

WELCOME TO THE OLD MILL!

ABOUT THE OLD MILL

Contacting us if anything is not as it should be!

We hope that everything is as you would expect but, in the unlikely event that you need us, Rhona & Les (01951 200118 / 07484 052205) or (if Rhona / Les are unavailable and it is an emergency) Katie (day; 01951 200211 / evenings; 01951 200230) will organise any maintenance work that is required during your stay.

Hot water

The electric immersion heaters to heat your water should have been switched on before your arrival. They are timed to heat the water overnight. Each tank has a “Boost” facility for when you need extra baths. The switches are in the cupboard in the Hall.

Heating

The Old Mill has electric panel heaters in each room. The controls are on each heater.

Clothes Washing

There is a washing machine in the Hall of the Old Mill for your use. There is a dryer in the Kitchen, but if the weather allows, there is a washing line and clothes pegs outside the Old Mill (go out the back door and the washing line is 25 yards to your left).

Dish Washing

The Kitchen in the Old Mill has a dishwasher for your use.

Lavatories

As the Old Mill uses a septic tank, please **do not flush any sanitary waste** down the lavatory - use the bins provided. Please do not use bleach.

Dogs

Please **do not allow your dogs on the furniture or in the bedrooms**. Please pick up after them in the garden, bagging waste and putting into the dustbin.

Smoking

The Old Mill is a “No Smoking” zone. **Please do not smoke indoors.**

Fire Safety

Never leave an open fire unattended. Make sure you know where your fire extinguisher and fire blanket are located and how to use them.

In the event of FIRE:

1. Close all windows and doors
2. Telephone 999 (Colonsay fire fighters carry bleepers)

Electricity

There are two meters in the cupboard by the Front Door in the Hall. Please take a reading of both meters on your arrival and departure. The appropriate amount, charged at £0.20 per unit, will be deducted from your deposit.

NB: Using the boosters for the hot water a lot or leaving the panel heaters switched on for long periods will send the bill up sharply!

Coal

We provide two complimentary bags of coal for your use. If you require more coal, 25kg bags of coal/anthracite can be purchased from the Service Point.

Rubbish and recycling

On your arrival you will have found some black bin bags for your household. Please ensure that **all** rubbish is properly bagged up, being particularly careful about disposable nappies and dog waste. In order that birds or other pests are not attracted to your waste, please make sure you **do not** leave any used black bin bags outside the Old Mill at any time; please take all full black bin bags directly up to the large grey wheelie-bin at the driveway entrance from where it is collected. Please take all glass, plastic bottles, tins, paper and cardboard to the recycling point on the long straight road between the hotel and Machrins.

PLEASE TAKE ALL YOUR BIN BAGS (AND YOUR LAST BAG WHEN YOU DEPART) UP TO THE WHEELIE-BIN AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE DRIVEWAY.

Cleaning

The Old Mill has been cleaned prior to your arrival. Cleaning during your stay may be arranged, *with sufficient notice*, through Rhona, who will tell you of her charge-out rate.

YOUR ARRIVAL

On the day of your arrival: please note that you will not be able to get into the Old Mill before **16:30**. While this is important only if you arrive on the earlier ferry, we are sorry that earlier entry is NOT possible; this is to allow cleaning and maintenance teams to do a thorough job prior to the your arrival.

YOUR DEPARTURE

Please leave the Old Mill, as much as possible, how you found it. Leave the key in the door.

On the day of your departure: the Old Mill must be vacated by **10:30**.

The Old Mill must be vacated promptly to enable our cleaning and maintenance teams to do a thorough job prior to the next incoming guests.

NB: The Colonsay hotel, bar and restaurant and the **Colonsay House Gardens Café** and the **Pantry** are popular destinations for departing guests to relax in between vacating your property and ferry departure. The Colonsay serves pre-ferry suppers on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays and a longer breakfast on Tuesdays.

ISLAND INFORMATION

The Colonsay

The place to go for delicious local seafood, meat and organic vegetables and salads, simply cooked, all fresh. Open fires, bare floorboards, comfy sofas, you can choose to eat or drink in the bar, old dining room, log room or restaurant. Children are truly welcome: They offer a menu of fresh proper food, games inside and a garden to play in outside. They are open all day for coffee or tea and cakes, from 08:30-10:30 for breakfast (especially handy if you are leaving on a Tuesday!), 12:00-14:30 for lunch, and from 1800-2100 for dinner. They close around 23:00 unless it's busy, in which case they stay open! The bar is open from 12:00.

They have a great value set price 2- and 3-course bar supper EVERY DAY, and which is guaranteed to be served on time for pre-ferry travellers. What better way to end your holiday than with a dozen Colonsay oysters, a bowl of chips or a pint of locally brewed Colonsay ale?

The restaurant is very popular and it is best to book: Tel 01951 200316. They will try to fit you in the restaurant at the last minute if we have space; alternatively, you can always eat in the bar.

There is a children's DVD night on Tuesdays, which must be booked, and the very popular Quiz night on Thursdays.

Public Telephones

There is a public telephone by the pier.

