

An Naidheachd Againne

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

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As t-samhradh 2013 sgrìobh Rhoda Meek thugainn mu dheidhinn a beatha ùir air a' chroit-theaghlaich air Tiriodh, Coll View (Leabhar XXIX Àireamh 2). Bha sinn a' smaoinichadh oirre agus air ciamar a tha a' dol dhi. Tha e air a bhith na obair mhòr, ach tha sinn toilichte a ràdh gu bheil Rhoda an sàs ann an iomairt ùr agus tha na càraidhean air an t-seann taigh-croite a' dol gu math.

In the summer of 2013 Rhoda Meek wrote to us about her new life on the family croft on Tìree, Coll View (Volume XXIX, No. 2). We were thinking of her, and wondering how she was getting on. It has been a lot of work for her, but we are happy to report that Rhoda is involved in a new enterprise and that the renovations to the old croft house are well underway.

A' fàs ann an Tiriodh

le Rhoda Meek

Dà bhliadhna air ais, sgrìobh mi san iris seo mu dheidhinn mar a thill mi a Thiriodh gus beatha ùr a chruthachadh, agus an taigh 's a' chroit a leasachadh.

Abair dà bhliadhna thrang a th' air a bhith ann!

Bha obair a dhìth air an taigh fhèin. Cha deach fuireach ann airson còrr is còig thar fhichead bliadhna mus do nochd mi, agus ged a chaidh a pheantadh a-muigh tro na bliadhnaichean, cha deach mòran eile a dhèanamh air.



Rhoda and Jane at work

Rhoda Meek

Growing in Tìree

by Rhoda Meek

Two years ago, I wrote in this magazine about how I returned to Tìree to create a new life, and to improve the house and croft.

What a busy two years it has been!

There was a lot of work to do on the house itself. It had not been lived in for more than twenty-five years before I arrived, and despite it being painted externally through the years, not much else was done.

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Na bhroinn, bha na ballachan fliuch, bha an t-ùrlar gus tuiteam, agus cha robh e comasach dhuinn na h-uinneagan fhosgladh.

Thòisich mi ag obair le òrd agus gèimhleag gus na h-uinneagan fhosgladh. Deich dhiubh. Cho luath 's a bha sin dèanta, dh'fhosgail mi iad, agus chùm mi fosgailte iad fad an t-samhraidh.

Sna seann làithean, bha còig teintean san taigh. Nuair a thòisich mi, cha robh ach aon similear fosgailte. Bha e cudromach gum faighinn air an taigh a thiorrachadh; mar sin, dh'fhosgail mi na teintean cuideachd. Air chùl teintean nan seasgadan, lorg mi seann teintean an taighe. Air an togail le clachan mòra, tha iad eireachdail, nam bheachd-sa. Nuair a bhios an taigh deiseil, bidh trì stòbhaichean ann. Thèid an dàrna leth den taigh a thairgse air mhàl do luchd-turais, agus fuirichidh mi fhèin anns an leth eile.



Rhoda Meek

Bidh greis ann mus bi e deiseil, ged tha! Aig àm sgrìobhadh a' chuilbh seo, tha ùrlar ùr saimeant ann, agus chaidh còrr is leth de na h-uinneagan a leasachadh le feadhainn ùra spaideil nan àite.



Thug mi seann phleastar far nam ballachan a-muigh. Pheant mi an taigh. Thug mi a h-uile sgath a-mach às an taigh. Chan eil air fhàgail air a' chiad ire ach a' chlach.

An ath mhìos tha mi an dòchas gun tòisich obair air na ballachan am broinn an taighe. Tha fiughar orm an taigh "ùr" fhaicinn!

A bharrachd air obair an taighe, bha mi cuideachd trang a-muigh.

Bha ùidh agam riamh ann am fàs lusan, no gàirnealaireachd, mar a th' aca air. 'S e sàr neach-gàirnealaireachd a bha nam sheanair, agus aig Coll View, tha gàrradh mòr, air a chuartachadh le ballachan cloiche. Air sgàth nam ballachan, tha an gàrradh air a dhìon bhon ghaoth. Mar sin tha e nas fhasa rudan fhàs. Nas fhasa, ach chan eil e furasta, mar a tha mi air ionnsachadh!

'Sa chiad bhliadhna, chuir mi buntàta 's currain, agus dh'fheuch mi iomadh rud eile. Cha deach leam leis a' mhòr chuid, ach rinn am buntàta 's na currain gu math.

Inside, the walls were wet, the floors were falling through and it wasn't possible for us to open the windows.

I started working with a hammer and crowbar to open the windows. Ten of them. As soon as that was done, I opened them and I left them open all summer.

In the old days, there were five fireplaces in the house. When I started, only one chimney was open. It was important that I got the house dried out so I opened up the fireplaces too.



Behind the sixties fireplaces, I found the old fireplaces. They were stone, and in my opinion, beautiful. When the house is finished, there will be three stoves. Half the house will be available to rent to tourists, and I will live in the other half.

It will be a while before it is finished, though! At the time of writing, there is a new cement floor down, and half the windows have been replaced with fancy new ones.

I took the old render off the exterior walls. I painted the house. I removed almost everything from inside the house too. There is nothing left on the ground floor except stone.

Next month, I hope work will start on the walls inside the house. I can't wait to see the "new" house.

In addition to working on the house, I was also busy outside.

I have always been interested in growing plants, and gardening. My grandfather was a great gardener and at Coll View there is a big garden, surrounded by high stone walls. Because of the walls, the garden is sheltered from the worst of the wind. It's easier to grow things that way. Easier, but not easy, as I have learnt!

The first year, I planted potatoes and carrots. I tried many other things. I didn't succeed with the majority, but the potatoes and carrots did well.

Tron chiad gheamhradh, thuit na bha air fhàgail den t-seann taigh-ghlainne. Cha robh mòran ann dheth co-dhiù. Chuir mi romham a thogail a-rithist. Sin a rinn mi. Chuir mi iomadh seòrsa sìol an dàrna bliadhna, agus chaidh dhomh nas fheàrr. Bha e follaiseach na rudan a bha ag obrachadh, agus na rudan nach robh. Aig deireadh an dàrna samhraidh, bha uiread air fàs 's nach robh e comasach dhomh ithe. Mar sin, reic mi bogsaichean glasraich do dhaoine san eilean. Cha do choisinn mi mòran às, ach choisinn mi gu leòr gus sìol a cheannach airson an ath-bhliadhna. Aig an aon àm 's a bha mi a' reic glasraich airson a' chiad uair, ghluais an còcaire Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall do Thiriodh – chan eil e ach mionaid shìos an rathad bhuam. Às a sin, thàinig smuain... 'S dòcha gum biodh e comasach dhomh glasraich fhàs agus a reic mar ghnìomhachas beag. Nan robh còcaire ainmeil gu bhith shìos an rathad bho àm gu àm, bhiodh neach-ceannaich agam faisg orm.

Chuir mi seachad mo dhàrna gheamhradh a' dèanamh plana. Agus, an co-bhonn ri mo nàbaidh, Jane, chuir sinn air chois "Fresh off the Croft". 'S e gàrradh margaidh beag a th' ann. A bharrachd air a' ghàrradh, tha an treas cuid de dh'acair againn cuideachd air mo chroit fhèin. Thog sinn *polytunnel*, agus am bliadhna tha sinn air a bhith reic bho thoiseach a' Chèitein. Abair gu bheil tòrr obrach na lùib, an cois obair làn-ùine agus leasachaidhean an taighe, ach tha e a' còrdadh rium gu mòr. Tha an obair a-muigh gam chumail fit fallain, agus leis an uiread de chladhach a rinn mi am bliadhna, tha mi air dà chlach gu leth de chudrom a chall!

Tha sinn an dòchas *polytunnel* ùr fhaighinn ron earrach, agus tha sinn beò an dòchas gum bi samhradh nas fheàrr againn an ath-bhliadhna na bha againn am bliadhna. Ma bhios, tha sinn airson a dhà uiread a reic. Thigibh a chèilidh ma bhios sibh ann an Tiriodh! Bhithinn glè thoilichte ur faicinn.

www.freshoffthecroft.com
<http://wodieskodie.com>



Rhoda Meek

During the first winter, what was left of the old greenhouse fell down. There wasn't much left of it anyway. I decided to build it again. And I did. I sowed many types of seed in the second year, and got on better. It was clear what worked and what didn't. At the end of the second year, so much had grown that I couldn't use it all. Instead, I sold veg boxes to people on the island. I didn't earn much, but I did earn enough to pay for the next year's seed. At the same time as I was selling veg for the first time, the chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall moved to Tiree. He is literally minutes down the road from me. An idea started to form... Maybe I could grow veg and sell it as a small business. If there was a famous chef down the road, I would have a captive market nearby.

