



GIGHA NEWS



Welcome to the September 2021 Gigha News

Dear Member,

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

Regards,

Ian Wilson

Chair

For and behalf of The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Camp and Motorhome Manager

There is an exciting opportunity to work for the Trust to establish the Camp and Motorhome site as one of the many tourism assets that Gigha has to offer. The Trust is keen to find a manager that can work with existing tourism businesses and the Trust to develop the campsite business and Gigha as a key visitor destination.

The Camp and Motorhome site will be open from April until October. The post will be a salaried position with a commission share. Responsibilities will include the day-to-day management of the Camp and Motorhome site and amenities, including management of booking systems and customer care. Flexible and out-of-working hours are required throughout the season.

To register an interest please email shona@gigha.org.uk or telephone 01583 505390.

Marketing Graduate

We have appointed our website designers who will be working with the Trust to create the new 'Visit Gigha' website. Our website designers are regular visitors to Gigha and have great existing knowledge of the island. Currently Carly is working with the designers, updating and creating content for the website with the hopes to launch the final completed website in Spring of 2022. A reminder to local business owners and accommodation providers to look out for an email from Carly our Marketing Graduate regarding our new 'Visit Gigha' website.

what3words-

what3words is a simple and easy way to describe any precise location. It has divided the world into 3m squares and given each one a unique identifier made from three words. what3words can be used via the free mobile app and the online map at what3words.com.

This app proves particularly useful in emergency situations, especially in remote areas where addressing might not be as precise. Sharing your what3words location with emergency services can give them your exact location straight away for a faster response. For businesses and accommodation providers, listing your what3words address can also help customers to find your exact location much more efficiently as postcodes often cover a large area. If you would like any further information on how to find your 3 word address, please contact Carly at marketing@gigha.org.uk



S S E T E A I R N S G

The Seven Sisters eyesight test

How is your eyesight? You can use the stars above Gigha as an eye test. Just take a look at the beautiful Pleiades star cluster. It can be found in the east this month from around 10pm.



Seeing Stars continued

Known as the Seven Sisters and located in the constellation of Taurus, it actually consists of more than seven stars. In ancient times if a soldier in the Roman army could see all seven main stars, it marked him out as suitable for the position of scout or as an archer. To be able to see five was considered good. The best way to locate the Pleiades is to start from the prominent winter constellation of Orion. A line extended upwards along Orion's three belt stars passes just below the bright star, Aldebaran. Extending this line a little further locates the Pleiades. How many stars do you see there?

STV Studios Production "Murder Island"

The highly anticipated STV Studios production "Murder Island" is being broadcast on Channel 4 on Tuesday 5th October over 6 weeks. Filmed on Gigha during May, the show was written by Ian Rankin and is a combination of drama and competition, with contestants brought in to solve the murder.



Gateway to Gigha

All of the aggregate required for our path network has now arrived on the island, and most of it distributed to the places it will be needed. Congratulations and many thanks to Colin Campbell, his team and others, for bringing this unique and exciting transportation and distribution plan to fruition! We now look forward to seeing the network taking shape on the ground.



While the Phase 1 works - the creation of 'shared use' paths - has occupied our minds and much of our activity for the past few months, work is also moving steadily towards the creation of Phase 2, a series of further circular walks for the slightly more adventurous walker, including the Southern and Northern Loops, and Western Link, and a route up Dun Chibhich. Meanwhile the final pieces of the heritage jigsaw are coming together, the 'must-tell' stories of the island's past and present culture, ready for presentation on a series of 7 stone-built heritage interpretation points and series of wayfinders that will be set out across the path network. We know that we can only scratch the surface of Gigha's rich heritage through these media, so we will soon be presenting our design and content plans to the community to make sure that we are at least representing the stories that islanders consider most significant. There will be scope for more in-depth storytelling on the new website. A Community Heritage Plan and Project are now being developed too, and there will be opportunity in these for local folk to receive training in path and heritage site maintenance and to become involved in practical work parties.

