

### *Prices and Availability.....*

*For current prices, special offers and availability please view our web site or call us for details and information. The prices and availability page is updated on a regular basis, and you can also book on-line.*



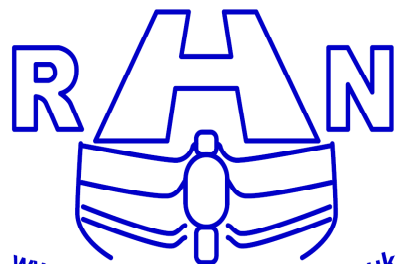
**Road House Boats - Circa 1894**

## *Road House Narrowboats*

**50 Main Road, Gilwern, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 0AS**

**Telephone: Nigel or Sally Curtis 01873 830240**

**E-mail: [info@narrowboats-wales.co.uk](mailto:info@narrowboats-wales.co.uk)**



[www.narrowboats-wales.co.uk](http://www.narrowboats-wales.co.uk)

## *Road House Narrowboats*

***Holiday Hire on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal***



***Spectacular scenery through South Wales' Brecon Beacons National Park***

***Plenty to do, to see and to visit for a memorable narrowboat holiday***

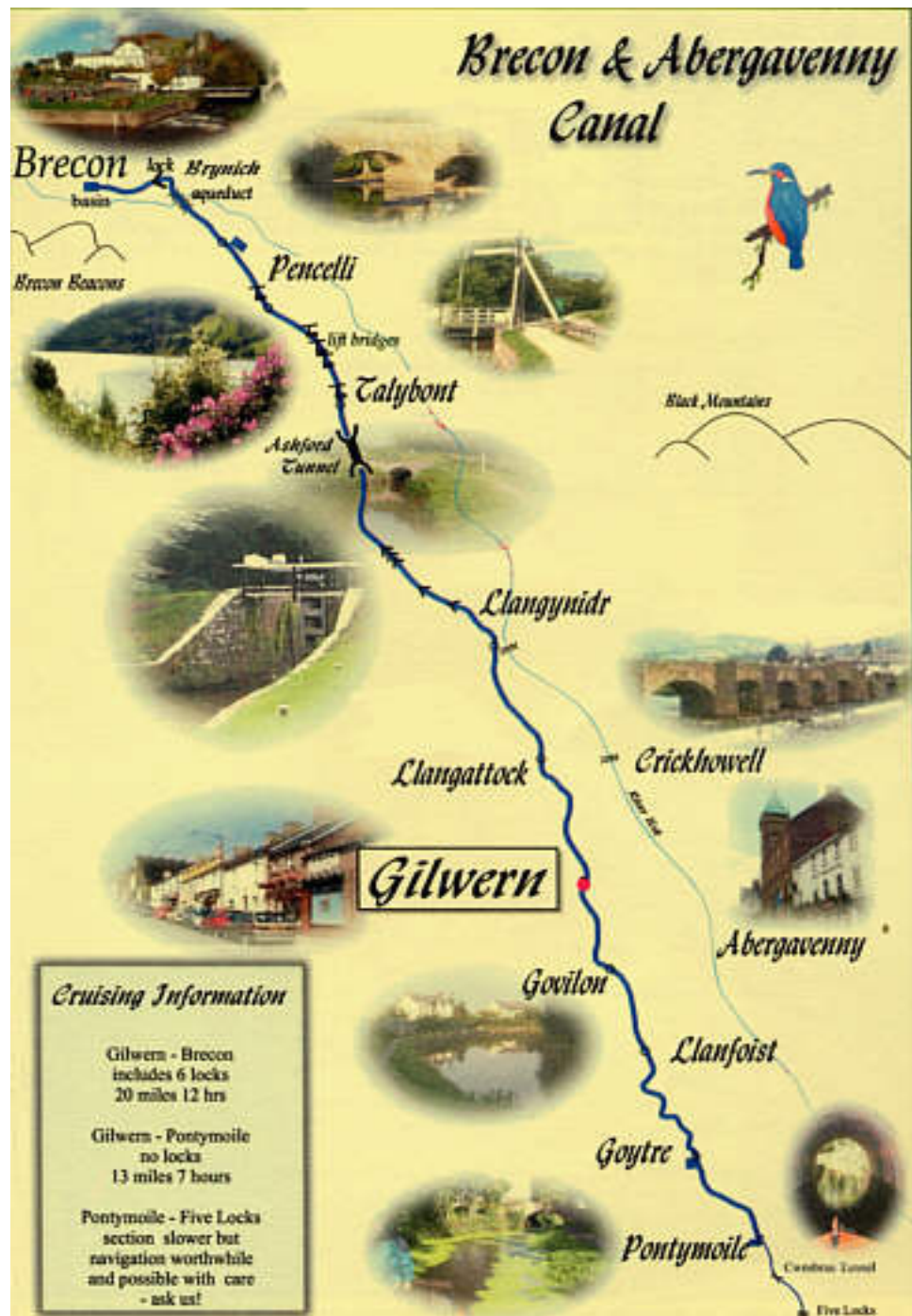
***Comfortable, fully equipped traditional holiday narrow boats, centrally heated***

