

APRIL 2022

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Newsletter

IGHT Members Meeting

A Members meeting will take place at the Gigha Village Hall on Thursday 12th May at 7.00pm. Within the Calling Notice, we asked for suggestions for items to include on the agenda. The agenda is as follows:

1. Chair Welcome
2. General update on IGHT activity from Chair
3. Sale of Kinnererach
4. AOB

Please note that the meeting audio will be recorded for the purpose of transcribing the minutes.

Kinnererach

Issues with the sale of Kinnererach have been brought to the Board's attention by Fergus Christie via the community group which came forward to discuss the sale. These issues have been addressed as follows:

Valuation: The property was valued by an independent surveyor, DM Hall, who have completed many Home Reports on the island and for the Trust previously. We enquired with other organisations to complete valuations for comparison, however, all have either not responded to the enquiry or are too busy in the near future.

Conflict of interest: We are aware of the apparent issue of conflicts of interest but at the time of the Members Meeting these were theoretical conflicts, and as it transpires, there are no conflicts between Board members and the offers received.

Viewings: We can advise that the property was viewed by 12 prospective purchasers and both Directors and staff assisted with the viewings. Directors and staff have a responsibility to the Trust and the offers received further demonstrate how well the viewings were conducted.

Offers: 7 offers were received, with 1 offer being withdrawn before the Board had sight of the offers. Our Estate Agent, Stewart Balfour and Sutherland, provided their recommendation against the offers based on any conditions associated with the sale. Their recommendation was to accept the highest offer. All who submitted offers intend to become permanent residents and bring value to the island, therefore it is not possible for the Board to dispute the recommendation to accept the highest offer as this ensures a fair process for all parties involved.

The Board have therefore proceeded to offer the sale of Kinnererach to the highest offer. Details of the offer received will be confirmed once the sale is concluded.

Gigha Primary School- Gigha Children's Festival 10th and 11th June

The children of Gigha Primary School are looking for young people interested in training to be festival stewards, seniors who know how to do a waltz, adults to lead creative activities for all ages and anyone who has skills and talents they want to share to make our first children's festival an event to remember. Please come and sign up as a volunteer or call the school office 01583 505 259 to offer to help with activities.

The Scottish Salmon Company – SEPA Engagement Meeting

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) would like to thank the community of Gigha for attending the in-person SEPA Engagement Event, for the proposed West Gigha development, held at the Gigha Village Hall on the 6th of April 2022.

SSC welcomed the opportunity to discuss the proposal with members of the community. Details of the event will be fed back to SEPA.

Further consultation events will be held to provide more information on the proposed development and application process.

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Play Park

The Play Park has now reopened after recent storm damage has been addressed. The fireman's pole and bridge have been removed for safety reasons and the playpark surface has been repaired.



Gigha and Cara Parish Church

The stated AGM of the Gigha church will be after the morning service on **Sunday 8th May**. The service will be conducted by Douglas Allan from Bute.

Gateway to Gigha

Phase 2 of Gateway is well underway. Tim Lister and Scott Murdoch and his team both have made tremendous progress, with the new Achamore Gardens Easy Access path and the steppingstone / pitched stone-based approach to Càrn na Faire virtually complete and others started. Meanwhile, Planning for Phase 3 is ongoing.



Achamore Gardens Easy Access Path

Gateway to Gigha- continued



Càrn na Faire Path

On the heritage front, we are looking forward to further visits by Historic Environment Scotland, so look out for notices of activities for families and interested individuals to take place between **8th and 11th May**. These sessions will allow families to have a go at surveying the Ardaily township, join in on a hunt for quern stone quarries, and attend an evening talk with representatives of Historic Environment Scotland. Visits by Archaeology Scotland and Glasgow University Celtic Studies department are also planned, with community activities aligning with each of these – we'll keep you posted. Designs and content of our heritage interpretation is also creeping ever closer to completion, so I look forward to sharing these with you in the coming months.



Archaeological survey of the cairns at Tarbert

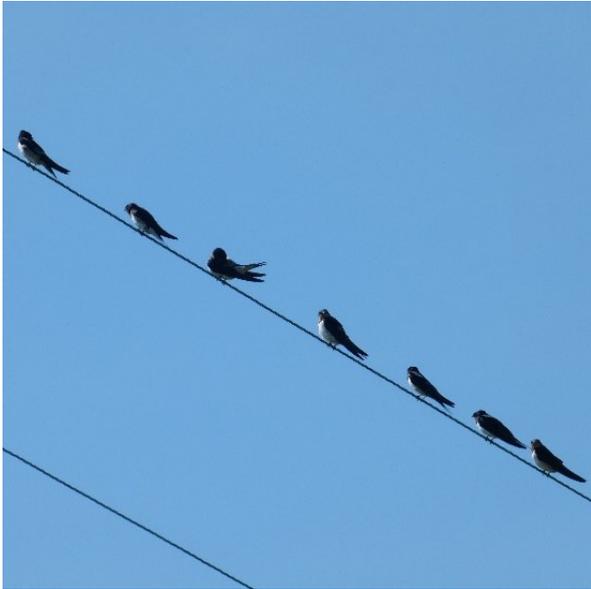
Visit Gigha Website Launch

A new visitor website for the island has now launched (www.visitgigha.co.uk). The Visit Gigha website provides all visitor information such as accommodation, food and activities and will soon host all of the online heritage interpretation. The current Gigha.org website will remain but will be directed more towards community related content. You can also follow Visit Gigha on Facebook @visitgigha and on Instagram @visit.gigha.

