



CLEY WINDMILL

NORFOLK

WELCOME to CLEY WINDMILL

We hope you have a relaxed and enjoyable stay with us in this historic building. If there is anything we can do to make your stay more comfortable, please don't hesitate to say so.

You are staying in **The Wheat Chamber**

First of the magnificent tower rooms, this fine circular room has superb views across the river Glaven and the marshes.

Breakfast is served between 8.30am and 9.45am, either in your room, in the dining room (you will need to book your slot for this due to social distancing requirements), or if the weather is nice, out on the terrace.

Drinks are available from our bar in the lounge area throughout the day. If the bar isn't manned, just ask in the adjacent kitchen – we'll be happy to help. We have a wine list and a range of beers available, along with spirits and soft drinks. If you would like drinks in the afternoon, just ask at reception and we'll be happy to help you if we can!

Special Occasions - If you are celebrating a special occasion, do please let us know.

Late or early snack: If you are going out, but would like something left in your room (for example a tray of sandwiches and a bottle of wine) for a late return or any early snack if you are off to a show, we are happy to organise this.

Checking Out – please check out by **10.00am if at all possible, but no later than 10.30am**

We hope you will have enjoyed your stay and look forward to welcoming many of you back again.

Top Tips for your stay at Cley Windmill

We are delighted to welcome you to Cley Windmill from wherever you've driven. It's generally a pretty long way from anywhere and if you've come here on a Friday you may have had a tedious journey. We hope you will find it to be well worth the effort!

To help you make a few choices, we thought it might be handy if we put a few "Top Tips" together so that you will get the very best out of your stay at the Windmill.

Contents

1. How things work at the Windmill.
2. Active things to do in the area - walking, bird watching, seal trips, cycling, sailing and golf.
3. Cley and other local towns and villages worth visiting, plus those best avoided! Where to buy things.
4. The Rough Guide to Eating and Drinking in North Norfolk, if you can bear to miss dinner at the windmill.
5. Cerebral pleasures to be found around – historic houses, churches, and old ruins (in case you haven't brought your own).
6. Things to do if
 - a) none of the above appeal to you
 - b) the weather is really awful and/or
 - c) you have a number of small children to amuse

If you have any comment on anything you read here or you disagree with any of our recommendations, do let us know.

Enjoy Your Stay!

How things work at Cley Windmill

Wine

We have an extensive wine list hand-picked for us by Adnams Wines. We also have a range of cold beers in the fridge for those who have worked up a good thirst out on the marshes.

Breakfast

We serve breakfast between 8:30 and 9:45. If you want to be away earlier, we would be happy to sort something out for you. We can offer pre-booked earlier breakfasts from 8am.

TVs in your Rooms

All of our rooms have TVs. If you have a problem with the reception, please let us know. It normally means that the booster box switch has been turned off, or we may be experiencing atmospheric conditions that do tend to affect the signal.

Tea and Coffee Trays

This will be replenished daily. We have a water softener in the Windmill, so we recommend that you do not drink the tap water if you are on a medically advised low sodium diet. If you would like a jug of water at any time, just come to reception or the kitchen and let us know.

Milk

If you would like a jug of fresh milk, or if you would like your jug topping up, do just come and ask.

Laptops and Mobile Devices

If you would like to stay in touch, you are most welcome to use our free Wi-Fi which operates throughout the windmill. The log-in code is **smartwizard**

Newspapers

Unfortunately, because of our location, we are not always able to offer daily newspapers, though there is a chap in Cley who sells Sunday newspapers from his Sitting Room window! The nearest newsagents are either in Blakeney or Holt. We aim, whenever possible, to have a newspaper available in the morning and this can be found in the Dining Room.

Heating

If you are chilly, please let us know and we will happily turn the heating on or up for you.

Make yourself at home

Both downstairs rooms are for you to use whenever you want (subject to social distancing – sorry!) Also feel free to use the gardens in Summer (or Winter if you really want) for sunbathing, picnicking or anything else that is legal in public places between consenting adults. They are to the East and North of the Mill. The mobile signal in Cley is now much better than it used to be, but there's a telephone in the hallway if you need it.

