

ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST NewsLetter October 2024

The IGH Board meet the second 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

Old Kilchattan leaflet (Re-issued as a correction to the September newsletter. Apologies to all concerned.)

Having visited Old Kilmadock graveyard at Doune near Stirling I was impressed with the level of information which they provided for visitors in a leaflet. I thought it would be useful to have our own information leaflet for visitors to Old Kilchattan.

With Rona Allan's invaluable work carried out some years ago as a starting point, I set out to map and update the grave information. As part of the path network project Gigha had visits by Archaeology Scotland to show volunteers how to clean the gravestones. This enabled me to clean some of the headstones to allow me to read the inscriptions and update Rona's work. Andy Clements also very kindly used his drone to help map out the area from above, as the stones were not conveniently in straight lines!

Using online information from various sources I obtained more data about some of the people buried in our graveyard. Consequently, I have produced our own information leaflet for visitors to Old Kilchattan and with the help of the Gigha Community Fund I've been able to get these printed and made available both in the graveyard and at the visitor hut by the ferry slipway. I hope that these will be beneficial to everyone interested in the heritage of this special place on our island.

Cleaning the gravestones has provided additional information and so the grave inscription database originally completed over a decade ago by Rona has been updated with new information and includes graves not listed in the original. A second database has also been completed allowing those interested to search an alphabetical list of family names to identify the location of graves. Both databases and a digital version of the pamphlet are hosted on the Isle of Gigha website under 'Gigha Heritage'. Marion Wilson



Save the date!

- Tuesdays throughout November - Lantern Making Workshops at Gigha Primary School 3 - 4:15pm
- Fridays throughout November and December – Whist
- Tuesdays throughout November - Heart Start sessions
- Saturday 2nd November – Fundraising Auction
- Wednesday 6th November – Village Hall AGM
- Saturday 9th November – Bulb planting day at Achamore Gardens
- Saturday 9th November – Quiz in Village Hall
- Saturday 16th November - Stargazing at Dark Skies Theatre
- Saturday 23rd November – Coffee Morning in Village Hall
- Saturday 30th November - '80s fancy dress disco
- Saturday 7th December – Quiz in Village Hall
- Sundays throughout December – Advent Adventures
- Thursday 19th December - Primary School and ELC play

Advent Adventures

For those that love being outdoors and would like to explore nature-based spirituality this Advent season, we will be hosting a series of advent adventures in the grounds of Gigha Church on Sundays through December. These are open to all ages and will involve exploring the Biblical story of Christmas through creative, reflective and nature-craft activities. Come and celebrate the story of the season with us, share some warming drinks and home-baked snacks and enjoy the beauty of winter outdoors.

Sunday 1st December – Drop in between 1pm and 3pm at the Churchyard

Sunday 8th December – Drop in between 1pm and 3pm at the Churchyard

Sunday 15th December – Drop in between 1pm and 3pm at the Churchyard

Sunday 22nd December – Drop in between 1pm and 3pm at the Churchyard

Thursday 26th December – Boxing Day Christingle Walk – Meet at 1pm at the Village Hall

