

JULY 2023

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Newsletter

Gigha and Cara Parish Church

The official introduction of Rev Lyn Peden as minister of the Parish of Mid-Kintyre and Gigha took place in Gigha Church on Sunday 23rd July. Around 30 people from the mainland attended and along with Gigha folk the Church was packed. As well as the introduction of Lyn, we were also celebrating a hundred years of the current Church building. After the service lunch was served in the Village Hall where there was a display of photos of Church events, mainly weddings. The children from the Primary School had made a poster like a stained glass window. All these things are now in the Church if anyone wants a closer look at them. A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make this a really successful occasion. To the soup makers, the sandwich makers, flower arrangers, Church cleaners, those who did the washing up and serving and everyone who was there. A comment made about the food by one mainlander "the soup was excellent, and the sandwiches so well filled"!



From left to right: Rev. Liz Gibson, current Moderator of Argyll Presbytery Minister at N. Mull; Rev. Lyn Peden; and Mr Stewart Shaw, Presbytery Clerk.



Church centenary celebration cake made by Linda MacDonald.

Photographs are courtesy of Kenny Craig.

The next service in Gigha Church will be at 11am on August 13th with Mrs Marion MacDonald.

JULY 2023

Path works continue!

Thanks to the Community Led Local Development Fund, final path works improvements are due to be carried out this financial year. The path works were identified as priorities for this funding as they could not be completed within the original Gateway budget available. These works include:

- Path creation between Dark Skies Theatre and boardwalk
- Upgrading a section of Fisherman's Cave
- Upgrading a section on Dun Chibhich
- Creation of access to Cuddyport

The fund is also supporting the employment cost of the Ranger Service until the end of this financial year.

Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

After June's amazing weather and rain in the last few weeks, vegetation growth has been crazy, and this has meant the majority of time this month has been spent maintaining paths, and getting rid of some unwanted flowers, like the Himalayan Balsam. This is our second year of management on island, and it's amazing to see that we have made a difference in just that short amount of time. There are less plants and over less of an area - woohoo!

This month's Wetland Bird Survey was also fabulous, with some great species including common and sandwich terns, gannets and plenty of waders down at Port na Carraigh. We have also started doing weekly wildlife surveys on the ferry, so far nothing of note to report, but we can pray for a dolphin or two to appear sometime soon!



The next few weeks are also going to be super busy! We have been super lucky to attract some amazing groups of people including Edinburgh Young Walkers who will be coming to island to help with path maintenance and a local Scouts group will be helping us with some invasive species amongst other activities.

JULY 2023

Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

We also have a number of events in August, keep an eye out for posters at the shop and on social media:

- **Saturday 12th August** – beach clean at Poll Mor (east of Cuddyport): Join us for a relaxed beach clean, and help us record data for Scottish Islands Federation and Marine Conservation Society to help tackle waste across west Scotland.



Hebridean
Whale &
Dolphin
Trust

- **Saturday 25th August** – Guided walk, 11-1pm: Join the Ranger Service and Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust for a guided walk around the south coast of Gigha discovering our seabirds and cetacean species!

Ranger's photo of the month:



Gigha Hotel

Following the viewing of the hotel on Thursday 20th July, we are asking residents to give us their initial feedback on the hotel and next steps. The survey is available to complete anonymously online:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9VR59P9>

The feedback gathered will be shared with Members at the next meeting.

Members Meeting

There will be Members Meeting at the Gigha Village Hall on Thursday 17th August at 7pm.

- **Friday 24th August** – Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Gigha Primary School: HWDT are here to run sessions with the children to learn all about cetaceans across the west coast!

- **Saturday 25th August** – Evening talk with Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, 7pm: HWDT are hosting a super interesting evening talk all things marine life! Refreshments will be available.

Swallow nest above the Gigha's Natural Skincare shop door.

Renewables

Unfortunately, we are no further forward with the two Dancing Ladies (T1 & T2) that are off at the moment. The last safety inspection flagged up issues with the interior ladder fixings and the glider fall arrest system, which means that Vestas engineers are unable to climb the towers to resolve the ongoing issues. Vestas have ordered the new fall arrest systems and will get them fitted to all three turbines as soon as possible. Only then will Vestas be able to assess the corrosion damage on the ladders. This is very frustrating but is one of many issues we were aware might happen due to the age of the turbines.

Once these repairs are carried out, we will be able to replace the T2 gearbox and investigate the hydraulic issue with T1.

