



THE ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- April 30 - Member meeting/consultation
- May 18 - Member face-to-face surgery sessions with directors
- May 24 - Church service (Baptism) with Anne Mclvor at 11.30am
- June 5 to 7- Sound of Gigha Music Festival
- July 7 - Pond dipping event with the Island Ranger
- July 17 - Moth monitoring event with our Island Ranger
- July 20 - Member face-to-face surgery sessions with directors
- July 21 - Big Butterfly Count event with our Island Ranger
- July 25 - Boathouse Raft Race
- July 28 - Coastal Critters event with our Island Ranger
- July 30 - Member meeting/consultation
- August 8-12 - Dark Skies Gigha annual Perseids party + solar eclipse watch.
- August 22 - Furboch Ceilidh
- August 29 - Gigha Root & Industrial show
- Sept 21 - Member face-to-face surgery sessions with directors
- October 29 - Member meeting/consultation
- Nov 16 - Member face-to-face surgery sessions with directors

DO YOU NEED TO CONTACT IGHT?

General enquiries:

office@gigha.org.uk or
01583505390

Maintenance:

maintenance@gigha.org.uk or
07706353795

Island Ranger:

ranger@gigha.org.uk

Directors:

directors@gigha.org.uk

IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS

One of the Trust's annual priorities this year, which also matches one of the 10 Year Plan priorities, is to improve communications and consultation with the community.

GET CONNECTED: MEMBER FORUM (BULLETIN BOARD)

Online member-only access for Trust announcements, discussion and access to documents. This is now the central hub for communication with and between members and the Trust. The Member Forum will be updated regularly and a summary will be included in future newsletters for members who don't have online access. The forum will help members stay up to date and hopefully allow for a better connection between members and the Trust. [See page 5 to find out how to get connected!](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY: FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS WITH DIRECTORS

Need to talk with the Directors? Bi-monthly 'director surgeries' will take place on the third Monday every second month. You can book a half hour session between 9am -11am or between 6pm-7pm. Two directors will be present at each meeting. It's not essential, but if you let us know in advance what you want to discuss we can try to make sure that the appropriate director is present. You can also bring along a friend or a relative if you wish. Book by contacting office@gigha.org.uk
Surgery dates: May 18, July 20, Sept.21, Nov. 16

GET TOGETHER: MEMBER MEETINGS/CONSULTATION

These quarterly meetings will take the following format. The first half of the meeting will be information sharing from Directors/Staff/Invited speakers as appropriate and will also include opportunities for questions from members. The second half of the meeting will be a member consultation session on a specific topic, usually linked to the Trust's annual plan. Additional member meetings or consultation events will be arranged during the year if required.
Meeting dates: April 30, July 30, October 29.

READ ALL ABOUT IT: NEWSLETTER - MEMOS - MINUTES

The newsletter will continue to be published at the end of each month featuring community news. IGHT memos will be issued as required (at least monthly) and feature Trust news including important updates. Meeting minutes will continue to be issued. All will be uploaded to the Member Forum.

ISLE OF GIGHA TRUST WEBSITE

In the longer term the website will be improved.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD YOUR EVENT TO THE NEWSLETTER?

Community groups should send submissions including dates, reports, event posters and photos by no later than the 20th of the month.

Please send to office@gigha.org.uk Thank you!

HELP LOOK AFTER OUR ISLAND

Have you considered volunteering for one of the island groups? An hour or two of volunteering can make a real difference to our beautiful island.

Conservation group: Assisting the Island Ranger with improving the island environment. Lots of varied tasks from tree planting and beach cleaning to monitoring wildlife.

Heritage group: If you want to help preserve our island's heritage then why not join this group which cares for old Kilchattan chapel graveyard.

Garden group: Are you a lover of flowers and plants? Then why not help the garden team with a variety of gardening jobs from pruning and weeding to plant propagation.

To sign up please contact: ranger@gigha.org.uk



Above: Argyll and Bute Council have been making some improvements near the ferry slipway. A new safety barrier has been installed next to the pedestrian walkway and new lights to replace the old ones have been installed on the slipway, road and car park.



Above: For a variety of reasons the metal dog bag dispensers which have been in use now for 6 years are going to be removed and replaced with cheaper alternatives which take rolls of dog bags. We are hoping that Gigha businesses will sponsor the purchase of bags to help keep our island free of dog poo. Have your say about this subject on the Member Forum.

QUESTIONS - ANSWERS - SUGGESTIONS

What are members asking?

Q: What changes have been made with Gigha Homehunt?

A: *One minor change was suggested by the residents who are on the independent Homehunt panel to help them allocate priority passes. The change relates to the definition of a Gigha resident. It now reads as follows: 'a current resident is someone who has resided on Gigha for a minimum of six months and is registered for personal tax, with the NHS or on the electoral roll'.*

Q: I'm a Gigha tenant and would like to improve the garden area of the property. Is this possible?

