

## Welcome to Cairn Cottage.

We were lucky enough to buy the house in 2011 having spent many happy weeks here on holiday in the years before. We hope that you'll enjoy Cairn Cottage as much as we do.

We hope that you'll find that Cairn Cottage is equipped with everything you might need to make your holiday as relaxing and enjoyable as possible and that we've thought of most things that you might need on holiday.



If you have any questions or need anything else in particular then please ring us on 01394 411680 or email [info@islay-holiday-homes.co.uk](mailto:info@islay-holiday-homes.co.uk) and we'll do our best to help or point you in the right direction.

Below are some introductory notes for the house and local area.

- All **bedding, linen** and **towels**, bath sheets and hand towels are all provided. Should you require fresh towels these can be found in the linen cupboard in the downstairs twin bedroom. Please do not take these towels to the beach.
- There are electric under blankets in each of the bedrooms should you find it cold at night.
- A hair-dryer can be found in the main bedroom.
- An **oil-fired boiler** provides central **heating** and **hot water** which is timed to come on in the morning and evenings. If you need extra heating or hot water press the appropriate button on the control panel which boosts the heating or water for one hour. The boiler and control panel are situated downstairs next to the shower room (please do not change the timings on the clock by the boiler). The heating thermostat for the house is in the main living room.
- The main living room has an effective electric fan fire – we'd suggest using this during the day if you're mainly using the living/dining room, rather than having the boiler blazing away.
- During the summer months the average cost for oil/electricity has been approx. £40 per week whilst during the winter more like £80 per week – both obviously depending on how much you have the heating on.
- There is also an immersion heater which heats the water if necessary. One switch is next to the hot water tank in the 2nd living room). The other immersion switch is in the meter cupboard by the outside kitchen door). If switched on please remember to turn the immersion heater off.
- There is an **open fire** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> living room which draws very well, there is usually coal in the shed.
- The sunroom has two electric heaters
- Power cuts can be a problem (albeit infrequently) during the winter. In case of one there is a small calor gas cooker on top of the kitchen cupboards - gas bottles are in the shed. Candles can be found in the sideboard in the main living room.
- The kitchen is fully equipped with everything you would expect to find at home including fridge-freezer, dishwasher, microwave, washing machine, food mixers and most other everyday utensils you might want!
- Cleaning products and dishwasher tablets are provided. Hand soap and hand lotion are always at the kitchen sink. Spare light bulbs are in the under stairs cupboard.
- The house does not have mains drainage so please do not put anything other than toilet paper down the toilets.
- There is a wide range of books, board games and DVD's which can be found in either the main living room sideboard or in the small lounge. There are also some postcards which you're welcome to use which are on the sideboard.
- There are televisions and dvd players in both the main and the 2<sup>nd</sup> living room. There is also a bluetooth speaker for iPods etc in the main living room.
- There is a cot in the main bedroom, two high chairs in the living room and a fold out camp bed in the front porch.
- The cottage has **WiFi internet**. The router is on the sideboard in the living room plus there is an extender in the kitchen to boost the signal. There are two networks **BTHub3-5QTG** which covers

the main living room, whilst **BTHub3-5QTG\_EXT** covers the 2nd living room and upstairs bedrooms. The code for both networks is **cac8a63c84**.

- There are plenty of tourist information leaflets in the **Welcome folder** which can be found on the sideboard plus maps for Islay, and routes/guides for local walks.
- There is a **gas BBQ** and gas bottles in the shed as well as outside chairs, **three bicycles** (one adult and two for 10 yrs+ children).
- You should be aware that mobile reception is pretty appalling in the house apart from the sunroom and front garden (sometimes) but there is a pay phone in the main living room - the number for the house is 01496 302195.
- If you bring your **dog(s)**, please do not let them into the bedrooms or onto the furniture and please clear up after your dog – whether it is the front or back garden (including the woods at the back). As a gentle warning our fantastic next door neighbours Tom and Rita have chickens which are free roaming – and whilst they do seem to scarp (the chickens of course) when a dog is about you never know.....
- And lastly, please do not smoke in the house.
- **Rubbish is collected every fortnight on Monday and Tuesday. To avoid putting out the wrong bin at the wrong time, please put ALL bins out on Sunday nights.**
  - The two green bins take general rubbish
  - The blue bin takes card and paper, with tins and plastic placed into the red sack which stays inside this bin.
  - There is also a recycling point in Port Ellen where you can take your glass before you leave.
- On **Departure day** please try to leave the house by 10am on Saturday. Pull the door shut leaving all keys in the kitchen, don't worry about locking up. We're aware that of course you are on holiday but please leave the house clean and tidy which will help enormously to speed up the changeover for the next guests – this includes emptying the fridge and washing up dishes.
- **Port Ellen** has a rather limited range of shops with the Co-op (open till late) and Spar (daytime hours) serving most of your daily food and drink needs. The Spar (Lauries) has the newspapers but don't forget they come across on the boat so are only available after the first boat has come in to Port Ellen, normally at 9'ish, and some time later if the first boat is into Port Askaig.
- There is a Post Office, Indian Restaurant, a general store (Macaulay & Torrie) and a couple of pubs; The White Hart and The Ardview, plus the Islay Hotel. The Ardview is drink sales only whilst The White Hart serves food and the Islay Hotel is more restaurant orientated and well worth a visit.
- There is a small petrol station (next to The White Hart) but if this is closed it's a trip to Bowmore or Bridgend – remember daytime hours only for all the petrol stations, so don't run on fumes in the evening.
- The closest **sandy beach** to the house is Kilnaughton Bay. Turn right out of the drive and 200 metres on the left you'll see a set of gates with a Cairnmore Woods sign. Through the gate and follow the path down to the beach (5 mins). For the more nimble just after the rope swing (on the path) you'll see another lesser used path on the left which also takes you down the beach via some steep steps, but it does offer a lovely view over the beach.
- Alternatively there are two more sandy beaches down at Port Ellen but there is also Kintra which is 3 miles from the house – turn right out of the drive and follow the sign - this fantastic sandy beach runs for 7 miles up towards Bowmore.
- **Bowmore** is the main town on the island and has a good selection shops including a much larger Co-op, butcher, tourist and general stores, Spar, pub and restaurants, electrical shop (by the school), petrol station, swimming pool and of course the distillery.

We could go on about what to do and where to go, but half the fun of a holiday is exploring - so have a wonderful stay and do enjoy this beautiful island.

Kirsteen and Paul  
August 2012