Top of the Windmill

The gallery on the second floor is open to all, and provides a safer experience, with panoramic coastal views.

Decoration

Cley Mill was built without a damp-proof course on a salt marsh. This means that keeping up the appearance and fabric of the building is a constant headache. We do our absolute best to keep on top of things. If you see peeling paintwork, it is not because we are neglecting things; it is just that modern paints will not readily stay on the walls for long. However, if you think that something really needs to be attended to, do let us know!

Active things to do in the area

Walking

The area around Cley is great for walking. If you come from a city you may find the air unbearably fresh and clear. Masks and sunglasses are highly recommended if you are not used to it! The crucial thing to get right if you are walking anywhere from the Mill is to get on the right side of the River Glaven. The flood gate to the North of the Mill is not a bridge and there is no way of crossing the river between the main road and the sea.

To help you with this and other local complications we have, on sale in the office, some excellent local walking maps. Walks to think about are to see the seals on Blakeney Point (see below) and through Sheringham Park. From there you can walk down through the woods to the coast and back. It is really delightful, particularly in spring when the bluebells are out. Another favourite walk is past the other windmill (in Weybourne, previously owned by Julian's parents) where you have access to miles of cliff paths with splendid views.

Seal Trips

Blakeney Point in Norfolk has become the largest breeding site for grey seals in England. Our annual seal count has revealed that the number of seal pups born on this beautiful stretch of coastline has boomed as the result of the safe breeding conditions. It is quite a sight but don't expect to be able to walk up

to them and pat them on the head – they will move. You can reach them either by walking to the end of the Point, starting from the East side of the Mill and the River Glaven, heading towards the beach and then turning left, or by taking a boat from Morston. If you want to walk, you will find it very hard work but rewarding. Try to go at low tide so that you can walk on hard sand rather than the shingle, which is very good for your leg muscles but slow going. If you want to go by boat, they leave every day in the season at high tide. It is a one hour round trip and it is a good idea to book, particularly in high summer.

Bird watching

Not a particularly active thing to do if you just intend to sit in a hide all day eating sandwiches, but for most it involves a long walk and lots of fresh air. This is top bird watching territory for migrant and wading birds and you will see twitchers from all over the country on the marshes armed with huge armouries of telescopes and binoculars. To gain access to the aforementioned marshes, you need to go to the wonderful NWT Visitor Centre on the coast road just to the Eastern edge of the village and purchase either a membership or a day permit.

Sailing

There is a lot of good sailing to be had from Blakeney and Morston. Charlie Ward Traditional Sailing Boats (Tel 01263 740377) are excellent for instruction and charter in Norfolk Oyster Day boats alongside a wonderful, and quite large, sailing barge called “Juno”. They run terrific 5 and 12 hour sailing trips on the barge, which will give you a very memorable day out. Also running from Morston is Norfolk Etc, providing both dinghy and powerboat tuition from local instructors alongside day charter of Oysters and other water-craft. To make a booking please call 01263 740704.

Cycling

Norfolk is great for cycling. There are a multitude of lanes linking some really pretty villages and it is relatively, but not totally flat. A couple of top tips though. Firstly, stay away from the main roads, particularly the coast road in high summer. They are surprisingly busy. Secondly, the wind blows fairly persistently up here so there is a lot to be said for planning your route out into the wind so that you have any easy run back.

Golf

There are several excellent links courses on the Norfolk Coast. To the West are Hunstanton and Brancaster. The former is probably somewhat easier to get on to than the latter which can be a little sniffy about visitors, particularly in summer and at weekends. Just seven miles away is Sheringham, which is superb. Further along are West Runton, a friendly 9 hole course and Cromer which welcomes visitors to its excellent links. Best to ring any of these clubs before you set out, particularly at weekends.

Fishing

Fish can be caught off the beach in Cley. How, I am not entirely sure! If you catch anything, we will happily keep it in the fridge for you.

Tennis

The Cromer Lawn Tennis and Squash Club in Cromer (tel 01263 513741) welcomes guests as well as members. With its lovely grass tennis courts and pleasant clubhouse, you'll feel as if you're playing at Wimbledon. Make sure you phone the club before setting off to ensure that courts are available.

