

# ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST

## NewsLetter April 2024

**The 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 delivered to the Trust Office will not be considered by the Board.**

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

### The Sound of Gigha

The Sound of Gigha Weekend is taking place 7th-9th June 2024 and we have a very exciting programme including ticketed gigs with Anna Massie, Gunna Sound and The Poozies, free family fun day with market, art gallery, children's entertainment, live music, Our Climate Parade and more, and a wellbeing day in Achamore Gardens with Swedish coffee morning, tai chi taster, forest bathing walk and sound bath experience.

Want to get involved? Here's how:

- Buy tickets at [thesoundofgigha.co.uk](http://thesoundofgigha.co.uk) or at the Campsite
- Display your art at the Art Gallery - speak to Anna Lannigan
- Hold a stall at the Makers' Market - speak to Mark Cosgrove-Ward
- Volunteer as one of The Sound of Gigha Crew - we're looking for help with
  - the bar and/or door at the gigs
  - setting up and packing away the daytime activities
  - the bars during the daytime events
  - take photos and/or run our social media for the weekend
  - meet and greet performers/entertainers at the ferry

If you can just spare us a couple of hours over the weekend, we'd be incredibly grateful to make it a great event for everyone. Please email [thesoundofgigha@gmail.com](mailto:thesoundofgigha@gmail.com) or speak to any member of the committee.

### Gigha Moorings and pontoons

The pontoons are now available for the season.

Special thanks to Colin at Campbell Marine Contracts for getting the pontoons back out. The pontoons are very exposed during the winter months and are therefore removed to prevent any additional wear and tear or damage. The reinstatement of the pontoons and link bridge is weather and tidal dependant and can be an extremely dangerous operation that can only be achieved when the correct sea state conditions allow. Thanks to funding from Argyll and Bute Council, the link bridge will be upgraded by next year, allowing it to be raised instead of removed for wintering which will be much safer and easier for getting the pontoons in and out.

Please be advised that the pontoons should not be used in easterly winds. The pontoons are available alongside 23 visitor moorings.



## Gigha Hotel

The bar renovation drawings were issued to the membership recently. Any final feedback on the drawings should be sent to Jane M as soon as possible. The building warrant application will be submitted, and a tender package will be issued to contractors.

## Summer Pop-up Bar

The Summer bar will be opening on the 4th of May with craft small batch beer brewed on the island as well as your winter bar favourites in the beer garden of the Hotel. Opening hours to begin with will be Friday 2 till 9, Saturday 2 till 9, Sunday 12 – 5. Hope to see you then!



## Save the date!

Saturday 11th May – Ceilidh with The Michael Garvin Trio (licensed bar) – pay on entry

Saturday 18th May – Achamore Gardens Residents Picnic (booking required)

Friday 7th – Sunday 9th June – The Sound of Gigha concerts and events (licensed bar) – tickets on sale now

Saturday 16th June – Gigha Primary School Summer Fair and Pet Show

Saturday 29th June – Boathouse Raft Race

Saturday 3rd August – Furboch ceilidh (licensed bar) – pay on entry

## Gigha and Cara Parish Church

Services this month are on May 12th and May 26th at 11am. All are welcome at these services. Since January 2023 Gigha Church has been part of the wider parish of Mid Kintyre and Gigha and this parish is linked to the parish of Tarbert, Loch Fyne with Rev Lyn Peden as our Minister. Every time there are 5 Sundays in a month there will be a joint service in one of the 4 churches in our parish (Clachan, Skipness, A'Chleit and Gigha). Our service will be at the end of June. At Pentecost, May 19th, there will be a joint Communion Service in Tarbert Church at 11.30 am followed by a soup and sandwich lunch. It is important for the Tarbert folk to know how many to cater for so if you are meaning to attend this service please let me (Susan) know so I can provide Tarbert with the numbers.

## Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

We have secured a total of £150k towards the MUGA development! The funding has been awarded from Sportscotland, Robert Barr Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation & Argyll & Bute Council. The Parent Council have also raised £5,000 which is included in the funding package total. Thank you to everyone who has donated and supported Parent Council activities and events in aid of the MUGA! We are now waiting on planning permission to be approved before moving forward with the construction tender process.

## Community Helipad

Works have taken a pause on the helipad whilst the concrete slab cures. Colin Campbell along with other local contractors will be completing the drainage, access track and paint markings. McFadyens Contractors are then lined up to tar the bellmouth, access track and turning/parking area.

## Housing

The housing project continues to progress well and on budget; the better weather is making a difference and construction is expected to be completed by September. In the coming months, we will be asking those interested in the properties to formally register with the HomeHunt process. Keep an eye out for this!

## Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

The swallows have arrived, the blackcaps are singing their hearts out in Achamore Gardens and a few heronries have been spotted about the island. Such a lovely sign of the better months to come.

It's been a community-heavy month in April. We have finished our Easter events including: building beautiful hedgehog houses to highlight the invasiveness of this species and using the houses as a way to monitor numbers; We had a rather drizzly moth morning, but despite a hairy moment with a broken moth trap, we managed to capture 22 moths and 11 different species; We created some beautiful fairy doors that are now in the woodland opposite the fire station; And we held our favourite event of the year: our annual bat walk! We didn't identify anything more than common and soprano pipistrelles, but we had a great time, ending the evening with campfire marshmallows and a little hedgehog sighting to boot. Our last event in April was a wonderfully relaxed morning at Forest School learning how to identify wildflowers and creating some beautiful Hapa Zome prints. Thank you to everyone who joined us for these events, you have made this a blimin' fabulously fun month to be a Countryside Ranger.



## Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

Achamore Gardens and the Ranger Service also held a session in the Village Hall to discuss visitor management, the future development of the Gardens, and Gigha's Woodland Management Plan. Achamore Gardens had almost 100% support for a new propagation centre and visitor space which would include a heritage centre. Under visitor management, it was made clear that campervans/motorhomes outwith the campsite are felt to be an issue by the community, and our visitor information needs to be improved. The main comments regarding the Woodland Management Plan included diversifying the spruce stands around the island, maintaining the woodlands under IGHT management, and island fire wood production carried out by IGHT, as income for the Trust.

There is still the opportunity to find out more or give us your thoughts, so please ping an email to [ranger@gigha.org.uk](mailto:ranger@gigha.org.uk) if you would like to have your say or ask any questions. We want to thank everyone who came along and gave us feedback on the three topics. The comments will help us with management in the future.



As for our pathways, we recently had a helicopter drop of 20 tonne of stone to the north of Dun Chibhich to make accessing the summit of the fort easier and less wet underfoot. If using this route please take care in this area as large armour stone is positioned to the side of the path. Our final path work phase, kindly funded through Argyll and Bute Council, will hopefully be going ahead in May and June to finish off access to Dun Chibhich and Cuddyport.

Events to look out for in May:

- Medicinal properties of plants and tea making, 11th May at 10am (please email to reserve a spot and for more information).
- Forest School, keep an eye on social media and posters at the shop (please reserve a space with Hannah or at [ranger@gigha.org.uk](mailto:ranger@gigha.org.uk)).

## Renewables

The gearbox in T2 was replaced on 28th April after a series of unforeseen setbacks.

T1 is awaiting an endoscope team to investigate a major issue, which is possibly with the main shaft and bearing.

## Airstrip

Tenders are invited for the maintenance of the microlight landing area and the parking area of the Airstrip on the Isle of Gigha.

The landing area and parking area are to be cut every 2-3 weeks or when conditions allow to ensure safe landing and parking for microlight aircraft and visitor/leisure helicopters.

The area to be cut and maintained is 350 meters by 30 meters on the northern side of the airstrip.

Equipment used should minimise impact on the airstrip surface.

Please submit your proposal in writing to Gigha Trading and Renewables Ltd, Craft Workshop 1, Isle of Gigha, Argyll, PA41 7AA or email [trading@gigha.org.uk](mailto:trading@gigha.org.uk) by Monday 6th May 2024.

## Community Fund

The Gigha Community Fund has awarded £985 to Sound of Gigha to provide additional chairs, tables and gazebos to facilitate the Makers' Market on the Saturday daytime event.

## Transport Scotland Consultation

There's still time to take part in our Islands Connectivity Plan consultation. It sets out a long-term vision of how ferry services, supported by other transport modes, will be delivered and improved in the future. Have your say before 3rd May: [Public Consultation for Islands Connectivity Plan - Strategic Approach Paper and Vessels and Ports Plan](#) | [Transport Scotland](#)

## Gigha Primary School & Early Learning Centre

It has now been two weeks since we have returned from the Easter break and it is lovely to have been outside in the sunshine again! Outside our seedlings are growing well and pupils have spent time weeding and watering. In Science we have begun to learn more about plants and our older pupils are learning about the importance of sustainability in our gardening techniques. Inside the school has seen changes to the extension room which has now become a designated 'Play-based learning environment'. Our Home Corner is taking shape as a Café area, creating reading and writing opportunities for pupils through imaginative play. We are looking for pots, pans, cups and saucers if anyone has any spare which they would be willing to donate.

