



GIGHA NEWS

Welcome to the January 2020 Gigha News



Dear Member,

Please find enclosed this month's newsletter and a copy of December 2019 Board minutes.

Regards,
Ian Wilson
Chair

For and behalf of Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Head Gardener

The Head Gardener position at Achamore Gardens was advertised in November/December 2019. After receiving 17 applications and carrying out several interviews, the Trust are delighted to have appointed Bryony White. Bryony brings good technical experience, a good appreciation of the issues of west coast gardens, knowledge on Gigha and community ownership and has excellent volunteer experience. Bryony has visited Gigha twice since her interview earlier this month and we are looking forward to welcoming her into her new role in March.

Members meeting

A Members meeting is being arranged for Wednesday **25th March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Gigha Village Hall**. A calling notice and agenda will be issued closer to the date.

Soup in the Hall

After a break over the festive period, the next tea afternoon will be in the Village Hall on Monday **10th February from 12.30-2.30pm** with soup and rolls. Entry is by donation to McMillan Nurses (Mid-Argyll). All welcome!

Gigha Primary School

Gigha Primary School are arranging a beach clean on **Saturday 1st February at 1pm** at Eilean Garbh beach. All are welcome, however please note this will go ahead weather permitting.

The Gigha Primary School has made 2020 calendars. You can purchase these from the School on 01583 505 259. Calendars can then be collected from the school office. The calendars cost £3.50 and the profit will go towards a school weather station or school pets. The calendars feature photos of Gigha and surrounding areas.

Staffing Update

Pamela James will be leaving her employment with the Trust as Finance Manager as of Friday 14th February. The Board would like to thank Pamela for all her hard work and commitment to the Trust and subsidiary companies over the last few years. Pamela has been a valuable employee who has contributed greatly to the financial work of the Trust. We wish her well for the future.

Staff Structure:

Office Manager – Shona Bannatyne (1 FTE)
Business Development Manager – Jane Millar (1 FTE)
Housing and Estates Manager – Andy Clements (0.5 FTE)
Bookkeeper – Jacki Currie (0.6 FTE)
Maintenance – Thomas Shaw & Malcolm McNeill (2 x 1 FTE)
Head Gardener – Bryony White (1 FTE)
Financial Support – Hannah Fawcett Consultant

Director Vacancy

The Board is looking to appoint a co-opted Director with a specific responsibility for oversight of financial management of the Trust. The Trust are looking for someone with skills and experience in financial management, oversight of the preparation of management and annual accounts (in conjunction with the Trust staff and retained accountants, RA Clement), oversight of financial systems, grant funding, audit and risk management. For further information please contact Ian Wilson at chair@gigha.org.uk

Housing Allocation

The housing allocation committee are looking for member(s) of the community to join the panel. Number of meetings vary depending on IGHT properties available. IGHT advertise vacant properties, and the independent housing allocation panel will review and score the applications anonymously based on an agreed criteria and priorities.

To find out more about this and to put your name forward, please contact Shona Bannatyne at shona@gigha.org.uk or telephone 01583 505 390.

Keep Fit Class

A weekly exercise class is starting in the Village Hall every **Wednesday at 7pm starting from 5th February**. Entry is made by donation to cover hire of the hall. All welcome!

Bidwells

The Trust has terminated its contract with Bidwells as its land agent. This is due to an increase in fees which is not proven to be cost effective for the Trust.

An agricultural tenancy meeting is being scheduled for **Thursday 6th February at 2pm in the Village Hall** to discuss the matter of Bidwells, how agricultural tenancies/leases will now be attended to, and the way forward for managing land on Gigha, All are welcome to attend.

Please ensure that all future correspondence regarding agricultural tenancies are directed to Andy Clements at the Trust Office.

20th Anniversary Steering Group

With the 20th anniversary of community ownership soon approaching, we would like to begin organising a steering group made up of members of the community who would be interested in organising the celebrations. If you'd like to be involved and be a part of the steering group, please notify Jane Millar at the Trust office.

