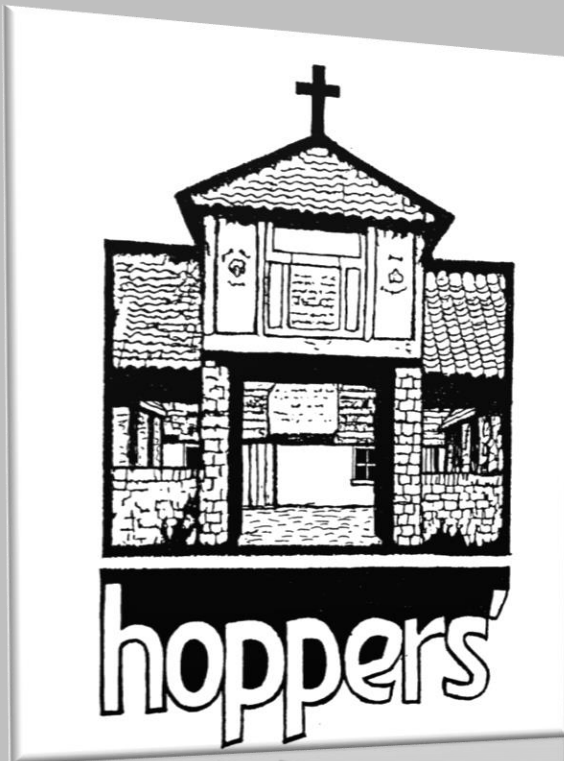


Information for Visitors





Hoppers is in the midst of the Garden of England, just south of Tonbridge in the Kentish village of Five Oak Green.

The building started life centuries ago as four farm cottages, before becoming a village pub called the Rose and Crown. The medieval beams, low ceilings, and sloping floors upstairs can still be seen.

Each September thousands of East Londoners would go down to Kent to help pick the hops. The Church in East End of London bought the house to care for them. It was renamed The Little Hoppers Hospital and belongs to a charitable company called The Red House, Stepney.

The house was renovated, in the 1980's, as hop farming declined, as a place where groups might go for a few days to find peace and quietness away from London.

Now called Hoppers it is well used as a self-catering center for parish and family groups. The small Management Committee maintains a constant programme of improvements.

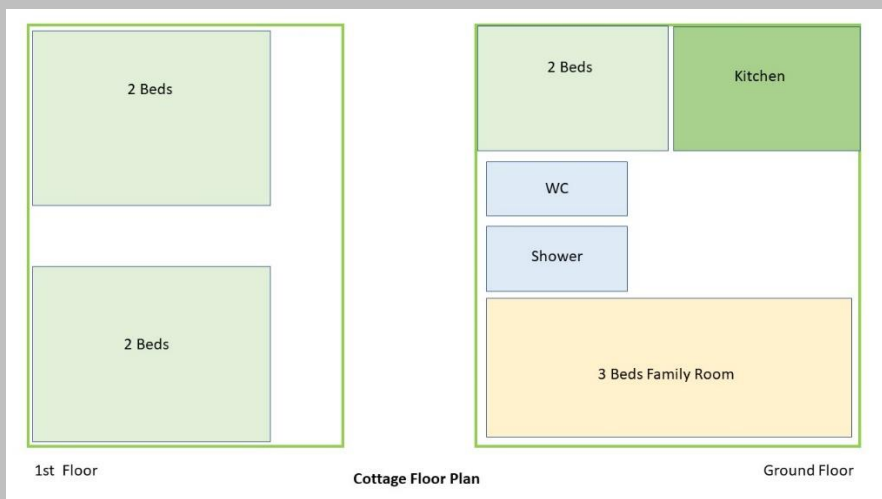
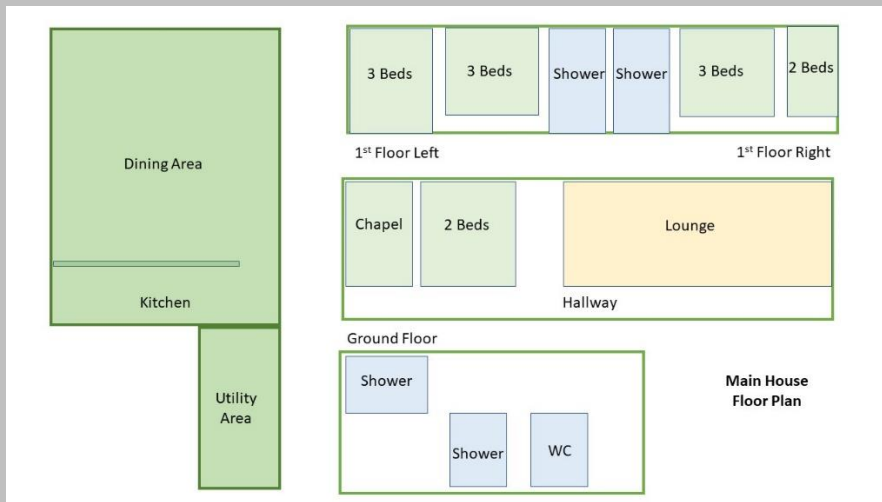
ACCOMMODATION

Hoppers consists of two houses connected by a Kitchen/Dining Room

The Main House (old) has thirteen beds.

