

# **Welcome to Gigha**

We hope you will find this guide useful, information is given under the following categories:

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## Emergency Services

In the event of an emergency on the island, you should always phone 999.

There is a fire station and coast guard station on the island, however you should still contact 999 to report any incidents. There is no police station on the island, the closest station is in Campbeltown. The closest Vet practice is in Campbeltown and there is also one in Lochgilphead. Contact details are below.

### Key contact numbers:

Kintyre Medical Group, Muasdale Surgery	01583 421206
Prescription ordering	01583 421266
Gigha Surgery	01583 505223
Gigha Trust Office	01583 505390
Westwards Vet, Campbeltown	01586 552136
Dalriada Vet, Lochgilphead	01546 602240
Ardminish Stores	01583 505251
Calmac, Kennacraig	01880 280281
Ferry Farm Tea Room, Tayinloan	01583 441141
Dentist, Campbeltown	01586 555375
Tarbert Dental Surgery	01880 820387
Argyll & Bute Council	01546 605522
Police Scotland	101
NHS 24	111
Emergencies	999
Power cut report number	105

**Water** - if you spot any water leaks when you are out and about, please report immediately to Scottish Water on **0800 077 8778**

### Gigha Surgery/Medical Information

There is a **surgery** located at the top row of Ardminish Village, manned by a Community Nurse. A GP visits the island once a week on a Wednesday. Appointments with GP must be made either via Gigha Surgery on 01583 505223 or by contacting Muasdale Surgery on 01583 421206.

A Nurse led Drop-In Clinic is available Monday to Friday (except Wednesday) from 10:00am – 11:00 am and from 2:00 pm – 3:00pm.

**Prescriptions** must be ordered via Muasdale Surgery and will be brought over by the GP on a Wednesday, for collection during drop-in clinic times. To order prescriptions call 01583 421266.

**The Community Nurse** can be contacted on 01583 505223 between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm Monday – Friday. After 5pm and at weekends contact NHS24 on 111 or in the event of an emergency please dial 999.

There are **2 community defibrillators** on the island. These are located at Ardminish Stores and at the Village Hall. The Nurse on Duty, Fire and Rescue Service and the Coastguard also have access to a defibrillator.

## Emergency Planning

There is an Emergency Plan (see Appendix 1 at the end of this document) in place which is held by local emergency services including the Coast Guard, Fire Station, Surgery, Ambulance Service, Gigha Trust, and Gigha Community Council. The community emergency plan will be activated in the event of one or more of the following occurring:

- Major incident declared (by the appropriate authority)
- Severe weather event
- Extended power outage
- Flooding or coastal inundation event
- Ferry or cruise ship incident
- Large scale road traffic collision
- Major fire or explosion
- Aircraft crash
- Terrorist related incident

**You should always call 999 in the case of an emergency and the local Emergency services will then be notified.**

## CalMac Ferry Service

In the winter when the weather can be unpredictable, it is wise to keep yourself updated on the weather using apps like XC Weather & BBC Weather (See Useful Websites) as this can affect ferry sailings. Text **CALMAC SUBSCRIBE 08** to 60030 to receive updates by text message on the service status of the Gigha ferry and download the CalMac app to check for updates.

Certain ferries are by request only and you will need to phone Calmac at Kennacraig 0800 066 5000 before 2pm on the previous day. The request sailings are on the website in both summer and winter timetables.

There are **Travel Ferry Cards** for the over 60s who live on the island. These will need to be produced every time you travel and qualify the passenger (not the vehicle) for a reduced fare. These are free and can be obtained from the Post Office in Ardmish Stores. You will need to complete a simple form and produce a passport sized photo. **Blue Badge** holders also qualify for a small discount on ferry travel for their vehicle.

## Public Transport:

West Coast Motors run a “shoppers bus” to Campbeltown every Tuesday (9.30am sailing from Gigha) which leaves Tayinloan ferry terminal car park at 10 am and returns from opposite Tesco at 1pm to the ferry terminal in time for the 2pm sailing to Gigha. Tel: 01586 552319.

Citylink service 926 travels to Glasgow three times per day. The bus only collects passengers from the old shop / post office at the top of the ferry road in Tayinloan village. Please note that the bus does not go down to the ferry terminal car park. See the link on Useful Websites.