Sunday 12th January – Winter Journeys – Meet at 1pm at the Church

For more information or to volunteer help, please call Julie on 01583 505 310

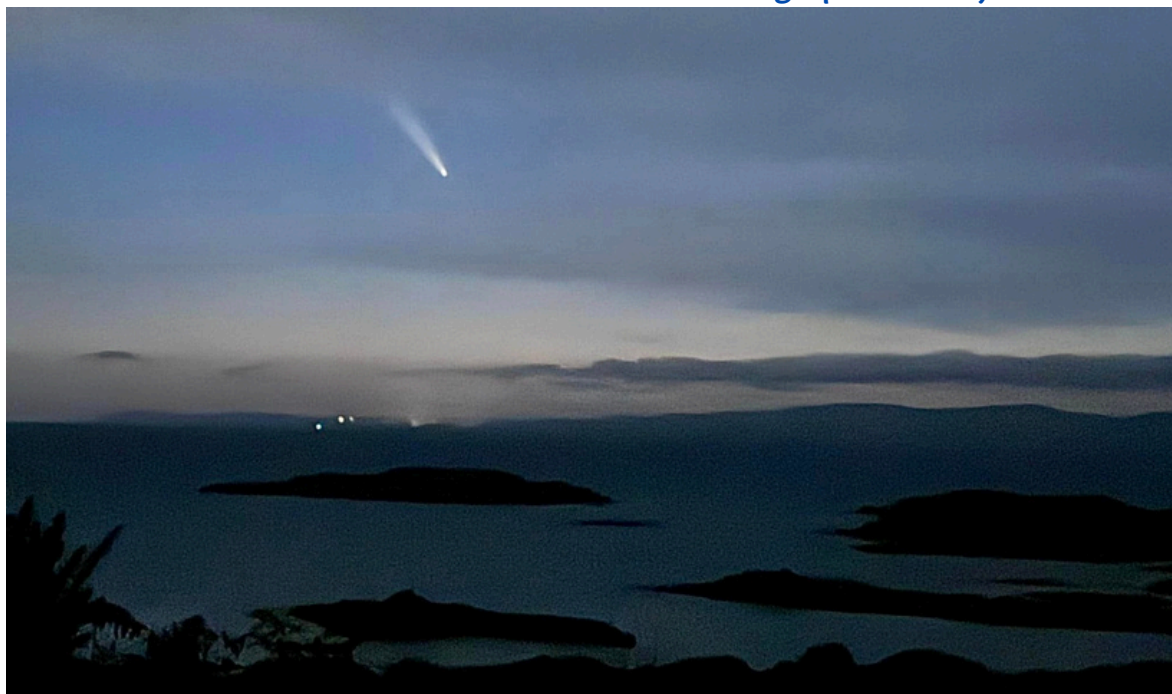
Dark Skies Gigha

Dark Skies Gigha is delighted to announce that we have received significant funding from the following organisations for a year full of events and festival activities with the theme of celestial stories: The National Lottery, The Scottish Book Trust and The Cooperative Community Fund. We also have a couple of other funders who we are waiting to hear back from but we are so excited to be supporting astronomy and stargazing activities for island folks and for lots more visitors to Gigha. We will be releasing more information soon, but for now please keep space in your calendars for our Love Dark Skies Winter Festival – 13th, 14th, 15th February 2025.

For those of you who are Co-op members, you can choose Dark Skies Gigha as the annual recipient of your vote. Read about our project, click the tab at the top to sign in as a member and choose DSG in one simple step: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/93490>. Please send this link to friends and family across the UK – anyone can become a Co-op member and vote for Dark Skies Gigha. The more votes we get the more funding comes our way for festivals and events.

Our next stargazing activity is on Saturday 16th November – Weather permitting, Leonids Meteor Shower Watching, Dark Skies Theatre at the north end, 11.30pm. Please wrap up warmly, wear sturdy footwear and bring your waterproofs!

Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS on the 14th of October. Photograph courtesy of Keith Wilson



Ard Bruach Housing

The 5 new houses are currently being advertised for let. The deadline for applications has been extended to 6th December as the build completion date has been further delayed. Ideally we would like to show the homes to the community prior to advertising them, however we are keen to have the homes occupied as soon as possible. We will be arranging viewings with those that apply and separately have a community open day. If you have considered moving to one of the new homes but feel it would be difficult to move, please get in touch to discuss this as we may be able to assist you. If you have questions about the homes, please do get in touch. If not enough Gigha residents apply for the homes, we will then advertise to off-island applicants.



ARD BRUACH

EXPECTED COMPLETION BY
DECEMBER

OCCUPY FROM JANUARY 2025

1 bed rent = £460 per month
2 bed rent = £500 per month

5 NEW HOMES TO RENT

- 2 x 2 bed bungalows, designed to wheelchair standards.
- 1 x 2 bed bungalow with shared use layout.
- 2 x 1 bed cottage flats.
- All properties have private parking and garden areas.



**Spacious
Rooms**



**Sympathetic
Exterior**



**Amazing
Views**

To register your interest, please email shona@gigha.org.uk
or telephone 01583 505390.

You will be issued an application form and a copy of the allocation policy.

Application deadline is **6th December 2024**.

Viewings will take place prior to offers and acceptance.
A community open day will be arranged in due course.

