

# ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST

## NewsLetter July 2025

The IGH 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. Anonymous correspondence will not be considered by the Board.

Contact us by emailing [directors@gigha.org.uk](mailto:directors@gigha.org.uk)

### Gigha Hotel

We are pleased to announce that we have recruited a management team for the Gigha Hotel - Emma Heron-Smith and Stephen Kane, who will be joining us in August 2025. Emma and Stephen will be employed by Gigha Trading and Renewables Ltd, the subsidiary company which will be managing the hotel operations.



"We're Emma and Stephen, and we're thrilled to be joining the Gigha community as the new management team at the Gigha Hotel. With a shared background in hospitality, tourism and marketing - ranging from Stephen's leadership roles at Harrods and One Hundred Shoreditch to Emma's experience with Scottish distilleries and whisky brands - we're passionate about creating memorable experiences and building strong community ties. Stephen has deep family roots on the island, and together we're excited to bring fresh energy to the hotel while honouring its role at the heart of island life. We can't wait to welcome you through the doors and make the hotel a warm, lively space for locals and visitors alike."

### Save the Date!

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August - Here to Hear You, Argyll and Bute Council event
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August - Dark Skies events
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August - Furboch Ceilidh
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August - Root and Industrial Show
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August - Quiz in Village Hall
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August - The Mad Ferret Band concert in Village Hall
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August - Village Hall AGM
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August - 80s Disco, Gigha Hotel Bar

### Gigha Village Hall

To book the Gigha Village Hall please email [gighavillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:gighavillagehall@gmail.com) or telephone Joe on 01583 505251.

Isle of Gigha Woodland Management Plan

In 2022, IGHT engaged consultants, TreeStory, to produce a Woodland Management Plan with the purpose of providing habitat recommendations and the legal documentation necessary to carry out restricted thinning/felling. TreeStory conducted a community consultation in early 2024, and the Ranger Service held a presentation in the Village Hall in March 2024. The IGHT Woodland Management Plan has now been approved by Scottish Forestry and is available to the community at the IGHT office. The approval of the plan does not mean that this work is guaranteed to take place, but it is a legal framework that IGHT must comply with if any woodland management work is to happen.

The plan includes woodland compartments that are managed by IGHT only. The plan does not include woodland compartments outwith IGHT managed land, as this would have imposed strict, numerous, and potentially expensive legal regulations on land tenants. If land tenants wish to do any work at all to woodland compartments, those tenants will need to go through a similar process and apply for their individual felling licence/plan from Scottish Forestry, which is a legal requirement.

Woodland Management Plan Vision:

The long-term aim is to diversify and improve the health of the woodlands through thinning plantations and managing invasive species. The non-native plantations will be gradually converted to Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) systems, creating diverse mixed woodlands which can provide a modest timber supply for the island, wildlife habitats, recreational and aesthetic benefits. The vision for the Achamore Gardens woodlands is to use CCF management to establish the next generation of trees and ensure the long-term survival of these woodlands and the gardens they protect.

Management Objectives:	
No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic, and social considerations)
1	Begin the process restructuring the conifer plantations, using thinning interventions, to create more species and structural diversity.
2	Where appropriate, restructure the conifer plantations to create more multipurpose woodlands which can provide a modest timber supply alongside ecological and recreational benefits.
3	Maintain and enhance the woodlands surrounding Achamore Garden, which provide essential shelter to the garden.
4	Improve the ecological health of the native scrub woodlands.

For any questions regarding the Woodland Management Plan please contact the Ranger Service on [ranger@gigha.org.uk](mailto:ranger@gigha.org.uk) or 07596855398.

Gigha Church in the Parish of Mid Kintyre and Gigha

Work on the church roof is progressing, but access is still limited to Sundays when there is a service:

- August 10th at 12 noon
- August 24th at 12 noon

At the joint service and annual stated meeting on June 29th a new Furboch, Bev the Rev Furboch was introduced to the congregation. When the work on the church is finished she will live there, meanwhile she has been visiting people and attending events. At Achamore Gardens Fun Day she had cuddles with some children and took part in some of the games. She is looking forward to the Furboch’s ceilidh on the 9th August in the Village Hall.





## Achamore Gardens

Despite warnings of thunderstorms, we were blessed with good weather for our first Family Fun Day! The event was well attended and raised £958. This money will help with the maintenance and restoration of the gardens.

