

An Naidheachd Againne

The Newsletter of An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach / The American Gaelic Society

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'S e pròiseact rannsachaidh a th' ann an 'Language in Lyrics' a' leanntainn fad trì bliadhna agus san iris seo, tha Màiri Britton ag innse dhuinn ciamar a tha i an sàs sa phròiseact agus an dòigh gum bi an sgioba rannsachaidh a' cruinneachadh mìltean de dh'òrain Ghàidhlig Alba Nuaidh.

'Language in Lyrics' is a three-year research project and in this issue Màiri Britton tells us how she is involved in the project and the way that the research team will gather thousands of Nova Scotia Gaelic songs.



Language in Lyrics le Màiri Britton

Nuair a bha mi nam phaisd' is mi a' tòiseachadh air Gàidhlig ionnsachadh b' e na h-òrain gu sònraichte a thàlaidh mi dhan a' chànan, sgeul nach creids mi gu bheil ainneamh am

measg luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig san latha an-diugh. Bha mi airson an ciall a bha aig cùl am faclan a thuigsinn, agus bidh mi a' sìor ionnsachadh bhuapa a thaobh eachdraidh, creideamh agus cultar nan Gàidheal.

A-nist is mi a' fuireach 's ag obair ann an Alba Nuaidh (às dèidh dhomh imrich bho Alba bho chionn dà bhliadhna) 's ann a tha an t-àite seo a' tighinn beò dhomh le bhith a' leughadh, ag èisteach agus a' togail òrain an dachaigh ùir agam. A' Choille Ghruamach, Na

Language in Lyrics

by Màiri Britton

As a child starting out on learning Gaelic it was the songs in particular which drew me to the language, a story which I don't believe is rare among Gaelic learners today! I wanted to understand the meaning behind their words, and I am continually learning from them with regards to the history, beliefs and culture of the Gaels.

Now that I'm living and working in Nova Scotia (since moving from Scotland two years ago) the place is coming alive for me through reading, listening and learning the songs of my new home.

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Go to <http://www.acgamerica.org> for more on upcoming ACGA events and other Gaelic-related activities.



Language in Lyrics Team: Dr. Heather Sparling, Mary Jane Lamond, Màiri Britton

Pictures with permission of Language in Lyrics

Cnuic 's na Glinn bu Bhòidhche Leinn, An Latha a Thàinig an Telephone gu Barra Glen is iomadach àite is caractair eile: tha mi a' cur eòlas air na daoine a-seo bhon bhàrdachd aca.

Leis cho pailt is cho luachmhor 's a tha òrain Ghàidhlig sa mhòr-roinn seo tha e air a bhith na thlachd mòr dhomh a bhith ag obair dhan a' phròiseact 'Language in Lyrics' aig Oilthigh Cheap Breatainn am bliadhna, an cuide ri Heather Sparling agus Màiri Sine Nic Laomuinn. Le cùl-taic bho SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada), Iomairtean na Gàidhlig, An Tasglann Pheuntanach agus Baile nan Gàidheal, 's e a' chiad amas aig a' phròiseact stòr-data de dh'òrain à Alba Nuaidh a chur ri chèile. Tha sinn airson 's gun gabhadh òran sam bith às a' sgìre seo a lorg gu furasta le cùl-fiosrachaidh mun fhear no tè a rinn e, is fios far am faighear na faclan. Tha sinn an dòchas gum bi seo na chuideachadh do dhuine sam bith a tha ag ionnsachadh is/neo a' dèanamh rannsachadh air òrain Ghàidhlig san àm ri teachd.

'S ann bho leabhraichean, irisean (a leithid Mhic-Talla), tasglannan fuaim agus cruinneachaidhean prìobhaideach a tha sinn a' tionail nan òran. Faodaidh sibh gar leantail air Facebook gus faicinn dè bun-stòr air a bheil sinn ag obair gach seachdain agus blasad fhaighinn air cuid de na h-òrain is naidheachdan inntinneach a thig an uachdar fhad 's a bhios sinn a' dol.

Tha sinn ag obair gu dlùth leis a' sgioba DASG (Dachaigh airson Stòras na Gàidhlig) aig Oilthigh Ghlaschu is 's e an darna ceum dhen pròiseact againne a bhith a' taghadh raoin de dh'òrain a thèid an scanadh agus deasachadh airson a chur ris a' chorpas mhòr aig DASG. Leis nach deach tar-sgrìobhadh a dhèanamh air cuid a dh'òrain anns na tasglannan fuaim fhathast bidh sinn an-sàs san obair sin cuideachd.

Tha feallsanachd 'ionnsachadh sòisealta' (social learning) aig cridhe iomadh prògram a tha a' soirbheachadh ann an Alba Nuaidh an-dràsda (m.e. Bun is Bàrr is eile). Tha sinn air a bhith a' tarraing air a' mhodh seo is sinn a' leasachadh modail airson 'cèilidhean tar-sgrìobhadh' far an tig daoine cruinn

The Gloomy Forest, the Beautiful Hills and Glens of Margaree, the Day the Telephone Came to Barra Glen, and many other places and characters: I am learning about the people here from their own poetry.

Given how plentiful and valuable are the songs of this province, it has been a great pleasure to be working on the 'Language in Lyrics' project at Cape Breton University this year, along with

Heather Sparling and Mary Jane Lamond. With support from SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada), Gaelic Affairs, the Beaton Institute and the Highland Village Museum, the first aim of the project is to build a database of the Gaelic songs of Nova Scotia. We want it to be possible to search easily for any song from this area, along with background information about the individual who made it, and

where the lyrics can be found. We hope this will be useful to anyone wishing to learn and/or research the Nova Scotia song corpus in the future.

We are gathering the songs from books, periodicals (such as Mac-Talla), sound archives and private collections. You can follow us on Facebook to see which sources we are working on each week and to get a wee taste of some of the songs and interesting stories that crop up along the way.

We are working closely with the Digital Archives of Scottish Gaelic (DASG) team at Glasgow University, and the second stage of our project will be to choose a large number of songs that will be scanned and proofed in order to add to the corpus of Scottish Gaelic created by DASG. Since some of the songs from the sound archives have not yet been transcribed, we'll be involved in that work as well.

There is a philosophy of 'social learning' at the heart of many successful Gaelic projects in Nova Scotia just now (such as the mentorship programme 'Bun is Bàrr'). We have been drawing on this method as we develop a model for 'transcription cèilidhs', where people come



Cèilidh tar-sgrìobhadh aig Baile nan Gàidheal / Transcription cèilidh at Highland Village
With permission of Language in Lyrics

còmhla airson a bhith ag èisteachd agus ag obair air òrain. Bha a' chiad chèilidh againn aig Baile nan Gàidheal bho chionn mìos agus abair gun do chòrd e rinn! Bidh sinn a' sgrìobhadh barrachd mun a' mhodh-obrachaidh seo agus an dùil ri bileag iùil air tàr-sgrìobhadh a chur a-mach ann an ùine gun a bhith ro fhada.

