

MAY 2022

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Newsletter

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

The Gigha Parent Council in partnership with Active Schools and the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust are looking to deliver a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). The proposed MUGA is a 36x18m surfaced court/pitch which can be used for multiple sports and will have the appropriate goals and markings on the surface. Please complete this short survey which is open to both residents and visitors to help us understand the demand for a MUGA.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y82MQ6N> The survey will close on Sunday 5th June, so please make sure to complete it before then to have your say.

Airstrip

The airstrip will reopen in June with a reduced landing area to permit microlights to land only as the airstrip is unsuitable for larger aircraft. The remainder of the airstrip will be cropped for this season as a trial while we assess whether it is financially viable to maintain a reduced landing area. Landing fees for microlights have been increased to £10 (£15 overnight) to help pay for the maintenance of the landing area. Emergency and visitor helicopters will still be permitted to use the airstrip.

Campsite Update

As you may be aware, the construction of the facilities building at the campsite has suffered a setback following the heavy rain a couple of weeks ago which caused part of the wastewater treatment system to raise up from the ground. The contractors are working to remedy the issue, but this will delay the completion date for the site. We're still hoping to open before the end of June and are doing everything we can in the background so that we're ready to go as soon as possible after the site is signed over.

Gigha Ranger Service

To start this month's newsletter entry, we are asking for the community's help. In the interest of public safety, the Gateway to Gigha Project team are not promoting each path in the network until they are officially signed off. We ask that the community could please help us to be consistent with our messaging, and to hold off on publicising routes that have not yet been signed off or promoted by the project team. We want to thank you for your enthusiasm and support for the pathways project, but we also want to keep the community and visitors safe whilst works are ongoing and parts of the route remain less accessible. Thank you for your help!

This month, Gigha Primary School have very kindly opened their recycling shed for the community to use! This will allow the community to recycle items in three categories:

- Dental products: toothpaste tubes and caps, plastic toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, floss containers.
- Stationary: pens, pencils, sharpeners, staplers, hole punchers, tape dispensers, glue ticks, correction fluid bottles, plastic file dividers, plastic folders, file pockets, binders.
- Batteries.

The shed is located on the east side of the school, and can be accessed outside of school hours, after 3pm. The children have provided an easy "how-to guide" to accompany this fantastic service which at present is provided by Terracycle. The Zero Cabon Gigha group are also looking into other recycling opportunities on Gigha alongside the shed and the bottle bank behind Gigha Hotel.

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Gigha Ranger Service- continued

This month we also had another spectacular week with Historic Environment Scotland (HES). They offered us the opportunity to map and survey the township at Ardaily, hunt for quern stone quarries and forgotten mill stones on the west, as well as initiate a smaller project that will investigate the Gaelic place names on island. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us, it was a fantastic week! HES will be returning in August to work alongside Gigha Primary on a fantastic project delving deeper into the legends and stories surrounding some of our Scheduled Monuments.



Achamore Gardens Residents' Picnic

Following the success of last year's Achamore Gardens Residents' Picnic, we would like to invite residents to a similar event on **Saturday 25th June 2022 at 12pm**. The Walled Gardens will be open exclusively to Gigha residents, and the picnic will consist of sandwiches, a savoury snack, a sweet item and a drink.

Prior booking before 11th of June for lunches is essential, please contact ranger@gigha.org.uk / 07596855398 to secure the booking with any dietary requirements. If you wish to attend but without a lunch order, please feel free to do so. In the event of poor weather conditions residents will be notified of a rescheduled date or alternative plan. We hope you can join us!



Photo of the month: bead anemones at Cuddyport

Gateway to Gigha

Throughout May work on Phase 2 of the Gateway path network has continued apace. Work to enhance the routes to Càrn na Faire is complete and work on the Fishermen's Cave path and the Northern Loop, one of our more challenging routes, is well advanced. Work at Dun Chibhich is also progressing, and we are in contact with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and local archaeologist, Clare Ellis, to agree the most sensitive means of improving access to the summit without adversely impacting on this important Scheduled Monument.

