

# ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST

# NewsLetter September 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

Autumn opening hours:

- MONDAY CLOSED
- TUESDAY CLOSED
- WEDNESDAY 3PM - 10PM
- THURSDAY 3PM - 10PM
- FRIDAY 12PM - 12AM
- SATURDAY 12PM - 12AM
- SUNDAY 12PM - 10PM

Upcomng events:

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Halloween Party

Thanks for your continued support!

## Gigha Church in the Parish of Mid Kintyre and Gigha

Services for October at 12 noon

- 12th October with Mrs Marion McDonald
- 26th October communion with Rev Lyn Peden

All are welcome at these services.

It's been a quiet month for Bev the Rev Furboch. Apart from attending the services and meeting our visitors there she hasn't been out much. She is looking forward to meeting more folk at the Harvest thanksgiving service.

## Gigha Village Hall

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

## COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY –

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS AT CARN BAN

Earlier this month, an opinion survey was sent out to every household regarding archaeological works at Scheduled Monument, Carn Ban cist (SM3182). The result of the survey came back as a majority **DO NOT APPROVE.**

- 13 households (28 individuals) selected **APPROVE.**
- 20 households (37 individuals) selected **DO NOT APPROVE.**

It has been agreed that these works will not go ahead, but the archaeological team will be invited to update current records without interference or disturbance to the site.



## Scottish Fire and Rescue Service statement - Fire Cover for the Isle of Gigha

"At present, the local volunteer unit does not have sufficient personnel to provide full cover. This is something we are actively working to resolve.

We're currently recruiting new members from the local community, with support from our On-Call Support Watch Commander, to help rebuild a strong and reliable team on the island. If you or someone you know is interested in joining and serving the community, we'd love to hear from you.

In the meantime, fire cover will be provided by crews from Campbeltown to ensure emergency response capability is maintained.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we work together to restore full fire cover for Gigha."

**We are recruiting**  
**ON CALL FIREFIGHTERS**  
**across Scotland**

- ✓ Do you have a passion for keeping your community safe and for making a difference by sharing life-saving advice?
- ✓ Do you want to provide an important emergency service for your local community?
- ✓ Do you want to work as part of a close team, learn new transferable skills and broaden your horizons?
- ✓ Are you close to your local community fire station?
- ✓ Are you over 18?
- ✓ Are you physically fit?
- ✓ Do you have good unaided vision?
- ✓ Do you want to earn a monthly wage?

*If you can answer **YES** to all of these questions, we want to hear from you. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service seeks to attract talented candidates from across Scotland's diverse communities.*

For info on how to apply, visit:  
[firescotland.gov.uk/careers/on-call](https://firescotland.gov.uk/careers/on-call)

**#YouAreSFRS**

**CAREERS**  
WE ARE SFRS  
YOU ARE SFRS

The poster features a red background with a pattern of fire-related icons. It includes a list of seven criteria for applicants, each preceded by a checkmark icon. At the bottom right, there is a box containing the SFRS crest and the text 'CAREERS WE ARE SFRS YOU ARE SFRS'. Social media icons for Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube are also present.

## Dark Skies Gigha

### Dark Skies Festival November 14th and 15th

We have been taking a wee break this last month after a very busy summer but volunteers are now gearing up for our annual Dark Skies Festival in November. The theme is Celestial Stories and we hope to share as many star stories from different cultures as we can along with some of our usual astronomy talks and stargazing sessions. Look out for information about the programme which includes fireside storytelling with a Celtic harpist, constellation tales from the Arctic regions including some natural weaving, stories from Wild Skies Shetland and our Gigha Celtic Moon Club first live session. For more details or if you'd like to help out or link your group/business to the programme in some creative way, please email [dark.skies.gigha@gmail.com](mailto:dark.skies.gigha@gmail.com).



## Island Ranger Service

Well September has not been its usual sunny self this year, but the change of colour is always a welcome sight, and with the light now dramatically changing the summer season is certainly over. However! This is our favourite time of year, as the trees produce all their seeds and fruits, the conkers are falling already and the haws and rowans are bringing some startling reds to our landscape, this is definitely a bumper year for them. We also are treated to the best views of the milky way in the autumn, specifically around the autumn equinox. The best part is, no one needs to stay awake until after midnight to see this spectacle in full force – hooray!



