

An Naidheachd Againne

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

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'S e boireannach èasgaidh a th' anns ar caraid Rhoda Meek. A bheil cuimhne agaibh air na sgrìobh i nuair a dh'imrich i air ais gu Coll View, croit a' theaghlach aice ann an Tìriodh? Neo, dè mu dheidhinn na sgrìobh i air obrach leasachaidh a rinn i air taigh agus gàrradh na croit?

'S urrainn dhuibh na h-aistean eile a sgrìobh Rhoda air ar son a leughadh le putadh air na ceanglaichean aig deireadh na h-aiste seo. San eadar-àm, anns a' bhliadhna neo-àbhaisteach a tha seo, tha iomairt ùr aig Rhoda agus tha i a' dol a dh'innse dhuinn mu deidhinn.

Rhoda Meek is an enterprising woman. Do you remember when she wrote about returning to Coll View, her family's croft in Tìree? Or when she wrote about the restoration work she did on the croft house and land?

You can read Rhoda's earlier articles for *An Naidheachd Againne* by clicking on links at the end of this article. In the meantime, in this unusual year we are all experiencing, here's Rhoda to tell us about her new venture.

Etsy nan Eilean

le Rhoda Meek

Cuid de phròiseactan, bidh thu a' smaoinichadh orra feadh mhìosan, bliadhnaichean 's dòcha, 's tu deisealachadh plana. Chan ann mar sin idir a thachair làrach-lìn www.isle20.com.

Direach mus d'fhuair an corona-bhìoras grèim air an t-saoghal, gu h-àiridh oirne anns an Iar, bha mi air m' obair fhàgail. Bha an t-àm ann agus bha mi an dùil teatha (Tìree Tea) a reic airson a' chiad uair ri luchd-turais tron t-samhradh, fhad 's a bha mi a' sireadh

The Etsy of the Isles

by Rhoda Meek

With some projects, you spend months or even years thinking about them, doing your planning. That's definitely not how www.isle20.com came about.

Just before coronavirus started affecting the world, especially those of us in the West, I had left my job. It was time, and I was planning to sell tea (Tìree Tea) for the first time to tourists over the summer months whilst I looked for a new job. It became apparent to



Rhoda Meek

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

obair ùr. Bhuail e orm gu math luath, 's an bhìoras air nochdadh, nach biodh luchd-turais ann.

Seach gur ann le coimpiutaran agus làrach-lìn a bhios mi ag obair, chuir mi romham leasachadh a dhèanamh air mar a bha mi a' reic air loidhne. Nise, tha na sgilean agam sin fheuchainn, ach le bhith bruidhinn ri daoine eile bha e follaiseach nach robh na sgilean sin aig a' mhòr chuid – agus nan robh, cha robh mòran misneachd aca unnta fhèin. Leis cho mòr sa tha eaconomaidh nan eilean stèidhichte air luchd-turais (aiste eile tha sin!), bha e follaiseach gum biodh iomadh neach a' call cosnadh na bliadhna ri linn corona-bhìoras.



Tràth aon mhadainn, 's mi dìreach air dùsgadh, thuir mi ri caraidean air Messenger gu robh mi am beachd 'directory' a chur air loidhne – liosta de bhùithtean beaga anns na h-eileanan gus a dhèanamh furasta do dhaoine an lorg agus ceannach bhupa. Nan robh daoine an dùil tadhal air saor-laithean 's bacadh air a chur orra, 's dòcha gum biodh iad airson rudeigin beag a cheannach mar chuimhneachan air turas nach do thachair! 'S nan robh eilean ann ris an robh càirdeas dlùth aca, dh'fhaodadh gum biodh iad airson muinntir an àite a chuideachadh le bhith ceannach rudeigin.

'S dòcha gun toir mi an t-ainm 'Isle20' air, thuir mi le gàire. Brosnaich na freagairtan air Messenger mi gus an rud fheuchainn – bha iad am beachd gur e deagh idea a bh' ann! Thog mi làrach-lìn taobh a-staigh latha a bha a' gabhail fiosrachadh le foirm, agus ga fhoillseachadh air duilleag. Chuir mi 'tweet' a-mach a' faighneachd an robh gnìomhachasan beaga sam bith airson fheuchainn. Agus thòisich an rud a' fàs. Thog mi duilleag do gach eilean, agus thòisich mi air na meadhanan sòisealta. Chùm an rud air a' fàs – 'directory' de bhùithtean sna h-eileanan a chaidh a sgaoileadh fad is farsaing.

Nise, tha e feumail trafaig a chur gu làrach-lìn le 'checkout' – ach chan eil e buileach cho feumail mur a

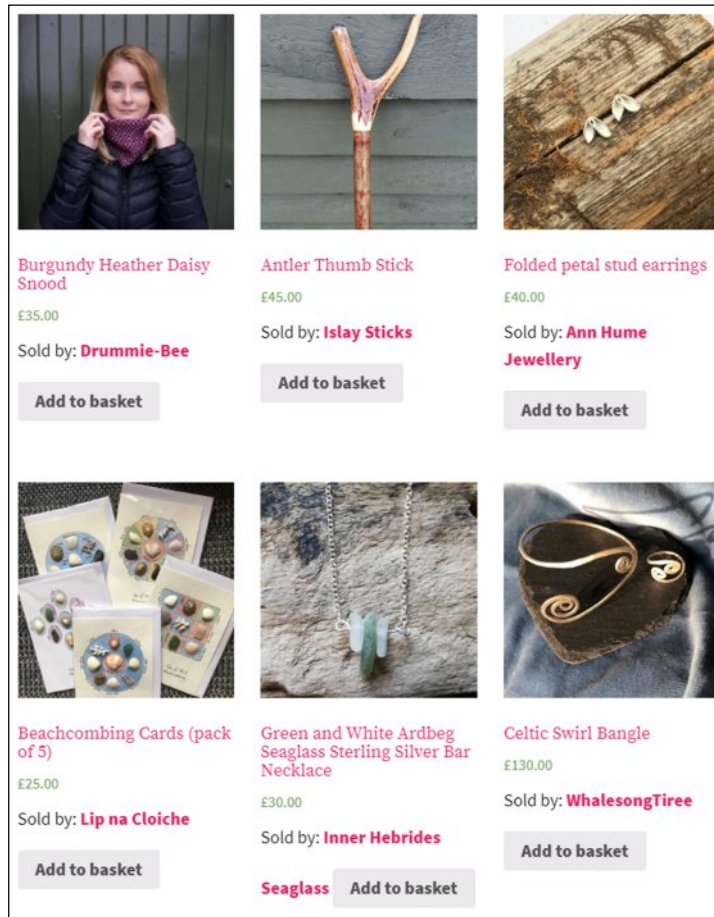
me pretty quickly that there weren't going to be any tourists.

Because I work with computers and websites, I decided to develop the ways I was selling online. Now, I have the skills to try that, but from talking to people I realised that most folk don't have those skills – and if they do, they don't have the confidence in themselves to do it. Given how important tourism is to the economy of the islands (that's another article!) it was clear that a lot of people were going to lose a year's earnings on account of coronavirus.

Early one morning, having just woken up, I said to a group of friends on Messenger that I was thinking about putting a directory online – a list of wee island businesses to make it easy for folks to find them and buy from them. If folks were planning to holiday in the islands, but were now prevented from doing so, maybe they would want to buy a wee reminder of what didn't happen! And if they had particularly close ties to an island, they might want to support the residents by buying something.

Maybe, I said with a smile, I'll call it "Isle20". The responses I got were enough to give me the confidence to try it – they thought it was a good idea! I built a website inside a day that collected information via a form and published it. I sent out a tweet asking whether any wee businesses wanted to try it. And the thing started to grow. I built a page for each island, and got set up on social media. The thing kept growing – a directory of island businesses that was being shared far and wide.

Now, sending traffic to a website with a checkout is great. Sending traffic to a website without that



h-eil sin agad. Reicidh tu rudeigin air Facebook, ach tha e a' toirt beagan nas fhaide a' dol air ais 's air adhart le teachdaireachdan. (Tha suidheachadh Facebook beagan eadar-dhealaichte ann an Ameireagaidh, ach mar a chanas iad san cànan eile, 'We'll let that pass!') Gus cuideachadh le sin, chuir mi ionad-margaidh air dòigh air 'Isle20' – Etsy nan Eilean!