Tha mi a' faireachdainn air leth fortanach airson a' chothruim a bhith a' dol gu domhain dhan dualchas a tha beò a's na h-òrain a-seo. Bidh mi a' sìor ionnsachadh bhon fheadhainn eile a chaidh romham cuideachd, a leithid an duine ghasda ionnsaichte Seumas MacBhatair a shiubhail bhuainn bho chionn ùine ghoirid (fois dha anam).

Tha aoibhneas sònraichte a dh'fhairicheas mi nam chridhe is mi ag èirigh air na h-òrain aig a' chlàith-luaidh an cuideachd Gàidheil an t-Saoghail Ùir. Tha sinn an dùil san dòchas gum bi 'Language in Lyrics' a' cuideachadh dhaoine is iad ag obair 's ag èirigh air na h-òrain ge bith càit a bheil iad san t-saoghal.

(Leanaidh 'Language in Lyrics' gus toiseach 2020 - faic www.languageinlyrics.com airson na naidheachd agus foillseachaidhean as ùire againn fhad 's a bhios sinn a' dol).

together in order to listen and work collectively on songs. We held our first (pilot) transcription cèilidh at the Highland Village last month and did we ever enjoy it! We will be writing more about the process and hope to put out a wee handbook on transcription before too long.

I feel exceptionally fortunate for the opportunity to delve deep into the cultural heritage which lives in these songs. I am continually learning from those who went before me as well, such as the fine individual and scholar Jim Watson who passed away from us a short time ago (peace to his soul).

There is a special joy I feel in my heart when I am singing songs at the milling table in the company of Gaels of the New World. We hope that 'Language in Lyrics' will help folk as they work on - and sing! - these songs no matter where they are in the world.

(Language in Lyrics will continue until the beginning of 2020 - see www.languageinlyrics.com for our latest news and publishings as we go along)

Mòd Ligonier Results

Ligonier Highland Games, Ligonier, PA, September 22, 2018

Alasdair Currie and Michael Mackay, adjudicators

Bàrdachd

- 1 Anne Alexander
- 2 Hilary NicPhàidein and Cam MacRae, tied

Sgeulachd

- 1 Cam MacRae
- 2 Hilary NicPhàidein

Leughadh aig a' chiad sealladh

- 1 Hilary NicPhàidein
- 2 Cam MacRae
- 3 Anne Alexander

Open Song

- 1 Anne Alexander
- 2 Hilary NicPhàidein
- 3 Sharon McWhorter

Combined (one prescribed and one self-select song)

- 1 Anne Alexander
- 2 Mary Wake

Accompanied Song

- 1 Carol Kappus
- 2 Anne Alexander

Choir

Còisir Ghàidhlig Ohio

Harmonized Singing

- 1 Sharon McWhorter and Anne Alexander



Alasdair Currie, winner of the 2017 men's gold medal at the Royal National Mòd in Scotland, singing on the stage at the Ligonier Highland Games

Michael Mackay

Litir bho'n Cheann-Suidhe

le Micheal MacAoidh



Letter from the President

by Mike Mackay

A Chàirdean Ionmhainn,

Tha sinn air tighinn gu ceann bliadhna eile, agus tha mi 'n dòchas gum faca sibh piseach agus buannachd nur cuid beatha sa bhliadhna a chaidh seachad – agus nur cuid adhartachaidh a-thaobh Gàidhlig. Tha a' bhliadhna air a dhol seachad, gar fàgail leis an dà chuid gàirdeachas agus mulad mar a bhios aig gach bliadhna a chì sinn, agus 'se seo an t-àm airson meòrachadh air sin, agus gu tric, air dè tha gach nì a thachair a' ciallachadh, 's dè tha sinn a' dol a dhèanamh san àm ri teachd. Chì sibh gu leòr san iris seo air am meòraicheadh sibh gun teagamh!

Nuair a smaoinicheas sinn air a' bhliadhna a tha romhainn, tha mi 'n dòchas gum faic sibh, mar a bhios a' bhliadhna a' dol seachad, gu bheil rudan ann a bheir An Comunn dhuibh, a chuidicheas sibh agus sibh a' strì ris a' Ghàidhlig a ghlèideadh agus a neartachadh ge b' e càit a bheil sibh a' fuireachd agus ge b' e dè an ìre a's a bheil sibh. Tha sinn air bòrd a' Chomuinn ag obair air iomairtean a bheir cuideachadh dhuibh leis a sin, ged a tha barrachd dàil sa chùis na bhitheamaid ag iarraidh, ach tha sinn an-dòchas gun cuimhnich sibh gu bheil tachartasan mar Beinn Seanaar agus am Mòd fhathast a' dol, agus gur e seo an t-àm (bruidhinn air meòrachadh) airson planaichean a chur air dòigh a bhith a' frithealadh na tachartasan sin ann an 2019. Nuair a thig goireasan eile a-mach a bheir sinn dhuibh, innsidh sinn sin dhuibh – cumaibh sùil air an lalach lìn againn, agus na duilleagan sòisealta mar Facebook agus Twitter!

Air sgàth a' Chomuinn, tha mi a' guidhe gach beannachd, piseach, agus soirbheachas dhuibh aig an àm seo, agus rè na bliadhna tha romhainn. Togaibh i, togaibh i!

Le meas,

Micheal MacAoidh
Ceann-suidhe, ACGA

Dear Friends,

We are coming to the end of another year, and I hope that you prospered in the past year, and advanced in your Gaelic. The year has passed, with both happiness and sadness, as we see each year, and this is the time to contemplate all that and, often, what it all has meant to us, and what we will then do in the future. You will see plenty in this issue to contemplate, without a doubt!

When we think about the year before us, I hope that you will all find things that ACGA can provide to you to be of service, which will help you keep and strengthen your Gaelic, no matter where you live and no matter what your Gaelic level is. The ACGA Board is working on projects that will help you, though it's taking some time to get all of them put together, but we hope that you will remember that we still have Grandfather Mountain and the Mòd, and that this is the time to think about (speaking of contemplation) setting aside time this year to make sure you can go to those events in 2019. When the other projects become ready, we will let you know, on our web page as well as on Facebook and Twitter!

On behalf of ACGA, I wish for you every blessing, improvement, and success, now and throughout the coming year. Togaibh i, togaibh i! (From the song "Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig":

Respectfully,

Michael Mackay
President, ACGA

Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig

Togaibh i, togaibh i cànan ar dùthcha;
Togaibh a suas i gu h-inbhe ro chliùitich;
Togaibh gu daingeann i 's bithibh rith' bàidheil,
Hì horo, togaibh i; Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig!

Remembering Jim (Seumas) Watson

by Anne Landin



Jim (Seumas) Watson 1949–2018

*With the permission of
Baile nan Gàidheal /
Highland Village Museum*

The Gaelic-speaking world has suffered another great loss. I first knew Jim Watson when I somehow made contact with him about teaching me Gaelic. I don't remember how I found out about him, but these were the days long before Skype, and our lessons were by telephone. We had weekly sessions on the phone and he was an excellent teacher, ever patient, encouraging and helpful. I remember being impressed with his deep and resonant voice on the phone.

