

AUGUST 2022

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Newsletter

IGHT Members meeting

There will be a members meeting held in the Gigha Village Hall at 7pm on Thursday 1st September. The following items have been put forward for the agenda:

1. Chair Welcome
 2. Approval of minutes
 - a. Amended minutes of 03.03.2022
 - b. Minutes of 12.05.2022
 3. General update on IGHT activity from Chair
 4. Working groups
 5. Correspondence received*
- *With reference to:
1. Undemocratic practices
 2. No voting on major issues
 3. Conflicts of interest
 4. Deliberate misleading of members
 5. Minutes of meetings inaccurate
 6. Management practices
 7. Intolerable standard of housing
 8. Maintenance of housing lacking
 9. Boundary fencing inadequate
 10. Division of land contrary to initial agreement of four viable farms to provide sustainable living.
 11. Free land not advertised, Chair acquiring land without consultation with members.
 12. Jobs available not advertised
 13. co-opted director given paid position contrary to M&A article 5a
 14. Decisions taken without consultation to tenants
 15. Appears that the board and HIE are catering for tourists rather than residents.

HIE were invited to attend the meeting as requested by members, however HIE have responded to clarify that HIE's client is IGHT, and therefore their engagement is with the board and staff team. This is the case with all community development trusts that HIE works with. The matters raised in the agenda above are not issues HIE can or will become involved in and therefore we will not be attending the members meeting.

Our MSP, Jenni Minto, was also invited as requested by members, however, she is unable to attend due to other commitments. The board will invite Jenni to future members meeting dates.

Dancing Ladies 30th Birthday

Having spent 18 years on Gigha, the Dancing Ladies are now a remarkable 30 years old. The turbines have provided substantial income to the island, supporting housing improvements, estate maintenance, and employment opportunities. As the Dancing Ladies become older, Gigha Renewable Energy Ltd is reviewing opportunities to replace the turbines to ensure that the community still has access to the funds raised by the renewable energy sales. GREL and IGHT hope to continue working with Vestas as their model has proven to work well on Gigha, lasting 10 years beyond their expectancy and still turning today. GREL is also reviewing opportunities to directly supply its energy on the island, rather than exporting all of its energy to the National Grid, as it does currently. Further large investment is needed to secure this as the Trust does not own the electrical cables or infrastructure.

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Avian Flu

We are aware of the large number of deceased birds washing up on Gigha's beaches recently. Our Ranger Service has reviewed guidance from multiple organisations and reported back to the board about the current situation. The board have approached Argyll and Bute Council to seek support in uplifting the carcasses, however the Council is unable to offer any assistance. The board discussed the health risk, manpower, and cost involved for IGHT staff to undertake the uplifting and agreed that it was not viable. The risk of spreading the disease further through uplifting and the risk to staff members is too high, therefore no further action will be taken.

IGHT working groups

If you have requested to join an IGHT working group, you should have received a letter to confirm whether you are able to join the group and to share contact details with other group members. Initial group meetings will take place in September. Should you wish to join a group and haven't yet contacted the office, please get in touch.

Gateway to Gigha

It's been a quieter month on the path-building front with Scott and his Arran team off on other paths projects in the likes of Torridon and Staffa. These more extreme locations are best tackled in summer, but Scott's team is booked into Gigha accommodation again from late October onwards and all the unfinished work on their Phase 2 paths, including the boardwalk in the north, will be completed in the autumn or early winter.

Tim Lister meantime has been forging on with work on the Western Link. This is the longest continuous route in our network and has involved waymarking, strimming, installation of several gates, and steppingstones and stone pitching. The route is nearing completion but is not as yet open – we'll keep you posted.

Heritage-wise, panels are very nearly complete. It feels like I've been saying that for some time now, but we really are down to the final few details now! And despite a few setbacks the plinths to host them are being painstakingly constructed. Casey-Jo has reported in this issue on all the fabulous activities within the scope of the Community Heritage Project and we're looking forward to more in the autumn.



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Zero Carbon Gigha

It has been about six months since our last entry in the newsletter, so we thought this may be a great opportunity to highlight our small wins for the community:

- A free tree and energy saving lightbulb was made available to every household.
- Gigha Food Group was established in the spirit of recipe and produce sharing and to celebrate sustainable food production on island. They have since held three events: foraging, halibut and an eggstravaganza – the next to be the history of brewing and beer tasting with thanks to Gigha Brewing and Dave Lannigan.
- A new recycling bin for visitors has now been placed at the ferry slip to reduce the pressure on other bins across the island and to encourage visitors to dispose of their waste responsibly. We are also in the process of creating signage to put at the ferry slips to highlight what waste facilities Gigha has to offer.
- In collaboration with Gigha Primary School, a new recycling shed for the community has been installed that can help residents recycle stationery, dental products and batteries.

In the coming months we aim to find a way to set up a community composting system to help growers and dispose of waste responsibly, look at reducing water use, work with the Trust on a sustainable woodland management plan and create a community storage space to encourage reuse. We are also incredibly excited and looking forward to the implementation of the new EV charging point and PV panels at the new campsite. We want to thank everyone who has got involved to help these things happen and look forward to taking on some of these bigger ventures to help make Gigha a greener, cleaner place.