***Beginners and experienced enthusiasts equally welcomed***

***Full tuition & support throughout your holiday with us***

***Bedding, Gas, Diesel, Damage waiver cover, Insurance, Car parking and VAT is inclusive.***

***Remember the all inclusive boat hire price is for your accommodation, transport and entertainment for the duration of your holiday.***



#### Conditions of hire

Once the booking is confirmed the hirer becomes responsible for the whole of the hire fee, and the balance is due 28 days before the hire date. All crew members must be named on the booking form and only those named are allowed on board during the hire. Bookings from groups and single sex groups are only accepted under exceptional circumstances.

If you wish to have visitors aboard during the period of hire this must be agreed before hand. Boat hires commence at 2pm on the start date and the boat must be returned to the owners' moorings and vacated no later than 9.30 on the day of return. We cannot accept responsibility for delays or limits to cruising due to British Waterways directives. No return of Hire Fees can be made in these circumstances.

#### Hirers responsibility

The Hirer and passengers will be shown over the boat and will receive full instruction from us on handling the boat. After this the Hirer becomes responsible for the boat and its equipment. A non-refundable damage waiver is included in the hire price and this gives you cover in the event of accidental damage to the boat and loss or damage to equipment and fittings. We reserve the right to make an additional charge for damage or loss caused deliberately or by negligence. In the event of any accident or damage to the boat, other craft or property, it is the responsibility of the hirer to obtain the names and addresses of the owner and hirer of any other boat involved together with those of any witnesses. Do not admit liability or arrange any repairs to the boat. Any such damage must be reported to the hire base as soon as possible. Particular care should be given to the correct operation of locks (refer to information we provide) as the Hirer is responsible for any claims made by British Waterways for loss of water or damage to property.

We use all reasonable care to ensure that the boat is in good condition when handed over, but no responsibility is accepted for loss of time, non-fulfilment of programmes or expense through any defect, breakdown or accident to the boat, equipment or machinery. Personal injury to the hirer or crew is not covered by our insurance and hirers should check that they have adequate insurance of their own. Boats are not insured to cruise at night and therefore this is forbidden. The Hirer is required to return the boat in a clean and tidy condition, and failure to do this could result in an additional fee of £20.

#### Owners rights

We reserve the right to refuse to hand over a boat to any Hirer we consider not suitable to take charge. In such a case the Hire Fee will be returned in full and all liability of the Hirer and ourselves shall cease. We reserve the right to terminate the hire of a boat at any time if the conduct of the Hirer endangers or gives offence to other waterway users. In these circumstances we will take over the responsibility of returning the boat to our base but the hirer remains liable for the holiday cost and no refund will be made.

#### Cancellation Insurance

Once a booking has been made and confirmed this places a contractual responsibility on the hirer to pay the full cost of the holiday. If you wish to cancel your booking please let us know as soon as possible by telephone. Road House Holiday Hire will make every effort to rehire the boat. If successful the hirer will no longer be liable for the balance of the hire charge, and the deposit will be refunded less a £50 administration fee. If we are unsuccessful in rehiring the boat then the hirer remains liable for the balance of the hire charge. If the reason for cancellation falls into one of the following categories (and affects a party member named on the booking form) then a refund of the amount paid will be made less a £50 administration fee, when documentary evidence is received by us.

