



# CHRISTMAS 2022



# Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Newsletter

## Message from the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

The directors and staff of the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust would like to thank all members for their support and contribution to the Trust in 2022. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2023.

## Holiday arrangements

The Trust Office will be closed from Friday 23rd December until Wednesday 4th January 2023. In the event of a maintenance emergency during this period, please phone 07706 353795 and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

For electricity outages please call SSE on 105. For mains water issues please call Scottish Water on 0800 0778 778.

## Gigha and Cara Parish Church

By 1st January 2023 Gigha and Cara Parish Church will cease to exist but will be united with Clachan, A'Chleit and Skipness to form the new parish of Mid Kintyre and Gigha. But the Church will still be here and services will return to weekly very soon. As we become Mid Kintyre and Gigha we will be linked to Tarbert and the Rev. Lyn Peden will become our Minister. She is already working hard on our behalf but has been unable to find anyone to take a service in January so we will be having Songs of Praise in the Church on 8th January 2023 led by the elders. There will also be a carol service on December 17th so lookout for posters for that.

## Renewables update

The directors of Gigha Renewable Energy Ltd and Gigha Green Power Ltd welcome Adam Murphy to the boards. Adam lives on Gigha with his family and has become an active part of the community since moving to Gigha this summer.

The E33 Enercon turbine 'Harmony' has been performing well but issues have arisen due to recent power cuts, which we hope to have resolved soon.

The Dancing Ladies have been performing well in recent strong winds, but we have an issue with a bearing on T2, meaning it has been shut down to prevent further issues. Vestas engineers will require to investigate the issue using an endoscope (a small camera) and we hope to have T2 working again soon.

## Soup in the Hall

Thank you to everyone who attended Soup in the Hall on 23rd November. £113 was raised to be donated to the Multi Use Games Area project.

## Campsite

The Campsite remains open for business but is much quieter which has allowed us to get on with a few jobs – installing solar panels and an electric vehicle charging point (now open for public use), planting trees and improving motorhome pitches with more level and solid ground.



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## Gigha Ranger Service

Unbelievably, this newsletter marks 2 years of the Ranger Service and the outcomes of the Gateway to Gigha Project! Rather than reams of text, I thought this month an infographic would be a better way to show what we have been up to in 2022! I want to take the opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has been involved throughout the year from the conservation volunteers to event attendees. The support and involvement from the community has honestly been overwhelming. From now until the project is due to finish in March, we will be continuing with these outcomes, so please keep an eye on the shop noticeboard, social media and the newsletter for upcoming events and project updates, and finally have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!



**6 Ranger Events**



**8 Forest School Sessions**



**148 Volunteer Hours  
Given by the Community**



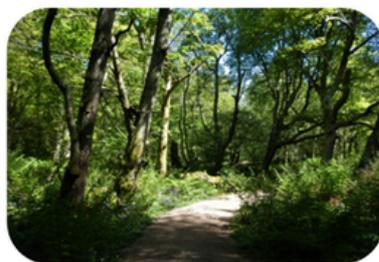
**51 Beach Cleaning  
Stations Emptied**



**6 Sessions with Gigha  
Primary School**



**1 Community Feedback  
Day**



**8 Paths Complete**



**7 Interpretation Panels  
Constructed**



**11 Community Heritage  
Project Events**

## The Sound of Gigha

Plans are afoot to organise a weekend of music, dancing, arts, crafts, food, drink and children's activities in June 2023. The pub quiz held last month raised £86 for the Sound of the Gigha and £144 for the MUGA. Thanks to all who came along and made it such a great night. If you're interested in getting involved in The Sound of Gigha Weekend in any way (whether it's being part of the organising team, having a stall, performing, running a workshop, being a venue or something else), please get in touch at [TheSoundofGigha@gmail.com](mailto:TheSoundofGigha@gmail.com)



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Dark Skies Gigha would like to say a big thank you to Gigha residents who supported this community event. It was a huge success despite the lack of a clear night sky. We had practical space science activities and a look back at the Apollo missions with Gigha Primary, a Dark Skies festival with a range of activities in the Village Hall for the community, planetarium sessions for the OGAM and BookBug groups, a fascinating talk on robotic telescopes and a question and answer 'Ask An Astronomer' panel. We also had the official opening of Gigha's Dark Skies Theatre at the north of the island at the recently designated Dark Sky Discovery site.

Space quiz winners: Adult – Maggie Wilkieson. Child – Archie Walker  
 Nightscape photo winner: Robert Laing (Milky Way from Minister's Beach)

Special thanks go to Steve and James from Cosmos Planetarium, Gigha Brewing, Dr Chris Leigh of Liverpool's John Moores University but most of all to the Gigha community for coming along and supporting the event.





