



GIGHA NEWS



Welcome to the October 2021 Gigha News

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed this month's newsletter and a copy of September 2021 Board minutes.

Regards,

Ian Wilson
Chair
For and behalf of The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Members meeting

A virtual Members meeting will be held on Thursday 25th November at 7pm via Zoom. An agenda and details to access the meeting will be issued to Members soon. The meeting will include short updates from the staff team followed by an interactive Q&A session with Directors. For those unable to access online meetings, please contact the Trust office to raise any questions prior and request a transcript after the meeting. The meeting will be recorded and made available online so those members that are unable to attend the live meeting can still view the meeting afterwards.

20th Anniversary of the Community Buyout

We are beginning to make plans for the 20th anniversary celebrations next year. Initial plans include a ceremony on Tuesday 15th March to which residents and stakeholders will be invited, and then a ceilidh on Friday 18th March depending on Covid-19 restrictions. Carly is beginning to pull together plans, however if you wish to input to the plans or have suggestions for the guest list, please contact carly@gigha.org.uk or the Trust office.

Christmas Trail in Achamore Gardens

The Parent Council, in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee, are preparing for another magical Christmas Trail in Achamore Gardens on December 18th and 19th. Please look out for full details nearer the time.

Island Communities Fund

We have been awarded £75,600 from the Island Communities Fund to allow us to install PV solar panels at the Activity Centre which will power our fleet of e-bikes. The proposal is one of many to encourage active travel and using renewable energy sources where possible. The project is to be completed by end of March next year. If you have a particular interest in this project, please contact jane@gigha.org.uk

Shadow Director

The Board would like to offer a 6 month "Shadow Director" opportunity to a young person. The opportunity will allow a young person to sit in Board meetings and gain invaluable insight as to how the Trust operates and learn about general Board governance. The opportunity will offer personal development which may benefit the young person's future career path. Please contact jane@gigha.org.uk if you would like to receive more details.

Christine Mineham

Christine Mineham is moving away at the end of October and we wish her all the very best. Christine has served as a Trust director and has been involved in several community groups such as Gigha and Cara Parish Church, Gigha Community Fund, the Village Hall committee and the Music Festival committee. She was also once a volunteer firefighter! Her contribution to the community will be greatly missed.

Screen Machine

The Screen Machine is returning to Gigha on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th November. Films on show are Paw Patrol, No Time to Die and Our Ladies. It is hoped that the film made for the "Our Island" project will also be shown. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.screenmachine.co.uk/locations/gigha/>



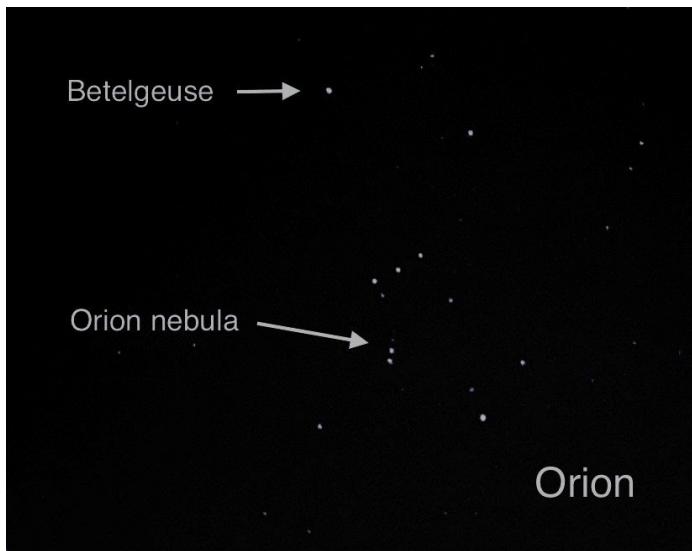
SEASIDE STARS

The return of the hunter!

The temperatures on Gigha might be dropping, but some of autumn's distinctive night sky sights are starting to rise higher above the horizon providing a good reason to wrap up and spend a little time under the stars this November.

Orion is probably the most recognisable of all the constellations, rising in the east around 10pm this month. Named after a hunter in Greek mythology, the bright stars Bellatrix and red super-giant Betelgeuse form the shoulders of the figure in the night sky.

At 10 million years old, Betelgeuse is a relative youngster compared to our 4.5 billion-year-old Sun, and yet it has already burned through much of the fuel at its core. Once the fuel is gone, Betelgeuse will reach the end of its life in an enormous explosion called a supernova. One of the most distinctive parts of Orion is the three-star belt and bright sword. While the sword looks like it is made up of stars, if you have binoculars you may be able to make out that the sword is actually a more fuzzy patch of light. This is an enormous nebula, a large cloud of gas in which scientists have witnessed new stars and planets being formed.



Dark Skies Gigha

Prepare for blast off!

Dark Skies Gigha's plans to promote the Isle of Gigha's exceptionally dark night skies received some good news last month. The National Lottery Awards for All Scotland awarded the group £3500. This will be used to create a 'Dark Sky Theatre' at the far north of the island which is well away from light pollution. The 'theatre' will feature a night sky interpretation board, benches and stargazing pamphlets to help islanders and visitors find their way around the constellations in Gigha's beautiful dark night sky.

The group were also delighted to receive £840 from the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust's Community Fund. This sum will be used to purchase multiple sets of astronomical binoculars for community use at stargazing events.

Dark Skies Gigha is a non-profit community group which aims to encourage and facilitate an interest in observing the night sky as well as providing educational experiences through regular events covering all age groups. The group also raises awareness of the detrimental effects of light pollution on wildlife, humans and the night sky. Dark Skies Gigha is a fully constituted group and is run by a committee of five Gigha islanders.

Gigha Community Fund

The Gigha Community Fund continues to support local projects and since April funds have been awarded to the following projects:

Gigha and Cara Parish Church – grounds maintenance £40.20

Dark Skies – binoculars £840.00

Table Tennis Club – equipment £249.99

Parent Council – Achamore Gardens Christmas Trail £1000.00

There is a vacancy on the Gigha Community Fund Board should you wish to join. Please contact the office for more details.

Gigha and Cara Parish Church

Church services:

14th November with Douglas Allan (Remembrance Service)

12th December with James McLellan

Countryside Ranger

Autumn is upon us and its all about the warm glow of nature. The whole island has turned a shade of copper as the bracken starts to wilt and die off, the trees are presenting their autumnal orange displays, and the fly agaric fungi have made a spectacular appearance at the north end of the island. The island is also seeing its influx of winter visitors. Greylag geese have started coming in their hoards, northern divers are now dotted around the coastline and red-breasted mergansers are becoming bolder splashing around in the shallows.



As part of the Marine Litter Working Group that the ranger service is involved with, training opportunities are being provided for community members to collect data to make a difference to the state of the beaches around the island and national policies for marine plastics in the future. The Marine Conservation Society are offering training for Gigha to become part of the Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) official beach surveys.



MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

ONLINE BEACH SURVEY TRAINING

Monday 8th November 7 – 8pm

- How and why to take part in our Beachwatch litter survey
- All the resources, forms and guidance you need
- How to use your data to inform change in the community

kirsty.crawford@mcsuk.org



The data collected from the surveys are used to inform government decisions and help to shape policies (for example of the ban of plastic cutlery). The training will be offered online and cover how to complete their surveys, how to store the data, and how to become more involved with wider marine litter initiatives. If you would like to join us on the training course, please contact me at ranger@gigha.org.uk and I will send out the web link for the session.

On to another form of pollution, some may have noticed the noise pollution around Achamore Gardens in the last week or so. This was a result of a chainsaw course being undertaken by members of the community, partly funded by the Gateway to Gigha Project to enable community members and young people to upskill and receive training for skills to be maintained on the island. The group did an amazing job of thinning some of the shelter belts around the Gardens and improve site safety by clearing dangerous trees near to the pathways. We hope to run a second round of chainsaw courses in the new year to allow more people to take part and improve the skills they learned this week!

This autumn will also see the start of new monthly “forest school” style sessions initiated by Hannah Storie, and run by both Hannah and Casey-Jo. Our first session will be held on Saturday 6th November at 13:30, and be in-keeping and be in-keeping with the spooky time of year by focusing on the bat species found on Gigha, as well as some woodland cooking, crafts, and wood work. This session is open to children of all ages, but we do ask that you book a place with us as spaces are limited for this session. You can contact Casey-Jo on ranger@gigha.org.uk, or speak to Hannah at the shop. We hope to see you there!