Cley and other towns and villages worth seeing

Cley is a very pretty, rather spread out village with, as is usual in Norfolk, a church out of all proportion to the population it serves. There are several very interesting shops on the High Street. Just up the road is '**Made in Cley**', an excellent pottery and next to it is the famous '**Smokehouse**' which smokes all kinds of things, all legal, on the premises. Across the road from there is an art gallery '**Pinkfoot**' and finally, on the corner is '**Picnic Fayre**', a superb Deli full of things to tempt even the most jaded palate. If you want a newspaper, you can find them on Sundays from a cottage about fifty yards along the High Street to the East of the Mill. Knock on the window and they will sell you a Sunday newspaper. Yes really!

Holt

Holt is a terrific Georgian town, rather the way most English towns used to be before out-of-town shopping centres took over. It is full of interesting shops, which all seem to do pretty well. Check out some of the little streets off the High Street. You will find all kinds of unusual shops in the alleyways. When you have tired of shopping, there are plenty of places for snack lunching or for tea. Best of all is probably Byfords which also has an excellent deli.

Blakeney

Blakeney is an attractive seaside village with a few decent shops, a couple of hotels, a harbour and some good places to eat and drink. It is mercifully free of anything tacky and overtly commercial. The same can be said for some of the villages further west, such as Brancaster, Burnham Overy Staithe, Stiffkey, Thornham and Holme which are all pretty with plenty of good pubs, lots of boats and some refreshing walking on the marshes. To the east of Cley, Salthouse, Kelling and Weybourne are all wonderfully unspoilt coastal villages.

Burnham Market

Burnham Market is said to be the prettiest small town you could ever see. Small shops, pubs and restaurants of great quality surround the green. You could almost imagine that it is Hollywood's idea of what an English Village should look like, except that it is all real. The Hoste Arms is a terrific coaching inn that has been remarkably refurbished in the past decade. It has a great bar and restaurant.

Inland Villages

Pretty villages abound in Norfolk, all with the obligatory huge church and masses of lovely flint covered cottages and houses. None are particularly outstanding but there is hardly a village in the area that is not charming. Just drive around and have a look.

Up and coming?

Along the coast, Hunstanton, Wells, Cromer and Sheringham are all a bit touristy. Wells is improving rapidly away from the water front and has several decent places to eat. Beyond Cromer the coastline, whose high cliffs should be hugely attractive, is sadly spoilt by too many caravan sites. Inland, Fakenham is a small industrial town. Further afield, the area around Great Yarmouth is touristy and congested in the summer – if you are heading down to Suffolk, best avoid that altogether and go via Norwich to the delightful Southwold and Aldeburgh.

The Rough Guide to Eating and Drinking in North Norfolk

We are blessed with several exceptional restaurants within easy reach.

Morston Hall (3 miles away, tel 01263 741041) has an extremely good reputation if you are looking for smart surroundings and good food at a price. The menu is expensive but most people say it is well worth it.

Wiveton Bell (less than 1 mile away, tel 01263 740101) also has a great reputation for super food but in a more relaxed atmosphere. No need to dress up. One of our favourites.

The White Horse at Blakeney (1 mile, tel 01263 740574) As well as having an excellent bar menu and a very friendly and busy bar, the restaurant at the White Horse is as good as any of North Norfolk's better known establishments. Great food.

The Moorings in Blakeney (1 mile, tel 01263 740054) This day time tea room is transformed in the evenings into a really fine restaurant. Their cooking is excellent and their fish is particularly good.

The Three Swallows, Cley (half a mile away, easy to walk there in about 10 mins tel 01263 740526) Nice and local, basic pub food

The Crown at Wells (9 miles away, tel 01328 710209) Tucked away on the green known as The Buttlands, the food both in the restaurant or bar area is really exceptional.

The Victoria at Holkham (10 miles away) is well worth the trip as this is an amazingly well decorated hotel/restaurant. The food is imaginative and well cooked and the bar atmosphere is usually lively. Take in a walk on the fabulous beach at Holkham with lunch in the Victoria.

