



THE BLUE BELL

AT COCKING

INFORMATION PACK

Dear Guests

A warm welcome to the Blue Bell at Cocking and we hope you enjoy your stay with us.

Each room has TV, free fibre to the premises wi-fi, hair dryer, coffee/tea making facilities, when regulations permit we will also provide a selection of books and magazines to choose from.

We can also provide lots of local information for you and we are shortly to be set up as a designated South Downs National Park Information Centre

Wi-Fi Access

Username: Bluebell_Guest

Password: Bellhop2019

History of the Blue Bell at Cocking

The Blue Bell, Bell Lane, Cocking, West Sussex GU29 0HU

www.thebluebellatcocking.co.uk

T: 01730 239 669

E: info@thebluebellatcocking.co.uk



THE BLUE BELL AT COCKING

The Blue Bell Inn has served the villagers of Cocking, as well as travellers between Chichester and Midhurst for well over 200 years.

Although the Cowdray Estate map of 1635 shows a building on the site of the present-day Blue Bell inn, the earliest known written record of the inn was in September 1804 when an advertisement was placed in several local newspapers:



Although recorded as the Bell Inn in 1841, ten years later, the Post Office Directory of Sussex for 1851 lists it as the 'Blue Bell', with James Harn as licensee. From now onwards, until the 1980s, all official records refer to the Blue Bell although the pub was often known colloquially as simple The Bell.

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The original inn was a thatched house, but this was replaced with the present-day building shortly after the opening of Cocking railway station in 1881, when it served as the local railway hotel.

By now, the licensee of the inn was Frederick Farley whose family had been farmers at Wolverstone, between Cocking and Singleton, for many generations and were later recorded at Sunwool Farm. Frederick Farley became the tenant of the Blue Bell in about 1865 and continued until his death in September 1893, when his widow, Elizabeth replaced him, until about 1902. Members of the Farley family lived in Cocking until quite recently; Frederick and Elizabeth's great-granddaughter, Ann Farley, was shopkeeper and post-mistress in the village for many years.

Following Elizabeth's retirement, the licence was transferred to David Hunt, who was the tenant at the Blue Bell until 1939. Thus, for a period of 75 years, the tenancy of the Blue Bell had been occupied by only two families.

The next public record is in January 1927, when a case was heard at Midhurst Magistrates Court against George Blandford, described as 'a bad lot'. Blandford was charged with stealing six pounds, plus a quantity of brandy and whisky as well as the till from the bar at the Blue Bell on Christmas Day 1927. He was found guilty and sentenced to three months imprisonment on each charge.

By August 1939, the freehold of the inn was owned by Cowdray Estate, who put it up for auction on 1 September 1939. The auction particulars describe the Blue Bell as a "fully licensed inn, a Free House ... standing in the centre of the village ... occupying a commanding position, and capable of doing a large trade". The inn had a "large club room (and) a large 'pull-in' garden with garages and stabling" and was let to Mr. D. Hunt on a quarterly tenancy.

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Unfortunately, David Hunt's wife, Annie died (aged 75) soon after the sale, as a result of which he terminated his tenancy. On 14 December 1939, his furniture and effects were sold by auction on the premises.

For a few years in the 1980s and 1990s, the name of the business was changed to the more trendy 'Potter & Vine' although it subsequently reverted to the Blue Bell, and then, more recently, the Bluebell.

On Wednesday May 1st 2019 the purchase of Blue Bell was completed, with the financial support of the local community and after several months of refurbishment, the Blue Bell opened its doors again on Friday 13th December 2019. proudly reunited with its old hanging sign which was found in a local garden and refurbished.

Contacting us during your stay

If you need to contact us, please call

Steve Hodges, General Manager – 07535 676369

The Blue Bell at Cocking – 01730 239 669

E: info@thebluebellatcocking.co.uk

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There is a night bell on the outside of the Manager's flat for emergency night time use.

Contents of this Pack

- 1. Emergency Information*
- 2. Covid regulations*
- 3 Arrival Information*
- 4. Parking*
- 5. Guest Rooms*
- 6. Breakfast*
- 67. Travel (taxi, train & bus)*

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8. Local Information

1. Emergency Information

In the Event of Fire

Please evacuate the building quickly and calmly and make your way to the car park behind the building. Where possible, please close all doors behind you. Do not stop to pick up belongings and do not re-enter the building until authorized to do so. Please take time to familiarize yourself with your means of escape

If you have any hearing, sight or mobility concerns that may make it difficult for you to evacuate the building in the event of an emergency please let us know so that we can provide appropriate assistance.

