



GIGHA NEWS



Welcome to the June 2021 Gigha News

Dear Member,

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

Regards,

Ian Wilson
Chair

For and behalf of The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Communicating with Directors and Staff

If you have a question for the Trust directors, please go through the Trust Office rather than phoning Directors at their home.

Staff working hours are generally 9am-5pm Monday-Friday, so please ensure to only approach staff about IGHM matters during these times and through the Trust Office only.

Supporting Communities Fund

We have been awarded £2,202 from Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund. This is to assist the Ranger in delivering 5 Nature Science sessions with the Gigha Primary School. The funding will allow us to purchase equipment for the School and Ranger service that can be used again in future beyond the initial Nature Science sessions.

Members meetings

The last members meeting was held online in April. It is proposed that the next members meeting will be hosted online again as the Village Hall capacity remains restricted. We understand Covid-19 cases in Argyll are rising again, and with visitors still able to come to the area, hosting an in-person meeting is not essential at this time. The next meeting date is likely to be before the AGM in the Autumn and will be announced shortly.

Scrap Vehicles

Argyll Recovery based near Campbeltown may be able to assist with the removal of scrap vehicles if they are taken to Tayinloan. Contact Keith on freephone 0800 4332468. It is the responsibility of the registered owner to have scrap vehicles disposed of.

A thank you from STV Studios

On behalf of the STV Studios I would like to thank you all for making the filming experience on Gigha so enjoyable. Taking on a new series is always challenging especially in the middle of a Pandemic. However, we have come away feeling like we have made a brilliant series and this was only made possible with the support and hospitality of you all, the breath taking location and some fabulous Scottish sunshine.

The crew were overwhelmed by each resident's kindness and willingness to help when they could. It turns out you are all multi-talented and there isn't anything you can't fix or solve. And Bredun has done a fabulous job taking our Press photographs. We happily embraced waving to everyone as they walked by and this is something we have all taken home with us.

I am sure you will have lots of crew members visiting for holidays soon.

We hope to have a broadcast date for the Autumn. As soon as we have a confirmed date we will share this with you all.

A big thank you from all of us once again,
Craig and the executive team, STV Studios.

Campsite development

Duncan MacGregor Joiners & Builders Ltd will begin works at the campsite on Monday 5th July. Please note that the site will be restricted access to the contractor only. No Trust members, residents or visitors should attempt to access the site without prior agreement from the contractor. Temporary signage will be displayed to ensure that the public are aware of the works taking place. The contractor will be responsible for the site during the build period, however, if you have any questions, please direct these to the Trust Office.

E33 Enercon "Harmony" Turbine

Harmony was up and running again last month although she was running on half power, but she turned herself off again a couple of days later with a pitch control fault which again required parts. Enercon engineers are onsite again this week and hope to have it running again on full power before the end of the week, 2nd July.

Countryside Ranger

It has been one year since the IGH was awarded funding to undertake the Gateway to Gigha Project, so this seemed like a good time to put out a little reminder of the project intentions and outputs (please see map on last page). Another aspect of the project is to develop a digital marketing strategy. The heritage interpretation drop-in session held at the Village Hall last weekend was a great chance for us to showcase this, and share the intentions of the strategy: encourage “slow tourism” and attract responsible travellers; promote local businesses; ensure our natural heritage is safeguarded from the effects of tourism, and protect and promote community values.

This week we have appointed a candidate as our Strategic Marketing Graduate who will help us to achieve these aims. The candidate was selected based on her fantastic understanding of Gigha and community ownership, her enthusiasm to help and promote local businesses, and her knowledge about how to maintain sustainable visitor numbers rather than simply increasing visitor numbers, whilst targeting the right kind of visitor for Gigha. We look forward to introducing her to the role and the island in the coming weeks.



