

JULY 2022

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Newsletter

IGHT Members meeting

A Members meeting will take place at the Gigha Village Hall on Thursday 1st September at 7.00pm. A Calling Notice and Agenda for the meeting will be issued in advance of the meeting.

Staff Update

-Carly Robertson, Marketing Graduate, finished working for IGBT on 15th July after completing her 12 month ScotGrad placement.

-Alex Vipurs has stepped down as Minute Secretary for IGBT due to other commitments.

-Craig Whyte and Casey-Jo Zammit's contracts have been extended until 31st March 2023 as part of the Gateway to Gigha project extension.

-The post of Finance Manager is being advertised for the IGBT group.

Members Communications

Can all communications relating to the Board now be emailed to directors@gigha.org.uk or delivered in writing to the Trust office and addressed to the Board. This is to ensure that correspondence is reviewed by all Board members and will be discussed at monthly Board meetings.

Gigha and Cara Parish Church

The next service in the church is on 14th August with Rev Anne McIvor. Next year the Church building will be 100 years old. If you have any ideas on how we can celebrate this, please let us know.

Camp and Motorhome site

The Campsite development is almost completed. Final snags on site have been identified and we are waiting on some important paperwork before being able to take bookings. The installation of solar panels and the EV charging point will be completed later in the year to avoid any further delays to the opening. An open day for the community will be held later in the year as we are keen to start trading as soon as possible.



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Gateway to Gigha

Firstly, I would like to say how delighted I am that the Community Heritage 'wing' of the Gateway Project has been presenting the island with so many great engagement opportunities – we're so privileged to have Historic Environment Scotland, Archaeology Scotland, Glasgow University and Kilmartin Museum all keen to be involved. Casey-Jo's piece gives you a full update.

Also on the heritage front, you might have seen our stone plinth builder, Calum Williams, at work, and the interpretation panels to be fitted to these are edging ever closer to final versions. I'm hopeful we can get the panel designs complete and signed off by mid-August Paths-wise, while we have been in a short lull over July, Phase 2 is due to kick off again more fully in August, with the paths to Dun Chibhich to be completed and further steppingstones to be laid on the route to Fisherman's Cave. We have required more waymarkers than were originally planned but a second batch has now arrived, with fingerposts - to be placed at the starts of routes and junctions – in hot pursuit. We are about to begin tendering for the final phase of path building, and I will soon place an order for our adaptive e-bikes, expanding access opportunities across the island to a yet wider audience.



Dark Skies Gigha

Dark Skies Gigha is one of three groups looking for your customer vote in the Campbeltown Tesco store throughout July, August and September 2022.

We intend to use this grant to part fund a community stargazing festival on Gigha in November. The event will involve all ages with both indoor and outdoor activities including a planetarium, telescopes, talks and audio-visual presentations. So please collect your token at the Tesco Campbeltown checkout and vote for Dark Skies Gigha. When the votes are counted we will receive either £500, £1000 or £1500.

Thanks for supporting us!

TESCO
Community Grants

We're in the customer vote for a £1,500 Tesco Community Grant.



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Gigha Ranger Service

July has been a pretty spectacular month for our historical heritage.

At the beginning of July, Archaeology Scotland came to Gigha to initiate the "Adopt a Monument Scheme" which helped to train local volunteers how to conserve our heritage sites and provide us with advice and guidance for future conservation projects.

The Gateway to Gigha Project has secured a place on this scheme starting in the new financial year in April 2023. I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who came to help us over the weekend removing vegetation, cleaning and unearthing grave stones and for starting up their own heritage group which will aim to clear sites around the island. During the weekend, a representative from Archaeology Scotland spotted a stone that looks suspiciously like another potential Ogham stone within the grounds of Kilchattan Chapel. In the coming weeks we hope Ogham experts from Glasgow University will be joining us on island to take a look at this stone, as well as scan and create 3D images of our existing Ogham stone on Cnoc na croise.



