

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Newsletter February 2026

Gigha Hotel

The Hotel Bar opening hours: Bar opening hours currently remain as: Wed & Thu 5-10pm; Fri 4pm-12am; Sat 2pm-12am, with occasional Sunday Opening Hours for specific events.

The phased re-opening of the rest of the Hotel is progressing well, with the kitchen on track to be open by the end of March and rooms available from mid-May.

Recruitment for a new Hotel Manager is ongoing alongside the recruitment of island-based Team Members. Further recruitment will follow in advance of the peak season.

In February, we have made a number of general improvements around the hotel including new Wi-Fi throughout, heating in all bedrooms, and tried out some new initiatives such as showing sport and opening on a Sunday afternoon with coffee and cake.

In March, we are looking forward to hosting the Gigha Day celebrations on the 15th March (more details coming soon!) and launching our new website which is coming together nicely – we'd love to include old photos of the Hotel, so please send them over if you have any. We will also be improving the Front Lounge and would love to showcase and promote island artists – please contact Anna at hotel@gigha.org.uk if you would like to have some art displayed.

Things will be changing fast in March – keep an eye out for flyers and posters and posts on our social media accounts about the launch of the new website and the opening of the kitchen.

Save the Date!

- Monday 9th March - Line Dancing - last session!
- Saturday 14th March - Sound of Gigha Gigha's Got Talent
- Saturday 21st March - Fundraising Auction

Gigha Church in the Parish of Mid Kintyre and Gigha

Services in March

8th March at 11.30 am service on Zoom with Tarbert

22nd March at 11.30 am Communion with Rev Lyn Peden

31st March Palm Sunday. This being the fifth Sunday in the month will be a joint service with people from A'Chleit, Clachan, Skipness and Tarbert joining us. On Good Friday there will be a meeting at the Labyrinth in Clachan. At present I don't know the time for that, but it will probably in the next Church chat.

Work is progressing slowly on the Church so officially the Church is still a building site. We thank the men working there for tidying up to allow us to hold the recent funerals in the Church.

We remember

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Seumas McSporran who lived and worked on Gigha most of his life. Seumas featured in many newspaper articles and on television as the man with many jobs, serving the Gigha community for decades. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.



Sound of Gigha

Gigha's got Talent - Village Hall - March 14th 7pm

The stage is open. The rules are loose.

Singing (on key optional)

Dancing (rhythm negotiable)

Instruments abused with confidence

Comedy that may immediately regret itself

Talents discovered 3 minutes before going on

ALL AGES. NO AUDITIONS. ZERO DIGNITY.

If you've ever thought "I could probably do something" —
this is your moment.

Come perform. Come scream encouragement. Come
witness something that will be talked about for years.

FUN. FRIENDLY. UNFORGETTABLE.

Email thesoundofgigha@gmail.com to register your interest
to perform!



Gigha Village Hall

To book the Gigha Village Hall please email gighavillagehall@gmail.com or telephone Joe on 01583 505251.

Gigha Primary School and ELC

Congratulations to Gigha Primary School and ELC, who have achieved the UNICEF UK Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award — the highest level of recognition for putting children's rights at the centre of everything they do.

'Fresh Egg Friday' has become a popular part of the week. We would like to thank everyone who supports this project.

You can keep up to date with Gigha Primary School's activities by viewing their blog:

<https://www.gigha.argyll-bute.sch.uk/weekly-blog-2/>

Gigha Primary School and ELC currently has two vacancies. Please see the following links for more information:

<https://myjobscotland.gov.uk/.../jobs/asn-assistant-460653>

<https://myjobscotland.gov.uk/.../jobs/janitorcleaner-460597>

Applications are to be made through Myjobscotland.



Boat at Ministers Beach

If you are the owner of this green boat located opposite the Coastguard Station, please contact the Trust Office on 01583 505390 or email office@gigha.org.uk



Ranger Service

February has been a super duper busy month for our island volunteers! The conservation volunteers have gained three new recruits – how amazing, we are so thankful and pleased to have them with us! Our work this month has been on either end of the environmental spectrum, continuing with beach cleans, but also carrying out some woodland management. These relentless easterly winds have meant that the beaches which usually suffer the majority of marine plastics have been given a bit of respite, but instead we are grappling with the tiny amount of fishing ropes, plastic strapping, fishing line, shredded plastic sheeting, and of course the occasional shoe!