The project also provides the opportunity to open training courses for the community. The following training courses available for this year, and for residents under the age of 25 the following courses would be fully funded by the project:

- Fencing: a 3-day course, fully accredited by LANTRA, learning how to construct “post and rail” and “wire and post” fencing. We have 6 places available at £390 per person.
 - Drystone walling: a 3-day course, fully accredited by LANTRA, learning how to construct drystone dykes. We have 8 spaces available at £220 per person. The course will be expecting to run either the first week of August or the first week of September.
 - Chainsaw: a 2-day course, fully accredited by LANTRA. We have 6 places available at £185 per person.
 - Health walks: an online course that enables participants to lead safe, effective and enjoyable Health Walks in a community setting as part of a Health Walk project from Paths For All. Health Walks are aimed at people who would benefit from doing more physical activity. This can include people who haven’t been active for a while, people recovering from ill health, are managing a long-term condition, or those wishing to join in social activities. Health walkers can enjoy a whole range of benefits including increased fitness, improved mood and increased social interactions. We have 15 places available at £30 per person.
 - Photography: a 2-day course specialising in landscapes and nature, with a focus on how to create stories from photography. The course is run by Visuals for Scotland and is a great chance to connect to nature whilst learning a great skill. No equipment needed, the course will include smartphone photography as well as the use of cameras (provided), and caters for absolute beginners to experienced hobbyists. We have 4 places available at £175 per person.
 - First Aid: a 2-day course on 9th & 10th of August. We have 2 places remaining at £106 per person.
- Please get in touch at ranger@gigha.org.uk, or call the office if you are interested in attending any of the courses mentioned, or if you would like to see other courses made available, please send us in your suggestions!
- In other news.... In recent weeks we have also been working with the Scottish Islands Federation to form a Marine Litter Working Group which intends to aim high and hit the top tier of policy makers to improve the marine litter situation across the west coast of Scotland. We are currently in the process of establishing a regional-wide marine litter collection policy that will enable all areas of the west coast to responsibly discard of the litter collected by a whole army of volunteers across the region. Even more on marine litter...

Countryside Ranger continued

We also recently received funding from NatureScot which has allowed us to purchase recycled plastic beach litter bins to keep our shores sparkling! This funding also gave us the opportunity to purchase a waste tank for motorhomes, which you may have noticed in the field leading down to Garbh beaches. For this season, as we don't have a campsite (yet!), an area at the north of the island was dedicated in order to remedy inconveniences of camping such as noise, waste and road issues. We have had great feedback so far, and we have seen some happy campers enjoying the beautiful views out to Jura. The concrete tank in the field is to offer motorhomes a waste facility for the season to prevent abandoned waste creating issues in our natural spaces.

This month also saw our first ranger event held under and funded by the project, a beach clean at Poll Mòr. We had 14 participants, a fabulous mix of residents and visitors, and we managed to collect nearly 130kg/286lbs of marine litter! Hooray!



Gateway to Gigha – Update from Project Manager Craig Whyte

Paths Network - Preparations for the start of path building continue, and the challenges, one by one, are being addressed. We are very hopeful that the 2,700 tonnes of aggregate and other material we need for our 'Phase 1' paths will start arriving in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, we have started work with Scott, our path designer, on the more detailed design of 'phase 2' paths. While 'phase 1' has focused on the surfaced, aggregate-built paths, 'phase 2' will be concerned with the more natural, 'trod' paths.

Heritage – I'd like to say a personal thanks to all those who attended our Heritage Consultation event in the Village Hall last weekend (26th/27th June).

Everyone who came along has something of value to contribute, and we really enjoyed hearing your opinions and 'heritage stories'. Your stories and views will inform the onward development of our heritage interpretation, both across the island (in form of interpretation boards and wayfinders) and on the new visitor website that will soon be developed. I would be delighted to receive any further input from anyone with a story to tell about Gigha's heritage, or a special memory or nugget of knowledge about any of the island's special places and their natural or historical attributes.

Other aspects of the Gateway project – the procurement of e-bikes, community events and training, engagement with the school and a community heritage project - are still in development and I will be reporting on them in due course. As ever, if you'd like to learn more about Gateway, to ask questions, or get involved, I am more than happy to hear from you on 07554 692799 or at craig@gigha.org.uk

Gigha Village Hall

Gigha Village Hall has now re-opened for hire from 21st June with some restrictions as per Government guidelines.

One of the main changes is that the hirer has now to have their own specific risk assessment for Covid-19 and run their event in accordance to these guidelines. In order for the Village Hall to operate and provide the premises to be clean we do require to clean and wipe all surfaces etc so with this in mind we need to add an additional £10 surcharge to your hire price in order to operate safely. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch with any of the Hall Committee: Maggie Wilkieson (Chair), Tracy Wilson (Treasurer) and Morven Beagan (Secretary/bookings). Email: morvenandrew@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07881 426616.

Over the next 6 months the Committee are looking for people to come forward and take on committee and member roles to develop and plan for the future of the Village Hall, this is for the island's use and it is important for forward planning how the Village Hall is to be used within the community. We are more than happy to show a new committee the ropes and have a handover period. If you have an interest, please again contact any of the above current committee members.



SEE T E A I R N S G

Seeing Stars - Protecting Gigha from light pollution

Less than 100 years ago, everyone could look up and see a beautiful starry night sky. Now, millions of children across the Earth will never experience the Milky Way where they live due to the widespread use of artificial light. This includes children in Glasgow whose sky glow can be seen low on the northeastern horizon from Gigha. Luckily, light pollution on Gigha is minimal and our night sky is spectacularly dark with the Milky Way being clearly visible.



So what can you do to keep Gigha's night sky free of light pollution? To keep our night sky on Gigha pristine you don't have to reduce the number of lights you have or even switch lights off. It is simply a matter of choosing the correct type of outdoor light fitting and positioning them correctly to ensure light is pointing downwards to where you need it.

- Only use light fixtures that shield light from the top and sides.
- Ensure that light from your outside lights only points downwards.
- Install outside lights with timers or motion sensors so that they are only lit when needed.
- Change bright light bulbs to warmer light bulbs.

Here are some non-light polluting outdoor light fixtures, some of which are in use on Gigha.

"Our Island" Project

Thanks to all who came along to our Our Island afternoon on 12th June. We had a great turn out and due to Covid restrictions had a full house as far as one is allowed! We enjoyed readings from the writers group, getting a good look at the incredible story blanket contributions, seeing an exhibition of the lino cuts and two world premieres of songs - one from Tony Walker called My Gigha and a snippet of our new Gaelic song. We also had a snippet of film from the Aye Glas team, who also filmed the event for us.

Well done to Maggie Wilkieson for first prize in the photostory competition, Martha Teale who came second and Heather Gorman who came third.

Thanks to the following who helped make it happen - Susan Allan for use of Church and home baking, Heather Gorman for home baking, Hannah Storie for driving forward the amazing storyblanket, Casey-Jo Zammit for tea duty, Morgan Russell for printing workshop, Kevin Foley for help setting up and all contributors of artwork.



The next stage of the project will be to complete the film and we will be looking for a few more contributions around hopes/concerns for the future. Oh and come and learn the Gaelic song! Outside song workshop will be happening around 4th and 5th July.