Walking up the main drive it was great to see the creativity on display with the entries to the Scarecrow Competition. Congratulations to Lisa and Ezra who won with their creation Fishface. They took home a beautiful owl statue, carved by one of our tree surgeons.

Lots of bugs and beasties were found during a very busy pond dipping session, including pond skaters, golden ringed dragonfly, and even a newt. The groups favourite find though were pond snails, who unlike garden snails don't eat our plants!



Fun and games were to be had in the walled garden, with the Wheel of (mis)-Fortune and Sponge the Gardener proving popular. The walled garden also served as a starting point for the Treasure Hunt. Which lead budding detectives to stops around the garden, providing clues to decipher and revealing a mysterious phrase. Anyone needing a break and some refreshments could retreat to the tea tent, which was well stocked with a lovely selection of home baking. There was also the chance to build and bring home beautiful bouquets of flowers, hand picked from around the garden.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the event and helped make it happen: the volunteers who helped before and during the event, those who donated home baking, and the Sound of Gigha committee for the use of their equipment.

Servant's Walk and the Egg have been reopened! Both of these areas suffered considerable damage during Storm Eowyn, resulting in a torn-up path and knocked down walls. In recent weeks these have been repaired and tidied-up.

The Summerhouse still requires some work before we can reopen it. Since our tree surgeons completed their work, we've had some great volunteer sessions clearing brash and logs. We'll be dedicating time in the coming weeks to finishing off the work here and look forward to welcoming you back into the Summerhouse in the near future.





## JOB OPPORTUNITY – MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE

The Trust has a vacancy on their Estate Maintenance Team.

The Trust Maintenance Operative will work within the staff team of IGHT and report to the Housing and Estates Manager. The post is based on the Isle of Gigha, but the post holder will be expected to work all over the island with use of the company vehicle, therefore a clean driving licence is essential to this post.

The post holder will be expected to work to their own initiative to ensure general maintenance of the island is carried out whilst responding to maintenance inspections and repairs. The post holder should build good working relationships with IGHT colleagues, tenants, and contractors.

The post is 30 hours on a permanent basis with the opportunity for flexible hours. Full personal protective equipment and uniform will be provided for the post.

To find out more about this job opportunity, head to: <https://www.gigha.org.uk/Maintenance-Operative>

To apply, please submit a covering letter and CV. Applications should be made by 5pm on Friday 8th August 2025.

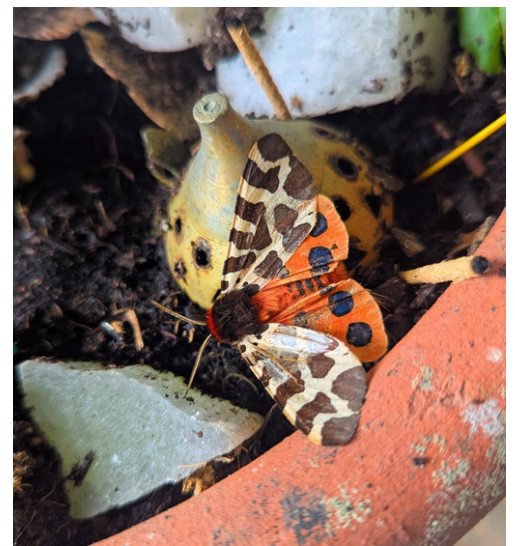
Email: [office@gigha.org.uk](mailto:office@gigha.org.uk) or post to: Andy Clements, Housing and Estates Manager

### Island Ranger Service

What a long month, with wet, warm days, midges galore, and what seems like endless strimming! However! We have seen more bats this month than any other this year. July is the time when mamma bats are feeding their young in maternity and nursery roosts. Two eagle-eyed residents found this poor thing on the road just recently, and whilst definitely full size (pipistrelle bats grow no more than 5cm!), this one could have been a young one trying out flying, but perhaps not succeeding. It is always sad to see a deceased animal, but a real privilege nonetheless to see these creatures up close.



Other winged friends this month have been the plethora of moths that have been out on display. Beautiful tiger and ermine moths have been spotted, as usual, at Gigha Natural Skincare, and our second summer programme event, Moth Morning, was a beautiful start to the day. We only had a few participants but what we lacked in humans, we sure made up for in moths. Some of the species we found included 7 small magpie, 1 poplar hawk, numerous buff ermines, 7 footman, 1 mottled beauty, 8 yellow underwings, among many, many others.





