

Welcome to Forest Connections

Holidays are always something exciting to look forward to, which is why we at FOREST CONNECTIONS are here to help you.

The Forest of Dean is just one of those destinations that for many years has lay hidden due to being off the main travel routes and is now waiting to be discovered by you.

At the centre of the Forest of Dean is the popular Beechenhurst Lodge Visitor Centre which is managed by the Forestry Commission.

In October 2008, after a major refurbishment, the site became a flagship for the Forestry Commission with the addition of a new cafe and visitor centre shop.

The visitor centre shop is FOREST CONNECTIONS and is personally operated by its owners Derek and Elaine Yemm, and is growing to be the popular first port of call by visitors from all over the world.

We at FOREST CONNECTIONS are here to showcase not only the local products of the area but also here to showcase the Forest of Dean area.

Please click into one of our themed areas - Forest Connections is waiting to help you to make the most of your visit by offering expertise in local knowledge and first class customer service.

The Loft At Beechenhurst Lodge

Set in beautiful oak wood land, The Loft at Beechenhurst Lodge in the Forest of Dean can be booked for many types of functions, including conferences, training seminars, workshops, exhibitions, children's parties and musical performances.

The lodge forms the upper floor of the lodge and access is via a ramp suitable for all visitors. The premises are not licensed, but permission for a license may be applied for. The maximum seating capacity is 40.

On the ground floor the Gavellers Cafe and Restaurant can provide a wide range of home cooked food and other catering services.

Visitor services reception and shop are provided by Forest Connections.

Additional services at Beechenhurst Lodge include the start of the Sculpture Trail, Speculation waymarked walk, access to cycleways, BBQ's (some bookable through Forest Connections), flat grass areas for games, children's adventure playground, guided walks (bookable), picnic tables, toilets and baby changing, parking and a special events area.

How To Book The Loft

For availability please-

Tel: 01594 822612

Email: info@forestconnections.co.uk

Rates: £ 40.00 for half day (morning or afternoon)

£ 70.00 for full day – 09.00hrs to 17.00hrs

Please call for rates on evening hire. We also offer reduced rates for local charities and schools.

For business meetings we can offer you in conjunction with Gavellers Cafe a complete delegate package. In addition to use of flip chart we can also arrange use of our digital projector and screen.

The Loft is a popular venue for holding craft fairs and exhibitions – we have special rates for midweek and weekend bookings.

For more information on how to book for your event please contact Derek Yemm on 01594 822612

The Forest Connections Shop at Beechenhurst Lodge

The Forest Connections shop is conveniently located at the main entrance in Beechenhurst Lodge and also at the start of the world renowned Sculpture Trail.

The design of the new shop makes it welcoming to all visitors as we have used environmentally produced European Oak for our floors and reception with energy saving lighting as well as the conversion of the open fire to an efficient multi fuel burner for those chilly days. Walkers are welcomed into the shop as the specially

treated floor just loves mud and dirt – we even extend a warm welcomed to well-behaved dogs.

In the main display area we have local products on sale from exquisite silver handcrafted jewellery to pottery inspired by our woodland – please see our profile pages for all our suppliers.

Forest Connections are also promoting the Forest of Dean area through its visitor information reception area. Here at the visitor reception centre we offer a tourist information point as well as an accommodation booking service. This service is a proven favourite for those last minute bookings where people come in to see us to make a definite booking and all we charge is just a £ 5.00 administration fee. If you are just browsing why not visit the accommodation pages on the tourism webpage – again we have provided you with a link on our ‘Connections’ page.

To ensure the quality of service for our visitors both Derek and Elaine have completed the recognised customer service training programme ‘Welcome to Excellence’ in conjunction with Tourism South West.

Forest Connections visitor centre shop is open every day (except Christmas Day).

May to September – 10am to 5pm

October to April – 10am to 4pm

(in January and February times may vary due to weather conditions and the site being closed by the Forestry Commission)