JULY 2023

Zero Carbon Gigha

Last month has been the hottest June on record and the driest for most of us, and water, Scotland's more precious natural resource, has been in high demand these last few weeks. Paddling pools, power washing, garden watering combined with a lack of rain, means our reservoirs are feeling the heat. We all need to drink more water in hot weather - and with 88% of you agreeing Scotland's water is world class, we want you to top up your glass from the tap as often as possible! However, even when we get the summer downpours, less than 1% of rainfall ends up somewhere Scottish Water has access, so we need lots of rainy days to replenish our reservoirs. There are loads of things we can all do to reduce the strain on our reservoirs:

- Shorter showers saves money on energy too
- Embracing parched lawns - they bounce back as soon as the next rainfall comes along.
- Paddling pools are great fun - could that water work harder though? Cover it over and use it the next day? Or use it to water your plants?
- Talking of plants, ditch the hose and use a watering can, right into the roots of your plants so not a drop is wasted.
- What about installing a water butt? Capture roof run-off and save it for a sunny day?

Let's all do a little and change a lot!



JOB OPPORTUNITY – IGH T MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust (IGHT) has a vacancy on their Estate Maintenance Team. This post supports the maintenance of the IGHT estate, which covers grounds, tracks, housing, and buildings across the island.

The Trust Maintenance Operative will work within the staff team of IGHT and report to the Housing and Estates Manager. The post is based on the Isle of Gigha, but the post holder will be expected to work all over the island with use of the company vehicle, therefore a clean driving licence is essential to this post.

The post holder will be expected to work to their own initiative to ensure general maintenance of the island is carried out whilst responding to maintenance inspections and repairs. The post holder should build good working relationships with IGHT colleagues, tenants, and contractors.

The post is 35 hours on a permanent basis with the opportunity for flexible hours. Job-share or self-employment will be considered for this role. Full personal protective equipment and uniform will be provided for the post.

The full job description is available upon request or can be viewed online at www.gigha.org.uk/Job-Vacancies

To apply, please submit a covering letter and CV.

Applications should be made by 5pm on Friday 18th August by:

**Email: office@gigha.org.uk or post to: Andy Clements, Housing & Estates Manager
Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Office, Craft Workshop 1, Isle of Gigha, PA41 7AA.**

JULY 2023

Gigha Thistle Football Team

A massive congratulations to Gigha Thistle for representing Gigha at a Charity Football match in Tarbert on the 24th of June. The boys only began training 5 weeks before hand and definitely did themselves and Gigha proud!

At the recent Duncan McDougall memorial 7s Cup in Tarbert, Gigha put together a squad of players to compete in the competition.

Probably drawn in the most difficult group, the team, mostly made up of fish farmers, were knocked out at the group stage but not after some terrific football and some tense and close games.

Narrowly beaten by Tournament winners, Carradale AFC, in their second game, Gigha put up a great performance not only in this game but in all four games played.

Gigha Thistle team plan to continue their hard work to allow them to compete against other local teams and host fundraising tournaments at Gigha Football Pitch.

Congratulations to the team and keep up the good work!

There will hopefully be some other games before the end of the summer at the Gigha Playing Field. Your attendance and support would be gratefully appreciated.



Left to right back row - Craig Johnstone, Bryce Harvey, Sean Harvey, John Jamieson. Left to right front row Fraser Talbot, Bobby Tyler, Kyle Durnin and Lewis Henderson.

Gigha Community Fund

The Gigha Community Fund has awarded funds in April and May to the Sound of Gigha for children's activities at the weekend event at the end of June (£972.00), and to the Gigha Playing Field Committee for new goals (£222.95).

Drawing of Gigha Hotel and Gigha Church by Tom Shanks, gifted to Tom and Mary Russell when they got engaged at the hotel in 1960. Shared courtesy of Anne Russell, Tom and Mary's daughter, who contacted IGHT with the picture.



Household Resilience Project

Fyne Homes and Inspiralba have secured investment from Scottish and UK Governments to support householders as household costs rise and the need for environmental sustainability increases.

The project is supported by UK Shared Prosperity Fund, assisted by Argyll and Bute Council alongside Investing in Communities funding from Scottish Government, secured by Fyne Homes, with additional funding from the Fyne Group, Glenbarr Community Development Association and Inspiralba.

Do you need help to access benefits advice?

Looking for help and advice to deal with your Energy Supplier?

Are you struggling to top up your pre-payment meter or have unpaid energy bills?

Would you like more information on a range of measures aimed at tackling child poverty such as Free School meals, uniform grants and Scottish Child payment?

Working alongside partner organisations involved in the project, support is available for a range of issues such as benefits advice, money advice, energy support and Kintyre Foodbank referrals. I can also offer direct referrals to Home Energy Scotland for information on grants and interest-free loans for a whole range of energy saving, bill-reducing, low-carbon technology from loft insulation to heat pumps.



Get In Touch

To be referred to one of the partner organisations or to find out what help and support may be available please contact Leighann on 07477709681 or email leighann@inspiralba.org.uk