I spent the second winter making a plan. And, in partnership with my neighbour, Jane, we started "Fresh off the Croft". It's a little market garden. In addition to the garden, we also use a third of an acre on my own croft. We built a polytunnel and this year we have been trading since the beginning of May. There is a lot of work involved in it, alongside working full time and doing home improvements, but I am thoroughly enjoying myself. The work outside is keeping me fit and healthy and with the amount of digging I have done this year, I have lost two and half stone in weight!

We hope to put up another tunnel before spring, and we are living in hope that there will be a better summer next year than we had this year. If we do, we aim to sell twice as much! Come visit if you are ever in Tiree. I would be delighted to see you.

www.freshoffthecroft.com
<http://wodieskodie.com>



Litir bho'n Cheann-Suidhe

le Micheal MacAoidh

a Chàirdean,

Tha an samhradh seachad. Ann an cuid de dh'àiteachan far a bheil buill ACGA a' fuireach, tha sin gu math soilleir - ro shoilleir agus tide fhuar a' gheamhraidh air tighinn, no a' bagairt a thighinn. Dhuibh-se, aig a bheil gràin àraidh air a' gheamhradh, chan e rud math a th' anns an fhiosrachadh sin!

Ach feumaidh mise ràdh gur e seo an t-àm dhe'n bhliadhna as fheàrr dhomh, agus tha tòrr ann mu dheidhinn an àm seo a tha math. 'S e a' phrìomh rud, gu bheil an cothrom ann tighinn còmhla airson ùine a chur seachad gus leasachadh a dhèanamh air na th' againn de chomas ann a bhith a' leughadh, a' sgrìobhadh, a' bruidhinn, agus a' seinn sa Ghàidhlig.

'S dòcha gu bheil sibh a' gabhail pàirt ann am buidhnean sgrùdaidh a' chànain. 'S dòcha gu bheil sibh a' gabhail leasan ann an seinn. Tha aon rud fìor – tha barrachd cothruim againn a bhith a-staigh, agus sid' a' gheamhraidh gar “brosnachadh” sin a dhèanamh. Gu dearbha, seo an t-àm dhe'n bhliadhna a bhiodh na Gàidheil o shean a' cruinneachadh ri chèile airson na h-oidhcheannan fada a chur seachad, ann an cèilidhean agus buidhnean luadhaidh. Tha tòrr spòrs ri fhaotainn ann an caidreachas mar sin.

Tha sinn a' beachdachadh air sin air bòrd-stiùiridh ar Comuinn, agus sinn a' feuchainn ri smaoinich air na diofar rudan a nì companas agus co-obrachadh anns a' Chomunn fhèin. Bidh sinn ag obair air a sin gu leòr fhathast, agus 's cinnteach gum bi an t-eadar-lìon na phàirt mhòr dhe'n ghnòthach. Tha sinn airson barrachd a dhèanamh airson ur cuideachadh ann a bhith a' sgrùdadh na Gàidhlig. Mar a chanas cuid, cumaibh sùil air an àite seo!

Agus dhuibh-se a tha airson taic a chur ri ACGA, ach nach eil comasach air teagasg, no làmhnan a thoirt a-steach dha na h-iomairtean ris am bi sinn, nach smaoinich sibh air taic-airgid a chur ann? Tha sinn, mar a b' àbhaist dhuinn, a' dol a chur cothrom dhuibh ur taic a shealltainn ann am “buinn airgid”, le iarratasan a gheibh sibh air an eadar-lìon agus tro'n phost. Tha fhios gu bheil sinn uile airson a' Ghàidhlig a bhrosnachadh, agus, ma tha sibh airson an dòigh sin a chleachdadh, uill, nì sinn a' chùis cho furasda 's is urrainn dhuinn dhuibh-se! Agus, tha mi cinnteach gur e an smuain, gun do chuidich sibh dileab cho luachmhor agus sònraichte, a chumas blàth sibh fad na mìosan fada a tha romhainn!

Le dùrachdan,

Micheal MacAoidh
Ceann-suidhe, ACGA



Letter from the President

by Mike Mackay

Dear friends,

Summer is over. In some places where ACGA members live, that's quite evident - too evident, with winter weather coming, or threatening to come. For those who have a special dislike of winter, this is not good news!

But I have to say that this is my favorite time of the year, and there's lots about it that is good. The primary thing is that there's a chance to come together to spend time working on improving our abilities to speak, write, read, and sing in Gaelic.

Maybe you're taking part in a language study group. Maybe you're taking singing lessons. One thing is true - there's a greater opportunity to be inside now, with winter weather “encouraging” us to do it! Indeed, this is the time of year when the old Gaels would gather together to spend the long nights with cèilidhs and waulking groups. There's a lot of fun to be had in fellowship like that.

We've been considering that on the ACGA board, trying to think of the different ways to build community and cooperation in the society. We'll be working on this a lot still, and for certain the Internet will play a big part in it all. We also want to do more to help you study Gaelic. As they say, watch this space!

And for those who want to support ACGA, but aren't able to teach, or to volunteer to help with our various activities, won't you think about supporting us financially? We, as we've done in the past, will be giving you all a chance to show your support with “silver coin”, by providing donation forms online and through the mail. Of course we all want to support Gaelic, and if you want to do it in this way, well, we will make it as easy as possible! And, I'm sure that the thought that you've helped a heritage as valuable and special as Gaelic will keep you warm through the long winter months!

With best wishes,

Michael Mackay
President, ACGA

Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig *Le Liam Ó Caiside*

An Deicheamh Caibideil: An Nighean a Chaill a Màthair.

*“Duir a bha an fhairge mhór ’na coille choinnich ghlais,
bha mis’ am mhùirneig òig.”*

~ Ortha nan Gàidheal, Alexander Carmichael

“Fàgaidh sinn Iain agus a charaid greis far a bheil iad,” thuirt an sgeulaiche, “anns a’ chaibein le chèile, far a bheil iad sàbhailte. Thèid sinn air ais a-nise mu dheich bliadhna ron uair seo, gus an uair an robh nighean òg a’ fuireach còmhla ri a pàrantan ann an àite iomallach den t-saoghal. ’S ann an Èirinn a dh’fhuirich iad, agus bha taigh mòr aca gu fada a-muigh air an tuath.

Bha an nighean cho sona ri othaisg nuair a bha i òg. Bha a màthair gu math laghach agus coibhneil, mar bu chòir. Boireannach bainnidh, deagh-bheusach a bha innte. Bha i àrd, eireachdail le cuailean clannach air dath an òir. Mas ann àrd, eireachdail a bha màthair na nighinn seo, chan e sin coltas a h-athair, idir. Duine cruinn, beag a bh’ ann, le feusag dhubh, agus bha e nas aosta na a bhean; ach bha e sunndach, aighearach agus cridheil. Chreid na daoine a chunnaic le chèile iad gur neònach an càraid iad, ach cha do chuir sin dragh air an dithist seo. “’S tric a gheibh duine beartach bean bhòidheach,” theireadh feadhainn dhiubh, ach mas e sin an fhìrinn corra uair, cha b’ ann mar sin a bha cùisean san àm seo.

Cho bochd ’s a bha Iain agus a theaghlach, bha an nighean agus a teaghlach saidhbhir. Cha robh fhios aig an nighean gun robh iad beartach, ach cha robh sìon sam bith a dhìth oirre. Bha searbhantan aca anns an taigh mhòr, agus bha taigh eile aig a h-athair anns a’ bhaile mhòr, ann am Baile Àtha Cliath. Bha an nighean òg dhubh gu sona sunndach, agus bha iad uile “air mhuin na muice,” mar a chanadh na h-Èireannaich. Ach thàinig an ath latha, agus latha

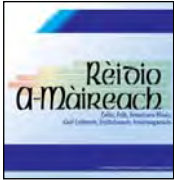
às dèidh sin, agus thàinig caochlaidhean a-steach orra beag air bheag.

Bha athair na nighinn gu tric air falbh a’ dèanamh malairt sa bhaile mhòr. Dh’fhan an nighean agus a màthair còmhla anns an tuath, agus bu thrìc a dh’innseadh a’ bhean naidheachdan dhi mu na cnuic ’s na glinn far an deach a togail ann an Albainn. Nuair a thàinig a h-athair dhachaigh, cha robh e cho sunndach, aighearach agus cridheil mar a bha e. Bha e trang an-còmhnaidh, agus cha robh mòran tìde aige airson nighinn bhig.

