



GIGHA NEWS



Welcome to the September 2019 Gigha News

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed this month's newsletter.

Regards,

Ian Wilson

Chair

For and behalf of Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Trust Office Opening Hours

As of Monday 30th September, the Trust office will be piloting reduced opening hours from **10am until 2pm**. Outside of these hours, the office can be contacted as normal by telephone and email. If you wish to arrange a meeting out with these opening hours, please contact the office.

All general enquiries: **01583 505 390**

GTL enquiries: **01583 427 300**

For business development and community engagement enquiries: **jane@gigha.org.uk**

For housing, estate and gardens and general enquiries: **office@gigha.org.uk**

For all GTL enquiries: **cottages@gigha.org.uk**

Seasonal Changes

Activity Centre will be closing on Monday 30th September for the season. IGHT would like to thank Douglas Elder for managing this on the Trusts behalf for the season. Income generated to the Trust for the season was around £2,500.

Gigha Golf Course is now closed for the season.

Boathouse Restaurant will be closing on Friday 27th September for the season.

McMillan Cancer Support Lunch

There will be a lunch held in the Gigha Village Hall on **Saturday 28th September** to raise funds for McMillan Cancer Support. The lunch will run from 12noon until 2pm and there will be soup, sandwiches and dessert. There will also be a raffle and all donations are much appreciated!

Tea & Coffee Afternoon

Another well attended tea and coffee afternoon was held in the hall on Wednesday 18th September. Entry was by donation and £125.00 was raised for Gigha and Cara Parish Church!

Given the positive feedback from the afternoon, IGHT hope to continue hosting this monthly, with the next afternoon being **2-4pm on Thursday 17th October in the Gigha Village Hall**. All welcome!

Entry will be by donation again with funds going towards the electrical installation of the defibrillators. Any additional monies raised will go to The Sandpiper Trust. This is a small charity set up for providing emergency equipment for rural areas and has provided emergency bags and equipment to Gigha in the past.

Many members of the community brought along their old photographs which was great to share! We hope to create a timeline of Gigha in photographs ahead of the 20th anniversary of the buy-out in 2022. This is a big task copying photos and labelling them, therefore we would like to ask if anyone in the community would like to get involved to help achieve this. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact the Trust Office and let us know.

Community Projects

Collection of recipes has begun for the Gigha recipe book. Please send in any of your favourite recipes to jane@gigha.org.uk or bring them in to the Trust Office to be copied.

If you wish to participate in a Gigha Gardens Open Day in Spring/Summer 2021, please get in touch with the Trust office or jane@gigha.org.uk

Achamore Gardens

The seasonal workers for Achamore Gardens have now finished for the season. IGHT would like to thank all workers and volunteers for their input and hard work in the gardens this year - there has been very positive feedback from visitors. The IGHT Board are now looking into opportunities to ensure a sustainable future for the gardens.

Since January 2019, the honesty box and private donations towards gardens has totalled £24,000. A great sum that has contributed towards wages, materials and equipment for the gardens this season.

AGM

This years AGM will be held on **Thursday 21st November at 7pm in the Gigha Village Hall**. IGHT had hoped to hold this sooner however were unable to due to conflicting available dates.

Call for Directors

We are keen to welcome new Directors onto each company Boards. There are spaces on all Boards - IGHT, GTL, GREL & GGPL and we ask that nominations are made to the Trust office before 31st October 2019.

GREL/GGPL are looking for directors willing to help the two renewables companies as they move forward. Focus will be on any replacements or other renewable opportunities as this is vitally important to ensuring a flow of revenue for IGHT.

The GTL Board manage the trading aspects of IGHT, including the 5 self-catering accommodation units, the airstrip, moorings and pontoon. Director responsibilities will be around developing revenue from these aspects.

To be a Director you must be resident on the island, have been a member for at least a year and agree to work in the interests of the Trust. As a Director you have personal, financial and legal responsibilities to the Trust in preference to any personal interests. We thought it might be useful to outline what is expected of Directors if they join the IGHT Board:

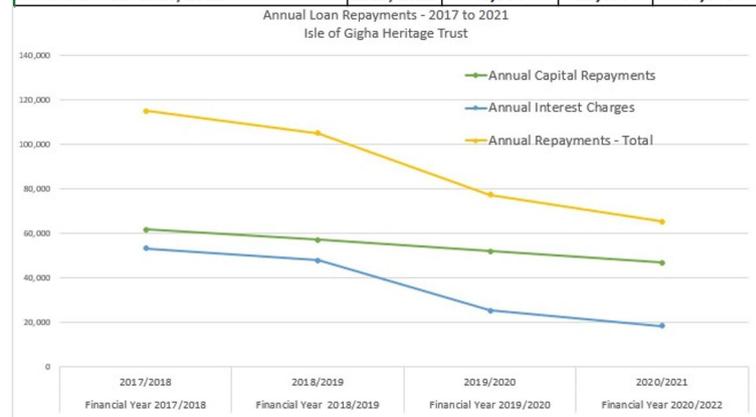
- Attendance at Board meetings. These are held monthly; sometimes more often if there is particular activity ongoing
- Preparation for Board meetings – reading papers and coming to meetings informed of the topics under discussion
- Acting as Board lead on certain IGHT areas of work which may involve attending meetings with partners and agencies and working as part of a project team with other Directors and staff
- Support for the IGHT staff. Directors do not have line management responsibility for staff but they are expected to provide support and help to Trust staff when needed
- A basic understanding of accounts and financial management
- Understanding of the principles behind conflicts of interest and how to identify and avoid these as Directors

Financial Update - IGHT Loan Analysis

Below is an analysis of IGHT's loan repayments.

As at 31 March 2019, outstanding bank loans were sitting at £1,187,137. With £142,996 being repaid to Nationwide and £255,538 being repaid to AMC, total outstanding debt is c£780,000. Annual interest charges have also been reduced by 53% in 19/20 since financial year 17/18.

Repayment Period	Financial Year	Annual Capital Repayments	Annual Interest Charges	Annual Repayments - Total
Financial Year 2017/2018	2017/2018	61,706	53,382	115,088
Financial Year 2018/2019	2018/2019	57,049	47,956	105,005
Financial Year 2019/2020	2019/2020	51,871	25,456	77,327
Financial Year 2020/2021	2020/2021	46,965	18,393	65,358



Housing and Community Hub Development

Thank you to all respondents who completed the recent survey exploring need and demand for housing on Gigha. An impressive 54 responses were received, representing 132 people. This is equivalent to 81% of Gigha's population. This is a great way for IGHT to understand community needs.

67% of respondents strongly agreed or generally agreed with the statement that, '*our community needs more affordable homes to rent*' while 72 % agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, '*our community needs more affordable housing options to buy*'.

17 people expressed a desire to move to or back to Gigha. This accounted for island residents, those looking to leave home and set up their own home, and those who have left the island but wish to return. The overriding preference is for 1 and 2 bedroom properties.

The full report will be available by the end of September and a business plan to follow by the end of October, making a case to address this need.

The winner of the prize draw hamper was Shona Bannatyne!

Business Support Event Follow Up

At the recent Business Support Event on Gigha, there was discussion around developing a Gigha brand and businesses on the island coming together in terms of marketing opportunities. The prospect of developing a Gigha brand focusing on Gigha produce and hospitality might have potential benefits for island businesses and the islands economy.

Business Gateway run marketing workshops and they could potentially be delivered on Gigha should there be at least 8 people committed to attending. The 'Developing your Brand' workshop focuses on Brand identity, style, management and recognition. The workshop will also explore ways to promote your Brand and maintenance of this.

Should you be interested in potentially attending this workshop, please get in touch with Jane Millar either by email: jane@gigha.org.uk or telephone 01583 505 390.

Gigha Phone Book

Children at the school were pleased to be invited by IGH T to design the cover for the updated Gigha Phone Book.

We had some really excellent designs, which were displayed and voted on by those attending the afternoon tea in the Hall on 18th September. Thanks to Max Vipurs for representing the school and Pupil Council at this event and for overseeing the voting process.

Mark Dennis emerged as the winner in what was a very close vote! All the designs will be available as printed covers so we will get to see everyone's in use. IGH T has continued to collect updated entries for the phone book. The older children will be learning how to use spreadsheets as they enter the data for the inside and publish the phone book which will be available for a donation soon.



Many thanks to IGH T for making this opportunity for our children to demonstrate their skills and also for the wee prizes that were sent as a reward for their efforts.