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Countryside Ranger

A total hive of activity, the wildlife of Gigha is on the move. Swallows have returned, birds are collecting nesting material, the hedgehogs have awoken, and the spring flowers are out in force. Fabulous.



This month we had our most attended Forest School session yet. We learned about what we can forage, cooked up some yummy bread and wild garlic pesto, made bramble, dandelion and gorse tea, and of course did the obligatory marshmallow toasting. Keep an eye out on social media and the shop noticeboard for posters about our next Forest School session to go ahead in May.



Countryside Ranger- continued

We also held our first guided walk of the year that also focused on foraging. We looked at around 15 species that we can forage on Gigha for springtime salads, tea combinations, pesto and cakes. A HUGE THANK YOU to the food group for inviting me to give the walk and to everyone who came along, it was a lovely evening.

We are still running our conservation mornings that will aim to take place on every 3rd Friday morning of the month. Up to now we have planted 200 trees in Achamore Gardens to improve shelter belts and biodiversity, cleared vegetation from Ardminish Cist to allow for the community and visitors to view easily from the roadside and maintain our heritage sites, and undertaken some woodland management to improve habitat for woodland and farmland birds. In the summer months we will be helping the team in Achamore Gardens and doing a bit more to look after our beaches.

If you'd like to get involved in any of the above or would like more information, please drop me an email ranger@gigha.org.uk, or give me a call on 07596855398.



Photo of the month: a hazy sunny morning over Cuddyport

Campsite Update

We had hoped that the build would be finished by the end of April, but unfortunately, we've experienced a few more delays and it's looking like works will be ongoing until nearer the end of May, with the Campsite due to open in June. The extra time and sunshine are giving the campground a chance to green up and get ready for the arrival of the campers. We can't wait to start welcoming people onto the site!

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Achamore Gardens Update

The gardens are hitting peak Rhododendron season now with blooms appearing all over the woods, and the spring bulbs are creating a colourful splash in the walled garden. Just in time, the new Easy Access Path has been completed, which allows all visitors, but particularly those with limited mobility, pushchairs, etc to enjoy some of the best bits of the garden. This new path, funded by the Gateway to Gigha project and built by Tim Lister, winds through the garden from the main drive, leading visitors through the woods, past the pond and up to the Camellia Walk. From here visitors can walk back along the drive to the walled garden and will soon be able to exit the garden down South Drive with the installation of a new self-closing gate here.



The upgraded viewpoint path is now open!

Elsewhere, the gardens team continue to be as busy as ever, getting the gardens ready for the summer season, clearing the never ending brambles, mowing lawns and strimming paths, and sowing and growing lots of seeds and seedlings in the greenhouse. We've also been playing host to the family of Furbochs from the OGAM project in the walled gardens – if you've not been to see them yet best hurry as they and their wee wagon are soon going to be moving to pastures new!

Additionally, we would like to give a very big thank you to Susan Allan for donating £60.00 to Achamore Gardens from the sale of her plum jam! We are very grateful for Susan's continual support of the Gardens.

Achamore Gardens- Upcoming Events

On **Saturday May 21st** the gardens will be holding an open day as part of Scotland's Garden Scheme, a national scheme involving hundreds of gardens across Scotland who open their gardens to raise funds for local and national charities. This year proceeds from our open day will be going to support the great work done by the Gigha Village Hall Committee who will also be providing teas and their famous and fabulous home baking on the day. Entry will cost £7 which includes teas and refreshments. Please spread the word amongst your friends and family and help us make the day a big success!

Last year's Residents Picnic was so popular that we've decided to hold it again this year. We're just ironing out final details for it and will be sending out invitations soon, but pencil in **Sunday 15th May** on your calendar and keep your fingers crossed for good weather.



Achamore Gardens easy access path



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The Hub

The Hub is now open to membership offering a kitchen / lounge area including Wi-Fi and television (with Disney+ sign in required). There are also several exercise machines including cross trainer and rower and a weight bench. If you would like to enquire about membership please contact shona@gigha.org.uk or telephone 01583 505390.



Isle of Gigha Coastal Gin- Kintyre Gin

The next batch of Isle of Gigha Coastal Gin is now available to buy in Ardmish Stores and online from the Beinn an Tuirc website.



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