

Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust June 2026 Newsletter Notes

Are you interested in preparing the monthly newsletter for the community? Please let us know by emailing directors@gigha.org.uk

Dates for your diary:

- July 4 – Mad Ferret band at Gigha Village Hall. Book at: www.eventbrite.co.uk
- July 7 - Pond dipping event with the Ranger. Book at: ranger@gigha.org.uk
- July 14 - Moth monitoring event with the Ranger. Book at: ranger@gigha.org.uk
- July 29 - Member face-to-face surgery sessions with Directors. Book at: office@gigha.org.uk
- July 21 - Big Butterfly Count event with the Ranger. Book at: ranger@gigha.org.uk
- July 25 - Boathouse Raft Race & live music and ceilidh at the Village Hall. Book at: <https://gigha-village-hall.sumupstore.com/products>
- July 28 - Coastal Critters event with the Ranger. Book at: ranger@gigha.org.uk
- 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. Book at: office@gigha.org.uk
- October 29 - Member meeting/consultation
- Nov 16 - Member face-to-face surgery sessions with directors. Book at: office@gigha.org.uk

Church news

Work on the outside of the Church is virtually finished but the site has not been officially handed back to us.

We now need to think about what needs to be done inside. Painting will have to wait until the walls have dried out thoroughly.

The concert by the Voices of Argyll Choir at the Sound of Gigha weekend was a great success and was well attended.

Services will be on the 12th and 26th of July. Please look out for details on the Church noticeboard.

Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

The MUGA was completed in early June, with the official opening on 23rd June. The Gigha Primary School children attended to cut the ribbon followed by a football match organised by Bakkafryst Fish Farm.



Please note that there are still signage and stock fencing still to be completed at the site.

Root and Industrial Show

Exhibit Instructions 29 August 2026

Please have all your exhibits in the village hall before 10.45; judging will commence at 11.00.

Please print your name on a piece of paper, put it in an envelope, seal it and place it under your exhibit.

Please place £1 for each exhibit in the box.

Results will be announced at the coffee afternoon starting at 2pm.
Thank you and good luck!

 12th Gigha Root & Industrial Show 2026 29th August 2026, Village Hall, 2pm More information to follow about arrangements on the day. All entries £1; Teas/coffees/cakes £3; Raffle. All proceeds to Village Hall funds. Any queries please contact: Tracy Wilson or June Watson	Agricultural Section 6 same colour hen eggs 6 assorted colour hen eggs Root section 3 potatoes 3 parsnips 3 carrots 3 red onions 3 white onions 3 beetroots 3 leeks 3 tomatoes 1 ugly vegetable 1 exotic vegetable	Industrial Section Glass iced tea (any flavour) 3 Belgian buns 1 lemon drizzle cake 3 plain scones 3 oatcakes 2 small chicken & leek pies Jar pickled veg (any veg) Floral garden arrangement (wild and/or homegrown) Photograph of a bird on Gigha Poem about your favourite subject Crochet, knit or cross-stitch a bookmark A favourite trinket/ornament starting with 'B'
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Gigha Primary School and ELC

The month of June has flown by, and we only have just over a week of term left before we break up for the summer holidays! The last month has seen our primary pupils take part in the combined small schools Sports Day at Tayinloan with our friends from Rhunahaorine, Clachan, Achahoish, Glenbarr, Drumlemble and Carradale. As well as allowing our children to take part in competitive sports, our children also particularly enjoy the opportunity to make new friends.

Our ELC have also taken part in the Big Toddle in aid of Barnardo's. The children enjoyed their walk looking for Lions, Elephants, Tigers and Bears which managed to avoid being spotted however we did find some worms, caterpillars and bees. The children learned how important it is for us to help others how we can and allow everyone the opportunity to thrive through charities like Barnardo's.

This term in Literacy our children have also been involved in a pen pal activity with Carradale Primary School which has helped to find out what it is like to live in another small community. Last week we hosted Carradale Primary School for their end of term school trip and despite the dreich weather, all children enjoyed a picnic, Wee Isle Dairy ice cream and fun at the beach with their new friends. We will also be joined by Kilmartin Primary School and ELC this week who have also chosen Gigha as the venue for their end of term school trip.

This last full week of term is very busy for all pupils and staff. The children attended the official opening of the long-awaited MUGA on 23rd June. This is a fantastic facility for our children to play sports on, and we would like to say a special thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen! All school children have once again taken part in the NHS Heart Start session, to learn vital lifesaving skills, joined by Rhunahaorine Primary School too in order to maximise on the impact of this training in our rural communities.



Our end of term trip was to the Isle of Arran. Primary pupils will spent the morning onboard the COAST research vessel where they used the underwater rover to find out about life on our local sea floor, and learnt how to canoe at Lochranza with The Lochranza Outdoor Centre. We would like to thank the Gigha Community Fund and Gigha Parent Council for their financial support in making this day possible. Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us this term. We look forward to updating you on our adventures when we return after the summer holidays.
Head Teacher, Mrs Vipurs.

