



GIGHA NEWS

Welcome to the June 2020 Gigha News

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed this month's newsletter and a copy of May 2020 Board minutes.

Regards,
Ian Wilson
Chair

For and behalf of Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

Directors

Stuart McNeill stepped down from the Board a few weeks ago for personal reasons. We wish Stuart all the best and thank him for his contribution to the work of the Trust.

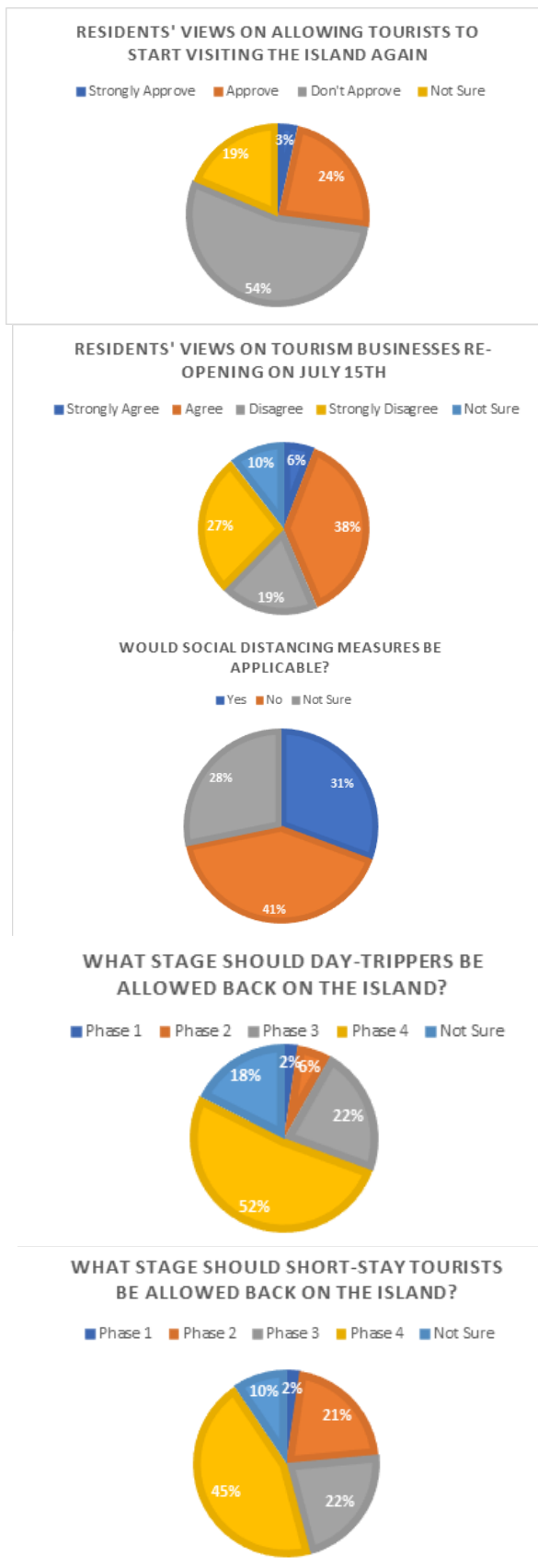
This week Anne Shaw, Malcolm Henderson and Linda MacDonald also stepped down. We would like to thank Anne in particular as she has not only been working on behalf of the Trust but has also performed sterling service as Island Nurse. We completely appreciate her need to reduce her workload.

We have also accepted Malcolm and Linda's resignations and wish them the best in the future. We have the number of Directors we need to legally operate. However we are keen for as many directors to take up seats as possible. We are therefore looking for members who want to work with the Board and staff team to help us take forward a number of significant projects for Gigha, as well as support the general work of the Trust. If you are interested in becoming a Director, please contact chair@gigha.org.uk or call Ian Wilson or Jane Clements. We have a Directors Induction Pack available in the office which will give you more information about what the Trust does and the role of a Director.

The board will be happy to take any comments or questions so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns.

