

SEPTEMBER 2023

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Newsletter

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

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

The planning application for the MUGA development has now been lodged. This was a requirement of funding applications, however there is still approximately 60% of funding still to secure. The planning permission includes for a 5-a-side pitch. The Parent Council are doing more fundraising for the project:

- Football cards – Available in Ardmishin Stores and Muasdale Stores. £5 per square and £100 prize for the winner.
- Bonfire night - Saturday 4th November at the Gigha Hotel carpark. Hotdogs, hot choc and sparklers!
- Santa Dash - Saturday 9th December. Details to be confirmed.

Members Training – 5th October

Following the August Members meeting, it was agreed that Members Training may be beneficial. Delfinity HR are hosting a Members training session on Thursday 5th October. There will be 2 sessions at the Gigha Village Hall: 1-3pm and 7-9pm. The sessions will focus on the role of the trustees and members, including an understanding of the responsibilities, limitations, and benefits. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions during the training session.

Gateway Phase 4 works schedule

“Phase 4” of the Gateway to Gigha project is scheduled to be carried out towards the end of October. This includes upgrading the section between the Dark Skies Theatre and boardwalk, Fisherman’s cave, Dun Chibhich, and Cuddyport.

Kintyre Way Consultation

The Kintyre Way has secured some funding and is looking for feedback on the trail:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KINTYRE WAY>

They are hosting a consultation event on Tuesday 24th October at the Village Hall. You are required to sign up in advance for their workshop:

<https://www.scoto.co.uk/networking-events/kintyre-way-workshops/>

Renewables

Vestas have carried out the remedial works on the internal ladders of the Dancing Ladies and have replaced the fall arrest systems.

A lifting plan has been created for the crane operation required for the replacement gearbox in T2, which is planned for the beginning of October.

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Gigha Food Pantry

Morven and Alex would like to thank everyone who came along despite the weather to officially open 'Gigha Food pantry' Our most senior resident Stan Uttley cut the ribbon assisted by our community nurse Yvonne McDougall and our youngest island resident Naomi de la Hayé along with her mum Charlie-Jane Elder.

The food pantry is an independent non-means tested food bank which has been set up with community funding to support residents living on the island. This enables residents experiencing hardship to confidentiality and discretely access free long life food and drink products and basic toiletries.

The shed is situated in the primary schools food growing garden and can be accessed anytime as long as the pupils are not using the garden.

If you require to use this service please contact: Morven, Alex, Yvonne or Shona for the code. All communication will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Please note: at present we have most of the toiletries stored away from the food so again please let us know if you require these products. For the time being we are well stocked but will put a shout out if we need anything in particular. Again, we would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for the support we have been shown to get this project off the ground.

Morven and Alex.



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Visitor Survey results

Over the last few years, we have been issuing an end of season visitor survey. This information has helped evaluate the impacts of the Gateway to Gigha project in particular, but also helps us look at any areas for improvement. A summary of the key outcomes of the survey are as follows:

- 80% described their visit to Gigha as "very good", with the remaining 20% as "good" or "ok".
- When asked what would improve their visit to Gigha, the top responses were: a leaflet with a map of the island; the Hotel being open; more food & drink options; public toilets; more events.
- 42% travelled by vehicle; 40% travelled by foot; 18% travelled by bike/e-bike.
- 82% said they learned something new about Gigha's history, historic sites, and wildlife.
- 77% used the Visit Gigha website and found it useful.
- 67% are aware of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
- 38% stayed 2-3 nights; 21% stayed 2-5 nights; 14% did a daytrip from the mainland; 10% stayed more than 5 nights; 9% stayed 1 night; 8% travelled for the day from home.
- 52% stayed at the campsite; 28% stayed at self-catering; 6% stayed at a B&B; 7% stayed with friends/family; the remaining travelled from home.
- 87% said they are likely to return to the island.

For anyone interested in viewing more details of the survey, please contact Jane Millar:
jane@gigha.org.uk



Malkie's caricature courtesy of Adam Murphy

Malkie's Retirement

Malcolm McNeill, IGHT Maintenance Operative, is retiring at the end of September 2023. 'Malkie' has served with IGHT for over 8 years and has been a popular part of the IGHT team – he will be missed! Best wishes to Malkie on his retirement.

New Maintenance Operative

IGHT's new Maintenance Operative, Tim Williams, will be joining the team in November. Tim is moving to Gigha with his wife Sam and will reside in 4 Woodside.

British Telecom / Openreach update

After nearly four years of negotiations with BT and Openreach, IGHT have finally been informed that any further upgrading of the Gigha phone network will not be going ahead. This is mainly down to the cost of replacing the subsea cable, which would need to be upgraded to fibre. The Scottish Government have also been contacted by IGHT, but they too are unable to help at this time.