Elsewhere within the Gateway Project, our e-bikes have been purchased from Oban Cycles and we look forward to receiving delivery, and maintenance training for interested community members, in October. We have funding too for adaptive e-bikes, bikes which open the shared path network to a wider group of users.

I look forward to updating you further next month but, as ever, please feel free to contact me about any aspect of the Gateway to Gigha Project in the meantime.

Telephone 0755 469 2799 or email craig@gigha.org.uk

Chimney Sweeping

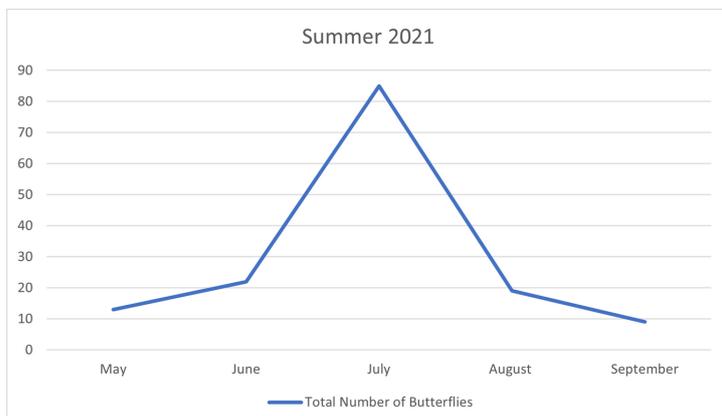
If you require to have your chimney swept, please let the office know so that we can pass the details on to Kintyre Stoveworks to organise dates and times directly with the householder. This service is available to Trust tenants and homeowners and is the responsibility of the householder to pay for the service directly with the chimney sweep.

Countryside Ranger

September will see the end of the summer surveys such as butterfly transects, cetacean watches, and bumblebee counts. We've had some mixed weather this summer, and it seems to have done a fabulous job of bringing out some of our more concealed species like an array of moth caterpillars, common lizards and toads galore. Our butterfly transects this year showed that species peaked in July at 85 individuals counted throughout the month. In order to keep data consistent the transect follows the same route each week and is split into 5 sections encompassing 5 different habitats: road verges, woodland, moorland, agricultural fields and wet meadow.



The woodland section saw absolutely no butterflies, whereas the moorland trumped the rest by hosting over double the amount of individuals recorded on the road verges, wet meadow and agricultural fields. Given most of us see – or at least expect to see – butterflies flitting around the road edges due to the plant variety and wildflowers, this could be an indication that verge cutting schedules are not promoting our butterfly species, as the road verges hosted the same amount of species diversity as the moorland. Something to consider for next year. When the Ranger 1 year anniversary comes around in November, I will be producing a species and role report, for a more detailed look at some of the data collected!



This month, the Gateway to Gigha Project funded four young people to take part in a drystone walling course run by Ayrshire Training Services to ensure land management skills are available and kept on island, as well as provide training opportunities and upskilling for young residents. The group did an amazing job on the wall opposite the Village Hall, and with any luck we'll see them working on various walls across the island in the future!



Back in June, I wrote about our work with the Scottish Islands Federation to form a Marine Litter Working Group (MLWG). The group now contains 10 representatives from all 6 island regions across Scotland and has identified that the situation on islands is not fully reflected in policy due to current data collection methods. The group is now working with Scottish government's Marine Scotland Science to develop an island specific data gathering model, as well as Marine Conservation Society to deliver training on how to collect data, and more importantly, make use of it.

Countryside Ranger continued

We are also exploring options to appoint a Marine Litter Coordinator to take forward ideas from the working group. Last week the group had the opportunity to present its work at the global Virtual Island Summit 2021 to join in the conversation surrounding circular economy and find solutions to the vast amount of plastic already existing in our oceans. Some of these solutions included art installations, processing the plastic into pellets to be reused for future products in an attempt to reduce the use of raw materials, and creating underwater reefs to support biodiversity. However, it was clear that the issues still really lie with the manufacturers and finding alternatives to plastic product. The hope is that this group can have an influence on Scottish governmental policy and initiatives to tackle this issue going forward.