This month, the Edinburgh Young Walkers returned for a third year. It always such a pleasure to host them and boy do they work hard! This time we set them to processing and burning some of the *Rhododendron ponticum* cuttings that have been sitting in the woodland opposite the Fire Station, and they managed to get through almost half the amount, which was one mammoth task! We then headed to the woodland near Leim to clear brambles to make way for the trees that are naturally regenerating, to strengthen the scrub habitat for our nesting birds, create rides and glades and encourage species such as nettles for our butterfly species. This section of woodland is turning into such a wildlife delight, and the team made a huge difference just in an hour! It didn't end there, we took a stroll to the headland at Grob Bagh (Leim), where we had a cuppa and kept our eyes peeled for some cetaceans. Despite paying them, the wildlife didn't show, but the team were keen to head to the beach and remove hundreds of nurdles that have recently washed ashore. Nurdles are 'virgin' plastic material in the form of very small balls which are used to make almost all plastic products. These are often leached into the environment through damages or mishandling of containers during shipping, but also at many stages through the supply chain. These are infamous for harming wildlife as they are mistaken for food, being incredibly difficult to remove from the ocean environment, and can cause toxic pollution. So go team for collecting so many! We sincerely hope they come back again next year, even just for a social visit. Thank you to everyone who joined us!



## Island Ranger with Edinburgh Young Walkers group

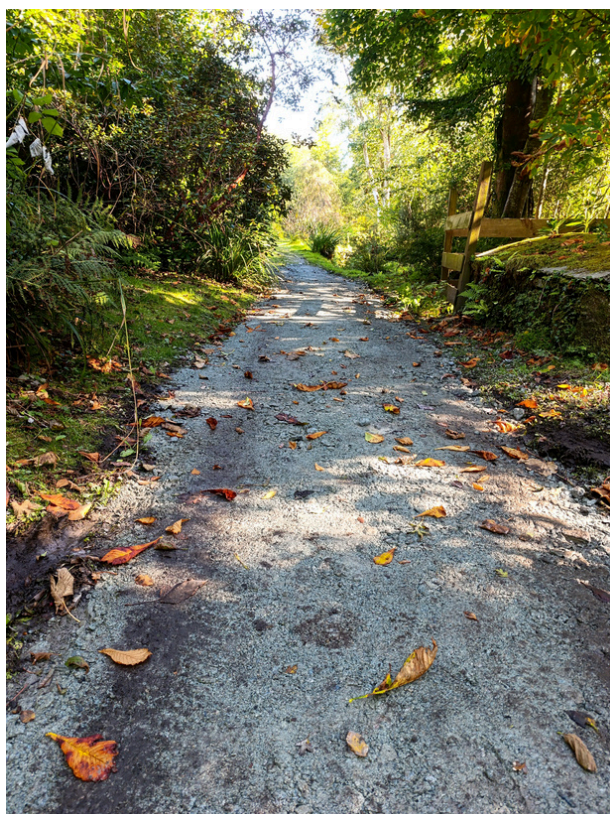


### Achamore Gardens

It is very noticeable that autumn has arrived here at Achamore. The plants have slowed down their growing and the trees have started dropping their leaves. Our to-do list changes to reflect this: we start to clear and collect fallen leaves; check our drainage ditches and pipes, ready the winter's rain; cut and resow our wildflower meadows; and will soon the lawns will receive their last cut of the year.

Our work over the last month has included resurfacing sections of pump house track. By raising the path, we hope to reduce issues with flooding and make the path a bit less mucky and slippery to walk on.

The nursery has undergone a bit of a revamp. We have opened up an unused area that was covered in self-seeded buddleia, making space for the plants we have been potting up. Almost all of these have been propagated from seed or cutting by our team and are being grown-on to be planted out in the wider garden.





## Achamore Gardens continued

We are saddened to announce that both Rebecca and Kacper will be leaving us in the coming weeks. Kacper will be moving on to work at Logan Botanic Garden, in Stranraer, where he undertook a work placement last year. And Rebecca will be moving to Crarae Woodland Garden, outside of Inverary. We would like to thank them both for their hard work and wish them luck in their future endeavors! We will be having a get-together in the hotel pub after work on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. Please feel free to pop by.