It is also possible to travel to Tarbert and Campbeltown on the school buses in term-time. Please check with West Coast Motors for details.

Loganair operates a twice daily return flight to Glasgow Airport from Campbeltown Airport at Macrihanish.

The nearest train station is in Oban and trains to Glasgow stop in Arrochar.

## **The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust (IGHT)**

The community Trust owns the majority of land and built assets on the island. If you are unsure who to contact about any local matters (excluding emergency situations), try contacting the Trust office for advice. The IGHT was formed to benefit the community of the Isle of Gigha and its purposes include the economic and social regeneration of the community through sustainable development. To become a Member of the IGHT, you must be 18 years or older to become an ordinary member which entitles you to attend Members meeting, vote at meetings, and stand for election to the Board after 1 year of membership. If you are aged 16-17 you can apply for a junior membership, however you will be unable to stand for election to the Board or vote at meetings.

Benefits of joining the IGHT is that you will receive monthly newsletters which include updates on all IGHT and wider island activities including community projects and events. You will also be able to vote at meetings and join the Board of Directors. IGHT Members also get permanent free entry to Achamore Gardens. To apply for IGHT membership contact the office on 01583 505390 to receive an application form. The application form is short but must be supported by evidence of being on the electoral roll for Gigha and a payment of £1.

## **Housing**

You must be registered with Homehunt Gigha before you can apply for an IGHT rented property. To find out more about the process, contact the Trust office for a Homehunt Gigha booklet. All available properties are advertised for 28 days on the website, Facebook and on local noticeboards, and only those registered for Homehunt can apply for the property. Contact the IGHT office by telephone 01583 505390 or email [shona@gigha.org.uk](mailto:shona@gigha.org.uk).

In addition to Trust managed housing, [Fyne Homes Housing Association](#) (Tel 0345 6077117) and [ACHA](#) (Tel 01546 605880) have housing on the island which may be available to let. You will need to register with Home Argyll <https://www.homeargyll.co.uk>

Any property sales will be advertised with an Estate Agent and will most likely appear on [Right Move](#).

## **Driving on Gigha**

The roads on Gigha are narrow single-track roads with few passing places. There are limited places for large vehicles, such as motorhomes, to park and turn. You should not park in front of farm gates, access points, residential homes, or locations that will damage our verges. If you see a vehicle coming towards you, or the driver behind wants to overtake, pull into a passing place. Please remember to drive slowly on Gigha to protect livestock and respect other road users. We advise no more than 20mph when passing the village and when approaching corners. The speed limit on roads off the main road is 10 mph. If your vehicle goes off the road and is stuck, you should try contacting someone local to assist in the first instance. If you are unable to ask for assistance, you should try contacting a local business to access their phone to contact someone on the island that can assist with recovering your vehicle.

## **Moorings and Pontoons**

Contact Gigha Trading and Renewables Ltd on 01583 505390 or email [trading@gigha.org.uk](mailto:trading@gigha.org.uk) if you wish to use these facilities.

## **Craft Units (next to the Gigha Hotel)**

- **Craft Unit 1** is the IGHT Office. Opening hours are Monday – Friday 9am-5pm. The Trust office can be contacted on 01583 505390.

- **Craft Unit 2** is the [Gigha's Natural Skincare](#) shop which is run by Morven. The ethos of the company is to promote an affordable Skincare range made with active plant materials. Morven also offers holistic treatments such as reiki and ear candling, massages, and Douglas Heel 123 activation which can be offered by appointment only. Morven can be contacted at 07881426616 or by the [Facebook page](#).
- **Craft Unit 3** is the Wee Isle Cafe.

## Rubbish and recycling collections

Argyll and Bute Council are responsible for both rubbish and recycling collections. Timetables can be found online at: [Bin Collection \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#).

General Rubbish is uplifted every 3 weeks on a Thursday

Blue Bins Recycling uplift every 2 weeks on a Friday

Glass Recycling is at the rear of the Gigha Hotel

Soft Plastics can be recycled at Tesco in Campbeltown

Roading Recycling ("the Tip") Mon – Fri 10 – 5.30, Sat & Sun 11-4, Campbeltown.