Photo of the month: harbour seals on Craro



Gigha and Cara Parish Church

Gigha and Cara Parish Church session clerk, Christine Mineham, will be leaving us later this year. We will miss Christine very much and wish her all the best for her future. The Church here on Gigha will be left with just 5 elderly elders. The Treasurer, though not resigning as an elder, intends to give up the Treasurership in two years time. Do you, the people of Gigha wish to have the presence of the Christian Church on Gigha? I'm not just referring to the building. We care for the people of Gigha. We are open to new ways of "doing church" but we need younger folk to help us move forward. Our next service in the Church will be the Harvest Thanksgiving on 10th October conducted by Rev Anne McIvor. Over the last few years we have sent the harvest gifts to the food bank in Campbeltown, so non-perishable, tins and dried goods would be welcome. There will also be a retiring collection for Christian Aid who do invaluable work helping people to help themselves.

Net Zero for Gigha

The climate conference COP26 will be held in Glasgow this Autumn. This is seen as the last real chance for the international community to decide a course of action that will enable Net Zero to be reached before the average temperature increase exceeds 1.5°C . It is currently 1.2°C and increasing at 0.1°C every ten years. Even at 1.5°C, there is a strong possibility of 1m sea-level rise by 2100, and if there is no concerted action internationally, as well as within the UK, then 2m is now seen as a probability. Of course there are many other changes the island may experience as a result of climate change, including very long dry periods like the one we have experienced this year which will affect agriculture. Gigha islanders currently produce/emit about 2200 tonnes of CO2 every year. The Scottish Government have a target for reaching Net Zero for Scotland by 2045, with many funding opportunities coming available to community-led action. To make a real impact, an island wide action plan must be put together to offset Gigha's carbon footprint.

We would like the community to steer the direction and support those developments which Gigha needs to take to address the climate emergency. Ideas such as change of land use and major renewables development are amongst other proposals - including changing our own behaviour. We would like to form a steering group mainly made up of community members, whether that is existing groups or individuals, along with 1 or 2 IGH T representatives, who can develop and support bringing plans to fruition through funding opportunities, employment, and promotions. We hope that Gigha can make a real difference.

Please contact the IGH T office to express your interest in getting involved and joining the Net Zero for Gigha steering group. Email: jane@gigha.org.uk

COVID-19 Testing

Please be reminded that under no circumstances should COVID-19 test kits be placed into the general Royal Mail post box on Gigha, as these should only be placed into priority post boxes. Please visit <https://www.royalmail.com/services-near-you> to find priority post boxes in the area.

Flora McNeill

We are very sorry to hear of the passing of Flora McNeill, resident on the Isle of Gigha for most of her life. Flora worked at the Creamery at Achamore Farm until its closure, as housekeeper at Achamore House and at the Gigha Hotel until her retirement. She will be sadly missed.

“Our Gigha and me”

The Ideas Fund offers support to rural communities who offer up personal and grass roots ideas, enabling us to explore and try out ideas that address issues around mental wellbeing. ‘Our Gigha and me’ has been successful in the first round of funding; the bid focusing on issues of social isolation which were magnified during lockdown, particularly for young people and families, as well as the wider community. The aim of the project is how we can best use our beautiful Island to connect with nature to bring us the best in terms of wellbeing. So now it’s over to us! To make sure we’re capturing all the best ideas of how to achieve this, there is an introductory drop-in session at the Village Hall on Saturday 23rd October, 12.30pm-3pm. Everyone with ideas of what might work are welcome, or even if you’re just a wee bit interested, please come along! Would love your input! The initial application suggested story trails, nature activities, a den and meeting place but these are just initial ideas, there might be much more, especially from the local children and their parents.

Please come, there is scope for us to develop this in a way that’s been identified by us, which feels quite exciting. Any questions, or if you can’t make it on 23rd then please call me! And thank you in anticipation! Maggie (Wilkieson) 01583 505234.