- ☐ Death, serious injury or illness.
- ☐ Jury service or an overseas posting.
- ☐ Fire, flood or storm damage to your normal residence.

In the event of curtailment of the holiday through accident or illness of the Hirer, we will help with transport and take over responsibility of returning the boat to base but no return of hire fees can be made in these circumstances.

Pets are allowed but they are not allowed on seats or bedding and should not be left unattended on boats at anytime. Any damage caused by your pet is not covered under the damage waiver cover and a charge will be made.

Bicycles are not allowed as boats are not designed to carry them.

Fishing is allowed with the appropriate licences, but live bait is not allowed inside the boats.

Hirers vehicles can be left at our base but they and their contents are left entirely at your own risk.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require clarification of any of the above – we wish to ensure that you enjoy your holiday with us.



## Customer reviews...

*Hired a Narrowboat from Road House Narrowboats at Gilwern. Had a fabulous, relaxing week. Good service, well equipped boats, excellent scenery and so quiet.*

**Keith H, Cornwall (Tripadvisor)**

*Just returned from a really lovely couple of days on a boat hired from Nigel and Sally at Roadhouse Narrowboats. My husband and myself have never done this before, but we had a comprehensive handover, and Nigel made sure we were confident before he left us! It was also nice to know that they had offered to come and get us through the locks if we needed their help! The boat was lovely, very authentic and cozy, and very well equipped. We will def be returning and although there are lots of hire companies, we will rent from Roadhouse again because of their personal service and help.*

**Annabest, Petersfield (Tripadvisor)**

*The boats owned by Road House narrow are built for this canal. This company only own four boats so have time to help. The owners Sally and Nigel Curtis will come out and do the first two locks with you, many local boat hire companies do not. The boats are easy to handle for novices which my boyfriend and myself are, we managed fine after our tuition with Nigel. Some people may think that canal boat holidays seem expensive but prices are per boat and if cook for yourself what else do you need in beautiful surroundings. It really is the most relaxing holiday my boyfriend and I have ever had.*

**Julie C, Blackpool. (Tripadvisor)**

### **From our Boat Guest Books:**

*As a family of first time boaters we have had a brilliant time! Nigels handover left no questions and Duchess catered for all our needs. The service and support by Nigel and Sally has been faultless . . . will be back and would recommend Road House to friends.*

**Nigel & Sharon, August '12. .**

*'Duchess' is a real lady and has everything you could need for a week away. We enjoyed re-visiting the Mon & Brec and it is still as lovely 8 years on.*

**Sue & Ken Reynolds, July '12.**

*We have enjoyed a wonderful, relaxing week on the Mon & Brec. Duchess performed well and Sally & Nigel have been the perfect hosts. The canal itself is a delight and we made sure to visit both ends. . . we would highly recommend a visit to Five Locks . . . it is well worth the effort.*

**Bill & Caroline, September '12.**

*We've just had a fabulous canal experience aboard the Gilwern Princess. . . . Road House have been brilliant hosts with good service – thank you very much!*

**The Riley Family, New Zealand.**

*Just like to say how enchanting the whole Brecon & Monmouthshire Canal experience is, made very homely by the superb staff and boats of Road House. Many thanks for a very relaxing holiday, we always want to stay longer!!*

**Nik Brown, Cornwall.**

*A wonderful few days – fantastic scenery, comfortable clean boat – lovely kind people.*

*Thanks, we'll be back!*

**Seb & Ruth Parsons, June '12.**

## About us...

*Road House Narrowboats is recorded to be the oldest commercial boat company on the canal, and maintain a boating operation started well over a hundred years ago.*

*Road House have operated all-steel holiday hire narrowboats on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal for over thirty-five years - including twenty six years under the previous owners. Our holiday canal boats are designed by the former owner with special features to give easy handling on the shallow waters of this canal. Our present fleet of four traditional boats are carefully fitted out to make maximum use of space and provide comfortable and well-equipped accommodation for your holiday with us: this includes electric fridge, full gas cooker and radiator central heating, true freshwater flush toilet, stereo radio/CD player, mobile phone/camcorder inverter charger facility and all domestic and cruising equipment. Well maintained engine arrangements and comprehensive protection mean that you are not required to lift deck boards to make numerous daily checks. Our boats are decorated with traditional narrowboat 'castles and roses' artwork.*

