



GIGHA NEWS



Welcome to the February 2020 Gigha News

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed this month's newsletter and a copy of January 2020 Board minutes.

Regards,
Ian Wilson
Chair

For and behalf of Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Soup in the Hall

Thank you to all who came along on a very stormy day to Soup in the Hall on Monday 10th February.

A very generous £116.50 was donated and along with £29.30 collected on the Community Day in November this will be donated to the Mid-Argyll MacMillan Nurses. The total money raised since Tea / Soup in the Hall started in August is an amazing £497.75!

The next date for Soup in the Hall is Monday 9th March at 12:30 till 2pm. All Welcome!

Members meeting

A Members meeting is being arranged for Wednesday **25th March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Gigha Village Hall**. A calling notice and agenda will be issued closer to the date.

GTL Update

Preparations are underway for the 2020 season. A new Facebook page has been created for GTL's accommodation. Please like and share the Isle of Gigha Holiday Cottages page.

If you would like to place a notice (no larger than A5) on the Pontoon notice board, please hand in a copy to Shona at the IGHM office.

An Options Appraisal was carried out recently by SKS on behalf of IGHM/GTL on the future of GTL's holiday accommodation. The directors have agreed on the option of leasing out the 5 holiday cottages to an operator. More information will become available soon but if you wish to register an interest in this proposal please contact Shona Bannatyne at shona@gigha.org.uk or telephone 01583 427300.

Properties to Let

Croft 6 (1 bedroom) and Woodside 4 (2 bedroom) are currently advertised for rent. Closing date is Monday 2nd March. You must be registered with Homehunt Gigha to apply for any IGHM properties. Please contact the IGHM office for more details.

Gigha Primary School

Children at Gigha Primary School have made 2020 calendars. You can purchase these from the School on 01583 505 259. Calendars can then be collected from the school office. The calendars cost £3.50 and the profit will go towards a school weather station or school pets. The calendars feature photos of Gigha and surrounding areas. Thanks to everyone who donated items to the rag bag collection - an amazing £67 was raised!

Thursday 5th of March is World Book Day and the primary school and pre-five unit children would like to invite you along to the Village hall at 1.30pm for tea and storytelling. Donations of home baking would be gratefully received. Children will be reading their favourite story or poem. All are welcome to come along and bring their favourite book with them!

As part of their sustainability leadership activities, the school children are planning to carry out a survey within the community on the issue of dog fouling. There was a recent incident of a child arriving at school who trod on some dog excrement which had been left right outside the school gate. A quick survey of the surrounding area identified 25 incidences of dog fouling which had not been taken away by dog owners. This has prompted the children to take action against dog fouling. Please support the children in their campaign to do something about it.

Director Vacancy

The Board is looking to appoint a co-opted Director with a specific responsibility for oversight of financial management of the Trust. The Trust are looking for someone with skills and experience in financial management, oversight of the preparation of management and annual accounts (in conjunction with the Trust staff and retained accountants, RA Clement), oversight of financial systems, grant funding, audit and risk management. For further information please contact Ian Wilson at chair@gigha.org.uk

Housing Allocation

The housing allocation committee are looking for member(s) of the community to join the panel.

To find out more about this and to put your name forward, please contact Shona Bannatyne at shona@gigha.org.uk or telephone 01583 505 390.

Architect Appointment

IGHT have appointed Collective Architecture to work with the community to take forward plans for a new housing and hub development. The new housing will specifically be designed to help older residents stay on the island and younger people be able to rent their first home. The chosen site at Ardmish is close to all island facilities and by combining housing for young and old people around a central hub facility, this development aims to help foster the spirit of intergenerational living on the island.

20th Anniversary Steering Group

With the 20th anniversary of community ownership soon approaching, we would like to begin organising a steering group made up of members of the community who would be interested in organising the celebrations. If you'd like to be involved and be a part of the steering group, please notify Jane Millar at the Trust office.