Burnham Market (16 miles) This wonderful village has an excellent place to eat, very popular. The Hoste Arms (tel 01328 738257) is brilliant in every respect. Great bar, great food and not overly expensive. At night the village is so empty that local lad Lord Nelson could have safely let off one of his cannons down the street, yet the Hoste Arms will be heaving.

Eating out in Holt. Holt has an extremely good Indian called the Taste of India (Tel 01263 711484) which will serve food quite a bit later than most around the area. There is also Byford's (Tel 01263 711400) which transforms itself into a wonderfully atmospheric wine bar in the evening. The menu is centred around pizzas and pastas, all superbly cooked. The wood-oven pizzas are particularly good.

Pubs in Cley and beyond. The George has been closed for over a year now. We are really sad about this and hope that it will re-open soon. That leaves the Three Swallows, near the church on the green. Also, within striking distance is The Bell at Wiveton, only a mile away, where the beer is good, and the food (as mentioned above) excellent. They also serve food a bit later than some, which is a boon in Norfolk where some places take their last orders at a time that indicates they thought they were serving you tea.

Other pubs that have a strong local reputation and also serve food are the Red Lion at Stiffkey and the lovely Dun Cow at Salthouse, (see above) the latter being idyllic on a summer's day when you can sit out and look over the marshes.

Cerebral pleasures to be found around

Norfolk is absolutely littered with history. Many of the villages had a substantially larger population in medieval times, hence the proliferation of unfeasibly large **churches**. You will even see a number of earlier round towers. Many of the churches are open and are well worth a look in. Make sure you include Blakeney, Langham, Morston, Wiverton and Cley in your tour.

Blickling Hall

About 15 miles away towards Norwich, Blickling Hall is a National Trust Property. It is an absolutely lovely Jacobean mansion, as always with National Trust Properties beautifully presented and full of wonderful furniture and paintings. The grounds are vast and you could walk in them for half a day. There is also the added bonus of the Buckinghamshire Arms, a superb pub, with great food right outside the main gate.

Felbrigg Hall

Felbrigg is about 8 miles away towards Cromer, but inland. It is also National Trust, a 17th century house with 18th century furniture and a huge park to walk in. Do check the opening times for Felbrigg and Blickling before you plan your entire day around a visit. National Trust Properties are notoriously quirky with their opening times. However, even if you don't get to see the house, you can always have a good tea!

Holkham Hall

Just beyond Wells, Holkham is well worth a visit. It is a huge 18th century Palladian mansion, somewhat unattractive from the outside but outstanding inside with a host of treasures. There is also a huge park, a by-gones exhibition (where you can make jokes about leaving your partner behind as an exhibit), a pottery and an art gallery.

Sandringham

The Queen's country pad, this is a surprisingly interesting place to visit. You really do get to see round the house and get a particularly good insight into the Royal Family and their history over the past century. The museum of royal vehicles and memorabilia is quite fascinating and the grounds and church are beautiful. Only the overcrowded tearooms are a bit of a disappointment.

Little Walsingham

About 8 miles away is the pilgrimage centre of Little Walsingham, a sort of English Lourdes. It has been a place of pilgrimage since medieval times with a ruined abbey, several churches and more gift shops and tea shops than you could shake a stick at. The Anglican Shrine was only built in 1931 and the Slipper Chapel a mile or so away is pretty much a modern construction. Yet despite a hint of over-commercialism, Little Walsingham is still worth a visit.

Castle Acre

Further away towards King's Lynn is Castle Acre, a very pretty village with a ruined castle and the remains of a large 12th century priory. It is a lovely and peaceful spot, unspoilt and with a couple of excellent tea shops to further commend it.

Great Bircham Mill

If you want to see a windmill that works better than this one, then Great Bircham is the place to go. When possible on windy days, the sails turn the milling machinery and visitors can climb five floors up to the fan stage. They also bake their own bread there.

Letheringsett Mill

Only 5 miles away is the delightful Letheringsett Watermill. On Tuesday to Friday afternoons you can see the millers making flour in the traditional method.