## Island Ranger Service continued

Volunteers have also been hard at work this month. We had our annual Kilchattan clearance which saw the volunteers rally to action to remove evergrowing, persistent fuchsia, cleaning the gravestones, carefully cutting back the grasses in the chapel, and tidying up the graveyard edges. It was a great turnout, and the site looks a million times better for it.



Beach cleaning has also been on the agenda, with volunteers following in the wake of the awesome island children clearing marine litter from Poll Mor. A total of four CanAm loads was taken off the beach, making our coastal areas a little bit safer for wildlife.



One of the more frustrating aspects of the summer is the constant cleanup on our beaches of abandoned camp sites, tents, food, wipes, full doggie poop bags, and hot fire remnants. This year seems to be particularly bad, despite so many wildfire incidences across Scotland and the number of warnings from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. That being said, our Scottish Outdoor Access Code leaflet illustrated by Adam Murphy has been flying out of the leaflet holders at the Visitor Hut, so hopefully we are spreading the “responsible visitor” advice.



Our next events in our summer programme are the Big Butterfly Count on 1<sup>st</sup> August, and Coastal Critters on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Pop us an email to book a space or find out more.



## Here To Hear You – Gigha

During 2025 the Chief Executive and Leader of Argyll and Bute Council are visiting communities like yours to hear directly from you. They'll be on Gigha on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Communities are at the heart of the Argyll and Bute Council strategic Priorities which were agreed in September 2024. For council Leader Jim Lynch and Chief Executive Pippa Milne, hearing directly from communities is an important personal commitment they're both passionate about. Jim and Pippa want to hear what local people have to say about the places where they live.

That's why they will be meeting with communities all over the area over the rest of the council term, up to May 2027, in a series of conversations called Here To Hear You. They want to reach as many people and places as possible, and to hear especially from people who may not otherwise get a chance to share their views or speak up.

By joining the conversation and talking with Jim and Pippa, what you have to say will help us to:

Have a better understanding of the local issues where you live

Join our voice with yours in speaking up on wider issues

Find ways we can work together – whether with you as the local community or with other agencies

Hear what matters to young people and other groups, and ensure their views are considered in decision-making

Helping us shape our own services

Both Jim and Pippa will be ready to answer questions and share information if you want it, but they think it's more important to hear from you first and foremost. This is your time, your opportunity to speak and share about what really matters on the isle of Gigha, the place where you live.

You're encouraged to come along ready to talk on the day, but if you'd like to send in any questions beforehand, you can get in touch at [workingtogether@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:workingtogether@argyll-bute.gov.uk) – ideally at least 24 hours before the event starts. You can also find more information about the Here To Hear You community conversations programme at our [Here To Hear You web page](#) or on Argyll and Bute Council's Facebook page.

We're looking forward to meeting with you on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August. Please come and join us at Gigha Village Hall. Doors open at 12.15pm and the conversation starts at 12.30pm - we'll aim to finish up by 2pm. If you can, please bring along your mobile phone for an interactive session.

#Argyll and Bute Events #Gigha Events #Things to do in Gigha #Gigha Networking #Gigha Community Networking #Gigha Community #connecting\_communities #abplace2b #heretohearyou #here2hearU

## Island Ranger's Photo of the month



### Gigha Village Hall A.G.M

Gigha Village Hall are holding an A.G.M on  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm.

We would love for you to come along to share any  
thoughts or questions you have and welcome  
anyone wishing to join the Village Hall Committee!

All Welcome

# Here to Hear You



**If you could have a conversation with Argyll and Bute Council, what would you like to say?**

**The council's Leader and Chief Executive, Cllr Jim Lynch and Pippa Milne, are coming to Gigha for a community conversation as part of the Here To Hear You programme of local events.**

**Please come and join us!**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August, 12.15pm for 12.30pm start**

**Gigha Village Hall**

**Find out more and sign up at [Here To Hear You Isle of Gigha at Gigha Village Hall event tickets from TicketSource](#)**

**or email [workingtogether@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:workingtogether@argyll-bute.gov.uk)**





## Dark Skies Gigha's Annual Perseids Party August 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> 2025

### Friday August 8<sup>th</sup> In the Night Garden

Join us for tea and a fun and friendly afternoon session in the lounge of the Gigha Hotel on the theme of designing and planting gardens for nighttime stargazing and sky watching. We will be joined by well-known local garden designer and writer Rachel Bailey who will share some of her secrets for planning a garden for evening and nighttime enjoyment and wellbeing, not just for humans but for many pollinators and night creatures. Learn about planning outdoor spaces which are safe for stargazing and which keep light pollution to a minimum. All attendees booking into this session can pick up a free packet of Twilight wildflower seeds from The Wildlife Trust. Look out for session timings and booking details coming soon.