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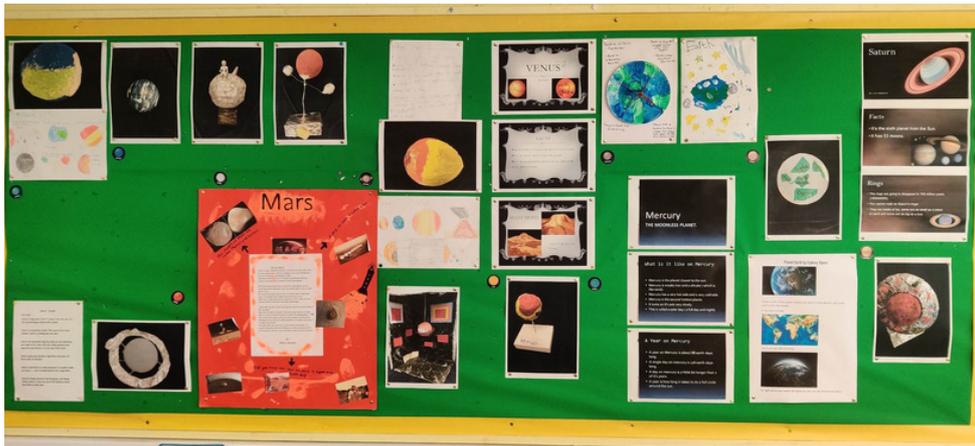


## Gigha Primary School

We have had a very busy term at Gigha Primary School and Pre 5 Unit. Alongside our regular curriculum, we have also hosted a visit from Historic Environment Scotland and Casey-Jo, IGH T Countryside Ranger, which saw pupils finding out a wealth of information about our island history. Pupils also mapped the area around the school and compared this to historical maps of the island. It was so interesting to see the previous building use on the island and where the school was previously located.

We also enjoyed exploring space with a visit from the Cosmos Planetarium where pupils found out more about the preparations behind the Apollo 11 moon landing. The visit also saw pupils make and test out different types of rockets.

Outside, the final preparations have now been made to the Bee Wild Garden, with the construction of a new bee hotel, the planting of wildflower seeds and bulbs and new pathways with natural stone borders. We cannot wait to see the area come to life in the spring. Thank you so much to Casey-Jo for all the support in making this possible and for making a lovely sign for the area for us too.



In the Pre 5 Unit, children have focused on sequencing using stories by Julia Donaldson. This has followed a woodland focus based on The Gruffalo. Regular outdoor visits this term have been to the woods, beach and a special visit to the Fire Station where pupils enjoyed finding out about the island Fire Engine.



The Gigha phone book updated by the older children at the Primary School is now on sale for £2.00. Please contact the school on 01583 505259 to order or you may buy one at the Christmas Performance on 16th December.



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## Gigha Primary School

Preparations are currently underway for the Christmas Performance on the 16th December at 7pm in the Village Hall. We are very lucky to have been supported by so many members of the community who have helped us to make this possible. As special thank you goes to Ken and Andzela at the Gigha Hotel whose kind donation allowed us to purchase the play, music and performance licence. We have also received very generous donations from the community of a Christmas Tree, lights and decorations so that the children can have a Christmas tree in their classroom this year. We have received some lovely raffle prizes for the night of the performance which will help the children raise funds for their chosen charity, Shelter. We are still looking for raffle prizes and baking for the night if people would like to donate. If you need us to collect any donations, please contact us at the school office. Thank you to everyone who has supported us; we really appreciate it. Kind regards, Mrs Vipurs (Class Teacher)

## Gateway to Gigha

With the return of Scott and his team at the start of the month, work on our Phase 2 path routes is in full swing again. The main activity currently is at the north end of the island, where the team are making great progress with the boardwalk round Port Mor. This is no small feat, as the boardwalk will traverse 300m of difficult coastal ground. Please take care if walking in this area as it remains a work site.

Elsewhere on the Northern Loop and on the Fisherman's Cave walk and Dun Chibhich, we have a small list of jobs still needed to complete these routes. Please bear with us while we tick these off over the winter in readiness for official opening in the spring. In the meantime, take care if walking them and, while we believe we are aware of all or most outstanding issues, please do feel free to report any that we might have missed. Many of the fingerposts at the beginnings and ends of our paths and at junctions are now in place, thanks to Tim Lister and Mark and Marc Cosgrove-Ward, with remainder set to roll out soon.

On the heritage front, the long-awaited interpretation panels will very soon be ready to go into production, with these fitted to the waiting plinths in the new year, while the Community Heritage Project is winding down after a super series of highly engaging visits by an array of bodies and individuals from the worlds of geology, history archaeology and storytelling. We are very grateful to all our wonderful contributors and to members of the community who embraced what was on offer.

Finally, orders have been placed for our adaptive bikes, with an e-trike, powered hand cycle and beach wheelchair soon to join our fleet of electric bikes, improving access opportunities to a wider range of people and enabling them to explore and appreciate this amazing island.

## Three-way fingerpost at Ardailly





Achamore Gardens has a shed full of air dried, seasoned firewood ready to be put to use keeping you warm this winter, in return for a donation to the garden's restoration.

Pay what you can afford, but suggested, sustainable donations are below.

**Two options are available for delivery to your home:**

Processed and ready to go straight onto your fire – by the tractor bucket load



**Suggested donation £50 per load**

Mixed, unprocessed (but still seasoned and ready to burn) lengths and rounds for you to cut/split at home – small tractor trailer load



**Suggested donation £25 per load**

Firewood will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. If you would like a load, please contact the Trust Office on 01583 505390. Donations should also be handed into the Trust Office – please do not make requests or give donations to gardens staff.