Binham Priory

The ruins of a 12th century Benedictine Priory are not particularly remarkable in themselves but the setting on the outskirts of the village of Binham is wonderful and worth a visit if you are passing. Afterwards you can try the Chequers pub for an excellent lunch.

There are loads more sights to see around Norfolk. In particular, you could very happily spend a day in Norwich, whose Cathedral is spectacular and whose old Medieval streets are full of interest.

Other things to do if all else fails

Norfolk is mercifully devoid of a huge theme park, but if the weather is really awful, you don't fancy a historic house and/or you have a number of small children to amuse (even one is a number, when it comes to small children), what can you do? Well you could go home, or you could sit around in your room getting on each other's nerves, or you could try any of the following:

Railways

We are blessed with two old railway lines within a few miles of Cley. The North Norfolk Railway runs steam trains along the 5 mile line from Sheringham to Holt and has a railway museum at Sheringham as well. Just this side of Wells is the Wells to Walsingham Railway with the longest 10.25 inch railway in the world with 4 miles of track and a new steam locomotive in operation.

Muckleburgh Collection

Four miles along the coast at Weybourne is Britain's largest private military collection. There are tanks, armoured cars, bombs, missiles and anything else that might be used to kill complete strangers. If this is your thing, or perhaps even if it is not, I believe that there is a lot to see and it is well displayed and interesting.

The Thursford Collection

Thursford is only about 12 miles away and features a unique and spectacular collection of mechanical organs and steam engines. Tens of thousands of people come from all over England to this unlikely venue for the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. There are twice daily shows in the month running up to Christmas (tel 01328 878477).

Sea Life Centre, Hunstanton

This is around 25 miles away and not a patch on the new centre in London at County Hall, but since Central London is too far to go and see some fish, this will have to do. There are over 2,000 fish from 200 different species in their natural habitats (or as close as can be achieved, given that fish do not naturally live in tanks 200 yards inland from the beach).

Splash Pool at Sheringham

On the coast road as you go into Sheringham is a big indoor pool with water slides and wave machines. It is a pretty good place with a decent gym attached, which you can use even if you are not a member. Just the job if you want to get even wetter on a wet day.

Woodlands Leisure Club at Bodham

Just past Bodham on the Cromer Road is another place where you can have a swim or work out in their excellent gym. A gym/swim ticket is not particularly expensive and it is likely to a good deal less thronged than Splash in the summer holidays.

Langham Glass

Langham Glass used to be in....Langham, but has now moved to Tattersett, just outside Fakenham. Here you can see glass being made in the traditional way. It is really quite a fascinating art, particularly as the glassmakers work with molten glass with an apparent disregard for the fact that it might just be a bit hot! You can, of course buy the results and there is an adventure playground, tea shop, museum and antique shop.

Glandford

Glandford, two miles away, is a strange place. It looks like a very old Norfolk village but was, in fact, almost totally rebuilt in the 1920's. It contains a beautiful ford and watermill and a wonderful shop called Cley Spy selling all manner of binoculars and telescopes.

Cinema

Failing all else, there is a cinema in both Cromer and Fakenham which show bang up to date films on several screens.

This is not by any means a list of all the things that there are to do in the area, just a selection of some of the more interesting ones.



CLEY WINDMILL
NORFOLK

We do hope you have found this epic of information vaguely useful, possibly even interesting. If you go to any of the places that are recommended, and are not impressed, then DO tell us, so that we can revise these notes for the benefit of future guests at Cley Windmill.

Have a great stay, here at Cley Windmill and do let us know if you need anything we're here to help.

With all our Best Wishes,

The Management Team
Cley Windmill

Flooding

Cley Windmill has a long and respectful relationship with the sea. Cley used to be a busy sea port, and large vessels would discharge their contents at the quay-side here.

The sea has long since retreated, and the village is now known as Cley-next-the-Sea. Flooding has been an occasional problem at the Windmill.

The last great flood was in 1953

Not a single house on High Street or Holt Road, or the Green itself was untouched by the flood – but those slightly uphill from the main coast road had perhaps 4 feet of flooding while the worst hit had 9 feet.