Achamore Gardens

This month it's all about the staff. A couple of weeks ago we welcomed our new Senior Gardener, Rebecca, to the team. Rebecca is finding her feet and settling in, spending plenty of time familiarising herself with the garden and getting stuck into lots of tasks. She's already proving her worth by coming up with lots of great ideas and solutions to challenges we face in the garden, both little and large! Rebecca trained as an apprentice at the National Trust for Scotland's Arduaine Gardens near Ardfern, before spending the last year completing the Practical Horticulture and Plantsmanship Traineeship at Cambridge University Botanical Garden. She's moved to the island to take up her new role with us and is looking forward to getting to know everyone, so please introduce yourself and say hello if you see her out and about.



Rebecca



Kacper



Maurice

You may also have noticed that Kacper hasn't been around the gardens or island for a few weeks. Back in August he applied for a very prestigious 6-week traineeship at Logan Botanical Gardens, and he beat off all the competition to secure it! Logan is a sub-tropical paradise down in Dumfriesshire and is one of three satellite gardens owned by the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. Achamore and Logan share a lot of similarities in terms of our microclimate and the range of plants we can grow, so this placement is a fantastic opportunity for Kacper to learn from the experts at Logan and spread his horticultural wings a little. Rest assured he'll be back with us soon though, hopefully with a head full of ideas that we can use at Achamore!

And, last, but definitely not least, Maurice has now completed his traineeship with us, and I am delighted to say that we have been able to offer him a permanent contract to stay on in the gardens team. He has more than proved his worth over the last 18 months, developing great gardening skills - he's our new secret weapon in the propagation department, seemingly able to get just about any cutting to root just by looking at it, even species that we've struggled with for years! He's also discovered a creative streak, with a really good artistic eye for planting and structures. Many of you have commented on the glow-up that the bamboo maze has had, and you can thank Maurice for that, as he's really adopted that project as his own, giving new life to a previously tired feature of the garden. He's planning to give some care and attention to some of the other bamboos in the garden, so keep an eye out for his handiwork when you visit.

Achamore Gardens

Volunteer Bulb Planting Day - Our annual bulb planting day is taking place on Saturday 9th November, so why not come along and give us a hand to plant up the spring displays? There's lots of different bulbs to plant this year, both in the ground and in containers, so there's a job suitable for everyone. See the enclosed poster for all the details, and we hope to see you there.

Firewood – It's taken its time, but our firewood is finally ready to distribute to the community, in return for a donation towards the garden's restoration. See the attached poster for all the details, including how to book your delivery.

Gigha and Cara Parish Church

10th November Remembrance Sunday 11 am.

During the rest of winter, services will start at 12 noon.

To raise funds for work on the Church a quiz sheet - anagrams to do with building and construction - is available from Wee Isle Cafe, Gigha's Natural Skincare, the Campsite and from Susan at Bayview.

Sound of Gigha

Thanks to all who came along to support our two events in October and to those who have provided feedback or ideas for The Sound of Gigha. If you still have comments you'd like to submit or want to be involved next year, please drop us an email (thesoundofgigha@gmail.co.uk) or get in touch with any member of the committee.

Camp and Motorhome site

Despite the poor weather, the campsite has had a good season. We have welcomed over 2700 guests, achieved occupancy levels well above the national average and received excellent feedback from our guests. The site is closed for November as we undertake some maintenance, and improvement works and will re-open in December.

Gigha Community Action Plan Group

Work is still ongoing with the Gigha Community Action Plan but slower than we had hoped. However, we believe that taking the time to get this right is more important than rushing it to a conclusion.

Since the last update we have been consulting with the groups and organisations on the island including Gigha Transport Users Group, Zero-Carbon Gigha, IGHT and Gigha Community Council who will have the responsibility for actioning the priorities which are still at the draft stage at present. We have one more consultation meeting with an organisation in the diary for early November.

Following that meeting our current draft will be updated and that version will be put to the Gigha community for your views. A community consultation evening will also be held which any Gigha resident can attend. It would be great to have this before the end of the year but it may be January before this happens.

Since the group was formed a year and a half ago we have had around 28 meetings involving nearly 50 hours of discussions. For the past few months we have been having weekly 2hr meetings to progress the plan. Please bear with us for a few more weeks!

Renewables

Wind turbines T1 and T3 require the main shaft bearings to be replaced. T1 is currently turned off due to safety concerns, but T3 is still safe to run.

