

ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST NewsLetter March 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

Gigha Day & Simon Fraser Memorial event

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Gigha Day celebrations. We were pleased to welcome representatives from Community Land Scotland, Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS), Scottish Land Commission, MP, Councillors and other stakeholders alongside many residents. The event was supported by Community Land Scotland as part of their national celebrations for 100 Years of Community Ownership. As part of the event, we remembered the work of Simon Fraser who played a major role in land reform. As a tribute to Simon, we welcomed his wife, Ann Fraser, to raise the Gigha flag. Alongside the flag raising, Gigha Primary buried a time capsule. All the pupils have included a letter which tells a little bit about themselves alongside what they would like to see Gigha like in 100 years. They have also included a photo of something that is important to them and want children of the future to see.



After the flag raising and time capsule, we headed into the Hotel where there was a spread of food. There were a couple of mapping activities – the first was to create a timeline of what has happened over the last 100 years on Gigha. The second mapping activity was for people to write what they want to see Gigha like in 100 years' time.

We invited speakers to the event. The theme was “Community Wealth Building”. Our first speaker was Neil McInroy. Neil is an international expert on Community Wealth Building and is the global lead for Community Wealth Building at The Democracy Collaborative and is Chair of the Economic Development Association of Scotland. Our second speaker was Miriam Brett who is a Co-Director of Future Economy Scotland which is a think tank that aims to create a democratic, sustainable, and just economy for everyone.



Gigha Day celebrations continued into the evening with the Jacobites ceilidh band playing in the hall.

Gigha Hotel

SKS Scotland have completed works on the Options Appraisal for future management of the Hotel. An outline of the report along with the recommendation will be shared with Members soon. We are hoping to have the drawing of the proposed new bar layout ready soon and will send this information together in a separate document. The Trust has been spending some time doing essential repairs and maintenance to the property. The Trust has also recently secured some funding to renovate the pub and community function space. These works are scheduled to be carried out throughout the 2024 season, meaning the Hotel will not be open this season. Whilst we would rather have the Hotel open again as soon as possible, we need to complete these works to ensure the sustainability of the Hotel. The works being carried out will hopefully improve the Hotel's offering and more widely support our community and visitors. We will be advertising the opportunity to manage the Hotel at a future date - watch this space!

The Sound of Gigha

The programme for the Sound of Gigha Weekend on 7-9th June is coming together and we hope to have tickets on sale in the next couple of weeks for Anna Massie, Gunna Sound and The Poozies. In addition, there will be a whole heap of free daytime activities including live music, children's entertainer with face painting, a marine parade, makers' market, art gallery and photography competition, darks skies workshops, Swedish coffee morning, tai chi, forest bathing and a sound bath. If you're interested in having a stall at the market, exhibiting at the art gallery, volunteering over the weekend or anything else at all, please email thesoundofgigha@gmail.com

Gigha Community Council

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th April in Gigha Primary School at 6pm.



Gigha Winter Bar

As winter is now behind us (in theory), Gigha Winter Bar will close its doors on 31st March. We would like to thank everyone who has supported the business and banter over the last 6 months. The Trust would like to thank Anna and Dave Lannigan for managing the bar over the winter and for hosting many great events which has brought the community together.

A plan is underway to open a pop-up bar in the hotel beer garden in the very near future - watch this space!

Campsite

The Campsite has reopened in time for Easter, and we are looking forward to welcoming new and repeat guests back to the island. Please be aware that due to a limitation in sewage treatment capacity, the campsite will only be able to offer use of the facilities to guests staying on the campsite this year. We will not be able to offer the toilets and showers to pontoon and mooring users at the moment. We are working to rectify the situation as soon as we can.

Save the date!

Friday 12th April - The Mad Ferret Band concert (licensed bar) – tickets on sale – details below

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

Saturday 18th May – Achamore Gardens Residents Picnic

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

Saturday 29th June – Boathouse Raft Race

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

Gigha Village Hall

The Mad Ferret band will be performing at Gigha Village Hall on Friday 12th April. Doors open at 7:30pm. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite or on the door.

Tickets: Adults £12; Concessions £10; Adult plus 1 Child £15. Licenced Bar.

Ticket Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../the-mad-ferret-band-whirl...>



Gigha Village Hall Cleaner

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Michelle Bannatyne for all the hard work over the years cleaning Gigha Village Hall! Michelle finishes up with us at the end of March and we'll shortly be looking for a cleaner to join the team (details to follow).

Gigha Village Hall Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for some Easter fun on the 31st of March! All Welcome from 2pm at the Village Hall. We are still on the look out for some home baking if anyone can help us out we'd be extremely grateful!