Also a tip near Lochgilphead and one on the way into Oban.

## Septic Tanks

There is no mains sewer system on Gigha and all properties will be linked to a septic tank. The IGHT organises for Trust properties to be serviced annually by [Septic Tank Services](#). You may be able to arrange to have your tank services at the same time if you contact the office prior to the Autumn when annual servicing tends to take place. Please note that the cost and responsibility of emptying and servicing a septic tank is that of the property owner.

## Ardminish Stores (Telephone: 01583 505251)

We are the one food shop on the island and we are fully stocked with fruit and veg, dairy, and a wide variety of fresh and frozen products. A range of beers, wines, spirits and tobacco is also available. We run the island fuel station with Petrol, Diesel, farm and marine Diesel. We also stock coal, kindling and various gas. We have a large selection of refillable items and do regular bulk orders with wholefood suppliers. Fruit and Veg can be ordered on a Sunday for Delivery on a Tuesday evening. If you have any queries just ask we're always happy to help be it with logistics etc. The nearest supermarkets thereafter are in Campbeltown (Tesco and Co-Op) and Tarbert (Co-op). There is no supermarket delivery to the island.

### Winter Opening Hours:

Monday 09:00 – 17:00

Tuesday 09:00 – 14:15

Wednesday 09:00 – 13:00

Thursday 09:00 – 17:15

Friday 09:00 – 17:00

Saturday 09:00 – 17:00

Sunday 12:00 – 14:00

Facebook: Ardminish Stores and Yurt Experience

### Summer Opening Hours:

Monday 09:00 – 17:00

Tuesday 09:00 – 17:00

Wednesday 09:00 – 17:00

Thursday 09:00 – 17:00

Friday 09:00 – 17:00

Saturday 09:00 – 17:00

Sunday 12:00 – 16:00

## Post Office

The island Post Office is situated in Ardminish Stores. The opening hours are 9-11am but if Hannah or Joe are around we are more than happy to process any Post office business outwith opening times.

**Cash withdrawals with all major banks** can be done within our branch but not credit cards. Payment of bills and cheque deposits are also carried out along with other postal requirements.

**Royal Mail** deliver post on the island Monday to Saturday unless there has been a ferry disruption.

### **Fuel**

Petrol, diesel and marine diesel are available on the island at Ardmish Stores.

Calor Gas, Ardmish Stores	01583 505251
McNair & Son (coal, peat, logs, heating oil):	01586 552020
Kintyre Firewood (logs):	07464 138911

### **Ordering & Returning Parcels**

Some items will require a mainland address when you order. The address to use is

Ferry Farm Tea Room  
Ferry Road  
Tayinloan  
by Tarbert, Argyll  
PA29 6XQ

**Make sure your name and Gigha address is provided somewhere** – a small fee will be charged for delivery of these items. Deliveries of courier goods from the Ferry Farm to Gigha are usually made on Tuesday and Thursday by Alistair Aitken.

Courier **returns** eg. Hermes, can be made through Alistair Aitken. He will collect any returns from your house providing a text or a phone call has previously been made. Please remember to print and attach a returns label to the package. It will be collected on the delivery days, Tuesday or Thursday.  
Tel: 07562 847251

### **Argyll and Bute Council**

Argyll and Bute Council is responsible for the main road through the island, the ferry car park and public toilets and the street lighting, so please report any issues to them directly via their website. The timetable for rubbish and recycling is also on their website

[Bin Collection \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](http://argyll-bute.gov.uk)

### **Village Hall - SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC029641**

The Village Hall is available for hire for community events, fundraising, private parties, weddings, public & private meetings, seminars, etc. Events must be booked well in advance with the secretary. Telephone 01583 505251 or email [gighavillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:gighavillagehall@gmail.com). Regular events in the Hall are Whist, Table Tennis, Childrens Christmas & Halloween parties, Bookbug, Yoga, Line Dancing and Tai Chi. The hall relies on a voluntary committee who donate their time and much more to help the hall survive.