Playpark

Please be aware that access to the playpark will be via the paths from Grianan and Raon Mor due to ongoing works at the housing development site which is restricting access from the Craft Unit side.

Bakkafrost Scotland – West Gigha – Project Update

The pre-determination hearing for the West Gigha fish farm will be held at the Argyll and Bute Council Kilmory headquarters in Lochgilphead on 13/11/2024.

The Council's Report of Handling states that the West Gigha proposal is consistent with the statutory Development Plan and recommends that planning permission should be granted.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight some key aspects of our operations and the West Gigha proposal:

• We provide well paid and highly skilled jobs to the residents of Gigha, with six of our staff members living on Gigha. The West Gigha fish farm will generate a further five full time equivalent jobs;

- We have invested heavily in innovative fish health and welfare programmes to ensure leading practices;
- We have embedded design and operational measures into our West Gigha application to ensure we prevent, reduce and offset potential effects; and
- We remain committed to supporting the Isle of Gigha community and have longstanding positive engagement, supporting the community through a number of initiatives:
 - Our Community Fund supports a number of local initiatives;
 - Supporting local businesses, including the village shop;
 - Helping other marine users;
 - Helping provide access to regular fuel tankers for island supply; and
 - Supported local organisations with events and activities, including the Gigha primary school, the Gigha Foodies Group, and the Sound of Gigha Festival.

Members of the community can submit their comments on the West Gigha proposal prior to 13/11/2024. Comments can be submitted through the below link or by emailing the Argyll and Bute Council directly (planning.maki@argyll-bute.gov.uk).

<https://publicaccess.argyll-bute.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=makeComment&keyVal=SOIMK9CH0IO00>

Planning Reference: 23/01758/MFF.

GIGHA SURGERY

In a Medical Emergency Always Call 999

Surgery Hours :- Monday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00

Drop in Clinics Daily: 10:00-11:00 and 14:00-15:00

(Excludes Wednesday)

Medication Pick up: Any Drop in Clinic

For Non-Emergencies and Enquiries:

Call Gigha Surgery on 01583 505223. Leave a message on the answering machine. Checked intermittently throughout the day until 17:00

NHS 24

Monday - Friday 18:00-09:00 and Weekends on 111



Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

Well, there is no escaping the absolute delights brought to us by the night skies this month! The Aurora, comet and meteor showers have completely outshone all other nature and wildlife sightings throughout October, and truly has been remarkable. I am sure other community groups and residents will have much more meaningful explanations and descriptions, but let's just marvel at the wonder.

This month we have truly embraced the season starting our Autumn Adult Woodland Sessions and Forest School. Our first adult session saw us making beautiful candles out of all natural materials. We had so much fun building

our own colander fire as to not run the risk of ground fires or damaging our environment; sawing and drilling our own candle holders; melting our own organic wax; and setting our natural hemp wicks. Of course, we also had the obligatory vegan marshmallow toasting too. We had a blast and cannot thank the participants enough for coming along to share their Saturday afternoon with us.

We have also started our Forest School sessions to help us become certified Forest School Leaders. Gigha Primary School have very kindly offered to help the Ranger Service gain this qualification by running a Forest School programme this autumn that will encompass some of their curriculum learning. We started our sessions by assessing what we have in our woodlands to tie in with their Science topic of Living Things, as well as played some wildlife focussed games and of course time to explore. We want to say a huge thank you to the Primary School for facilitating our assessment, and let's face it show just how important outdoor education is!

Conservation volunteers have also been super busy this month. We tackled the gorse on Rubha 'a Chinn Mhoir (Johnny's Shore) path, widening the path and improving access around the coastline. This means we can now more easily clamber round the back of the stone shed and watch the waves a-crashing and travelling up the Sound. We also spent time transplanting some hazel and other trees species that were planted in Achamore Gardens over three years ago. The saplings have taken off and now need more space, so our volunteers took the time to relocate them to new homes where they will hopefully thrive and make the area around the pumphouse even more beautiful.





Finally, of course, we completed our monthly Bioblitz (wildlife survey) in the Gardens to contribute to the year's recordings.

Our upcoming events in the next few weeks will be our Autumn Adult Woodland Sessions on 17th November, and 8th December. Take a look on social media or noticeboards around the island for details.

