

JUNE 2023

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Newsletter

Members Meeting

The next members meeting date is scheduled for Thursday 17th August. Following feedback received after the last meeting, the board are considering how to format future meetings to allow more members to engage with IGHT activities. If you have any feedback on members meetings, please email directors@gigha.org.uk

Board Correspondence

The board meet the third Monday of every month; therefore, for any correspondence to be considered at these meetings, we ask for it to be submitted at least 1 week prior to give the board time to review. Correspondence sent within 1 week of the board meeting will be delayed for review until the following month meeting. Contact us by emailing directors@gigha.org.uk

Gigha and Cara Parish Church

The Rev Anne McIvor will be preaching at morning service on 9th of July at 11 am. On 23rd July the official introduction of the Rev Lyn Peden to the parish of Mid Kintyre and Gigha will take place in the Gigha Church at 11 am. This will be followed by lunch in the Village Hall. We will also be celebrating the centenary of the current Church building. There will be photos and displays and other items connected with the Church. Everyone is welcome!

Sound of Gigha

The Sound of Gigha would like to thank everyone who got involved with the festival last weekend – whether hosting workshops, having a market stall, volunteering, donating, eating, drinking or dancing – you were all fabulous! We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and we hope you did too!



Boathouse Restaurant - Raft Race

The Gigha Raft Race hosted by The Boathouse will take place on Sunday 30th of July.

Bar open from 12pm.

BBQ 12-3pm.

Race kicks off at 2pm.

If you wish to enter please email eat@boathouseongigha.com or phone 01583 505123.

****Please note - there is also a BBQ and Live Music day on the 15th of July****

JUNE 2023

Achamore Gardens

It's hard to believe that the longest day has already passed! The year is rattling in, and work continues every day in the garden, but the hard work is worth it, and I'm sure you will agree that both the walled and wider gardens are really showing the results of the efforts by both staff and volunteers.

Talking of volunteers, our wee team of helpers have been working even harder recently as we've started providing teas and coffees in the village hall for the coach parties that have been visiting this summer and using the hall for their packed lunches. This has proved to be very popular with the coach groups, and they have really enjoyed meeting the team and having the opportunity to find out a little bit more about Achamore. My thanks to our volunteers who have stepped up to help us out with this.

Our volunteers help out with many jobs in the garden, from chatting to visitors, helping with the never-ending weeding and clearing, dead heading our rhododendrons (a popular volunteer activity, as you can do it at your own pace and time), assisting with plant records and the archive, and many more beside. If you'd like to get involved with an existing task, have ideas for other volunteering opportunities, or have skills that you think might be of use, please do get in touch with me – you'll be rewarded for your endeavours with our eternal thanks and many cuppas and biscuits!



And finally, I thought I'd take the opportunity to highlight a tiny, but special plant that's currently looking great. Many residents and visitors love seeing the huge stands of the Giant Chilean Rhubarb, *Gunnera manicata*, that grow throughout the garden, but these giants have a teeny little cousin, *Gunnera magilanica*, whose leaves are not much bigger than a pound coin. If you want to see this miniscule marvel, you'll find it growing in the raised bed just outside the red gate – if you can't find it, just ask one of the staff to point it out to you.

I hope everyone enjoyed our third annual residents' picnic last weekend. Although the weather wasn't quite as good as in previous years, the rain dried up just in time and nearly 70 residents made it a great success – it was lovely to see so many of you having a great time despite the grey clouds. Once again, the team at One Fyne Deli in Tarbert pulled out all the stops to make our tasty picnic boxes, and our own Heather Gorman baked her socks off, making enough delicious cakes to feed a small army... Despite that, there didn't seem to be many leftovers! Our thanks to the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust for funding this popular event - If you didn't make it along this year, maybe we'll see you at it next year.



JUNE 2023

Gigha Primary School

June has been another busy month at Gigha Primary School and Early Learning Centre (ELC) with lots happening both inside and outside of the classroom. Volunteers have helped to paint the playground and the pupils have enjoyed playing chess on their new outdoor chess board. Pupils from the Primary School and ELC also visited the new Housing development site to lay the first bricks of the build.

On Monday 19th June pupils from Gigha hosted the West Road Schools Sports Day and were joined by pupils from Achahoish, Glenbarr and Rhunahaorine Primary School and ELC. Luckily the rain held off and a fantastic day was had by all. Pupils then enjoyed three days of a music workshop which they finished by hosting a short concert for family and friends. We have also been on our end of term trip to the Campbeltown Indoor Soft Play and have joined with Clachan and Achahoish Primaries for an end of term afternoon on the beach after the end of term service.