Mìos no dhà as dèidh dhomh tòiseachadh, tha còrr is 400 bùth beag air an clàradh, còrr is 50 neach a' reic agam, agus còrr is 500 rud rin ceannach.

Tha mi an dòchas gum mair seo nas fhaide na COVID, ach càit an tèid e, cò aig a tha fios! Tha fiughar orm sin fhaicinn!

isn't as useful. You can still sell through Facebook, it just takes a bit longer going backwards and forwards with messages. (Facebook is set up slightly differently in that regard in the US, but we'll let that pass!) To help folk with that, I set up a marketplace on 'Isle20' – essentially creating an Etsy of the Isles!

A few months after starting, I have more than 400 small businesses listed, more than 50 folk selling on the site and over 500 products available to buy!

I hope that this will last longer than COVID, but where it will go, who knows! I'm looking forward to finding out!

Na h-aistean eile a sgrìobh Rhoda:

“A' Tilleadh a Thiriodh,”

An Naidheachd Againne, An Samhradh 2013

http://download.acgamerica.org/Reprints/ANA_Reprint_6_Meek_2013-2.pdf

“A' fàs ann an Tiriodh,”

An Naidheachd Againne, An Geamhradh 2015

<http://download.acgamerica.org/Newsletters/Naidheachd%202015-4.pdf>

Rhoda's earlier articles:

“Returning to Tìree,”

An Naidheachd Againne, Summer 2013

http://download.acgamerica.org/Reprints/ANA_Reprint_6_Meek_2013-2.pdf

“Growing in Tìree,”

An Naidheachd Againne, Winter 2015

<http://download.acgamerica.org/Newsletters/Naidheachd%202015-4.pdf>



International Space Station, April 20, 2020

Photo Quiz

Where in the world are you?

The answer is on page 21.



Litir bho'n Cheann-Suidhe

le Micheal MacAoidh

Halò, a chàirdean, ciamar a tha sibh?

Nach i a' cheist seo a tha air fàs gu math cudthromach a's na laithean a th'ann, gu dearbh, bho'n àm mu dheireadh a chunnaic sinn *An Naidheachd Againne*. Mar a tha sinn, mar a tha sinn a' faireachdainn, a bheil sinn a' cumail slàn, fallain, agus mar a tha a' mhòr-chuid againn a' cumail a' dol leis a' bheatha againn – sin ceistean agus cùisean ris an robh sinn uile a' dèiligeadh thairis air na beagan mhìosan a chaidh seachad.

Dhomh-sa dheth, tha mi 'n dòchas gu bheil a h-uile duine air faighinn tro'n ghalar-sgapte cho math 's as urrainn dhuibh, agus cuideachd, gum faic sinn deireadh nan dùnaidhean a tha mu'n cuairt oirnn, ann an ùine nach bi fada. Nuair a chì sibh an iris a tha seo, thathar an dùil, agus thathar ag ràdh, gum faod cuid de na stàitean tighinn a-mach às an aonarachd agus a' feuchainn ri tilleadh air ais a dh'ionnsaigh beatha ris an canamaid “àibhaisteach”. Bithinn beò an dòchas gun tachair sin – gu sàbhailte.

Mar a chì sinn, 's iomadh cleas agus cuilbheart a chuir companaidhean, gnìomhachasan, agus ionadan air bhonn airson cumail air adhart, a dh'aindeòin gach cnap-starra a bheir an galar dhuinn – a-thaobh thaighean-bìdh, reicidh iad biadh a bheir iad dhan doras agad, no a thogas tu taobh a-muigh an togalaich aca, an àite dhol a-steach agus biadh ithe air an taobh a-staigh. A-thaobh taighean-deilbh, shioftaig iad na filmichean aca air-loidhne, far am faic an sluagh iad sna seomraichean-suidhe aca. Agus chunnaic sinn gu bheil na bùthan-gròsaireachd air siostaman a chur an gnìomh a leigeas le daoine tighinn a-steach ann gu sàbhailte.

'S ann mar sin a dh'atharraich sinne an t-seachdain aig Beinn Seanair, agus sinn a' gluasad gu seomraichean air-loidhne airson clasaichean a chumail. Chì sibh iomadach sanas agus brath mu dheidheinn na seachdain air na duilleagan againn air an làrach-lìn againn agus air Facebook.

Thar gach rud eile, ged-tha, tha sinn uile aig a' Chomunn a' guidhe gach piseach dhuibh ann a bhith a' cumail slàn, sàbhailte. Cùm aibh earbsa anns na daoine aig a bheil eòlas agus teisteanas – 's iad-san a tha an urra ri ar cumail beò! Agus, ged nach bi mise a' tilleadh air ais san ath-iris mar

Letter from the President

by Mike Mackay

Hello, friends, how are you?

This question has become quite important in today's world, hasn't it, since the last time we saw *An Naidheachd Againne*. How we are, how we are feeling, are we keeping healthy, and how most of us are getting on with our lives – these are all questions that we have been dealing with over the past few months.

For me, I hope that everyone has gotten through this pandemic as well as possible, and that we'll see the end of the closures that are all around us in a short while. When you see this issue, it's expected and reported that some of the states will be able to come out of isolation and try to return to what we might call “normal life”. I do hope that it can happen – safely.

As we've seen, there have been many approaches and innovations that companies, businesses, and groups have established to stay afloat, despite each roadblock that the pandemic hands us. Restaurants have switched over to delivery, or have set things up for you to pick up your food outside the building instead of going in to eat inside. Movie theaters have shifted over to showing their films online, where people can see them in their living rooms. And grocery stores have made arrangements to allow people to come in and shop safely.

We've changed Grandfather Mountain in the same way, as we move to online rooms to hold classes. You'll see many posts about the event online on our web page and on Facebook.

Above all else, though, we at ACGA wish you all the success you need in staying safe and healthy. Keep your trust in the experts and the qualified advisors – they are responsible for keeping us safe! And,

cheann-suidhe, bu mhath leam a ràdh gum bithinn an dòchas gum bi a h-uile duine agaibh an seo airson an ath-iris a leughadh. 'S e onar a bh'ann, mo chuid ùine a chaitheamh sa chathair an turas seo.

Le meas,

Micheal MacAoidh
Ceann-suidhe, ACGA

although I will not be here next time as president, I'd like to say that I hope that you all will be, to read the next issue of this newsletter. It's been my honor to serve in the chair for my terms.

Respectfully,

Michael Mackay
President, ACGA

Nuair a dh'fhàg sinn Iain an turas mu dheireadh, bha sluagh na sìthe air ruighinn Sgoil nan Eun is Aoife i fhèin aig an ceann. A bheil iad ann airson na banais, no adhbhar eile?

Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig

le Liam Ó Caiside

Caibideil a h-Ochd Deug: Thàinig an Duine

*“And, bending o'er his harp, he flung
His wildest witch-notes on the wind...”*
— Glenfinlas, or Lord Ronald's Coronach, by Walter Scott

Bu choma leinn an uair, ged a bha a' chamhanach a' dlùthachadh agus an oidhche a' crìonadh taobh a-muigh taigh an sgeulaiche. Dhòirt Eoghann dram don sgeulaiche agus shìn e a' ghlainne dha. Ghlug e sìos na bh' innte, agus chuir e a' ghlainne fhalamh air bòrd beag ri a thaobh. Thionndaidh e air ais thugainn.

“Uill,” thuirt e, “mar a bha mi 'g ràdh, thàinig Aoife agus na sìtheanaich a-steach do Sgoil nan Eun, agus thàinig iad far an each. Bha a' chùirt loma-làn le sìtheanaich bheaga agus mhòra. Chaidh feadhainn de na h-aoihean eile a-staigh ann an cabhaig agus ghlais iad na dorsan. Ach cha robh eagal aig na draoidhean.

“Ceud fàilte romhaibh, a bhean-uasail,” thuirt an Draoidh Mòr gu modhail 's gu muinte. “Is fhada bhon a chunnaic sinn sibh an seo fon ghrèin neo fon ghealaich. Ach cha robh fhios agam gun tigeadh uimhir de ur companaich còmhla ribh! Feumaidh gun do dh'fhàg sibh am brugh cho falamh ri tobar tioram.”