*Our base at Gilwern is four miles west of Abergavenny, situated approximately mid-way along the canal; we are 20 miles below Brecon and 15 miles above Pontymoile. You can thus choose between a cruise to Brecon, incorporating the locks, tunnel, lift-bridges and the more spectacular scenery, or the more secretive, peacefully isolated winding waters southward towards Pontymoile. Gilwern itself is just off the A465, within easy reach of the A40 and motorways. If you plan to arrive here by railway, we can collect you from Abergavenny Railway Station, which has good links to the main network via Newport.*

*We are a small family business, and with only four narrow boats we can assure you of a relaxing and enjoyable floating holiday, our closest attention at all times and any support you feel you may need along the way, particularly if canal boating is new to you. We have ourselves been canal enthusiasts for many years, and are very happy to talk to you about our boats or the canal if you care to call.*

**Nigel, Sally, our son Ashley & Diesel our Spaniel**



**Gilwern Lady**



**Gilwern Queen**



**Gilwern Princess**



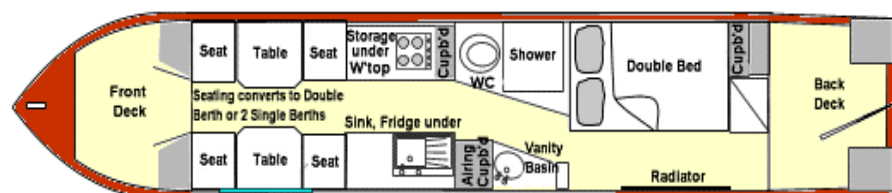
**Gilwern Duchess**



**Gilwern Lady** 32ft x 7ft – 2 + 2 berth - Tiller Steering - Diesel BMC 1500cc  
 Sleeping options: fixed double • fixed double + up to 2 singles. (Ideal for a couple having rear dinette and fixed double at bow).  
 Week Hire: Start Saturday 2.00pm - Vacate Saturday 9.00am



**Gilwern Princess** 36ft x 7ft - 4/5 berth - Tiller Steering - Diesel BMC 1500cc  
 Sleeping options: fixed double • fixed double + dinette double • dinette double + up to 4 singles • 6 singles (includes 2 bunks) (Spacious for one couple, ideal for two couples or family).  
 Week Hire: Start Friday 2.00pm - Vacate Friday 9.00am or Mon 2.00pm - Mon 9.00am  
 Short Break: Start Friday 2.00pm - Vacate: Monday 9.00am / Start Monday 2.00pm - Vacate Friday 9.00am



## Things to do....

### The journey itself

Those who have had canal holidays before will know that as well as providing fascinating ever changing scenery, the slow pace of cruising is in itself relaxing. The scenery of the Monmouthshire & Brecon canal as it winds around the hills on its journey to Brecon is varied and views are often spectacular. These views are sometimes even more dramatic if from time to time you walk at the pace of the boat along the towpath.

### Relax aboard

Relax in the comfort of the boat and read, listen to music from the radio/CD/MP3 player fitted on the boat or simply enjoy the changing views as the countryside glides past your windows.

### Walking

There is plenty of opportunity for walking, from the easy level towpath (get on and off as you pass through bridges), footpaths and lanes to the more serious opportunities in the Beacons for energetic or experienced walkers.

### Explore

- ❑ Explore the six villages you pass through on the canal and the market towns of Brecon, Crickhowell and Abergavenny – include a meal or a drink at the many hostleries.
- ❑ Try a walk along the old railway to Talybont reservoir (and over the dam and back along the road if you want a circular route)
- ❑ Take a shady walk up the feeder stream which joins the canal just below the second lock at Llangynidr.
- ❑ At Llangattock, a walk up the escarpment will reward you with some spectacular wide views.
- ❑ Walk under the canal through the tunnels at Gilwern, Govilon, Llanfoist or Pontymoile.
- ❑ Climb down to the Usk from bridge 162 to look up at the four arches of the massive aqueduct you crossed earlier.
- ❑ Walk to the River Promenade on the other side of Brecon and discover the source of the Canal's water. Brecon also has a cinema and Cathedral.
- ❑ There are Museums at Brecon, and Canal Centres with restaurant at Goytre.
- ❑ At Llangynidr it is a short walk from bridge 131 to the old pack horse bridge across the Usk, where there is also a walk along the river (a similar bridge can be found below Llangattock)
- ❑ On the way back from Brecon, walk over the top of the tunnel and look down the shaft through the safety grid at your boat as it passes below (listen to the conversation!)
- ❑ For those who like shopping, visit Brecon, Crickhowell or Abergavenny.

