

ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST NewsLetter September 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

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 Martin'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



Homehunt Gigha

Homehunt Gigha is the system used by the Trust to allocate residential housing. The Housing Allocation Group, comprising of local residents, meet to review applications for vacant housing and allocate anonymously using registration numbers and the following criteria: 1. Best Use; 2. Priority Pass; 3. Date of Registration.

If you would like to join the Housing Allocation Group, please contact shona@gigha.org.uk for more information.

Save the date!

Saturday 26th October – Halloween Party

Saturday 2nd November – Fundraising Auction

Wednesday 6th November – Village Hall AGM

Saturday 9th November – Quiz in Village Hall

Saturday 7th December – Quiz in Village Hall

Gigha Community Fund

The Gigha Community Fund has been supporting community groups and events since 2019 and is open to applications from all local groups seeking the following outcomes:

- Develop skills
- Improve health
- Relieve poverty
- Protect or conserve the environment
- Engage citizens to become more active in their community
- Promote and protect the rich heritage and culture of the area
- Supporting visitor experience

The fund may also be used towards Village Hall hire if the event being held is for community benefit.

Please contact shona@gigha.org.uk or telephone 01583 505390 for an application form.

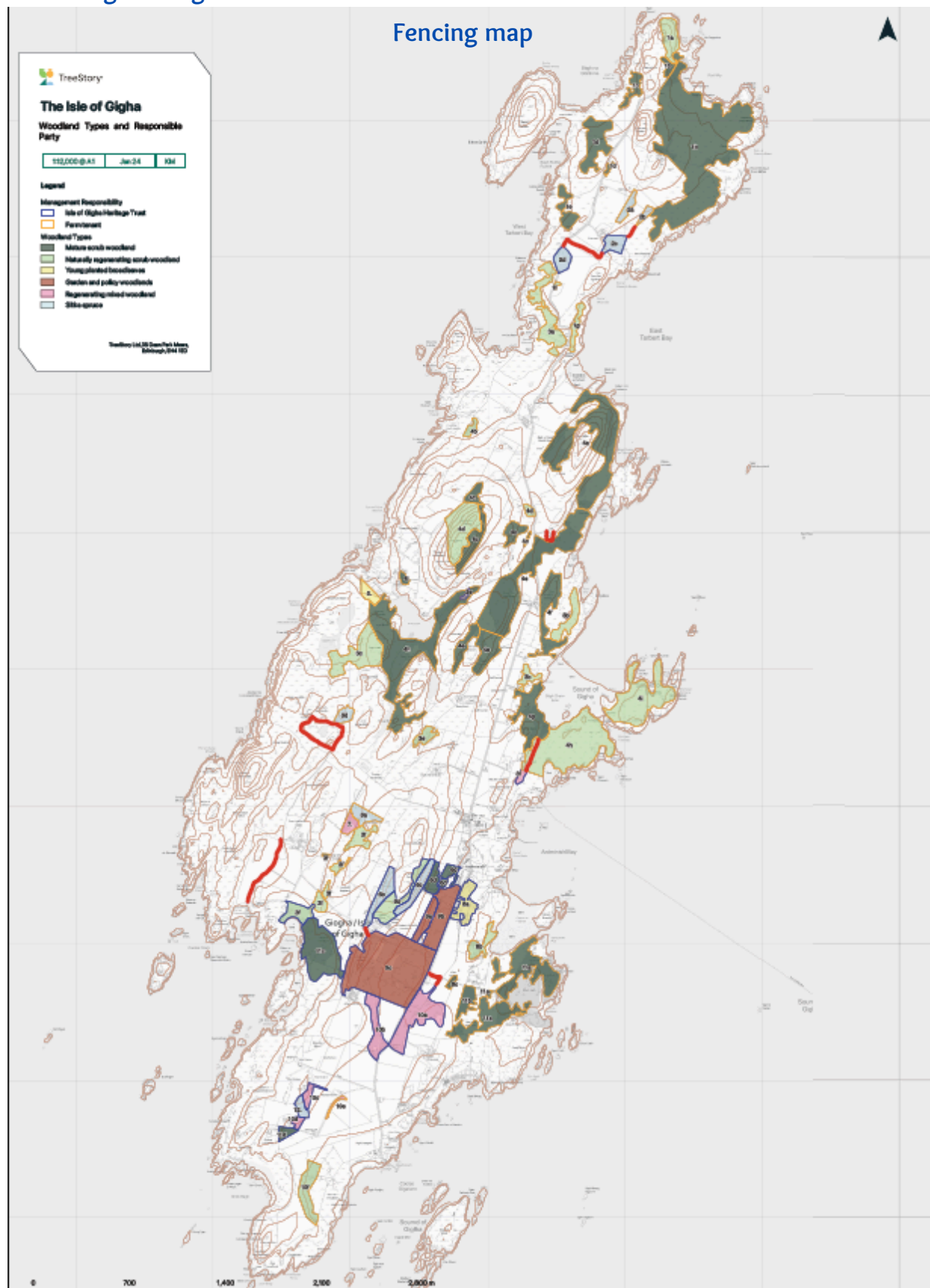
The Gigha Community Fund has awarded £1,000 in September to Heritage Volunteers, who are a local group working alongside the Island Ranger to conserve historical monuments.

Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

Is there not something absolutely marvellous about the autumn? The sun is at a beautiful height in the sky, the moons are incredible (September's Harvest moon, is a wonderful thing), and natural treasures are out in force in a last chance bid to feed, mate, and find shelter for the colder months to come. The fungi in our woodlands this year hasn't been quite as wonderful as in previous seasons, but it's always amazing to see the change in species that pop up in the same place given the varying conditions and weather patterns. We say the same each year, but they really do make our woodland spaces a magical place to explore during this season of change.



Our invasive non-native species project is going well. All the identified *Rhododendron ponticum* in Achamore Gardens and the Fire Station woodland have been treated, the stands at Ardaily and Gallochoille are progressing well, the skunk cabbage is having its final treatments this month, and we have even had a go at a few rogue *Gunnera* and knotweed (don't panic, not the Japanese knotweed kind!) plants. Our hedgerow fences have also been installed and this part of the project is now also complete! Our contractor, Kerr Taylor Fencing, have erected just shy of 3000m of fencing to provide protection for our soon to be planted hedgerows. The locations of hedgerows were identified after community session in the Village Hall in early 2023, to connect woodland pockets and enhance areas where natural regeneration is occurring, as well as improve boundaries, and increase tree cover across the island. Please see red lines on the island map indicating new fence lines.



This year our path network has been maintained by the Ranger Service, the Maintenance Team, and we were lucky enough to be able to contract an island resident to help us ensure our paths were accessible and safe as possible. We are just completing the final cuts in September, and it'll be strimmers down for another season. Phew! The winter months will see us tackling some of the more fierce vegetation and woody growth that is encroaching on our paths now that bird nesting season has come to an end. Our volunteers have been hard at work already working on the gorse at Rubha a Chinn Mhoir, and this may just be setting the trend for some of the conservation volunteer sessions in the next few weeks.

Isle of Gigha Ranger Service

To finish up, just recently we had one of those moments where all of our hard work was proved worthwhile. It's such a wonderful feeling to know that projects no matter how big or small are working and really are beneficial to our wildlife. The team at Achamore Gardens have been nurturing two wildflower meadows over the past few years. These need to be managed and cut – although this does seem counterintuitive – to ensure that a variety of species will return next year and will make our patch hardier and more resilient. We recently cut these areas to find 3 common toads, 2 voles, 1 shrew, an army of peacock and red admiral butterflies, a nest of bees, and a cluster of dragonflies (mainly common darters). It is utterly amazing and humbling to see how many creatures use the space, and that all the effort going in to making these spaces as beneficial as possible is working. What a marvellous month indeed.



Gigha and Cara Parish Church

Services for October and November:

13th October at 11am.

27th October at 12 noon including Communion. Please note change of time.

10th November Remembrance Sunday 11 am.

During the rest of winter, services will start at 12 noon. The minister is suggesting that we move permanently to starting at 12 noon next year.

Lyn (minister) will also be on the island on 30th October. Please meet in the Church about 2.30pm.

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.