Gigha Village Hall Whist

Whist champs for 2023/24 session are Neil Bannatyne (adults) and Mark Dennis (under 18s). Great turnouts each week, for cards, good company and craic. Proceeds (just over £1,200 this year) used to support the Hall to run children's events for the year, including Halloween, Christmas and Easter. The Village Hall Committee are truly grateful for the ongoing community support to enable these events to continue.

Gigha Village Hall are always looking for new Committee Members to join the team. If you are interested please don't hesitate to contact us.

We are always on the look out for volunteers to provide home baking too so please let us know if you can help!



Gigha Village Hall Community- Hannah Storie, Joe Teale, Phoebe Brown, Nicola Evans, Maggie Wilkieson, Tracy Wilson and Karen York.

Email: gighavillagehall@gmail.com

Renewables

The gearbox replacement in wind turbine T2 has now been scheduled for 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.

Community Helipad

The Royal Engineers have completed their 3 weeks stay on the island. It has been great having them on the island and having them involved within the community. Some further finishing touches will be completed in the coming weeks – such as tarring the access track and painting the landing markings. We are hoping to be in a position to have an official opening ceremony in late April if all goes well with the final works.

Thanks to the 39 Engineer Regiment!



Photo courtesy of Don Dennis

39 Engineer Regiment SSgt Curtis Noble shared a few words with the community the night before departure: “As our helicopter construction project comes to a close, I stand here with a heart full of gratitude. From the moment we set foot on this beautiful island, you welcomed us with open arms and warm smiles. Your kindness, hospitality, and unwavering support have made our time here not just productive, but truly memorable.

Every day, as we worked tirelessly to build the helipad, your encouragement and camaraderie has lifted our spirits and fueled our determination. Whether it was a friendly wave from across the street or a home cooked meal delivered to the hotel, each interaction with the residents of Gigha reminded us why supporting this community is so vital.

Your patience and understanding during the construction process has been invaluable. Despite the inevitable disruptions, you embraced the project with a spirit of cooperation and goodwill that is truly commendable.

As we prepare to bid farewell to the island, I want to express my deepest appreciation to each and every one of you. Thank you for opening your hearts and your homes to us. Thank you for making us feel like part of the Gigha family. And thank you for teaching us the true meaning of hospitality.”

Audrey Tart

Audrey Tart came to live on Gigha in 1988 with her late husband Mick, residing at Croft 3-4. Mick passed away in 2014 and Audrey moved to 2 Keill Cottages for a short period before moving to Kintyre Care Home in Campbeltown, where she passed away at the age of 87 in December 2023. Audrey and Mick are fondly remembered by the Gigha community and are very missed.

Audrey’s sisters Chris and June invite everyone to a service for Audrey at Gigha and Cara Parish Church on Monday 8th April 2024 at 12:00, followed by the interment of Audrey’s ashes at the cemetery, and thereafter to the Village Hall.

Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

Bees, bulbs, and blooms, they're all here. We've had the spring equinox, and some beautiful spells of sunshine, a glimpse of what's to come with any luck!

It's been a bonkers month for our Protecting Gigha's Woodlands Project. 9,000 trees have been ordered (only 4,000 to go), tree stakes and guards have arrived, fencing materials are here, and our INNS (invasive non native species) team are steaming through the work. The team started the *Rhododendron ponticum* work in the Fire Station woodland and have moved on to sections in Gallochoille and Achamore Gardens, as well as starting to treat some of the skunk cabbage in the ditches and the woodland east of Achamore Gardens. We have also been tackling the areas where Himalayan balsam is soon to rear it's head by clearing areas of vegetation to make control and removal much more successful.



Our Forest Session this month was suggested by a local resident who asked to see more wild garlic/ramsons around the village in safe places to pick that weren't being polluted by traffic, walkers and other nasties on roadsides. The team got to work scouting out a great spot on the understanding that we needed somewhere with rich soils, that was shady, but also can receive some sunlight to plant our bulbs-in-the-green, and the team chose a lovely spot within the woodland opposite the Fire Station. We made a small fence and sign to politely ask passers by not to pick them whilst they're establishing, and hopefully in the future our woodland will be carpeted with these lovely foragable (yes we invented this word) treats.

Volunteering has been a mixed bag of relaxing and super tough work in March. We continued our bioblitz in Achamore Gardens, by choosing three sections of the Gardens to carry out wildlife surveys that will form the baseline for development and future management in the Gardens, a really lovely tasks to do each month. Next we headed down to Garbh beaches for a clean-up which saw us take away 6 tonne bags full of litter. There's still so much more to clear, but it was great to have such a fantastic turn out, including contributions from visitors to the island.



Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

And to top it off we heeled in 9000 trees awaiting to be planted as part of our hedgerow project, with MASSIVE thanks to the 39 Engineer Regiment who dug trenches for us to pop our trees into. Their help was so appreciated, and a huge thank you as ever to all our volunteers, it's amazing to have such a dedicated team.