The ground floor is fully accessible by wheelchair (including one bedroom).

The Cottage has nine beds (plus extra mattresses) For children there are travel cots and highchairs.



WHAT TO TAKE

The kitchens are fully equipped for self-catering, having cookers, microwaves, a dishwasher, washing machine, dryer fridge and freezer. You need to take food, washing up liquid, cloths, dustbin bags. dishwasher tablets etc.

All beds have two pillows and a blanket, you need to take sheets and pillowcases duvets or sleeping bags, towels and toiletries.

A linen service for Hoppers is provided by Susannah Strawson, for enquiries regarding this service please contact Susannah directly at susannah.strawson@btinternet.com

Asthma sufferers should take their pump as old houses are always dusty.

Winter visitors may wish to take hot-water bottles.

Toilet rolls are provided

Pets are not permitted.

BOOKING

Contact the Booking Clerk by Email: hoppersbookings@gmail.com A booking is secured when a completed booking form (<http://www.hopperskent.org/hire/booking-form>) is returned to the Booking Clerk and a £100 non-returnable deposit is paid by electronic banking.

The care and protection of children and vulnerable adults is important to the Management Committee. Groups that use the premises are expected to share this concern and make appropriate provision for the protection of children and vulnerable adults within their care. Leaders must confirm that they are familiar with the Home Office Guidelines “Safe from harm”, and a copy of the groups Safe Guarding Policy maybe requested.

CHARGES

Weekend: Friday arrival after 12 noon until Sunday departure before 3pm. £675

Midweek: Day rate £225

Discounts are available for charitable users; ask the Bookings Clerk.

CARETAKER

The Caretakers, who live nearby are Richard & Susannah Strawson, they can be contacted in emergency. They live at 92 Nortons Way, Five Oak Green TN12 6TF Mobile: 07851 425661 / 07971 153513 Landline: 01892 833544 Email: susannah.strawson@btinternet.co

ACCESS

Access to Hoppers is granted by our village caretaker please contact Susannah prior to your stay for access instructions.

Susannah Strawson 01892833544 / susannah.strawson@btinternet.co.

Once inside Hoppers the large key for the Main house back door hangs on the door frame and keys for the connecting doors between the two kitchens hang on their door frames; one at the end of the utility area the other inside the cottage kitchen.

All Keys should be returned before you leave.

GETTING THERE

By Road

Post code for navigation is TN12 6RL

Railway Stations are Paddock Wood and Tonbridge.

Car Parking

Six cars can be parked in the forecourt.

Minibuses: Check height before attempting to drive under the arch.

Do not park on the pavement outside the gate. The Recreation Ground car park is recommended.

It is advisable that cars only enter under Hoppers entrance from the right.

Once in the front courtyard please be careful to avoid hitting the supporting pillars.

SHOPPING

Most supermarkets offer an online delivery service

The address for delivery is: Hoppers, Five Oak Green Road, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6RL. Ensure that someone is in to receive the delivery.

Five Oak Green: Post Office and Village Store open 7 days a week 6am-9pm.

Tonbridge: Sainsburys, Waitrose, Ice Land and Aldi.

Paddock Wood: Waitrose, Tesco Express.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Woodlands Health Centre, Allington Road, Paddock Wood. ☎ 01892 833331.

Tunbridge Wells Hospital, Pembury TN2 4QJ ☎ 01892 823535.

CHURCHES

Details of services are in the parish magazine. The Rev'ds Jeremy & Pamela Ive can be contacted at the Vicarage in Sychem Lane. ☎ 01892 836653. Other churches can be found on www.findachurch.com

PLACES TO VISIT

Within easy reach are: Tonbridge Castle, Bewl Water, Leeds Castle, Hever Castle, The Hop Farm and the villages of Brenchley and Hadlow.

All Saints Tudeley Parish Church has stained glass windows by Marc Chagall.

Thomas a Becket Capel Chapel has twelfth century wall paintings. Thomas a Becket preached under its Yew tree.

Both Tudeley and Capel can be reached by public footpaths.

HOUSEKEEPING

Entry to the Main House is via the kitchen door off the rear courtyard: To avoid bringing dirt in and letting heat out, the front doors should only be used as FIRE EXITS.