Gigha Community Council

Tayinloan Public Toilets: Argyll and Bute Council Planning Department have passed the application for the Tayinloan ferry terminal toilet block demolition and rebuild despite many objections from the Gigha community. Going forward there will no longer be a waiting room or storeroom. Timescales for the development have not yet been confirmed.

Road resurfacing:

Update from Argyll Roads: there are some timetable changes to the road resurfacing schedule due to materials supply issues.

Ferry car park to be closed from 15th July until works completed

Materials supply to island 20th-24th July

Road resurfacing commences 27th July

Two lane section from the jetty to Coastguard unit will be coned off with 'No Waiting' cones.

The section north from Ardmish Stores to Drumyeonmore Farm is the length to be resurfaced.

Although GCC have repeatedly lobbied for the three worst sections between the Fire station and Village Hall turnoff to be resurfaced as part of this operation, Argyll Roads say "it's unlikely there will be scope to cover additional areas".

Argyll Roads wish to thank the community in advance for their *"help and co-operation while the works are carried out"*

Achamore Gardens

The Gardens team and IGHT directors would like to thank all the volunteers who help with the upkeep of the Gardens, which is immensely appreciated. Also special thanks to Steve Dickie for the work he did in the garden toilets which he kindly did free of charge. This gesture is much appreciated.

Job Opportunity

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust is seeking an Office Administrator to provide efficient administration and secretarial duties including personnel management.

- 15 hours per week
- Hybrid working arrangements considered
- Real Living Wage
- Fixed term for 12 months

To find out more: office@gigha.org.uk

To apply: submit a covering letter explaining why you are interested in the job along with a copy of your CV Applications should be made by Tuesday 28th July 2026.

Zero Carbon Gigha

ZCG have very kindly donated their funds to purchase four new dog poop bag dispensers which will help to replace the existing ones. This will make refilling these cheaper for the community, and continue to keep Gigha and its paths clean for residents and visitors alike. Thank you to Zero Carbon Gigha for making this happen!

We Remember

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Malcolm MacNeill ex-Head Gardener at Achamore Gardens, and lifelong resident of the island. Malcolm was a well-respected member of the community and will be sadly missed.

Tribute from Malcolm's niece Rhona:

In memory of Malcolm MacNeill who passed peacefully on the 15th of June 2026. On leaving school in the mid 50's, Malcolm joined the workforce of Achamore Gardens. As a protégé of Colonel, Sir James Horlick, in 1960 he enrolled at the prestigious Threave School in Castle Douglas, graduating in 1963.

In 1974 he was promoted to the position of Head Gardener, it was not a job but a vocation, which saw him dedicate his time and extensive botanical knowledge to ensuring Achamore Gardens remained an enduring Eden of subtropical plants with a special emphasis on rare rhododendron and azalea, attracting visitors from all over the world.

Year round he and the other dedicated gardeners (including students) could be found in the garden late into the evening tending to plants. They would ensure the greenhouses, gates and doors were secured for the night until opening early the following morning.

He was retired in 2006 but his passion for plants continued in conversation until a short while before his passing.

The MacNeill family wish to mark Malcolm's service to Achamore Gardens in the future.

Achamore House photo c.1970



Names L-R: Colonel, Sir James Horlick; Peter Clough; James (Jimmy) Millar; Duncan McSporran; **Malcolm MacNeill**; Eòghan Henderson; Colin Duncan; Callum McNeill.

Photo of Malcolm September 2021



"Energetic, super-charged contemporary folk"
- Daily Record

the MAD FERRET BANDO

SAT 4TH JUL
GIGHA
VILLAGE HALL
ISLE OF GIGHA



25% OFF
BUY TICKETS
NOW ON
EVENTBRITE



LICENSED BAR
FAMILIES
WELCOME

DOORS 7.30PM

CONTEMPORARY SCOTTISH FOLK DUO



ARCHIE & ARRAN McALLISTER

LIVE IN *Duo*

GIGHA

CONCERT & CEILIDH



GIGHA VILLAGE HALL
25TH JULY 2026

DOORS OPEN FOR CONCERT 7PM	CEILIDH STARTS 9PM	TICKETS CONCERT & CEILIDH COMBINED £25 CEILIDH ONLY £15 LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR UNDER 16'S AT A DISCOUNTED RATE UNDER 5'S FREE NO TICKET REQUIRED
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← **SCAN HERE**
FOR TICKETS

 **FULLY LICENSED BAR** until 1am

Annual Furboch

Ceilidh

with the fantastic

Ceòl an Aire

Saturday 22nd August,
Gigha Village Hall

Don't have your tea as complimentary.
supper served 7-8pm, then Ceilidh!

£15 per adult/£10 for 12-18yrs
Under 12s & Island Secondary age free!
Licensed event. Raffle.
(Card machine at bar, but cash at the door helpful!)

Proceeds from the Ceilidh fund the continuation
of the Furboch (OGAM) wellbeing facility for children and
young families living on or visiting Gigha.
Any questions, call Maggie - 01583505234



Celebrating Gigha,
all that we love ...