**Church** - The church is located in the centre of Ardmish Village, opposite Ardmish Stores. Services are usually held at 11am on Sunday and everyone is welcome but please check the Notice Board at the Church or for further information or contact Susan Allan 01583 505215. Regular events at the Church include a Singing Group and a Crafting Session. Details of these can be found on the Gigha NoticeBoard on Facebook or the Noticeboard at Ardmish Stores.

### **Places to Eat**

- The Nook, which is located at Ardmish Stores, provides seafood takeaway on a Friday during the winter then Wednesday to Sunday in the summer months. Their Facebook page - [@ArdminishStores](https://www.facebook.com/@ArdminishStores) is kept up to date with menus and opening hours. Ardmish Stores can be contacted on 01583 505251.

- **The Gigha Hotel** - CLOSED. REOPENING IN 2025
- **The Boathouse restaurant** opens for meals from April – September. The Boathouse can be contacted on by email [eat@boathouseongigha.com](mailto:eat@boathouseongigha.com)
- **Wee Isle Café** open daily.

### Schooling

Pre-5 and Primary school children are well catered for at the Gigha Primary School and Early Learning Centre. In the primary stages we are a single class school with Primary 1 to Primary 7 sharing one classroom. For further information please contact the school 01583 505259 or the Head Teacher via enquiries-gigha@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Campbeltown Grammar School or Tarbert Academy are the nearest secondary schools on the mainland. Pupils travel daily, leaving on the early morning ferry and returning at approximately 5.00pm. Public transport connections take pupils from the ferry to secondary school and back.

### Local Groups, Events & Volunteering

There are a number of local groups, events, classes and volunteer opportunities. The best way to find out and stay up to date is by joining the [Gigha Noticeboard Facebook page](#), or by checking the noticeboards outside Ardmish Stores.

**Achamore Gardens** is always happy to have volunteers to help with general gardening duties. PPE and equipment will be provided with guidance offered from the team at Achamore. Sometimes volunteer days are planned such as bulb planting, however this will be well advertised. Contact Head Gardener Bryony White at [gardens@gigha.org.uk](mailto:gardens@gigha.org.uk) or visit the Trust office.

The **Island Countryside Ranger Service** also offers volunteer opportunities which includes beach cleans, tree planting, and other environmental activities. To get in touch with the Ranger service, contact Casey-Jo Zammit at [ranger@gigha.org.uk](mailto:ranger@gigha.org.uk) or visit the Trust office.

### Useful Websites:

[https://www.xcweather.co.uk/forecast/Isle\\_of\\_Gigha](https://www.xcweather.co.uk/forecast/Isle_of_Gigha)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/8316797>

<https://www.calmac.co.uk/service-status>

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/home>

<http://www.gigha.org.uk>

<http://www.visitgigha.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/isleofgighaheritagetrust/>

<https://www.westcoastmotors.co.uk/services/>

<https://www.citylink.co.uk/timetables.php>

[Gigha Noticeboard | Facebook](#)

**Local job opportunities** tend to be advertised online and in local noticeboards. However, the best way to find out about jobs on the island is to contact businesses who may take a note of your interest in applying for roles.

Given Gigha's close proximity to the mainland, it is possible to commute to employment on the mainland. Job opportunities tend to be advertised in the local Campbeltown Courier newspaper. Jobs at Argyll and Bute Council tend to be advertised on [My Job Scotland](#).

### Resilience/Island Life

Island life sometimes means planning jobs takes a little more care and attention – Ardmish Stores only hold limited hardware supplies and nipping to B&Q for that vital spare part is not possible. But

planning your jobs carefully before hand, ensuring you have all you need plus possibly some spares, before you start can limit any problems.

Power cuts do happen, although much less frequently nowadays. Make sure all torches are fully charged and located at various strategic parts of the house and be careful with candles / matches!

### **Trades and Services locally**

Electricians, Plumbers & Joiners in Campbeltown, Tarbert and Lochgilphead

Car Servicing and repair in Campbeltown, Tarbert and Lochgilphead

Opticians in Lochgilphead, Ardrishaig, Campbeltown and a branch in Tarbert

Hairdressers in Campbeltown, Tarbert and Lochgilphead

Carpet fitters locally

There is a Boarding Kennels & Cattery, near Campbeltown

### **Argyll Recovery**

Will take cars, if they can be moved, to the mainland for collection at a cost of £50. Call Keith on 07706 551809 or via Messenger on Facebook.