At some point I decided to make a trip to Cape Breton, where I had never been, and my trip of two weeks included a visit to Jim in Queensville, a week of classes at the Gaelic College at St. Ann's, and several days of Gaelic song classes with Rosemary McCormick who lived at Iona at the time. This was a memorable visit for me and entirely changed the direction of my life.

I remember Jim took me on a seat-gripping journey up River Denys Mountain Road to see the old church St. Margaret's of Scotland, where we stopped along the way picking wild mushrooms in the woods by the roadside which we had for dinner that night along with the abundant wild blueberries that grew all over the church graveyard. This and future visits to Cape Breton introduced me to so many people who were to become my treasured friends.

In all the years since, whenever I was in Cape Breton, I would usually see Jim at some gathering or other and visit the Highland Village which I always thought of (in my mind) as his creation. It would probably exist without his

influence, but I'm quite sure that if it weren't for Jim Watson, it would not be "Baile nan Gàidheal", the Gaelic folklife center that it is today. He was a driving force, with many others, behind the revival of the Gaelic language in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia. He had help of course, but his quiet determination, ideas and perseverance were always apparent in keeping the direction and momentum of that movement on course.

I think of the last time I saw Jim, three years ago at Baile nan Gàidheal. We had a twenty-minute conversation completely in Gaelic and I hope he was pleased with his former student. I imagine he is having an extended cèilidh about now with the departed Gaelic tradition bearers who were his friends. Gun robh fois sìorraidh aige.

Photo Quiz

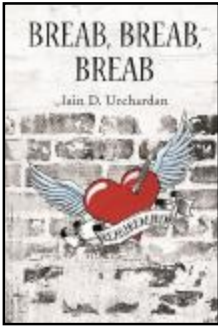
An Naidheachd Againne contributor and ACGA member Hilary NicPhàidein recently returned home from a family visit to Scotland. Here's one of the pictures she took as her plane headed west out over the Atlantic.

Can you name either of the two islands in the photo?

Look for the answer on page 11 of this issue.



Hilary NicPhàidein



Book Review:

Breab, Breab, Breab by Iain D. Urchardan

Acair: 2017, Paperback, 179 pages

ISBN-13: 9780861525867

Reviewed by Ted Brian Neveln

When we were in Fort William for the 2017 Mòd, we swung by the publishers' booths with plans to stick to a budget. We would get a very few books to put in our carry-on luggage and write down the names of books to get later. Well, we stuck to our duty-free whisky budget with no trouble but we are veritable dipsomaniacs when it comes to books. We had to pack twice as many books as we planned. The anthology *Breab, Breab, Breab* was one that the Acair staff member was especially enthusiastic about and eagerly pressed into our bags. It has taken me a year to finish – not to imply that I wasn't reading anything else all year – but still, these 22 short stories are challenging. Each story required multiple trips to the dictionary (both Colin Mark's and Dwelly's) with multiple dictionary trips per paragraph in some but not all cases. Urchardan is not trying to wring the dictionary dry, he is just using ordinary adult-level Gàidhlig, but that requires a lot of vocabulary that I still don't have.

The stories are worth it. Some are light-hearted and even comical, some are tragic but even the comic ones have something serious to say. Urchardan spent over a decade as a minister and clearly has drawn on a background of hearing and counseling people with difficult or strange stories. Many of the stories are told from the viewpoints of various counselors or medical professionals. At an average of seven pages each there is not a huge amount of plot although several have surprise endings. The title story centers around the death of a pet dog, but the core of it is not so much death or grief but the question of how or even whether to hold a funeral service for a dog. *Deàrrsadh san Deàrrsaich* is an eerie, tragic story about the second sight. The stories *Guthan* and *An t-Àite Uaigneach* describe the journeys of highly rationalistic people into a mysterious world of things that cannot be explained away. My personal favorite was *Mo Chinneadh?* which describes the un-eerie but strange journey of a young man trying to get a sense of identity from his genealogical research. I thought it was hilarious but still there is a serious point underneath. *Èist Thusa Riumsa!* follows the surprising clash of a retired woman doctor who has a long-standing grudge against the Free Church and a young minister. One of the simplest, shortest, funniest stories describes the long feud of identical twin brothers in *Leth-aonan Co-ionnan?* Other stories describe the hazards of jumping to conclusions or making hurtful statements but there is usually a possibility of redemption.

Learners could best group together to tackle these stories, perhaps with someone looking up vocabulary ahead of time. Each story is short enough to read in one sitting as long as the group does not get bogged down in dictionary searches.

Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Do you know what familiar Gaelic proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 18 to see if you're right.



Clava Cairns, by Shilmar,
CCO Creative Commons, www.Pixabay.com.

Air an taobh siar na h-Èireann, gheibhear na h-eileanan Àrann – Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, agus Inis Oír, eileanan far a bheil Gàidhlig Èireannach (GE) air a bruidhinn gu dùthchasach fhathast. Chaidh Liam Ó Caiside gu h-Inis Meáin (“Innis Meadhain”) anns an Lùnastal airson a charaidean a tha a’ fuireach an siud fhaicinn agus a chuid GE a leasachadh. Seo feadhainn de na dealbhan agus ìomhaighean a thug e dhachaigh às dèidh cealla-deug anns an eilean thar na tuinne.

Liam Ó Caiside, ACGA Board member and former long-time editor of *An Naidheachd Againne*, traveled last August to Ireland’s Aran Islands to visit friends and brush up on his Irish (Gaelic) skills. Here are some photos from his time spent in Inis Meáin / Innis Meadhain / Inishmaan.

Trasna na dTonnta / Thar na Tuinne le Liam Ó Caiside



Fàilte dhan Eilean – ach na draibh (neo “ag tiomáint”) ro luath! ’S e 50 kmh an crìoch-astair (uasteorainn) air gach rathad (bothar) anns an eilean. Chan eil ach mu 160 duine a’ fuireach ann an Inis Meáin fad na bliadhna, ged a tha fada nas motha ann as t-samhradh, nuair a thig cuairtearan às gach ceàrn den t-saoghal a thadhal air.

Welcome to the Island – Although Inishmaan has only about 160 year-round inhabitants, the population explodes in the summer as visitors arrive from all over the world.

Féile na mBád – Thàinig húicéirí (“hookers” sa Bheurla, soitheachan seòlaidh ionadail à Conamara) dhan eilean airson “Féile” agus “Rásaí na mBád.” B’ iad na bàtaichean àlainn agus inntinneach – bàtaichean adhmaid le aodach canabhais deirge. Ghabh trì bàtaichean pàirt anns an rèis am-bliadhna: An Tonaí, Norah, agus an American Mór.