“Gum beannaich Banrigh nan Reul thu,” thuirt Aoife ris an draoidh. “Ach cha robh tìde agam naidheachd a thoirt dhut, air chor sam bith, agus Mac na h-Oidhche

air ar sàilibh.” Sheas an Draoidh Mòr cho balbh ri stoc tiota mus do fhreagair e a' bhan-shìth. “An ann mar sin a tha e? An tàinig an t-àm, agus an tàinig an duine?”

“Thàinig, agus theich sinne,” thuirt Aoife. “Dhùin Rìgh nan Uinneagan Daraich na dorsan eadar am brugh agus an saoghal seo. Sheas esan a-mhàin an aghaidh Mac na h-Oidhche fhèin, agus thuit e. A-nise, chan fhaigheadh sinn àite na bu shàbhailte fon speur, fon talamh, neo fo na doimhne ach Sgoil nan Eun.”

“An e fasnach a tha sibh ag iarraidh bhuam?” ar' an Draoidh Mòr.
“Gheibh sibh sin agus tuilleadh.
Thigibh a-steach còmhla rium, sibh fhèin agus ur cuideachd, agus chuireamaid ar comhairle ri chèile, mus tig an latha.”

Ach mun do choisich iad ceum chun an dorais, rinn Nighean an Sgàthain rud a chuir iongantach orra. Thug i ceum air adhart, agus thomh i a meur air an Draoidh Mhòr. “An e sin an fhìrinn gur sibhse an draoidh as fheàrr an Albainn? An Draoidh Mòr a tha cho ainmeil?” thuirt an nighean ris ann an guth àrd, neònach.



“Is mise an draoidh as fheàrr a gheibhear air thalamh,” fhreagair esan gu h-uaibhreach, mì-foighidneach. “Ach cò th’ agam? Dè tha thusa ’g iarraidh bhuan?” “Èistibh rium, a dhraoidh,” ars an nighean, agus thuir i ris:

“Tha mise gur cur fo gheasaibh, agus fo chroisibh
Agus fo naoidh buar màthraichean sìthe, siùbhlain,
seachrain,
'S an draoidh beag as mi-thredraiche na sibh fhèin,
A thoirt dhìbh ur ceann, agus ur cumhachd,
Agus ur seunmhorachd gu buileach,
Mura cuidich sibh mise gus mo mhàthair a
shaoradh
Bho Mhac na h-Oidhche, ge b’ e càite am biodh i.”

Ghlaodh mac-talla a guth ann an cluasan mar a shèid i sgàl air trombaid. Sheas an Draoidh Mòr a’ sgeannadh oirre.

“Cò thusa a chuireadh geas ormsa?” ars’ an draoidh. “Direach mar a bha sgrìobhte anns an leabhar dhubh agam, fad o, fad o. Ach cha sheas e, cha sheas e ... tog dhìom do gheasaibh.” Thog e a bhata daraich cinn airgid.

Ach cha do ghluais Nighean an Sgàthain eang. Ghabh i anail.

“Is mise nighean Àine nan Cnoc, a bha na mnaoi agad uair,” arsa ise. “Tha a piuthar, Aoife inghean Sgàthaich, na seasamh ri do thaobh. Thog mo sheanmhair an caisteal seo mus tàinig Cruithneach neo Gàidheal neo Lochlannach dhan Eilean Sgìtheanach. Chaidh mo bhreith agus mo thogail an Druim-Alt-na-Muice agus a-nise tha m’ àite-còmhnaidh am Baile Àtha Cliath. ’S e an draoidh Ó Cróileagáin, an draoidh as fheàrr ann an Èirinn, a tha nam athair-sa, agus feumaidh mi ràdh gur e m’ athair Mac na h-Oidhche oillteil a tha a’ tighinn.”

“An fhirinn ghlan,” arsa Aoife, agus thug i ceum eadar an Draoidh Mòr agus a’ chaileag. “Thàinig an t-àm, agus thàinig an nighean. Dh’ aithnich mi thu cho luath ’s a chuir mi sùil ort. Thig còmhla rinn agus bruidhnidh sinn tuilleadh.”

Thug Nighean an Sgàthain agus Iain ceum air adhart ach thog an Draoidh Mòr a làmh romhpa. “Stad an seo, a bhalaich. Feumaidh tusa fuireach ris na foghlamaichean eile,” thuir an draoidh ri Iain ann an guth nach robh idir cho coibhneil ’s a b’ àbhaist. “Na dìochuimhnichibh, bidh banais ann a’ seo sa mhadainn, Mac na h-Oidhche ann neo às!”

Thionndaidh iad, agus dh’ fhàg iad Iain nan dèidh, ged a thug Nighean an Sgàthain sùil air ais air.

An uair sin, mhothaich Iain cuideigin na sheasamh aig a ghualainn. Leum a chridhe nuair a chunnaic e gum b’ e athair fhèin a bh’ ann — athair a bha na phrìosanach aig Aoife anns a’ bhrugh, air a sgeadachadh mar shaighdear gaisgeil, le targaid agus claidheamh.

“Mo mhìle beannachd ort, ’ille,” thuir e ri Iain. “Gu tapaidh, innis dhomh dè bhios a’ tachairt an seo.” Agus dh’ aithris Iain a sgeul dha, mar a thachair e ri Nighean an Sgàthain, mar a thàinig i thuige ann an cruth calmain à Èirinn, agus mar a dh’ ionnsaich iad cò a bh’ ann am Mac na h-Oidhche ann an da-riribh.

“Tha mi faicinn gu bheil thu gu math dèidheil air an nighean sin,” arsa Fearchar Òg, athair Iain, “agus gu bheil ceangal eadraibh mar-tha. Is math sin, ach thoir an aire ort fhèin! Tha fuil an t-Sìthein a’ ruith na cuislean. Thàinig i bhon aon t-sliochd às an tàinig Aoife, agus tha an dream sin cunnartach do mhic an duine.”

“Chan eil eagal sam bith orm roimhpe neo teagamh uimpe,” fhreagair Iain. “Thug mi gealladh dhi, a bhith ga cuideachadh, agus cumaidh mi ri m’ fhacal.”

“Mar bu chòir dhut, a mhic,” arsa athair. “A-nise, seall dhomh an caisteal seo. Bidh banais ann madainn a-màireach, ach bu mhòr m’ amharas gum faic sinn còmhrag agus spàirn mus tig an oidhche. ’S fheudar dhuinn a bhith deiseil.”

Choisich iad suas agus sìos mu thimcheall a’ chaisteil. Dh’ fhaighnich Iain dheth carson a bha e fhathast còmhla ri Aoife agus na sìthichean. “An do dhìochuimhnich thu gur ann fo gheasaibh Aoife a tha mi?” arsa Fearchar. “Chan urrainn dhomh falbh gus am faigh mi cead bhuaipe. Sin an t-adhbhar gu bheil mi an seo.”

Mu dheireadh ’s mu dheoghaidh, dhealaich iad, agus chaidh Iain dhan leabaidh. Ach mus deach e a-steach, chunnaic e solas a’ soillseadh fhathast ann an uinneig gu math àrd, ann an seòmar far an robh an Draoidh Mòr, a’ bhean-shìth, athair, agus, dh’ fhaoidte, Nighean an Sgàthain. Bu mhòr a mhiann a bhith ann.

(Tuilleadh ri tighinn ...)



Litir à Dùn Èideann Air-Loidhne, an t-Ògmhios 2020

by Jeff W. Justice

A chàirdean,

Bhithinn air falbh gu Baile Àtha Cliath sa Mhàrt. Bhithinn air am pàipear-rannsachaidh agam a thaisbeanadh an seo. Bhithinn air Gàidhlig agus Gaeilge a bhruidhinn le mo charaidean an sin. Bhithinn a-nis ann an Dùn Èideann airson a bhith a' dèanamh rannsachadh, agus bhithinn air Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn le mo charaidean an sin cuideachd. Bha dùil agam gum bithinn a' sgrìobhadh thugaibh air na turais agam anns na dùthchannan Ceilteach. Ach, tha a-nis facal ùr agam nam chuid Gàidhlig: coronabhìoras, agus feumaidh mi sgrìobhadh thugaibh mu rudeigin eile.

