

ISLE OF GIGHA HERITAGE TRUST

NewsLetter October 2025

The IGH 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. Anonymous correspondence will not be considered by the Board.

Contact us by emailing directors@gigha.org.uk

Board update

As we have previously informed you, the financial position of the Trust requires some attention. The economic environment is not good in general, and a specific reduction in the Trust's turbine income from the loss of ROCs is projected. As part of the Board's responsibilities, this issue needs to be addressed. We are giving this consideration at an appropriate stage to achieve an effect early next year.

In looking at our overall financial position, the Board has determined that it is necessary to look at staffing costs and possible redundancies.

This has been a difficult and unenviable task. To date the information that we have given to members has been limited and restricted as the need for confidentiality has been vital given that this is sensitive and involves the livelihood of staff members.

The process is still ongoing and those affected are aware. The Board will provide information when possible.

The Board accepts that speculation is inevitable but are restricted in what information can be released while the process is ongoing. Given which, we would ask members to take any rumours with a pinch of salt. For example, there is a rumour that the Gardens are to be sold; this is incorrect and there are no such plans.

Development Update

- This month we secured completion certificates for 1-5 Ard Bruach, welcoming tenants to move in and start to occupy their homes. Whilst it has taken far longer than anticipated to secure completion, we hope the tenants enjoy their new homes. Thanks to our contractor, design team and funders for supporting this project through to completion.
- Plans are still on-going to progress the MUGA project. £230k has now been secured however following receipt of tenders, we expect the total project cost to be £260k. We are therefore seeking additional funds before we can accept a tender and progress works.
- Works continue within the Hotel, mainly focusing on the kitchen area to allow the team to start providing food in the near future. We are seeking funding to install solar panels and upgrade the heating system to support a financially and environmentally sustainable future for the property.
- We are currently seeking tenders to progress the next stage of feasibility work on the replacement of the Dancing Ladies. This next stage would include a review of the previous reports concluded and starting engagement with key stakeholders including community consultation.
- Planning permission was submitted for 4 pods and additional parking within the campsite boundary. Due to updated SEPA flood risk mapping, we are working with the Council to identify suitable locations for the pods on the campsite.

Kintyre Medical Group

Surgery Opening Hours

Monday – Friday 09:00 – 17:00

Outside of these hours, on weekends, or public holidays,
please call **111 or 999**
depending on the urgency of your medical need.

Emergency services will ensure the nurse is contacted and that
all necessary island emergency services are activated.

This ensures a **safe, seamless, and effective** response
for everyone involved.

Kenny MacNeill

It is with great sadness that we share that Kenny MacNeill of 1 Keill Cottages has passed away aged 78. His niece Rhona paid this tribute: "Stalwart islander, Clan MacNeill of Gigha he was very much liked and for decades was one of the first people many people met within a short time of their setting foot on the island; found him to be a kind, pleasant and sensitive man."

Gigha Village Hall

To book the Gigha Village Hall please email gighavillagehall@gmail.com or telephone Joe on 01583 505251. Please note that the Village Hall is closed from 16th - 24th November for renovations.

Emergency Plan Group

Following Storm Éowyn earlier this year and the subsequent prolonged disruptive power outage, the community came together to discuss some of the challenges this brought, and to consider ways how we could personally be more prepared, should similar happen again.

As we enter the winter months, where power outages are more common, the Emergency Plan Group would like to share Government Information to help assist people create their own emergency plan. It is attached to the newsletter. This is also a good time to check torches, batteries, first aid kit, hot water bottle, battery packs, generator etc.

As an outcome of the meeting, the Emergency Group has been working on a leaflet which is more focused on local information which may help when developing your own plan, and this will be distributed to each household during November.

Visitor Survey 2025

Every year we try to gather feedback from island visitors to understand what has worked well and what could be improved. The survey also allows us to continue to evaluate against projects, particularly the Gateway to Gigha paths network and heritage interpretation. If you know someone that visited, or are able to contact your customers from this year, we would be grateful if you could share the survey link with them: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L27KYSW> or scan the QR code opposite. The outcome of the survey will be shared.