An uair sin, thoisich a pàrantan a’ trod agus ag argamaid gus an robh connspaid a’ dol air aghaidh eatarra fad na h-ùine. Thug na searbhantan “MacGilleFearga” air a h-athair mar fhar-ainm, ged nach robh fhios aig an nighinn dè bha iad a’ ciallachadh aig an àm. Dh’fhalbh iad, duine às dèidh duine, gus nach robh ach dithis air fhàgail aca aig an taigh-mhòr.

B’ e an oidhche a bh’ ann. Oidhche gheamhraidh a bha fuar, rapach. Bha an nighean san leabaidh agus chuala i a màthair agus a h-athair ag argamaid ann an seòmair eile. Cha chuala i gu soilleir dè bha iad ag ràdh, ach dh’èigh a màthair, “Sanntach! Tha thu cho sanntach ris an draoidh eile thall thairis. Chan eil thusa dad nas fheàrr. Bhris thu do ghealladh dhomh!” Thàinig braigh an uair sin mar pheilear tàirneanaich, agus cha chuala an nighean an corr. Thuit i ann an trom-chadal.





Good News! Ràidio Guth nan Gàidheal Has a New Home

When Stephanie Carlyle's Hard to Port Radio had to cease broadcasting early last summer, ACGA's Guth nan Gàidheal programs also went off the air. Ràidio A-Màireach, Stephanie's new Internet radio station, came alive on December 1, 2015, however, and Guth nan Gàidheal is back with stories from Angus MacLeod on *Mar a chuala mi i*, news and features from Mike Mackay's *An Saoghal A gainne*, and Gaelic songs from Cam MacRae and *Ar Guthan*. Click below for links to Guth nan Gàidheal's and Ràidio A-Màireach's websites for scheduling information, and check out their Facebook pages.

Ràidio Guth nan Gàidheal: <http://gng.acgamerica.org>

Ràidio A-Màireach: <http://amaireach.com/reidio/>

From Ràidio A-Màireach's website:

Ràidio A-Màireach ("Tomorrow Radio" in English) is a Baltimore-based, 24x7 streaming Internet radio station dedicated to bringing you the best in Celtic and Folk music from the UK, Ireland and Nova Scotia as well as Folk/Americana from the United States and Canada. Our Celtic music collection includes a considerable amount of music sung in Scottish Gaelic and while that tends to be our main focus, we also play tracks sung in English by artists from all over the world.

As part of our regular schedule we also feature Scottish Gaelic programming from Guth nan Gàidheal (GnG), a radio co-venture between ourselves and ACGA. Programming on GnG includes music, storytelling and current affairs primarily in the Scottish Gaelic language, and while some content is presented in English, the focus is always on Gaelic music and culture.

Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Do you know what familiar Gaelic proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 20 to see if you're right.



Gina McClure

Sad news for all who enjoy Gaelic books

After providing readers, especially those in North America, with Gaelic material since 1998, Trueman Matheson has let customers know that he has made the difficult decision to pursue other business interests and wind down his involvement with Siol Cultural Enterprises. In addition to numerous imported books, over the years Siol has made available varied materials, including about 20 books that Trueman has published himself. In the short-term, Trueman will continue to take orders for any in-stock items. Mòran taing to Trueman for his efforts and service to the Gaelic community over the years, and we wish him the very best in his new enterprise. <http://www.gaelicbooks.com>

Chuala sinn gun robh geama ùr aig Slighe nan Gàidheal. Nuair a dh'fhaighnich sinn mu dheidhinn, bha Seumas Gagne cho choibhneil 's gun do sgrìobh e an tuairisgeul a leanas, a' toirt iomradh mionaideach air mar a tha e ag obair agus dè na buannachdan.

We'd heard about a new game that Slighe nan Gàidheal has been offering. When we asked about it, Seumas Gagne was kind enough to send the following details about how it works and the benefits to players.

Fileantas an Toiseach: A' cleachdadh Language Hunters gus Gàidhlig a theagasg *le Seumas Gagne*

Tha mi air a' Ghàidhlig a theagasg fad còrr is còig bliadhna deug tro dhòighean teagaisg àbhaisteach. Bhithinn a' tòiseachadh le cuspair gràmadaich, a' toirt seachad mìneachadh sgrìobhte air, a' sgrìobhadh eisimpleirean air a' bhòrd gheal, agus ag iarraidh air na h-oileanaich a chleachdadh ann an còmhradh no dhà, agus an uair sin dh'fhàginn mar sin e. Tro na bliadhnachan, chuidich mi mòran dhaoine a dh'fhàs misneachail a thaobh leughadh agus sgrìobhadh na Gàidhlig, ach is beag an àireamh a dh'fhàs misneachail ga bruidhinn.

Nuair a bhios mi a' bruidhinn air a' chuspair seo le tidsearan eile cluinnidh mi na h-aon duain a-rithist agus a-rithist: “cha dèan iad obair aig an taigh”, no “cha chleachd iad a' chànan gu leòr”, no “chan èist iad ri Radio nan Gàidheal gu leòr”, agus mar sin air adhart. Rè an dà bhliadhna seo chaidh, tha mi air mo bheachd atharrachadh air a' chuspair. Tha mi a-nis dhen bheachd gur e pàirt (no 's dòcha a' phàirt as motha) den chnap-starra a tha anns na dòighean teagaisg againn.

Ionnsaichidh gach duine beò a' chiad chànan aige le bhith a' fuasgladh cheistean. Cha bhi cothrom eile aig leanabhan ach dèanamh a-mach gu dè tha faclan a' ciallachadh agus mar a bhios iad gan cur le chèile airson conaltradh a dhèanamh. Tha mòran dhaoine dhen beachd nach urrainn ach do phàistean ionnsachadh mar seo, ach cha chreid mi fhìn gu bheil sin gu buileach fìor.

Tha an dòigh ùr teagaisg, ris an canar Language Hunters (www.languagehunters.org), air a chruthachadh le Willem Larson agus Brian O hAirt ann am Baile nan Ròs agus tha e ag amas air cothrom bogaidh agus foghlaim gnìomhach a thoirt do dh'inbhich a tha ag ionnsachadh cànan ùr. Dhealbhaich Willem agus Brian e an toiseach airson teagasg na Gaeilge o chionn bliadhna no dhà, agus dh'iarr Brian orm comhairle a thoirt do phròiseact gus susbaint Language Hunters a chruthachadh airson na Gàidhlig. Fad mu bhliadhna, chleachd mi Skype gus clasaichean a chùm e aig an taigh aige ann am Baile nan Ròs a fhrithealadh. Thug mi

Fluency First: Using Language Hunters to teach Scottish Gaelic *by Seumas Gagne*

I've been actively teaching Scottish Gaelic for more than fifteen years using standard classroom methods. I would begin with a grammar topic, give a written explanation, write out examples on a white board, ask the students to use it in a sentence or two and then move on to the next one. Over the years I have helped many people become confident readers and writers of Gaelic, but very few have become confident speakers.

When discussing this with other teachers I hear the same reasons again and again; people don't do their homework, or they don't practice, or they don't listen to Gaelic radio, etc. Over the last two years, I have changed my opinion. I now think that our approach to teaching is part (perhaps the majority) of the problem.

Every human being acquires their first language through problem solving. Babies have no option but to figure out what words mean and how to put them together to communicate. Many people are of the opinion that only children can learn this way, but I no longer believe that to be completely true.

A new method of language teaching developed by Willem Larson and Brian O hAirt in Portland, Oregon, called Language Hunters (www.languagehunters.org) seeks to provide a similar experience of immersion and active learning for adults studying a new language. Brian and Willem originally created Language Hunters for the teaching of Irish Gaelic several years ago, and Brian approached me about consulting on a project to develop new Language Hunters content for Scottish Gaelic. For about a year, I used Skype to attend sessions he held in his home

dhaibh na rosgrannan Gàidhlig a bha a dhìth orra, agus air mo shon fhìn, chaidh agam air dòigh teagaisg Language Hunters ionnsachadh.

in Portland. I provided the Gaelic phrases needed, and in turn I was able to study the Language Hunters method.

Anns a' Ghearran 2015, chuir Slighe nan Gàidheal air dòigh a' chiad latha ionnsachadh Zero to Gaelic ann am Baile nan Ròs. Bha ochd duine fichead ag ionnsachadh agus bha luchd-tòiseachaidh nam measg sin. Dh'obraich mi fhèin leotha fad an latha fhad 's a bha tidsear bhon sgìre, Geoff Frasier ag obair le oileanaich eadar-mheadhanach agus adhartach.

Chaidh Brian a-null 's a-nall eadar an dà chlas a chur taic rium fhìn agus ri Geoff. Tha mise air an dòigh seo a chleachdadh mar mo phrìomh dhòigh teagaisg bhon latha sin.



