



GIGHA NEWS

Welcome to the August 2019 Gigha News



Dear Member,

Please find enclosed this month's newsletter.

Please also find enclosed the Board and Member meeting minutes from July 2019.

Regards,

Ian Wilson

Chair

For and behalf of Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Business Support Event

On Tuesday 27th August, IGH T held a Business Support Event in the Gigha Hotel. Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Business Gateway attended the event to offer advice and support to the different businesses on Gigha. The event was well attended and welcomed opportunities for businesses to engage and discuss how to further develop their venture.

IGH T would like to thank the Gigha Hotel who hosted the event put on a great buffet lunch spread.

A further thank you to Kathryn Howell and Jo Smith from HIE and Donald Melville from Business Gateway for attending the event and all the information they provided.

IGH T previously invited Citizens Advice Bureau to Gigha in January 2019 and based on the feedback we have received on these recent events, we are interested in continuing to facilitate and support these opportunities on the island. We are interested in hearing your suggestions also - What other support would you like to engage in on Gigha?

Should you be interested in attending business support events in future, please register your details with Jane Millar at the Trust Office or contact jane@gigha.org.uk

Tea & Coffee Afternoon

IGH T recently hosted a tea & coffee afternoon in the Gigha Village Hall. The afternoon was well attended and generated good discussion around community activities.

Entry was by donation and £135.45 was raised for Gigha Village Hall! Members of the community also generously brought along home baking and Ellie Logan kindly provided some music and entertainment.

Given the positive feedback from the afternoon, IGH T plan to host another afternoon from **2-4pm on Thursday 19th September in the Gigha Village Hall.**

Entry will be by donation again with funds going towards Gigha and Cara Parish Church this time.

There has been discussion around creating a Gigha photograph collection, therefore please bring along any old Gigha photographs that you may have and would be willing to share!

All are welcome to attend!

Financial Update

One of the two Agricultural Mortgage Company (AMC) loans has been fully repaid today, 30th August 2019. The breakdown of this repayment is as follows:

Principal outstanding: £241,985.04

Interest outstanding: £613.87

Fixed rate break cost: £11,927.92

Total repayment sum: **£254,526.83**

IGH T were previously repaying this loan at c£23,000 per year plus £13,000 added interest annually. The release of this extra income back to the Trust will significantly help cashflow and allow the Board to continue to reinvest in Trust assets and the community.

This is very positive progress for Gigha's debt reduction, with the total being reduced to c£780,000 now.

Communication Update

Members newsletter and Board minutes are now available at www.gigha.org.uk under the About Gigha > Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust section.

IGHT will be shortly sending out further communication with regards to the Campsite project. A letter will be sent with full project details and will address any comments that have previously been raised. The letter will also give you the opportunity to return any further feedback you have upon reviewing the updated project information.

Housing and Community Hub Development

It is your **final chance** to have your say on housing and community needs on Gigha!

Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) are currently running a survey that is crucial in identifying the housing and community needs for the islands future. The survey only takes 5 minutes to fill in and is available online at: <https://www.hscht.co.uk/chs-surveys.html> or alternatively you can contact Jane Millar at the Trust Office or call in at Ardmish Stores to collect a paper copy and a pre-paid return envelope.

The survey will be closing on **Sunday 8th September 2019**.

Community Activities

Ideas for community project/activities were generated at last weeks tea and coffee afternoon. Some of the initial ideas were:

- An updated **Gigha recipe book** - Please start sending in your favourite recipes to jane@gigha.org.uk or bring them in to the Trust Office to be scanned.
- **Plant sales**
- **Film nights** in Gigha Village Hall
- **Christmas window advent calendar**
- More **volunteer days** for the Church and Achamore gardens
- **Community phone book**
- **Gigha gardens open day** - to be held next July/August. Please get in touch with the Trust if you would be willing to open up your garden as part of an open day across the island. Interest for this needs to be raised as soon as possible to see if it would be feasible.

If you would be interested in becoming involved in any of the above community projects/activities - please contact Jane Millar at the Trust Office or jane@gigha.org.uk

Keeping Gigha Environmentally Friendly

Commercial recycling - Interest has been raised from businesses on the island that would like to recycle, however the service is not currently in place. Can you please raise your interest in commercial recycling to the Trust Office and we will contact Argyll and Bute Council about providing this service on Gigha.

Fly-tipping - Concern has been raised about over-flowing bins on the island, which we understand is not acceptable, however we would like to remind everyone that dumping rubbish beside a full bin is considered fly-tipping and is a fineable offence.

Flower Festival

A flower festival was held in the Gigha and Cara Parish Church on 8th & 9th August. £569 was raised between fund-raising and donations. There was many great displayed entered and it was very well attended by the community and visitors. Some photos have been provided below by Susan Allan.



Main Contacts:

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