



# GIGHA NEWS



## Welcome to the August 2021 Gigha News

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed this month's newsletter and a copy of July 2021 Board minutes.

Regards,

Ian Wilson  
Chair

For and behalf of The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

### AGM

The Annual General Meeting of The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust and subsidiary companies will be held on Thursday 16th September 2021. The AGM will be held virtually and uploaded to the Gigha website at 7pm. The AGM will be for the purpose of noting the audited Accounts to 31st March 2021 and to elect Directors to fill the vacancies of IGHT and any nominations for the subsidiary companies: GTL, GGPL and GREL.

A Board Paper and Accounts Headlines will be made available to all Members prior. A copy of the Accounts for IGHT will be available on the Gigha website and in the Trust office.

Should voting take place, this will be done so via a drop-in and proxy votes. Details will be made available should this be required.

We intend to host a Members Meeting in the Autumn which will be interactive and include a Members question and answer session.

### Marketing Graduate

Our marketing graduate Carly has been contacting local businesses on the island to learn more about their current marketing strategy and what they would like to see from our new Visit Gigha website. Carly is keen to meet and have a chat with all the businesses on the island, so please look out for an email from her inviting you to have a short interview. If you would like to get in touch directly to schedule a meeting, please send Carly an email at [marketing@gigha.org.uk](mailto:marketing@gigha.org.uk).

We have also had a few local business owners express that they would be interested in taking part in social media training in order to improve their online presence. If this is something that you would be interested in, again, please get in touch with Carly at [marketing@gigha.org.uk](mailto:marketing@gigha.org.uk).

### Chimney Sweeping

If you require to have your chimney swept, please let the office know so that we can pass the details on to Kintyre Stoveworks to organise dates and times directly with the householder. This service is available to Trust tenants and homeowners and is the responsibility of the householder to pay for the service directly with the chimney sweep.

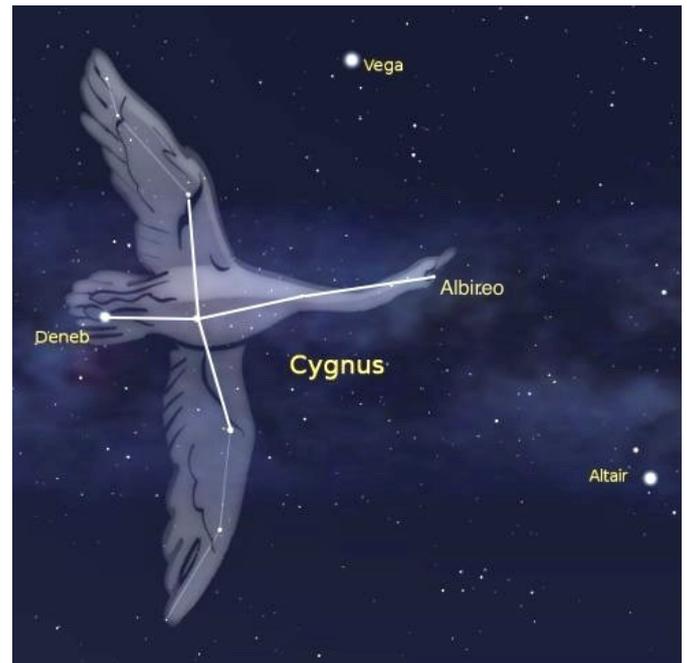


# SSETEAIRNSG

### A swan over Gigha

The constellation of Cygnus represents a graceful swan but I always think of it as a cross, in fact part of the constellation is often referred to as the 'Northern Cross'. It is an easy constellation to locate, you will see it almost overhead this month.

It's brightest star is Deneb. Think of this star as the top of the cross. If you follow the vertical line of the cross you will come to a fainter star called Albireo which marks the base of the cross or the head of the swan. Albireo is actually two stars, one gold and the other blue but you need a telescope to see them both. The crossbar of the 'Northern Cross' has three stars which extend outwards into the swan's wings.