Julie Wilson
Head Teacher
Gigha Primary School

Photo: Mark Dennis phone cover design winner

Ferry Car Park

IGH T recently requested an Asset Transfer Request for the ferry car park on Gigha with the aspiration to tidy up the car park and provide a warmer welcome to the island. The request was refused by Argyll and Bute Council on the basis that they need to ensure that the site remains as a car park to the ferry service therefore cannot lose control of the asset. IGH T have however been working more closely with Argyll and Bute Council to achieve this warmer welcome to Gigha. Aspects around tidying up the car park, painting white parking lines, providing recycling facilities and improved signage at the car park has all been discussed and agreed. IGH T look to notify the community as soon as possible of when these works are due to be carried out.

GREL Update

Turbine 1 had a burst hydraulic oil pipe at the beginning of August which was unfortunately down to the age of the turbine.

Vestas came over and replaced the pipe and made a fantastic job of cleaning the oil spill up and restarted the turbine the following day. We thought that the problem was solved, however, while the service team were carrying out their regular service, they found that the turbine had excessive metal filings in the gearbox and was deemed unfit to run.

For a 27/28 year old turbine, sourcing a replacement gearbox is not easy - however we have sourced a second hand one and also a brand new gearbox! Costs are being considered at the moment however we predict that T1 should be back up and running early next month.

Island Apprenticeship

Gary Gardener, a local plumbing business on Gigha has introduced the first island apprenticeship since the community buy-out in 2002.

Bryce Harvey, 17 years old, having not long left school has recently started his apprenticeship with Gary and will be learning the trade.

Gary has provided a great opportunity as not only a new employment opportunity, but has also offered a young person in the community the opportunity to remain on Gigha. We wish Bryce all the best in his new role with Gary.



West Coast Waters

The first ever west coast Scotland tourism campaign has received a £40,000 VisitScotland Growth Fund award.

A collaboration between 21 of Scotland's west coast destination partners and WildScotland, with CalMac Ferries also a key partner, the campaign, *West Coast Waters*, looks to attract visitors to the west coast and surrounding islands in 2020 to either get on, or in the water.

Using the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 as a platform, the 12-month campaign will work with influencers and use digital marketing to raise awareness of the sheer breadth and scale of opportunities available across the west coast of Scotland for adventure seekers and curious travellers from the UK.

Kathi Kamleiter - Watch Me See - A Scotland Travel Blog arrived in Kintyre on Sunday 22nd September to explore as much of the area in 3 days.

Kathi came to Gigha on Tuesday 24th and explored as much of the island as she could in 1 day. She hired a bike, visited Eilean Garbh, Achamore Gardens, had lunch in the Gigha Hotel and even managed a trip over to Cara Island.

Kathi has shared her experience on Gigha on her social media sites, and will be continuing her adventure across Argyll and the Isles this week.

To follow Kathi's journey and read her blog about her visit to Gigha:-

Instagram: watchmesee

Facebook: Watch Me See - A Scottish Travel Blog

Website: watchmesee.com



The Penny Rolls on Walking the Coast of Britain & Ireland

Karen Penny has taken on the huge task of a continuous walk circumnavigating the 19,000 miles of the British and Irish Coastline, and 20 of the largest islands. This is a challenge that has yet to be achieved by a woman.

Karen retired after working for 3 decades in the legal profession and now works as a volunteer for many causes such as the National Trust, local charities and as a school governor at her local primary school.

Alzheimer's Research UK is a charity close to Karen's heart and she is devoting the next 4 years to this trip and is devoted to reaching a target of £100,000 in donations for this charity.

On Wednesday 25th, Karen reached Gigha and stayed overnight at Ellie Logan's. You can follow her trip closely:-

Facebook: Karen Penny The Penny Rolls On Walking Britain and Ireland

Word Press Blog: karenpennythepennyrollson

This is a huge challenge and Karen has shown incredible strength in doing so. It's all for a worthy cause and donations can be made online at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thepennyrollson>

We wish Karen the best of luck on the rest of her challenge!

Active Schools/Sports Development - Volunteers

There will be an open afternoon on **Tuesday 22nd October** at Gigha Primary School between the 3.00 – 5.15pm to discuss potential sport, health & wellbeing opportunities that you feel may benefit Gigha Primary School and the community itself.

There will be representatives from the Active Schools Network, who will be happy to discuss opportunities going forward, however volunteers will be crucial to all of this and if you would like to volunteer a couple of hours per week, please come along. Additionally, if you already hold a coaching qualification or have a keen interest in a particular sport, then please make yourself known!

Please note your interest in attending via email to lindsay.ramsay@liveargyll.co.uk

Main Contacts:

General Enquiries: 01583 505390

IGHT Estates: office@gigha.org.uk

GTL Estates: cottages@gigha.org.uk