A: *Yes, all we ask is that you let us know what improvements you would like to undertake. If you are planning to erect a fence we would need to know what type and height of fencing and also confirm the boundary area.*

Q: Why is the Gigha flag not always lowered to mark the death of a resident?

A: *The Trust policy is that flag(s) are lowered only at the request of the immediate family of the deceased. If a request is received then Trust staff will be happy to comply with the family's wishes. This will only be carried out for current or past Gigha residents.*

Q: Why hasn't my property maintenance been carried out?

A: *Maintenance work agreed with a tenant will be carried out but several factors require to be considered by the Trust. These include the need to firstly complete higher priority work, the availability of staff and materials and also to ensure safe weather conditions to carry out outside maintenance.*

Suggestion: The Hotel should hook up with Islay Sea Adventures to provide a lunch/gardens trip which would bring custom to the island.

A: *Great idea! We'll pass this suggestion on to our new Hotel manager, new Lead Gardener and the Gigha Ranger Service.*

GIGHA COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Results from the recent community survey concerning the Tayinloan Ferry Toilets and the latest updates from our Community Council.

ISLE OF GIGHA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Tayinloan Ferry Toilets and Waiting/Store Room

Planning Ref 26/00436/PP

92 questionnaires were issued. The response rate was 33%
The 30 household responses represented 58 Gigha residents. (Again this is c.34% of islanders)

[DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSALS AS OUTLINED IN PLANNING APPLICATION 26/00436/PP ?](#)

The results to this question are as follows.

Results are given as numbers of persons and percentage of respondents. (rounded to nearest %)

Only persons endorsing the submitted application are included as YES, those supporting with additional conditions are noted as YES BUT. These are technical objections as far as the submitted application is concerned. All conditions and suggestions are collated below.

Persons	%	
12	21	YES
4	7	YES BUT
42	72	NO
58		TOTAL

If you do **not** support the current proposal, what changes do you think are needed to be made to improve it ?

No. of Persons	%	
4	7	Renovate existing building and add disabled ramps
42	72	Any redevelopment must include fully sheltered waiting area and store room
12	21	Toilets may be unisex / gender neutral
16	28	Baby Changing facility needs to be included
8	14	Must include separate female toilets
32	55	Any redevelopment must be free to all users
2	3	Disabled ramps need to be on sheltered elevation
3	5	Include charge points
4	7	Renovate existing facilities

The Isle of Gigha Community Council will submit these views to Argyll & Bute Council in response to application 26/00436/PP.

It has been noted that several islanders expressed a wish to have had pre-consultation on this proposal.

Argyll & Bute Council Planning confirmed it was dealt with as a 'local' application hence not requiring such a direct level of consultation or pre-consultation as we are a "neighbouring" community area.

The 2018 Islands (Scotland) Act S7 states that :-

"(1) A relevant authority must have regard to island communities in carrying out its functions."

The Isle of Gigha Community Council will seek to ensure that islanders are always fully consulted and engaged with decisions affecting us made by all relevant authorities and are discussing how this might be achieved with agencies as a matter of course.

- **Motorhomes messaging** - We are liaising with CalMac to publicise the Trust's messaging regarding campervans/motorhomes (to book campsite/make a private arrangement before travelling).
- **Ferry development** - We are speaking to the Council about whether any "community benefit" criteria has been included in the contracts for the new ferry development.
- **Police** - We have been in contact and may survey the community as to what police presence is needed/missing from the island.
- **Dog warden** - Contact has been made regarding fouling issues around the village.
- **Speed Limits** - Reports of "speeding" through the village. As no street lighting, national limit of 60mph applies. We are in contact with North Knapdale Community Council to get advice on how they managed to get a speed limit put in place despite there being no streetlights.
- **Resurfacing** - We are asking the Argyll & Bute Council to confirm if the main road will be resurfaced.



Above: Gigha Hotel's new managers, John and Janette McKie enjoying the Gigha sunshine while on a visit to the island before starting their new jobs.



Above: Here is a view of our long-awaited MUGA under construction behind Gigha Hotel. Are you planning to make use of this new Gigha sport facility this summer?



Above: Trains on Gigha! Well done to Nigel Braithwaite who recently raised £27 for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) and £27 for The Sound of Gigha at the Drumallan Train Festival.



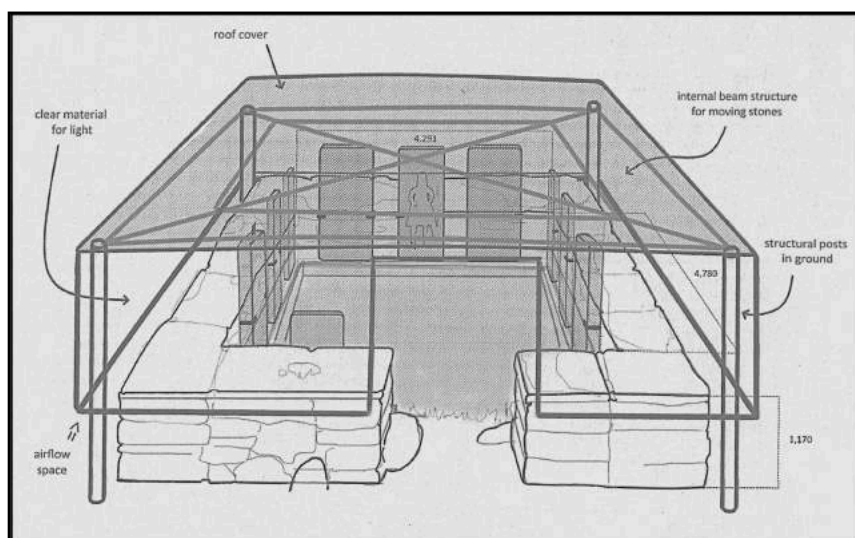
Above: Well done to Iain Martin who recently raised over £1400 for autism doing a sponsored walk. At the last count he has reached over 122,000 steps! Well done Iain!

KILCHATTAN GRAVEYARD (old section)

Following on from the approval received from the community and thanks to grant funding received, the Gigha Heritage Group were able to employ a stone conservation and restoration specialist to look at the Kilchattan Chapel grave-slabs and present a plan for their future. The group are keen to protect and display up to nine of the most decorative grave slabs in order to preserve Gigha's unique historical artefacts for future generations.

Graciela Ainsworth, the sculpture conservation specialist, visited for three days in March and produced a report detailing lifting, restoring and displaying of the grave slabs. The plan was to have the stones remain at Kilchattan, but to be relocated in Chief Malcolm's enclosure adjacent to the Chapel where they would be protected from the elements (see concept drawing below).

Disappointingly, the cost of carrying out the project was way beyond (over £200,000) what we could possibly get in grant funding. As such the Heritage Group along with Gigha Ranger Service are now looking at less costly options to preserve the stones.



Above: Seven hardy volunteers ventured into the Spoot woodland opposite Achamore Gardens where they tackled American Skunk Cabbage. As part of the control programme, they waded through the bog to remove flowers and seed heads thus reducing the seedbank.



Above: Our volunteers started on a whopping dead hedge in Achamore Gardens Beech Compartment, which was once a wood pasture according to old maps. The 2025 storm caused many mature trees to fall which left a tangled mess of brash amongst the Rhodie cuttings.



RANGER NEWS

We have had our volunteers worked to the bone this April!

Conservation volunteers began the month working on the entrance path in Achamore Gardens clearing sedges from the edges, and burning the never ending amount of brash left over from Storm Eowyn. Eleven volunteers rallied to cut back vegetation such as fuschia and hydrangeas from the path, as well as create some wonderful wood sculptures from the felling and loss of trees, and and they also helped to remove invasive grisilinia saplings from spreading.



Community members and volunteers have also been working away over the last year to build bird boxes to replace the fallen mature trees (perfect habitat) for nesting birds. Installation has begun and we will be continuing to place these across our woodland in the future.

Thanks to all the volunteers who help out and also not forgetting the Gardens volunteers who have been hard at work grass cutting, debrambling, removing black sooty mould from Rhododendrons, and of course having bonfires!

GET CONNECTED TO THE MEMBER FORUM

What can I do on the forum?

Announcements: You can read and comment on announcements from the Trust at any time.

Documents: You can view Trust documents including newsletters, policies, memos, minutes etc. At present the number of documents available is limited but more will be added throughout 2026.

Discussion: You can start a post or reply to one that another member has already posted. This might be a question, a suggestion, or an opinion. Other members and the Trust can also post.

Polls: The Trust will use the 'poll' feature of the forum from time to time to gauge the opinion of members on particular issues. Members using the poll will have one vote each

Getting started

1. In your web browser type: <http://forum.gigha.org.uk>
2. Save to your 'Favourites' for easy access.
3. Register: USERNAME (This must be your real name.)
4. Enter your E-MAIL (This must be the email that Trust has for sending newsletters etc. to you).

Once registered click on '*Welcome to the IGHT Member Forum*'.

This section includes the forum rules.



How do I use it?

Select 'Board Index' to return to the index page at any time.

To start a discussion

1. Select '*new topic*'.
2. Type a '*subject*'
3. Type your comments in the box.
4. Select '*preview*' if you wish.
5. Select '*submit*' to post.

To reply to a discussion

1. Select '*post reply*'.
2. Type your reply in the box.
3. Select '*preview*' if you wish.
4. Select '*submit*' to post.

To view an announcement

1. Select '*announcements*'.
2. Select the announcement '*topic*'.
3. Read, and if you wish, comment on the announcement.

To view documents

1. Select the document you want to view.
2. Select '*doc name.pdf*'
3. Select '*download*'
4. The pdf document will be added to your smartphone, tablet or computer download folder. Some browsers may deal with the document differently.

If you need help please email: keith@gigha.org.uk