



GIGHA NEWS



Welcome to the March 2020 Gigha News

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed this month's newsletter and a copy of February 2020 Board minutes.

Regards,
Ilan Wilson
Chair
For and behalf of Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Coronavirus / COVID 19

IGHT and its subsidiary companies are closely monitoring the current situation arising with Corona Virus (COVID 19). All staff and directors are following hygiene guidelines and will self-isolate if necessary. The Trust office is now closed to the public. Contact details are available at the end of this newsletter.

Information has been distributed to every household to keep the community up to date. We encourage everyone to stay safe and follow the Government's latest recommendations:

- o To shop for basic necessities and that should be limited to once a day
- o To take exercise once a day – but alone of with your own household, not in groups
- o For medical reasons or to care for a vulnerable person
- o To travel to essential work if that cannot be done at home

If you feel that you or someone you know on the island is struggling with the impact of the Covid 19 restrictions, please let us know and we will help where we can.

Calmac Announcement

From now on ferries will be for those who live on our islands, who have an essential need to travel to or from the mainland, and for essential supplies or business. Nothing else. The return of non-residents from islands back to the mainland will also be deemed essential travel.

Public Spaces

In line with the latest restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid 19, Achamore Gardens, the Moorings / Pontoons and the Play Park are closed to the public until further notice. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

IGHT Maintenance Team

The IGHM maintenance staff will only be entering households in the event of an emergency. There will be a strict protocol to follow to keep everyone safe:

- o Please do not approach maintenance staff directly to report issues.
- o Contact the office by telephone to report the emergency.
- o You must notify the office of anyone who is in self-isolation or who is unwell prior to the visit.
- o The maintenance team will attend wearing gloves and masks and will wash their hands before and after the visit.
- o The householder and family must stay in a separate part of the house while the maintenance team are on site and must not make contact with them during the visit.
- o A follow up phone call will be made to update the householder after the maintenance team have carried out the repair.

Soup in the Hall

Thank you to all who came along to Soup in the Hall on Monday 9th March. £100 was raised and has been donated to the Gigha Golf Course.

We hope that soup/tea in the hall will return later in the year.

Gateway to Gigha

IGHT recently applied to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to match fund the access project across the island. We are delighted to announce the Trust has been awarded the £228,100.00 from the Heritage Lottery. Further funding is still to be secured. IGHM have applied to The Low Carbon Travel Transport Fund to make up the principal funding for the project which is expected to be announced at the end of March. The full extent of this project will only proceed when outstanding funding applications are secured.

Financial Training

Financial training with the Trusts accountants, RA Clement, which was scheduled for Monday 6th April has now been postponed due to Coronavirus. Should any members of the community be interested in attending future training, please contact the Trust office.

Gigha Primary School

Many thanks to those of you that have purchased calendars and phone books over the last few months. The total raised has been £160 and P4-6 children are working with this budget to buy a classroom goldfish to look after and a weather station to install.

Achamore Gardens

We warmly welcome our new Head Gardener, Bryony White,, to Achamore Gardens. Bryony has admired our gardens for a long time and brings great experience and enthusiasm to the role.

Thank you to Susan Allan for raising £26 through the anagram quiz for Achamore Gardens and well done to Chris McNeill who won the £10 prize.

Susan took these lovely photos on her walk on a dry and sunny day around around Achamore Gardens on 13th March.



Ardminish Stores

Please contact the shop on 01583 505251 between 9am and 12pm if you wish to place a grocery order. Deliveries will be made between 1 and 6pm, apart from Thursdays and Sundays.

Due to accidental damage the red diesel fuel pump is currently out of use. Every effort will be made to have it back in operation as soon as possible however with the current travel restrictions this may be delayed.

Gigha Broadband update from Andy Oliver

I received an email from Mr Wheelhouse MSP regarding the R100 rollout for high speed broadband provision for all of Scotland. I had spoken with him some months ago and pressed the need for Gigha to access high speed internet for our community whilst I was an IGHM Director. Andrew Manson has replied on behalf of Mr Whitehouse stating that BT won the contract for provision in this area but one of the other bidders has appealed this decision so there is a legal procedure underway. However, the following paragraph gives a lot of comfort:

"No properties are being left behind. In the meantime, we will provide additional support to ensure that everyone can access superfast broadband services by the end of 2021 - delivered through a national demand-led voucher scheme. Anyone who will not be able to access superfast broadband by the end of 2021 – regardless of whether or not build through the R100 contracts will ultimately reach them – will also be eligible for that voucher scheme.