RECYCLING ON GIGHA

The infographic features a green recycling symbol in the top right corner. Below it are four circular icons representing different waste categories: dental products (toothbrush and toothpaste), batteries (battery with lightning bolt), stationery (pens and ruler), and glass (bottle). Each icon is accompanied by a label indicating the location of the recycling facility.

Waste Category	Location
Dental products	Gigha Primary School Shed
Batteries	Gigha Primary School Shed
Stationery	Gigha Primary School Shed
Glass	Behind Gigha Hotel

Facilities for recycling dental products, batteries, stationery and glass are now available for community use. Please only enter Gigha Primary School grounds after school hours, from 15:30 onwards.

Camp and Motorhome Site

The Campsite is now open and operational and has been welcoming motorhomes, campervans and tents for over two weeks. By catching the tail end of the summer season, we are able to learn from our guests about what is working and what can be improved for next year. Overall, the feedback has been very positive. We plan to hold an open day for residents to come and have a look around later in the year.



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Gigha Ranger Service

August has been a hectic month of strimming and vegetation management. The maintenance team and Ranger Service have been working to ensure the pathways remain clear despite the especially fierce growth of bracken this year. To help us with this, we are in the middle of forming a maintenance plan that will help us next year to keep our pathways fantastic throughout the summer months.



Another noticeable growth is that of the Himalayan balsam growing on the east side of the village. This month's conservation work party did an amazing job of clearing the balsam from the path leading to Rubha a' Chinn Mhòir to beyond number 5 Ardminish. Whilst this is a fantastic plant for pollinators due to being nectar rich, it is also fantastic at seeding, releasing hundreds of seeds every year making it an incredibly invasive plant, and one that takes over native species and creates monocultures, which only flower for a short period each year, decreasing diversity and pollinator feeding opportunities on the whole. This will certainly be a long term process to make sure all the balsam is removed from our grasslands, but with an amazing bunch of volunteers like these, we will solve the problem in no time.

We have some exciting events happening in the next few weeks so please join us! As part of the Community Heritage Project through Gateway to Gigha, Jim MacDonald, member of Geological Society of Glasgow, will be joining us on 2nd and 3rd of September for a catered evening talk and guided walk to explore the changes in our landscape throughout time and how the natural history of Gigha demonstrates global geological and geographical events. Additionally, experts from Glasgow University will hopefully be joining us on 14th September to carry out 3D scanning of the Ogham Stone alongside a community workshop. They will also examine a potential other Ogham stone located near Kilchattan Chapel that was brought to our attention and discovered by John Martin. Please keep an eye on social media and the shop noticeboard for the full details.

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Property to Let

3 Burnside, Isle of Gigha, PA41 7AD

This is a 3 bedroom detached property with garden area for rent at £480.00 per calendar month. Applicants can only be considered if currently registered with Homehunt Gigha. Closing date for applications is Tuesday 13th September 2022.

To apply for this property please telephone the Trust Office on 01583 505390 or email shona@gigha.org.uk to request an Application for Property Form.

Achamore Gardens

After a long hiatus due to Covid, I'm delighted to let you know that the Garden's Steering Group has recently been restarted and has held its first few meetings over the summer. The Steering Group has been re-established to help ensure that community views are represented in the ongoing restoration of the gardens and the various members bring a wide range of expertise that will help guide the restoration and management of the gardens. The Steering Group members are below, and they would love to hear any thoughts, ideas or opinions you have about Achamore and its restoration – you can, of course, continue to speak to myself and the staff as well!

Susan Allan

Per and Monica Östlund

Tim Lister

Morven and Jim Beagan

Catriona Walker

Marion Wilson

Andy Clements

Bryony White

Jane Millar

Andy and Karen York

The Steering Group have also set some initial, overarching objectives to help frame their work. These will be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are still fit for purpose:

1. Steering Group members should be known within the local community – being a point of contact and helping to represent wider community matters and opinions.
2. Review existing documents and develop an annual action plan to be implemented from 2023.
3. Be a sounding board for operational matters and review annual work plans.
4. Identify potential income and marketing opportunities which will in turn increase Achamore's visitor numbers. This can include fundraising, events, and press opportunities.
5. Support funding opportunities for Achamore Gardens by reviewing applications, providing letters of support where relevant, and helping to facilitate community engagement.
6. Continue to review the long-term horticultural, business, and environmental aspirations of Achamore against any existing opportunities, funding, and resources.

The group have spent the first few meetings getting to grips with all the various reports and surveys that have been carried out over the last couple of years and have also helped Jane and I develop an Expression of Interest for a significant funding opportunity that we hope to be selected to apply for.

The Steering Group are now turning their attention to the creation of a fair firewood policy for the gardens, as we will be doing a lot of work in the shelter belts and wider garden woodland over the coming years, so we will, potentially, be producing a large quantity of logs. If you have any thoughts on this matter, the steering group would love to hear from you.