## Gigha Primary School & ELC

Last week was the Great British Beach Clean and to mark this the pupils from Gigha Primary School completed a beach clean at Cuddyport Beach with Island Ranger, Casey-Jo. This beach was chosen because of the higher levels of marine plastic that some of the southern beach's experience. Over the period of an hour pupils collected over 29kg of marine litter including everything from plastic strapping, rope, fish boxes, oil drums, and plastic sheeting, to shoes, tyres, and even a tennis racket! Where possible this will be recycled to reduce landfill waste. Our pupils are currently working towards their Beach and Marine Litter Project Award with The Grab Trust and this beach clean forms a part of this.



This term we were also very lucky to host a visit from Jim Parkin from Aardman Animations. He talked to us about his career and the many different roles that went in to producing some of his favourite films. We learnt about character design and how these are brought to life using stop motion animation techniques. After designing our own characters in plasticine, we spent some of the afternoon making our own stop motion films with Mrs Flett using special software in the iPads. Article 31 ensures that all children should have the right to creative arts and activities, and this opportunity has given our children another way of engaging their creative talents.

In ELC, our children have continued to learn about people in our local community who help us. Pupils enjoyed their recent visit to the Coastguard station where they found out about the role of the Coastguard in keeping us safe. Pupils also got to look at special equipment which the Coastguard use; this theme has been reflected in our role play area in the ELC where pupils have made boats, a police station and a hospital.

After a busy term we are looking forward to our October break and look forward to updating you on our progress when we return.

Mrs Vipurs


# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



**HAVE YOU GOT AN INTEREST IN  
SPORT & WOULD LIKE TO GET  
INVOLVED WITHIN THE  
LOCAL/SCHOOL COMMUNITY—**

Contact: Lindsay Ramsay  
Active Schools, North Kintyre  
[lindsay.ramsay@liveargyll.co.uk](mailto:lindsay.ramsay@liveargyll.co.uk)



A festive poster for Oktoberfest. The background is a light blue and white diamond checkered pattern. In the center is a large teal oval. Above the oval is a white banner with the text 'FREE ENTRY'. Inside the oval, the date and time '4TH OCTOBER 2025 2 - 10 PM' are written in white. Below that, 'DRINK ★ FOOD ★ MUSIC' is written in white. The main title 'Oktober fest' is in a large, bubbly, yellow font with a red outline. Below the title, '★ BEER FESTIVAL ★' is written in white. Underneath that is 'ACHAVINISH TAP ROOM' in white. At the bottom of the oval, a list of activities is written in white: 'GERMAN LAGERS \* FANCY DRESS COMPETITION \* STEINS \* SILLY GAMES \* PRETZELS \* BRATWURST\*'. Surrounding the central oval are various illustrations: a large beer mug with foam on the top left, a bratwurst on a fork on the top right, a beer mug on the right, a pretzel on the bottom left, a bratwurst on a fork on the bottom left, and two beer mugs at the bottom. There are also some yellow leaves at the top.

FREE ENTRY

4TH OCTOBER 2025  
2 - 10 PM

DRINK ★ FOOD ★ MUSIC

# Oktober fest

★ BEER FESTIVAL ★

ACHAVINISH TAP ROOM

GERMAN LAGERS \* FANCY DRESS COMPETITION \*  
STEINS \* SILLY GAMES \* PRETZELS \* BRATWURST\*

# The SOUND of Gigha

## OPEN DAY 2025

Join us at the Village Hall on Saturday,  
October 25th, from 12–3 pm for the Sound of  
Gigha 2025 Open Day.

This drop-in session invites you to learn  
about the Sound of Gigha CIC, share ideas,  
and shape next years event.

Enjoy soup, sandwiches, and home bakes for  
a donation.

Everyone is welcome!



[thesoundofgigha.co.uk](https://thesoundofgigha.co.uk)



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thesoundofgigha5





THE GIGHA HOTEL

# Halloween party

FRIDAY

**31**  
OCT.

7PM - LATE

[AT] THE GIGHA HOTEL BAR

COME PARTY WITH US—TUNES, COCKTAILS  
AND GOOD VIBES

PRIZES FOR THE BEST COSTUMES!







GIGHA VILLAGE HALL



# HALLOWEEN PARTY



SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER

4-6PM



AT GIGHA VILLAGE HALL



GAMES, SNACKS & PRIZES FOR  
BEST DRESSED!

ALL WELCOME