Dark Skies Gigha

We are pleased to announce that thanks to the generosity of Co-Op members, Dark Skies Gigha has been awarded £1490 for the DSG all-sky camera and towards our Gigha Celtic Moon Club activities. Gigha Celtic Moon Club is a home based stargazing and moon watching club where households enjoy a seasonal and Celtic themed dinner on the night of each month's full moon. Households can join together to celebrate the theme through food, astronomy and seasonal nature activities and share their experiences online to encourage others to do the same. We hope as many people as possible will join us for an afternoon of Celestial Stories for all ages, which will be held as part of our Gigha Celtic Moon Club gathering on Saturday 15th November 3.30-5.30pm at Gigha Village Hall. We have some great storytellers lined up who will share tales from the wild isles of Shetland as well as a traditional Scottish Crankie and some Celtic star stories. Visit our website for more details of our Dark Skies Festival 14-15th November www.darkskiesgigha.org.uk and if you can, please sign up [here](#) for the Saturday Celestial Stories event to let us know you are coming - we would like to make sure there are enough moon cakes! Everyone welcome.

Thank You from The Sound of Gigha Team!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to The Sound of Gigha Open Day and Fundraising Lunch at the Village Hall!

The event was a relaxed drop-in session where the community could learn more about The Sound of Gigha CIC, share ideas for the 2026 festival, and enjoy a delicious lunch together.

Thanks to your incredible support, the soup and sandwich fundraiser raised over £400 towards this year's festival. Your feedback and ideas will help shape and strengthen next year's celebrations - making the 2025 Sound of Gigha weekend even better!

We're also especially grateful to all the bakers, sandwich makers, and volunteers who made the day possible.

Apologies to those who arrived later - we were overwhelmed by the turnout and so grateful for your enthusiasm and community spirit.

Thank you, Gigha!



Whist

Whist restarting on Friday 14th November, at the Village Hall, 7pm. All welcome. Supper & Raffle. There will be no whist on Friday 21st November due to works being carried out in the Hall, and again on 12th December.

Whist has run for decades on Gigha, and proceeds have traditionally always gone to the Village Hall to help support costs of the Children's Christmas, Easter and Halloween Parties, with anything left going towards upkeep of the Hall, and this remains the case. Raffle tickets are sold in the Shop, and on the night. Raffle prizes always appreciated, as are offers of baking. £2 for adults, £1 for children.

Save the Date!

Sunday 2nd November - Halloween Party in Village Hall

Wednesday 5th November – Bonfire at Gigha Hotel car park

Fridays in the Village Hall - Whist

Friday 14th & Saturday 15th November - Dark Skies Festival

Thursday 20th November – IGHG Group AGM in Gigha Hotel (note Village Hall closed)

Friday 21st November - Bingo in Gigha Hotel

Saturday 6th December - Primary School Christmas Fair

Thursday 18th December - Primary School Christmas Nativity

Gigha Primary School & ELC

Pupils returned last week and we have begun our busiest term of the year. On Friday we visited the farm stall at Bellochantuy to learn more about the Royal Highland Education Trusts 'Gate to Plate' project. As well as finding out more about the importance of locally grown food, we also found out the importance their chickens play in this process. At the end of the visit, children also got to choose a pumpkin to bring back to school to learn to cook this week.



Finally, we are delighted announce that we are finally able to provide our eggs to the community. This project, funded by a Food to Thought Grant, allows our children to learn more about producing their own food, caring for chickens and life cycles of poultry while also tackling food poverty. 'Fresh Egg Friday' will see our eggs available outside the front of the school each Friday. We hope you can support us. Mrs Vipurs

Macmillan Cancer Support

The 'Soup & Sandwich' lunch at the Hall on Saturday 27th September to coincide with Macmillan's annual 'Biggest Coffee Morning' fundraising event raised a whopping £1,830.00 plus £283.75 gift aid, giving us a grand total of £2,113.75!

Grateful thanks to all who helped support this event. Supporting Macmillan to support others.

Information and support can be found at <https://www.macmillan.org.uk>

Donations can be made online at <https://donation.macmillan.org.uk>

Island Ranger Service

Autumn is marvellous, the light makes everything look magical, the fungi and slime moulds are everywhere, and the leaves are the best colours at this time of year. We have spotted lots of wildlife in the last few weeks, flocks of pink footed, barnacle and Greenland white fronted geese are dropping in, the wigeon are back and making full use of our lochens, there are hedgehogs and rabbits galore, and beautiful hen harriers are hunting at the south end. The white-tailed sea eagle is back too, so keep your eyes peeled, lots of sightings have been recorded on Gigha in the last couple of weeks! Our Adult Autumn Woodland Sessions are also due to return! This autumn we have three sessions on offer: charcoal making and art, whittling and wax carving, and macrame! Pop us an email for more information, or to book on ranger@gigha.org.uk!

Although we have only been back at school for a week now, we are already thinking about Christmas! Children are beginning to learn songs for the Christmas nativity on Thursday 18th December. We are also and are preparing for our Christmas Fair on Saturday 6th December. Please come along to support us if you are able. If you have any unwanted Christmas decorations please donate these to the school. The Fair will raise money for winter sports and PE activities and will help widen our children's educational experiences.