COVID-19

Cara, our new COVID 19 Co-ordinator, has surveyed island businesses and residents. Island tourism businesses were keen to reopen on the Government's planned date of 15 July (this might be subject to change). The island resident survey gave a more nuanced result. We have posted the full survey results on the Gigha webpage www.gigha.org.uk > COVID-19. Here are the results of the resident survey:



COVID-19 continued

As we stated previously, this is not a decision for the Trust to take but one for businesses, Government and Calmac. We wanted to make sure that the island residents and businesses had a chance to have their say. We will be sending the results of both surveys and meeting with the businesses to Calmac and our local MSP.

Cara is also looking at other ways to support Gigha during this time so do get in touch with her at covidsupport@gigha.org.uk if you have any questions.

Please remember that to prevent the spread of COVID-19 the following public places remain closed until further guidance is available from the Scottish Government: Achamore Gardens, the moorings and pontoons, Gigha Golf Course, and the Play Park.

Your co-operation is much appreciated.

Mediation

Last year we started a process of mediation between Members and the Board. The turnout from Members was very disappointing so the decision taken at that time was not to proceed further. The issue has been raised again so at our recent Board meeting, we agreed to ask all members what the desire was for another round of mediation.

We would like to hear from you if you want to be involved in the mediation process. We anticipate that a minimum time commitment of 6 hours is likely to be necessary (3 x 2-hour sessions). Based on the work last year we anticipate this could cost the Trust between £3000 and £4000. We would have to wait until large meetings were possible again so any mediation is unlikely to take place until later in the year. However if you think this is something you would want to be involved in, and contribute to, please email the Trust office email address (not Chair) or drop in a letter. If there is sufficient interest we will go back to Mediation Scotland to get more details. To find out more about what mediation is, you can visit the Mediation Scotland webpage:

<https://www.scottishmediation.org.uk/why-mediation/what-is-mediation/>

Holiday Cottages Lease

The holiday cottage business will be re-advertised on August 1st with a view to signing of the lease on October 1st. To request an expression of interest form please contact shona@gigha.org.uk

No decision has been taken yet as to when bookings will reopen.

Agricultural Mortgage Corporation

The Board agreed to pay off the IGHT AMC loan balance of £80,303.37 at the end of May 2020 by using some of our reserved funds which has cost £6,179.14 in early repayment penalty charges, however, this has allowed us to pay the loan off approximately 15 years early and save in the region of £33,000 in interest overall. This final repayment means that security has been released on five residential properties and on one farm.

As at 11th June 2020 IGHT debt was sitting at £669,097 (£369,838 Nationwide Loan 1, £126,076 Nationwide Loan 2 and £173,183 Triodos).

The GGPL debt is £605,379.

Achamore Gardens

Last month our Head Gardener, Bryony White, told us about her hunt for the last two Rhododendron "Lady Horlick" plants known to exist at Achamore. The quest was shared on our Facebook and Instagram pages, and in our Members newsletter, and we are delighted to let you know that we have succeeded!

A former employee of the Garden heard about our hunt and realised that he knew where one of the plants might be so went for an explore today and found it! She's a very elderly plant, lying at a 45-degree angle, nearly 90 years old and at least 90% dead, but there's still growth right up the top. We think this might be Sir James Horlick's original cross to create the variety so, despite her condition, she's a really important part of Achamore's history.

With the aid of a very long ladder, Bryony hopes to be able to collect some propagation material and if we are lucky one day we'll be able to plant some of her offspring around the garden.

We'd also like to thank Heart of Argyll who contacted us on Instagram to let us know that Crarae Garden at NTS may also have a labelled "Lady Horlick"; Bryony is going to follow up on this lead too.



Gateway to Gigha

We are now seeking a Project Manager to oversee the Gateway to Gigha project (21 hours a week).

The Gateway to Gigha project is designed to improve Gigha's carbon footprint and enable better access to and appreciation of Gigha's hidden heritage. By improving our foot and cycle path network, and providing more online and on island information and interpretation, we hope to reduce the number of car borne visitors to Gigha and ensure that our visitors and residents know more about our heritage and how to protect it.