The voucher scheme will launch later this year and will provide grants to broadband customers in non-domestic and domestic premises, offering support to access a range of technologies and suppliers.

I am happy to provide a further update in due course but, as I'm sure you appreciate, the ongoing legal proceedings mean that there is little I can say about the status of the contract for the North lot. I am sorry I do not have a more definitive update for you at this time, but I hope that this information proves useful nonetheless.

Housing & Hub Development

IGHM have won £5,000 in feasibility funding from Social Investment Scotland's Growth & Replication Challenge. These funds will go towards initial professional fees for the housing and hub project, including the site layouts and initial cost plans.

Initial sketches have now been developed by Collective Architecture for project. Collective Architecture hoped to organise and run a workshop to present the final preferred option to the community. As travel and public gathering restrictions are in place, it will no longer be possible for this workshop to take place. The preferred site layout and associated information is available at www.gigha.org.uk > Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust > IGHM Development > Housing & Hub. Please feedback any comments to jane@gigha.org.uk.

Dark Skies

A Dark Sky Discovery site is a perfect location for observing the night sky on a clear night which is free from the worst effects of light pollution and offers good public access and good sight-lines in all directions. Having a Dark Sky Discovery site here will help promote Gigha's magnificent night sky and increase people's awareness and appreciation of dark skies and safeguard them for future generations to enjoy.

Dark Skies Gigha is currently in the process of preparing an application for a Dark Sky Discovery site located at the end of the road at the northern end of Gigha.

Why was this spot chosen? Several locations on Gigha were considered but based on the application criteria for nominating sites, this was seen as the best one. We had to consider the following in choosing this location:

- Size of the area had to be around 100 sq m.
- It had to meet a specific darkness rating.
- Good sight-lines were required in all directions with no tall objects blocking the view.
- It had to be accessible by the public including access by wheelchair users.
- The site has to be safe.
- The application also requires to be supported by the landowner and the local council.

So where are we now with the application? We have had a meeting with Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust to discuss practicalities. They have agreed to carry out a risk assessment of the site and as landowner they have kindly provided us with a letter of support. We have also discussed the application with Argyll and Bute Council who have also provided us with a letter of support stating that *'this will be a beneficial initiative for the island of Gigha'*.

If we are approved as a Dark Sky Discovery site what will this mean? Gigha will be internationally recognised as a dark sky location and a marker pole will be erected at the site along with a night sky interpretation board to assist visitors in finding their way around the night sky during different seasons.

Having a Dark Sky Discovery site on the island doesn't mean that you will have to turn your lights off!

We hope to have a community Dark Skies Festival along with the school in late September but that will now depend on the situation with the coronavirus outbreak.

If you have any questions related to this project please contact Keith on 505006 or Kenny on 07778 529693.

Gigha Day Sunday 15th March

There was a great turnout for Gigha Day to celebrate the anniversary of the community buyout. Stan Uttley, Gigha's most senior resident was joined by GREL director John Martin and some of the primary school children in raising the flag. Thank you to Joe Teale for playing the pipes during the ceremony.



Holiday Cottages Lease

The lease of the management of the holiday cottages is expected to be delayed in light of coronavirus. Please still continue to register your interest to keep informed of any new timescales.

Gigha Website

The information on the Gigha website is currently being updated. Should you see any information that appears inaccurate, or if there is information missing, please email jane@gigha.org.uk to rectify.

Main Contacts:

IGHT enquiries: **01583 505 390**

GTL enquiries: **01583 427 300**

For general enquiries:

shona@gigha.org.uk

For development enquiries:

jane@gigha.org.uk

For housing and estate enquiries:

office@gigha.org.uk

For all GTL enquiries:

cottages@gigha.org.uk

For finance/accounts enquiries:

ightcentralaccounts@gigha.org.uk

Trust Office Opening Hours:

The office will be staffed but will be closed to the public during the coronavirus outbreak. Please contact the office using the details above.