Geoff Frasier works with the intermediate and advanced participants around the game board

Brian O hAirt

I have been using the method as my primary one ever since.

Mar a dh'obraicheas e

Nochdar Language Hunters do na h-oileanaich mar gheama. Is e rùn a' gheama gun dèan gach cluicheadair a-mach na tha na ceistean agus na freagairtean a' ciallachadh mar a tha iad a' dol mun cuairt air bòrd a' gheama eadar dithisean chluicheadairean. Bheir an geama sia seòrsachan oidheam a chuidicheas na h-oileanaich ciall nan rosgrannan fhuasgladh.

Samhlaichean

Bidh oileanaich agus an tidsear nan suidhe mu bhòrd a' gheama air am bi ochd samhlaichean a' riochdachadh ochd faclan (ochd ann am Beurla ach seachd ann an Gàidhlig) nan ceist: dè, cò, càite, cia mheud, cuine, carson, agus ciamar. Innsear do na h-oileanaich dè an samhla a tha a' riochdachadh gach facal nan ceist agus cuiridh an tidsear comharra aig an t-samhla a thèid a chleachdadh anns na rosgrannan aig an àm. Cleachdar paca chairtean cuideachd air bòrd a' gheama air a bheil samhlaichean eile a bhios air am mìneachadh do na h-oileanaich. Bheir na cairtean seo oidheaman a bharrachd air na tha na rosgrannan a' ciallachadh, mar eisimpleir, ag iomallachadh nan cuspairean pearsanta gu "mi" agus "thu", a' nochdadh an tràth caithte, no ag innse gu bheil freagairt na ceist diùltach, agus mar sin air adhart.

Sanasan

Cleachdaidh an tidsear gluasachdan làimhe, air am faighinn gu prìomhach bho Chainnt-Shanais Ameireagaidh (CSA) agus ise no esan a' bruidhinn, agus feuchaidh na h-oileanaich ri an atharais cho math 's a ghabhas. Aig an toiseach, gheibh oileanaich sanasan airson nan ochd faclan ceist, agus airson freagairtean dearbhach agus diùltach. Tha mòran shanasan à CSA gu math ìomhaigheach, mar nuair a thomhas tu do chorraig

How it works

Language Hunters is presented to students as a game. The object of the game is for each player to correctly determine what a set of question and answer phrases mean as they go around the game table between pairs of players. The game provides six kinds of clues to help the students solve the riddle of what the phrases mean.

Symbols

Students and teacher sit around a game board with eight icons representing the eight question words: what, who, where, how many, which, when, why, and how. Students are told which symbols represent which question words and the teacher places a marker at the symbol of the question word being used in the current set of phrases. A deck of cards is also used on the game board which has other symbols that are explained to students. These cards give further clues to what the correct meaning of the phrases are, such as limiting the subjects to "me" and "you," indicating the past tense, that the answer to the question is negative, and various other things.

Signs

The teacher uses hand gestures, drawn primarily from American Sign Language, while speaking and students attempt to imitate them as well as they can. Signs for the eight question words listed above are given initially, as well as the signs for "yes" and "no." Many ASL signs are highly iconic, such as pointing at a person for "you" or at yourself for "me" but even when they aren't

air duine airson “thu,” neo ort fhèin airson “mi” ach fiù ’s ged nach bi iad ìomhaigheach, bidh iad fhathast a’ cuideachadh le cuimhne. Cuideachd, leigidh iad leis an tidsear brodadh a thoirt do dh’oileanaich nuair a bhios iad a’ strì ri faclan a chur anns an òrdugh cheart gun an fhreagairt a thoirt dhaibh. Is e cleachdadh an CSA mar chànan dhrochaid an rud as radaigiche ann an Language Hunters, agus gu tric tachraidh e ri dì-chreideamh agus bacadh bho oileanaich agus bho thidsearan eile. Tha mi air faighinn a-mach rè an dà bhliadhna seo chaidh gur e an taobh as neartaile agus as feumaile san dòigh gu lèir.

Structar

Bidh na buidhnean cheistean agus fhreagairtean air an nochdadh do na h-oileanaich ann an òrdugh co-sheasmhach:

- Ceist faighinn fiosrachaidh
- Freagairt dhearbhadh
- Ceist dhaingneach (dhearbhach/dhiùltach)
- Freagairt dhearbhadh

An uair sin, cuiridh an tidsear a’ chairt air a bheil an samhla airson “dhiùltach” air a’ bhòrd agus nochdaidh e no i buidheann rosgrannan a chuireas na ceistean daingneach agus na freagairtean dearbhach agus a nochdas a’ cheist dhaingneach na ceist dhiùltach:

- Ceist dhaingneach
- Freagairt dhiùltach
- Ceist faighinn fiosrachaidh
- Freagairt dhearbhadh

Siognailean

Bidh faclan a dh’ aithnichear anns na freagairtean nan oidheaman cudromach a thaobh ciall nan ceistean aig uaireannan. Mar eisimpleir, am buidheann rosgrannan seo, air an nochdadh leis a’ chomharra air an t-samhla airson “càite.”

Càite a bheil thu a’ fuireach?
Tha mi a’ fuireach ann an Seattle.
A bheil thu a’ fuireach ann an Seattle?
Tha. Tha mi a’ fuireach ann an Seattle.

Bidh fios aig na h-oileanaich gur e ceist mu dheidhinn àite, agus gur e “Seattle” am freagairt, agus sin a chuireas iad dlùth gu leòr airson tomhais ceart a dhèanamh gu dè tha “a’ fuireach” a’ ciallachadh.

Suidheachadh

Cleachdar gach rud air bòrd a’ gheama mar oidheam. Thèid an cumtadh, an gluasad, an toirt le, an toirt bho, no an

iconic, they still serve as a memory aid. They also allow the teacher to prompt students struggling to remember word order without giving them the answer. Using ASL as a bridge language is the most radical aspect of Language Hunters and often meets with the most skepticism and resistance from students and fellow teachers. I have found over the last two years of using this method, though, that it is the most powerful and effective aspect in the whole system.

Structure

The sets of questions and answers presented to students follow a consistent format:

- Information gathering question
- Answer
- Confirmation (yes/no) question
- Positive answer



A Language Hunters game board set up for first and second person phrases using the question “what” with negative answers

Seumas Gagne

The teacher will then place the negation symbol card out on the game board and introduce a second set of phrases which reverses the order and makes the confirmation question negative:

- Confirmation question
- Negative answer
- Information-gathering question
- Answer

Signals

Recognizable words in the answers to questions are sometimes an important clue as to the meaning of the question. An example would be this phrase set, presented with the question word marker on the symbol for “where.”

Càite a bheil thu a’ fuireach?
Tha mi a’ fuireach ann an Seattle.
A bheil thu a’ fuireach ann an Seattle?
Tha. Tha mi a’ fuireach ann an Seattle.

The students know that it’s a question about “where” and the answer is “Seattle” which gets them close enough to correctly guess that “a’ fuireach” means staying or living.

Situation

Any object at the game table can also be used as a clue. Objects can be counted,

cleachdadh ann an dòighean eile. Cleachdar gnìomhan agus gluasad mun cuairt an t-seòmair cuideachd.

Stèidheachadh

Nochdar sanas CSA a chiallaicheas “stèidhich” do na h-oileanaich agus innsear dhaibh gun dèan an tidsear an sanas nuair a bhithear gu bhith gabhail gnìomh a bhios na oidheam cudromach aig an ath-thuras cluich a’ gheama.

Leasachadh mo chleachdadh fhèin

Nam chuid obrach, tha mi air tuilleadh chleachdaidhean a thoirt taic do phrìomh dhòigh Language Hunters a ghabhail a-steach. Aig ceann gach cuairt rosgrannan, faodaidh na h-oileanaich ceistean a chur orm sa Bheurla, ach bheir mi dhaibh na freagarthan tro thuilleadh shanasan agus shiognailean.

Aig ceann latha bogaidh, cleachdaidh mi leabhar-teacs, no duilleag-làimhe eile gus cuspair a’ chlas a mhìneachadh, mar a bhiodh e air a dhèanamh ann an clas cànan inbheach àbhaisteach. Mar sin, bidh cothrom aig na h-oileanaich mìneachadh gràmar an leasain fhaighinn agus iadsan air am faighinn mar-thà tro bhogadh. Ann an cha mhòr gach suidheachadh, fhuair mi toradh fada nas fheàrr na fhuair mi riamh roimhe. Glèidhidh oileanaich ciall fhaclan agus fileantas beòil agus nach bi litreachadh a’ chànain cho duilich a thuigsinn oir gum bi eòlas air fuaim a’ chànain aca mar-thà.