Nuair a bha mi a' fuireach ann an Dùn Èideann, ghabh mi pàirt anns na cearcallan còmhraidh. Ma tha sibh ag iarraidh ur cuid Gàidhlig a leasachadh, tha cearcallan còmhraidh nan dòigh glè mhath air sin a dhèanamh. Bha mi a' dol cuideachd gu Eaglais nam Manach Liath, an aon sheirbheis sa Ghàidhlig ann an Dùn Èideann. Nuair a thill mi dha Na Stàitean Aonaichte, cha robh cearcallan còmhraidh faisg air far an robh mi air fuireach, agus sin fhathast an suidheachadh. Chaill mi iad nuair a thill mi dha na SA, agus cha bu toil leam sin idir.

Agus cha bu toil leam an suidheachadh sin, ach is lugh orm an suidheachadh a th' againn a-nis leis a' choronabhìoras. Tha sinn air mòran a chall, ach chan eil a h-uile rud dona. Chì mi cothroman math airson na Gàidhlig, ma chreideas sibh sin. Sgrìobh mi roimhe sna litrichean seo mu chothroman ionnsachaidh air-loidhne, mar eisimpleir air Duolingo no Memrise. Chan urrainn do dhuine ann an Dùn Èideann a dhol chun nan cearcallan no dhan eaglais an-dràsta, agus air sgàth sin a tha iad a' coinneachadh air-loidhne. Bruidhnear Gàidhlig a-nis air-loidhne mar nach do bhruidhneadh a-riamh roimhe! Tha coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig air "tighinn còmhla" gu bhìortail, agus tha mi a' creidsinn gu bheil sinn a' tighinn nas fhaisge, mar thoradh air an eadar-lìn. Faodaidh mi mo charaidean bho na cearcallan agus bhon eaglais fhaicinn gach seachdain a-rithist.

Tha mi an dòchas gun till cùisean chun na h-àbhaist a dh'aithghearr, ach a-mhàin aon rud: tha mi ag iarraidh

A chàirdean,

I was supposed to go to Dublin in March. I was supposed to present a research paper there. I would have spoken Gaelic and Irish with my friends there. I would be in Edinburgh right now doing research, and I would have been speaking Gaelic with my friends there as well. I expected that I would be writing this letter to you on my trips to the Celtic countries, but we now have a new word in our vocabularies: coronavirus, and so now I have to write to you about something else.

When I lived in Edinburgh, I took part in several conversation circles. If you want to develop your Gaelic, conversation circles are a great way to do it. I also attended the Greyfriars Kirk, the only Gaelic-language service in Edinburgh. When I returned to the United States, there were no such conversation circles close to where I was living, and that is still the situation for me. I lost these when I returned to the US, and I did not care at all for that.

I did not care for that situation, but I loathe this coronavirus situation we have now. We have lost much, but not everything is bad. I see here good opportunities for Gaelic, if you will believe that. I wrote before in these letters about learning opportunities online, for example on Duolingo or Memrise. Nobody in Edinburgh is able to attend conversation circles or church services just now, and so they are now meeting online. Gaelic is now being spoken online as it never has before! Gaelic communities are "coming together" virtually, and I believe that we can grow closer thanks to the Internet. I get to see my friends from the circles and from church every week, again.

I hope that things will return to normal soon, except for one thing: I hope that the conversation circles will continue to grow online. We

gum bi a' choimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig a' leantainn air fàs air-loidhne. Tha tòiseachadh againn, an seo agus an-dràsta, agus tha mi a' creidsinn gur e seo an cothrom as fhèarr a tha aig a' Ghàidhlig ann an ùine gu math fada.

Ach chan eil mi idir a bhith a' toirt taing dhan choronabhioras airson a' chothruim seo.

Le meas,
Goiridh

have a beginning, here and now, and I believe that it is the best opportunity that Gaelic has seen in a very long time.

But I certainly won't say "thank you" to the coronavirus for this opportunity.

Le meas,
Jeff

Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Do you know what familiar Gaelic proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 19 to see if you're right.



Image by ArtTower, www.Pixabay.com (ArtTower -5337)

2020 ACGA Board of Directors Election Results

This year three candidates stepped forward to fill two vacancies on the ACGA Board of Directors. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all three. ACGA is an entirely volunteer-led organization, and as such could not exist without members willing to serve on the Board and be involved in other activities of the society.

Reese McKay (Colorado) has served previously on the Board and is pleased to be able to help to continue the work of ACGA in elevating the profile of Scottish Gaelic in North America and promoting the learning of the language. He has attended immersion weekends and Grandfather Mountain weeks in the past and believes that these face-to-face encounters are invaluable as a means of furthering not only the language, but the culture and music of the Gaels.

Eileen Walker (Virginia) is involved locally with promoting Gaelic by assisting with a beginner group. She is also a co-administrator of, and maintains this group's Facebook page. As a Board member, she will work to see how best ACGA can promote Gaelic conversation, as she is aware that there are not opportunities for many members to have and practice conversation in Gaelic.

Mealaibh ur naidheachd!



Oisean a' Ghràmair / The Grammar Nook

by Wayne Harbert

Scary Things About Gaelic (STAG): A Scottish Gael, an Irish Gael and a Manx Gael walked into a pub...

No, it's not a setup for a joke. I actually took part in a ceilidh like that back in the 90s when I was studying Gaelic at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. My stay overlapped with that of five people from Isle of Man and four from Ireland, speakers of Gaelg and Gaeilge respectively. One evening, we all hiked down the road to the pub and spent a few hours engaged in a memorable conversation, carried out by necessity in three different Gaelic languages. It was an animated conversation, and the sound of the other languages resounded in my ears with almost eerie familiarity. So much so that I felt as if I should surely be able to follow what was being said if only I could manage to listen a little more intently. In the end, though, most of the meanings remained tantalizingly just beyond my grasp. I caught a fair amount more of the Gaelg than of the Gaeilge, though. No surprise here. Scottish Gaelic and Manx are, in fact, more closely related to each other than to the standard varieties of Irish. This state of affairs is, sadly, partly due to the fact that Gaelic and Manx were most closely related to the Irish dialects of Ulster, which have pretty much disappeared from the world. Beyond that, Gaelic and Manx shared a common history after they departed for the islands, and remained so close that Thomas O'Rahilly's old but still useful *Irish Dialects Past and Present* refers to them as "Manno-Scottish". For example, both Gaelic and Manx use *cha* to make a sentence negative, while Irish uses *ní*. And both Scottish Gaelic and Manx have merged the present and future forms of verbs. Irish has *caillidh* 'loses' and *caillfidh* 'will lose', but Gaelic and Manx have only *caillidh/ caillee*. The loss of this distinction caused a shift in the meaning of the tenses. *Caillidh* is present tense in Irish, but it has become future/ habitual in Gaelic and Manx, so to express the right now present, you use a periphrastic construction in these languages: *Tha mi ag èisteachd ris/ Ta mee geaishtagh rish*. Similarly, Scottish Gaelic and Manx have merged the imperfect and the conditional, which are still distinct in Irish. And so on. And there are similarities in pronunciation: no long vowels in unstressed syllables, the sound of <ao>, for example, as well as similarities in vocabulary. Other shared features are listed in the chapter on Scottish Gaelic in O'Rahilly. Just one more contrast serves to underscore the point. Here are some subject pronouns in the three languages. (Irish, but not Scottish Gaelic or Manx, has a separate set of third person pronouns for objects):

SG	thu	e	i	iad
Manx	oo	eh	ee	ad
Irish	tú	sé	sí	siad

So while Irish is a close cousin to Gaelic, Manx is Gaelic's linguistic sister (and a truly heroic one at that; besides Hebrew it is perhaps the most successful example of a resurrected language reestablishing itself as a community language). These distinctions ought to be enough to prompt us as learners of Gaelic to give it a look. A warning, though: you might be in for a bit of a shock when you first see Manx written on a page. In their written form, as some of the examples above illustrate, Irish and Scottish Gaelic look very much alike. This is because over the centuries Scotland and Ireland were united by an active bardic literary exchange with a written standard based on the ancient, venerable and conservative alphabet of Old and Middle Irish. Because of this standard, Irish and Gaelic continued to spell words in the same way even when the sounds of the language were changing out from under the spellings in different directions. The conservativeness of spelling

makes them look more alike than they actually are. To take one instance, in Scottish Gaelic *mnathan* ‘women’ corresponds to Irish *mná*. It once began with the sound sequence /mn/, and it still does in Irish. But in spoken Gaelic, this sequence changed to /mr/ long ago, and the spelling is an artifact. Manx has *mraane*. So, the spelling gives the false impression of which language is closer to which. Gaelic has in fact remained truer to this old writing tradition than Irish, in a way. Irish underwent a reform in 1947 in which many silent consonants were ousted from the spelling. So, we have *bliadhna* and *oidhche* versus *bliana* and *oiche*. (When I was first learning Gaelic, I innocently asked my teacher how you could tell when an aspirated letter in the middle of the word was silent. He replied: “Oh, that’s easy. You learn Irish. The ones that aren’t written in Irish are silent in Gaelic (!)).