**Local newspapers** available in Ardmish Stores - Campbeltown Courier & The Oban Times.

### **Government/Local Government**

#### **Gigha Community Council**

**Contact online via Facebook:** [Gigha Community Council | Facebook](#)

Email: [gighacommunitycouncil@outlook.com](mailto:gighacommunitycouncil@outlook.com)

#### **For local councillors:**

[https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/councillor\\_list](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/councillor_list)

#### **MP**

Brendan O'Hara (SNP)

[Brendan.Ohara.MP@parliament.uk](mailto:Brendan.Ohara.MP@parliament.uk)

Tel: 020 7219 8783

#### **MSP**

Jenni Minto (SNP)

[Jenni.Minto.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Jenni.Minto.msp@parliament.scot)

Tel: 0131 348 5106

**Appendix 1**

**Isle of Gigha Community Emergency Group**

**Household Emergency Plan**

If a major emergency happens it may be some time before help arrives. It's very important that you and your family get together to prepare.

- ✓ **Agree a plan in advance with those in your home.**
- ✓ **Complete this template together and keep it safe in case you need to use it.**

**If the emergency means it is not safe to go out**, the advice is usually to:

- GO IN** (go indoors and close all windows and doors),
- STAY IN** (stay indoors),
- TUNE IN** (to local radio, TV or the internet, where public information and advice from the emergency responders will be broadcast.)

**My local radio station:** ..... **is on frequency:** .....

**If you have to leave your home, get out, stay out, and take others with you.**

Think of two meeting places: one near home and one further away, in case you cant get home.

- ✓ **Meeting place 1 (Near Home)** ✓ **Meeting place 2 (Further away)**

**Location:** .....

**Location:** .....

Pick a friend or relative who lives out of the area, who you will agree to call to say you're OK, should you need to leave home. Make sure this person knows.

- ✓ **Friend or relative to call to let people know that you're OK**

**Name:** ..... **Telephone Number:** .....

If it is safe to do so you should check on your neighbours and vulnerable people living close by. Have a think about who they are in advance:

**Name:** ..... **Name:** ..... **Name:** .....

**Address:** ..... **Tel Number:** .....

**Address:** ..... **Tel Number:** .....

**Address:** ..... **Tel Number:** .....

**Important Telephone Numbers**

- For the **emergency services**, dial **999**
- For **NHS 24**, dial **08454 24 24 24**
- For SEPA's **floodline**, dial **0345 988 1188**
- For **Scottish Water** **0845 601 8855**

You should record other important numbers:

Schools/colleges: .....	Carers/childminder: .....
Work Contact: .....	Plumber: .....
Doctor: .....	Vet: .....
Insurance: .....	Local authority: .....
Gas supplier: .....	Electricity supplier: .....
Other: .....	

## Pack an Emergency Kit

You should keep enough **food and water** and other **essentials** at home for at least **three days**. Whether you have to stay in or get out, packing a small emergency kit will help you get through. Keep it in a safe place at home where you can reach it easily. Your kit should be kept in a waterproof bag and the **top ten things to include** are:

- ✓ **Battery radio with spare batteries, or a wind up radio**
- ✓ **Battery torch with spare batteries, or a wind-up torch**
- ✓ **First aid kit**
- ✓ **Important documents like birth certificates and insurance policies**
- ✓ **Bottled water and ready-to-eat food that won't go off. Pack a can opener if needed**
- ✓ **Spare keys to your home and car**
- ✓ **Spare glasses or contact lenses**
- ✓ **Toiletries and details of important medicines**
- ✓ **Pencil and paper, penknife, whistle**
- ✓ **Pet supplies**

If you have to leave your home, and there's time to gather them safely, you should also think about taking:

- ✓ **Essential medicines**
- ✓ **Mobile phone and charger**
- ✓ **Cash and credit cards**
- ✓ **Spare clothes and blankets**
- ✓ **Games, books, a child's special toy**
- ✓ **Pets**

For further advice on being prepared for emergencies see [www.readyscotland.org](http://www.readyscotland.org)