

# ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST

# NewsLetter February 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.

Contact us by emailing [directors@gigha.org.uk](mailto:directors@gigha.org.uk)

## Gigha Day & Simon Fraser Memorial event

### 15th March 2024 at Gigha Hotel

Join us to celebrate the 22nd anniversary of community ownership! This event is dedicated to the memory of Simon Fraser, a solicitor and pioneer of land reform in Scotland. Simon was instrumental in the success of some of the early community buyouts, including Gigha. This event has been made possible with support from Community Land Scotland as part of a series of events celebrating a Hundred Years of Community Ownership. The event will focus on community wealth building on Gigha for the next 100 years whilst reflecting on the history and progress of the island.

#### Agenda & Timings

12:30 - Flag raising outside Gigha Hotel

13:00 - Networking and refreshments

13.30 - 100 years history mapping activity

14:00 - Presentations from Neil McInroy, Community Shares &

Future Economy Scotland

14:30 - 100 years future for Gigha mapping activity

15:00 - Closing remarks

For the mapping activities, please feel free to bring along any photographs, news articles, or memorabilia that you would be happy to have included.

We need numbers for catering, so let us know if you are planning to attend! RSVP by Monday 4th March 2024 at the latest to [jane@gigha.org.uk](mailto:jane@gigha.org.uk) or telephone 07596855402. Please also make us aware if you have any dietary requirements.

We are also hosting a ceilidh in the evening at the Gigha Village Hall. Come along and hear the Jacobites perform from 8pm. Entry is free and all are welcome!



## Gigha Winter Bar

The bar is open on Friday and Saturday evenings until the end of March. The Rugby Six Nations tournament continues until 16th March with some matches to be shown in the bar. Details of any additional opening nights will be shared on Facebook.

## Gigha Hotel

Plans continue to progress at the Hotel. Detailed drawings of the new pub/function space should be available fairly soon. Other works scheduled to take place include rewiring, a new septic tank, and possibly some energy efficiency improvements such as insulating. The maintenance team have been tasked with roof repairs and other internal jobs in the meantime. The Gigha Winter Bar is due to close at the end of March and the Hotel pub will not reopen until these works are completed. Timescales for these works are still to be confirmed.

## Save the date!

Friday 15th March (daytime) – Gigha Day and Simon Fraser Memorial event - RSVP required

Friday 15th March (evening) – Jacobites ceilidh (licensed bar) – free and open to all

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

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

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...>



# Mad Ferret

ISLE OF GIGHA - WHIRL TOUR OF SCOTLAND

[View All Concerts](#)

**Gigha Village Hall**  
Isle of Gigha PA41 7AD  
[Isle of Gigha, United Kingdom](#)

**Apr 12, 2024**  
7:30 PM GMT+1

## Visit Gigha

As the spring season is approaching, we are starting to think about the visitor season again. If you have a local business and are either looking to be listed on the Visit Gigha website or require your current listing to be updated, please get in touch. The Visit Gigha website can be found at [www.visitgigha.co.uk](http://www.visitgigha.co.uk) We try to ensure all businesses are featured but need your help to keep the information up to date. We can also feature your business on the Visit Gigha social media channels if you can provide us with a short bit of text and some images. Please contact Jane at [jane@gigha.org.uk](mailto:jane@gigha.org.uk)

## Gigha Trading and Renewables Limited

The merger of Gigha Green Power Ltd and Gigha Trading Ltd is progressing. GGPL's name has been changed to Gigha Trading and Renewables Limited as of 23rd February. GTL's assets and activities will be transferred to GTRL by April and then GTL will be dissolved.

## Renewables

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

## Gigha Community Council

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

## Achamore Gardens

After a windy Winter, Spring is finally settling over Achamore Gardens.

Through the woodlands, the earliest flowering Rhododendrons are coming into full bloom nicely. While in the walled gardens the bulb meadow is peppered with the purple blooms of crocus, clusters of white snowdrops and the delicate pale yellow flowers of Narcissus bulbocodium 'Artic Bells'. Our bulb display would not be nearly as cheerful without the help of our dedicated volunteers and attendees of last year's Bulb Planting Day. We'd like to say a big Thank You to all our helpers and hope you've all managed to make time to enjoy the bulb displays. There are still plenty flowers to come into bloom too!

By the end of February all paths and areas closed due to storm damage will be open and safe to wander, just intime for the spring blooms!



### \*\*\*Internship Accommodation Opportunity\*\*\*

Achamore Gardens is currently developing a horticultural internship that provides practical experience for graduate horticulturalists. Hosting the internship at Achamore Gardens will also promote the exchange of horticultural knowledge with existing team members.

For the internship to be a success we need accommodation available on the island. If any island residents are interested in hosting a paid lodger for rent and board, please get in touch with the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Office. Tel: 01583 505390

## Gigha and Cara Parish Church

The next service in Gigha church will be at 12 o'clock on 10th March. On Easter Sunday there will be a joint service at Clachan at 11.30 am.

## Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

February seems to be the month that we see some pretty BIG, awesome birds. We have spotted the white-tailed sea eagle three times (mainly around the east and south), the sparrowhawks are darting all over the place, male hen harriers are out hunting in force, and even a male merlin was spotted at the north end recently. How lovely! Now with spring on the way, the snowdrops have passed making way for the lesser celandine, the willow is budding, and the daffodils are gracing us with their beautiful sunshine faces.

Despite all these lovely things, it's been a month of fairly gruelling work, dealing with storm damage on the path network, beach cleans and the clearing of fencing and debris on our popular coastal spots, and our invasive non-native species project has started. The area opposite Grianan was cleared of vegetation to make future maintenance of Himalayan balsam easier and more effective, and the rhododendron ponticum has started to be treated. Please keep an eye out on the noticeboard at Ardmish stores and social media for path closures and public safety announcements.

The woodland path from the Fire Station to the Village Hall is currently closed for public safety whilst invasive non-native species treatment and removal takes place. We hope to have this work done as quickly as possible and will notify the community when the work is complete. Other areas around the island may also be restricted over the summer to carry out these works. Thank you for your patience and help to complete these works as efficiently and safely as possible.

This hard work has extended into our volunteer days too, the amazing volunteers planted the area surrounding Ardmish cist with rowan and oak which were very kindly gifted to the Ranger Service by the Gigha Coast and Countryside Group. The long-term intention is to turn this area into a visitable, peaceful place. We plan to install a pedestrian gate and carry out vegetation management to give these trees the best possible start, but also to make this a pretty, easy access natural space for the community. Who knows, maybe one day a bench or two may even finish off the site. A huge thank you, as always, goes to our wonderful volunteers who literally blitz every task to the highest standard, and I am convinced, the highest speed in Scotland!

Enough about hard work, more about play! This month we launched our Ranger Service 2024 events programme. This series of free events will be run solely by the Ranger Service and aim to include a variety of creative and wildlife activities, as well as some guided walks. [FULL DETAILS ON LAST PAGE](#)



## Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

These events are open to everyone and all including visitors and will be accompanied by adult-only autumn sessions which we will provide more information about later in the year. We are simply asking that this year bookings are made to secure your spot so we can make sure that we are providing sufficient equipment and refreshments to make the sessions the best they possibly can be. This is not a programme without flexibility, if you would like to see something that we aren't covering, please just let us know! We kicked off our first event with some sculpture making at Achamore Gardens, which saw the amazing participants creating some epic sculptures in the form of wooden rounds, trees and painted wood cookies. Their sculptures will be on display in Gigha Hotel to celebrate Gigha Day on 15th March. The children of Gigha Primary School will also contribute to these sculptures and create their own Time Capsule that will be buried as part of the celebrations! Our next event on Friday 29th March will be centred around making little homes for our hedgehog friends, just in time for them to start emerging fully from winter hibernation. We hope to see you there!



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## Gigha Primary School & Early Learning Centre

After returning from our week's break, pupils got stuck into clearing the outdoor growing area and planting out their seeds. This year we hope to grow a range of potatoes, parsnips, beetroot, tomatoes, peas, sweetcorn and herbs. We plan to use these in our own cooking and share the surplus with our families and the community.

Primary pupils have also been using their knowledge of food to plan a monthly soup and sandwich drop-in for our island elders which has been well attended. Older primary pupils plan the soup and research the ingredients required and the younger pupils have practiced their skills of chopping, slicing and dicing. It has been lovely to host our islanders and share our love of food with others. If you would like to join our monthly event please let us know.

ELC pupils will shortly be continuing their swimming lessons at Campbeltown Aqualiilibrium in conjunction with Rhunahaorine ELC which helps develop water safety skills whilst socialising with peers from off island. The Primary School pupils will also be enjoying off-site visits as part of Gaelic week to take part in music workshops with Feis as well as Acahoish and Clachan Primary Schools. In addition, all pupils within the school and ELC will also be taking part in weekly music lessons with Rebecca Hill between now and the end of term and a mini-concert will be given on Tuesday 26th March at 11.30am followed by sandwiches, cake and tea and coffee. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Finally, we will shortly be recruiting for a part-time Clerical Assistant (16.5 hours) and ASN Assistant as Audrey and Phoebe will be leaving us at the end of March. We would like to thank them for their time spent at Gigha Primary School and ELC and wish them lots of luck for their future endeavours. Both jobs will be advertised in the coming weeks on MyJobScotland and more information about each role can be found by contacting the school office on 01583505259. Kind regards, Mrs Vipurs, Headteacher.

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

## Community Helipad

We are delighted to share that planning permission has been granted for the development of an official emergency helicopter landing pad at Gigha airfield. The project, which has recently come to fruition, is being fully funded by the HELP Appeal, who are the only emergency helipad charity in the country. The charity is providing funds of £150k to cover the full scope of works.