Manx, though, was robbed of the chance to share in this community of letters and literacy when the Stanleys took over ownership of the island in the 15th century and turned it into their own fiefdom, cut off from the larger Gaelic culture. Their language became an exclusively oral one, and when, at length, they had need for a written language for religious purposes, one was created that was based on early Modern English spelling (with perhaps a little Welsh thrown in: the Reverend John Phillips, one of the earliest translators of religious texts into Manx, was born in Wales). This new spelling was based (roughly) on the sounds of spoken Manx, of course, so it doesn’t have all those silent letters. Scottish Gaelic *beathaichean* shows up in Manx as *beiyn*. O’Rahilly laments this development: “Manx has been saddled with a corrupt spelling, which is neither traditional nor phonetic. If Manx had had the good fortune to preserve...the traditional system of Gaelic orthography, the close kinship which exists between these two languages would be obvious to all at first sight.”

Here’s a little exercise you might try in an idle moment. See if you can figure out what the closest equivalent might be in Scottish Gaelic of the following Manx phrases. If you download the wonderful Learn Manx app on your smartphone or tablet, it will let you hear the Manx sentence, so you can see how close to Gaelic it is in its spoken form.

Bare lhiam ooylllyn.	I would like an apple.
Foddee dy vel eh feayr.	Perhaps it is cold.
Haink mee thie anmagh.	I came home late.
Jinnin gynsagh?	Would I learn?
Nagh jinnagh eh giree?	Wouldn’t he get up?
Ren oo gynsagh Gaelg?	Did you learn Manx?
Shoklaid çeh.	Hot chocolate
Ta daa hie orrym	I have two houses.
Ta daa voddey ayns my gharey	There are two dogs in my garden.
Ta mee geaishtagh rish kiaull Manninagh.	I am listening to Manx music.

A Website to Watch



Sgeul is Seachas / Scottish Storytelling Forum

The Storytelling Forum, part of TRACS, Traditional Arts + Culture Scotland, has lots to offer, but we’re highlighting Sgeul is Seachas, a podcast “where you’ll hear a mixture of traditional, historical, and humorous stories in Gaelic from some of the best storytellers in Scotland.”

Pour yourself a cup of tea, click on the link below, and sink into a story.

<https://www.storytellingforum.co.uk/podcast-pod-craoladh/>

2020 Virtual Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week & Mòd

Classes: Monday, July 6 - Thursday, July 9, 2020 from 11:00am - 4:30pm EDT each day
Mòd: Friday, July 10, 2020 at 1:00pm EDT

Due to travel and other restrictions, this year's Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week will be held virtually. We are pleased to welcome **Màiri Britton** (Scotland/Cape Breton) and **Wilma Kennedy** (Scotland) as our instructors, as well as adjudicators for the Mòd.



Màiri Britton



Wilma Kennedy

Software: The software we will use for this online event is Zoom. If you don't have this program installed on your laptop, desktop, tablet, or phone, you will need to download and install it before any participation in the event. If using a desktop computer, you may also need an independent microphone and webcam. There will be two Zoom meetings held in advance of the event in order to help familiarize you with what to expect and to iron out any technical problems that might arise. All registrants are strongly urged to attend at least one meeting.

Fees: The flat fee for the language week is \$125US (\$50US late fee after June 19). The optional Mòd has a separate \$10US entry fee for participants or a \$5US fee for observers. All Mòd participant entries must be received by June 15. Payment is by PayPal and will be processed upon submitting the registration form.

Registration:

See <https://registrargfm.wufoo.com/forms/grandfather-mountain-song-and-language-week-2020/>

Schedule:

Language Classes

Block1 = 11:00am -12:30pm; Block 2 = 1pm - 2:30pm; Block 3 = 3pm – 4:30pm

Song Classes

Block 1 = 11:00am -12:00pm; Block 2 = 1pm - 2pm; Block 3 = 3pm – 4pm

Study Level (Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced)

	MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
	Language	Song	Language	Song	Language	Song	Language	Song
Block 1	INT.	BEG.	ADV.	INT.	BEG.	ADV.	INT.	BEG.
Block 2	ADV.	INT.	BEG.	ADV.	INT.	BEG.	ADV.	INT.
Block 3	BEG.	ADV.	INT.	BEG.	ADV.	INT.	BEG.	ADV.

Dòchas gum bi sinn gur faicinn an t-Òg-mhios!

Bàrdachd airson ar linn

We love it when Gaelic learners turn into Gaelic poets! Here we have two thoughtful examples, from opposite sides of the continent. Barbara Rice's (New York) verses came to her after a chance encounter on a city street. Jone MacCulloch (Oregon) wrote and illustrated her poem as part of a class exercise.

Co-thadhal

le B.L. Rice

Aon latha, thill mi dhachaigh bhon bhùth-
ghròsaireachd
Agus thachair mi ri cailleach air an t-slighe.
Cha d' rinn i ach, mar a rinn i roimhe.
Thàinig i a-steach do bhùth CVS,
A' coimhead airson maise-gnùis.

Chan fhaodadh càil a bhith air a bheantainn,
Chan fhaodadh càil a bhith air a thogail.
Cha robh ach coimhead ceadachte.
Agus bha e car doirbh fios a bhith aice, an robh an
dath-lipean a' dol rithe.
Bha an neach-tèarainteachd ga càineadh, a chionn 's
gun do dh'fheuch i e.

Mar sin, bha i seo, taobh a-muigh na bùtha,
Direach a' lorg anam-dìsle, gus còmhraidh a
dhèanamh rithe.
Thuir i, gun robh an aon suidheachadh ann rè galair-
sgaoilte na paralais-naoidheanta,
Agus anns an àm,
Gun do stad an sluagh gus a sòradh agus
smaoineachadh.

Agus a-rithist, mar sin bha an ùine,
Ged nach biodh ann ach ùine ghoirid.
An àite sguabadh seachad srainnsearan gach latha,
Stadadh a bhruidhinn ri caraidean ùra,
Ris am faodamaid coinneachadh an-diugh.

Contact

By B.L. Rice

I was returning home one day from the grocery
store,
And met an older woman on the way.
She had only done as she had before,
Gone into the CVS store,
Looking for make-up.

Nothing could be touched,
Nothing could be lifted [picked up].
Only looking was permitted.
And it was a bit difficult to know if the lipstick
color matched or not.
The security guard scolded her for trying the
sample.

So, here she was, outside the store.
Just searching for a kindred soul to converse
with.
She said that this was the same situation during
the polio epidemic.
And in that time,
People stopped to pause and think.

And here that time was again,
If only for a short while,
In passing,
Instead of brushing past strangers every day,
Stopping to speak with new friends, who we
could meet today.

Mentor Poem

by Jone MacCulloch



Criomagan / Bits of This and That

A-Staigh

Wondering what some of your Gaelic “friends” have been doing to keep busy while we’ve all been *a-staigh*? From BBC Alba here’s a series of short Gaelic videos subtitled in English from a variety of Gaelic speakers including Rhoda Meek who wrote our lead article this month. Search “a-staigh” on YouTube or click this link. https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLomnEwtqhZDcpB0N2B0WdR6p_BqrXExfz

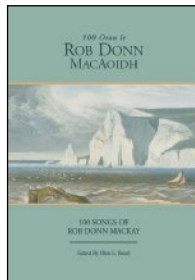
More Gaelic Videos

You’ll find another good series of videos on Learn Gaelic. Follow the menu at the top of the page to “Upper Intermediate” and then “Watch Gaelic.” These videos include Gaelic text, English text, and vocabulary help. <https://www.learnghaelic.net/watch/index.jsp>



Leabhar Ùr le Ball ACGA, Ellen Beard

100 Òran le Rob Donn MacAoidh, deas. le Ellen L. Beard (Breacais Àrd: Taigh na Teud, 2018). 210 duilleagan. £20 agus postachd @ www.scotlandsmusic.com.