****Auction****

Saturday 2nd November 2024 in the Village Hall at 2pm.

Please bring your donations to the Village Hall on Friday 1st November between 5pm and 6.30pm.

Get clearing out before Christmas!!! PLEASE NOTE: No clothes or books.

Viewing, coffees/teas/cakes from 1.00pm on the day, further information to follow.

Waste disposal uplift

If you need assistance disposing of a large item from your home, please contact the Trust office who can arrange a disposal uplift in return for a suggested donation.

Sound of Gigha

The date has been set for next year's Sound of Gigha Weekend - 6th- 8th June 2025 - make sure to put the date in your diary and tell friends and family!

We will be holding a community engagement event in the afternoon of Saturday 19th October 2024 at the Village Hall to gather your feedback from this year's event and ideas for next year. And in the evening of the 19th, we will be holding a licensed event - more details to follow, look out for posters!

On Saturday 26th October, we will also be organising a Halloween party with licensed bar, best costume competition and disco - again more details to follow, but you've got plenty of notice for getting your costume ready!

ECO4 and GBIS Funding for private rented/social housing homes

C6 Energy are a green deal approved renewable energy company based in Glasgow and are currently operating in the Government backed ECO (Energy companies Obligation) and GBIS (Great British Insulation Scheme) to help home-owners and private tenants upgrade their heating and insulation at no cost to themselves or the landlord/managing agent. Tenants and homeowners must apply directly to C6 Energy.



✉ alex@c6energy.co.uk

🌐 www.c6-energy.com

📞 Glasgow Office: 0141-428-3954

2024 Energy Companies Obligation Scheme Version – 4. (ECO4)

A new batch of 2024 funding has now been released for the Government-backed **ECO4** Home Energy Scheme and **GBIS** (Great British Insulation Scheme).

The scheme is designed to help homeowners and private tenants upgrade their current dated heating system and/or increase their properties insulation in the walls, roof, and under-floor areas - giving you a significant saving on your homes future energy bills whilst increasing the overall energy efficiency rating of your property.

The 2024 qualifying criteria for the scheme has widely improved and if ANYONE IN YOUR PROPERTY now receives any of the below - you will instantly qualify for the scheme, or if you are a council tax band A-E you may also qualify for free Insulation.

PENSION CREDITS / ESA / UNIVERSAL CREDITS / CHILD TAX CREDITS / HOUSING BENEFIT / WORKING TAX CREDITS / JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE CHILD BENEFIT* / INCOME SUPPORT

The energy efficiency measures available for 2024 include: -

***Free Full House Insulation (Loft / Solid Wall & Underfloor Insulation)**

***Free Air Source Heat Pump & New Radiators (Non-Gas Heated Properties Only)**

***Free Solar PV Systems (Non-Gas Properties Only/Available with New ASHP)**

***Free Electric Storage Heater Upgrades (Modern High Heat Retention Upgrades)**

If someone in your home qualifies and you feel this funding would benefit you, please feel free to contact us via telephone, email or visit our website for more information or to apply for your free home energy survey to find out EXACTLY what your home is fully entitled to.

All works are 100% free – no costs involved at any stage or they are not undertaken - applications will be prioritised on a first come first served basis

Best Wishes,

**ECO4 Welcome Team
C6 Energy**



Gigha Primary School & Early Learning Centre

This month has been busy at Gigha Primary School and ELC. On Thursday 12th September, staff and pupils from the setting hosted the Kellogg's Big Scottish Breakfast. The aim of the morning was to raise money to tackle food poverty across Scotland. On the morning, pupils, parents, staff and members of the island community enjoyed a bacon or sausage sandwich and helped raise £107.50. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Over the last four weeks the ELC and Primary School have continued their collaborative work with their mainstream friends. The ELC have linked with Rhunahaorine for Woodland Adventures and Beach Schools while the Primary School have joined Clachan and Achahoish Primaries for a visit to Campbeltown cinema to see Kensuke's Kingdom, a screen adaptation of the Literacy text by Micheal Morpurgo. These opportunities allow all children to develop friendships with mainland peers through a range of different opportunities.