E33 Enercon “Harmony” Turbine

The E33 Enercon turbine is unfortunately out of action again and Enercon technicians have been over a couple of times now trying to resolve the new faults and are now awaiting parts again.

The pole shoes from the previous fault are still on order and we have been told that some sites have now had these parts fitted so hopefully there should be some coming to us shortly, but still no delivery date

The insurers are waiting for further information from Enercon so as to assist with our claim for loss of production.

We have been chasing Enercon up, but manufacturers in China are still catching up with all the back orders due to the Covid pandemic.

Homehunt Gigha

If you wish to apply for Trust housing you must firstly be registered with Homehunt Gigha, even if you are already a Trust tenant. Your registration date could be relevant when properties are allocated as they are allocated using the following criteria:

1. Best Use – do you fit the best use of the property compared to another applicant? i.e. using all available bedrooms.

2. Priority Pass Level awarded – the applicant with the highest level pass (gold, silver or bronze). You may apply for a Priority Pass under 4 different categories.

3. Date of registration – if the first two criteria are equal, the applicant registered first would be allocated the property.

If you wish to register with Homehunt Gigha, please contact the office on 01583 505390 or email shona@gigha.org.uk

Trust properties are allocated by the Housing Allocation Group, made up of islanders, who are independent of the office. If you wish to join the Housing Allocation Group, please contact the office.

Net Zero Gigha Group

In last month's newsletter we put a call out for anyone looking to join a community group that will look at ways to tackle climate change at a local level. The group held their first meeting where many proposals and ideas were shared. The group hope to host a community open day in the new year – so keep an eye out for details!

In the run up to COP26, architects throughout Scotland are aiming to raise awareness about the impacts of the Climate Emergency, particularly the potential impacts of local sea and water level rises and engage communities in what they might do to prevent a worst-case scenario. The architects have designed a travelling marker that is being moved around the country and have been in contact about Gigha hosting the marker from Monday 8th November - Monday 15th November. The marker is likely to be placed near the Activity Centre to allow for easy access and visibility. Keep your eyes peeled for posters at the noticeboard and on Facebook for more details!

Example of Coastal Marker:



Welcome Hut

Adjacent to the Activity Centre, you may have seen some clearance works for our new Welcome Hut which is being made my Auchencorvie sawmill. The 8ft wide wooden hut will host visitor management signage and a place for leaflets to be held to ensure visitors are accessing as much information as possible before exploring Gigha. The hut is due to be delivered soon and the area cleared will also host one of the stone interpretation points as part of the Gateway to Gigha project.

GREL & GPL Board Update

We welcome Tim Lister who has volunteered to join the boards of Gigha Renewable Energy Ltd and Gigha Green Power Ltd. Tim has been appointed as a director as of 25th October 2021 and we look forward his contribution to the running of the companies.

Gateway to Gigha

It's been another busy month of the Gateway to Gigha Project. With delivery of all aggregate and stone, and onward transit to path build sites, construction of the network is well underway. Please look out for any signs that may restrict access during the development – we apologise for any inconvenience. We look forward to everyone enjoying the routes soon. Elsewhere, a site visit has been held for contractors interested in tendering for work on the Phase 2 or 'trod path' routes.



Designs of heritage interpretation panels and wayfinders are progressing and will be shared in a future newsletter when complete. Plans for a Community Heritage Project that will offer training and the opportunity to become involved in conservation of heritage features and monuments are being developed in collaboration with representatives of Historic Environment Scotland and the University of Glasgow.

Meanwhile our new e-bikes are awaiting delivery from Oban Cycles and we will be arranging a small workshop for those who might be involved in future maintenance. As ever, please get in touch for a chat if you wish to know more. Craig: craig@gigha.org.uk, 0755 469 2799.

Countryside Ranger's Photo of the Month:

Fly agaric spotted amongst the fairies at the north end of the island!



Main Contacts

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Accounts / Finance:

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Achamore Gardens: gardens@gigha.org.uk

Countryside Ranger: ranger@gigha.org.uk

Marketing: marketing@gigha.org.uk