New Songbook by ACGA Member, Ellen Beard

100 Songs of Rob Donn MacKay, ed. by Ellen L. Beard (Upper Breakish, Skye: Taigh na Teud, 2018). 210 pages. £20 plus postage @ www.scotlandsmusic.com.

Ann an 2018 dh’fhoillsich mi leabhar-òrain le ceud òran le sinnsear agam, bàrd Chàtaibh 18mh linn deug Rob Donn MacAoidh. Stèidhichte air mo thràchdas PhD 2016 aig Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann, tha e a’ gabhail a-steach ceòl ann an notaichean sgrìobhte, teacsaichean Gàidhlig coilionta, is eadar-theangachaidhean Beurla coilionta airson òrain a’ siubhail bho mharbhrannan gu aoirean, le mòran chùntasan soisealta is poiliteigeach, òrain ghaoil, is cuspairean eile cuideachd. A-rèir an ro-ràdh:

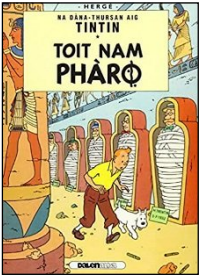
Seo leabhar-òrain airson seinneadairean is sgoilearan, le amas seirbheis a dhèanamh do dhuine sam bith le ùidh ann an òran Gàidhlig ochdamh linn deug, a’ gabhail a-steach seinneadairean, oidean ciùil, is co-roinnteachan aig mòdan, luchd-eachdraidh dreuchdail is sgoilearan Gàidhlig, buidhnean dualchais is leabhar-lannan, daoine a tha a’ fuireach sa Ghàidhealtachd latha an-diugh, is daoine le freumhan Albannaich an àiteachan eile.

Na bu anmoiche am bliadhna, bidh alt ceangailte sna iris *Scottish Studies*, le tiotal “*Fuinn air an inntinn: A case study in the composition of eighteenth-century Gaelic song*”, a’ sgrùdadh ann am mion-chùntas na dòighean Roib Dhuinn de chruthachadh ciùil.

In 2018 I published a songbook containing one hundred songs by my ancestor, the 18th-century Sutherland Gaelic bard Rob Donn MacKay. Based on my 2016 PhD thesis at the University of Edinburgh, it includes music in staff notation, complete Gaelic texts, and complete English translations for songs ranging from elegies to satires, with plenty of social and political commentary, love songs, and other topics as well. As stated in the introduction:

This is a songbook for both singers and scholars, intended to serve as a resource for anyone interested in eighteenth-century Gaelic song, including singers, music teachers and Mòd participants, professional historians and Gaelic scholars, heritage groups and libraries, current residents of the Highlands, and members of the Scottish diaspora.

Later this year, a related article will appear in the journal *Scottish Studies*, titled “*Fuinn air an inntinn: A case study in the composition of eighteenth-century Gaelic song*”, exploring in greater detail Rob Donn’s methods of musical composition.

Book Review:

***Tintin: Toit nam Phàro* (1934), ISBN: 9781906587468**

***Tintin: An t-Eilean Dubh* (1938), ISBN: 9781906587376**

***Tintin: Crùbag nan Ìnean Òir* (1941), ISBN: 9781906587505**

All by Hergé, translated by Gillebrìde Mac 'Illemhaoil

All are 62 color pages,

Gaelic versions by Dalen: Tresaith, Ceredigion

(The dates refer to the publication of the original books)

Reviewed by Ted Neveln

Five Gaelic Tintin mystery-adventure-comedy graphic novels have come out so far and the three I have read are delightful.

The action-filled pictures illustrate the dialog nicely, the typography is easy on the eyes, and the broad humor does not induce brain strain. Tintin has a skull of iron (which gets dented often), the hardiness of a camel, the agility of a hummingbird, and tremendous adaptability to situations that change wildly from page to page. He is a boy reporter with no deadlines to meet and a bottomless travel budget. His white dog is called Dileas in Gaelic. Although the dog is *dileas* he is easily tempted by bones or Loch Lomond Scotch.

Reading these books in publication order gives a chance to watch characters develop and grow. *Toit nam Phàro* was an early book where Hergé found his narrative footing and is also very fast-paced. *An t-Eilean Dubh* takes place partly in the islands of Scotland and has Tintin wearing a cool kilt while he pursues a monster. *Crùbag nan Ìnean Òir* is a smidgeon more slow-paced than the other two but has a cool full-page picture of a 1930s airplane swooping overhead while it tries to kill Tintin, and it also has a beautiful cover illustration of camels grinning merrily while someone tries to murder their riders. These books can be oddly dream-like. There is no point trying to summarize the storylines; it's like mapping a trans-national pinball machine. There are more nefarious conspirators than a barrel of Illuminati.

Hergé has been criticized for his political opinions and ethnic caricatures, but in these three books it is mostly sailors who are depicted badly, since many are pirates except for one who is a drunkard – although he is later redeemed.

Speaking of pirates, some of the prices on Amazon and other sellers are absurd but Comhairle nan Leabhraichean (Gaelic Books Council) sells them for reasonable base prices of £7.99, as does Dalen, the publisher of these Gaelic versions. Dalen also publishes graphic novels in Cornish, Breton, Irish, Welsh, and Scots.

The Gaelic publications do not track the publication order of the originals, and I don't see how Dalen chooses them. I enjoyed Gillebrìde Mac 'Illemhaoil's excellent translations of the three Tintin books I've reviewed here. I've not yet read *Tintin: Ciste Chastafiore* (1963) nor *Tintin: Slat-Rìoghail Rìgh Ottokar* (1939), but I will surely do so. Raghnaid Sandilands translated these two, and it will be interesting to try to discern differences in how the two translators work. The physical quality of the books is high. A possible way to keep reading groups on their toes would be to have each reader takes rapid turns reading the frames. "High" literature can distract readers into discourses and debates, and that is unlikely with these graphic novels and the conversation is usually middle-register. There could be scope for some role-playing. Useful phrases abound, especially if you want to channel your inner villain:

“Mo mhallachd air!”

“Daingead! cha mhòr nach robh e againn!”

“Plàigh e ann! Ciamar a gheibh mi cuidhteas e?”

Tintin books have lots of exclamations like “Aileag is Òbhag!” and many “butter phrases.” A member of Slighe nan Gàidheal coined the term “butter phrases” to indicate phrases that butter along a conversation. For example, “Leig leam mi fhèin a chur an aithne dhut, a Thintin. Bunji Kuraki, poileas Yokohama. Shaor na poilis mi bhon Karaboudjan. Bha mi fo ghlais aca. Ghabh iad am bruid mi is mi a’ toirt litir thugad.” Allow me to introduce myself, Tintin. Bunji Kuraki, Yokohama police. The police freed me from the Karaboudjan. I was their captive. They kidnapped me and I sent a letter to you. “Leig leam mi fhèin a chur an aithne dhut,” is a great butter phrase which I have not seen in a textbook and one that I could really use in conversation. Hopefully no one will need, “Ghabh iad am bruid mi.” As these examples show, the grammar and idioms push readers well into the intermediate range; Tintin graphic novels are not for an unguided beginner.

Meek Lines

Professor Donald Meek, academic, editor, writer, and poet, shares his poetry on a Facebook page called “Meek Lines,” explaining 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 that spirit of sharing (and with Professor Meek’s permission), in this issue of *An Naidheachd Againne* we have again asked one of our friends to pick a poem from “Meek Lines” and tell us about it.

Here, long-time ACGA member John Grimaldi / aka The Kilted Juggler, not only tells us why he laughed out loud when he first read “Òran nan Wheelie-Bins,” but he also explains what prompted his coda, which he calls, “Earball.”



Òran nan Wheelie-Bins *le Dòmhnall E. Meek*

Ho-rì, ho-rò na bionaichean,
toirt sonas do gach creutair,
a’ ruidhleadh air na machraichean
nuair bhios an stoirm a’ sèideadh!

Is toigh leam fhìn mar thilgeas iad
an sgudal air na slèibhteann,
's chan eil neach sa choimhearsnachd
nach fhaic na dh'ith a chèile.

Cha bhi cù sa bhaile seo
nach bi a’ togail èibhneis
Leis na tha sna bionaichean,
's gach nì a gheibh a dheudan.