The role will support the full scope of the project, including managing capital works contracts and line managing the new Ranger role associated with the project. The role will report to the IGHT Board and IGHT Business Development Manager. The successful applicants will also be responsible for regularly updating and engaging with the Gigha community and ensure our stakeholders and partners are kept fully up to date with progress.

We are looking for a motivated and committed individual with high levels of organisational management, ability to work on their own initiative and an understanding of flexible working to meet timescales and project milestones.

This role is supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and is a fixed term position from August 2020 to June 2022. The salary is £25,000 pa (full time equivalent).

Those interested in this job role are asked to submit a CV along with a max 800 word statement as to the skills and experience you will bring to the role, and how you would develop this project to make Gigha a better place to live and visit.

Applications should be made by 5pm on Friday 3rd July 2020 to Jane Millar.

The full Job Description and Person Specification can be viewed at www.gigha.org.uk > About Gigha > Job Vacancies

General Data Protection Regulation 2018

IGHT have issued new policies for GDPR compliance. These can be viewed on the website www.gigha.org.uk > Policies and Risk Analysis. If you would like to request a copy of any policy, please email shona@gigha.org.uk



Achamore Gardens now has its own Facebook page! Please like and share all posts to keep Achamore Gardens in the public eye during lockdown and beyond! <https://www.facebook.com/AchamoreGardensGigha>

IGHT Maintenance

Please remember that the IGHT maintenance team will still only be entering households in the event of an emergency.

Main Contacts:

IGHT enquiries: **01583 505 390**

GTL enquiries: **01583 427 300**

For general enquiries:

shona@gigha.org.uk

For development enquiries:

jane@gigha.org.uk

For housing and estate enquiries:

office@gigha.org.uk

For all GTL enquiries:

cottages@gigha.org.uk

For finance/accounts enquiries:

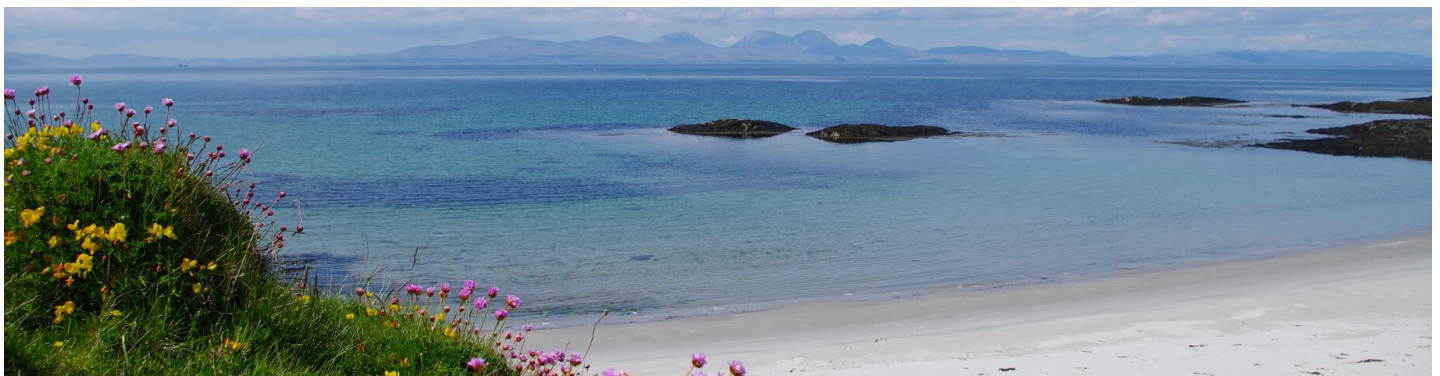
ightcentralaccounts@gigha.org.uk

For COVID-19 support:

covidsupport@gigha.org.uk

Trust Office Opening Hours:

The office will be staffed but will be closed to the public during the COVID-19 lockdown. Please contact the office using the details above.



The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust Ltd is a company registered in Scotland (registered number: 334141) and a Registered Scottish Charity (charity number: SCO 32302).