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Gateway To Gigha- continued

Some of the routes have now been waymarked, with fingerposts still to come at the start of routes and at path junctions, and our interpretation panels and wayfinders will be ordered as soon as we finalise the details of their content. There will be a chance to view the final designs before they go to fabrication. We have a stone worker, Calum Williams, visiting this week (last week of May) ahead of a longer visit in the summer to construct dry stone plinths onto which our interpretation panels will be fitted.

We were very privileged to have another visit this month from Eve Boyle and other colleagues (different ones from last time) from HES, another highly valued contribution by them to our Community Heritage Project. The highlight this time was the fabulous day surveying the rocky remains of Ardailly township, and there were further engaging presentations in the Village Hall.

Archaeology Scotland will be visiting on 1st to 3rd of July with the aim of involving community members in the conservation of Kilchattan graveyard. We also have a stone conservator coming in June to 'clean' the Ogham Stone ahead of a summer visit by staff of Glasgow University Celtic Studies department to survey and scan, for 3-D modelling, this precious representative of island's rich heritage. There will be a workshop for community members on this fascinating technique.



A formerly muddy gully en route to Fisherman's Cave



En route to Fisherman's Cave

Achamore Gardens

Many of you have been enjoying the newly resurfaced easy access and Viewpoint paths and may have noticed a plethora of new benches that have popped up on the paths and in the walled garden. The purchase of these new benches, along with the new picnic bench at the Viewpoint, was made possible thanks to a generous donation from Per and Monica Ostland at Achamore House. Per and Monica are also sponsoring the creation of new gates in three locations around the garden to replace some old, rotten gates – we hope that the new gates will be installed sometime in the next few months.

We'd also like to thank Gordon and June Watson for their donation of a new bench up at the Viewpoint, in memory of their daughter Elaine. I'm sure you will agree that the new benches and paths are really helping to enhance the garden and increase visitors' enjoyment of Achamore.

Our final thanks this month go to Sara Hare, who has gifted a beautiful sculpture of a deer that she's made to Achamore. It's hidden somewhere in the garden – have you spotted it yet?



Pink Rhododendrons in full bloom

Our first charity open day last weekend was a great success with many new visitors to the island, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Achamore, despite the showery weather. As well as enjoying the garden, attendees were also treated to the famous Gigha Village Hall tea, with residents young and old contributing baking to the feast.

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Achamore Gardens- continued

On the day we raised £457.50, 60% of which will go to the Village Hall as our nominated charity this year, with the remaining 40% going to the Scotland's Garden Scheme national charities for 2022 – The Queen's Nursing Institute, Perennial, and Maggie's Cancer Centres. Thank you to everyone that attended or donated baking for the day.



Syd Vipars and his delicious biscuits that he kindly donated to the open day!

Finally, as you will see elsewhere in the newsletter, we are hosting another resident's picnic at the end of June. We hope lots of you will be able to join us for another afternoon of fun and laughter, and I'm keeping my fingers firmly crossed for a repeat of the gorgeous weather we enjoyed at last year's picnic.

Gigha and Cara Parish Church

The next service in the church will be on **Sunday 12th June** conducted by James MacLellan. Everyone is welcome.

The "church chat" (the newsletter of the 3 linked parishes) will be available at the back of the church from that date. Anyone unable to collect the chat from the church but would like to receive it please let Susan know and she will endeavour to deliver it!

Gigha Food Group

This month, Gigha Food Group held their second event: A Celebration of Gigha Halibut. Thank you so very much to Rob Wilkieson and the Gigha Halibut team for the event held in the hall.

Gigha Food Group- continued

In the spirit of why the group was formed, we all learned so much about the amazing product, some of us got to try our hand at filleting and we got to try halibut in many different ways thanks to Heather, Andreas and Rob. It was good to see so many people at this event, and we're trying to organise our next one but there's so much going on at the moment, so we'll publicise as soon as we can.