'S chì thu fhèin na cailleachan
a’ ruith gu luath nan dèidh-san,
cho sùbailt ris na caileagan,
feuch an glac iad tè dhiubh.

Ach siud a-nis air iteig iad
mar bhuidsichean cho eutrom,
is bidh iad an Ameireaga
mus sguir an stoirm a shèideadh.

Is toil leam bàrdachd, gu h-àraidh bàrdachd spòrsail agus bidh mi a' caitheamh cus ùine air Facebook! Ach bho àm gu àm, gheibh mi seudan an sin - òrain no bàrdachd no bhidiothan sa Ghàidhlig!

'S e bàrd ainmeil a th' ann an Dòmhnall Meek! Tha e a' sgrìobhadh (mar a tha fios agaibh) iomadach seòrsa bàrdachd - spòrsail, cràbhach, tuiridhean msaa.

An-uiridh, leugh mi "Òran nan Wheelie-Bins" agus dh'fhaighnich mo bhean, "Cò mu dhèidhinn a rinn thu gàire?" Dh'eadar-theangaich mi i air a son agus rinn i gàire cuideachd! Bha na dealbhan a rinn Dòmhnall cho spòrsail - na coin ag ithe, na cailleachan a' ruith, na wheelie-bins air iteal!

Nuair a leugh mi i a-rithist, smaoinich mi gum freagradh am fonn "Carson a bhios sinn muladach?", a dh'ionnsaich mi bho Christine Primrose, ris.

An ath-latha nuair a bha mi a' tilleadh dhachaigh, chunnaic mi wheelie-bins air Avenue A faisg air an taigh agam. Smaoinich mi, "Tha barrachd bàrdachd an sin! Mar a tha na wheelie-bins seo a' tighinn à Tiriodh fhèin..."

An uair sin, sgrìobh mi "Earball" no Coda. Sheinn mi an dà òran aig a' chèilidh bhiortail a rinn Liam Ó Caiside sa Mhàrt sa chaidh, agus nach robh Liam cho bàdheil mo chuid Gàidhlig a cheartachadh mus do sheinn mi an t-òran.

Sin mo sgeul!

I love poetry, especially humorous verse, and I spend too much time on Facebook. However, from time to time, I find gems there - songs, poetry or videos in Gàidhlig!

Donald Meek is a noted poet. He writes, as I'm sure you know, many types of poetry - humorous, religious, laments and so forth.

Last year, I read *A Song of Wheelie-Bins* and my wife asked me, "What are you laughing about?" I translated it for her and she laughed too. The pictures that Donald painted were so funny - the dogs eating, the old ladies running, the wheelie bins flying,

When I read it again, I thought that the tune that I learned from Christine Primrose for *Carson a bhios mi muladach?* would suit it very well.

The very next day as I was going home from work, I saw wheelie bins on Avenue A, near my home in the scenic trendy East Village of NYC. I thought, "There's more poetry there! If these wheelie bins came all the way from Tìree itself"

So then I wrote a coda, *Earball*. I sang the two together at the virtual cèilidh that Liam Ó Caiside hosted this past March. Liam kindly corrected my Gàidhlig before that.

That's my story!

Earball

le Iain Grimaldi

Ho-rì, ho-rò na bionaichean,
a' siubhal thar an t-sàile
air sgiathan mòr nan gailleannan
gu ruig iad air an stàile!

'Nuair sin bha iad 'g itealaich
mar fhaoileagan cho aotrom
gus an d' ràinig iad Aimeireaga
'n sin shnàig iad mar an daolan.

Is fuirichidh 'ad sa Bhaile Ear* (East Village, NYC)
cho fad o Thìr an Eòrna,
mar dh'iarras tu do bhionaichean
dèan cèilidh air Nuadh Eabhrac!



Wheelie-bins on Lower East Side, New York City. *John Grimaldi*

* Tha mar a tha Micheal Bauer a' cur Gàidhlig air New York a' dèanamh comhardadh – cha mhòr!

a-muigh 's a-mach / out and about

Coinneamhan bhiortail aig Gàidhlig Photomac ann an linn a' choròna-bhìoras *le Hilary NicPhàidein*

Fàilte gu dòigh ùr anns a bheil daoine a' coinneachadh agus Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn le chèile – Zoom. Tha dà choinneamh bhiortail shoirbheachail air a bhith aig Gàidhlig Photomac mu thràth fhad 's a tha sinn air fuireach taobh a-staigh bho chionn a' Mhàirt.

Choinnich am buidheann airson a' chiad uair aig deireadh a' Mhàirt. Bha “Cèilidh air Loidhne” againn airson òrain, còmhradh is sgeulachdan a thoirt seachad agus bha fichead duine an lathair. Dh'fhàs sinn cleachdte ri Zoom fhad 's a chuir sinn eòlas air a chèile agus bha e math mòran luchd-tòiseachaidh fhaicinn. An uairsin dh'ionnsaich Liam Ó Caiside dhuinn feadhainn abairtean furasta agus an dèidh sin dh'ionnsaich sinn òran, chuala sinn òran is dàin is sgeulachd, agus chluich ban-chruitear air a' chlarsach.

Bha an ath choinneamh aig deireadh a' Chèitean, dìreach ro Là a' Chuimhneachaidh. B' e “Sgeul gu Latha” an t-ainm a bh' air an tachartas, agus b' e taigh-cèilidh no taigh-coinneimh air loidhne air Zoom a bh' againn a-rithist. Thàinig fichead duine bho àiteachan fad is farsaing: bho North Carolina gu Vermont, bho Illinois gu New York, agus muinntir an àite ann an Virginia is Maryland. Abair frithealadh le mòran luchd-ionnsachaidh mar a bh' ann roimhe. An dèidh dhan a h-uile duine iad fhèin a thoirt a-steach, dh'innis Liam dhuinn gun robh, agus gu bheil, seachas glè chudromach anns a' chultar Ghàidhealach ann an Alba agus Ceap Breatainn. An uairsin chuala sinn ochd stòiridhean a bha inntinneach agus diofaraichte. Bha feadhainn èibhinn is feadhainn throm-chùiseach, bha feadhainn eagalach is feadhainn neo-shaoghalta. Chòrd an seachas gu mòr ris a h-uile duine.

Mòran taing gu Liam Ó Caiside agus Caitlin NicAoidh airson nan seiseanan-Zoom seo a chur air dòigh.

Gàidhlig Photomac's Virtual Meetings in the Age of Coronavirus *by Hilary McFadyen*

Say hello to a new way for people to meet and speak Gaelic together – Zoom. Gàidhlig Photomac has already had two successful virtual meetings while we have been staying at home since March.

The group met for the first time at the end of March. We had an “Online Ceilidh” with songs, conversation and stories, and twenty people showed up. We got used to the Zoom app while introductions were made; it was good to see a lot of beginners. Then Liam Cassidy taught us a few simple phrases and after that we learned a song, someone sang a song, two folks recited poems, someone told a story and a harpist played the clarsach.

The next meeting was at the end of May, just before Memorial Day. This event was called “A Story till Dawn” and, once again, the ceilidh house or meeting house was online using Zoom. Twenty people came from far and wide: from North Carolina to Vermont, from Illinois to New York, as well as the “local” folk from Virginia and Maryland. The attendance was great with many learners showing up as they did for the first event. After everyone introduced themselves, Liam told us about how important storytelling was, and is, to the Gaelic culture in Scotland and in Cape Breton. Then we heard eight interesting and different stories. Some were funny and some were serious, some were scary and some were otherworldly. Everyone really enjoyed the storytelling session.

Many thanks to Liam Cassidy and Cathleen MacKay for making the Zoom sessions possible.

Dè Tha Catriona Ris?

Uill, aig àm a' Chorona, tha i a' seinn.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zroKsE_JY8o

Pàidh Càil-bhloinigein le Plaosg Càil-cholaig

Thàinig an reasabaidh blasta seo thugainn bho Molly MacRae is i ag ràdh gu bheil i air a bhith a' bruich a leithid, san aon mhìs pàidh chearamaigeach dhonn bho 1976. Ma bhios tu measail air reasabaidh eile airson a' phlaoisg, cleachd an tè sin, gun bhruch.

