

# THE COLONSAY TIMES Early Summer

## **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: we offer a menu of fresh proper food, games inside and a garden to play in outside. Open all day for coffee or tea, from 1200-1430 for lunch and from 1800-2100 for dinner (1700 on Fridays and Sundays). We close around 2300 unless it's busy, in which case we stay open! Bar is open from noon. We have a great value set price 2- and 3-course supper which is guaranteed to be served on time for pre-ferry travel on Fridays and Sundays. The restaurant is very popular and it is best to book: Tel 01951 200316, or email [manager@colonsayholidays.co.uk](mailto:manager@colonsayholidays.co.uk). There is normally a children's DVD night on Tuesdays which must be booked, the very popular Quiz night on Thursdays and sometimes local players have an informal evening music session – check on the website or ask at the hotel! There is WIFI throughout the hotel.

## **Colonsay General Store, Scalasaig**

### Opening Hours

Mon to Sat 0900-1730

Early closing Tues 1300

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

The shop sells local produce when available, including salad leaves, local meat and free-range eggs. Off-licence sales are available. There is a range of beer and spirits, including Colonsay Brewery beers and lagers. 01951 200265 or

[info@colonsayshop.net](mailto:info@colonsayshop.net)

The current rules permit four people in the Shop at any one time, one per family group.

## **Colonsay Post Office, Scalasaig**

### Opening Hours:

Mon, Fri: 0900-1300; 1400-1700

Tues, Weds, Sat: 0900-1300

Thurs: 1000-1700

Sun: 1600-1700

## **The Pantry**

The Pantry is a fully-licensed Restaurant & Bar, serving breakfast, lunch & dinner, teas & coffees, cakes and ice-cream. Carry-outs and deliveries are available through the downloadable mobile app HOPT, or by phoning. There is a selection of Colonsay sweatshirts, local crafts, postcards, honey and other gifts. Seafood nights are on Wednesday & Saturday. Closed on Sundays and Tuesdays. Booking for evening meals is essential (& advised for lunch when the weather is wet); phone 01951 200325 or [mail@thecolonsaypantry.co.uk](mailto:mail@thecolonsaypantry.co.uk)

## **Colonsay House Gardens, Woodland Gardens, Old Workshop Café**

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. Colonsay House private gardens are open to the public from April to end of October on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 1200 to 1700.

There is an entry fee of £3.00 per adult, £1 per child. Hot and cold drinks, light lunches, home-baked cakes and ice creams are available. 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. Please park at the Old Village Hall.

## **Bike & Paddleboard Hire/Lessons**

Colonsay Bikes and Boards has men's, ladies' and some children's bikes for hire. Children's seats and tag-along are not available, but you are welcome to attach your own. **New for this year: paddleboards and wetsuits for hire, plus paddleboarding lessons with Jen!**

[www.colonsaybikesandboards.co.uk](http://www.colonsaybikesandboards.co.uk)

[jen@colonsaybikesandboards.co.uk](mailto:jen@colonsaybikesandboards.co.uk)

## **The Old Waiting Room Gallery and Tourist Information Point**

Opposite the pier at the harbour, run by Trini Graham-Stewart who makes sea glass jewellery and other crafts from found objects. Sells a unique range of ceramics, artworks, jewellery and woodware from Colonsay and Scottish artists. Open Mon 10-2 and 5-7, Tues 10-2, Wed 10-2 and 6-7.30, Thurs CLOSED, Fri 10-2 and 5-7, Sat 10-2 and 6-7.45 Sunday 5-7

## **Colonsay Wild Island Distillery**

(next to bookshop at Scalasaig)

3 different gins, a vodka, a blended malt - something for everyone.

Open Mon, Thurs, Fri & Sat 1500 - 1700, Wed 1230 - 1600, closed Tues & Sun. If needed we are happy to open outwith these hours. Please phone 01951 200104 or email [chris@colonsaybeverages.com](mailto:chris@colonsaybeverages.com)

## **The Colonsay Bookshop**

Next to the Distillery 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 will be open from May 17th, Monday - Saturday 1500 - 1700, or by appointment: Tel 01951 200 320.