Island Ranger Service Continued

Kintyre Coastal Network and the Marine Scotland Enhancement Fund have approached us about the seagrass meadows we have around our shorelines, to understand if our community would be interested in sea-ing and being involved in a nationwide seagrass initiative until 2028. Other projects within this partnership scheme include: replanting washed up seagrass shoots in Wester Ross; surveying, harvesting and transplanting rhizomes, processing seeds and replanting seagrass in East Kintyre; and seagrass translocation in the Moray Firth and in Shetland. <https://smeef.scot/project-theme/seagrass-planting-programme/>

We are asking the community to get in touch to give us your thoughts on a potential seagrass project. Things for us to consider include the developments and marine traffic on the east of Gigha, the Special Protection Area designation given to the Sound of Gigha for the overwintering seabirds, and the recent contribution to the Priority Marine Features consultation regarding the maerl beds in the waters off the south coast.

We are soon to be part of an exciting research project! We have received £9,540 from Future Woodlands Scotland for a research project that will trial new drone imaging technologies to map *Rhododendron ponticum* presence, volume, and topography using multispectral drone surveys.

Why would this help us, I hear you ask, well... Our previous NatureScot project in 2023 was successful in treating 15 hectares of *Rhododendron ponticum*. We have been delighted with the success, but this project had huge challenges. Primarily, creating budgets for treatment programmes was difficult as standard budgeting tools are based around outdated plant categorisation which do not take into account topography, or the volume and density of plants. All our surveys were done on foot or using basic drone images for this project, and despite site visits with each potential contractor, it was impossible to fully relay the scale of the *R.ponticum* growth we have here. The salt and wind pressures, as well as previous management, make these plants multi-stemmed, interconnected, and impenetrable. On top of that, each year that a plant is not treated, it releases more seed, meaning the spread of the species is faster than we could accurately survey on foot.

Therefore, we are involved in a trial for the effectiveness of multispectral drone imaging for 41 hectares of land where *R.ponticum* is present by using light sensors to identify plant presence, assess the topography which will inform access and equipment, and the volume and density of the plants.

Despite hours of research and phone calls, we couldn't find any examples where new technologies could survey *R.ponticum* for on-the-ground control and treatment programmes, with the exception of a dissertation at University of Edinburgh which looked at multispectral surveys for *R.ponticum* presence in woodlands only. So it seems we are a little bit ahead of the curve. The benefit of this funding for us will be the ability to accurately create maps for control projects and monitoring purposes, and will be useful in creating budgets to complete the work. We're looking forward to seeing the results!

<https://futurewoodlands.org.uk/funding/assessing-rtk-multispectral-surveying-to-aid-removal-of-inns-on-gigha/>





GIGHA VILLAGE HALL



HALLOWEEN PARTY



SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

4-6PM



AT GIGHA VILLAGE HALL



GAMES, SNACKS & PRIZES FOR
BEST DRESSED!

ALL WELCOME



Let's Whist again...



**Gigha Village Hall 7pm, Fridays starting
November the 14th. £2 entry for adults,
£1 for children. Supper & raffle. Proceeds
to Village Hall for children's Christmas,
Halloween & Easter Parties.**

All welcome.

We are
glad to see you

FRESH
EGGS

Have an
egg-sitting
friday

FRIDAY



AUTUMN ADULT Woodland Sessions

FIRE STATION WOODLAND | 13:00-15:00

THEME

CHARCOAL MAKING & ART
WHITTILING & WAX CARVING
MACRAME

DATE

SAT 1ST NOVEMBER
SAT 15TH NOVEMBER
SAT 13TH DECEMBER

Prior booking essential at
ranger@gigha.org.uk / 07596855398
All events are weather dependent and
liable to cancellation at short notice



CELESTIAL STORIES DARK SKIES GIGHA FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER
14-15th 2025

★ STAR GAZING ★
WILD CRAFTS & FOOD ★
ASTRONOMY TALKS ★ INUIT, VIKING
& CELTIC STORYTELLING

Join Dark Skies Gigha for a magical Dark Skies Winter Festival full of celestial stories, arts activities, stargazing and astronomy events!

Featuring Events from: Astronomer Dr Chris Leigh, Storyteller & Musician Alison Clark, Edgelands Gallery & Cultural Centre, Catriona Waddington from Wild Skies Shetland and Dark Skies Gigha's Gigha Celtic Moon Club!