We are looking forward to welcoming the Royal Engineers from the 39 Regiment of Kinloss Barracks to Gigha next month. The troops, who are building the helipad, will be accommodated in the Hotel and catered by the Wee Isle Café and Ardmish Stores during their 2-3 week stay.

Stock piling of materials has begun and works on site are expected to begin by mid-March. The majority of the materials are being delivered by ship to the South Pier, whilst other materials will be delivered by road. Please be aware there may be some disruption, particularly in the south end of the island. There will be increased heavy vehicles and likely some mess on the roads, however, please be reassured that any mess will be reinstated.

## Pontoons Funding

The Scottish Government has allocated Argyll and Bute Council £1,590,409 for 2023/24 from the Crown Estate Fund. The Crown Estate fund is targeted at the sustainability of coastal communities in the key categories of environment, community, climate change, and economic development. The funding can be used to deliver council projects or provided as a grant to third sector organisations to assist in the delivery of a community project. The Council has approved funding of £11,000 to Gigha Trading Limited. The funding will be used to develop a system where the link bridge is raised, rather than removed and brought ashore when the pontoons are wintered, saving time and money towards future operational and maintenance work.



Just a final note if you use the pantry, please ensure the padlock is securely locked again - you will need to click down and turn the number combinations around to lock.

If you need access at any time, please get in touch with Morven or Alex with no judgement and all communication is completely confidential. Thank you.



## Gigha Food Pantry

The Food Pantry has been well used since Christmas. If you are a user, could you please give us some feedback on types of food offered and if there are items you'd like to see, as this would be very helpful. There is a book in the pantry that can be written in or feel free to privately message or chat to Alex or Morven.

Please bear with us as we still have not sourced an outdoor storage unit for washing powder and cleaning materials as they cannot be kept with food items.



The [Gigha Community Action Plan Group](#), which is made up of residents, Gigha Community Council and Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust representatives, aims to produce a 10-year Gigha Community Plan by late summer of 2024. This group was set up by IGHT as the 10-Year Planning Group in 2023. The plan will be developed with and for the whole island community. It will focus on what the community's vision is for the future of Gigha. It will identify key themes, priorities and actions for development by a range of organisations such as Gigha Community Council, Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust, Argyll and Bute Council as well as other island groups. The plan will follow a similar format to the one produced by the Isle of Jura. The aim of the Community Plan will be to improve the lives of individuals, families and businesses who live and work on Gigha.

**[The Gigha Community Action Plan will need your views soon!](#)**

The Plan will outline the top priorities, goals and hopes of the community. It will help guide the policies and activities of the Trust, the Community Council and other community groups on the island for the next 10 years. In order to reflect the hopes and wishes of the island, we need to know what they are! We would like every person on the island to think carefully about this and share your views. This will be a wide-scale, in-depth consultation that will make a meaningful difference in setting the course of the island for the next 10 years and beyond. Over the next month or so we will be posting some ideas to get everyone on Gigha thinking about the way forward for the island over the next 10 years. Look out for these posts on Facebook, the noticeboard at the shop and in the next newsletter. Each individual resident will receive a questionnaire in mid-April and a digital version will also be available. It's intended for children as well as adults. The questionnaire responses will be used to write a first draft of the Gigha Community Action Plan. We will then have a further consultation event in the Village Hall for residents and important community organisations. Following this, the final version of the plan will be produced. The Gigha Community Plan will be available to all on the island. It will be a 'living' document which will be reviewed regularly. Start thinking about this now. Talk to your friends, your neighbours and even your enemies! Think practically, but don't be afraid to dream big. This is the most important chance for the community to plan for the future. Be ready to share your views in April!

**[Gigha Community Action Plan | Facebook](#)**



# Ranger Events 2024

**Prior booking is essential.  
Please reserve your spot at  
[ranger@gigha.org.uk](mailto:ranger@gigha.org.uk) / 07596855398**

Further information will be sent after booking has been made. All events are weather dependent and are liable to cancellation at short notice.

Event	Date & Time	Who for?
Wood sculpture and nature art	Sat 17th February 10:00	Families
Build a hedgehog house*	Fri 29th March 10:00	Families
Moth morning*	Wed 3rd April 10:00	Open to all
Create your own fairy door*	Wed 10th April 10:00	Families
Bat walk	Fri 19th April 20:30	Open to all
Medicinal plants and tea making	Sat 11th May 10:00	Open to all
Seabird spotting	Sat 25th May 10:00	Open to all
Bumblebee walk	Sat 15th June 11:00	Open to all
Pond dipping*	Wed 3rd July 10:00	Families
Butterfly transect*	Sat 20th July 12:00	Open to all
Cetacean spotting*	Sat 3rd August 11:00	Open to all
Plant folklore*	Sat 10th August 10:00	Open to all

\*During school holidays