This term we will soon begin our long-awaited swimming lessons at Campbeltown Aquilibrium using some of the money we raised at last year's Summer Fair. This year the Primary School and ELC pupils will all experience six weeks of swimming tuition, developing their physical wellbeing as well as teaching vital water safety skills. We will also be accessing Campbeltown library and learning about their service for young people.

Pupils are also planning this year's Summer Fair and Pet Show which will take place on Saturday 16th June from 12-3pm in the Primary School and ELC. Funds raised will go towards our end of term trip and swimming lessons for next year. Summer Fair activities will include soup and sandwiches, home baking, a bottle stall and activity stalls run by the children. Please save the date and come along to support our wonderful school and ELC.

The next meeting will be the AGM held on Tuesday 28th May at 6pm in Gigha Primary School.

**Achamore Gardens**

**Vacancy – Senior Gardener**

Closing date: 5pm on Friday 17th May 2024

Salary: £24,000 - £28,000 depending on experience.

Job type: permanent, full time. 35 hours per week, including weekend working on a rota April – September

Location: Isle of Gigha, located 3 miles west of the Kintyre peninsula.

**We are looking for an enthusiastic, creative, and skilled craft gardener to join our small team at Achamore Gardens and help us restore this important garden.**

Achamore Gardens is owned and managed by the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust (IGHT). The Isle of Gigha was purchased by the community in 2002, and IGHT was established to manage the assets of the island on behalf of the community.

The 52 acres of woodland and ornamental gardens that make up Achamore are home to a notable collection of species and hybrid Rhododendrons, as well as a wide range of specimen and ornamental trees, shrubs, and other plants. The garden includes a 2-acre walled garden, where, thanks to Achamore's extremely mild microclimate, we can grow and propagate some remarkably tender plants that are rarely found growing in Scotland. The garden is currently undergoing an ambitious restoration project, and you will be joining us as we enter phase 2 of this programme.

Our gardening team carry out all aspects of maintaining and improving the gardens, from weeding and mowing, through plant propagation and cultivation, to ditching, path construction and forestry works. The garden is open to the public year-round, and providing a great visitor experience is essential to the role. You will be an enthusiastic and passionate gardener, with a love for plants, good horticultural knowledge, and a wide range of craft skills. You will play an active role in leading both staff and volunteers, supporting and deputising for the Head Gardener on a day-to-day basis, so good leadership and organisational skills are a must. You will be a great communicator, happy to engage with people of all ages, and able to share your skills and passion with them. You will be happy to work outdoors in all weather, and willing to turn your hand to a wide range of tasks. There is the potential for future promotion for the right candidate, and accommodation will be available.

For an application pack or if you would like to talk to us about the role before you apply, please email our Head Gardener, Bryony White at [gardens@gigha.org.uk](mailto:gardens@gigha.org.uk)

**An in-person assessment and interview day will be held on Gigha the week commencing 3rd June.**

**\*\*\*Achamore Gardens Open Day\*\*\***

**Saturday 4th May 10 am - 4 pm**

**Entry fee £7.00 - children go free**

**Tea, coffee and cake in Gigha Village Hall**

**Plants for sale**

**Fees go towards Scotland's Gardens Scheme and Gigha Village Hall**



Full information at  
[scotlandsgardens.org](http://scotlandsgardens.org)

Scotland's  
**GARDENS**  
Scheme  
OPEN FOR CHARITY

Scottish Charity No. SC049866



Visit our website to  
check for updates

# Residents' Picnic at Achamore Gardens



18.05.24 | 12.30pm

Walled Gardens

Grab your picnic blankets for an afternoon in Achamore Gardens!

**Prior booking for picnics is essential.**

Please notify us of any dietary requirements. We only ask that you bring your own drinks.

To reserve a place please call 01583 505390 or email [ranger@gigha.org.uk](mailto:ranger@gigha.org.uk) by 8th May.





JOIN US FOR A GIGHA  
VILLAGE HALL CEILIDH  
WITH

# THE GARVIN TRIO

SAT 11TH MAY  
FROM 7PM

COMPLIMENTARY SUPPER FROM 7-8

RAFFLE & ROLL £1 AT THE BOTTLE

LICENCED BAR

AND A GOOD OLD GIGHA  
CEILIDH WITH THE FABULOUS  
GARVIN TRIO

ADULTS: £12

CHILDREN 12-16: £6

UNDER 12's: FREE

HAGGIS,  
NEEPS AND  
TATTIES OR  
VEGATERIAN  
HAGGIS

TRADITIONAL CEILIDH BAND

TICKET PURCHASE ON THE DOOR AND RAFFLE  
TICKETS AVAILABLE TO BUY NOW AT ARDMINISH  
STORES