

# SYMONDS YAT ROCK LODGE

## Self-catering Apartments Newsletter – Spring 2018

Happy Spring, hope you enjoyed the snow.

Things have all changed here – news on the build soon, but first of all, the law:

**DATA PROTECTION:** We need to have your written agreement to send you newsletters now (new European law). Please reply to this e-mail (or get in touch any other way that suits) to carry on receiving newsletters. We will only send you two newsletters a year.

### **Symonds Yat Rock Lodge News:**

We will definitely have out two new apartments open for the first May Bank Holiday, and probably even sooner, so we are now taking bookings - see our website or get in touch. We are working on the interiors now, kitchen and bathroom fitting and choosing cushions and throws. We are really pleased with how they are looking: really light and spacious, with our fabulous views. So now we have six modern, open-plan apartments with great views. All take dogs and are available for short stays (2 days from £160, additional nights from £40) to several weeks (from £360/week).



Seems to be on schedule and to budget. The snow did not slow us down much, although we did have the saga of the windows which travelled all the way from Sweden in that dreadful snow early in December, and got stuck just half a mile away. Rescued by local farmers and determined window fitters (and the lorry drivers sensibly parked in The New Inn car park so they were stuck in a good place!)



Here are some memories: the last breakfast, and Darren doing demolition:

**Events:**

- Caldicott Castle reopens on Easter Sunday and is free for the day to celebrate. Renowned for its daffodil show.
- Topsy Turvy fun for Easter at Raglan Castle as it coincides with April Fool’s Day
- Try Shinrin-yoku at The Wilderness Centre, Mitcheldean (it’s forest bathing!?). 3 April
- Forage and Feast with Yvette Farrell of Harts Barn Cookery School. 21 April
- Come and see the lambs, and learn about Welsh hill sheep farms. Parva Farm Vinyard, Tintern. 28 April – 13 May.
- The fabulous poppies from the Tower of London are installed at Hereford Cathedral until 29 April
- Forest Activities Festival. 29 April
- The Wye Valley River Festival returns. Includes Museum of the Moon at Tintern Abbey, with a massive moon suspended in the ruins and glowing as night falls. A son et Lumiere in the Forest from artist Jony Easterby; street theatre; circus; night-time parades and fire sculptures. 5-20 May.
- Wild Boar Chase – mountain biking in the Forest. 20 May
- Welsh Wine Week includes free tastings and tours at Parva Farm Vineyard. 26 May – 3 June
- Monmouthshire Food Festival @ Caldicott Castle. 2-3 June



**Nature:**

The Beavers are coming! A controlled release of beavers at Lydbrook will start this Spring. The Forestry Commission are running this experiment to see if their dams will reduce flooding. We’ve not had beavers here for 400 years.

Record the first bluebells with Woodland Trust’s Big Bluebell Watch from 2 April.

**Activities News:**

Try gorge scrambling with Inspire2Adventure

New assault course opening at Beechenhurst: make your way around it as best you can once, then try it again with black-out goggles! From 30 March.

**Filming News:**

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's series spent two episodes in our area – included dippers, barbel (they give that amazing deep golden flash you sometimes see in the Wye when they show their bellies) and boar of course.

Gained another award in 2017:



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