



GIGHA NEWS



Welcome to the November/December 2019 Gigha News

Dear Member,

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

This will be the last newsletter for 2019. We, the Board, would like to wish all members and the Gigha community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards,
Ian Wilson
Chair
For and behalf of Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

AGM

Minutes from the AGM on 21st November are enclosed for review by all members. The Board would like to thank RA Clement for all their hard work this year in producing the Trust and subsidiary company accounts. The 7 directors for the IGHT Board include:

Ian Wilson (Chair)
Anne Shaw (Vice Chair)
Jane Clements (Company Secretary)
Malcolm Henderson
Linda MacDonald
Brandon Clements
Stuart McNeill

Ailsa Raeburn and Fergus Christie have also been co-opted on as directors for IGHT.

There is a vacancy for a third Co-opted Director. As we have stated previously, we want to use this space to bring someone onto the Board with specific skills who can support the Board, staff and help take IGHT forward. We will shortly be advertising a co-opted Board vacancy for an individual with specific skills in financial management, oversight or preparation of management accounts and cashflows, working with the Trust Accountants and Auditors to prepare end of year accounts, grant reporting, audit and risk management. If you might be interested in putting yourself forward for this role, please write to chair@gigha.org.uk and we can send you more information on what the role will entail. We will be looking to appoint a suitable candidate in the New Year.

Dates for your Diary

Gigha Primary School and Pre-Five Unit invite you to One Snowy Night - A retelling of the Christmas Story. Friday December 13th, Gigha Village Hall, 7pm start. Please come dressed as a woodland animal and be prepared to join in the singing! There will be a Gigha Primary School Parent Council raffle, tea, coffee and mince pies.

Then on Thursday 19th December the Gigha Primary School having a Reducing Waste for Christmas event at the village hall, where you will make a plastic free decoration and share reducing waste tips. A short celebration of achievement will take place and tea & coffee will be served. School bags, mugs and telephone books will be available to buy.

Community Open Day

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the recent Community Open Day. There was lots of great feedback on the different projects and ideas for moving forward. For anyone unable to attend and who would like information on the different projects and development works, please contact jane@gigha.org.uk or contact the Trust office for further details.

We will be taking a break from hosting our tea afternoon in December and start back up in January. Posters will be available in the new year confirming the date.

Office Manager

We'd like to welcome Shona Bannatyne into her role as Office Manager. Shona's role will manage a variety of aspects within the office and support the 4 companies and employees.

Head Gardener Job Vacancy

The job advert for the Head Gardener position at Achamore Gardens has now been advertised publicly with an application deadline of 20th December. Subject to suitable candidates coming forward, we hope to hold interviews and appoint someone in the New Year. The Trust are looking to appoint a creative and passionate experienced professional who will work with the Trust and Community to develop the Garden, including restoration of key areas, working with other staff and volunteers and marketing the Garden. The role comes with a rent-free cottage also to support the job vacancy.

Gigha Community Fund

The Gigha Community Fund has launched with application forms being made available as of Thursday 12th December on the website or from the Trust office. Guidance notes will also be available along with details of the first deadline for submission in mid-January. £5000 per year will be made available from the island's renewable energy income *'to support a thriving and healthy community on Gigha.'*

Clear Skies for Community Stargazing Event

Gigha's Community Stargazing event had a backdrop of thousands of stars when it took place in November. We were very lucky to have such a stunning night sky for those adults and children who came along.

The evening started on the track to Gallochoille where we watched the International Space Station rise up in the south west and cross the sky in front of us. We then returned to the hall to warm up with a cup of tea and get information about why it is important to protect our night sky from light pollution.

Those attending then heard about the proposals to have a Dark Sky Discovery site at the most northern part of the island. This would involve creating a dark sky theatre (circle of log seats) with a night sky information board and Dark Sky Discovery marker post. As part of the work towards Dark Sky Discovery site status night sky readings have been taken across several locations on Gigha and the results confirm that Gigha has very dark skies with light pollution restricted to just a few locations. The final part of the evening was a stargazing session at the airstrip where powerful binoculars were available to view star clusters and nebula. We were also lucky to see several 'shooting stars' and satellites and identify some of the constellations.

Our plans are now to apply for Dark Sky Discovery site status with the International Dark Sky Association, a process which can take some time, and to also continue with community stargazing events on particular themes throughout 2020. We welcome any comments, suggestions or questions regarding stargazing events and Dark Sky Discovery proposals - please contact Keith on 505006 or Kenny on 07778529693.



