



GIGHA NEWS



Welcome to the October 2019 Gigha News

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed this month's newsletter and a copy of September 2019 Board minutes.

Regards,

Ian Wilson
Chair

For and behalf of Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Achamore Gardens

As Members will know, the Board have been working to reduce debt payments and core costs to allow us to invest in the future of the island. In light of the progress that has been made, the Board have decided to commit some of these savings to the appointment of a permanent full time Gardener for Achamore Gardens from 2020 onwards. This appointment will build upon the sterling work of staff and volunteers this year in keeping the Gardens open and partially maintained. The Board would like to thank the whole team for their support. Recruitment for the Gardeners post will start very soon.

We are hoping to start gathering ideas from the community on the future of the Gardens and will be including this within the Open Day (details on the next page) on the 19th November. Please feel free to send in all ideas and thoughts into the office to jane@gigha.org.uk if you're not able to attend on the 19th. There will be lots more opportunities in the future to feed in ideas too.

We have also been in discussion with the National Trust for Scotland who have been extremely supportive in future plans for the Garden and we hope to announce some very exciting news from them soon too.

Roads

IGHT recently got a load of stone delivered and it is now sitting at the Village Hall. The Estates Manager and maintenance team look to distribute this stone to maintain Trust roads. Members of the community are welcome to use this stone also to help improve Trust roads, however please contact the Trust office prior to doing so.

Community Fund

The first meeting of the Fund Board was held on the 30th October. This Board is made up of 2 GREL Directors and 3 Members of the community. It was agreed that the Fund would be launched and open to applications at the start of December 2019. A date for the launch will be announced shortly.

£5000 per year will be made available 'to support a thriving and healthy community on Gigha.' Applications will be welcomed for three Fund Board meetings a year with the first meeting planned for January 2020. The Fund will be open to individuals and community organisations who have projects that will support the development of skills, support our elderly people, support young people to stay on the island, community events and activities and the protection and promotion of Gigha's natural and cultural heritage.

Further details on Fund applications, eligibility criteria and administration will be available shortly on the Gigha website. Please get in touch with the Trust office if you have any ideas for projects in the first instance and we can give you more detail.

Office Staffing

As part of its ongoing review of Trust costs and operational management, the Directors have undertaken a review of office staffing. Taking HR advice from Delfinity Consulting, the Board have decided to make some administration and trading roles redundant. These will be replaced by an Office Manager role based in the office. Jacqui Smith (GTL) has been made redundant with effect of 31st October. Further redundancies may be forthcoming. The Directors would like to thank Jacqui Smith for all her hard work and commitment to the Trading Company and Trust over several years and in particular her management of the holiday cottages which have received very positive customer feedback. Jacqui has been a valuable employee who has contributed greatly to the work of the Trust. We wish her well for the future.

Job Vacancy

IGHT recently advertised for an Office Manager position. The varied financial and administration role will also provide support in developing the IGH property estate and support the Business Development Manager in the development of new income sources and facilities on the island.

The application deadline was 12.00pm on Wednesday 30th October 2019. All applications are currently being reviewed and considered ahead of invitation to interviews.

Afternoon Tea in the Hall

Another well attended tea and coffee afternoon was held in the hall on Thursday 17th October. Entry was by donation and £100.00 was raised for the Sandpiper Trust. The defibrillators are now installed and wired up therefore remaining donations will go to the Sandpiper Trust. The Sandpiper Trust is a small charity set up for providing emergency equipment for rural areas and has provided emergency bags and equipment to Gigha in the past.

IGHT would like to thank everyone for their kind donations and home baking provided.

Given the positive feedback from afternoon tea in the hall, IGHM hope to continue hosting these monthly.

November's tea in the hall will be organised as part of a community open day – more information on this is included below.

Community Open Day

A community open day is being organised for 19th November 2019 and will be held in the Gigha Village Hall from 1-3pm and 6-8pm.

The purpose of the open day is to generate discussion around the many activities happening on Gigha. Information will be available on the following:

- Housing
- Community hub
- Campsite
- Ideas for Achamore Gardens
- Marine Protected Area around the Sound of Gigha
- Community heritage project
- Masterplan/future vision strategy
- 20th Anniversary
- Community projects

There will be plenty of information available and an opportunity to discuss with other members in the community and Directors. There will be tea and coffee available and all are welcome to attend!

Winter Sailings

With the winter sailing timetable taking effect as of 21st October, we would like to remind everyone of the changes:

The last ferry departing Gigha will be 5.05pm and then depart Tayinloan at 5.35pm. However, by request, this sailing can depart Tayinloan 5.50pm if requested before 2pm on the previous day. To request this sailing, you must contact CalMac directly on 0800 066 5000.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust and subsidiary companies will be held at the **Gigha Village Hall on Thursday 21st November 2019 at 7:30pm** for the following purpose:

1. To note the audited Accounts to 31st March 2019
2. To appoint the Auditors and to authorise the Directors to determine the remuneration of the Auditors
3. To elect four Directors to fill the vacancies of IGHM and any nominations for the subsidiary companies: GTL, GGPL and GREL.
4. To transact any other business which may competently be dealt with at the meeting

There are four vacancies for IGHM meaning we are seeking nominations for four Director positions. There are also vacancies for each of the subsidiary companies: GTL, GGPL and GREL. In the interests of succession planning and building the skills sets of the Board for the future, nominations from Members who can bring relevant knowledge and skills required to support the work of each Board will be very welcome. Further information on the role, responsibilities, liabilities and other governance matters pertinent to becoming a Board Director can be supplied from the Trust office on request.

To be eligible for election, Members should lodge a valid nomination form with a supporting biography to the Trust office intimating his/her willingness to be appointed no later than **12 noon Monday 11th November 2019**.

To save on printing and postage, a copy of the Accounts for IGHM and subsidiary companies will be available in the Trust office. A copy of all accounts will be made available at www.gigha.org.uk also.

Please note the revised timescale:

- **Monday 11th November 12noon** – Deadline for submitting nomination form along with biography detailing relevant experience, skill sets and what you would bring to the management, operation and future of the Trust
- **Tuesday 12th November** - Members will receive notification of all nominations and their biographies. Members will also receive information on voting by proxy.
- **Tuesday 19th November 7.30pm** – Deadline for submitting a proxy form. Please return these as early as you can to facilitate our returning ballot papers to you.
- **Thursday 21st November 7.30pm** - AGM

Should you have any queries regarding the processes or require further clarification, then please contact the office.

Community Stargazing Event

Gigha residents and the visitors who come to the island know all about its beautiful landscape - silver beaches and beautiful bays, clear green seas, stunning views and amazing sunsets. But Gigha also has another gem - its beautiful night sky. 77% of the UK population are unable to even see the Milky Way due to light pollution but Gigha's view of our galaxy is unrivalled, for, unlike the majority of the country, Gigha's night time sky is of a very high quality.

The unique characteristics of Gigha's night sky should be valued and protected and with that in mind a free community stargazing event has been organised for November 26th 2019. The backup date will be Thursday November 28. Weather permitting the event will feature:

6.30pm: Wave at the astronauts aboard the International Space Station from the airstrip.

7.30pm: Audiovisual information session in the village hall about a proposal for a internationally recognised Dark Sky Discovery Site on Gigha and also find out why it is important to protect our night sky.

8.00pm: Stargazing from the airstrip - spot the constellations, find the north star, perhaps see a meteor streak across the sky, marvel at the Milky Way and more.

If you plan to take part in the two outside events please dress warmly and for the 8pm session bring a hot drink and binoculars if you have them. Torches should be kept to the minimum (red light torches are best).

If both nights are clouded over then the information session only will take place in the village hall on November 28 at 7.30pm

If you have any questions about the Gigha community stargazing event, please contact Keith at Heather Lea on 01583 505006 or Kenny Wilson on 07778529693



Housing and Community Hub Development

Community Housing Scotland recently issued a survey to help identify community and housing needs on Gigha.

A full report on survey findings is now available at www.gigha.org.uk > The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust > IGHT Development > Housing

Community Housing Scotlands business plan is still to follow, which will be making a case to address housing and community needs on Gigha.

GREL/GGPL Update

Due to weather and technical difficulties, the repairs on T1 have been delayed. The repair has now been scheduled for Monday 4th November.

Campsite Feedback

IGHT would like to thank Members for providing feedback on the recent updated information on the campsite project. All feedback will be addressed in due course and made available to all Members for review.

We would like to thank Grant Berry, lessee of the Boathouse, for providing his letter of support, stating: "With the campsite becoming a separate entity to the restaurant it would allow campers and motorhomes to get the dedication and time required for this to be successful and provide the service necessary for the island."

Details on the campsite project will also be available shortly at www.gigha.org.uk > The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust > IGHT Development > Campsite

Main Contacts:

IGHT enquiries: **01583 505 390**

GTL enquiries: **01583 427 300**

For business development and community engagement enquiries: **jane@gigha.org.uk**

For housing, estate and gardens enquiries: **office@gigha.org.uk**

For all GTL enquiries: **cottages@gigha.org.uk**