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Gigha and Cara Parish Church

The Harvest Thanksgiving service was held on 24th September with Rev Anne McIvor. The gifts donated will go to the new Gigha Pantry.

The church is grateful to the Gigha Community Fund for a grant to deal with the Japanese Knotweed in the Glebe. Fergus Madigan of Argyll invasive species management was over on 22nd September to treat the affected area. He will monitor it and may need to treat it again next year.



The next service in Gigha Church will be Holy Communion on 8th October with Rev Lyn Peden. Afterwards there will be a session meeting of our new parish of Mid Kintyre and Gigha in the church.

Concert:

The Mad Ferret Band will be playing at Gigha Village Hall on Thursday 2nd November.

Doors - 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £12 - Concessions £10 - Adult plus 1 Child £15

Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite or on the door.

Ticket Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../the-mad-ferret-band-whirl...>

A Licensed Bar will be available.

The Mad Ferret Band are a folk duo from Perth, Scotland, known for their energetic blend of traditional and contemporary folk music. With blisteringly fast mandolin solos, tight vocal harmonies, driving Cajon beats, and earth-moving guitar sounds. For the past 10 years they've excited crowds across Europe with influences from The Corries, The Pogues to Capercaillie and Gordon Duncan. They've shared stages with acts such as Dougie Maclean, Manran, Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Tim Edey, Capercaillie, Julie Fowlis, Peatbog Faeries and many of the biggest names on the scene.

Housing Development update

Construction works continue to progress well with timber kits now up and near to being wind and watertight. The construction is on target for completion in July 2024, provided there are no significant delays due to weather and material availability.



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Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

A resident recently explained that autumn starts at the end of August until November here on Gigha. We'd be inclined to agree and so would the nocturnal animals (despite the warm weather at the start of September). We are literally tripping over hedgehogs at the moment, who are trying to consume as much as possible before entering into hibernation to stock up on fat stores for the winter months. We are also seeing a huge number of bats around just now. This is the time when they are out in force to mate before hibernating and giving birth next spring. Beautiful!



At the start of this month we had the absolutely amazing 19th Argyll Scouts troop over to volunteer. They did the MOST fantastic job of clearing rhododendron using incredible winching skills, and made some fabulous bat boxes which are ready to be put up very shortly. They had nothing but rave reviews about the campsite and Gigha, and we hope they will come back next year! Thank you to all the Scouts for their help and to the leaders for making this happen!

September happens to be Scottish Archaeology Month organised by Archaeology Scotland. To celebrate, fantastic Forest Schoolers constructed their own version of a Bronze Age roundhouse, and we took the children of Gigha Primary on a heritage hunt, to learn more about our historical monuments and constructions, as well as use clues and instructions to capture images of the sites to tie in with their current photography topic on the built environment. It was so much fun! Conservation volunteers also contributed by cutting back vegetation around Carn Ban.



This one is a Scheduled Monument meaning we couldn't work directly on the monument, but we cut away at the vegetation around the site to prevent further encroachment in future growing seasons. Thanks to everyone who came along and contributed to these events, it was a fab opportunity to show off our history here on Gigha.



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Gigha Primary School

As we approach the October holidays it is nice to look back to see just how much we have achieved. This month we have been learning about engineering and have been focussing on the Crinan Canal. Pupils have investigated how canals are built and the challenges around this-including keeping water where they want it to be! Next week we will be visiting the canal and seeing how the locks are operated when bringing barges in and out of the canal from Loch Fyne.

This month we have also started our journey to becoming a Rights Respecting School. This allows pupils to develop their confidence around understanding their rights whilst raising awareness of injustice in the world. In the ELC children have also been learning all about themselves, recognising their individuality and uniqueness. They have enjoyed a range of sensory play as well as Beach School visits with Rhunahaorine ELC.



On the 15th September we were invited to the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Campbeltown Courier at the Town Hall in Campbeltown. Two of our pupils, Brogan and Syd, had been chosen from local schools as winners of the competition to design the logo for the celebration. All pupils were treated to a musical performance by the Kintyre Pipe Band, afternoon tea and were presented with celebratory gifts, including a cake with their logo on. We had a wonderful day out which we will remember for years to come.



Finally, this month we started our Lego sessions with the University of Highlands and Islands, focussing on developing skills in science, technology, engineering and maths. Pupils complete a range of challenges each week to develop their skills and confidence and have already created and coded operational devices. It is fantastic to see all pupils engaging in these sessions to challenge their creativity and problem solving skills!

Mrs Vipurs, Acting Principal Teacher

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Ranger's photo of the month:

The heathland on the Northern Loop path after the year's final maintenance strim.



Northern Lights taken from North end of Gigha on 1st September 2023.