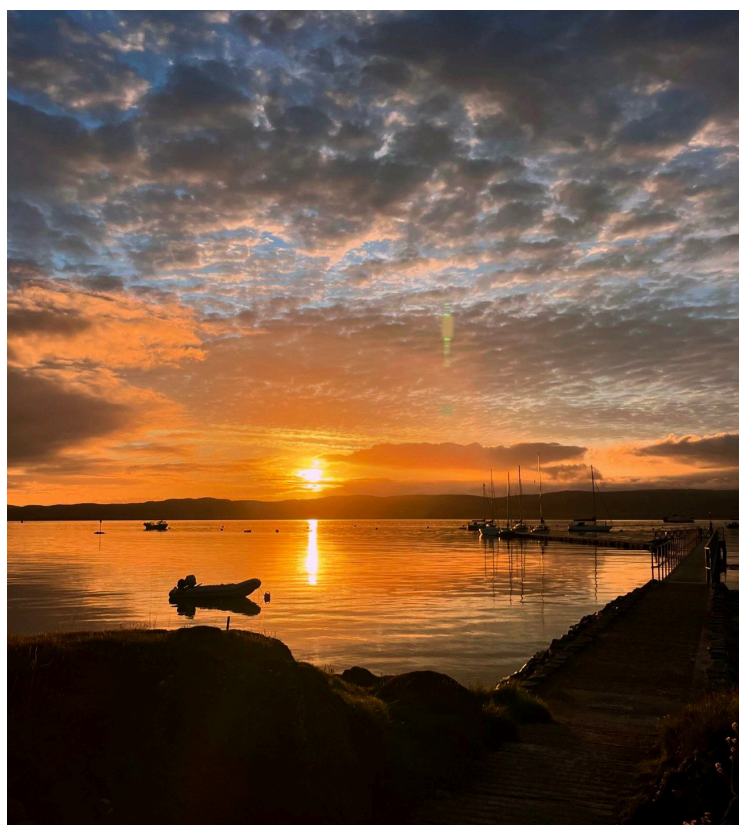
This month we were also recognised for our consistent approach to health and wellbeing through our Daily Mile. Every morning around 9am, pupils take part in 15-20 minutes of physical activity, walking and running around the Johnny Shore path. Over the last two years, this has become embedded in our school routine and we have just received the Children Fit for Life. We are very proud of this award as it is currently only held by 26 schools across Scotland.

At the start of the month we also began working towards our next Eco Schools Green Flag Award. This award will see pupils work towards improving sustainable practices in their local environment.

Pupils began by surveying our school grounds to find out about the current pollinating insect population before they find out about ways to support and improve this on the island.

We will shortly be finishing for our October break but look forward to updating you on our return.

Kind regards, Mrs Vipurs, Headteacher.



Gigha mid September sunrise

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.

Dark Skies Gigha



The Planets Wild Rumpus © Chris Payne

Change of Date: Dark Skies Festival

Funding for our Planets Exhibition by Wild Rumpus and for the launch of our community all sky camera is delayed. This means we will bring our festival to you later than we planned. We will confirm new dates for after new year as soon as we can. In the meantime:

Orionids Meteor Shower Event – Saturday 19th October 2024

Leonids Meteor Shower Event – Saturday 16th November 2024

Times and Details on our Facebook page.

Change of Date: Dark Skies Festival

Dates are coming for more sessions of our astronomy themed community STEM club with Dr Chris Leigh. We are trying to find the best day and time for as many people as have wanted to attend. Please email us at dark.skies.gigha@gmail.com with your thoughts on what suits most people best.



Gigha Village Hall

If you would like to make a booking, please contact Joe on 01583 505251 or email: gighavillagehall@gmail.com



Gigha Village Hall A.G.M

Gigha Village Hall are holding an A.G.M on Wednesday 6th November at 7pm.

We would love for you to along to share any thoughts or questions you have, discuss our response to the 10 year plan and welcome anyone wishing to join the Village Hall Committee!

All Welcome



**Gigha Village Hall
Children's**

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Join us for Games, Snacks and a Prize for
Best Costume & Best Pumpkin



SATURDAY
26TH OCTOBER
1-3PM

At Gigha Village Hall
All Welcome



**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!