

JANUARY 2023

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Newsletter

Gigha Trading Ltd update

John Bannatyne, who has been Chair of Gigha Trading Ltd for many years has stepped down from the board. We would like to thank John for all his hard work over the years and wish him well. The new Chair of GTL is Graham White, alongside directors Ian Wilson and Jane Clements. If you wish to consider becoming a GTL director, please contact the Trust Office.

Housing Development

We are looking for your suggestions as to what the new housing development adjacent to the Craft Units should be named. Please submit your ideas to jane@gigha.org.uk or the Trust office before 10th March. All ideas are welcome!

Residents Survey

The Gateway to Gigha project is looking for your feedback! This is your opportunity to give your view on the new path networks, community heritage project, visitor management, and more. The survey should only take 5 minutes and your feedback will help evaluate the project and identify any areas for improvement in future:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Gigha_Resident_Survey

This survey will be open until 28th February for all Gigha residents. If you are unable to complete an online version, please contact the office for a paper version.

Cost of Living Support Fund

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust has secured £11,340 from the National Lottery to provide cost of living support to Gigha residents. The funding is being distributed as £100 vouchers which can be redeemed from Ardminish Stores for the purpose of food, fuel or small energy-saving electrical appliances. The purpose of the funding is to provide support to households most in financial need in these difficult times. Applications can be submitted by individuals that are in receipt of relevant benefits. Full details can be found on the application form which can be requested by contacting Shona Bannatyne at the Trust office. Please be assured that all enquiries will be treated confidentially and any personal information will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

Gigha and Cara Parish Church

Gigha is now part of a new Parish called Mid Kintyre and Gigha. This comprises not only Gigha but Clachan, A'Chleit and Skipness. Mid Kintyre and Gigha is now linked to Tarbert and the Rev Lyn Peden is our minister. Rev Lyn will be coming to take our next service on February 12th. She is hoping to come over on the Saturday to meet and start to get to know all of us. After the service on the Sunday there will be tea coffee and cake in the hotel. Please come and welcome Lyn to Gigha.

JANUARY 2023

Bakkafrost Scotland Pre-Application Community Engagement Event

We are preparing an application for a proposed marine fish farm consisting of eight pens, a feed barge and associated moorings, to be located off the western coast of the Isle of Gigha.

We held our first community event at the Gigha Village Hall in April 2022, which focused on the SEPA application process. Since then, we have progressed our studies, with guidance from Argyll & Bute Council's Scoping Opinion and local stakeholders, and further refined the design of the proposal to ensure we avoid and reduce potential environmental interactions.

We are now in a position to invite you to review our current plans and engage in further discussion and information sharing on the proposal. Details of this Community Engagement Event are below:

Where: Gigha Village Hall

When: 09 February 2023 (1200hrs to 1400hrs and 1700hrs to 1900hrs)

You are welcome to attend at a time of your convenience, to register your interest please e-mail: Freddie.Parffrey@Bakkafrost.com.

Our activities and decisions are driven by our values and are integral to our sustainability pillars; Healthy Business, Healthy People, Healthy Salmon, Health Communities and Health Environment. As such, we are dedicated to listening, learning, and collaborating with local communities to ensure the sustainability of our operations whilst also maximising community benefit.

Research Project: Open University Dissertation

Nancy McFarlane, a student with the Open University, is carrying out research for her dissertation. "I'm trying to get in touch with some participants who would be interested in taking part in a research project looking at the effects of Community Land buyouts on the residents of Scotland's islands.

I will be conducting short interviews (40 minutes) between the end of February and mid-April, and I'm looking for a few residents over the age of 18 who would like to talk about their island's story.

If you would like to be a part of the project by adding your experience of how the island has changed under community ownership, please contact me."

nancemcfarlane@hotmail.co.uk or Tel 07557 509862.

Gigha Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee would like to welcome Nicola Evans, Joe Teale (Treasurer), Phoebe Brown (Secretary) and Hannah Storie (Chairperson). The current Committee are stepping back from these roles over the next few months.

There is now an email address and a Facebook page for enquiries.

gighavillagehall@gmail.com

Isle of Gigha Village Hall | Facebook

Tel: 01583 505251

If you would like to volunteer, please do not hesitate to get in touch with any of the team.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year.

JANUARY 2023

Gateway to Gigha

As we begin a new year, the Gateway to Gigha is entering the home straight. But, as in many races, there remains a good deal to do in the final dash to the line.

Much has been achieved and several of routes await only the finishing touches - some enhanced waymarking and finger-posting, a few additional steppingstones - before we can consider them 'open'. Our heritage plinths still await their panels, but I am about to sign off on final designs and will have an update on delivery of these, and the secondary 'wayfinders', by the next newsletter. Our adaptive e-bikes, including a powered tricycle and hand cycle are on their way to join the now established fleet of e-bikes. The Community Heritage Project has over the past year delivered a series of great learning and engagement opportunities, and plenty fun to boot, thanks in no small part to Casey-Jo's coordination efforts and the many notable experts who have visited us. I've enjoyed spending time with them and hope you've had a chance to do so too.