Gigha Recipe Book

We are still seeking more recipes to build a Gigha recipe book. Please drop in or email over any of your favourite recipes!

Activity Centre 2020 Opportunity

The Trust is currently seeking an operator to manage the Gigha Bike and Boat Activity Centre for the 2020 season. All equipment and premises supplied, making this is a great opportunity for someone to generate their own salary and build a lifestyle business.

If you're interested in this opportunity, please get in touch with Jane Millar at the Trust, to register an interest by **Friday 14th February 2020**. Terms will be sent out after that date to all parties who have registered an interest.

From Village Hall Committee

Please do not use the bin at the hall. This is for Village Hall rubbish only and it is only uplifted every 3 weeks - the same as domestic rubbish. Recently someone has dumped two bags which contain a variety of tins of paint which should be disposed of at the depot and cannot be dumped into the bins. Thank you

Gigha Community Fund

The Gigha Community Fund was launched in December 2019 with the first round of application deadline of 20th January. The Fund Board received several applications and have awarded a total of £1,273 to projects that support a thriving and healthy community on Gigha!

Application forms and guidance notes are available at www.gigha.org.uk > The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust > Gigha Community Fund or alternatively at the Trust office. The Fund Board will meet again in July so the next deadline for applications is **Monday 22nd June 2020**.

Any questions regarding how to apply, please contact Jane Millar.

Hebridean Whale Trail

Gigha has now received their Hebridean Whale Trail sign which was kindly designed and delivered by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust. This will be mounted down at the Activity Centre soon.

Achamore Gardens Blog

Thursday 9th January, a sunny afternoon - we haven't had many of these lately. So, time for a walk in the gardens again – a pleasant break in a busy week.

I entered the woodland via the Ash Garden, so named because an ash tree had grown there before the garden was developed. I think it is Aechmea but may be wrong. It is a long time since I worked in the gardens and many of the labels have disappeared over the years!

There isn't much flowering at the moment, so I will be mentioning some of the trees. There are many beech trees and last year there were a lot of beech masts, (Beech "fruits" which hold the seeds) and they are still clinging to the trees and the ground beneath are covered with them.

There is a Birch Tree with pretty flaking bark. It is in what used to be the Hospital Garden. This garden was surrounded by Leyland cypress which made it very sheltered. Sickly plants were moved there to recover.

The daffodils are well through in the pond garden though not showing any flowers yet! Also near the pond garden is a big Eucalyptus tree.

The camellias are beginning to flower. I found a label on one single red plant, Camellia sasanqua Crimson King. Many of the others are coming out too and since it is over a fortnight since I was in the gardens and the weather has been quite mild they should be further on now.

A purple Helleborus (Christmas rose) will not be easily found as it is not really in the gardens but up near the big sheds.

I continue my walk into the walled garden where you will find some more unusual trees. These have labels on them apart from Pinus Montezumae in the south walled garden. There are Abies forestii, Abies kawakaamii, and Pinus heldreichi.

Shrubs that are flowering now with gorgeous scent are Mahonia, walled garden and old garden, Daphne bhoola in the walled garden, a big shrub with masses of flowers and Hamamelis (witch hazel). There are 2 varieties of this at the top of the drive before you get to the house. One is yellow and the other looks as if it is going over but is an orange brown colour.

When you are in the walled garden don't forget to say "hallo" to our resident garden guide! (Photo below)

Susan Allan



Main Contacts:

IGHT enquiries: **01583 505 390**

GTL enquiries: **01583 427 300**

For general enquiries:

shona@gigha.org.uk

For business development enquiries:

jane@gigha.org.uk

For housing and estate enquiries:

office@gigha.org.uk

For all GTL enquiries:

cottages@gigha.org.uk

Trust Office Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday 10am-2pm

