

MAY 2023

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Newsletter

Members Meeting

Minutes of the most recent members meeting have been issued with this Newsletter. The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday 17th August. Following feedback received after the last meeting, the board are considering how to format future meetings to allow more members to engage with IGHT activities. If you have any feedback on members meetings, please email directors@gigha.org.uk

Any amendments or comments on the Members Meeting minutes from 10th May should be emailed to jane@gigha.org.uk before 14th June.

Board Correspondence

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. Contact us by emailing directors@gigha.org.uk



Household Resilience

Fyne Homes and Inspiralba have secured investment from Scottish and UK Governments to support householders as living costs rise and the need for environmental sustainability increases. Leighann Burns has been appointed as the Household Resilience Advocate for the island. After receiving training and working alongside partner organisations, Leighann is able to help residents to access a range of support to residents who may be struggling to deal with issues such as fuel poverty, benefits queries, housing problems and debt advice. Leighann is able to refer directly to organisations who can provide free confidential information on grants, fuel vouchers and explore eligibility for heating and insulation measures as well referring to other avenues of support such as Kintyre Foodbank, Kintyre Recycling Uniform Project and Employability Programmes. A Household Resilience Questionnaire is available to complete at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZTNLWBH>. Alternatively, you can use the QR code opposite.

If you would like to contact Leighann to arrange an informal chat or discuss any of the above please call 07477709681 or email leighann@inspiralba.org.uk

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Gigha and Cara Parish Church

The next service in the church will be at 11am on 11th of June lead by the elders.

The stated annual meeting will be on 25th of June when Rev Lyn Peden will be taking the service. Abbreviated copies of the accounts will be available at the service on the 11th June. A full copy of the accounts can be seen at the back of the church. Please do not remove them from the church!

On 23rd of July Lyn's official introduction to the Parish of Mid Kintyre and Gigha and the linkage to Tarbert Parish Church will be held here in Gigha Church. Members of the other churches will be coming along with representatives from presbytery. After the service there will be soup and sandwiches in the hall. We are taking this opportunity to celebrate the centenary of the current Gigha Church with various displays. Help with this will be gratefully received! Thank you.

Tea in the Hall

Thank you to everyone who attended Tea in the Hall on 10th May. There was £57 raised which has been donated to Gigha Village Hall.

Gigha Primary School

It has been a busy month at Gigha Primary and ELC. May saw pupils and staff plan and prepare for our Summer Fair on 20th May which also included a Pet Show, Sports Races and Fire Brigade Demonstration. It was fantastic to see so many people attend and help us to raise an amazing £1500 which will be used to revamp the school playground. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and supported us to make the day such a success. We couldn't have done it without you.



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Gigha Primary School

Pupils also began their long-awaited swimming lessons at Lochgilphead Pool this month with an hours taught session each week. All pupils have engaged well with each lesson and it has been wonderful to see pupils become so confident in the water. We have also joined visited Clachan Primary School each week for our lunch on the way home and it has been lovely to make new friends and enjoy their outdoor facilities.

Outdoors, the food growing garden has sprung into life and is already providing some tasty produce. Pupils are ensuring they water and weed carefully to maximise our harvest. This week marks our P1 entry into the One Planet Picnic Pocket Garden Competition with the planned design coming to life. We can't wait to share this with you once voting goes live!

May also marked the start of transition for pupils who will be moving up from ELC into P1 and from P7 into S1. Pupils have started to settle into their new classes and are excited to start their new learning journeys.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Mrs Vipurs, Acting Principal Teacher



THANK YOU FROM GIGHA PRIMARY SCHOOL

All the Staff and Pupils at Gigha Primary School & ELC Unit would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped to make our Spring Fair on Saturday 20th May 2023 such a success. Thank you to everyone who supported us – the community, the bakers, the soup makers, the people who donated the wonderful raffle prizes, bottles for our stall, ~~Baldrast~~ for covering the cost of the food in the hall –
EVERYONE!!!