Festival of the Boats – Here, the Tonaí, one of three “hookers,” as these red-sailed boats are known locally, takes part in a race last summer.





Teach Ósta Inis Meáin – Gu dè an t-àite as cudromaiche air eilean beag fada a-mach air a’ chuan? An taigh-òsta, gun teagamh! Chan eil ach an aon taigh-òsta, neo taigh-seinnse, anns an eilean. ’S e seo an t-àite anns an cruinnich na daoine – na h-Eileanaich agus na cuairtearan, sean agus òg – a h-uile latha agus oidhche.

The hotel on Inishmaan – What’s the most important place on a small island? The hotel, of course, and as the only hotel on the island, it’s here that both islanders and tourists gather day and night.

Dún Conchúir – Ge b’ e a bh’ ann ann an Conchúir (Conchubhar anns an t-seann litreachadh), ’s e seo an dùn as motha anns an eilean. Dè cho aosta ’s a tha an dùn àrsaidh seo? ’S ann aig Dia (neo na diathan) a tha fios. Dh’fhaoidte gun deach a thogail ann an nua-linn na cloiche (Neolithic), aig an aon àm ri Dùn Aonghais air Inis Mór.

Dún Conchúir / Conor’s Fort – Possibly built as long ago as the late Neolithic Age, this is the largest such prehistoric structure on the island.



Daoine ag iomain na bà – ’S e tuathanaich a th’ anns a’ mhòr-chuid de na daoine anns an eilean, ach tha diofar obraichean aca cuideachd, dìreach mar na croitearan Albannach. Tha crodh agus sprèidh aca, tha bàtaichean beaga iasgaich aca, agus tha feadhainn a’ toirt aoigheachd agus seirbhisean do luchd-turais cuideachd.

Herding cattle – Although most of the island’s inhabitants are farmers, just like crofting neighbors in Scotland, they also raise cattle, fish, and work in the tourist industry.

Ceòl agus craic – Tha traidisean ciùil làidir aig na h-Eileanaich agus aig na cuairtearan a thig dhan eilean a h-uile bliadhna. Gu h-àraidh, cluinnear ceòl agus òrain san t-seann-nòs anns an taigh-òsta. Tha ceòladairean a’ tighinn bho gach ceàrn de dh’Èirinn gu Inis Meáin. Seo Cathal Ryan, à Baile Atha Cliath, a’ seinn air an fhidhil.

Music and conversation – Cathal Ryan from Dublin plays the fiddle in the hotel. Inishmaan, where most residents still speak Irish, maintains a strong musical tradition.



Na Manaich agus na Naoimh – Thàinig manaich agus aonarain gu na h-eileanan Àrann cho luath ’s a thàinig Criostachd a dh’Èirinn, a rèir coltais. Fad air ais, chaidh “Teampall na Seacht Mac Rí” a thogail an Inis Meáin. Chan eil ann an-diugh ach tobhta. Gheibhear “Leaba Chinndeirge” – nighean Rìgh Laighean – ra thaobh.

The Monks and the Saints – Monks and hermits came to the Aran Islands with Christianity. Beside the ruins of The Church of the King’s Seven Sons lies Leaba Chinndeirge, the grave of an obscure female saint.



A’ Tighinn Fo M’ Aire

Cùm ort leis a’ Ghàidhlig *le Hilary NicPhàidein*

Mar neach-ionnsachaidh tha mi airson mo chuid Gàidhlig a leasachadh. Tha fios agam gum feum mi gach uile cothrom a ghabhail gus Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn, a leughadh is a sgrìobhadh agus gus èisteachd rithe. Tha e furasta a bhith a’ dèanamh nan aon rudan thar nam bliadhnaichean agus chuir mi romham gun robh feum agam air feuchainn air dòighean eile gus a bhith nas comasaiche. Bha fios agam gum bu chòir dhomh ionnsachadh mu dhàin, òrain is naidheachdan Gàidhealach oir gur e pàirt cho cudromach a th’ annta anns a’ chultar. Bha mi glè thogarrach a bhith nas eòlaiche air a’ chànan. Mar sin chuir mi romham gun toirinn dùbhlán dhomh fhìn agus gun gabhainn ceum taobh a-muigh mo “chomfort zone” mar a chanas iad.

B’ e mo chiad cheum a dhol gu mòdan ACGA. Chaidh mi gu Mòd nan Lochan Mòra ann an Akron, Ohio ann an 2016. Aig a’ mhòd sin cha do rinn mi càil seach farpais aithris dàin. An ath-bhliadhna dh’aithris mi dàn, dh’innis mi sgeulachd agus rinn mi leughadh aig a chiad sealladh no leughadh ruisg. Am-bliadhna chuir mi gabhail òran ris an liosta agam agus ged a bha mi nearbhach rinn mi a’ chùis. San t-Sultain chaidh mi gu Mòd Ligonier ann am Pennsylvania. An turas seo bha mi an sàs anns na h-aon fharpaisean agus dh’ionnsaich mi òran ùr airson na farpaise fosgailte.

Ma tha thu airson do chuid Gàidhlig a leasachadh, mholainn dhut a dhol gu mòd. Ma dh'fhaoidte nach eil thu airson òran a ghabhail no sgeulachd aithris ach thig ann gus a bhith nad phàirt de choimhearsnachd. Tha an tachartas spòrsail agus tha na daoine càirdeil. Ma bhios tu a' feuchainn aig mòdan bheir am briteamh faclan feumail is brosnachail dhut. Thigibh ann airson dualchas Gàidhealach fhaicinn is a chluinntinn agus tha mi cinnteach gun till thu an ath thuras.

Beag-fhaclair / Glossary:

leasaich, leasachadh *v*: improve
comasach *adj*: capable, competent
farpais *nf*: competition
farpais fhosgailte, open competition
dualchas *nm*: tradition



Litir à Dùn Èideann

by Jeff W. Justice

A Chàirdean,

The health of a language depends on a lot of factors, and I have made a theme over this series of Litreachan à Dùn Èideann of tying the viability of a language to the existence of a living daily language community. In the case of Gaelic, that means using it in the supermarket or the pub, using it in a front-yard conversation with the neighbor on the other side of the hedge. One way to gauge what kind of community exists is through use of a language in the community's institutions.

Recently, the Scottish Parliament debated a motion congratulating BBC Alba¹ on the 10th anniversary of its first broadcast. Several members who spoke to it used Gaelic for at least a portion of their speeches, but most simply used it to introduce their remarks and then continued for the duration in English. Beyond this example, members very seldom use Gaelic in any plenary debate. The Parliament does have extensive bilingual signage throughout the building, and a casual viewer might be left with the impression that one would hear as much Gaelic as English whilst in the building. It also has an active Cross-Party Group on Gaelic, consisting of MSPs along with some non-governmental institutions and members of the general public who are interested in its use. The meetings where I was present usually were well-attended, and many of those addressing the Cross-Party Group on Gaelic did so entirely in Gaelic (with simultaneous translation available for non-speakers and learners).