Aig toiseach ràith Zero to Gaelic aig Slighe nan Gàidheal ann an 2014, rinn mi fhìn co-dhùnadh Language Hunters a chleachdadh mar a’ phrìomh dhòigh teagaisg agam airson cuspairean na dàrna bliadhna. Aig meadhan na bliadhna, sgrìobh na h-oileanaich agam gu Bòrd-Stiùiridh Slighe nan Gàidheal a dh’fhaighneachd am biodh e comasach mo ghluasad còmhla riutha airson an treas bliadhna aca los gum biodh iad a’ cumail orra le Language Hunters an àite tilleadh gu òraidean agus bùird gheala.

Aig an àm seo, tha mi dhen bheachd gun do rinn mi a-mach freagairt don cheist ciamar a thog sinn suas luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig, agus ciamar a chuidicheas sinn daoine a tha comasach air Gàidhlig a leughadh agus a sgrìobhadh gun chomas a bhith ga bruidhinn.

described, moved, given, taken, and used in other ways. Action and movement around the room is also used.

Set-ups

Students are shown an ASL sign meaning “establish” and told that when the teacher uses that sign, she is about to take an action which is an important clue for the next round of game play.



Seumas providing the end of day wrap up after five hours of immersive learning

Brian O hAirt

Developing my own practice

In my own work, I have adopted some additional practices to supplement the core Language Hunters system. At the end of each round of phrase sets, students are allowed to ask me questions in English, but I answer them with demonstrations and more detailed signs and signals.

At the end of an immersion session, I use a traditional textbook or written hand out to cover the particular topic of the class as it would have been in a standard adult language class. The students then have the chance to have the grammar of the lesson explained to them after having acquired a fluent command of it already through immersion. In almost every case, the results have been dramatically better than I have ever gotten before. Students retain vocabulary and verbal fluency, and the spelling system is not as difficult to learn because they already know what the words sound like.

At the beginning of the 2014–2015 season of Slighe nan Gàidheal’s Zero to Gaelic program, I decided to use Language Hunters as my primary method for teaching all second year content to my class. Half way through the year, the students wrote to SnG’s Board of Directors and asked that I be moved to the third year class with them so that they could keep using Language Hunters to finish their program rather than go back to lectures and whiteboards.

In conclusion, for myself at least I have answered the question of how to produce new fluent speakers of Scottish Gaelic and also to help the literate non-speakers to gain the verbal fluency to match their grammatical knowledge.

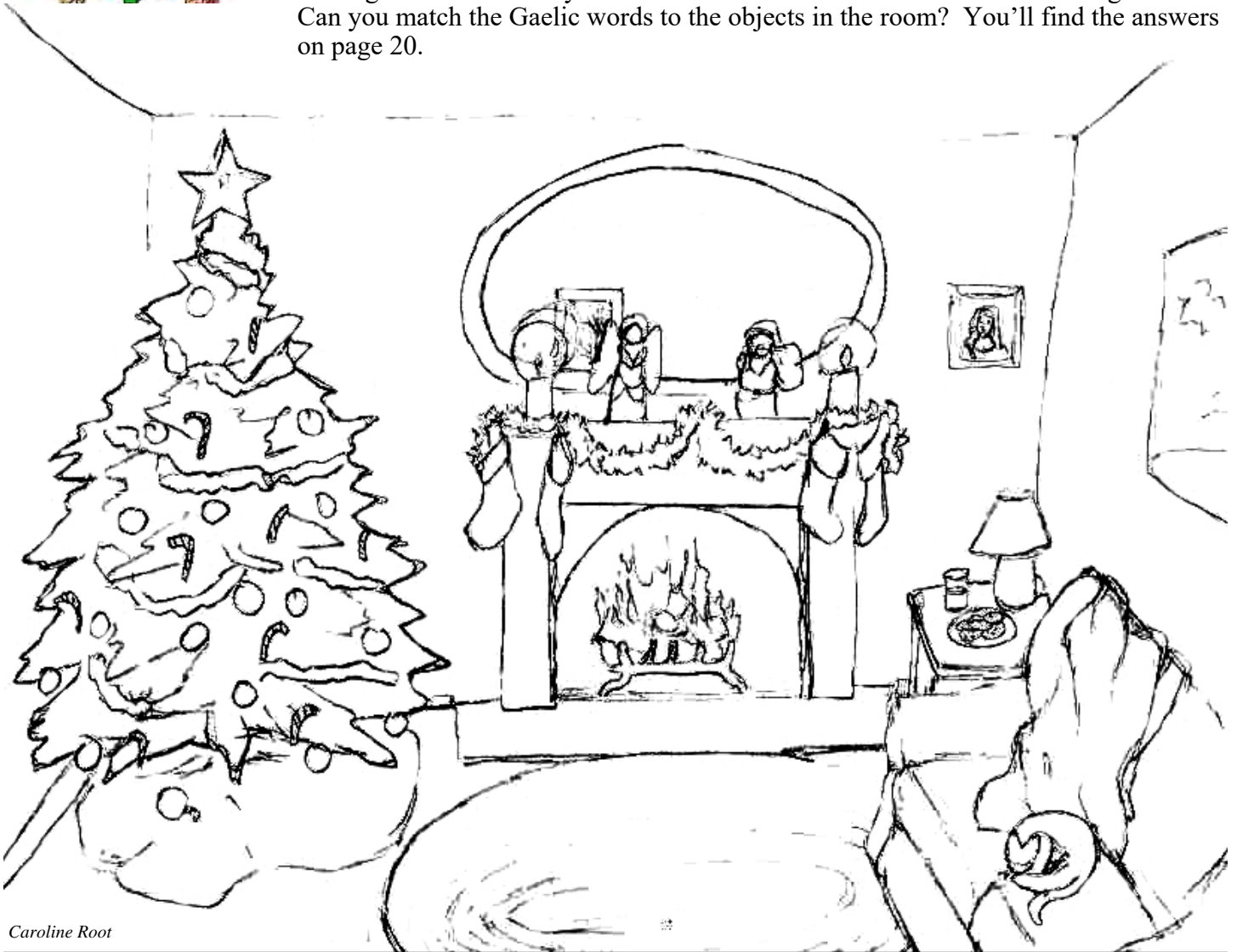


An t-Ionnsachadh Bòidheach

by Caroline Root, Youth Page Editor

Christmas Tree Challenge

Nollaig Chridheil / Merry Christmas from the editors of An Naidheachd Againne.
Can you match the Gaelic words to the objects in the room? You'll find the answers on page 20.



Caroline Root

craobh na Nollaig (f)
craobh (f)
sgàthan (m)
cagailt (f)
teine (m)
stocainnean (f)
aingéal (m)

brat-ùrlar (m)
langasaid (f)
cat (m)
lampa (m)
gloine (f)
truinnsear (m)

briosgaidean (f)
plaide (f)
bòrd (m)
rionnag (f)
bata candaidh (m)
coinneal (f)

2015 US National Mòd Results
Friday, September 25 – Sunday, September 27
Ligonier PA

Adjudicator: Gillebrìde Mac'IlleMhaoil
Special Guests: 2014 Royal National Mòd Gold Medalists Angus MacLeod & Eilidh Cormack

Storytelling:

1. Liam Cassidy
2. Cathleen MacKay
3. John Grimaldi

Poetry:

1. Barbara Lynn Rice

Sight Reading:

1. Cheryl Mitchell
2. Tie: Liam Cassidy & Connie Smith
3. Cathleen MacKay

Open Song Category:

1. Sharon McWhorter
2. Carol Kappus
3. John Grimaldi

Prescribed Song:

Men

1. Tom Terry
2. Liam Cassidy
3. Ed Bradshaw

Women

1. Anne Alexander
2. Carol Kappus
3. Connie Smith

Work song:

1. Connie Smith
2. Liam Cassidy
3. Tom Terry

Puirt:

1. Ed Bradshaw
2. Carol Kappus
3. Anne Alexander

Choir:

1. Còisir Ghàidhlig Ameireagaidh



Na sgeulaichean/ Storytellers: John Grimaldi, Cathleen MacKay, Liam Cassidy

US Mòd Committee

Unison/Harmonized Singing:

1. Sharon McWhorter & Lindy Lincicome
2. Anne Alexander & Ron Hazelett
3. Barbara Lynn Rice & John Grimaldi

Final Song:

Men

1. Tom Terry
2. Liam Cassidy
3. Ed Bradshaw

Women

1. Connie Smith
2. Carol Kappus
3. Anne Alexander
4. Lindy Lincicome

Overall Mòd Gold Medal:

Men

1. Tom Terry
2. Liam Cassidy
3. Ed Bradshaw

Women

1. Connie Smith
2. Carol Kappus
3. Anne Alexander
4. Lindy Lincicome



Awards:

Searrag Ghlainne nam Bàrd (Edinburgh Crystal Decanter). Presented by Mòd co-founder Donald F. MacDonald to the winner of the competition in bàrdachd recitation at the Mòd.

