



GIGHA NEWS

Welcome to the June 2019 Gigha News



Dear Member,

Please find enclosed this month's newsletter.

Please also find enclosed the Members and Board meeting minutes for April. Apologies for the delay in disclosing these due to staff changes.

Regards,

Ian Wilson
Chair
For and behalf of Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Date for your Diary

EGM/Members meeting 18th July in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

An EGM is being called to vote on reducing the voting age of members to 16 years old.

The Board is proposing an amendment to the Memorandum and Articles which would allow young people aged 16 and over to become members of the Trust and accordingly able to vote. The Board feel that it is important for the future of the island that young people both become involved and are actively engaged in the future of the island.

Voting will take place in person or by proxy. If you are attending the meeting, you will be asked to complete a Ballot Paper in relation to voting on the evening. If, however, you believe you will be unable to attend the meeting and opt to appoint a Proxy on your behalf, please call in at the Trust Office or phone 01583 505 390 to be issued with a proxy form. Proxy forms must be returned by 7.30pm on Tuesday 16th July 2019.

Asset Sales

DM Hall visited Gigha towards the end of December 2018 and carried out a home report and valuation for Woodend Cottage. The property was put on the market to assist with the Trusts overall debt reduction.

After numerous viewings and 4 months on the market, IGH T accepted an offer. The security holders, surveyor and the IGH T Board approved the offer and are pleased to announce the sale of Woodend Cottage completed on Friday 14th June. This was a very quick sale and IGH T would like to thank those involved in helping the transaction to run as smoothly as possible.

Campsite Update

IGH T have secured funding of £171,000 from Visit Scotland's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund. This will enable commencement of phase 1 of the campsite project subject to members approval. The funding will provide a considerable contribution towards the financing of the construction of the public toilets and shower facilities. The Trust will in due course look for further funding for other amenities. This is a very positive step in the development and promotion of Gigha.

Housing and Community Development Update

IGH T recently developed an idea to provide intergenerational housing on the island which would consist of starter and assisted housing accompanied by a central community hub. An initial community consultation generated considerable support for the idea.

For the project to move forward, IGH T requires advice and support on the feasibility of this development therefore have appointed Community Housing Scotland (CHS) to develop a Business Plan to both inform decision-making and provide evidence to as to the demand.

IGH T have been granted funding from the Scottish Governments Rural Housing Fund and from Highlands and Islands Enterprise to cover the cost of the feasibility work and IGH T looks forward to working with CHS to develop the project.

CHS are proposing an open session on 18th July to discuss any questions the community may have. More details will follow shortly on the arrangements.

Job Vacancy

IGH T has a part-time seasonal vacancy to join the self-catering cottages housekeeping team. For further post details, please contact Jacqui Smith on 01583 427 300 or alternatively call in at the Trust Office.

National Lottery's 25th Birthday

On the 19th November 2019, The National Lottery will be celebrating its 25th Birthday, a landmark moment to shine a spotlight on the incredible difference The National Lottery has made – and continues to make – to the lives of people and communities in Scotland and across the UK. For us on Gigha, we in particular are grateful for the contribution The National Lottery made towards the 2002 community buy-out.

The Scottish launch of The National Lottery's 25th Birthday that was on 20th June 2019 brought together the extended National Lottery family to share an overview of the exciting programme of activity they have planned throughout the year and on the lead up to the birthday. There was a great line up of speakers such as Maureen McGinn, Chair of The National Lottery Community Fund and Dame Katherine Grainger, Britain's most decorated female Olympic athlete and Chair of UK Sport.

Flags

The Gigha, Saltire and Union Jack flag have been raised in front of the Craft Workshops and Hotel. These flags are raised to welcome visitors from around the country and world for the 2019 season.

Jura and Islay CLE Trip

At the beginning of June, IGHT staff, directors and a few members of the community had a trip over to Islay and Jura kindly funded by the Community Learning Exchange from Scottish Community Alliance. The purpose of this funding is to allow communities to engage and exchange information and advice. The group visited the Jura Care Village, Islay Storm Pods and Port Mor Community-owned Campsite. The trip was very beneficial in generating ideas and opinions for development opportunities on Gigha. Jura Development Trust and South Islay Development Trust were very accommodating to IGHT and has generated networking opportunities between the Trusts.