All of this, to me, is reflective of the state of Gaelic throughout Scotland. Some might argue that democratic representative institutions are really not all that representative, but in the case of Gaelic, I do think they reflect more than represent. With this in mind, I began streaming sessions of Dáil Éireann² and Seanad Éireann³ from Ireland and the Welsh National Assembly so that I could compare and contrast the place of Gaelic with the Irish and Welsh languages. (Yes, I know, get a life.).

Irish is not exactly on the firmest of footings in Ireland, and one would think that its decline would have been arrested by the creation of the Irish Republic. It is limited primarily to the Irish Gaeltacht, much as Scottish Gaelic is largely limited to the Highlands and Islands. The Bunreacht na hÉireann⁴ enshrines Irish as the republic's first official language. All official documents must be in both languages, and Irish prevails over English if there is a conflict between the two versions. Signage throughout Leinster House, where the Houses of the Oireachtas⁵ meet, is fully bilingual. But in practice, legislation is almost always introduced in English

only and seldom translated fully into Irish. All office-holders have Irish-language titles, and those are frequently used, so one does hear Irish spoken in the Oireachtas far more often than Gaelic in the Scottish Parliament, even if that usage is (largely) limited to formal titles. In parliamentary debate – apart from Sinn Féin party TDs⁶ and senators and sometimes the Taoiseach⁷ – members of the two houses do not often speak at length in Irish.

The Welsh have successfully arrested the decline of their Celtic language, and this was due to the fact that it never ceased to have a living community where it was used as the daily language of communication. The Senedd Building in Cardiff, like the Scottish Parliament and Leinster House, has fully bilingual signage. Unlike Scotland and Ireland, one does hear Welsh being used in conversation in the corridors. Even more importantly, Assembly Members very often address the Siambr⁸ in Welsh, with simultaneous translation made available just as it is in the fully and functionally bilingual Canadian Parliament.

To be sure, Gaelic does not have “official” status in Scotland as Irish has in the Irish Republic or Welsh has in British law. Gaelic does have legal support, but Gaelic speakers would like to see that support expanded to granting the language official status. However, as the Irish case shows, having official status is no guarantee that a language will turn around and increase its viability. There is such a thing as symbolic usage as opposed to actual daily usage as part of a language community. As another example, I could point to Latin’s status as the official language of Roman Catholic liturgy for centuries after it ceased to be a daily community language. Still, official status can keep a language from becoming extinct and can even pave the way for a “rewilding” (to use a conservationist term) of a language similar to the ways that Manx and Cornish have been resurrected from death and “rewilded” in the Isle of Man and Cornwall.

Nonetheless, these three legislatures do reflect the health of the Celtic language communities represented in them. Gaelic is definitely not limited to Scotland, but it is native to it. As such, I call upon the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government to take greater steps to secure Gaelic’s place and to “rewild” it as a daily community language. I hope that you will make a similar call, both in Edinburgh and in the community where you live.

Le meas,

Jeff Justice

¹ See <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11673&i=105749#ScotParlOR>. Scroll down to the last item in the report for the debate surrounding the 10th anniversary of BBC Alba.

² Dáil Éireann – Lower House of the Irish Parliament

³ Seanad Éireann – Upper House of the Irish Parliament (Senate)

⁴ Bunreacht na hÉireann - Constitution of Ireland

⁵ Oireachtas – Irish Parliament

⁶ Teachtaí Dála – members of Dáil Éireann

⁷ Taoiseach – literally “chieftain,” the Irish Prime Minister

⁸ Siambr – National Assembly for Wales debating chamber



Soay

Hilary NicPhàidein

Answer to Photo Quiz, p. 5

As Hilary left Scotland, heading for Iceland, her plane passed over a number of the Western Isles. Here we see Skye (did you recognize the Cuillins?) and Soay.

Oisean a' Ghràmair / The Grammar Nook

by Wayne Harbert



Scary Things About Gaelic (STAG): Sentences Held Together by *gu*

The ubiquitous, essential, unruly, maddening, shape-shifting little words of Gaelic — particles, articles, pronouns, prepositions and their ilk — are the first ones learners need to know in order to cipher out how the big words in a sentence are connected, yet they are typically the last ones we fully master.

What makes them hard is in part the fact that they have so many look-alikes. In a previous column (“Na Na Na Na Na”), for example, I catalogued all of the different Gaelic wordlets pronounced /na/. In a future column, I may take on the even more numerous little words pronounced /a/. Today’s exhibit, though, is the whole family of little *gu*’s that litter Gaelic sentences.

Gu is, among other things, a preposition, meaning ‘to’. But *gu* means ‘to’ only in the specific sense of ‘motion or extension up to the edge of an object or place (like a river), a person, or a point in time’. *Bheir aon shear each gu uisge...* ‘One man can take a horse to water...’, as the proverb says. If the journey involves entering a space or crossing a boundary, another preposition, *do/a*, is used:

<i>Thèid mi dhan sgòil/bhaile.</i>	‘I’ll go (in)to school/ town.’	(dhan = do + an)
<i>Thèid mi a dh’Alba.</i>	‘I’ll go to Scotland.’	(a dh’ = do)

Since we are entering the school, the town or the country, we can’t use *gu*. (Correspondingly, there are two different words for ‘from’; *(bh)o* is the opposite of *gu*, while *à(s)* ‘from (out of)’ is the opposite of *do*). The ‘up to the boundary’ sense of *gu* can be reinforced by following it up with *ruige*; *gu ruige* = ‘up to, as far as’. In time expressions, *gu* is the equivalent of ‘to, until’, as in *gu madainn* ‘to/until morning’, *gu còig mionaidean gu ceithir* ‘until five minutes to four’. And that’s all there is to it, as far as the meaning of the preposition is concerned. Well, not quite. Dwelly, in his great dictionary, notes that many Gaels use *gu* in expressions like *gu deas* ‘to (the) south’, but then he frets that “*Gu* in these cases is not good idiom. *Gu* implies reaching a destination but you can never reach the N., S., E. or W.” Elsewhere, though, he says “*Chaidh e gu tuath*” is perfectly correct”. It’s comforting to know that even Dwelly wrestled with Gaelic grammar.

Prepositions in Gaelic are of course notorious shape-shifters. *Dhan* and *a* in the preceding examples are both variant forms of *do*, for instance. The transformations of *gu*, though, are nothing short of breathtaking. If you use *sinn* ‘us’ as the object of *gu*, it comes out as *thugainn* ‘to us’ (or even *chugainn*, in a somewhat old-fashioned variant). It’s hard to get one’s head around the fact that *thugainn*, *thugam*, *thuice* and the like are actually forms of *gu*. (Incidentally, the form *thugainn* can be used as a sort of imperative verb, meaning ‘come on!’). The other incarnations of *gu* include *gus*--when it appears in front of a noun of time with a definite article, as in *gus a’ mhadainn* ‘until the morning’, *gus an naoidheamh linn deug* ‘until the nineteenth century’. It shows up as *gun* when it appears in front of a definite article plus a noun that denotes a place, as in *gun an drochaid* ‘to the bridge’. Under these circumstances, one also finds *chun*, as in *chun na mara* ‘to the sea’. The last of these is often considered to be a separate preposition, but it originated as a regional variant of *gu*, and, unlike *gu*, it never occurs before a noun that doesn’t have a definite article. So it is perfectly reasonable to think of *gus*, *gun* and *chun* as shapes that *gu* takes when its object has a definite article.