Doctor and medical services

There are 2 doctors on the island. The surgery hours are 09:00 – 10:00, 17:00 – 18:00, Monday to Friday (closed Thursday, Saturday, Sunday). The doctor is on call 24 hours seven days a week. **Tel 01951 200328**

**In the event of a medical emergency, an air ambulance will lift the patient to the appropriate hospital in Glasgow
- the service is very quick and efficient.
Call 999 in an emergency.**

Church Services

There is a church on the island, the Church of Scotland parish church at Scalasaig. The church and its community always extend a warm welcome to visitors to join in their services. The services are conducted by a visiting minister and are held most Sundays. Details are available from *The Colonsay*, the shop, or the Pantry.

The services are usually held at the following times:

Church of Scotland Parish Church, Sunday, 11:30

Colonsay House Gardens and Woodland Gardens & the Cafe

The gardens are famous for their wide variety of rhododendrons, including many rare species. There are also sub-tropical plants and trees from around the world. The private gardens include the rose, lighthouse and kitchen gardens. Don't miss the ancient statue guarding St Oran's well, the burn cascading down from the Pond, or the fattest cypress in the UK.

The Colonsay House private gardens are open to the public from Easter to end September on **Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00 to 17:00** and on **Saturdays** from 14:00 to 17:00. There is an entry fee of £[2.50] per adult, £[1] per child.

The Woodland Gardens are open to the public every day free of charge. Entrance is via the old road by Avenue Cottage or through the gate at Pondsides Cottage. There is a picnic table below the launderette.

The Colonsay House Gardens Café has tables indoors and an outdoor terrace overlooking the gardens and serves hot and cold drinks, freshly baked cakes, scones and cookies and ice creams as well as light lunches of soup, tarts and salad leaves grown in the walled vegetable garden. Postcards and souvenirs are also for sale.

Golf

There is an eighteen-hole links golf course at Machrins. Membership is £[20] per adult for unlimited golfing for the season; fees payable at the Estate Cottages Office or at the honesty box on the first tee. See notice in the shop about hire of clubs.

The Colonsay Golf Club holds competitions throughout the season and all visitors are invited to play; details in the Estate Cottages Office.

Trout Fishing

The lochs are managed with a view to conserving the native brown trout. There are no rainbows and no imported fish. The native stock is a distinct strain, descendants of the fish introduced by the monastic community of Kiloran Abbey. You may fish with a permit from March to October (please check the exact dates), using only fly fishing methods. A permit costs £[25] per adult per week and can be purchased from the Estate Cottages Office. There are boats on Mid Loch Fada, West Loch Fada and Loch Solitaire available for hire for £[10] a day (plus £[10] deposit for the rowlocks). Two good-sized fish (over 8 inches) per day may be kept for the table, all others to be returned.

Bicycle Hire

Archie McConnell has men's, ladies' and some children's bikes. Baby seats are available at no extra charge. It is advisable to book in advance. Archie's house is in Kilchattan and his telephone number is 01951 200355.

The Old Waiting Room Gallery and Information Point

This gallery is at the landward end of the pier at the harbour. There are exhibitions throughout the season of work by local and visiting artists and there is much for the shopper to buy and enjoy. Information about all events and Colonsay businesses can be had here.

The Colonsay Bookshop

Next to the Brewery at Scalasaig, the bookshop specialises in Scottish publications but also has a supply of good holiday reading and children's books with a distinctly Highland flavour. The Bookshop is open most days 1500-1730. Tel 01951 200232.

The ancient Priory, Oransay

The island of Oransay is accessible from Colonsay at low tide. The ruins of the priory church and magnificent Celtic cross date from the 14th century. In the Prior's House, there are around 30 beautiful carved stone tombstones dating from the 15th and 16th centuries. Us Colonsay folk believe that St Columba landed on Oransay on his way to Iona in the 6th century; when he climbed Ben Oransay he found he could still see Ireland so decided to move on to Iona. Not all the historians agree however! You have about two hours either side of low tide to walk to and from Oransay, weather permitting. Check at the Estate Cottages Office or at the Post Office for times of the tides. PLEASE NOTE: The RSPB manage the farming and dogs are only allowed on Oransay if on leads.

Ceilidhs and Local Music Evenings

Ceilidhs are held regularly throughout the season. All are most welcome, especially children. Check the notice board in the shop for dates and times of various social events.

“The Whale” by Julian Meredith

A 500 feet long stone sculpture of a whale has been created at Port Sgibinis at Balnahard. Although not quite finished, it can be clearly seen to the left of the track to Balnahard (as well as from space!) as you descend from the pass above Kiloran Bay. The sculpture is an ongoing project. . Please feel free to add a stone to help fill in the head. The stone can be taken from anywhere outside the whale (but not from the drystone walls please!).

Colonsay & Oransay Heritage Centre

The door is usually open in what was formerly the Baptist Church at Kilchattan. It was a brand-new venue for 2017 so opening and closing times are, at the time of writing, uncertain. Do please come and have a look at exhibitions and artefacts of local interest. Leave us a comment in the book and perhaps a donation in the box!