You helped us to raise a massive £1,500.00 for our
School Playground Fund

We couldn't have done it without you and your support

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Renewables

GGPL has received a credit note from Enercon relating to their 21-22 financial year which covers part of the downtime experienced between November 2020 - March 2022. This is for a value of 28,000 Euros. This will mean that all compensation owed from Enercon will be paid up to date. 129,838.44 Euros was already claimed for 19-20 and 20-21 downtime. GGPL is still progressing an insurance claim for the loss of Feed in Tariff from the 2020-2022 downtime period. A draft figure of £250k has been shared previously.

BPP-TECH have secured funding from the "Hydrogen Innovation Scheme" for the "GHigha: Green Hydrogen for the Isle of Gigha" project. The scope of the project is for BPP-TECH to assess the techno-economic feasibility of producing Green Hydrogen on the island using new renewable energy sources.

The GREL board have started working with SKS Scotland to progress the feasibility of replacing the Dancing Ladies following their initial Options Appraisal. SKS Scotland have sub-contracted Felix Wight and Joe Smee to work on the project, who both have technical and community energy experience. They intend to work with Colin Anderson again also. The next stage will be to do further research on the turbine specification before arranging planning and community consultation. The Trust has secured £25,000 from HIE to support the succession planning of GREL.

T2 update:

Arrangements with Vestas for the gearbox change out are on-going. There have been delays in acquiring the gearbox as due diligence to protect both Vestas and GREL from any risks has been required.

Tests have been done on the crane pads to ensure the ground conditions are suitable for the gearbox lift and the internal fall arrest systems within the turbines have also been tested prior to works going ahead. The gearbox change out is now expected in mid-June.

Gateway to Gigha

After two and half long, challenging, but ultimately very rewarding and enjoyable years, the Gateway to Gigha Project is drawing to a close. You might have noticed a late flurry of activity this month, with the appearance of the road junction between the Coastguard station and campsite (a requirement of Planning Permission), the installation of further fingerposts, and the fitting of our long-awaited interpretation panels to the stone plinths. At the time of writing, there are still a number of items to attend to - the wayfinders (secondary interpretation lecterns) to install, for example, and small-scale improvements and developments will continue across the network. There is also the possibility, and certainly scope for, further footpath development, depending on future funding opportunities.

For now, though, I am bowing out as Project Manager, but I will retain a huge personal interest in the path network, in this amazing island, and the many great people I've had the pleasure of meeting during the course of the project. It's been a massive privilege to have been invited to play such a key role in this brilliantly conceived project and I'd like to thank all of you for allowing me this honour. It's been a treat to have spent so much time here, and I'm pretty sure I won't be able to stay away for long!

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Gateway to Gigha

I hope many of you will enjoy, or continue to enjoy, our path network - now more than 20km of routes in total! – the interpretation points, and, for some at least, our fleet of e-bikes.

Warm wishes to all, and I look forward to bumping into some of you on future visits to Gigha. Craig Whyte, Gateway to Gigha Project Manager.

A snapshot of Gateway – fingerpost, cycle rack, bridle gate, and stone plinth with newly installed interpretation panel



Sunny celebration – huge thanks to colleagues, island friends, and all who have contributed to Gateway to Gigha!



Craft Workshop 3

Opening soon! Emma and Don Dennis of Wee Isle Dairy have taken on the lease of Craft Workshop 3. They intend to open a light meals café by the 20th of June, open 7 days a week, from 9 to 5:30. Toasties, baked potatoes, ice cream, tea, coffee and cake will all be on the menu, and more!

CalMac

Caledonian MacBrayne are now running with a new environmental policy which means passengers need to be at the ferry terminal 10 minutes before departure as the ferry may leave as soon as the ferry is loaded, rather than on the timetable departure time.

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BAKKAFROST SCOTLAND – WEST GIGHA – PROJECT UPDATE

Bakkafrost Scotland would like to provide the following updates on the West Gigha proposed fish farm development.