### Friday August 8<sup>th</sup> Perseids Meteor Shower Stargazing Session

Meet at 9.30pm on the grass by the information hut at the ferry slip. We will walk together up to the golf course where we will have our DSG ground mats ready to lie on and see how many shooting stars we can spot. Bring your own torch (red light if possible) camp chair or mat if you prefer as well as something warm to wrap up in. Please wear warm and waterproof clothing suitable for the conditions, as well as bug spray. This activity is weather dependent and subject to change or cancellation at short notice – please watch the Dark Skies Gigha Facebook page for up-to-date information.

### Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup> Creatures of the Night 10am onwards

Get ready for a day of natural exploration and adventure at Gigha Camp and Motorhome Site. We have two super pitches booked for our bell tents and will have workshops and hands-on activities led by enthusiasts in bats, moths and other nighttime creatures. Our workshop leaders include our Ranger, Cat and Archie Walker, RSPB, Buglife, Bat Conservation Trust and more. All sessions are free but must be booked in advance. Look out for session themes, timings and booking details coming soon.

### Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup> Perseids Meteor Shower Stargazing Session

Meet at 10.30pm up at our north end Dark Skies Theatre. We will use our lie back benches to relax and see how many shooting stars we can spot. Bring your own torch (red light if possible) camp chair or mat if you prefer as well as something warm to wrap up in. Please wear warm and waterproof clothing suitable for the conditions, as well as bug spray. This activity is weather dependent and subject to change or cancellation at short notice – please watch the Dark Skies Gigha Facebook page for up-to-date information.

If anyone would like to lend a hand with any of the above events, train to be a DSG volunteer or share their expertise and experience in our workshops and clubs, we would like to hear from you. Dark Skies Gigha can be reached by email at [dark.skies.gigha@gmail.com](mailto:dark.skies.gigha@gmail.com).

Dark Skies Gigha's Annual Perseids Party presents.....

## CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST  
Isle of Gigha Camp and Motorhome Site PA41 7AA

9:45am Moth Trap Exploration with Cat and Archie Walker – get a close up look at the different species of moth we find on Gigha.  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1482029172149>

10.45am and 12.45pm Bat Box Making with Gigha Ranger Service - £4 donation for the cost of materials if you wish to take your bat box home with you or you can leave it on Gigha for free and our Gigha Ranger will site it for you.  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1513013477039> 10:45am  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/151304600432> 12:45pm

Booking via our Eventbrite page  
Facebook/Instagram @darkskiesgigha

Dark Skies Gigha is a  
Scottish Charity SC051611

Dark Skies Gigha's Annual Perseids Party presents.....

## IN THE NIGHT GARDEN

A friendly afternoon of information and conversation about designing gardens for people, wildlife and dark skies with award winning design practice leader and gardener Rachel Bailey.

FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2 - 4PM  
Gigha Hotel Lounge, Isle of Gigha, PA41 7AA  
Entry by donation £4 per person includes afternoon refreshments and free wildflower seeds.

Booking on Eventbrite  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1481969443499>

Contact [dark.skies.gigha@gmail.com](mailto:dark.skies.gigha@gmail.com) for more details or like our Facebook Page @darkskiesgigha  
Dark Skies Gigha is a  
Scottish Charity SC051611



11<sup>th</sup> Root & Industrial Show  
16<sup>th</sup> August 2025, Village Hall, 2pm  
A reminder of what is being judged this year:



### Root section

- 3 potatoes
- 3 parsnips
- 3 carrots
- 3 red onions
- 3 white onions
- 3 beetroots
- 3 leeks
- 3 tomatoes
- 1 pepper
- 1 ugly vegetable

### Agricultural

- 6 same colour duck eggs
- 6 same colour hen eggs

### Industrial Section

- 1 Artisan loaf
- 3 iced cup cakes (fancy icing)
- 1 small/slice quiche
- 3 custard creams
- 3 pieces rocky road
- Jam swiss roll
- Sml jar rasp jam
- Sml bowl/jar tomato salsa
- Arrangement of garden flowers
- Flower arrangement in child's welly
- Drawing of bumble bee
- Fill a matchbox with items starting with the letter **C**  
(please pick up a free matchbox from Joe)

There is no category specifically for children but any child can enter any category.