First of all it had been a high tide – Then there had been a strong wind – some say it was 100 miles per hour and some had it at 120. Then came the breaking of the sea defences – walls and stone barriers that had been built up naturally by the sea, and others which had been built specifically to keep the sea out. There had been many other floods in Cley, but this was the worst in history. The last big one was in 1893 – and 1853.

There have been many defence changes since 1953. The first of these is the large shingle bank along the entire northern coastline.

Secondly a flood defence system was built which can be seen as a raised area outside Dovecote and The Boat House, and running along the southern edge of our garden. It will be appreciated that the windmill was, rather unsportingly, left out of this earlier defence plan.

Colonel Blount built a smaller inner wall which can be seen as a small ‘final defence’ outside the sitting room window.

Recently, a massive new flood defence has been built that very definitely includes the Windmill! This is the new high flood defence wall that surrounds us (clearly seen out of the windows between us and the sea). This has a sluice gate built into it which allows the River Glaven to flow

out to sea. If a high spring tide is expected, this gate is shut providing a barrier to the sea.

Occasionally, the sea water rises sufficiently for us to be put on a “flood alert”. This usually means that the level in the River Glaven rises sufficiently to flood the car-parking area. If this happens, please move your car away from the main car park and either put it right next to the Mill (which does not usually flood) or over the bridge (ie protected by the earliest flood defence system).

If severe flooding were ever to occur again you will be pre-warned and you should evacuate to the village hall on the high ground behind the church.



CLEY WINDMILL
NORFOLK

Preserving Cley Windmill for future generations

When Cley Windmill was purchased by Julian & Carolyn Godlee in 2006, there were several other parties, all keen to take over the windmill. Many were hoping to turn the windmill into a private family home.

Dr. Godlee was the only one who intended to keep Cley Windmill running as a guest house. Uppermost in Hubert Blount, and latterly Val & John Woodhouse's minds at the time of sale was the importance of keeping the windmill open to the public – and we will strive to keep that dream alive.

You will have already realised that this is no ordinary hotel / guest house. There are expenses in running this Windmill that are unique: the maintenance of the sails and cap, storm damage, salt water damage, flooding and all the other issues involved with maintaining a historic Grade II listed building.

Dr. Godlee has chosen to run the Windmill as a non-profit-making organisation. All income from letting the Windmill is re-invested in improved facilities for guests, and in improving the fabric of this historic building. Dr. Godlee is committed to the upkeep and furtherance of this splendid national treasure for future generations.

Your stay here is therefore an important part of the maintenance and upkeep of this wonderful building for future generations. We are grateful to you for

coming and your support is much appreciated. We really hope you will continue to visit in the years ahead.

Ways in which you can help keep Cley Windmill open to the public:

- Enjoy evening dinner here
- Purchase an accommodation voucher as a present for your friends / family
- Drink and be merry!
- Have your wedding (and the party afterwards) here
- Take the whole Windmill for a few days, as a special-event house party
- And finally, and most importantly, come again!

In an Emergency:

**PLEASE CONTACT:
The Duty Manager**

The Duty Manager on call has their number displayed in the foyer above the pay phone depending on who is on duty – please do double check

In the event of a Fire- please follow your fire escape instruction leaflet to the nearest assembly point. Our Fire Alarm System is monitored 24 hours by Redcare- if the alarm is triggered they will call us to alert us and call the Fire Brigade if necessary.

In case of Medical Problems

GP SERVICES

Blakeney Surgery, Queens Close, Blakeney
Open 8.30 - 11am , then 2.30 - 5pm. Closed Thursday afternoons.
Tel 01263 712461

Out of hours GP Services

Holt Medical Practice 01263 712461 or ring 111
A recorded message will explain how to contact the duty doctor.

Dental Services

Holt Dental Practice 01263 712335

Minor Injuries Unit

01263 513571

Cromer and District Hospital has a minor injuries unit
open 24 hours per day.

Accident and Emergency

The nearest full A&E is

Norfolk & Norwich Hospital in Norwich

01603 287325

QE2 Hospital in Kings Lynn 01553 613613

The Payphone in the Entrance Lobby does not take incoming calls