Disposal of large items

If you have large items, such as white goods, to be disposed of, the Trust may be able to help with this if a trip to the commercial waste depot in Campbeltown is already required. Please contact the office if you wish to use this service, which will be charged for. All items must be stored responsibly by the householder until collected and must not be dropped off at the Trust office or elsewhere on the island.

Bookbug Sessions

I’m delighted to start up the Bookbug Sessions again after a long break! If you would like to join us, we’d love to see you. 10:30am in the Village Hall on Friday 8th and Thursday 28th of October, with other dates to follow. I would like to ask parents/carers to wear a mask when arriving and when moving around the Village Hall. Sanitiser and Track and Trace information will be there for you to fill in. I will be providing each family group with their own puppets, musical instruments and fabrics for the session. Children are not required to socially distance, but adults will be asked to socially distance. I really hope that you can join us for some fun songs and stories. Hannah Storie.

Parent Council

ACHAMORE CHRISTMAS TRAIL VOLUNTEERS WANTED!



Looking for Volunteers to assist with the Enchanted Achamore Gardens Trail! Coming to Gigha 18/19th December 2021.

We require Prince charming’s & Princesses to defend the route, mythic creatures to construct displays & various fairies to add some magic.

If you would like further information on how you can be involved, please email Mari at mariw@hotmail.co.uk or call Audrey at the school on 01583 505259.

(We are looking for groups & individuals to help us this year, whether it’s to design a display, help hang some lights or just to give us your ideas. We would love to hear from you!)

Gigha Primary School

We took the theme of the Paralympics this term to explore disabilities and hidden disabilities. The children planned, organised and ran their own mini Olympics event involving javelin, long jump, hurdles and beanbag shot putt. Taking part were team Sweden, team Jamaica and team Antigua and team Barbuda. The winners were presented with a personally designed medal, a natural crown made of Gigha withies and a bouquet of Gigha wildflowers. The events were videoed and we are going to make it into a short film and watch the film on a big screen.

Our work on the Paralympics has inspired us to revisit our school values and we have worked together to agree a new set of proposed values to support our vision for a happy, healthy and hardworking school. We would welcome some feedback from our community about our proposals. We are taking votes now from parents and our community to help inform our final decision. If you can let us know which would be your top three in ranked order from:

- Wisdom
- Kindness
- Togetherness
- Respect
- Uniqueness

Please call the school office 01583 505 259 or email enquiries-gigha@argyll-bute.gov.uk and let us know what you decide your top three are.

Three musicians from the local Fèis an Tairbeirt came to show us some traditional Scottish and Gaelic tunes and songs. We learned how to tell the difference between Jigs and Reels. They played guitar, tin whistle, harp and violin. We enjoyed clapping the beats, singing along and learning some Gaelic words. We were also given the chance to learn an instrument and have online lessons with professional music teachers. We really enjoyed this event and we hope we will be able to do this again soon. We are hosting a visit from three other small schools for a workshop day with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and their associate artist Lucy Drever. Four musicians will visit to lead us in a composition workshop using natural objects/recorded sounds to write a song/piece of music inspired by positive action to combat climate change. We will also be visiting Campbeltown for a concert with a 16-piece Orchestral Ensemble.

We are very glad that Argyll and Bute Council have worked so hard with us to risk assess and enable these kinds of activities to be enjoyed once again in a Covid-Safe way.

If anyone has chunky wool scraps, knitting needles, fabric pieces or buttons for some of our autumn creative projects we would be very glad to receive them.



Halloween Pumpkin Hunt

The Halloween Pumpkin Hunt will be on Sunday 31st October. Please look out for posters for more details on how to participate or contact the School on 01583 505259.

Main Contacts

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- Accounts / Finance: ightcentralaccounts@gigha.org.uk
- Achamore Gardens: gardens@gigha.org.uk
- Countryside Ranger: ranger@gigha.org.uk
- Marketing: marketing@gigha.org.uk