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Achamore Gardens

One final bit of news - thanks to funding from the No One Left Behind Initiative, the Gardens have a vacancy for a 6 month post over the winter. Please see the advert below for more details and to apply.



THE ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST



Job Title:	Gardener
Date:	September 2022 – March 2023 (fixed for 6 months only)
Reports to:	Head Gardener
Hours:	30 hours per week
Rate of pay:	Real living wage at £9.90 per hour
Eligibility:	This post is only available for those aged 25 years+ who have been registered unemployed for 12 months minimum.
Job Description: Achamore Gardens is a 54-acre public garden which is owned by the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust. The purpose of this role is to support the on-going works and development at Achamore Gardens by working as part of a wider team to maintain and restore the garden compartments.	
Core Responsibilities: These are the core responsibilities for this role and is not an exhaustive list: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn essential gardening skills, including weeding, propagation and potting, plant identification and care, composting and general maintenance.• Undertaken lawn care including mowing and strimming.• Provide a welcome to garden visitors and help them enjoy their time at Achamore.• Learn about and help with the ongoing restoration of Achamore Gardens.• Work outdoors in all weathers and conditions.• Any other tasks as appropriate.	
Person Specification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No essential skills, experience, or qualifications are necessary; however, the applicant should be willing and able to undertake physical outdoor work in all weather conditions.• Training will be provided as required for the post.	
The post holder will be expected to attend work at Achamore Gardens, Isle of Gigha.	

To apply, please send your CV and a covering letter to jane@gigha.org.uk before 5pm on Friday 16th September 2022.

This post is supported by the No One Left Behind initiative as part of the Intermediate Labour Market programme.



EV & PV project

Due to the delay in completing the campsite, we have agreed to reschedule the EV charge point and PV panel installation at the Activity Centre and Campsite till October to avoid any further disruption to the season. We are in the process of getting dates lined up with the contractor to come and install. It's likely the EV charger will be situated at the front of the Campsite building.

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Gigha Primary School by Mrs Vipurs, Class Teacher

Since returning to school a fortnight ago, the pupils have taken advantage of the beautiful weather which has allowed us to maximise opportunities for outdoor learning. We were excited to see how much growing has taken place over the summer in both the polycrub and outdoor raised beds and would like to thank Hannah for her regular watering. This week the school and nursery have picked a range of vegetables including potatoes, broccoli, beans, peas and courgettes. As well as using these in school to make a tasty soup for our One Planet Picnic, the children have also decided to sell any extra produce and have set up a box at the front of the school.

The children have also been busy preparing their entries for the upcoming Roots and Industry show. As well as entering the best examples of their produce, each pupil has designed and constructed a wind chime made from items found on the island. We will also be adding entries to the baking and photography classes. Fingers crossed!

When we returned in the summer, staff tidied the school grounds and noticed that one of the wooden picnic table wooden seats had come loose meaning it is unsafe to use at present. If anyone would kindly be able to come and help mend this, please contact the school office on 01583 505259. Tea and biscuits will be provided! Thank you.

We are about to begin our new topic of The Stone Age and look forward to updating you on this towards the end of the term.

Gigha and Cara Parish Church

The next service in the Church will be on 11th September. Following this service there will be a meeting of members and adherents to vote for the proposed union of Gigha, Clachan, A'Chleit and Skipness and to vote for the linkage of this new parish with Tarbert Loch Fyne and Kilberry. A third vote will be held as to whether we will be happy to accept Rev Lyn Peden (minister at Tarbert) as our minister.

The Dancing Ladies



It's Astronomical!

Join us this autumn/winter for opportunities to appreciate Gigha's beautiful dark skies and to see some astounding events happening above our heads.

Sept 14	* Spot the 7th planet. View the planet Uranus and the Moon. 10.15pm (binoculars provided)
Oct 21/22	* Orionid meteor shower viewing. Midnight.
Oct 25	* Solar eclipse. View a partial eclipse of the Sun. From 10am. (eclipse glasses provided)
Nov 18/19	Gigha Dark Skies Festival - visiting planetarium, talks, exhibits, telescopes, stargazing and more. In conjunction with Cosmos Planetarium and Glasgow Science Centre. (Details to follow)
Dec 8	Pie, pint and a planet. From 4.45pm View Mars disappearing behind the Moon followed by a pie and a pint! (binoculars provided)

** These events are weather dependent.*

Further details including viewing locations will be posted on the Gigha noticeboard one week before the event.

 dark.skies.gigha@gmail.com  Dark Skies Gigha  01583 505006

Gigha Surgery

Drop in Clinic and Prescription

Collection:

Monday to Friday

10am – 11am

(except a Wednesday)

2pm – 3pm.

Doctor Surgery by appointment only:

Wednesday 09:30am - 2pm

Community Nurse:

Monday to Friday 08:30am to 3pm

call 01583 505 223.

3pm – 6pm contact

Muasdale Surgery on

01583 421 206.

6pm – 8:30am and at weekends call

NHS24 on 111

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL

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