We have also been prepping our woodlands for the soon-to-arrive Spring by removing non-native Sitka spruce saplings to make way for natural regeneration, as well as planting native hazel species to encourage a more diverse structure in the woodland and provide foraging opportunity for our wildlife.

Tidy, tidy, tidy is the motto for Achamore Gardens at the moment. Volunteers have been hard at work to also get ready for the upcoming season by moving, cleaning and preserving our visitor benches, cleared greenhouses and spaces for delicate and tender plants to have a better chance of establishing, enriched the beds with leaf litter, and removed brambles, willows and dogwoods from areas to tidy, ensure future growth, and reuse as plant supports in the Walled Gardens.



COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS – KILCHATTAN CHAPEL

In January, every permanent resident received a community survey regarding conserving decorated grave slabs in Kilchattan Chapel put forward by island volunteers. The result of the survey came back as a majority **DO APPROVE**.

54 individual survey responses were received.

46 individuals selected APPROVE.

8 individuals selected DO NOT APPROVE.

The volunteers are now seeking additional advice from stone conservators for an options appraisal and feasibility report to assess the condition of the grave slabs and appropriate conservation methods. If the volunteers are successful in gaining this advice, they plan to share this with the community in the near future.



Job Vacancy - Lead Gardener Achamore Gardens



An exciting opportunity to lead on the management and maintenance of Achamore Gardens.

💰 Salary: £30,000 per annum

📍 Location: Isle of Gigha, Argyll & Bute

🕒 Full-time | Permanent

Closing Date: 27.03.2026

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

OFFICE@GIGHA.ORG.UK

Ardminish Bay Navigation Buoy - article courtesy of Campbeltown Courier

Bakkafrost Scotland has stepped in to restore navigational lights at Ardmish Bay pontoon after a fault disrupted ferry services to and from the Isle of Gigha.

The lights failed earlier this month, prompting Caledonian MacBrayne to reduce sailings over safety concerns as vessels were unable to guide safely in the dark.

The ferry link is a vital connection for islanders, supporting travel to work, school and essential services on the mainland.

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust sought financial support to replace the lights and assistance with safely installing the new equipment.

Bakkafrost Scotland responded by purchasing replacement lighting and arranging for a crew to carry out the installation once weather conditions allowed.

Craig Johnstone, site manager on Gigha, said the issue had immediate consequences for the island community.

“We are very much part of island life here and helping out in this way benefits all of us.

“The navigational lights had failed and the ferry service is unable to run in the dark, as it is obviously not safe if they are unable to guide the vessel in.

“The ferry service is critical to Gigha and having a reduced service was very disruptive.

“It prevented people being able to get to work and children getting to school on the mainland.

“We were asked to help out and, of course, we were more than happy to do what we could.

“We bought the new lights and, once the weather allowed, I travelled out with a colleague to install them.

“Once we had successfully tested them, we made the ferry operator aware.”

The company has also pledged further support to the island’s emergency planning group.

Bakkafrost Scotland has committed to helping transport emergency services workers to and from Gigha when required using its fleet of boats and to providing additional safety equipment.

Craig Johnstone said the commitment reflected the realities of island life.

“There is not always sufficient transport available for the emergency services workers, so we have made a commitment to help out with our own fleet of boats when we can.

“In addition, we have helped the emergency planning group buy equipment like high visibility clothing and radios, as well as assist with storage facilities.

“It is about a 30 minute trip from Gigha to the mainland and there is no transport alternative here, so it is important we do what we can to assist.

“Doing so reflects Bakkafrost Scotland’s commitment to help the communities where we live and work.”

With the lights restored, the ferry service is now able to operate as normal, bringing relief to a small island community that depends on every crossing.

Site Manager Craig Johnstone (left) and Senior Marine Operative Bryce Harvey (right) pictured.





**GIGHA'S
GOT TALENT**
Village Hall Spectacular!

£5 A TICKET **LICENSED BAR**

Singing
 Bands
 Comedy

Liquid confidence served responsibly... ish.
 Dance
 Wildcards Encouraged

Saturday 14th March 7pm
Gigha Village Hall



A U C T I O N
SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2026 - 2.00pm
GIGHA VILLAGE HALL

Viewing of lots & teas/coffees/cakes from 1pm
 Minimum bid of £5 per lot (cash only)

Donations accepted from 5-6pm on Friday 20 at the hall
 Unsold items to be uplifted at end of auction
 Please no books, clothes, CD's or DVD's



All monies raised towards
 Kilchattan Heritage Project