In the Event of Finding a Fire

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If you discover a fire and the alarm has not already been activated, contact a member of the Blue Bell team, exit the building and call 999 or 112 from any telephone and ask for the Fire Service. The address of the property is:

The Blue Bell, Bell Lane, Cocking, West Sussex GU29 0HU

T: 01730 239669

Other Emergencies

If you require any of the emergency services, Police, Fire, Ambulance, call 999 or 112 and ask for the appropriate service. For non-urgent calls, the local police can be contacted by calling 101 free from any telephone.

The National Health Service (NHS) operates a free non-emergency helpline 24 hours a day; this can be contacted by calling 111 from any telephone.

Accident & Emergency

In the event of a medical emergency call 999 or 112 and ask for an Ambulance.

The nearest hospital providing Accident & Emergency (A&E) services is 20 minute drive / 9.2 miles from the Blue Bell at Cocking.

St Richards Hospital, Chichester Spitalfield Ln, Chichester PO19 6SE

www.westernsussexhospitals.nhs.uk T: 01243 788122

Local GP Practice

Riverbank Medical Centre

Dodsley Lane, Easebourne, Midhurst GU29 9AW

T: 01730 812 121

www.riverbankmedical.co.uk

First Aid Kit

A first aid kit is available, please contact one of the Blue Bell team if you need to use it.

2.Covid regulations

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We follow strict COVID regulations on our premises and there is signage in all public areas regarding the wearing of masks when moving around and observing social distancing. Our bedrooms are all cleaned by a company specialising in servicing B and B accommodation and are cleaned to rigorous standards. Similarly strict procedures and rosters are observed for the cleaning of the toilets and public areas. Please help us to keep everyone safe by observing the rules.

3. Arrival Information

Check-in & check-out

Guests are asked to check-in between 2pm and 8pm and check out by 10am. We are happy to accommodate your specific needs, just let us know prior to your arrival. Where guests arrive to the Blue Bell before 2pm they are welcome to leave their bags with us and should their room be available they are invited to check-in early, guests are also welcome to enjoy the facilities at the Blue Bell while they wait.

During check-out, **please remember to return your keys**, and settle any charges on your account after breakfast. To help us improve our services we would be grateful to receive any feedback either on Trip Advisor or Google.

4. Parking

We offer plenty of private secure off street parking spaces for our guests located in the car park either side of the Blue Bell. Cars are parked here at the owners' risk.

5. Guest Rooms

Keys

You will be provided with 2 keys, one for your room and one that opens the front door. Please keep these keys safe and take them with you when you go out as the property may be locked when you return.

You are welcome to come and go as you please but please consider other guests and keep noise to a minimum. Please ensure that the doors are properly closed behind you. If you lose your

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keys you will be charged a key replacement fee of £25. Similarly, if you inadvertently take your keys home with you we will allow you 7 days to return them after which time we will levy a key replacement fee of £25 will be collected.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the Blue Bell but ashtrays are available outside. Should you be found smoking or, to have smoked, inside the Blue Bell premises you will be subject to an additional charge of £100 to cover the cost of deep cleaning contaminated areas and will be asked to leave the property with no refund of accommodation costs.

Hot Food

We ask that you do not bring any hot food into our bedrooms.

Ironing board and iron are available on request.

Pets

We do not permit pets in our bedrooms. Dogs are welcome in the public areas.

6. Breakfast and Packed lunches

Breakfast is served in the restaurant area between 7.30 am and 9am but we can be flexible on timings and work around you. Please notify us the night before for any specific requests, i.e. timings or dietary requirements.

We are happy to provide packed lunches, please order when booking or on check-in.

7. Local Travel

Taxis

C&C Midhurst taxis - 07930 370 222

Bus Service

No 60 Midhurst – Chichester is half hourly in each direction. The bus stops at the South Downs Way crossing point at the top of Cocking Hill

To view updated timetables, please consult South Downs services online or check in the bus shelter opposite

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Nearest Rail services

Chichester Railway Station – 10 miles. (Victoria)

Haslemere Railway Station – 11 miles (Waterloo)

Petersfield Railway Station – 13 miles (Waterloo)

T: 03457 484950

Web: www.nationalrail.co.uk

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Cocking Post Office and Stores is across the road.

ATM

The nearest ATM is in the Post Office or in Midhurst when closed.

BANK

There is a selection of banks located in Chichester.

Pharmacies

Boots and Midhurst Pharmacy in North St Midhurst.

Riverbank Medical Centre – 3.5 miles

Dodsley Lane, Easebourne, Midhurst GU29 9AW

T: 01730 812 121

For a larger selection and 24hrs service, visit Chichester.

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Thank you for choosing the Blue Bell and we look forward to welcoming you again soon

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