Barbara Lynn Rice

Duais Dhaibhidh Mhic Risnidh (David MacRitchie Award). Presented for best traditional story in Gaelic.

Liam Cassidy

Duais Iain Mhic Mhurchaidh (John MacRae Award). Presented for best original poem submitted to the Mòd.

Barbara Lynn Rice

Duais Leòdhais agus na Hearadh (Lewis and Harris Award). Presented for best performance of a Lewis or Harris song (in memory of Donnie MacLean).

John Grimaldi

MacComb Shield for the men's prescribed song highest score.

Tom Terry

SCOTS Shield for women's prescribed song highest score.

Anne Alexander

Herbert P. MacNeal Memorial Quaich. Presented by Clan MacNeil Society to highest scoring male solo singer (Gold Medal).

Tom Terry

Marietta MacLeod Memorial Quaich. Presented by Donald F. MacDonald to the highest scoring woman solo singer (Gold Medal).

Connie Smith

Scottish Gaelic Foundation of the U.S.A.

Urras Gàidhlig nan Stàitean Aonaichte

Gaelic scholar and activist Michael Newton, along with others in North America and Scotland, has launched an important new initiative which aims to recover the "Scottish Gaelic linguistic and cultural heritage as it has survived and evolved in immigrant communities," while "coordinating with and supporting the contemporary American Gaelic community."

The foundation invites ideas and is encouraging participation. You can read details of their goals, including a North American Gaelic dictionary, a Gaelic Atlas of North America, and song anthologies bringing together some of the hundreds of songs composed by North American Gaels on their website. For those who support Scottish Gaelic, and especially those of us who enjoy learning and using the language, this ambitious effort is a welcome step.

<https://gaelicusa.wordpress.com>

A Website to Watch

Visit the Gàidhealtachd of
Nova Scotia online!



"An Drochaid Eadarainn" provides stories, songs, and folklore from Gaelic Nova Scotia. Gaelic and English text is provided for the plentiful Gaelic recordings on this site, as well as pictures and videos of the people and region.

<http://www.androchaid.ca>

This recipe comes to us from Molly MacRae, writer and baker extraordinaire. Visit her at www.MollyMacRae.com to see what she's been up to lately.

Briosgaidean Teòclaid Dhorcha Dà-fhillte

Gritheidean:

- 2 chupa min-fhlùir
- 1/2 chupa còco
- 2 spàin-tì pùdair-fuine
- 3/4 spàin-tì salainn
- 4 uighean mòra
- 2 spàin-tì faoineig
- 2 spàin-tì grad-chofaidh
- 10 spàin-bhùird ime air a mhaothachadh
- 1 1/2 chupa de shiùcar donn
- 1/2 chupa de shiùcar gràinneach
- 16 unnsachan teòclaid searbhag-mhilis, air a leaghadh
- 2 chupa spealgan teòclaid leth-mhilis



Molly MacRae

Ullachadh:

- 1 Ann am bobhla mòr measgaich a' mhin-fhlùir, an còco, am pùdar-fuine, agus an salann ri chèile le sguabag. Ann am bobhla eile, measgaich na h-uighean, an fhaoineag, agus an grad-chofaidh ri chèile gus am bi an cofaidh leaghte.
- 2 Ann am bobhla mòr, buail an t-ìm agus an dà sheòrsa siùcair còmhla gus am bi iad aotrom mothtanach, 3-6 mionaidean. Cuir ris measgachadh nan uighean. Cuir ris an teòclaid leaghte le bhith ga bualadh agus sgrab taobhan a' bhobhla ma bhios e riatanach.
- 3 Cuir ris measgachadh na min-fhlùir gus am bi a h-uile nì air a mheasgachadh còmhla. Cuir ris na spealgan.
- 4 Dèan buill leis an taois, le 1-3 òirlich a leud agus cuir iad air clàr-fuine, mu 2 òirleach air falbh bho chèile.
- 5 Bruich ann an àmhainn aig 350 fad 10 gu 12 mionaidean neo gus am bi a' phàirt anns a' mheadhan fhathast bog agus gun làn-bhruich.
- 6 Fàg na briosgaidean air a' chlàr-fuine fad 10 mionaidean, agus an uair sin, gluais iad gu racais.

Gheibh thu 30 gu 60 briosgaidean, a rèir am meud.

Double Dark Chocolate Devastators

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons instant coffee
- 10 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups packed dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 16 ounces bittersweet chocolate, melted
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

Preparation:

- 1 Whisk flour, cocoa, baking powder, and salt together in large bowl. In separate bowl whisk eggs, vanilla and instant coffee together until coffee is dissolved.
- 2 Beat butter and sugars together in large bowl until light and fluffy, 3-6 minutes. Stir in egg mixture. Beat in melted chocolate, scraping sides of bowl as necessary.
- 3 Stir in flour mixture until combined. Stir in chips.
- 4 Scoop dough into balls, 1-3 inches in diameter, and place on parchment-lined baking sheet, spaced about 1 1/2 - 2 inches apart.
- 5 Bake at 350° F until edges are set and tops are cracked but centers are still soft and underdone, 10-12 minutes.
- 6 Let cookies stand on baking sheet for 10 minutes, transfer to wire rack.

Yield: 30–60 cookies, depending how big you make them.



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 future issues 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!

ACGA Reinstates Active Donation Solicitation Program

ACGA does a lot of good with our two external programs. One is the University Scholarship program, which awards scholarships to students in degree programs likely to lead to a career in Gaelic teaching or something of similar contribution to the language. The second is our Gàidhealtachd Support (GS) program, which awards grants to organizations and individuals not substantially connected to ACGA for the purpose of advancing the Gaelic language. These programs are funded mainly or exclusively from donations received by ACGA. Most of these donations are from our members, and those who are U.S. taxpayers can deduct them from their income taxes, as we are a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

In 2008, we found ourselves running out of funds – which then came from the ACGA general funds – and unable to continue these programs at a useful level unless we made some financial changes. At that time, we instituted a program of explicitly requesting donations from our members, especially as part of our membership renewal process. This program was highly successful, and the donated funds allowed us to raise our annual Scholarship awards from \$1000 to \$2000, and to make genuinely meaningful GS awards. Annual donations for these programs, in their first three years, ran \$4000 to \$5000.

Within a year or two, though, applications for GS grants dwindled, much to our disappointment, as we really like the good we can do when worthwhile programs are proposed for funding. As we began to accumulate more funds for this purpose than we were expending, we stopped actively soliciting these donations, with the result that our donations declined to about \$3000 per year, where they have remained up until now.



Nathaniel Harrington, 2014 scholarship winner

Recently, we have begun receiving quite a few first-rate GS applications, and in the 2014-2015 period, we have fully expended the surplus funds we saved from those earlier years. We have every expectation, now, that these worthy applications will continue to be received, and we would very much like to continue operating both of these programs at the effective level they've recently enjoyed. We are therefore reinstating our program of actively soliciting donations from members. You've been generous the whole time, and we thank you for your continued support, but we do need donations to keep up our level of support to these groups. You know we will ensure that the funds will go to the development and maintenance of Gaelic, especially in North America.

(Continued on next page)

Who are the Recipients?

In the ten years that ACGA has been awarding our University Scholarship, winners (with references to related ANA articles) have been:

- 2006: Megan Breece MacKenzie
- 2006: Caroline Root (ANA 2010-1 p. 4)
- 2007: Emily MacKinnon MacDonald
- 2008: Kelly Krawchuk (ANA 2008-2, p. 4)
- 2009: Beth Frieden (ANA 2010-4, p. 4)
- 2010: Kyle Carey (ANA 2010-4, pp. 16-17)
- 2011: Jason Bond (ANA 2012-3 pp. 9-10)
- 2011: Rachel Redshaw (ANA 2012-2, pp. 11-12)
- 2011: Liam Crouse (ANA 2011-4, pp. 13-15 & ANA 2012-1 pp. 4-6)
- 2011: Cassie Smith-Christmas (ANA 2011-3, pp. 5-6)
- 2012: Rachel Redshaw (ANA 2013-3, pp. 13-15)
- 2013: Melissa Nicholson (ANA 2013-3, p. 8)
- 2014: Nathaniel Harrington (ANA 2015-1 pp. 15-16)
- 2014: Erin Park (ANA 2014-2 pp. 10-12)
- 2015: Scott Morrison

So, you can expect to receive an additional letter with your membership renewal, discussing this matter and requesting your donations. Your decision about making such donations is absolutely your own and is a personal matter. We hope, though, that if you are financially able, you will consider helping to continue this good work. Please be aware that donations you make in connection with event registrations, or at events, will still be earmarked for those events. However, other donations not earmarked for any special purpose will be used to help fund these external programs.