Mediation

In early May IGHT asked its members if they would be interested in trying mediation in an attempt to address some of the issues some members feel are causing problems in the community. 33 members responded saying they would be interested in taking part in mediation.

On Thursday 13th June, the mediators, Robin and Lindsay Burley, met with 19 members of the community, 8 directors and 3 members of staff throughout the day. The sole intention of this visit from the mediators was to hear from as many in the community as possible about what is working well, and what is not working so well about Gigha's very important community-based initiative.

In the evening, there was an open session to start the process of addressing some of the issues which all members of the community and the Board were invited to attend. 22 members (7 of whom were of the Board) turned up to that session. It was clear from this session that almost everyone had the same aspirations for Gigha and recognised the challenges Gigha faces in moving forwards. We are grateful to Highlands and Islands Enterprise for covering the cost of the session which was in excess of £1,400. Further funding for the mediation would need to be provided by the Trust, therefore further sessions would be a cause for concern given the limited interest.

The Board have therefore resolved to review the feedback from the mediators at their next meeting and will put a further proposal to the community thereafter as to how best to move forward as a community.

Gigha Music Festival

Gigha music festival will take place this weekend. On Saturday 29th June, there will be live music in the Boathouse Restaurant and Gigha Hotel, and also open mic and singing lessons in the Gallery. There will be a further main concert in the Village Hall in the evening. Tickets are available from Ardmish Stores or alternatively by emailing booking@gighamf.org.uk or by phoning 01583 505 160.

There will also be an organ recital in the Church from 1.30pm by Julius Weeks on Sunday 30th June. At 11am there will be a special service of praise to which all are invited to come.

Achamore Gardens

Achamore Gardens has received great reviews and feedback from recent visitors. Recent trip advisor reviews (as seen below) have also been very positive, highlighting the impressive variety of plants and beautiful surroundings. Recent visitors are also very sympathetic to the unique situation Achamore Gardens is in - being community owned and managed by a charity with limited resources.

Since January 2019, the honesty box donations have amounted to just short of £12,000. This is hugely generous and a clear reflection of appreciation from visitors to the gardens. All honesty box donations and gardens funds are directed towards garden staff wages, equipment and resources.

Susan Allan has kindly produced an Achamore Gardens anagram puzzle. Copies are available in the Trust Office and from Susan for £1 and all proceeds will go towards the Gardens.

RA Clement

Shona Wardrop, accountant for RA Clement, has acted as the Trusts accountant and auditor for the last 16 years. Shona is now moving on from her role with RA Clement.

Shona made her last official visit to the Trust Office on 26th June and has said she is comfortable leaving her role for the Trust at this point in time as the Trust is in the most financially stable position it has been in in the last decade. Shona has also expressed her confidence in the current Boards ability to continue with this positive move forward. Shona, who has worked for the Trust since shortly after the buy-out, will be missed by the Trust and has been of great support and assistance to the Trust and all the directors and staff during her time.

Main Contacts:

General Enquiries: 01583 505390

IGHT Estates: office@gigha.org.uk

GTL Estates: cottages@gigha.org.uk



Reviewed 3 weeks ago via mobile

A tranquil oasis and a journey back in time

This is a classic example of a "grand designs" Victorian / Edwardian era country house arboretum and walled garden. Inevitably a bit ramshackle as it's no longer in the hands of wealthy owners, but the community trust are doing their best with limited resources. It's on a truly grand scale and the air of seclusion created by its encircling woodland is just magical. Add to that the fact that visitor numbers are tiny (no coach parties here) and you can easily lose yourself here for hours on end. Would also be a great place to let kids run around exploring or bring a picnic.

[Show less](#)

Date of experience: May 2019



Reviewed 3 weeks ago

Rhododendron paradise

This was well worth a visit. The range of varieties and colours was spectacular. It is well signposted from the main road and within easy walking distance of the hotel or the ferry port. The walk to the view point is a must. The gardeners (mostly volunteers) are friendly and willing to answer questions. It was so quiet and peaceful in the gardens. April/May are probably the best months to see the rhododendrons at their peak.

[Show less](#)

Date of experience: May 2019



Reviewed 4 weeks ago via mobile

Amazing plants and wonderful views.

The gardens cost £6 entry but have an honesty box so make sure you have cash. The plants were enormous and there were so many I hadn't seen before. There is also a viewpoint which gives great views over the island.

Date of experience: May 2019