And then there are all the other *gu*’s; for example, *gu* (and its variant, *gus*) can be used to introduce a subordinate clause or verb-noun, with the meaning ‘until, on the point of, almost’:

<i>gus am faic sinn e</i>	‘until we see him’
<i>Tha mi gus mo chiall a chall.</i>	‘I am about to lose my mind.’
<i>Cha b’ fhada gus an do thill iad.</i>	‘It wasn’t long until they returned.’
<i>Bha i gu fannachadh.</i>	‘She almost fainted.’
<i>Tha mi gu bhith deiseil.</i>	‘I’m almost ready.’

I can see no reason not to view these as forms of the same old preposition, doing double duty as a clause-introducing element, and extending its basic meaning of “up to the point of”. In their clause-introducing role, though, both *gu* and *gus* can also express a different meaning – that of purpose or intent:

Chrom e gu pìos pàipear a thogail. ‘He bent over to pick up a piece of paper.’
gus airgead fhaighinn ‘in order to get money’

And there are yet other *gu*’s, from the same ancestral root word, that have drifted still further afield, so that the original connection is yet harder to recognize--for example, *gu* can be used to turn almost any adjective into an adverb (one of the rare cases where Gaelic grammar makes something easy). *Luath*, for example, means ‘quick’, and *gu luath* is ‘quickly’. *Math* is ‘good’ and *gu math* is ‘well’. A few words have crept into this pattern which aren’t, strictly, adjectives, as in *gu dearbh* ‘indeed, certainly’, *gu leòr* ‘enough’, *gu leth* ‘and a half’, *gu lèir* ‘all, altogether’, and *gu feum* ‘of use’.

And finally, rounding out this family is the conjunction *gu*, which introduces subordinate clauses after verbs of saying and mental process, making possible a vast number of complex sentences.

Tha mi a’ smaointinn gu bheil e sgìth. ‘I think that he is tired.’
Thuir e gu(n) robh e ceàrr. ‘He said that he was wrong’

This clause-introducing *gu*, which we usually translate as ‘that’, is subject to its own shape-shifting, showing up variously as *gun*, *gum*, *gur*, and *guma* in different contexts. Let’s save that part of the story for another time.



Dr. Michael Newton Awarded Duais Ghàidhlig na h-Alba

Gaelic scholar, author, and activist Dr. Michael Newton was presented *in absentia* with the International Award for contributions to Scottish Gaelic at the 2018 Duaisean Gàidhlig na h-Alba gala in Glasgow on November 14, 2018. Àdhamh Ó Broin and Liam Alastair Crouse accepted on Dr. Newton’s behalf.

Duaisean Gàidhlig na h-Alba / the Scottish Gaelic Awards were established six years ago by the *Daily Record* newspaper and Bòrd na Gàidhlig to highlight accomplishments in the fields of Scottish Gaelic culture, language, and education. Past award winners for international contributions to the promotion and preservation of Scottish Gaelic outside of Scotland include Àdhamh Ó Broin, Ceòlas, and Michael Bauer.

A long-time member of ACGA, Newton is the co-founder of Urras Gàidhlig nan Stàitean Aonaichte / Scottish Gaelic Foundation of the USA, which recently successfully funded a one-year Visiting Lectureship in Scottish Gaelic Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His research has focused on Scottish Gaelic immigrant communities in North America and the songs, poetry and prose that they composed after arriving in the New World. He is also the author of several books about and in Scottish Gaelic, including *We’re Indians Sure Enough: The Legacy of the Scottish Highlanders in the United States* (2001), *Warriors of the Word: The World of the Scottish Highlanders* (2009), *The Naughty Little Book of Gaelic* (2014), and *Seanchaidh na Coille / The Memory-Keeper of the Forest: Anthology of Scottish-Gaelic Literature of Canada* (2015), and has edited several more titles.

Meal do naidheachd, a Mhìcheil!

For a list of all Duaisean Gàidhlig na h-Alba award winners see:
<http://www.scottishgaelicawards.co.uk/2018-winners.html>

For more information about Urras Gàidhlig nan Stàitean Aonaichte see:
<https://gaelicusa.org>



Michael Newton shares Gaelic stories at the North Carolina Folk Festival.
Stephanie Johnston

In this issue we've collected some of the many Gaelic cooking terms that we've used over the years in our bilingual recipe column. Is there a word used in food preparation for which you'd like to know the Gaelic term? Why not send us a note, and we'll do our best to find out what it is.

Briathrachas Còcaireachd Gàidhlig / Gaelic Cooking Terms



Caleb Wilson

Gritheidean

cupa siùcair *
spàin-bhùird ime *
spàin-tì salainn *
taois

Ingredients

a cup of sugar
a tablespoon of butter
a teaspoon of salt
dough

Stiùridhean

bruich
buail
crath
cuir am bogadh
cuir ris
cuir mun cuairt
cuir mun cuairt gu socair
fuaarach
fuin
geàrr
leagh
maistrich
measgaich ri chèile
praidhig / fraighig
pronn gu mìn
ro-theasaich
rùisg
sgaoil
sgedaich
sgudaich
siolaidh
slisich
spleuchd le roilear
taoisinn / fuin
thoir gu goil
tum

Directions

bake; broil; cook; boil
beat
sprinkle
soak; steep
add
stir
fold
cool
bake
cut
melt; dissolve; defrost
mash; mix together
mix together
fry
purée
pre-heat
peel
spread
garnish; decorate
chop
filter; strain
slice
roll with a rolling pin
knead
bring to a boil
dip

Innealan

àmhainn
bobhla
clàr-fuine ; tionna-fuine
crann-fuine
inneal-cuthagaidh
inneal-measgachaidh
pàipear-fuine
praidheapan
sgeileid
sguabag
spaideal

Implements

oven
bowl
baking sheet; baking tin
rolling pin
blender
electric mixer
parchment paper
frying pan
saucepan
a whisk
spatula

* A noun after a unit of measurement is in the genitive case.



Do you have a favorite recipe that you'd like to share with other ACGA members? Submit it in a bilingual format to one of our editors and we'll publish it in a future issue of *An Naidheachd Againne*. Na gabhaibh dragh – we'll pass the Gaelic by a native speaker to be sure your recipe is delicious in both languages!