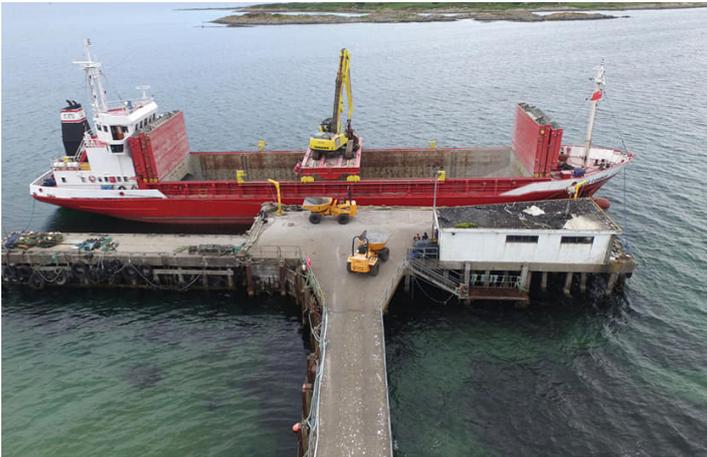
### Seeing Stars continued

What makes Cygnus a great constellation to observe is what lies behind it! When you look at Cygnus then you are looking directly into the flat disk of our galaxy, the Milky Way. In a Chinese love story the star Deneb marks a bridge across the Milky Way which allows two separated lovers (represented by the stars Vega and Altair) to be reunited on one night in late summer.

On a clear Gigha night why not look up at the Northern Cross with binoculars and marvel at the immense number of stars within our galaxy's disk.

### Gateway to Gigha

CEG Cosmos at the South Pier



### Paths Network –

As many of you will be aware, the bulk of our path building material – Type 1 aggregate and fine stone topping material – has arrived on Gigha! The arrival of the CEG Cosmos at the South Pier in early August was possibly the largest single shipment of material to have come to the island (if anyone knows differently, please let me know!). Will this herald a new age of sea transportation to the island, evoking memories perhaps of the age of puffers? Certainly, with the sea bearing the load, Highland and island roads, not to mention the ferry, have been spared dozens of heavy truckloads of stone. Once again, thanks go to Colin Campbell for his invaluable work in turning plans into reality. Our path builders are now eager to crack on with the job in hand and preparations are underway to ensure the earliest possible start to each of our 'shared use' (cycle and walker) paths.

Meanwhile, briefs for the Phase 2 paths – the 'upland' or trod paths designed for walkers only – are being drawn up and we have a shortlist of six contractors who will be invited to tender. Some of the planned routes are challenging, not least the path up Dun Chibhich and the Northern Loop, which takes in the fine set of cists that make up Carn Ban. But the prospect of improving access to, and interpretation of, such sites for islanders and visitors is an exciting one.

**Heritage** – Since last month we and our interpretation consultants have made some progress towards designing our on-site heritage interpretation. Seven primary structures will be built of stone in keeping with many of the features we will be interpreting.

Secondary interpretation posts, known as wayfinders, will more likely be constructed of wood, with small panels presenting more focused information about the likes of the Ogham Stone and the Bodach & Cailleach.

A series of fingerposts and waymarkers will further guide path users, and it is important that all paths infrastructure gels together in a consistent and pleasing way as well as fitting with our landscape and heritage. We shall present more detailed plans to islanders before we move towards production.

We are also still seeking input to the formulation of a 'Community Heritage Project'. I mentioned a few possibilities last month, but we are still open to new suggestions from islanders.

### Gateway to Gigha continued

Carn Ban cist



**E-bikes** – After much research and many long chats with e-bike suppliers and users, we have decided to purchase our e-bikes from Oban Cycles. As well as supplying a good mix of mountain and step-through hybrid bikes in a range of sizes, they will deliver e-bike training to a small number of islanders and offer a comprehensive, Argyll-based support package.

If you have any comments, ideas or input please contact Craig on 0755 469 2799 or at [craig@gigha.org.uk](mailto:craig@gigha.org.uk)

### Gigha Primary School

On Saturday 5th June, pupils from Gigha Primary School Eco Schools Committee took part in the Three Peaks Challenge: a 2.8km sponsored circular walk or scoot, which including walking the three highest cairns at the north of the island. Pupils from the nursery through to P7 raised the amazing current total of £630 through sponsorship from their family and friends; this will be used to purchase a variety of equipment and fresh fruit plants to be grown in the schools polycrub polytunnel as part of the pupils' Eco School's project. The end goal is to create a community growing garden to provide an increasing range of fruit and vegetables to pupils and the families who live on the Isle of Gigha.

Gigha Primary School's Eco Schools' Committee Chairperson, Max, reported "The sponsored walk was really fun and has raised lots of money for plants for the school growing area. We would like to say thank you to all the people who helped and took part and to those who sponsored us."

It is fantastic that, despite the restrictions of Covid 19, our families have continued to join in with family friendly outdoor events. The children at Gigha Primary School are fully committed to taking action on issues of sustainability that are really important to them.

This has provided an opportunity for them once again to have a voice around these aspects of everyday life, especially to lead community action on climate change through their food growing and composting projects. As an island community this allows our pupils to meet the challenges highlighted by the UN Sustainable Development goals to work with others to make the world a better place for everyone.