And you can make a donation at any time by going to: <http://www.acgamerica.org/donate/>.



New Process for Gàidhealtachd Support Grant Applications

ACGA is making major changes to the application process for Gàidhealtachd Support (GS) grants.

In the past, we have accepted and considered GS funding applications on something of an “ad-hoc” basis. As of 2016 we will be implementing a more formal application process, similar to how we handle applications for our University Scholarship program. Regrettably, as a small 501(c)(3) organization with limited funding, we can no longer sustain the levels of funding awards that we have done in the past, and so the ACGA has concluded that changes must be made.

Going forward, applications for GS grants will be expected to be submitted by a deadline early in the year, and all applications received will be considered for funding by the GS Committee based on criteria which the ACGA considers important. Details of the criteria are available on our website.

A single award will usually be made, although it is possible that multiple, smaller awards may be made if the Committee decides that multiple applications are equally worthy of support.

Due to the fact that our income from donations can vary on a yearly basis, the actual level of GS funding will be announced at the end of February each year, with the deadline for GS grant applications set on

Grant Recipients

Here are some recent Gàidhealtachd Support grant recipients (with references to related newsletter articles):

- 2013: Scottish Bible Society for a new Gaelic translation of the New Testament
- 2014: Gaelic Jam, Nova Scotia for an event intended to strengthen new leadership of Gaelic efforts
- 2014: Dunoon Grammar School for a cultural exchange trip to Nova Scotia (ANA 2015-2 pp. 6-8)
- 2015: Gaelic Jam, Nova Scotia (ANA 2015-2 pp. 9-10)
- 2015: Mòd nan Lochan Mòra for emergency funding assistance (ANA 2015-3 p. 11)
- 2015: Mòd Chanada for emergency funding assistance (ANA 2015-3 p. 10)
- 2015: Soillse Conference to allow inclusion of Gaelic Medium School teachers at national conference



Attendees at the 2015 Gaelic Jam

March 31st. The GS Committee will then consider all requests received by the deadline and will make a funding announcement on or before May 31st of each year.

Full details of the new GS grant application system, including guidelines for applicants and dates, may be found on the main ACGA website at <http://www.acgamerica.org/aid/grants/>.

Dè Do Naidheachd?

le Anne Landin, Jeanne Pendergast, agus Cam MacRae

Six words, three writers, and three very different stories!

Anne:

A' chiad turas a bha mi anns na Hearadh riamh, ghabh mi gaol air **muinntir** an àite. An uair a **choimhead** mi mun cuairt air an àite, chunnaic mi cruth-tìre fuar, creagach agus glas. Cha robh ach creagan gorma cho fad 's a chunnaic mi. Shaoil mi rium fhìn, càit' fon ghreìn a' bheil mi? Ach dh'ionnsaich mi gu luath gun chuireadh tlàths is càirdeas den mhuinntir sgàil air a' chiad bheachd.

Cha robh e fada mun robh mi a' dol a-mach le spàin mhòr 's **bucaid** agus **buineagan** de chrotal a chruineachadh le sgriobadh nan creagan gorma a fhuair mi cho grànnda na bu tràithe. Le **craiteachan** fialaidh crotail anns a' phoit mhòir dhuibh làn de chlàimh, chuirinn dath ruadh àlainn air a' chlàimh. Cha b' e **faoinneas** leam a bhith nam phàirt den t-saoghal aca airson greis.

Glossary:

Muinntir an àite – inhabitants

Cruth-tìre – landscape

Cuireadh sgàil – would overshadow

Buineagan – small pieces, flakes

Crotal – a lichen used for making the reddish brown dye so often seen in Harris Tweed (genitive – crotail)

Cha b' e faoinneas leam – it was meaningful to me (literally, it wasn't insignificant with me)

Jeanne:

'S e latha mòr do dh'Eilidh a bh' ann am Fèill Naoimh Anndra. Ann am meadhan a' bhaile bhig aice, choisich i mun cuairt air bùithtean fosgailte, ag ithe suiteas àraidh na fèille agus a' toirt **buineagan** don chù ri a taobh.

Thàinig i gu teanta le **bucaid** de dh'uisge "sònraichte." Thathar ag ràdh nam faiceadh maighdeann aodann fir anns an uisge, gum biodh i pòsta taobh a-staigh bliadhna. Thàinig nigheanan nan dròbhan is phàigh iad airson **coimhead** anns a' bhucaid. Chunnaic a' mhòr-chuid dìreach an aodann fhèin, ach an-dràsta 's a-rithist, chitheadh cuideigin aodann eile.

Thuirt **muinntir** an àite gur e **faoinneas** a bh' ann, ged a chunnacas barrachd air aon duine saobh-chràbhach a' cur **craiteachan** bhon bhucaid orra fhèin (gu dìomhair). Bha beagan airgid aig Eilidh a chuir i mu seach airson na fèille, agus leis gum biodh a siathamh co-là-breith deug ann an ath-sheachdain, phàigh i agus choimhead i. 'S e bh' ann ach aodann fir òg eireachdail. Choisich i air falbh gu sàmhach, a' meòrachadh.

An e cleas a bh' ann, no buidseachd, no fìor fhàisneachd?

Glossary:

faoinneas – (see Anne's) this can also mean silliness, nonsense

ged a chunnacas – although X was seen (passive)

saobh-chràbhach – superstitious

gu dìomhair – secretly, privately

fàisneachd – (fem.) prophecy, prediction

Cam:

“Agus uinneanan le **craiteachan** chnòthan ’s càise orra,” thuirt mi, “agus . . . buntàta milis air a ròstadh le horseradish agus. . .”

“Abair **faoineas!** Tha cus amadan san t-saoghal, ann an dhà-rìribh,” ghàir mo phiuthar.

“Horseradish,” thòisich mi, “dè tha ceàrr air horseradish?” ach an uair sin thàinig e a-steach orm dè bu chiall dhi.

’S e madainn Dihaoine a bh’ ann, an latha an dèidh Là a’ Bhuidheachais, is mise ’s Molly sa chidsin a’ dèanamh liosta airson dinnear Nollaig, ag òl teatha ’s a’ **coimhead** air na naidheachdan air an t-bh.

“Dihaoine dubh,” thuirt boireannach le fiamh-ghàire, “is **muinntir** a’ bhaile anns na bùithtean a’ lorg barganan, ach chan eil iad uile soirbheachail. Tràth sa mhadainn an diugh aig Walmart bha aimhreit ann nuair nach robh gèamaichean Xbox 360 gu leòr air na sgeilpichean. An dèidh deich mionaidean cha robh air fhàgail ach **buineagan**.”

Agus air an t-bh dithis fhear le **bucaid** mhòr a’ glanadh an làir.

Glossary:

craiteachan chnòthan – a sprinkling of nuts (chnòthan is lenited because it’s an indefinite genitive plural following craiteachan)

thàinig e a-steach orm – I realized (literally, it came in to me)

dè bu chiall dhi – what she meant

bùithtean – stores (you’ll also find bùthan, bùitean, bùitheann, and bùthannan in dictionaries.)

bucaid – bucket

The On-Line Faces of ACGA

Like most organizations in the modern world, ACGA has several on-line faces, including more than one website, a Facebook page, a conversational forum, a YouTube page, and even a Twitter account.

Our main website, www.acgamerica.org, includes a blog for announcements, tips, articles, etc. It also contains an archive of newsletters, detailed information about our major events, information about ACGA and how to join, learning resources, and more.

Our forum site, forum.acgamerica.org, is collection of conversational forums, some public, some for members only, and some for ACGA’s internal organizational functions.

Our [Facebook](#) page is a public face of ACGA. Because this page is integrated into a social network, it has a very different feel from our website, and likely attracts a different crowd.

We don't have very much video content on our ACGAmerica [YouTube channel](#) yet (we're looking for more), but what we do have is interesting and ACGA-relevant.

Our Twitter account ([ACGAgaelic](#)) is used for ACGA announcements.

Some of our events have their own web presence, too. The [ACGA Mòd](#) website contains a lot of information about past, present, and future Mòds. And our Gaelic Song and Language Week at Grandfather Mountain has its own [Facebook](#) page.

Criomagan

For those of us who enjoy graphic novels, here are two new ones just out.

Tintin: Crùbag nan Ìnean Òra is Gillebrìde Mac 'IlleMhaoil's new translation of Hergé's 1941, *The Crab with the Golden Claws*. This book joins two other classic Hergé graphic novels also translated by Gillebrìde, *Toit Nam Pharo* and *An t-Eilean Dubh*.

Did you enjoy the story and beautiful illustrations of *Cuir Stad air an Stoirm Shneachda*, that came out in 2012? *An Smutag Ghaisgeil* is the next in the Arctic Ring Series, from the same author, illustrator, and translator. Based on a folktale from Siberia, this is the story of a tiny bird who changed the world into a place where all creatures could live together. Shona Shirley MacDonald illustrated Leaslaidh NicCoinnich's story and Gillebrìde Mac 'IlleMhaoil translated it into Gaelic.

Congratulations to Cassie Smith-Christmas, recipient of an ACGA University Scholarship in 2011, on the publication of *Family Language Policy: Maintaining an Endangered Language in the Home*.

After completing her PhD at the University of Glasgow in 2012, Cassie received a fellowship at the Institute for the Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh and is now a research fellow for Soillse, the inter-university Gaelic language research network. In *Family Language Policy* she looks at why some children being raised in multi-lingual environments use more of their minority language than others.



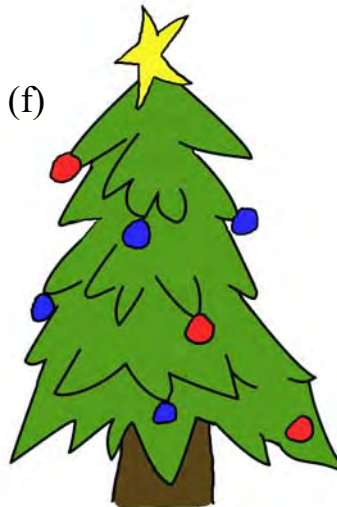
Gina McClure

Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 6

Bheir aon fhear each gu uisge, ach cha toir a dhà-dheug air òl.
One man can lead a horse to water, but twelve cannot make it drink.

Answers to Christmas Tree Challenge, p. 11

Christmas tree – craobh na Nollaig (f)
tree – craobh (f)
mirror – sgàthan (m)
fireplace – cagailt (f)
fire – teine (m)
stockings – stocainnean (f)
angel – aingeal (m)
rug – brat-ùrlar (m)
sofa – langasaid (f)
cat – cat (m)



Chris Chan

lamp – lampa (m)
glass – gloine (f)
plate – truinnsear (m)
cookies – briosaidean (f)
blanket – plaide (f)
table – bòrd (m)
star – rionnag (f)
candy – bata candaidh (m)
candle – coinneal (f)

Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

Am Faoilteach 2016 / January 2016

Celtic Connections, Glasgow, Scotland, January 14 - January 31, 2016

Glasgow's annual folk, roots and world music festival features concerts, ceilidhs, talks, art exhibitions, workshops and free events, including: *Songs of Gaelic Scotland* with Anne Lorne Gillies (Jan. 22), *Gaelic meets Gaelic Americana* with Gillebride Mac 'IlleMhaoil & Kyle Carey (Jan. 24), *Puirt à beul* workshop with Darren Maclean (Jan. 30) and *Gaelic Airs* workshop with Darren Maclean (Jan. 31).

<http://www.celticconnections.com/Pages/default.aspx>

New Year Family Gathering, Toronto ON, January 16, 2016

Comunn Gàidhlig Thoronto / The Gaelic Society of Toronto hosts a New Year Family Gathering at Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON on Saturday January 16th from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Family activities, music, buffet and a fire as we ring in the new year together. Watch our website under Activities for details to come or email us at gaelictoronto@gmail.com.

<http://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/>

An Gearran 2016 / February 2016

Zero to Gaelic, Seattle WA, Slighe nan Gàidheal, Saturday, February 6, 2016.

Register for a single-day of Gaelic for the cost of only \$55. Lake City Presbyterian Church, 3841 NE 123rd St., Seattle WA. 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. For more information and / or to register see:

http://www.slighe.com/topic_page.php?topic_id=1&page_id=14

Am Màrt 2016 / March 2016

Zero to Gaelic, Seattle WA, Slighe nan Gàidheal, Saturday, March 5, 2016.

Register for a single-day of Gaelic for the cost of only \$55. Lake City Presbyterian Church, 3841 NE 123rd St., Seattle WA. 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. For more information and / or to register see:

http://www.slighe.com/topic_page.php?topic_id=1&page_id=14

An Giblean 2016 / April 2016

Zero to Gaelic, Seattle WA, Slighe nan Gàidheal, Saturday, April 2, 2016.

Register for a single-day of Gaelic for the cost of only \$55. Lake City Presbyterian Church, 3841 NE 123rd St., Seattle WA. 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. For more information and / or to register see:

http://www.slighe.com/topic_page.php?topic_id=1&page_id=14

An t-Ògmhios 2016 / June 2016

Féis Seattle 2016, Port Townsend WA, June 13 - 19, 2016.

Slighe nan Gàidheal's flagship event. Fort Worden State Park Conference Center, 200 Battery Way, Port Townsend WA. http://www.slighe.com/topic_page.php?topic_id=4&page_id=2

An t-Iuchar 2016 / July 2016

Ontario School of Piping & Drumming Gaelic Immersion Week, King City ON, July 3 - 8, 2016.

Beginning and Advanced levels. Instructors & cost TBA in 2016. Also piping and snare drumming for all levels.

Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, Banner Elk NC, July 3 - 9, 2016.

ACGA's 18th annual Gaelic Song and Language Week will be held at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk NC. Instructors to be announced. <http://www.acgamerica.org>

Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

Arizona

Flagstaff

Study Group
Richard Ferguson
fergusdubh@yahoo.com

Phoenix

Classes
Richard Smith
coindubh@yahoo.com

Tucson

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

California

Sacramento Area

Classes
Donnie MacDonald
minchmusic@comcast.net

North Hollywood

Study Group
Eva Gordon
celt@celticartscenter.com

Colorado

Boulder

Study Group
Sue Hendrix
susan.hendrix@colorado.edu

Denver

Lessons
Glenn Wrightson
thegaelicguy@hotmail.com

Denver

Study Group
Reese McKay
reese-mckay25@gmail.com

San Luis Valley

Phone and Online lessons
Caroline Root
www.gaidhliggachlatha.com

Connecticut

Hartford area

Classes—Thomas Leigh
tleigh.piper@gmail.com

Gaelic Song Classes

Maggie Carchrie
860-748-7549

Florida

Jensen Beach

Treasure Coast Scots-Gaelic
Study Group
sryan1812@mylincoln.edu

Illinois

Springfield

Study Group
Bill McClain
fidheall@yahoo.com

Maryland

Baltimore

Study Group
<http://tinyurl.com/Maryland-Baltimore>
Rick Gwynallen
Rgwynallen@yahoo.com
301-928-9026

Chevy Chase

Song Group
Joan Weiss
sweiss@american.edu

New York

New York

Classes
New York Caledonian Club
www.nycaledonian.org/studies.php

Newfield / Ithaca

Conversation groups
Wayne Harbert
weh2@cornell.edu

North Carolina

Guilford

Classes (advanced beginner)
An Phillips
fiongeal@gmail.com

Triangle / Raleigh area

Classes (beginner)
An Phillips
fiongeal@yahoo.com

Ohio

Cincinnati

Study Group
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens
macaoidh@eos.net

Kent

Classes
Frances Acar
Classes by Skype
frances.acar@gmail.com

Oklahoma

Midwest City

Study Group
Barry Acker
bearachanse@yahoo.com

Tulsa

Study Group
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almarti6527@gmail.com

Texas

Hurst

Classes
David Gressett
jdgressett@hotmail.com

Fort Worth

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Jonquele Jones
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Utah

Salt Lake City

Classes by Skype
Rachell Blessing
rachell-blessing@comcast.net

Virginia

Alexandria

Classes
Nick Freer
neacalban1@aol.com

Catlett

Local in-person and via Skype
Michael Mackay
mackay@progeny.net

Tidewater

Classes

Jason Wilson

wilsonsoxford@gmail.com

Washington

Seattle

Classes & Study Groups

Slighe nan Gàidheal

<http://www.slighe.com>

Canada

Ontario

Ottawa

Classes

Randaith Waugh

comunnghaidhligottawa@rogers.com

Toronto

Classes

CLUINN

www.torontogaelic.ca

Québec

Montréal

Study Group

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,



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AN NAIDHEACHD AGAINNE

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