Over the Easter period, we will be running events including building hedgehog homes, moth mornings and creating fairy doors, as well as upgrading the visitor hut, and starting on path maintenance. The season is soon to be upon us!

Gigha and Cara Parish Church

Services in Gigha Church will revert to 11am when the ferry summer timetable starts.

There will be 2 services in April. On Sunday 14th April the minister will be on study leave but Mrs Marion MacDonald from Muasdale will be taking the service. The second service on Sunday 28th April will be a songs of praise service.

There has been quite a lot going on in the different churches over lent with special services during Holy Week ending with a Joint service in Clachan on Easter Sunday beginning with breakfast! As I am writing this before the event I can't tell you how it went! There will be joint services in different churches every time there are 5 Sundays in a month. Our turn will be at the end of June. We have a wee leaflet, "Church Chat" that comes out at the beginning of each month that has all the dates and times of services in the different churches as well as other information. If you would like one and are unable to pick it up from the Church, please let me know. Alternatively, you could get an electronic version. I hope you have all had a happy Easter. Mrs Susan Allan, Church Elder.

Achamore Gardens

IGHT and Achamore Gardens are delighted to announce that the very popular Gigha Residents' Picnic is returning for a 4th year. We'll be in touch soon with more details, but for now please put Saturday 18th May in your diary and start praying for blue skies and sunshine!



In gardens up and down the west coast of Scotland, 2024 is proving to be a vintage year for rhododendron and camellia flowering, and Achamore is joining in the party with plants flowering better than they have for years. Our spring bulbs are also taking part in the floral fun this year, so make sure you take a moment to go and enjoy the spectacle!

Achamore Gardens

On your travels around the garden at the moment, you may notice lots of different coloured tags and paints marking plants, so I thought it might be useful to explain what they are. Tags allow us to mark plants this week that may not get dealt with for several months and means that the person who marked the plant doesn't necessarily need to be there when the work is carried out, because the tag colour also indicates what needs to be done to the plant. Using tags also helps contractors (who are often unused to working in a botanical setting) pay attention and be aware of plants, so helps prevent accidental damage. Here's what the various colours mean:

Pink = a plant to be completely removed.

Blue = horticultural intervention required. This is most often some form of pruning, but may also be a plant that needs moved, or requires some other type of treatment.

Yellow/orange = pay attention to me! Used to mark plants to be saved in areas we are clearing, or where contractors are operating.

Purple = seed saving. New this year, this will help staff and volunteers avoid deadheading plants that we want to save seed from.



Transport Scotland Consultation

Transport Scotland recently held a consultation event on the island. A number of issues were discussed, such as the aging ferry and lack of transport links on the mainland. To ensure Transport Scotland have a clear representation of the issues for Gigha, it is important that we complete their survey before 3rd May. Paper copies can be requested: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/consultation/public-consultation-for-islands-connectivity-plan-strategic-approach-paper-and-vessels-and-ports-plan/>

Community Astronomy STEM Clubs

Gigha Village Hall from 7-8.15pm

Thursday 18th April

Thursday 2nd May, Thursday 16th May, Thursday 30th May

Thursday 13th June



Dr Chris Leigh will be back on Gigha to lead a series of astronomy adventures for all ages. Practical and technological activities will be especially suitable for older children, young people and adults with an interest in the night skies. Children of Primary School age must have a supervising adult with them. Come along and join in some practical astronomy activities which will help you to explore and celebrate the dark skies of Gigha from your own home. For more information and an outline of activities, please contact dark.skies.gigha@gmail.com.

Gigha Primary School & Early Learning Centre

Another busy month has flown by at Gigha Primary School and ELC. Alongside their usual lessons, this month all pupils have been very lucky to receive weekly music tuition from Mrs Hill. This has allowed all pupils the opportunity to learn singing and rhythm as well as performing a short musical production based around the Easter story. All pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and it was lovely to see so many parents and visitors to the school yesterday to share in the pupil's success.

We have been out an about a lot this month. As well as taking part in Gigha Day celebrations and burying out time capsule, pupils were also invited to see the new Helipad by 39 Engineer Regiment. The team explained how the Helipad had been created and answered lots of excellent questions formulated by the pupils linked to their learning in Numeracy. Afterwards, pupils were also allowed to have a look inside the range of machinery used in the creation of the Helipad.



Finally, we would like to share our exciting news that we have appointed a new part-time Class Teacher. Miss Caitie Wilkieson will be joining our team in August and we are very excited to be welcoming her to our team.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Mrs Vipurs

Gigha Job Vacancies

To view Council job vacancies on Gigha, please visit

<https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/argyll-bute-council/jobs>

Huge congratulations to Sydney Vipurs from Gigha Primary School who won the Primary-age category in the Scottish Civic Trust My Place Photography competition. The theme this year was My Community and Sydney won for his fantastic photo 'Gigha Past and Present'.