On the subject of Ogham, a team of conservators, Lightly West, came to clean the Ogham stone of lichens and other growths. It may seem drastic to remove lichens that have been growing on this stone, as they take decades to develop, can indicate clean air, provide foodstuffs for invertebrates and offer nesting material for birds. However, this cleaning will provide us with the opportunity to use 3D technologies to protect the inscriptions and transform our understanding of the ancient Celtic Ogham writing system, which is one of 640 pre-1850 examples of Ogham script. The technologies are part of a project from Glasgow University that will look at Ogham in all media and all periods, and giving Ogham in Britain due weight alongside Ogham in Ireland. Ogham script is an early form of Irish, dating from 4th century AD.



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Gigha Ranger Service continued

Furthermore, this month volunteers have been helping me to clear vegetation to create access to our historical monuments such as Carn Ban.



Next month, our historical adventures continue with Kilmartin Museum, Historic Environment Scotland and professional storytellers coming to work with Gateway to Gigha Project and Gigha Primary School to understand more about our Bronze Age monuments, and bring some of Gigha's legends to life!

Renewables

All four turbines up and running again, with all the hydraulic and sensor issues resolved and we can start bringing some much-needed income back into the Trust.

The compensation claim on the Enercon E33 has now been signed off by Enercon head office in Germany and the compensation should be getting paid into the Gigha Green Power Ltd account next week. This means that the insurance claim for the downtime can now also be processed.

The Dancing Ladies are thirty years old next month as they were commissioned on 5th August 1992, not bad as they were only designed with a 25-year lifespan. We are working in the background at the replacement of the Dancing Ladies. Vestas have been assisting us with this along with an Options Appraisal that has just been completed. We are also working alongside BPP Tech looking at Hydrogen production for the future, this had been looked at in previous years but with Government analysis suggesting that 20-35% of the UK's energy consumption by 2050 could be hydrogen-based, this new energy source could be critical to meet the targets of net zero emissions by 2050 and cutting emissions by 78% by 2035.

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Achamore Gardens

In August our apprentice Morgan will be travelling to Pennsylvania, USA, to complete a 3-month long work placement at Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia. This fantastic educational trip has been funded by the Royal Horticultural Society. Longwood manages over 1000 acres of land and maintains 400 acres of more formal gardens. Much like the light show that is put together by the Gigha community for Achamore Gardens in December, so too does Longwood Gardens have a stonking winter light show as well as numerous seasonal exhibitions. While Longwood has a very different climate to Achamore, Morgan hopes to bring back all the tricks of the trade she learns there back with her to Gigha, to help improve public engagement and land management at Achamore.

(Photos from www.longwood.org)



Housing

There will be a three-bedroom property coming back onto the rental market soon but this property requires a lot of work internally and externally before we can re-let it due to its current condition.

Homehunt Gigha

If you wish to apply for Trust housing you must firstly be registered with Homehunt Gigha, even if you are already a Trust tenant.

If you wish to register with Homehunt Gigha, please contact the office on 01583 505390 or email shona@gigha.org.uk. Trust properties are allocated by the Housing Allocation Group, made up of islanders, who are independent of the office. If you wish to join the Housing Allocation Group, please contact the office.

VISIT SAFELY BIRD FLU - DEAD BIRDS

HELP US PREVENT THE TRANSMISSION
AND THE SPREAD OF AVIAN FLU FOR
HUMAN HEALTH AND WILDLIFE

DO NOT PICK UP OR TOUCH DEAD OR SICK WILD BIRDS

Avian flu can be spread and transmitted through direct contact

KEEP DOGS ON LEADS AWAY FROM SICK OR DEAD BIRDS

DO NOT TOUCH WILD FEATHERS OR POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED AREAS

Avian Flu can be spread and trasnmitted through indirect contact through transfer of faeces and feathers. The H5N1 virus can survive on organic matter such as soil, sand and nesting material for several weeks.

DO NOT APPROACH BIRDS THAT APPEAR TO BE SICK

Minimise human disturbance to sites to reduce unnecessary stress on the birds.

PLEASE REPORT DEAD WILD WATERFOWL, SEABIRDS OR BIRDS OF PREY TO DEFRA'S HELPLINE: 03459335577



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs




NatureScot
Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba