

MARCH 2023

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Newsletter

Gigha Day

Thank you to everyone who came along on Gigha Day to see the Trust flag raised by Margaret Andrew and Chris McNeill. Thank you to Joe Teale for piping and to the Gigha Primary School children for their readings.



Board Correspondence

The board meet the third Monday of every month; therefore, for any correspondence to be considered at these meetings, we ask for it to be submitted at least 1 week prior to give the board time to review.

Correspondence sent within 1 week of the board meeting will be delayed for review until the following month meeting. Contact us by emailing directors@gigha.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Tea in the Hall – Wednesday 10th May, 2-4pm, Gigha Village Hall

Members meeting – Wednesday 10th May, 7pm, Gigha Village Hall

If you have any specific updates or topics you would like covered at either event, please contact the office before 3rd May.

Board update

The IGHT board would like to welcome Per Östlund as a co-opted director. Per brings skills and experience in business management which we are sure will be a valuable addition to the board.

Accounting and Auditing Firm

The Trust have appointed a new accounting and auditing firm, Geoghegans Chartered Accountants who are based in Edinburgh.

The Trust would like to thank RA Clement Associates who had been part of the Trust team from the beginning.

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Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) Development

The Trust, Gigha Parent Council and Active Schools have been working in partnership to progress plans for a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) for the island.

Initial consultation took place in the form of a survey, and a drop-in session was run by the Parent Council on 6th July 2022. The survey is still active and we would appreciate any further feedback being submitted: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y82MQ6N>

The proposed MUGA would be a 5-a-side sized court (36mx18m) which would cater for as many sports as possible. The land west of the playpark was identified as a potential location for the MUGA. Since then, the exact proposed location has been moved to the south of the field to directly behind the Craft Units. This will help limit visibility to neighbouring housing schemes, including the new housing development. The proposed location is close to the school, has parking spaces, and it allows children the opportunity to make use of the playpark at the same time.

The project has progressed on the basis of the survey results so far and on the assumption that this was the most suitable location. Therefore, if you have any ideas for alternative locations or suggestions for the project, please complete the survey or contact Joe Teale or Jane Millar. A full update on the MUGA will be presented on 10th May at Tea in the Hall and at the Members meeting.

Housing Development

Thank you to everyone who submitted a suggestion for the new housing development name. We received 26 fantastic suggestions! Trust staff and directors voted for their favourite and landed on "Ard Bruach" which translates from Gaelic to "High bank". Well done and thanks to Linda MacDonald who put this name forward!

We hope to have an official start on site at the end of April following some delays with building and planning conditions.

Gigha Primary School

It has been a busy month as usual at Gigha Primary School; we are all looking forward to a well-deserved break over the Easter Holidays before entering our final term of the academic year.

Earlier this month we went on a school visit to the Campbeltown Museum where we learnt about animals which were found around Kintyre during the last century. Pupils chose an animal to find out more about as part of The Wild Escape, a nationwide project designed to boost family engagement with museums.

Pupils have written stories, designed maps and drawn detailed pictures of their chosen animal. Their art work and creative writing will be used to form an exhibition within the museum, launching on Earth Day Sat 22nd April.



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Gigha Primary School

P7 pupils have also enjoyed a recent visit to Lochgilphead Joint Campus as part of the Smoke Free Me project. Pupils from across the local area took part in a drama activity and workshop which increased pupils' knowledge of the risks of smoking tobacco.

Outside our food growing area is really getting underway thanks to the help of Casey-Jo. We now have a wide variety of produce growing including peppers, carrots, potatoes, beans, garlic and tomatoes. We were also really excited to hear that we have been chosen as a finalist in the One Planet Picnic Pocket Garden and will be bringing our design to life after the holidays.

When we return in April we will be finalising plans for our Summer Fair on Saturday 20th May to raise money to revamp our school playground. We are looking for raffle prizes, bottles for the bottle stall, home baking and volunteers! If you are able to help, please contact the school office on 01583 505259.

Gigha and Cara Parish Church

The next service in the Church will be on Easter Sunday 9th April. Come and join us to celebrate Easter in Songs of Praise.

The pattern of services for the coming months will be 2 services a month, on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

Everyone will be welcome to join us at all our services.

The official introduction of Lyn as the minister of Mid Kintyre and Gigha parish will take place on Sunday 23rd July in the Gigha Church.



Renewables Update

T2 requires a new gearbox after inspection due to noise being reported. Greencat Renewables will perform a PAD test on the crane pad of T2 to ensure it is suitable for the crane lift and once this is complete, Vestas will schedule the gearbox replacement, which has been sourced in Ireland. The old gearbox will be taken as part exchange for the new one and then refurbished.

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Campsite

The campsite is gearing up for the summer season with bookings now coming in thick and fast. We will be holding a community open day at the campsite on Sunday 23rd April to allow residents to come and have a look around and a chat, as well as gathering feedback and ideas. Drop in any time between 12noon and 3pm, refreshments will be provided.

Zero Carbon Gigha_Gigha Foodies

This month, an arm of Zero Carbon Gigha, Gigha Foodies spent another night in the Hall with some wonderful treats. Lisa and Anna gave an amazing session on alternative baking, taking us through alternatives to milk, butter, eggs and flour for allergies, food intolerances, health benefits and cheaper options to our everyday products. We can confirm that the pancakes, cherry, chocolate and chilli cookies, scones and doughnuts were utterly delicious. In the coming months we will be looking at Fika (Swedish version of the afternoon tea ritual), but if there's something you'd like to be covered, please get in touch!

Property to Let - 2 Woodside

2 Woodside is a 1 bedroom detached property with garden area. Applications are invited from interested parties registered with Homehunt Gigha. The rent is £428.00 per calendar month. Closing date for applications is Tuesday 25th April 2023. To apply for this property please telephone the Trust Office on 01583 505390 or email shona@gigha.org.uk to request an Application for Property Form.

The Sound of Gigha

The Sound of Gigha Weekend will take place on 23-25 June 2023 and will involve a range of family-friendly activities including live music, ceilidh dancing, makers market, art, craft, music and gaelic workshops, Swedish Fika, heritage walks, storytelling and face painting. Tickets for the main gig on the Saturday night will go on sale soon to island residents, before then being released more widely. If you would like to get involved in any way, for example selling items at the market, busking during the day or running a day time activity, please get in touch with us - thesoundofgigha@gmail.com

Ranger photo of the month:

Beautiful day at Dun an Trinnse, and a clean shoreline!



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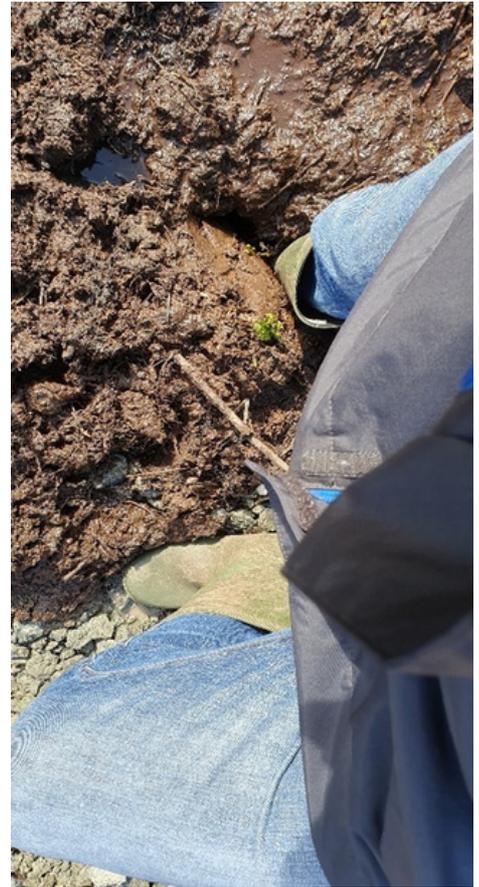
Gateway to Gigha

March has seen significant progress on the path between the campsite and Croft 3&4, but it's not been without challenges. At the furthest point of the route, close to the shore at Drumyeon Bay, the ground is exceedingly wet and boggy, requiring to be built up with much stone (aggregate) and additional drainage and piped culverts installed to keep the path high and dry. The photograph on the right contrasts the path (left boot) with the ground on which it is built (right boot!) While this has slowed progress, the team crack on determinedly. Another sticking point is the Council's requirement upon us to install bitumen-covered junctions with kerbs and bollards. Costly and, many would say, excessive on Gigha, but we're duty-bound to comply. A suitably accredited roads contractor will be appointed shortly.

It's been observed by some members of the community that some of the Phase 2 paths require some finishing to bring them up to the standard anticipated. I'd like to let you know that these 'finishers' are all on our schedule, and once the AFF team complete works on the campsite to crofts route, they'll be back on the Phase 2 case. So please bear with us for another few weeks.

Elsewhere on the project, we still eagerly await the arrival of our interpretation panels and secondary interpretation lecterns (wayfinders). Final designs are now with the fabricators with production expected to take place during the first two weeks of April. Watch those spaces... quite literally.

With our entire - and unique - fleet of ebikes and adaptive ebikes in situ and our community heritage programme at the end of its Gateway manifestation (but hopefully with some legs of its own), Casey-Jo and I and our colleagues look forward to welcoming you to the Gateway to Gigha Showcase at the end of April. We might not be 100% finished the work by then, but the end is most definitely in sight. I look forward to seeing you there.



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Gigha Ranger Service

A bit of an engagement update this month. The community have been utterly amazing in getting involved with all sorts of activities.

The conservation volunteers have now gone from monthly sessions to weekly sessions. After a meeting with the group, the volunteers will be more involved in historical monument management, skills based tasks such as fencing and drystone dyking, as well as a little bit more wildlife focused activities like bird and bat boxes. I want to say a massive thank you to all the amazing volunteers who have lately ripped rhododendron ponticum from our woodlands, cleared dykes of brambles, improved road access, undertaken woodland management, and planted trees! It has seemed a bit like feedback season. Surveys have been issued to residents regarding Gateway to Gigha, Forest School attendees, and our volunteers. As we are coming to the end of the Gateway project, it has been hugely helpful for the evaluation process, as well as myself personally to figure out what the community want to see going forward, but also how I can improve the opportunities for the community. Thank you to everyone who answered these surveys, it's brilliant to receive your responses, even the critical ones! We can only improve this way!



This month we also worked together with Bakkafrost to remove 5 tonne bags of marine litter from Dun an Trinnse, an area totally inaccessible by vehicle. Another huge thank you to the volunteers who came along, and to Bakkafrost for helping us to do this, which otherwise would have been almost impossible. It's great to work together and hope this can continue in the future!



Upcoming events:

22nd April – Kilmartin Museum! Julia and Jacqueline will be returning to the island to run a final event in the Village Hall, offering young ones the opportunity to take part in some Bronze Age clay making, rock art and showcase the work of Kilmartin's previous sessions with Gigha Primary School.

28-30th April – GATEWAY TO GIGHA SHOWCASE! Keep an eye out on the noticeboard at the shop and social media for the final details and events over the weekend, but on Saturday 29th April, Gateway will be in the Village Hall showcasing the work of the whole project. Come down for tea and cake, and to celebrate the amazing achievements of the last two years.

A Forest School session will also be running after the summer holidays. Stay tuned on social media and noticeboards at the shop for more info.