

## **Skomer and Skokholm Islands Update**

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (WTSWW) have been closely monitoring the Coronavirus guidelines issued by the Welsh Government since March 2020.

There are many considerations for us when thinking about Skomer and Skokholm, including boat transportation and the provision of toilet facilities once on the islands. We also have concerns about maintaining social distancing whilst helping passengers off the boat and the very real possibility of people leaving the narrow trails to maintain the 2m social distance and inadvertently collapsing Manx Shearwater burrows at a time of year when chicks are still underground. For those reasons:

**\* Overnight accommodation on Skomer or Skokholm will remain closed for the remainder of the 2020 season.**

**\* Day visits to Skomer Island will not resume at the moment and Lockley Lodge will remain closed. We will keep this situation under review as further guidance is issued.**

This has been a very difficult decision and we know it will be a great disappointment to many, but the safety of island staff, our visitors and our local community remains our key priority.

We would like to thank you all for keeping in touch with our Islands via the **Skokholm Blog** and **Skomer LIVE** and we will communicate any further announcements with regard to Skomer day trips as soon as we are able.

**With our best wishes to you all, Lisa Morgan and the island wardens**

**Footnote: Dale Sailing** are running Skomer cruises (not landing) on Dale Princess, 12 max per trip, bookings only Book by tel 01646 603109 or email at Dale Sailing Neyland. Also Skomer Explorer RIB trips to Skomer Skokholm and Grassholm Booking by tel or email as normal. See <https://www.pembrokeshire-islands.co.uk>.