Transport

The school bus is sometimes available; ring Jim to discuss on 01951 200141 or 07976 151750.

Public Lavatories

These are located at the pier.

Colonsay General Store, Scalasaig

Opening Hours

Mon to Fri 09:00-17:30 (off season early closing on Tues & Thurs)

Sat 09:00-13:00

Opening hours may change during peak times; please see in shop for details.

The well-stocked shop sells most of the foodstuffs and other stuff you might need; local produce, when available, includes salad leaves, lamb and free-range eggs. Off licence sales are available. There is a range of wine, beer and spirits, including Colonsay Brewery beers and lagers. 01951 200265.

Colonsay Post Office, Scalasaig

Opening Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 09:00 -13:00; 14:00-17:30

Thurs, Sat: 09:00 -13:00

The Pantry

The pantry, serving light lunches and suppers, teas, cakes and ice-cream, is very popular. There are regular "International Special Days" so do enquire and make sure to book! There is a selection of Colonsay sweatshirts, local crafts, postcards and other gifts. Booking for evening meals is essential. 01951 200325.

Christine's Den, Scalasaig

Located just a little way up the hill from the General Store (on the left if you are going up hill and next to the Colonsay Fire Station), Christine's Den is an arts and craft shop selling locally made items as well as delightful gifts from further afield. It is open most afternoons and surely worth a visit.

Colonsay Service Point, Scalasaig

Located at the far end of the Village Hall, open 09:30-12:30, Monday to Friday. The Service point sells bags of coal and bottled gas. They can also help with access to a fax machine, photocopier and the internet. Library books and local information are here as well.

Community Gardens

Next to the village hall and service point, the gardens are maintained by local volunteers. Please help us by doing a spot of weeding! Tools are in the shed.

Oyster Farm

Arguably the best in the UK (if not the world!), Colonsay's own oysters are an essential part of the Colonsay experience. They must be ordered in advance, and if you order more than four dozen, Andrew will come and open them for you! Telephone Andrew Abrahams on 01951 200365.

Lobsters, crabs

Our local fisherman, Bill Lawson, often sells his catch in the evenings; telephone him on 01951 200315.

Colonsay Brewery

Located at Scalasaig, the Brewery and Brewery shop are open throughout the year. Fantastic local ales and beers are a must! Call Sheena on 01951 200190.

USEFUL LOCAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

For all Colonsay numbers remember to dial the local code (01951) first!

IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE “OLD MILL TEAM”

Rhona & Les: YOUR FIRST POINT OF CALL: 01951 200118 / 07484 052205

or **Katie** (alternative contact if your query is urgent): **01951 200211 / 01951 200230**

{or.. **Andrew** (emergencies ONLY please) **mobile: 07785 762133}**

Doctor (just up from the Shop) **Dr David Binnie & Dr Jan Brooks 200328**

Shop, Petrol, Diesel **Keir Johnston 200265**

Post Office **Keith Rutherford 200323**

Bus driver **Jim Johnstone 200141**

Bicycle Hire **Archie McConnell 200355**

Local seafood **Bill Lawson 200315**

Oysters & Colonsay Honey **Andrew Abrahams 200365**

**The Colonsay, Bar,
Hotel and Restaurant** **Ivan Lisovyy 200316**

Pantry (up from the Old Waiting Room Gallery) **Gavin Clark 200325**

Colonsay Service Point (next to the Village Hall & near the Shop) **200263**

Airport (at (Machrins)) **200291**

Pier Office (at Scalasaig) – **FOR ALL FERRY INFORMATION 200308**

Colonsay is a wonderful place to explore on foot, but please remember that this is a rural community; we would kindly ask you to observe the following:

- Please do not walk on cultivated land.
- Please do not let your dogs roam freely amongst sheep and cattle. In the past, sheep have been chased over cliffs when panicked by strange dogs.
- Please leave gates as you find them; open if they are open, closed if they are closed.

AND FOR OUR CYCLING ENTHUSIASTS...

Colonsay is perfect for family cycling; peaceful, safe and fairly flat. However, even on Colonsay, cycling can have its hazards. We would ask you to try and observe the following:

- Please ensure your children know the basic rules of the road.
- Helmets, especially for children, are recommended.
- Do not allow children to career down steep hills at high speed - it would be a shame to ruin your holiday by spending a lot of it in the doctor's surgery!
- The roads are narrow - we would advise cyclists to allow traffic to pass by pulling into the lay-bys and stopping.

AND FOR THE DRIVERS ON COLONSAY...

Please drive **SLOWLY** and with caution on our single-track roads.

PLEASE NOTE:

IT IS NOT PERMITTED TO DRIVE UP THE TRACK TOWARDS BALNAHARD. PLEASE PARK INSIDE THE GATE AT "AN CROSSAN", JUST OFF THE PUBLIC ROAD BY KILORAN BAY AND PROCEED ON FOOT.

4 WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES MUST STAY ON ROADS (AND TRACKS IF RELEVANT) AT ALL TIMES.

**Thank you for your co-operation
and have a great holiday!**