Martha Teale having a go at filleting the halibut.

Queens Jubilee High Tea- 2nd June Gigha Village Hall- 1-4pm

To celebrate the Queens Jubilee, a high tea afternoon is being held in Gigha Village Hall with the support of Shopper-Aide. This event is open to ALL Gigha residents, old, young and anywhere in-between! Please call/message Hannah Storie or call into the shop if you would like to attend to give an idea of numbers.

You can find out more about Shopper-Aide either at the Jubilee party or by visiting their Facebook page. If you are over 60 and fancy joining our group and receiving the monthly quiz and cakes at home or invites to some of our special events, please get in touch with Hannah Storie.

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Dark Skies Gigha

Do you shop at Tesco Campbeltown? Dark Skies Gigha will be one of three groups put forward to a customer vote in the Campbeltown Tesco store commencing in store from the first week of July 2022 and continue until 30th September 2022.

We intend to use this grant to part fund a community stargazing festival on Gigha in November. The event will involve all ages with both indoor and outdoor activities including a planetarium, telescopes, talks and audio-visual presentations.

So please collect your token at the Tesco Campbeltown checkout and vote for Dark Skies Gigha. When the votes are counted we will receive either £500, £1000 or £1500. Thanks for supporting us!

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 31st May – Achamore Gardens and Ranger Service drop-in session | 7pm at Gigha Village Hall

Thursday 2nd June - Queens Jubilee High Tea | 1-4pm Gigha Village Hall

Saturday 11th June – Gigha Children's Festival | 11am-4pm at Achamore Gardens

Thursday 24th June – Community Involvement Day- further details to be issued soon to all residents

Saturday 25th June – Achamore Garden's Residents' picnic | 12pm at the Walled Garden



Gigha Children's Festival

Saturday 11th June 2022
Achamore Gardens
Isle of Gigha
11am - 4pm

This event is planned and hosted by Gigha children with help from their friends in other local small schools. For more information call Gigha Primary School 01583 505 259.

Fairness, Friendship and Fun for Everyone!



COMMUNITY BINOCULARS - FREE LOAN -



Dark Skies Gigha have nine pairs of community binoculars which we use for stargazing events during the year. We are now offering these binoculars for loan to any Gigha resident for a 14-day period for stargazing, wildlife watching, boat spotting etc. These 10 X 50 lightweight, waterproof binoculars are great for beginners.

If you are a Gigha resident and would like to borrow a pair of community binoculars please contact Keith at Heather Lea on:

01583 505006 or
kw02uk@gmail.com

These are free to borrow - all we ask is that you return the binoculars by the due date in good condition along with the lens caps and carry case.

Supported by 



Queens Jubilee
High Tea
2nd June
1-4pm

Gigha Village Hall

Supported by Shoppers-Aide
Gigha Residents Welcome
Please contact Hannah at the Shop if you would like to attend

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Fundraising for Ukraine

The Village Hall Committee have raised an amazing £2667.50 for Ukraine. The Whist on 29th April raised £706 and the auction on 28th May raised £1961.50. Thank you to everyone who contributed and well done to the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work!



Gigha Community Fund

The Gigha Community Fund continues to support local projects and since December funds have been awarded to the following projects:

Christmas Lunch Club - £255

Zero Carbon Gigha - £465

If you would like to apply to the Community Fund, please contact the Trust Office on 01583 505390 or email admin@gigha.org.uk



Screen Machine

The Screen Machine is returning to Gigha on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June. Showings are Sonic the Hedgehog 2; The Road Dance; Downton Abbey: A New Era; and Top Gun: Maverick. To book tickets please visit <https://www.screenmachine.co.uk/locations/gigha>



Community Hub

The Community Hub is open to membership offering a kitchen / lounge area including Wi-Fi and television (with Disney+ sign in required). There are also several exercise machines including cross trainer and rower and a weight bench. If you would like to enquire about membership please contact shona@gigha.org.uk or telephone 01583 505390.