## **Wild Thyme Spirits Distillery & Shop**

Home of multi-award winning Colonsay Gin located in Upper Kilchattan along from the Primary School where all our products are available to sample and purchase. Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 10.00-18.00; Fri & Sat: 10.00 - 1600 Distillery tours can be booked online at [www.wildthymespirits.com](http://www.wildthymespirits.com) or tel 01951 200082.

## **Colonsay & Oransay Heritage Centre**

The door is usually open in what was formerly the Baptist Church; 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!

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## Golf

There is an eighteen-hole links golf course at Machrins. Membership is £60 per adult for unlimited golfing for the season or £10 for the day; fees payable at the honesty box on the first tee, or in the Estate Office or the hotel. The Colonsay Golf Club holds competitions throughout the season and all visitors are invited to play; details from the Secretary on 01951 200182. Clubs can be borrowed at the hotel.

## Public Lavatories

These are located at the pier

## Colonsay Service Point, Scalasaig

Located at the far end of the Village Hall, open 0930-1230, Monday to Friday. Sales of coal, anthracite and gas. Access to fax machine, photocopier and internet. Library books and local information. 01951 200263.

## 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 in the shed.

## Public Telephones

There is a public telephone by the pier.

## Doctor and medical services

We have a doctor on the island. 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 patients to the appropriate hospital in Glasgow - the service is very quick and efficient. Call **999** in an emergency.

## Church Services

Services are held in the church each Sunday at 10.30 and all are welcome. You are also welcome to attend by Zoom any week and from anywhere, please contact Alastair Scouller for a Zoom invitation: [alastair.scouller@gmail.com](mailto:alastair.scouller@gmail.com) or Kevin Byrne, Session Clerk (01951 200320)

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>, using only fly-fishing methods. A permit costs £30 per adult per week and can be purchased from the Estate Office or the hotel. There are boats on Mid Loch Fada, East Loch Fada and Loch Sgoltaire available for hire for £20 a day. Two good-sized fish (over 8 inches) per day may be kept for the table, all others to be returned.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> century. In the Prior's House, there are around 30 beautiful carved stone tombstones dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is said that St Columba landed on Oransay on his way to Iona in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. When he climbed Ben Oransay he found he could still see Ireland and decided to move on! Normally, you'll have about two hours either side of low tide to walk to and from Oransay. But it's vital that you check the tidal timetables (the Post Office and The Colonsay have copies) so you set out when the tide will be out for the longest period. You will need at least three to four hours, depending on how fast you walk. The RSPB manage the farming and dogs are only allowed on Oransay if on leads.

## Ceilidhs and Music Evenings

Ceilidhs are usually held regularly throughout the season in the Village Hall. Check the notice board in the shop or the Visitor Information Point for dates and times of various social events. There is often a music session with island players in the hotel on Friday evenings. Bring your instrument along...

## "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 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!).

## Oyster Farm

Arguably the best in the UK (if not the world!) 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, Duggie Reid, may be able to supply you; telephone him on 01951 200368

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

- **Do not walk on cultivated land.**
- **Do not let your dogs roam freely amongst sheep and cattle. Sheep have been chased over cliffs when panicked by strange dogs.**
- **Leave gates as you find them: open if they are open, closed if they are closed.**

Colonsay is perfect for family cycling; peaceful, safe and fairly flat. However, even on Colonsay, cycling can have its hazards. Look out for rough surfaces. 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 it in the surgery.
- **The roads are narrow - we would advise cyclists to allow traffic to pass by pulling into the grass verge or lay-bys and stopping.**

## AND FOR DRIVERS...

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

**It is strictly forbidden to drive on all tracks to cottages unless you are a resident there.**

**It is not permitted to drive up the track towards Balnahard. Please park inside the gate at An Crosan 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.