What is the Gigha Community Action Plan?

The Community Action Plan will lay out our community's long-term vision for 2025-2035 as well as the basic steps needed to get there and who will action them. It will be a guide to what we want to achieve in the next 10 years.

How did this idea of a Community Action Plan start?

Most communities across the country have Community Plans based on the vision of the people who live in that area. The Trust asked for volunteers to write a 10-Year Plan following a members meeting in 2022. It was stated at our first meeting in 2023 that it was up to the group to decide how they wanted to tackle the task - The Trust did not add any constraints. We took the decision to go down the route of a Community Action Plan.

Is this a Trust plan?

It is a Community Action Plan where the input will come from all those who engage with it during the April/May consultation and engagement sessions. The Trust is the organisation who manage the island on our behalf so they will have input into the Community Action Plan but so will our Community Council, residents of all ages, voluntary groups, businesses and public services like our local NHS.

Are the Community Action Plan Group being transparent about the process?

We believe we are. We have issued details about membership of the group, what we plan to do, timescales, information on themes for the Community Action Plan, we have posted examples of the Jura plan which our plan will be based on. These have been online on the Gigha Community Council Facebook Page, the Gigha Noticeboard page on Facebook, the Community Action Plan Page on Facebook and printed copies pinned to the noticeboard outside the shop. We will share feedback from the questionnaire at two engagement sessions in May and following those as the Community Action Plan starts to come together it will also be shared with the community.

Will the Community Action Plan be set in stone?

No, it has to be flexible as circumstances change both locally and nationally. It will likely be added to over the 10 years of its life.

How will the action points be realised?

Some aspects will be easier to implement than others but for it to work effectively the island needs to work together to achieve the community's vision. Some aspects might not be achieved due to financial constraints or other reasons. Different groups and organisations will take responsibility to realise the action points.

How detailed will it be?

Our aim is to identify priorities from community consultation and engagement and then break these down into action points. These won't be detailed. It will be down to the group(s) or organisation(s) who take responsibility for them to flesh out the detail.

Is the questionnaire confidential?

Yes - you are not required to identify yourself on either the printed copy or the digital copy. Nobody from the Community Action Plan Group will be able to identify who has written what. We will however add a selection of quotations made by respondents in the final plan.

Gigha Community Action Plan

Your questions answered



Are the Community Action Plan Group deciding the future of Gigha?

No - our group is facilitating the process whereby the community (residents, groups, businesses etc) are able to express their views about Gigha's future. We will then prioritise what comes to us from the community. For example if only one person gives a particular vision it will likely be a low priority and so unlikely to appear in the plan. If fifty people state a particular vision it will be a high priority and will likely become an action point for development.

Why should I fill in the questionnaire?

We are all very lucky to live on the Isle of Gigha but we need to know how to make it even better for all. If you care about our island it is vital that we get your views so that our visions can be turned into a real plan to allow our island to develop over the next decade.

When will I receive the questionnaire?

Questionnaires will be issued to each resident (not just Trust members) during the week beginning April 15. A digital copy will also be available.

[Gigha Community Action Plan | Facebook](#)

Bakkafrost Fish Farm

Bakkafrost would like to provide the following update on our West Gigha planning application.

Since the validation of the application on 09/10/2023, there have been several responses logged on the Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) planning portal.

We have taken the time to fully review all the comments and have performed a comprehensive appraisal of these comments, and the topics raised. The results of this have been provided to ABC as a Consultation Analysis Summary Report. The document can be accessed on the planning portal, under the 'Documents' tab.

The report highlights where, within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), information relevant to specific topics raised through consultee comments can be found, whilst also detailing how relevant potential impacts have been fully assessed and satisfactorily mitigated. We have also taken the opportunity to provide further contextual information in relation to consultee feedback.

Furthermore, in response to comments from consultees relating to the potential impacts on inshore commercial fisheries, in addition to the comprehensive assessment undertaken within the EIAR (Section 12), we have also undertaken a supplementary Commercial Fisheries Impact Assessment (CFIA) utilising a newly available comprehensive fisheries dataset, covering 12 m and under fishing vessels. This document is also available on the ABC planning portal.

We have also addressed the requests made by the ABC Marine and Coastal Development and Policy Officer and the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate (SGMD). Both project responses are available on the ABC planning portal. SGMD have since responded and stated that they are satisfied with the response and require no further information on the project.

We are confident that through the iterative design and EIA process all potential impacts have been appropriately identified and assessed within the EIAR and supporting documentation. As such we are confident that the comments and topics raised by consultees have been fully considered and addressed within the documentation submitted in support of this application.

If you have any issues accessing the documentation on the ABC planning portal, please contact us and we can provide copies.

Frederick Parffrey, Bakkafrost Environmental Officer.

Tel: 01499 665880 Email: Freddie.Parffrey@bakkafrost.com