**More physical activities** - Mountain bikes hire is available at Brecon. There is a pony trekking centre and a golf course near Llangattock. Pontypool and Brecon have leisure centres with swimming pools.



## The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

Constructed in 1812



Originally constructed over two hundred years ago, the Monmouthshire and Brecon and Abergavenny canals were built for carrying coal, iron and limestone. Their commercial demise came as a result of competition from the Great Western railway, and the present navigable section (leisure traffic only now!) consists of the Brecon & Abergavenny Canal from Brecon to Pontymoile, where it then joins the northern end of a short length of the Monmouthshire Canal, navigable (though slow going) down to Five Locks Basin. Beyond is the now defunct section which drops through thirty (unusable) locks in some six miles to Newport.

In its thirty-three mile meander through seven villages to Brecon the 'Mon & Brec' canal rises only sixty feet through six locks, remarkable considering the mountainous terrain. On your Road House holiday hire narrow boat you can follow the valley of the River Usk, though the canal is often perched far up the hillside with views of the river far below. Nearly its entire route lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park, an area noted for its often spectacular scenery, excellent for walking or general exploration.



Above Gilwern the canal passes through a village every four miles (useful for supplies or pubs). Its route is high on the hillside above the river, winding through wooded hillsides until five locks in a tranquil sylvan setting lift it fifty feet higher up the valley. Some spectacular views, a tunnel and lifting bridges follow until the Brecon Beacons can be seen to the west rising to three thousand feet, with the Black Mountains to the East. At Brynach the canal crosses the Usk on a substantial four-arched aqueduct before rising through one last lock to the level that leads into the old market-town of Brecon where a large basin provides excellent moorings

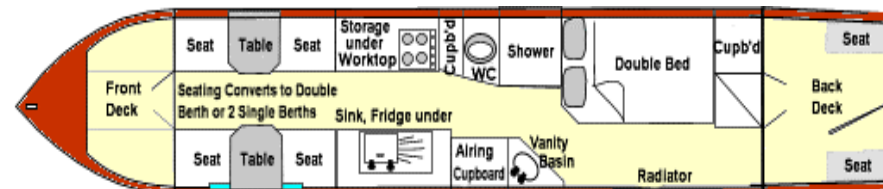
Below Gilwern the canal maintains a level high on the side of the hills, at times making horse-shoe bends and passing on aqueducts over rushing mountain streams. For a time the River Usk is closer to the canal, its course through Abergavenny visible far below. The villages are away from the canal, and the general impression on your holiday hire narrow boat is one of remote peacefulness. Gradually, with still hilly countryside to the west, the valley broadens out through gently undulating pasture land to reach pontymoile, on the outskirts of Pontypool, with a further two-and-a-half miles (including another tunnel) navigable with care beyond. Below this, the route can be followed on foot.

**Gilwern Queen** 36ft x 7ft - 4/6 berth - Tiller Steering - Diesel BMC 1500cc

Sleeping options: fixed double • fixed double + dinette double • dinette double + up to 4 singles • 6 singles (includes 2 bunks) (Ideal for two couples or family).

Week Hire: Start Friday 2.00pm - Vacate Friday 9.00am or Mon 2.00pm - Mon 9.00am

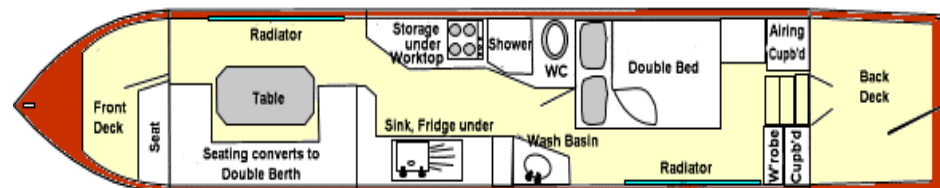
Short Break: Start Friday 2.00pm - Vacate Monday 9.00am / Start: Monday 2.00pm - Vacate Friday 9.00am