Meek Lines

In this issue of An Naidheachd Againne we are introducing a new column, Meek Lines. We've taken the name from the Facebook page of Professor Donald Meek, academic, editor, writer, and poet. Professor Meek, who uses Meek Lines to share his poetry, explains that he uses Facebook "in the same way our ancestors used the 'oral airwaves' of their own day. Songs were sung and recited far beyond the composer's original locality." And as Meek reminds us, "Poems and songs are for sharing, and that is what gives them life."

In coming issues we will ask friends to choose one of Professor Meek's poems and tell us why they have chosen it. In this issue Kathleen Reddy, from Halifax, Nova Scotia, tells us what "Tobar an Dualchais" means to her.



Sgrìobh Kathleen thugainn: Bidh an dàn seo a' toirt orm smaointinn air an obair anns a bheil mi fhìn an sàs: a' rannsachadh dualchas nan Gàidheal. Tuigidh mi na tha am bàrd ag radh: cha tigeadh eòlas air dualchas às aonais shaothair gus fìor thuigse air a' chànan is air an t-sluagh fhaighinn. Ach 's fhiach an oidhirp, air sàilleabh 's gu bheil dualchas nan Gàidheal na "ulaidh buadh-mhor" agus tha beartas ann do neach a thig gu tobar an dualchais le deòin an obair seo a dhèanamh.

Kathleen says that this poem reminds her of the work she herself is doing at the University of Glasgow: researching Gaelic traditions. She agrees with the poet that this work is not easy, but if you come to tobar an dualchais / the well of heritage with a willingness to understand the language and the people, your reward will be ulaidh buadh-mhor / a powerful treasure.

Tobar an Dualchais

le Dòmhnall E. Meek

Thilg mi mo bhucaid do Thobar an Dualchais,
Is mise an dòchas gum faighinn rud luachmhor,
Ach nuair thog mi an cumann gu sgiobalt' an uachdar,
Cha robh boinne sa bhucaid, ach pìosan de bhucachair.

Thilg mi 'n ath bhucaid do Thobar an Dualchais,
Is mise nis cinnteach gum faighinn e 'n uair seo,
Ach nuair rinn mi a slaodadh gu h-aotrom an uachdar,
Cha robh innte ach gainmheach is salachar suarach.

Is chàin mi an tobar le osnaichean uamhais:
'Chan eil thusa ag obair mar thubhairt iad riumsa;
Bu chòir dhutsa bhith tabhairt gach nì a tha luachmhor
Ann an tionndadh na boise, mar dh'iarras an sluagh ort.'

Ach thàinig mo sheanair 's chuir e cagar nam chluais-sa,
'Chan ann ag iasgach a tha thu – tuig sin, a thruaghain;
Faigh eòlas air nàdar is cleachdadh an t-sluaigh seo,
Is bheir an tobar an uair sin dhut ulaidhean buadh-mhor.

'Tha an t-uisge sin dhaibhsan tha tuigsinn nach suarach
Na boinneachan priseil tha ga lìonadh le stuaghan;
Mas tilg thu a' bhucaid, seall le faiceall mun cuairt ort,
Is ionnsaich a' chànan tha an tobar a' cnuasachd.'

Thug mi feairt air a' bhodach, ged bu bhochd leam na chualas,
Is ghabh mi mo shàth de gach gnàths bha mun cuairt orm,
'S nuair a thilg mi mo bhucaid don tobar an uair seo,
Cha ghlaidheadh mo cheann-s' an t-òr thàinig an uachdar.

~ Meek Lines, May 22, 2017

Criomagan / Bits of This and That

New Director for Comhairle nan Leabhraichean

Alison Lang, Gaelic writer and editor, has been named Director of Comhairle nan Leabhraichean. She will take over from Rosemary Ward, who has held the position for the last eight years, in January 2019.

Criomagan on Criomagan

How many books do you read in a year? To celebrate Comhairle nan Leabhraichean / The Gaelic Book Council's 50th anniversary, newly named director of CnL Alison Lang decided to read 50 books and post short video reviews of them in a series called Criomagan. Here's Alison naming the books on her list and showing you their covers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISENRuFoC7k&t=8s>

You can watch Alison's reviews on YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLccf5vulgec3d16lVOKbQ91o_zVvViUYP

Literary Awards

The **Donald Meek Awards** were established in 2014 to honor Professor Donald Meek and his long career as an academic, editor, writer, and poet. Meek's most recent book, *Sreathan anns a' Ghainmhich: Bàrdachd, Duanagan is Òrain*, was published by Acair in 2017.

First Place: *Còig Duilleagan na Seamraig* le Ruairidh MacIlleathain (CLÀR, 2019)

Second Place: *Adhbhar ar Sòlais* le Marion Nic'IlleMhoire (Clò a' Bhradain, 2018)

Third Place: *Constabal Murdo* le Aonghas Pàdraig Caimbeul (Luath Press, 2018)

Two New Gaelic Writing Awards

The **Derick Thomson Award** for poetry and songs on the theme of Crichean Ùra / New Borders.

Ruaraidh MacThòmais / Derick Thomson, who, along with Finlay J. MacDonald, established the periodical *Gairm* in 1951 with the aim of encouraging Gaelic writing, is considered by many to have been the most important Gaelic poet of the second half of the twentieth century. Thomson died in 2012. The winner of the 2018 Derick Thomson Award is Rona MacDonald for her poem "Ochd Ceud 's Ochd air Fhichead Uinneag."

The **Chrisella Ross Memorial Prize** for stories on any subject for children ages 7 through 10.

Chrisella Ross, who died in 2017, was involved in the Gaelic literary world for many years as a storyteller, writer, and translator of children's books. The winner of the 2018 Chrisella Ross Memorial Prize is Mòrag Ann MacNeill for her book *Artair sa Chaisteal*.

A Website to Watch

**Guthan nan Eilean / Island Voices:
Slices of Life and Work in the 21st Century Hebrides
– for language learners, and anyone else!**



Their title says it all. Click on links across the top of the page to access dozens and dozens of videos on a wide range of topics, some in Gaelic, some in English, and some bilingual. Follow Guthan nan Eilean on Facebook or Twitter, or read their regular blog posts. What a busy crew!

