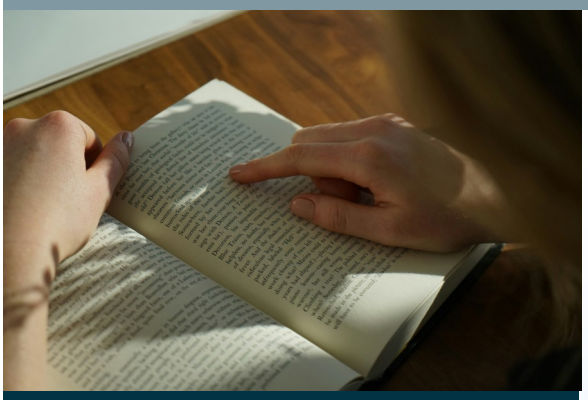
A Place to Read and Relax

Unique Reading Retreats
In the Stunning Dee Valley

2027 Brochure



What we offer:

A unique home from home retreat with your own spacious ensuite room PLUS

- Cosy comfortable spaces in which to read
- An inspiring location and wonderful atmosphere
- Delicious home cooked food
- Stunning walks and views
- Afternoon tea and other entertainments all in-cluded

Three options to choose from:

- Come on your own and read your own chosen books, following your own schedule
- Come on your own but read a book selected for the retreat, and join the scheduled discussions
- Bring your reading group, book out all the available rooms (up to 12 participants) and schedule the retreat exactly the way you want it

‘Convivial conversations in a sumptuous setting’
- John M, October 2025

A Reading Retreat at *A Place to Write* is like no other. Aside from enjoying all the privacy and luxury of your own ensuite bedroom — with all the little extras you would expect in a hotel — you are also one of a select group of people who love reading who will be welcomed into the very homely, yet professional space which Nic and Wendy run.

Meals are all home cooked by Wendy to a bespoke menu which is individual to every retreat: taking account of all your dietary requirements, with separate dishes produced when necessary, every meal is designed just for you. And this individual attention doesn’t stop there!

With groups of no more than twelve at a time, each guest has the space to read in peace and tranquility while also having the opportunity to make new friends from the reading community and share their passion for literature.

‘I couldn't have asked for a better experience for my first retreat!’
- Jane, February 2026

Do it *your* way:

At our welcome meeting on the first day we emphasise that this is *your* retreat: you choose what you do, when you do it, how you do it and whether you do it at all! We are just here to help: whether you want to read from dawn to dusk in one place you can call your own, or share different reading spaces over the course of your stay; whether you want to remain onsite, reading in comfort, or take time out to explore the literary connections in the local landscape; whether you want to read the same book as others, with discussions attached, or bring your own book and escape into your own imagination. On every retreat we work with you to ensure that you get the unique experience you seek. It’s what makes the atmosphere on our retreats so special.

Corwen Literary Connections

John Cowper Powys

Cowper Powys was an English novelist, philosopher, lecturer, critic and poet. In 1935 he moved to Corwen, living in a property which today bears a plaque with his name. His works while here include *Owen Glendower* (1941) and *Porius* (1951).

Simon McCleave

Simon McCleave is a writer from nearby Wrexham and his series *The Snowdonia Killings* is set in real and fictional locations across the local area. Corwen Church, a five minute walk from Bron Y Graig features significantly in the first book in the series.

The Mabinogion

This collection of stories, originally from the Welsh oral tradition, were first written down in the 11th and 12th centuries. Today the stories are available in translation and have inspired writers across the globe, including J.R.R.Tolkien whose book *The Silmarillion* was inspired by the Mabinogion's tale of *Culhwch and Olwen*.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Hopkins studied theology at St Beuno's College near St. Asaph and, while there, visited St. Winifred's Well in Holywell—walking the seven miles to it with another novitiate from the college.

Itinerary

On arrival you will check into your room and have time to settle in, learn about the history of Bron Y Graig, read and relax. At an agreed time we will all convene in one of our lounges for a housekeeping meeting and tour of the grounds, before sitting down together at our group dining table to enjoy a hearty welcome meal and learn a little about each other.

Each day, from breakfast till dinner, there is abundant reading time with various spaces and places set-up for you to relax and immerse yourself in your book. Each day is punctuated with optional refreshment breaks and a buffet lunch designed to allow you to take your lunch with you as you carry on reading!

Every retreat offers the chance to join a guided walk past the one-time home of John Cowper Powys up to the iron-age hill fort on the top of Caer Drewyn—just across the Valley from Bron Y Graig—which is the fictional home of Porius in Cowper Powys' *Porius: A Romance of the Dark Ages*.

Every part of this itinerary is optional though: only meal times are fixed. And you don't have to decide anything until the last minute: follow the schedule or carve your own path as the mood takes you.

If you drive, you'll even find it easy to visit literary places of interest in the local area. See the column on the left of this page for some examples. If you travel by public transport we provide a complimentary pick-up and drop-off from the nearest main-line station.

‘Nic and Wendy have created a wonderful place to relax and be creative. A very special experience and I am already thinking about when I can go back.’
- Elspeth H

Superior Rooms

These are spacious ensuite rooms with a view across the Dee Valley. They all come with a large writing desk and a full range of toiletries, bathrobes, towels, tea and coffee making facilities, widescreen TV, hairdryer and other little extras.

Standard Rooms (pictured)

These are slightly smaller than the Superior Rooms, but still fairly spacious and fully ensuite. They all come with a writing desk and a full range of toiletries, bathrobes, towels, tea and coffee making facilities, widescreen TV, hairdryer and other little extras. They have windows but not quite such a stunning view.

Attic Rooms

These are genuinely attic rooms with sloped ceilings, low beams and less space than our standard rooms but, again, they are fully ensuite. They have a small writing desk and a full range of toiletries, bathrobes, towels, tea and coffee making facilities, widescreen TV, hairdryer and other little extras.

Prices

3-NIGHT READING RETREATS:

SUPERIOR ROOM	from £395 incl VAT	[Second person supplement £145]
STANDARD ROOM	from £365 incl VAT	[Second person supplement £145]
ATTIC ROOM	from £315 incl VAT	

'It was a brilliant, stimulating holiday and I will definitely return'
- Jeni G

Your Hosts

Nic and Wendy bought the venue for *our retreats,* Bron Y Graig, in June 2022, with a view to developing a world-class retreat centre. Nic is currently completing a PhD at the Shakespeare Institute at the University of Birmingham and Wendy works full time at Bron Y Graig.

Before moving to Corwen, Nic was head of English in a large state secondary school in the south-east, and had also taught and managed at schools across the south of England including the Leys School, Cambridge, Wellington College, Berkshire, and Verulam School in St Albans. Prior to that he ran a theatre company that performed all over the UK, directed a production of *Macbeth* in Manchester Cathedral, and ran specialist masterclasses on Stanislavski and Brecht for secondary schools across England. His journey began in the dark ages when he met Wendy while training to be an actor at Mountview Theatre School in London.

Wendy's career, post-drama school, was much more sensible: having already trained as an intensive care nurse, Wendy moved effortlessly into stage managing West End shows before marrying Nic and starting a family. In more recent years she was a senior manager in the NHS and ran several large care homes across Hertfordshire.

Nic and Wendy look forward to welcoming you to *A Place to Read*!

'A fantastic weekend of reading. Cosy, comfortable and wonderfully peaceful.'
- Guest at Bron Y Graig, April 2026

April 2026

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