Countryside Ranger's Photo of the Month

View out to Jura from the North

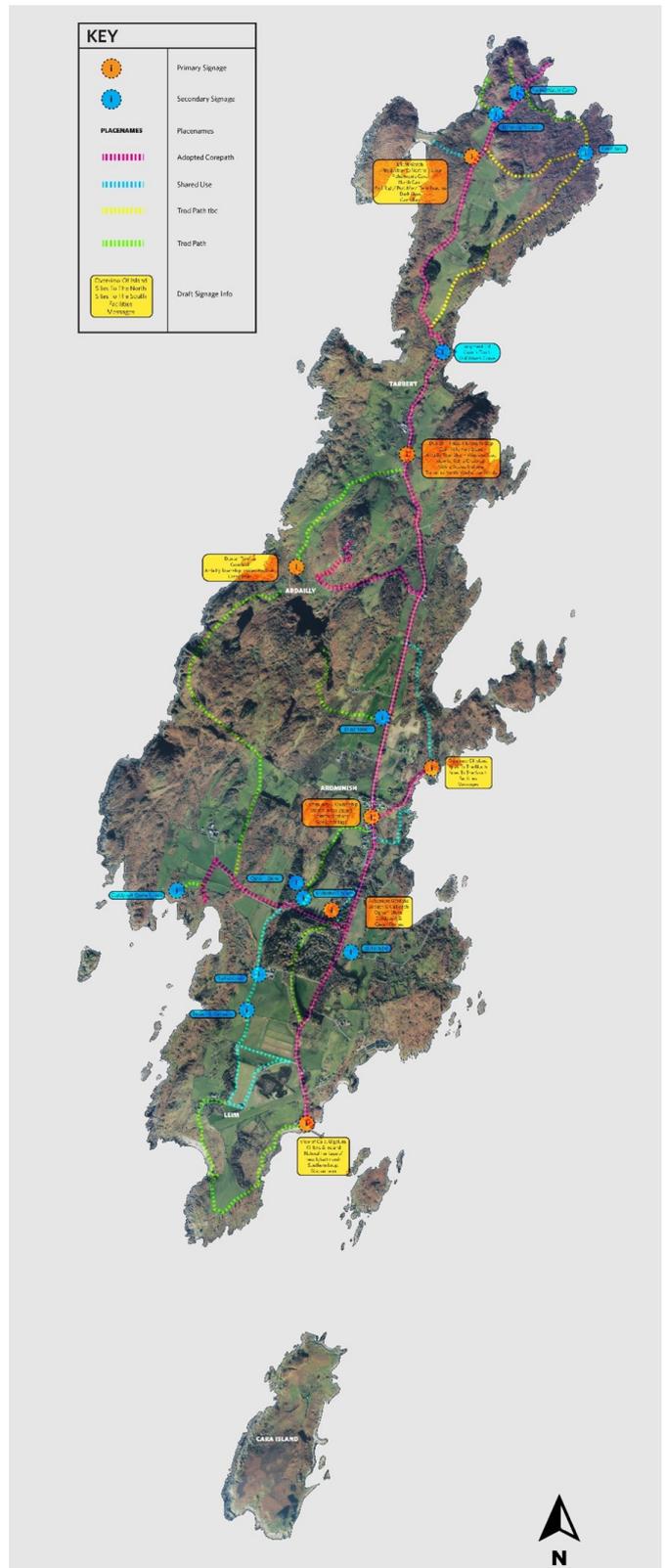


RNLI Lifejacket lockers

The RNLI have kindly provided us with 6 lockers for customers of our moorings and pontoons to store lifejackets whilst they explore the island. The lockers are located on the side of the Gigha Trading Limited shed next to the Boathouse car park. The lockers require a £1 coin to lock and release the key. If you wish to donate to the RNLI, please visit <https://rnli.org/support-us/give-money>



Gateway to Gigha path network map



Main Contacts

- For general IGHM enquiries: shona@gigha.org.uk Tel: 01583 505390
- For development enquiries: jane@gigha.org.uk
- For housing and estate enquiries: office@gigha.org.uk
- For all GTL enquiries: trading@gigha.org.uk Tel: 01583 427300
- For accounts/finance enquiries: ightcentralaccounts@gigha.org.uk
- For Gardens enquiries/volunteer opportunities: gardens@gigha.org.uk

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Ltd is a company registered in Scotland (registered number: 334141) and a Registered Scottish Charity (charity number: SCO 32302).



GATEWAY TO GIGHA PROJECT

The project is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund. It aims to increase access to the island's natural and historical heritage sites, improve visitor experience, engage with communities, and provide greener travel options whilst reducing negative environmental impacts.