Our polycrub for food growing is taking shape thanks to the skills of Tim Lister and Finn Beagan. Also we have raised beds and compost bins to build in our new food growing garden. **If you can help in any way with construction of beds and bins, please let Mari Sheriff know at the school.**

### Three Peaks Challenge



We are sad that our end of year celebrations were again curtailed by restrictions placed on us by the Pandemic. We had a small gathering of children and staff and the following were presented:

For Mathematics – Mark

For Sport and Physical Activity – Ella

For Diligence (voted for by the children) – DJ

Head Teacher Award – Brogan

Head Teacher Special Award – Max

We wish Max all the best as he begins his journey at Tarbert Academy. We know he will do really well there and everyone is missing him a lot at school.

We welcome Andrea McShannon to be our classroom teacher as cover for Alex Vipurs who had her baby back in June. Welcome Baby Ralph!

### Gigha Primary School continued

Gigha Family Nature Club continues to provide monthly activities and a newsletter of ideas and resources for all our families and friends. **Please let us know if you would like to be included in the mailing list.** We are thankful to Casey-Jo our Gigha Ranger for hosting several nature events over the course of the holidays, all of which have been enjoyed by Gigha folk and visitors alike.

### Countryside Ranger

August has been all about community engagement. Despite all of the events in our summer programme being great days, the wildlife must have known we were coming and ran for cover! We didn't see a single butterfly on our Big Butterfly Count, but we did discover some cinnabar moth caterpillars, a number of bee species and made some awesome butterfly themed kites.



The whales and dolphins were also staying well camouflaged amongst the waves on our cetacean watch, yet we found a green shore crab, a number of wading birds and a whole host of seals hauled out on the rocks. However, our beach clean on Garbh was much more successful as we pulled off masses of plastic straws, cotton buds, broken fishing line, plastic strapping and degrading cellophane. A big thank you to everyone who has joined us on the events!



We also had our first training event that was offered to the community and was fully funded for residents under the age of 25. We had a great couple of days learning how to be outdoor first aiders, and look forward to the drystone walling course being offered in September, as well as the chainsaw and fencing courses hoping to go ahead in October.

Whilst summer isn't quite over – although it's hard to believe with the rubbish weather we're having – August always brings hints of the autumn. The briars are starting to droop with blackberries, the heather is just about to present its rich purple display, and you may have noticed the birds are fewer and slightly more dull... Well this is the time when birds moult their feathers, replacing their worn ones in time for winter. But this takes huge amounts of energy, so we don't see them so regularly in flight as this makes them vulnerable to predators, so like our wildlife on our events, they also are hiding.



Photo of the month: a bumblebee covered in pollen enjoying the feast offered by Achamore Gardens



### Gigha and Cara Parish Church

The next service will be at 11 o'clock on Sunday 12th September. It will be conducted by Mr James McLennan. All are welcome!

Future services:

10th October with Anne McIvor

14th November with Douglas Allan

12th December with James McLellan

### Causeway Coast Maritime Heritage Group



The 40th curragh Colmcille visited Gigha again this summer after 3 years. Covid-19 and the need for a boat overhaul meant nothing much happened over the past few years. We last – and first, visited Gigha in 2018. That left lasting impressions with us, the beauty of the island, hospitality and so our group chairman, and skipper Fergus McFaul from Rathlin was determined that we would get to Gigha as soon as Covid-19 restrictions permitted.

The journey from Jura was against strong SE winds and there is no point pretending it wasn't really tough. Rain, swell, spray and as really hard pull from Jura left the crew cold and tired at the end of the 5 hour journey to Gigha. So when Ken from the Hotel permitted and sponsored the camping – as well as providing loan of his car to bring the gear up from the pontoons, it was like a gift from heaven! We promised, and did leave 'no trace' – that is always our way, apart from memories of music, craic, shared stories (particularly mention required for former Colmcille crew member John Martin), amazing food, and of course the wonderful Gigha gardens and landscape.

The Colmcille has travelled 7000 miles, and carried many hundreds of people. She has been round Ireland, from Cornwall to Brittany and Galicia in Spain. Most voyages have been to Scotland and we have an affinity and love of the islands there.

The crew with John Martin



We now have a heritage lottery grant we will be training up new members, restoring our traditional sailing drontheims, and curraghs and we will also be holding two regattas and preparing an exhibition. We hope that over the years the connection to Gigha and the other islands will inform and enrich our shared maritime heritage.

For the Rathlin crew in particular it is always good to visit other islands and a previous exchange visit between Rathlin and Gigha is remembered as a high point. It was good to be back.

So thanks again and best wishes from the Causeway Coast to the Gigha community, until the next time.....

Kate Burns

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Leaving Gigha on a foggy morning (7th August)



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