



GIGHA NEWS



Welcome to the April 2020 Gigha News

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed this month's newsletter and a copy of March 2020 Board minutes.

Regards,

Ian Wilson

Chair

For and behalf of Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Coronavirus / COVID 19

The Government lockdown to prevent the spread of Covid 19 has been extended until May 7th at the earliest. We thank all members for following the Government's advice to stay at home and observing the social distancing rule if you are outside. Everyone must continue to comply with these restrictions until the lockdown is lifted to keep the community safe.

We encourage everyone to stay safe and only go outside for the following reasons:

- o To shop for basic necessities and that should be limited to once a day
- o To take exercise once a day – but alone or with your own household, not in groups
- o For medical reasons or to care for a vulnerable person
- o To travel to essential work if that cannot be done at home
- o If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- o Wash your hands as soon as you get home

If you feel that you or someone you know on the island is struggling with the impact of the Covid 19 restrictions, please let us know and we will help where we can.

Calmac have extended their essential lifeline ferry timetable until Thursday 14th of May.

Please remember that during the lockdown to prevent the spread of Covid 19 the following public places will remain closed: Achamore Gardens, the moorings and pontoons, Gigha Golf Course and the Play Park.

Your co-operation is much appreciated.

The Dancing Ladies

T2 & T3 were affected by the power cut on Thursday 16th April which led to the turbines being out of action over the following weekend. This issue was resolved by the Vestas team on 20th April. The Vestas team also replaced the gearbox on T1 on 23rd and 24th April. We are delighted to have T1 back in operation but unfortunately T2 has now developed a small mechanical fault, which will be repaired very soon.



Scotland Director of the Year Awards

The Institute of Directors (IoD) annually acknowledges Scotland's top directors at their Scotland Director of the Year Awards, which celebrate individuals' business achievements. The calibre of entries for this year were extremely high, therefore we are delighted to announce that Brandon Clements has been shortlisted in the Award category: Director of the Year – Young. Brandon's role as a young Director for the Trust has been recognised particularly for his involvement in engaging the younger generation in economic and social development of the island. Up to six finalists are shortlisted in each Award category and winners of each of the categories are automatically entered into the UK finals. IoD are planning to hold the Scotland Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner on a rescheduled date in September 2020. Best of luck to Brandon!

Holiday Cottages Lease

The lease of the management of the holiday cottages is expected to be delayed in light of coronavirus. Please still continue to register your interest to keep informed of any new timescales.

STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE NHS

save lives

Achamore Gardens

Following a nationwide search for a new Head Gardener at Achamore Gardens, the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust appointed Bryony White who has now started work on Gigha. Taking stock after moving to Gigha and having been in post for 4 weeks Bryony said:

'It's been a really exciting time for myself and my husband, Graham. Moving from Renfrewshire to Gigha just before the lockdown started, getting the house in order, starting a new job, discovering this beautiful island, and starting to make new friends – has all been daunting but very enjoyable. We have been made to feel really welcome on the island. Everyone is really interested in what is happening in the Gardens, even though they remain closed for the time being.

I come from a background in managing and developing community gardens and before that was a Countryside Ranger. All skills that will stand me in good stead on Gigha. There is so much going on the island which is very exciting for the future of the island and community.

My immediate priorities are:

Getting to know the Gardens. Achamore is already beginning to share its secrets, but there is a huge amount to discover over the coming year. I am working (remotely) with staff from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh to catalogue the plant collection which will help us understand what we have and decide what we need to prioritise in the coming years.

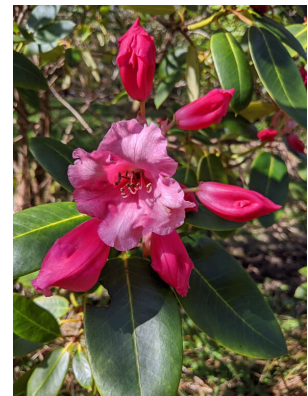
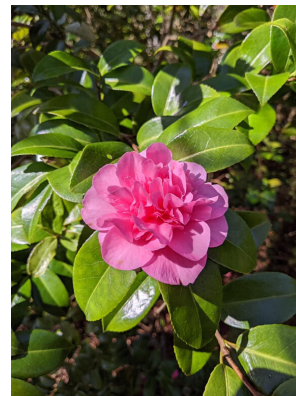
Helping the Walled Garden look as good as possible for when our visitors can return. Lots of pruning, weeding, and tidying required! There are some magnificent plants housed here, so I hope we can show them off in all their glory.

Creating a development plan for the whole garden, to give us something to aim for over the coming years and focus our restoration efforts where they are most needed. I am also coming up with some new ideas for areas of the garden, creating new paths and features.

And, of course, once lockdown is lifted, getting to meet the community and learn what they would like to see in the gardens. As a community owned resource, their input will be vital to Achamore's restoration and future development.

Although the Gardens are closed, we are working hard to get them ready for whenever we can reopen and are really looking forward to welcoming old and new friends. We hope visitors will really notice a difference from all our work. We will be looking for volunteers to help us with different projects when we can safely do so - so please get in touch with the Trust Office if you think you might have time over the Summer to help.'

To register your interest in volunteering, email gardens@gigha.org.uk



Drone Camera

The Trust has been kindly gifted a drone camera. Andy Clements has registered with the Civil Aviation Authority as operator of the drone, as this is a legal requirement. The drone camera will only be used in full compliance with Privacy legislation. A Data Protection Impact Assessment will be completed before the drone camera is used near residential properties and consultation will be made with residents prior to use.

The drone camera will be used to support land management, for example documenting field conditions prior to new tenancies and any improvements undertaken.

The drone will also assist with a number of other activities such as: investigations on height related faults; surveys of external issues of the turbines; and also to evaluate and monitor development projects on the island such as Achamore Gardens – where progress on the restoration can be documented. The images produced will also be used in new marketing and promotion of these projects.

Photographs taken by the drone camera are shown on the next page.

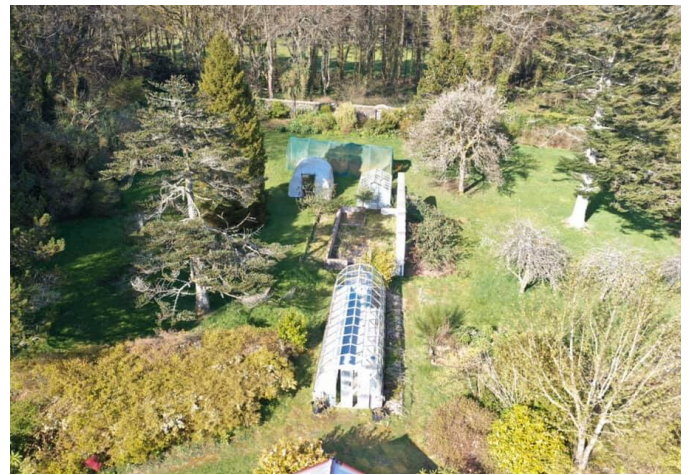
General Data Protection Regulation 2018

Our policies and procedures for GDPR compliance are in the process of being updated. An information sheet has been attached for guidance on the GDPR.

Gigha Primary School

Since closing on Friday 20th March, staff have been working hard to provide support and resources to parents learning at home with their children. On Wednesday 25th March Gigha Primary School was designated one of ten Argyll & Bute Council 'hub' schools to provide childcare for the children of key workers and to deliver hot school lunches each day, including during the holidays.

A local Head Teacher and his wife, who is also on school staff, will be coming to Gigha to work at the childcare service on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. They have a Council essential travel pass for travel from near Clachan and like Calmac staff, have a camper van which means they will not have to make too many journeys, staying over on Tuesday nights only. They are not on holiday but are providing essential cover to enable Julie Wilson to have some head teacher time for pressing school business tasks.



Gigha Website

The Gigha website is being continually updated. Please email jane@gigha.org.uk if you have any queries regarding information on the website.

Main Contacts:

IGHT enquiries: **01583 505 390**

GTL enquiries: **01583 427 300**

For general enquiries:

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For development enquiries:

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For housing and estate enquiries:

office@gigha.org.uk

For all GTL enquiries:

cottages@gigha.org.uk

For finance/accounts enquiries:

ightcentralaccounts@gigha.org.uk

Trust Office Opening Hours:

The office will be staffed but will be closed to the public during the coronavirus outbreak. Please contact the office using the details above.