

ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST

NewsLetter June 2024

The IGH 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. Anonymous correspondence will not be considered by the Board.

Contact us by emailing directors@gigha.org.uk

Homehunt Gigha

The housing allocation policy used by the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust is Homehunt Gigha. Anyone interested in renting any Trust housing must be registered with Homehunt Gigha in order to be eligible to apply for Trust housing.

Trust housing is allocated using the following criteria:

1. Best use – does the applicant fit the best use of the property i.e. using all the available bedrooms.
2. Priority Pass awarded – does the applicant have a Priority Pass. There are 4 categories of Priority Pass to apply under.
3. Date of registration – if the first two criteria are equal, the applicant registered first would be allocated the property.

To register, please contact the Trust Office on 01583 505390 or email shona@gigha.org.uk

A revised Homehunt policy will be issued to allocate the new housing, however please register with Homehunt Gigha using the details above.

Save the date!

Friday 5th July - Coffee morning fundraiser for Malawi. 10.30am-12.30pm in Gigha Village Hall

Friday 12th July – Sean Harvey's 21st (Marvel-themed) birthday party – all are welcome!

Monday 15th July – Boathouse Quiz Night

Saturday 3rd August – Furboch Ceilidh (licensed bar)

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th August - Perseids Meteor Shower Annual Stargazing Party & Brunch

Saturday 24th August – Root and Industrial Show

Friday 30th August - First Gardener Morgan Russell's leaving party

Saturday 2nd November – Fundraising Auction

Friday 15th – Monday 18th November – Dark Skies Festival

Gigha Community Hub

The Community Hub behind the Trust Office offers a lounge area with Wi-Fi and television (Disney+ sign in is required). Exercise equipment available includes cross trainer, rowing machine and weight bench.

****Now available for a one-off membership fee****

To enquire, please contact shona@gigha.org.uk or telephone 01583 505390.

Development

MUGA – We are still in the process of securing planning permission. Should planning permission be granted, the project will move forward to tendering the construction.

Helipad - Local contactors have been working on site to complete the access track, drainage system and safety area. External contractors have been appointed to tar the access track and paint the landing pad.

Housing – The housing project continues to progress well, with an expected completion of September 2024.

Hotel – A tender package has now been issued for the bar renovation. The tender deadline is 12.07.24 and works must be completed prior to December 2024.

Gigha and Cara Parish Church

Services in July will be at 11am on July 14th with the Minister Lyn Peden and on July 28th with Marion MacDonald. We raised £240 at our stall at the Sound of Gigha Makers Market for Church funds. Many thanks to all who contributed to this.

The Church is a building valued for life events but is not only here for weekly worship or hatches, matches and despatches.

Works are being planned to update the Church heating system and increase the useability of the interior. Community input is needed to inform these works and the future of the church. The building is an asset in the community located in the centre of the island and has been used by music, crafts, dark skies groups, the school and visitors as a place for people to come together. The congregation are keen to gather residents' views of what role residents would like to see the building play in the community in the future. Some ideas which have been suggested, in keeping with the building are as an orientation point for an Isle of Gigha Heritage Trail, increasing use of small groups and small meetings.

A discussion will be put on the agenda for the next Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Members meeting. In the interim, all thoughts will be welcomed at: gighabuilding@churchofscotland.org.uk

A small working group has been established to carry forward the planning of the works. An island fundraising group is also needed – if you could give time to this group please get in touch.

Gigha Community Council

Gigha Community Council updates and minutes are available on their Facebook page.

Email: isleofgighacommunitycouncil@groups.outlook.com

Summer Bar

The Summer bar is open in the beer garden of the Hotel Friday 5 - 9, Saturday 2 - 9, Sunday 12 - 5.

Sound of Gigha

Thanks to everyone who got involved in The Sound of Gigha Weekend, whether it was volunteering, being part of the market and gallery, donating prizes or coming along to the gigs or daytime events, it wouldn't have been the same without you.

We're looking ahead now to 2025 and would love to do it all again, BUT, we are a voluntary committee of 5 and we need more people on board to make it happen. Typically, we meet once a month through autumn and winter and more regularly in the lead up to the event. Our aim is to split out responsibilities, so that people can take on something that interests them and make it their own.

If you'd like to be part of the team, or find out more, please get in touch by email

(thesoundofgigha@gmail.com) or in person.

Without a bigger team, we might not be able to do it again.



RIAS Magazine

The new housing project is going to feature in the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland's quarterly magazine titled "Housing Scotland, A Rural Viewpoint."

Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

The month of the summer solstice. Signifying the point where the sun is at its furthest from the equator, unfortunately for us, we could have had a slightly more dramatic solstice this year, but never mind! Despite this signifying the nights drawing in, it also means many traditions for people round the world, that include our historical heritage. For example, stone circles usually being positioned to capture and align with solstices; bonfires being lit to keep the demons away and bring luck; and for the Vikings, it was a day of hunting, raids and settling disputes.



A sad situation this year, we often see a reduction in the amount of beach litter into the summer months, but with such turbulent weather this year, the beaches have been inundated with plastic every month. Despite this, as the summer holidays are upon us, the beach bin at Garbh Beaches will be removed to discourage items that hard to dispose of on island being left at the side of the beach.



June has seen the end of Phase 4 of our Gateway to Gigha project. Arran Footpaths and Forestry spent a week here at the beginning of the month completing the final pitching to the summit of Dun Chibhich, and improving access near to residential properties at Cuddyport. We have just one gate to be hung at Cuddyport and we can say that the paths network is now complete! Our path maintenance is also well underway, so the summer is likely to have the backdrop of a strimmer. We have recently employed a little help with our strimming which has now been shared between the contractor, the IGHT Maintenance Team and the Ranger Service.

Isle of Gigha Ranger Service Cont.

Thankfully though, the children of Gigha have been on the environmental warpath! You may have seen in May's newsletter that the Ranger Service has been spending Friday's with the children of Gigha working on a marine biology topic that is related to the national science curriculum. We have run some awesome experiments on the beach: On our first week we used hydrophones to listen to the fishies to learn more about the "Forces" topic, looking at how sound moves through air and water, how this is super important for our marine creatures who use sound and echolocation to hunt and communicate, and looked at noise pollution. Our second week we spent testing water health (its acidity, biodiversity rating, and pollution rating) to cover the "Materials" topic, and the properties of chemical changes affecting our marine creatures, as well as solid, liquid and gas pollution in our environment.



We made beach nets to collect plankton and carried out a beach clean to see the break down rates of marine litter. On our third week we built amazing sculptures that were used in the parade at the Sound of Gigha Festival to raise awareness of environmental protection. Our final week we spent playing games and beach combing to explore "Planet Earth" and the diversity of living things on beaches, and different food chains. We want to thank Gigha Primary School for making this possible, we absolutely love running these sessions, and hope the children did too!



In July we have some upcoming events for families, Please email ranger@gigha.org.uk to book a place or for more information.

- **Wednesday 3rd July: POND DIPPING!**
- **Saturday 20th July: BUTTERFLY TRANSECTS!**

Gigha Community Action Plan Group

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the Gigha Community Action Plan Consultation: businesses, organisations, groups and all the residents who took the time to respond. The survey is now closed. The Group have read everyone's responses carefully, and sorted them into broad categories so we can count how many times different issues were raised. There are paper copies of the results in the shop, or you can see the results of these here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14BidHrt8ZWIP0D-UEe9ESaWGWucp2fa00I5UDgE4IU4/edit>
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q0WhMOFY32H8fzoEhkPnl-V9PY-gypSA0bAAMWULnPA/edit#gid=848020839>

These results will be used to draft priority action points which will make up the bulk of the Community Action Plan. Dates for sharing the draft have not been set yet, but the Group aim to have the final plan published in late summer or early autumn of this year.

Dark Skies Gigha Summertime Adventures

We enjoyed a wonderful time at The Sound of Gigha Island Festival hosting a Scottish Book Trust Live Literature poetry workshop and sharing event with our guest poet Vicki Husband. Vicki's latest book 'This far back everything shimmers' has some wonderful pieces about our dark skies, the sun, space and all things astronomy related. Thanks to our Achamore House hosts, she inspired us to create our own poems on the theme of what it means to love the sun and be 'sunstruck'. We are sharing one of the poems (right) written by one of the workshop participants.

Our series of community STEM Astronomy Clubs came to an end with a bang as we looked at space exploration, the history of rocket design and propulsion engineering. We launched some of our own rockets which managed to clear the height of the trees surrounding the football pitch – a pretty successful mission. Many thanks to Dr Chris Leigh our resident astronomer who will be back with us for another series in September/October. If you have suggestions for timing, venue and day most suitable please email and let us know. .