More information to follow about arrangements for entries on the day.

All entries £1; Teas/coffees/cakes £3; Raffle.

All proceeds to the Hall Funds.

Any queries please 'phone June Watson or Tracy Wilson

Isle of Gigha Ferry Consultation Results    SUMMARY    All responses given as %

Total returns were 48%. The results are conclusive and show large majorities in islanders' preferences for almost all questions. Only response levels of 10% and over are reported for this summary. Islanders choices will now be communicated to all organisations with management responsibilities by GCC.

- |   |    |     |    |    |
|---|----|-----|----|----|
| 1. Do islanders want to limit campervan/motorhome access ?  | 88 | YES | 12 | NO |
| 2. Do you wish to see vehicle spaces on the ferry reserved for residents ?                        | 85 | YES | 10 | NO |
| 3. Do islanders want blanket restrictions to island road access for larger vehicles. (motorhomes) | 71 | YES | 20 | NO |

RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATION FOR RESERVED FERRY ACCESS ?

- |  |    |     |    |    |
|--|----|-----|----|----|
| 4. Permanent residents only                | 93 | YES |    |    |
| 5. Second Home owners                      | 15 | YES | 73 | NO |
| 6. Holiday cottage accommodation occupiers | 93 | NO  |    |    |
| 7. Hotel residents                         | 76 | NO  |    |    |

ACCEPTABLE LOCATIONS FOR OVERNIGHT PARKING

- |   |     |     |    |    |
|---|-----|-----|----|----|
| 8 No restrictions   | 88  | NO  |    |    |
| 9. Personal guest of a permanent Gigha resident   | 85  | YES |    |    |
| 10. On the Camping/Caravan site   | 100 | YES |    |    |
| 11. At the North End  | 15  | YES | 78 | NO |
| 12. In the Garbh Eilean field (subject to tenant)   | 31  | YES | 56 | NO |
| 13. As off road parking in laybys off tracks  | 97  | NO  |    |    |
| 14. Do you wish to see vehicle spaces on the ferry reserved for essential service providers, as well as residents ? | 85  | YES |    |    |
| 15. Would you be willing to display a car sticker to identify island resident vehicles to assist Calmac staff ?     | 95  | YES |    |    |
| 16. How many drivers are there in your household ?  | 68  |     |    |    |

*Results are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level with a maximum 11% margin of error*



# Annual Furboch Ceilidh

with the fantastic

## Ceòl an Aire

Saturday 9th August,

Gigha Village Hall

Don't have your tea as complimentary  
supper served 7-8pm, then Ceilidh!

£15 per adult/£7 for 12-18yrs/under 12s free!

Licensed event. Raffle.

(Card machine at bar, but cash at the door helpful!)

All proceeds from the Ceilidh used to fund  
continuation of the Furboch (OGAM) wellbeing facility  
for children and young families living on/visiting Gigha.

Any questions, call Maggie - 01583505234



Celebrating Gigha,  
all that we love ...



"Energetic, super-charged contemporary folk"

- Daily Record

the  
MAD

FERRET  
BANIO

Your paragraph text

SAT  
23RD  
AUG

GIGHA  
HALL

ISLE OF GIGHA

DOORS 7.30PM



25% OFF  
BUY TICKETS  
NOW ON  
EVENTBRITE



FAMILIES  
WELCOME

CONTEMPORARY SCOTTISH FOLK DUO





GIGHA VILLAGE HALL

# QUIZ NIGHT

WITH QUIZ MISTRESS  
ALISON LEITH

SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM  
QUIZ STARTS AT 7:30PM

MAX  
TEAMS  
OF 4  
£4PP

LICENSED BAR • RAFFLE • 50/50



# Get ready to boogie, Gigha!

Saturday 30th August, it's time to dust off your leg warmers and crimp that hair – because Dave & Marc's 80s Disco is taking over the Summer Bar!

Expect neon. Expect synth. Expect absolute chaos on the dancefloor as your favourite duo spin the biggest retro bangers all night long.



From Whitney to Wham



From Bowie to Bananarama



And maybe a few sweaty singalongs too

Saturday 30th August 7PM till late

Gigha Summer Bar

Fancy dress encouraged. Ridicule guaranteed.