Hebridean Whale Trail

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) were granted funding for their Hebridean Whale Trail (HWT) project which identifies locations across the west coast that are prime destinations for viewing marine life. Gigha was selected as one of 30 locations across Scotland's west coast to form the Trail, and further promote the region as one of Europe's premier whale-watch destinations. Funding has come to an end for the trail, however Gigha will soon receive an interpretation panel from the HWT to explain what is unique about Gigha's position on the trail. Jane recently attended the HWT event in Tobermory where the HWDT were seeking ways to ensure that the future of the trail is secured. The HWDT are exploring funding options to provide training on how communities can identify marine life from the coast. To read more about the Trail, please visit: <https://whaletrail.org/ardminish-isle-of-gigha>

Message from Gigha Primary School

Due to issues with our rag-bag getting uplifted, we have a new collection bin at Tayinloan, where recycling bins are near the public toilets. This should be marked for Gigha Primary School. Each time it's emptied we get £££'s per kilo for the school so it really does help in our fundraising. We have bags at school which can be picked up at any time as all clothing MUST be bagged. Clothing must be wearable. Men, lady and children clothing, paired shoes, handbags, bags, ties and belts are accepted. NO BEDDING please. Thank you

T1 Update

We are expecting the new gearbox to be fitted over the next couple of weeks weather permitting.

Gigha Ferry Car Park

After discussions with IGH, Argyll and Bute Council have now begun works at the ferry car park. No further works will take place until the New Year. In the New Year the car park bays will be hard lined.

The Council have further confirmed that they plan to spend three days on Gigha bringing the cemetery up to standard.

Maimie Wotherspoon

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Maimie. Maimie has been a member of the Trust for years and was a memorable character within the Gigha community. She will be missed by all.

Achamore Gardens Blog

Susan Allan has kindly agreed to start a blog on what can be seen in the Gardens. This will also be available at www.gigha.org.uk.

On Thursday 21st November it being a lovely afternoon I took my camera for a walk in Achamore gardens! November – maybe not the best of times to see the gardens. My last walk in the gardens was just before Easter when the Rhododendrons were flowering, and the walled garden was being smartened up for a wedding. Since then there has been a lot of growth in the gardens, mostly things we don't really want to grow! But there was also a wealth of flower buds waiting to bloom next year, Rhododendrons and Camellias in particular.

There is still some autumn colour to be seen. The sun was shining and catching the top of a magnificent Metasequoia near the wee red gate into the walled garden. This species is a very ancient one and is a deciduous conifer. The pond had good reflections and growing around its edge are Cornus with its bare stems glowing red. There are still Hydrangeas, Fuchsias and some herbaceous plants flowering.

There are plenty of things to see. Try looking at the leaves of the Camellias in the south drive. There are 3 varieties that have very distinctive leaves. J.C.Williams which has a mid-green slightly twisted leaf, Golden Spangles which has a yellow variegation in its leaf and another whose name I cannot remember which has a kind of fishtail at the point of its leaf.

Don't forget to look up when you are in the gardens. The patterns of the bare trees against the sky are amazing and you could miss some flowers if you don't look up. Right in the very north west corner of the walled garden in the back of the border is a tall shrub with lots of little pink flowers which I think is a myrtle. Nearer to the gate onto the back road there are two Mahonias flowering. They have a wonderful scent, but you might need a stepladder to get near enough to smell them!

Close by there is a Eucryphia also in flower. Some of the conifers in the walled garden have Lapageria rosa growing through them. If you are going for a walk in the gardens just now, I recommend wellington boots for your feet. And don't forget to look down too. See if you can identify the trees around by their fallen leaves!

Susan Allan



Photos provided by Susan Allan

Trust Office Christmas Hours

The IGHT office will close on Friday 20th December for 2 weeks, opening again on Monday 6th January.

For any urgent enquiries, please contact the office number and leave a message: 01583 505 390.

For any urgent housing enquiries, please email office@gigha.org.uk

For all GTL enquiries, please ring 01583 427 300 and leave a message or email cottages@gigha.org.uk

Main Contacts:

IGHT enquiries: **01583 505 390**

GTL enquiries: **01583 427 300**

For general enquiries:

shona@gigha.org.uk

For business development enquiries:

jane@gigha.org.uk

For housing and estate enquiries:

office@gigha.org.uk

For all GTL enquiries:

cottages@gigha.org.uk

Trust Office Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday 10am-2pm