<https://guthan.wordpress.com>

Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

Am Faoillteach 2019 / January 2019

Celtic Connections, Glasgow, Scotland, January 17–February 3, 2019

Celtic Connections features concerts, ceilidhs, talks, free events, late night sessions and workshops focusing on the roots of traditional Scottish music. <https://www.celticconnections.com/events/Pages/default.aspx>

Slighe nan Gàidheal, Language Enrichment Day, Lake City Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA, January 5, 2019

Small mixed-levels group learning experience interlaced with fun immersion activities to encourage speaking Gaelic. To register: <https://www.slighe.org/events/2019/1/5/language-enrichment-day-led-1>

An Gearran 2019 / February 2019

Slighe nan Gàidheal, Gaelic Intensive Day, Lake City Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA, February 2, 2019

Slighe nan Gàidheal offers three levels of progressive instruction, plus a Ceum Suas group for ongoing and advanced learners, with immersion activities throughout the levels. For more information or to register see: <https://www.slighe.org/events/2019/2/2/gaelic-intensive-day-gid-4>

Am Màrt 2019 / March 2019

Slighe nan Gàidheal, Gaelic Intensive Day, Lake City Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA, March 2, 2019

Slighe nan Gàidheal offers three levels of progressive instruction, plus a Ceum Suas group for ongoing and advanced learners, with immersion activities throughout the levels. For more information or to register see: <https://www.slighe.org/events/2019/3/2/gaelic-intensive-day-gid-5>

An Giblean 2019 / April 2019

Slighe nan Gàidheal, Gaelic Intensive Day, Lake City Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA, April 6, 2019

Slighe nan Gàidheal offers three levels of progressive instruction, plus a Ceum Suas group for ongoing and advanced learners, with immersion activities throughout the levels. For more information or to register see: <https://www.slighe.org/events/2019/4/6/gaelic-intensive-day-gid-6>

Easter Break Gaelic courses, Sabhal Mòr Ostad, Isle of Skye, April 1–12, 2019

The Gaelic college on Skye offers a number of one-week courses in Gaelic language, instrumental music and song over the Easter break. For a list of courses and pre-requisites, see: <http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/caisg-2019/>

An Cèitean 2019 / May 2019

Slighe nan Gàidheal, Language Enrichment Day, Lake City Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA, May 4, 2019

Small mixed-levels group learning experience interlaced with fun immersion activities to encourage speaking Gaelic. To register: <https://www.slighe.org/events/2019/5/4/language-enrichment-day-led-2>

An t-Òg-mhios 2019 / June 2019

Mòd nan Lochan Mòra / The Great Lakes Mòd, Akron, OH, June 7–9, 2019

Gaelic singer Rachel Walker will adjudicate a weekend of competitions that will include storytelling, poetry recitation, sightreading, and of course, singing. For more information contact Anne Alexander at tinwhistle_aa@yahoo.com.

An t-Iuchar 2019 / July 2019

Summer Gaelic courses, Sabhal Mòr Ostad, Isle of Skye, July 1–29, 2019

The Gaelic college on Skye offers a number of one-week courses in Gaelic language, instrumental music and song over the summer. For a list of courses and pre-requisites, see: <http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/cursaichean-samhraidh-2019/>

**Beinn Seanair / Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, Banner Elk, NC,
July 7–12, 2019**

Come and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Beinn Seanair. Further information will be available in early 2019.

An Lùnasdal 2019 / August 2019

Summer Gaelic courses, Sabhal Mòr Ostag, Isle of Skye, August 5–23, 2019

The Gaelic college on Skye offers a number of one-week courses in Gaelic language, instrumental music and song over the summer. For a list of courses and pre-requisites, see:

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/cursaichean-samhraidh-2019/>

Fèis Seattle, Evergreen State College, Northwest Olympia, WA, August 13–18, 2019

Fèis Seattle moves to a new date and location for 2019. Confirmed participants to date include Kathleen MacInnes, Rona Lightfoot, Ewen Henderson and Catriona Parsons. Registration opening soon.

<https://www.slighe.org>

Is your Gaelic class or study group planning an event, or are you aware of an event with substantial Scottish Gaelic content that you'd like your fellow ACGA members to know about? You can make submissions to 'Dè Tha Dol?' by sending the following information to naidheachd@acgamerica.org

- Name of event
- Date
- City
- Address of venue
- A short description, or web link and / or contact person's email address

Please keep in mind the following deadlines:

- Spring – February 15 (published March 15)
- Summer – May 15 (published June 15)
- Fall – August 15 (published September 15)
- Winter – November 15 (published December 15)



*Clava Cairns, by Shilmar.
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Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 6

Nithear càrn mòr de chlachan beaga.
A large cairn is made from small stones.
(Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.)

Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

Arizona

Tucson

Classes

Muriel Fisher <http://www.murielofskye.com>

California

Sacramento Area

Classes

Donnie MacDonald minchmusic@comcast.com

Colorado

Boulder

Study Group

Sue Hendrix susan.hendrix@colorado.edu
<http://moosenoodle.com/language/boulder/>

Denver

Conversation Group

Monthly at Stella's Coffee Shop

Reese McKay reese.mckay25@gmail.com

San Luis Valley

Daily Gaelic

Skype-based online private lessons and classes,
and email courses

<http://www.gaidhliggachlatha.com>

Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/DailyGaelic/>

Illinois

Springfield

Study Group

Bill McClain

217-854-7918

<https://tinyurl.com/SpringfieldILLGaelic>

Maryland

Baltimore

Study Group

<https://tinyurl.com/BaltimoreGaelic>

Rick Gwynallen Rgwynallen@yahoo.com

301-928-9026

New York

New York

Classes

New York Caledonian Club

Contact Barbara L. Rice, Chair, Scottish Studies

Barbara.Rice@nycaledonian.org

<https://nycaledonian.org/scottish-studies/>

North Carolina

Triangle / Raleigh area

Study Group

An Phillips fiongeal@gmail.com

Virginia

Catlett

Local in-person and via Skype

Michael Mackay mackay@progeny.net

Northern Virginia-Washington, DC-Maryland

Gàidhlig Photomac

Gaelic Learning Community

Regular workshops and social events

Join us on www.Meetup.com

Contact Liam willbcassidy@gmail.com

Washington

Seattle

Classes & Study Groups

Slighe nan Gàidheal

<http://www.slighe.com>

Canada

British Columbia

Vancouver

Classes

Comunn Gàidhlig Bhancoubhair

Email Vancouvergaelic@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/GaelicVancouver/>

Ontario

Toronto

Classes

Comann Luchd-Ionnsachaidh Thoronto

Gaelic classes & private tutoring

<http://www.torontogaelic.ca>

Québec

Montréal

Study Group & Celtic choir

Linda Morrison linda@lindamorrison.com

FOR MORE information about these resources and for information on long-distance courses, short courses, and private instruction, see our web page at <http://www.acgamerica.org/learn/classes>

For additions and corrections, contact Janice Chan, seonaganna@gmail.com

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ACGA Online Faces

Like most organizations in the modern world, ACGA has several online faces, including:

- www.acgamerica.org, our main website, containing a blog for announcements, tips, articles, etc.; an archive of newsletters; detailed information about our major events; information about ACGA and how to join; learning resources; and more.
- <http://forum.acgamerica.org/>, our collection of conversational forums.
- <https://www.facebook.com/ACGAGaelic>, our Facebook page.
- www.youtube.com/user/ACGAmerica, our YouTube channel with video content.
- <https://twitter.com/ACGAGaelic>, our Twitter account, used for ACGA announcements.
- <http://usmod.wordpress.com/>, the ACGA Mòd website, containing information about past, present, and future Mòds.
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1463155417230179/>, a special Facebook page for our Gaelic Song and Language Week at Grandfather Mountain.

An Naidheachd Againne

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An Naidheachd Againne welcomes submissions. Contact the editors for more information.