As we approach the end of term we would like to wish the best of luck to pupils who are transitioning to new settings in both the ELC and Primary School. Thank you also to everyone who has supported our school this year. We are looking forward to a restful, relaxing school holiday and wish you all a wonderful summer.

Kind regards, Mrs Vipurs, Acting Principal Teacher

Housing Development - Ard Bruach

We were so pleased to invite Gigha Primary School & Pre 5 Unit to help lay the first bricks of the new housing development. The children each designed a brick which will be used during the construction of the 5 new homes. The children did a brilliant job and learned lots about the building site which was closed off from construction during their visit.

We hope to invite the children back again at a future stage to see progress and take part in a workshop with the project Architect.

Well done and thanks to Gigha Primary School & Pre 5 Unit.



JUNE 2023

Homehunt Review

The IGHT rental housing policy, Homehunt Gigha, has been reviewed by the Housing Allocation Group and the IGHT Board of Directors. Full details of adjustments will be issued to members for review and comments.

Renewables

GREL had a successful blade inspection on the Dancing Ladies that took place with the use of a drone. For the age of the turbines (30 years+), they are still in very reasonable condition.

The gearbox replacement for T2 had been scheduled for mid-June, but unfortunately the original climbing system that is fitted to all three V27 turbines is corroded and is now beyond a safe condition. The proposed solution is to supply self-retracting fall arrest inertia blocks (pictured) and the appropriate accessories and to mount it above the ladder. These devices will allow for safe traversal up and down the turbine and can also act as a rescue device from the ladder, as it has a lever to operate from the block that can be used to raise or lower a casualty.

In addition, Vestas will also replace the nuts and bolts around the old, fixed ladder system. In combination, these two renovations will allow the turbines to be accessed safely, and once completed, the gearbox can be replaced in T2.



Campsite - job vacancy

The Isle of Gigha Camp and Motorhome site is looking to recruit a **part time Campsite Assistant** to provide support during busier hours and run the campsite one day per week.

Tasks will include:

- Welcoming guests and providing visitor information
- Responding to enquiries
- Managing bookings
- Cleaning and maintaining toilets, showers and grounds
- Being on call for one 24-hour period per week
- Strim, mow and maintain landscaping of the campsite

No experience is necessary.

The post is 15 hours a week over 2-3 days (including weekends).

Wage is £10.90/hour.

See the full job description at www.gigha.org.uk/Job-Vacancies

Deadline for applications: Noon on Wednesday 12th July

Contact Anna Lannigan by email on campsite@gigha.org.uk

IGHT Housing Survey

IGHT Housing and Estates Manager Andy Clements will commence the Trust housing survey in July - this is an external non-intrusive survey. If you have any housing issues please contact the office directly. Email: office@gigha.org.uk or telephone 01583 505390.

JUNE 2023

Gigha Ranger Service

We have secured funding to continue Forest School for another year! An absolutely massive thank you to Argyll and Bute Council for awarding us the opportunity through their Supporting Communities Fund, and also to everyone who submitted feedback that helped us demonstrate that Forest School has been so well received here on our small island. We are so looking forward to delivering a super year of fun packed sessions focusing on Gigha's natural environment, biodiversity and making sure these sessions are open to everyone and all.



Gateway to Gigha

Gateway to Gigha officially came to an end last month, however maintenance work continues to be underway across the network. Our volunteers and staff team have been working hard to keep on top of strimming the routes, as well as doing some final touches to our waymarkers and fingerposts. We are identifying further works to be done across the existing network which would be subject to securing some additional funds. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any feedback on the routes!



HOUSEHOLD RESILIENCE PROJECT



DO YOU NEED HELP WITH...

Benefits Rights

Money Advice

Energy Advice

Housing Advice



Working with partner organisations, I am able to provide a range of support to people who may be struggling with fuel debt, problems accessing benefits, housing problems and can help if you are looking at employment options or would like to know more about grant funding for home energy improvements.

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

TACKLING CHILD POVERTY

If you have caring responsibilities for a child under the age of 18 you may be entitled to extra help due to the cost of living crisis.



ENERGY ADVICE

Help to access a range of available grant schemes which can provide energy debt relief, prepayment vouchers, assistance with ongoing energy costs, bulk heating fuel deliveries, electrical appliances (subject to availability)



Leighann Burns
Household Resilience Advocate
leighann@inspiralba.org.uk
07477 709 681

**To arrange a telephone appointment or
arrange a home visit**