**Gilwern Duchess** 42ft x 7ft - 4/6 berth - Tiller Steering - Diesel Mitsubishi 1500cc

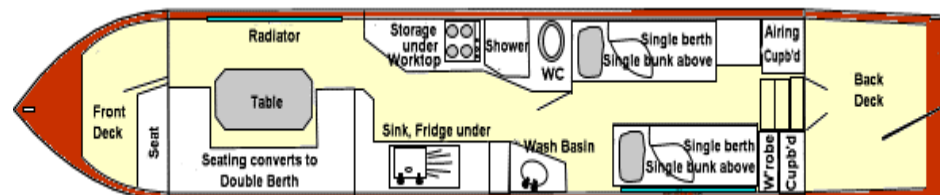
Sleeping options: fixed double • fixed double + dinette double • dinette double + up to 4 singles • 6 singles (includes 2 bunks) (Spacious for one couple, ideal for two couples or family).

Week Hire: Start Saturday 2.00pm - Vacate Saturday 9.00am



Above: arranged as 4 berth:

Below: special arrangement as 6 berth.



All boats are fully equipped including 12 volt electric fridge, full gas cooker and hob, radiator gas central heating, true freshwater electric flush toilet, stereo radio/CD/MP3 player, 350 watt inverter 3 pin phone/camcorder charger facility and all domestic and cruising equipment. Large cruiser decks allow for crew to accompany the helmsman.

Berths 5 & 6 comprise of upper bunks.

**Gilwern Duchess interior** - Sleeping options: fixed double • fixed double + dinette double • dinette double + up to 4 singles (includes 2 bunks)



**Gilwern Princess interior** - Sleeping options: fixed double • fixed double + dinette double • dinette double + up to 4 singles • 6 singles (includes 2 bunks)



Our boats have spacious cruiser decks that allow for crew members to accompany the helmsman, mind your heads at the low bridges though!



## Your Holiday...

### What will I need to bring?

Very Little! Bring clothing, initial food and towels etc (if you are going to wash): you should find everything else you need (including bed linen and tea towels) provided aboard – if not, tell us!

### What do I do with our car?

Once you have arrived and unloaded your car alongside the boat, you can park your car in our yard behind our property and forget it until you return. Then learn how to drive on the left again!

### Is the boat easy to handle?

Our boats are designed for ease of use. We will show you over the boat and explain how everything works, then set off with you. We will make sure you feel happy that you are in full control before we leave you. After that we are happy to come out at any time if you need more help, or if you would like an extra pair of hands at the locks, etc. (it might cost you a cup of tea!)

### How far can we get in a week?

That depends entirely on you. It is possible to go from end to end of the canal (70 miles in all) and "see it all" in a week so long as you are prepared to cruise for about 6 hours each day. But for most people, a leisurely trip to Brecon and back, and perhaps a couple of days down to Llanfoist or Goytre later in the week will allow time to explore, have a meal out and some time to relax. If you prefer a really peaceful canal holiday week with no locks, the tranquil section below Gilwern down to Pontymoile will allow you enough time later to cruise up to Llangattock or Llangynidr. At two miles per hour you will have time to see things you never noticed before!

### Where can we stop?

Running all the way alongside the canal is a towpath. Although many people prefer to stop within villages, you are free to tie up wherever you wish on the towpath side, so long as it does not obstruct the waterway (for example under a bridge, or on a tight bend). In places where the water is particularly shallow you may have to "walk the plank" to get ashore.

### Are there places to eat out along the route?

Travelling towards Brecon from Gilwern, there is a village every four miles - about every two hours cruising time. The villages are situated actually on the canal, and all have at least one pub (one has five!) where you can buy a drink or order a meal.

### What about shopping?

On the canal itself, Brecon and Pontypool have good shops. Here at Gilwern there are two general stores, our own gift/craft shop, butcher, fish & chips, Post Office, chemist, dentist and doctor. Llangynidr and Talybont have good village stores where you can buy bread and milk etc. Abergavenny and Crickhowell, each a pleasant walk from the canal have a wide selection of shops.