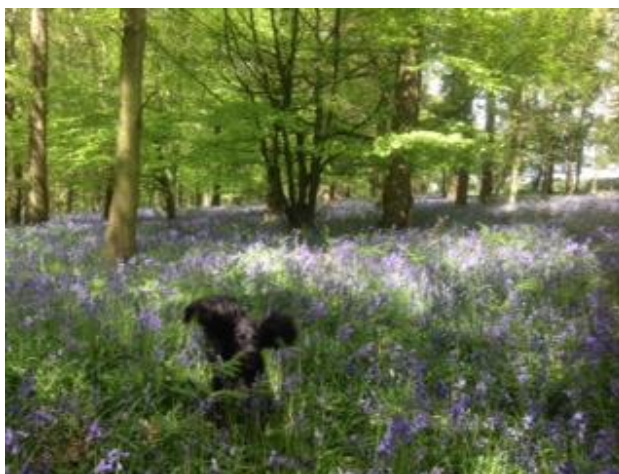
If you fancy fitting in a break before Easter it is **15% off** with our offer – just add **MARCH2024** to your booking form and we will do the sums.

Do let family and friends know – it means you can take a week's break for less than £500 (or a short break if you prefer).

1 March to 21 March inclusive.



Our view with snow



Daisy-dog in the bluebells opposite Rock Lodge

The bluebells should be peaking in April (it was a mild winter so that is the forecast). Do come and see.

### **Events:**

- Treats for Mothers' Day: choices include Cream Tea Dining Trains with Perrygrove Railway in Coleford and free entry for mums at Dean Heritage Centre with crafts, poetry and traditional lawn games
- Abergavenny Spring Food Festival. 8 March
- Mosaic Taster - prosecco or G&T included - with Rachael Shilston at Lydney Park Estate . 17 March.
- Spring Afternoon Jump Racing at Chepstow Race Course. 21 March
- Forest of Dean Spring Half Marathon is now a British Trail Running Championship event – entries close 10 March (but are still open for the Autumn event). 24 March
- Medieval fashion shows, arms and armour: 12<sup>th</sup> Century life at Raglan Castle recreated. 30 March – 1 April.
- Coleford Festival of Transport: from vintage police cars through luxurious old Chryslers to autograss cars (and Mater is usually there!). 1 April
- Make Your Pet in Mosaic with Inspire Creativity. 3 April, 2 June
- Stargazing Safaris with John Bell in the beautiful village of Clearwell. Make the most of our glorious unpolluted skies. 20 April and 18 May
- Wye Valley River Festival: a variety of events along the whole Wye. 3-12 May
- Golden Valley Country Fair at the home of Gwatkin Cider, Appledore. Classic vehicle show, falconry, medieval re-enactment, axemen, tug-of-war, country crafts and stalls. 8 June
- Abergavenny Pride. 29 June.
- Coleford Music Festival. Four stages, food and drink – past performers include local boy (and Eurovision entrant) Olly Alexander 13-14 July.
- Monmouth Show. 18 August



Mosaic pet



Raglan Caste



Olly at Coleford Music Festival

### Activities News:

Caving, rock climbing or just learning to find your way and map read: Borderlands have launched Beginner Navigation Days around the Wye Valley and Monmouth. They run regular Caving Adventure or Rock Climbing Taster Days at Symonds Yat and other locations.

Caldicot Castle is becoming a fantastic, and unique, venue. A 40-minute drive from Rock Lodge through beautiful countryside to this romantic castle. This year events include The Strangers and Ministry of Sound. And Chepstow Racecourse (only 30 minutes away) is hosting Tom Jones (amongst others such as Hozier and Shania Twain)!

Guided tours of the legendary Rockfield Studios are coming up – look out for new dates! Bands who recorded here include Queen, Oasis, Simple Minds, Coldplay, Tom Odell, and Paolo Nutini. Contact [helen@rockfieldmusicgroup.com](mailto:helen@rockfieldmusicgroup.com)

Make the most of our glorious river. You can canoe, paddleboard, take a boat tour – and the best time to go is between Easter and Summer holidays when the river is lower, the weather better and the people fewer.



Climbing at Symonds Yat



Caldicott Castle

### Food and Drink News:

Gourmet Gatherings' Chloe has been foraging since childhood through Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire. She has teamed up with Crafty Pickle to run Forage and Ferment Workshops. Spend the morning foraging around the Severn Estuary then an afternoon of kimchi and soda pickling, (Also kombucha workshops; hedge and meadow foraging etc).

### Filming and Publishing News:

*The Way*, with Martin Sheen, is now on iPlayer. We watched the filming outside The Shire Hall, Monmouth in May; they also made good use of the pub (The Punch House).

*The Winter King* – a new Arthurian drama series based on Bernard Cornwell's books – was filmed last year at locations including Lydney Park Estate and disused Livox quarry near Chepstow. It released in December on ITVX.

There is a new book out on the wild boar (available at all good local bookshops, including Rossiters in Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth and try Forest Books & Crafts in Coleford). Chantal Lyons moved to the Forest of Dean to get to know the boar better and wrote *Groundbreakers. The Return of Britain's Wild Boar*.

We are on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

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