SEPA Update

The formal SEPA Controlled Activities Licence (CAR) application was submitted to SEPA on 19 April 2023.

This application was made under the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (CAR). The application process will determine whether or not to grant a CAR licence for the Proposed Development based on the comprehensive information that we have prepared and supplied throughout the pre-application process.

A key aspect to the SEPA application determination process is consultation between SEPA and statutory consultees (such as NatureScot and Marine Scotland), as well as people and organisations whose interests may be influenced by the Proposed Development.

For more information on the SEPA Aquaculture Regulatory Framework please visit the following webpage: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water/aquaculture/>

Once the application has been registered and published on the SEPA website you can review the application and make a comment here:

<https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/permits/car-regulations-aquaculture-applications/>

In the event that SEPA grant the application for a CAR licence, this licence will ensure that discharges from the Proposed Development are within the assimilative capacity of the receiving marine environment, thereby ensuring no significant effect on the water environment.

Planning Update

Since the public engagement event, held in February 2023, we have continued with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development and incorporated views raised by the community into this process.

In response to interest from the community, we propose to hold an additional engagement event. This event will specifically cover the EIA process itself and the mechanisms through which EIA operates to ensure development is sustainable and sensitive of the receiving environment. We will also take this time to reiterate the specific aspects under consideration within the EIA.

A summary of the SEPA Regulatory Framework will also be provided, with attention focused on the mechanisms for ensuring the Proposed Development operates within the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment.

It is proposed that an event will be held in June 2023.

Dog Fouling

IGHT contacted Argyll & Bute Council to enquire about free dog foul bags, which had been raised by a member at the last members meeting. 2000 bags have been ordered for Gigha by the Council's Amenity and Dog Control Warden. These will be available around the island in addition to the dog poo bag dispensers already in place.

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Achamore Gardens

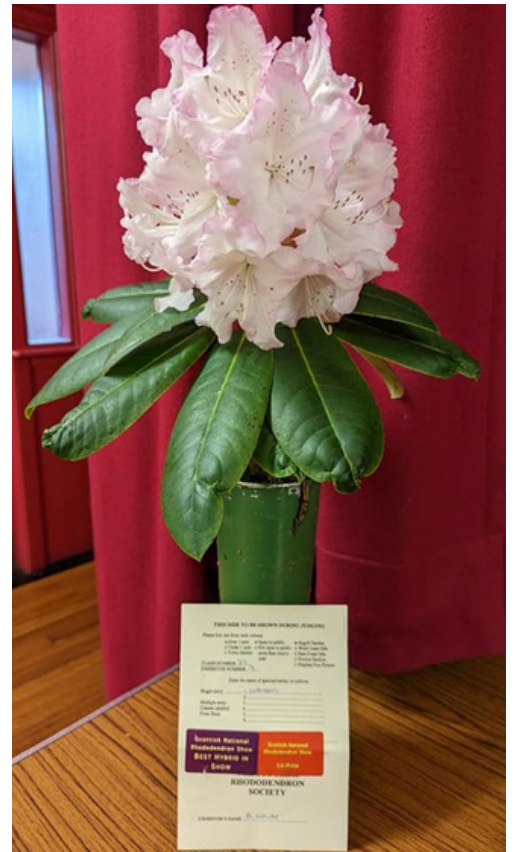
We kicked off May in style with a trip to the Scottish National Rhododendron show, organised and run by our friends at the Scottish Rhododendron Society. The show was well attended as always, with plenty of entries in all the classes. It was only our second year at the show, so I was absolutely gobsmacked to discover that we'd managed to win 7 first places and lift a grand total of three trophies, including the Scottish Rhododendron Society Cup which is awarded to the Best Hybrid Rhododendron in the show! The awards are a testament not only to the current garden team's hard work, but also to the gardeners of the past who planted and nurtured these amazing plants for us to enjoy now.