Photo courtesy of Stuart Kelly, island visitor.



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Argyll & Bute
Kintyre Medical Group
Muasdale Surgery
Muasdale, Tarbert, Argyll
Telephone number - 01583 421 206
Fax number - 01583 421 220



COVID & FLU VACCINE

Monday 23rd October 2023

**10:00am - 4pm Drop in Clinic
Gigha Village Hall**

**Overs 65's eligible for COVID & Flu
Vaccine**

**Over 50's eligible for Flu Vaccine
Age 2 - 5 years eligible for nasal flu
vaccine**

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100 years Community Land Week

Community Threads
Sunday 22nd October 2023
Gigha Village Hall

To help celebrate 100 years of community land ownership, IGHT is hosting a Community Threads events, supported by Community Land Scotland.

Morning session: 10am-12pm

A Woodland Weaving session with the Countryside Ranger Service!

DIY mini loom making and weaving, suitable for adults only and limited to 12 participants. Booking is essential.

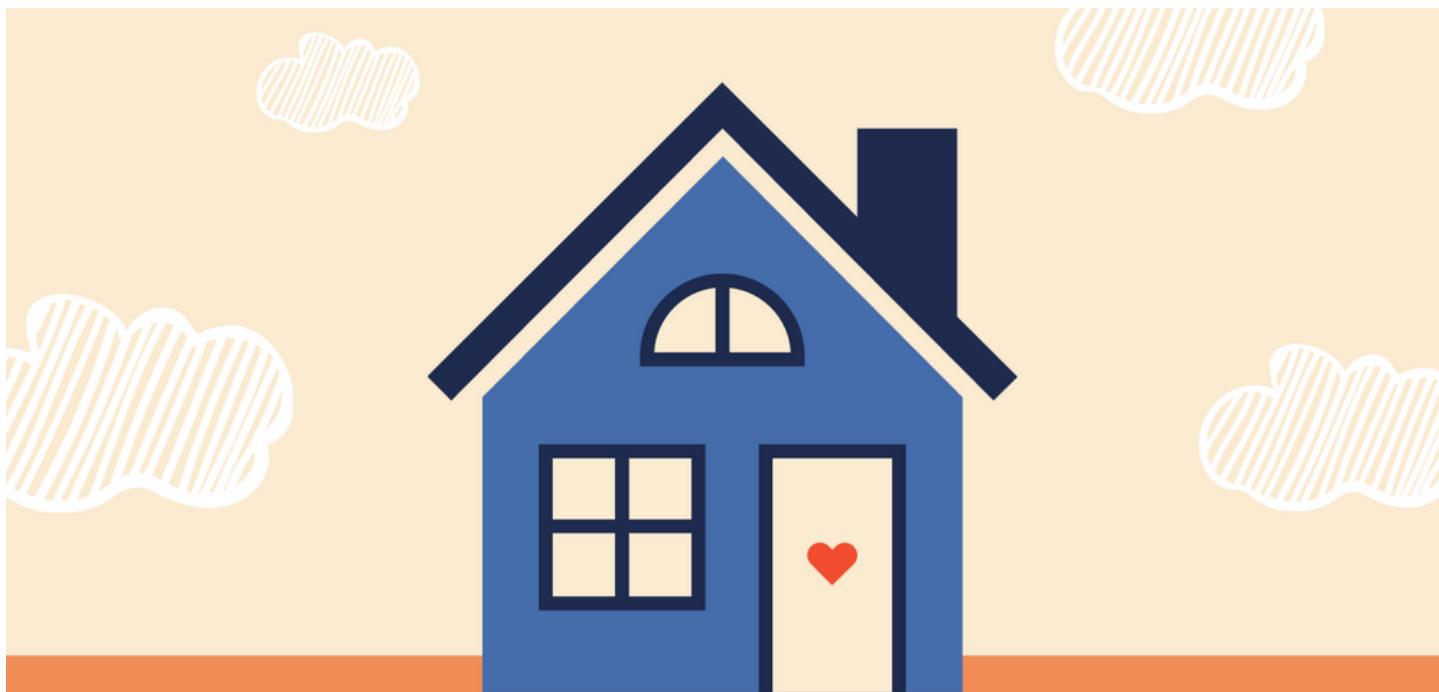
Afternoon session: 1-3pm

Afternoon tea and yarn crafts. Make your own yarn ornament and help create memory bunting. Open to everyone and no booking required.

Please contact Casey-Jo Zammit
to secure your place for the morning session.
ranger@gigha.org.uk
07596855398



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Household Resilience

It is widely recognised that we are living in financially challenging times for many households. We securely pass on information to Bute Advice, AliEnergy, Home Energy Scotland and provide a quick link to any support available in your situation.

Give one of our Household Resilience a call!

Phone: 01586 552240