So, now the final path works are well underway. Despite very challenging conditions, both climatic and on the ground, Scott and his team are nearing the end of their boardwalk construction at the north end. The extension to the Eilean Garbh path is complete bar the junction with the road which, in keeping with Planning restrictions, must be completed by a roads-accredited contractor. And the final, long foot and cycle path between the Coastguard station and the road to the north will roll out over the coming weeks.

And all being well, come spring, we'll have a path network for islanders and visitors to enjoy for many years to come!



Gigha Community Fund

The Gigha Community Fund board are looking for new members to join the fund board. If you are interested, please contact the Trust Office. We would like to thank Viv Oliver who has stepped down from the fund board for her contribution since the fund began in 2019.

Quiz Night

Saturday 4th February at 7pm in the Village Hall. Team of 4 - £20 entry per team. Snack provided during interval. BYOB. Raffle prizes gratefully received. All proceeds to Sound of Gigha Festival.

JANUARY 2023

Gigha Primary School

We returned to school after a well-deserved Christmas break following the success of our Christmas Play. This week we received a thank you card from our chosen charity, Shelter, for the donation of £507.80 which was raised between our school, Early Learning Centre and Gigha and Cara Parish Church. Thank you to everyone who supported us to raise this. Since we returned, pupils have begun their new topic based on 'Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone'. Our trainee witches and wizards have been creating their own mythical beasts to include in the Gigha Wizarding School Encyclopaedia, investigating how materials change in different temperatures, designing and making magical wands and spells and practising potion making to develop their understanding of ratio, capacity and volume. Thank you to everyone who has dropped in potion bottles! We have also celebrated Chinese New Year and Burns Night and have been treated to delicious celebratory meals by Jackie which all the pupils enjoyed.

In the ELC, children have preparing for the RSPB Big Bird Watch which begins on Saturday 28th January. Children have been exploring the lifecycle of birds, their special features and how to identify the different species found locally. A visit to the gardens allowed pupils to develop fine and gross motor skills, pretending to be birds, using pegs as beaks to build their nests.



Children made a giant nest in the gardens which they have hidden for you to find!

As we move into the spring term we are beginning to develop our outdoor food growing area in the raised beds and polycrub with the support of our amazing Island Ranger, Casey-Jo. This will allow us to grow foods which supplement our school menu whilst further reducing our carbon footprint.

We are really excited to be starting this project and look forward to eating lots of tasty, healthy, locally produced produce.

This week pupils in P4-7 and members of our local community received a visit from Heartstart to learn lifesaving skills. This was a fantastic opportunity to develop essential knowledge and skills. Pupils have also been looking ahead to the spring and summer and have begun to discuss their summer ideas. This includes a Summer Fair which will be held in the Village Hall on 20th May-more information to follow closer to the time!

Mrs Vipurs (Principal Teacher)

JANUARY 2023

Gigha Ranger Service

January has been a fairly busy month for the ranger service, including helping in Achamore Gardens to process the recently storm-felled trees, volunteer sessions, and maintaining the new path network.



The conservation volunteers are also back in full swing, having collected even more tree guards from the woodland west of the fire station – and yet there are still a few more to go, but they will not beat us – and planting 220 trees at Gigha Camp and Motorhome Site. The trees were received through the I Dig Trees scheme through The Conservation Volunteers and OVO Energy. This is the third year we have been lucky enough to receive trees through this scheme, and this year's instalment will provide hedgerow species for wildlife, increase biodiversity, and also create beautiful green spaces for future visitors with species such as aspen and bird cherry. Not to mention they're all native.



This month's Forest School session was based around the RPSB's Big Garden Birdwatch, one of the most successful citizen science projects within the UK, where we get an excuse to sit around and do nothing but watch which bird species land in our gardens for a whole hour. The children made bird boxes to help our feathery friends, before having some yummy marshmallows and teacakes over the fire.

Renewables update

The Dancing Ladies are all up and running again, although T2 is noisier than the others. Vestas have now confirmed that it is safe to have her running again until they source a new or refurbished gearbox.

The E33 turbine is off again and unfortunately won't be back on until the engineers can attend on the 7th of February.

JANUARY 2023

Achamore Gardens by Morgan E Russell, Modern Apprentice

Many of you will know that I was awarded a sabbatical by the IGHT to travel to the USA to complete a work placement at Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania, and I that I slyly returned to work back in Achamore Gardens in December. Working at Longwood Gardens was a fantastic experience, I met a huge number of deeply passionate horticulturalists who demonstrated fabulously all the different elements of the profession. While my placements in production, propagation, land stewardship and conservatory installation demonstrated large scale operations and slick management, my time spent visiting other local gardens and speaking with other students from around the world was full of insight and has generated many ideas.

This trip would not have been possible without the help and support of the Royal Horticultural Society and the travel bursary they awarded me. I would encourage any interested students of horticulture to utilize the fantastic resources for travel and internships that the RHS provide.



JANUARY 2023

Achamore Gardens continued



Gigha Ranger's photo of the month: Snowy Islay taken from West Tarbert Bay.



Mary Allan

It is with great sadness that we share the news that one of Gigha's residents, Mary Allan, has passed away. Mary was a much-loved member of the community and will be greatly missed.