Gigha Recipe Book

We are still seeking more recipes to build a Gigha recipe book. Please drop in or email over any of your favourite recipes!

Ardmish Stores announcement from Joe Teale

We are sorry to announce that from 6th March the cash machine will be withdrawn from service. Unfortunately the company that own the ATMs, YourCash (Euronet) are replacing all their Triton machines and upon replacement Post Office Counters Ltd and YourCash have decided not to continue their mutual agreement. We understand this might be a disappointment to some but you will still be able to obtain balance reports, withdraw and deposit cash at the Post Office with nearly all accounts during Post Office hours. Much effort has gone into persuading the parties concerned to make an exception for Gigha's only ATM (including involving our MP) but to no avail.

As most of you will know if either I or any of my other Post Office staff are in the shop we will be more than happy to open the PO outside the official opening hours to give you access to cash services. Please come and ask if you have any questions about this change.



Achamore Gardens blog by Susan Allan

February has been a particularly wet and windy month. It's not windy today but there has been a fair bit of rain and during a break in the rain I rushed to the gardens to do my monthly report. It is very wet underfoot and slippery in places because of fallen leaves. There has been a bit of storm damage with quite a bit of debris from the trees.

Because I was short of time I decided to concentrate my walk around the walled garden, the south drive and down to the pond. Considering the number of daffodils springing up and flowering all over the island there was a surprising lack of open daffodils in the gardens. There are one or two small rhododendrons beginning to flower but some of these have been spoilt by the weather. After a quick look there didn't appear to be anything new flowering in the walled garden but at the top of Hugh and Islay's border there is a tall Pieris with sprays of white flowers.



I have noticed while doing these walks that there are a lot more bamboos in the gardens than there used to be. The photo on the next page was near to the Malcolm Allan Garden along the road to the gate onto Achamore farm road. This road used to be wide enough for a tractor but has been over grown and is more like a footpath now. At the end of this path before turning onto the south drive is a clump of Skimmia (photo to the left) which is just coming into flower. It, like a lot of winter flowering shrubs, has a lovely scent.

I expected the south drive to be awash with Camellia flowers but only a few of them were flowering. One of which, Golden Spangles, I mentioned in my December report It was here that it started to drizzle again so I had to cover my camera for a while. I made my way to the pond garden which even in this weather was quite photogenic.

On my way back to the car I found a clump of Helleborus near to the garages. There were some snowdrops there too but they were beginning to go over.

Campsite

The works at the Campsite will soon begin with contractors expected to be on site during the summer months this year. Shauna Cameron Architect and her Design Team will be getting all consents in place prior to this construction period. The contract for the construction will be procured publicly through a tender process. Thereafter, monthly on-site meetings will take place between IGHT, the Design Team and the contractor. Any updates will be communicated through the monthly Members newsletter. Should you have any questions regarding the Campsite development, please do not approach those working on site, but please contact Jane Millar at the Trust office.

Eilean Garbh Beach Clean

A very successful beach clean at Eilean Garbh took place on 1st February. A big thankyou to the team of all ages who came along and cleared the large pile of rubbish shown in the photo below. More beach cleans are planned – please take a look at local noticeboards for further information.



Financial Training with RA Clement Associates

There is a training session planned for Monday 6th April for all directors and staff to enhance understanding of IGHT and subsidiary company accounts. This training is also open to IGHT members - please contact Shona Bannatyne at shona@gigha.org.uk or telephone 01583 505 390 if you wish to attend.



Gigha Day Sunday 15th March

Please come along to the anniversary of the community buyout at 12:15 on Sunday 15th March on the green opposite the Trust Office. The Gigha flag will be raised to commemorate the occasion.

Main Contacts:

IGHT enquiries: **01583 505 390**

GTL enquiries: **01583 427 300**

For general enquiries:

shona@gigha.org.uk

For business development enquiries:

jane@gigha.org.uk

For housing and estate enquiries:

office@gigha.org.uk

For all GTL enquiries:

cottages@gigha.org.uk

Trust Office Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday 10am-2pm