Event Bookings
& More Info

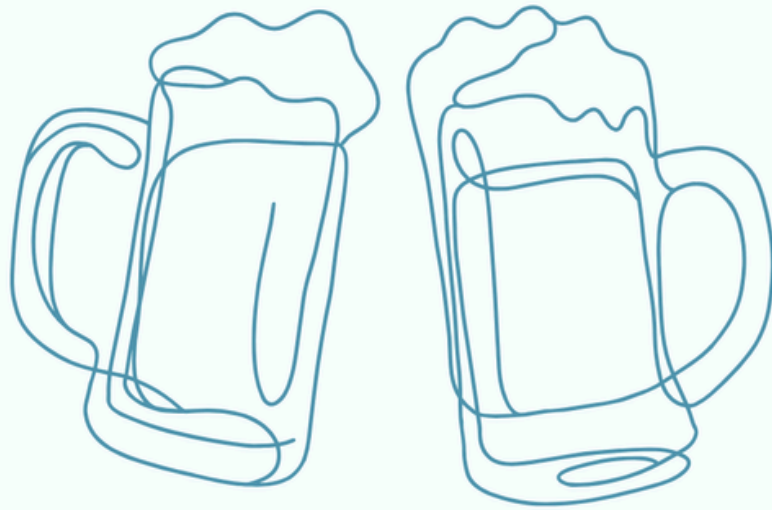
PRESENTED BY



SUPPORTED BY



GIGHA HOTEL BAR



**BEER AND CIDER ON TAP, SPIRITS, SHOTS, WINE,
SOFT DRINKS AND SNACKS AVAILABLE.**

**INCLUDING A SELECTION OF LOCAL SCOTTISH
BEERS, SPIRITS AND COCKTAILS.**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO FOOD SERVICE OR ACCOMMODATION
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.**

MON: CLOSED

TUES: CLOSED

WEDS: 3PM - 10PM

THURS: 3PM - 10PM

FRI: 12PM - 12PM

SAT: 12PM - 12PM

SUN: 3PM - 8PM





Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Morven Beagan and Gigha Primary School Parent Council are holding a Christmas Wreath making workshop to raise funds for our children's winter PE activities.

The workshop will take place from 2-4.30pm on Saturday 6th December. All resources, festive nibbles and drinks will be provided (Please bring secateurs if you have them). £25 per person. Limited to 12 places.



To book please call Gigha Primary School on 01583505259 or email enquiries-gigha@argyll-bute.gov.uk Payment required by Thursday 6th November to secure place.

Please join us to enjoy some festive fun whilst supporting our children.

Thank you



Home Emergency Plan

The best way to deal with the unexpected is to be prepared.
Download or print this off, fill it in and keep it safe so
you have what you need and can act quickly.



If it is not safe to go out then:

Go indoors and close all windows and doors

Stay indoors

Stay up to date using radio, TV or online

If there is no power, an FM radio powered by battery, solar or wind-up
will keep you informed, including car radios.

Write down your radio station FM frequencies in advance too.



If you have to leave home, have an agreed meeting place in
advance and consider a local community hub if there is one.

Family meeting place:

Community hub:

Take your emergency items in a waterproof bag.



Important numbers

Emergency services: **999**

NHS24: **111**

Loss of power: **105**

Scottish Water: **0800 077 8778**

Non-Emergency: **101**

Floodline Scotland: **0345 988 1188**

Gas emergencies: **0800 111 999**

YOUR important numbers

e.g. childcare, insurance, doctors, vets etc.

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Once you know you and your family are safe, look out for vulnerable
neighbours.

Are you prepared?

A home emergency kit is one of the best ways to deal with the unexpected

Light

- ☐ Torch
- ☐ Batteries



Communication

- ☐ Mobile phone (make sure it is fully charged)
- ☐ Radio



Health

- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Medicine
- ☐ Blankets/warm clothes
- ☐ Toiletries



Food/drink

- ☐ Ready to eat food
- ☐ Baby food/pet supplies
- ☐ Bottled water



Your important items

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ |



For more suggestions for your emergency kit, see [ready.scot](https://www.ready.scot)

Christmas Fair at Gigha Primary School School Saturday 6th December 12-2pm

Human Fruit
Machine



Lucky dip

Soup and
Sandwiches



Christmas crafts
for sale



Cake

Mince pies



The SOUND of Gigha

SAVE THE DATE

The Sound of Gigha will be back for the fourth year
on the 5th, 6th & 7th of June.

More information to follow.

SOUND OF GIGHA COMMITTEE PRESENTS

BINGO NIGHT

Join us at **7pm** on the **21st**
of November at the
Hotel for bingo!
£5 per book.

Supper will be available
for a donation to the
Sound of Gigha.