- Night storage heaters in the Main House should be on. Remember they will have difficulty reheating the house if external doors are left open.
- Heaters in the Cottage are not on cheap rate. They can be turned on at the wall when required.
- The four immersion heaters should be on and should therefore not need to be touched. Both upstairs showers run off the same immersion which may need time to reheat. People have a habit of turning off the Immersion Heater for the upstairs bathrooms, The switch is situated outside the bathroom above the Main House Lounge. The red light for this switch shows it is turned on.

The switch for hot water in the kitchen is just inside the utility area make sure this is always switched on.

- The water supply is metered, so do not leave taps running.
- Some of the neighboring homes have small children. External noise should be kept to a minimum after 10.00pm.
- There is a first aid kit in kitchen.
- There is a smart TV in the main house lounge, please return the remote control on the beam above the TV set.
- There is an Alexa echo dot in the main house kitchen.

WASTE DISPOSAL

The Local Council defines four categories of waste/recycling. Please read carefully. These should be emptied to the appropriate wheelie bins.

CATEGORIES MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU ARE USED TO AT HOME

Food: Green kitchen caddy with **compostable** bags provided [Kitchen drawer]
Food, bones, eggshells, teabags & peelings – no plastic. Empty into BLACK FOOD BIN outside the kitchen door.

General: Stainless steel bin in kitchen, please use black bin bag.
Plastic bags & wrappers, nappies, waxy juice cartons, cloth, etc.
Tie up and empty to GREEN wheelie bin (there are 3)

Paper: Paper, cardboard, magazines & catalogues – no plastic
Empty to GREEN BOX "PAPER AND CARDBOARD"

Tins, Glass, Plastics: Tins, cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars – washed and squashed and empty to BROWN wheelie bin.

FIRE SAFETY

The old house is largely made of wood. Special care should therefore be taken.

Fire Safety Instructions are displayed throughout.

The group leader is responsible for explaining them to everyone on arrival.

Doors and windows should not be locked or obstructed.

The building is not tall so all windows are fire escapes.

The door into the main lounge should be closed at night.

Smoking is not permitted in any of the buildings.

There are smoke alarms in every room.

Dry powder extinguishers and fire blankets for cookers are strategically positioned.

COMFORT AND SAFETY

Bedroom Heating: There are oil-filled radiators, which will heat the low-ceiling rooms very quickly. Please be mindful of the use and cost of energy.

Night Storage Heaters [NSHs]: All these heaters have been set by the caretaker before you arrive at Hoppers, please do not change any of the settings.

Heat Loss: One problem about NSHs is that if the heat is let out of the room there is no booster system to replace it. The simple solution, in the winter, is to ensure that doors are kept SHUT.

Drains: Ancient and narrow drains run under the lawn. It is unpleasant and expensive to have them cleared if they get blocked, please do not put excessive amounts of paper down the toilets and definitely no sanitary items or nappies down the toilets.

Low Beams: People were smaller 400 years ago when the cottages were built hence the low beams and ceilings, these may leave visitors with painfully bruised heads unless steps are taken to warn them.

Step: When the dining room was built 100 years ago the floor was laid slightly below that of the old house. This has resulted in there being a low step in the area of the toilets. please ensure people that they are aware of it.

First Aid: There is a basic first aid box in the kitchen drawer, but it is advisable to bring your own.

Hoover: There are 2 vacuum cleaners in the cupboard under the stairs.

Attics: The attics are padlocked and out of bounds for safety reasons.

Garden Furniture: The tables and chairs are left out in the winter. For the convenience of smokers there is a designated smoking area complete with a wall mounted bin. Please keep the garden tidy.

LEAVING CHECKLIST

- Leave Hoppers' at least as clean as you found it.
- Return all items (bedding, kitchen equipment, heaters etc) to where they belong.
- Each bed should have 2 pillows and a cushion, 1 yellow blanket and 1 cover neatly folded.
- Do not leave any food behind.
- Dispose of Rubbish as indicated above.
- Take all belongings. Lost property is kept for a month before disposal. A request to the caretaker to search for lost items and if found post them on can be made. Postage and a £10 recovery cost will occur.
- Leave the electricity, water mains and night storage heaters switched ON, but ensure all other appliances are switched OFF and taps are not dripping.
- Close all doors and windows.
- Sign the Visitors' Book for future interest.

SUGGESTIONS & BREAKAGES

The Chairman's "Plea" is a simple way for visitors to assist in the running of Hoppers'

Please take time to:

- Make helpful suggestions.
- Encourage the Management Committee.
- Report anything not working.
- Confess any breakages – you may be asked to pay for them depending on what they are.

We Hope you enjoy your stay at Hoppers, please do stay in contact with us on Facebook and Twitter @ Hoppers Kent.



2023

hoppersbookings@gmail.com

www.hopperskent.org

Hoppers
Five Oak Green Road
Five Oak Green
Kent TN12 6RL

Charity Number 208940