FOR SCOTLAND

HEARTSTART

Saving Lives Together

Heartstart Gigha

Heartstart Gigha is a new opportunity for Gigha residents to learn basic life-saving skills through evening or tailored sessions. Hannah, Morven & Maggie attended training to deliver this programme earlier this year, and since then have successfully secured funding through the community fund to enable this to happen. We have also been generously offered the Fire Station as a venue to run these sessions.

Heartstart is a partner of the 'Save a Life for Scotland' campaign; their aim is to spread information throughout Scotland to enable the public to more effectively respond to a life-threatening emergency.

We plan to run sessions throughout November on Tuesday evenings, 7-9pm. We request you wear warm comfortable clothing, and to inform us of any mobility issues to allow us to make any appropriate arrangements. Places are limited at each session to ensure everyone has access to the equipment needed, so booking is essential. We are also happy for you to make contact if you would prefer for us to offer alternative dates, and we could also deliver training to groups or organisations. Sessions are initially designed for adult learning but we hope to offer tailored sessions for children next year.

If you have any questions, please contact Hannah, Morven or Maggie.

To book a space, please do so by contacting **Morven on tel: 07881426616 or morvenandrew@yahoo.co.uk**

HEARTSTART

Saving Lives Together

Heartstart Gigha

would like to offer the following dates for (adult) training, 7-9pm at firestation:

Tuesday November 5th

Tuesday November 12th

Tuesday November 19th

Tuesday November 26th

Sessions are limited, so booking is necessary. Wear comfortable warm clothing and if you have mobility issues please let us know, to allow us make appropriate arrangements. We request you do not attend if you are unwell.

If you are an organisation, group or individuals who wish training out with these dates, please make contact.

To book, or for further information, please contact Morven Beagan tel: 07881426616 or email morvenandrew@yahoo.co.uk





Charity Auction

Saturday 2nd November 2024

In The Village Hall

1.00pm Viewing and teas/coffees/cakes



Auction starts at 2.00pm

Please bring your donations to the village hall

SORRY NO CLOTHES OR BOOKS, THANK YOU
On Friday 1st November between 5pm and 6.30pm



The funds from this event will go towards this project:
A keen community group would like to save Kilchattan Chapel's gravestones and employ an archaeologist to help remove the topsoil and make modern recordings of the gravestones in the chapel floor. This assessment will inform any future works to preserve and display Kiltchattan's rich historical heritage.

Achamore Gardens Bulb Day!

Saturday 9th November 10am-3pm

Come and join the
Gardens' team for our
annual bulb planting day
and a cuppa to make
next year's displays as
special as always!
Please bring a reusable mug!



**GIGHA VILLAGE HALL
WINTER**

QUIZ NIGHTS



£3PP - BYOB - RAFFLE

SAT 9TH NOVEMBER

SAT 7TH DECEMBER

SAT 11TH JANUARY

DURING THE QUIETER WINTER MONTHS GIGHA VILLAGE HALL ARE HOLDING A QUIZ NIGHT ONCE A MONTH.

IF ANYONE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HOLDING AN EVENT ON ANY OF THE REMAINING SATURDAYS AS A SOCIAL EVENT FOR OUR COMMUNITY PLEASE LET US KNOW!

Email: gighavillagehall@gmail.com

coffee morning

with home baking
supporting

Shopper
Aide



Gigha Village Hall

Saturday 23rd November

1030hrs-1200hrs

Raffle



it's that special time of the year ...



WHIST IS BACK!

8TH NOVEMBER - 13TH DECEMBER

(FRIDAY EVENINGS)

GIGHA VILLAGE HALL @ 7PM

(FURTHER DATES IN THE NEW YEAR!)

£2 ENTRY, RAFFLE, SUPPER AND GOOD COMPANY!
PROCEEDS TOWARDS THE CHILDREN'S PARTIES WHICH ARE RUN
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, AND TO THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR
OUR SLIGHTLY OLDER RESIDENTS OF GIGHA.

BEGINNERS VERY WELCOME, AND WE PLAN TO RUN A
LEARNER SESSION FROM 6.30PM ON FRIDAY 8TH OF
NOVEMBER PRIOR TO OUR FIRST NIGHT PROPER FOR ANYONE

INTERESTED.





Firewood



Achamore 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 £60 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 £40 per load

Firewood will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Maximum 2 loads per household.

If you would like to order, 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.