Our next event is our annual Perseids' Party to be held on the evening of Saturday 10th August. We will have an event in the village hall hosted by some special astronomers and a TV personality, as well as some midnight meteor shower spotting at the Dark Skies Theatre. Thanks to our wonderful hosts Per and Monica Ostlünd we will also enjoy a special Perseids' Party brunch at Achamore House on Sunday 11th August. Look out for your invitation to the party and put the dates in your diary now!

dark.skies.gigha@gmail.com

Sundance

Swinging, spinning through space with
Childhood sun:
Melted crayons and unfortunate froglets
Barefoot running in ecstatic cold water
Skooshie bottles, hoses and paddling pools.



Hurtling on, so carefully thrown
Growing through eyelash rainbows
Psychedelic sun sleeps
& dust motes
Caught in dappled rays
On low-down days



Arriving suddenly
A woman
On a 'guid drying day'
Eyes shining, hands clasped
In wrapt joy
At the simple,
Soul-lifting sight
Of sheets in the wind

Not stopped, but
Heliopaused
To gather the skirts of soul & spirt
And dance on
Light-footed,
Eternally
Through the 'verse



R. McConnell

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

As part of proposed works to safeguard the lifeline ferry services for Gigha, Argyll and Bute Council are undertaking Environmental Impact Assessment Reports to support Planning Applications for the schemes. They have engaged a Consultant, RPS, who shall be undertaking site visits and surveys at Tayinloan and Gigha in preparation of these Reports. These surveys are non-invasive and involve periodic visits up to 31st August.

Gigha Primary School and ELC

We are almost at the end of our final term and what a busy term it has been! This month we have been joined in the classroom by new staff Graham White and Jamie Penfold who have taken on our ASN Assistant and Classroom Assistant roles. Graham and Jamie bring a wealth of experience working with young people as well as enthusiasm and a child-centred, nurturing approach. They have fit in really well to the existing team and we are delighted to have them on board.

Pupils and staff are definitely ready for a relaxing summer break. This month we have finished the last of our swimming sessions at Campbeltown Aqualibrium. Pupils have developed skills in water confidence, floating techniques and water safety and it has been amazing to see them making so much progress each week.

This month also saw the Gigha Primary School and ELC Summer Fair and Pet Show. After rosettes were won in the best dog, horse, other pet and animal most like it owner classes, the Summer Fair opened at 12pm. The Parent Council, staff and volunteers prepared and served a delicious afternoon tea while visitors to the Fair took part in the raffle, bottle stall and other games. We were overwhelmed at the amount of people who came along and supported us on the day. Overall we raised £1,653 which went towards the end of term trip and next years swimming lessons. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us on the day and helped make the event such a success.

Last Friday saw our long awaited end of term trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park. It was a very long day, leaving on the first ferry and coming back on the 7pm sailing, but this allowed us to maximise our time in the park. Pupils saw lions, tigers, elephants, rhinos and giraffes and especially enjoyed driving through the game reserves to see animals in close proximity. Children thoroughly enjoyed the trip which allowed them to see the animals in real life which they have been researching and writing about in literacy lessons. We would like to say a big thank you to staff and volunteer parent drivers who gave their time and fuel to provide transport which allowed us to make the trip.

We hope you all have a lovely summer and look forward to updating you on our adventures when we return in August.

Kind regards,
Mrs Vipurs





YOUR VIEWS on Kilchattan Chapel

WE HAVE IDENTIFIED POTENTIAL FUNDING TO HELP CONSERVE KILCHATTAN'S HISTORY. Since July 2022, local residents have regularly visited Kilchattan Chapel, ensuring the site is accessible and visible.

WE WANT TO KNOW IF THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE INSIDE OF THE CHAPEL RESTORED AND MORE VISIBLE, OR FOR RECORDS TO BE PRODUCED AND PRESENTED IN A MORE SUSTAINABLE FORMAT

Historic Environment Scotland visited in June to assess the site and encouraged us to put together a community project to make the graves inside the chapel visible or to record and capture the stones that are being lost to vegetation.

Suggestions include (among others):

- Elevating one side of the stones to help water run off and improve visibility.
- Removing and replacing the top soil layer to make an artist impression of the graves and record the information.
- Aggregating the chapel floor to prevent future growth.

FIRST WE NEED TO KNOW IF THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT THIS. WE WILL THEN APPROACH AN ARCHAEOLOGIST TO GIVE US THE BEST RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESERVE THE SITE BEFORE APPLYING FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT AND FUNDING TO CARRY OUT THE PROJECT IN 2025.

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR OPINION OR CONTACT US TO KNOW MORE AT ranger@gigha.org.uk