Achamore Gardens

We also held our annual Scotland's Garden Scheme charity open day in mid-May, once again raising funds for Gigha Village Hall. Unfortunately the weather didn't play ball on the day, with fog affecting the ferry for most of the day, even though it was a glorious on the island. These things can't be helped, and despite most visitors being unable to cross, we still managed to raise £224 for charity. Our thanks to the many residents and holiday makers who came and supported the day and helped make a dent in the mountains of delicious home baking put on by the village hall team.

Adam Murphy is currently working with us to re-design the garden leaflet and map, which we hope will be ready by the end of June. We are looking for the perfect image to grace the front cover of the leaflet and have already had lots of submissions on the Gardens Facebook page. It's not too late to send us your picture, so if you have a good one (preferably portrait orientation) either pop it on the Facebook page or email it to us on gardens@gigha.org.uk



Achamore Gardens Residents' Picnic

We are delighted to announce that the popular residents' picnic is happening again this year on Saturday 17th June 12.30 – 4. Prior booking is essential - please notify us of any dietary requirements. Please bring your own drinks. To book please call 01583 505390 or email gardens@gigha.org.uk by 9th June.

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Gigha Ranger Service

So it begins! From now until the end of the summer the Ranger Service and maintenance team will be carrying out strimming, vegetation cutting, culvert clearance and popping in additional signage to help access and ensure safety across the path network. It'll be great to have our first season where the Gateway paths are complete!



This month we also ran our next event in the Ranger summer event series. We took an easy ramble around Keill and Achamore Gardens discovering the medicinal uses of plants throughout time! We had a great morning and thank you for to all that joined us – we look forward to our walk on bumblebees in June. Despite the horrendous weather we've had in May, hardy volunteers helped to clean up Poll Mor beach in abysmally cold wind and rain but managed to complete a survey for Marine Conservation Society and the Scottish Islands Federation, as well as fill the CanAm will another load of marine litter! They are complete heroes! Look out for the "2 minute beach cleaning station" soon to be down at Minister's bay, and we hope to run another summer clean up in July!



Ranger photo of the month – Bluebells at their best out west



The SOUND of Gigha

Opening Concert

Friday 23 June 2023
Gigha Village Hall 7.30pm

A magical musical journey featuring:

- James Gray – Composer, musician & raconteur
- Troppos Ensemble – Latin infused musical offerings
- Special guests!

Thanks to Awards for All this concert is **FREE!**

Doors open at 7pm – be early to get a seat!

Donations for raffle welcome – bring on the night or
drop off at Achamore Lodge

There will be a licensed bar

thesoundofgigha.co.uk

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The SOUND of Gigha

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

VENUE:	VILLAGE HALL	FESTIVAL HUB			FIRE STATION	CHURCH	ACHAMORE HOUSE	MINISTER'S BEACH
FRIDAY 23RD								
7PM-10PM	CONCERT: MUSIC FROM GIGHA & BEYOND							
10.30PM	DISCO							
SATURDAY 24TH								
10AM						MUSIC MAKING WORKSHOP		
10.30AM							FIKA (SWEDISH COFFEE MORNING)	
11AM		MAKERS' MARKET	CHILDREN'S ZONE	FLOWER CROWN MAKING DROP-IN		COMICS DRAWING WORKSHOP		
11.30AM					SINGING WORKSHOP			
12PM								
12.30PM								
1PM								
1.30PM					CHILDREN'S STORY TELLING			
2PM							GAELIC FOR BEGINNERS	
2.30PM					BELLY DANCING			
3PM				HERITAGE WALK				
3.30PM					ADULT STORY TELLING			
4PM								
...								
7PM-12AM	CONCERT & CEILIDH SHOOGLENIFTY AND DLÚ							
SUNDAY 25TH								
10.30AM-11.30AM		MINDFUL WALK						
12PM-3PM								SURVIVORS' PICNIC