Plaosg Càil-cholaig

Grìtheidean

4 cupannan cinn agus stoc càil-cholaig (neo 4 cupannan càil-cholaig reòite)
1/2 chupa càise parmesan
1 ugh
1/4 spàin-tì salainn

Ma chleachdas tu càl-colaig ùr, tionndaidh e ann am pròiseasar-bìdh gus am bi coltas min-arbhair air a' chàl-cholaig, is an uair sin cuir san àmhainn meanbh-thonn e airson 5 mionaidean, is an uair sin, fàg e gus fuarachadh.

Ma chleachdas tu càl-colaig reòite, bruich e a rèir nan stiùiridhean air a' bhogsa, fàg e gus fuarachadh, is an uair sin tionndaidh e ann am pròiseasar-bìdh gus am bi coltas min-arbhair air a' chàl-cholaig.

Cuir an càl-colaig, air a bhruch is air a thionndadh, ann an clobhd glan agus plùch e gus a h-uile boinne uisge a thoirt às. Agus an uair sin, plùch a-rithist e. Tha thu airson 2 chupa càil-cholaig air a phlùchadh fhaighinn.

Buail an t-ugh ann am bobhla meadhanach. Cuir na tha air fhàgail dhe na grìtheadain ris.

Brùth am measgachadh do mhàs mias pàidh agus suas na taobhan cuideachd.

Pàidh Càil-bhloinigein

Ro-theasaich an àmhainn gu 375° F.

Grìtheidean

1 bogsa càil-bhloinigein reòite, a tha air aiteamh, agus fàisgte gus na ghabhas de dh'uisge a thoirt às
1 gu 2 cupa càise air a sgrìobadh (cleachdaidh mi fhìn càise cheddar buileach geur)
3 neo 4 uighean
10 unnsaichean bainne
1/2 spàin-tì salainn
1/4 spàin-tì piobair

Spinach Quiche with a Cauliflower Crust

This tasty quiche recipe comes to us from Molly MacRae, who says she's been making versions of it, in the same brown ceramic pie dish, since 1976. Of course, you can make this quiche with any unbaked pie crust recipe you like.

Cauliflower Crust

Ingredients

4 cups florets and stems of fresh cauliflower (or equivalent of frozen cauliflower)
1/2 cup parmesan cheese
1 egg
1/4 tsp. salt



If using fresh cauliflower, whirl in food processor until cauliflower resembles cornmeal, then microwave for 5 minutes, cool.

If using frozen cauliflower, cook according to package, cool, then whirl in food processor until cauliflower resembles cornmeal.

Put cooked, whirled cauliflower in clean cloth towel and squeeze to remove every bit of water you can. Then squeeze some more. You want to end up with about 2 cups of squeezed cauliflower.

Beat the egg in a medium mixing bowl. Add the rest of the ingredients.

Press the mixture into the bottom of a pie plate and up the sides.

Spinach Quiche

Preheat oven to 375° F.

Ingredients

1 box frozen spinach, thawed, and squeezed to remove as much liquid as you can
1 to 2 cups grated cheese (I use extra-sharp cheddar)
3 or 4 eggs
10 oz. milk
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper

Crath leth dhen chàise air bonn plaosg pàigh gun bhruich, cuir an càl-bhloinigein air mullach a' chàise, agus an uair sin, cuir an càise a tha air fhàgail air mullach a' chàil-bhloinigein.

Ann am bobhla meadhanach, buail na h-uighean, am bainne, an salann, agus am piobar còmhlà.

Dòirt measgachadh uighean air a' chàl-bhloinigein agus air a' chàise.

Bruich airson 40 mionaidean gus am bi e seasmhach anns a' mheadhan. Leig leis fuarachadh airson 15 mionaidean.



Molly MacRae

Sprinkle half the cheese on the bottom of the unbaked pie shell, cover cheese with the spinach, top with remaining cheese.

In a medium bowl, beat eggs, milk, salt, and pepper.

Pour egg mixture over the filling.

Bake for 40 minutes - until set in center. Let it cool for 15 minutes.



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!



Image by ArtTower, www.Pixabay.com (ArtTower -5337)

Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 8

Nach gorm na cnuic a tha fada bhainn.

How green the hills are which are far from us.
(The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.)

Gabh do Naidheachd

Storytelling has a long history among the Gaels, and it takes many forms, from hours-long Ossianic tales to ghost stories, to Cape Breton rolaistean / tall tales, and many Gaelic learners enthusiastically take part in the tradition.

Shelton Browder, one such learner, honed his storytelling skills for many years working at Colonial Williamsburg as a blacksmith. In this short video, Shel tells what he calls a Dad Joke / Fealla-dhà Athar that he translated into Gaelic with the help of his teacher Michael Mackay.

Here's Shel's story:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxW_ZpJGyU&list=UUpd19PJyh1216D7d-z3QbEA&index=1

Dè Tha Dol?

Gaelic Events

An t-Ògmhios 2020 / June 2020

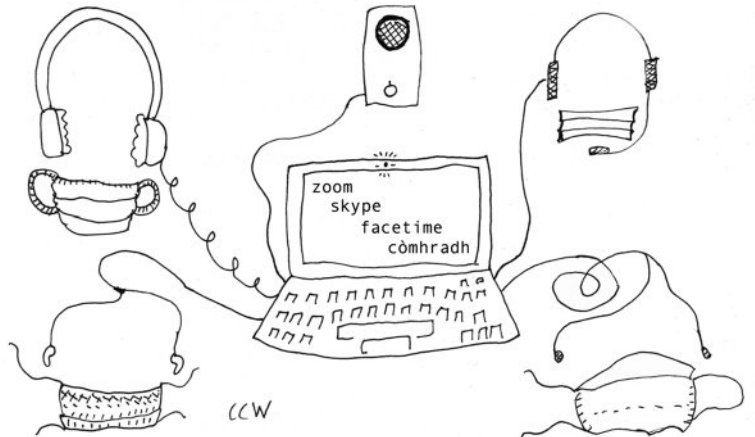
Virtual Book Launch & Cèilidh, *Anna Ruadh*, Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Braden Press hope to hold a free live online cèilidh & book launch on June 24 for the Scottish Gaelic translation of *Anne of Green Gables*. This is the date when an *Anna Ruadh* cèilidh for attendees of the L.M. Montgomery Conference at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown would have taken place. A recording of this event will also be posted online afterward with free access. Watch social media for updates and more info.

An t-Iuchar 2020 / July 2020

2020 Virtual Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week & Mòd, July 6–10, 2020

This year, due to travel and other restrictions, the Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week will be held virtually. We are pleased to welcome Màiri Britton (Scotland / Cape Breton) and Wilma Kennedy (Scotland) as our instructors as well as adjudicators for the Mòd. The flat fee for the language week is \$125US (\$50US late fee after June 19). The optional Mòd has a separate \$10US entry fee for participants or a \$5US fee for observers. All Mòd participant entries must be received by June 15. Please see further information, including a registration link, on page 11.



Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Summer Short Courses Online

Courses are now available for online tuition via Zoom. These courses will run over three days instead of the usual five, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week, with each course comprising three classes on each of these days, running from 09.30-10.45, 11.15-12.30 and 13.30-15.00 (BST), all included in one fee.

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/cursaichean-goirid-air-loidhne/>

An Dàmhair 2020 / October 2020

Celtic Colours International Festival at Home, October 9–17, 2020

Celtic Colours will be live-streamed with some pre-recorded events. Donations will be gratefully accepted, and merchandise will be offered for sale. Keep watching www.celtic-colours.com/at-home/ for information as it becomes available.

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)

A Bharrachd

Meal do naidheachd!

An Naidheachd Againne co-editor, Barbara L. Rice, (see her poem *Co-thadhal / Contact*, page 12 in this issue) will soon see six of her poems published in *Steall*, the Scottish Gaelic anthology magazine that features contemporary poetry, fiction, regular columnists, and more. Launched in October 2016, *Steall* is published twice a year. <http://www.steall.online>

Carina MacLeod and *Rùn* take second place in the 2020 Royal Television Society Scotland Awards

Carina MacLeod's film *Rùn* (see interview, *ANA*, March 2020), has taken second in the "children's" category of 2020 Royal Television Society Scotland Awards. *Rùn* was showcased on BBC Alba Christmas Day, 2019, and features Carina along with Cieran Darroch & Calum MacKinnon. The Gaelic language film was produced by Sorbier Productions, Patricia Mackenzie, and her team.

A bheil Rhoda a-staigh?

Besides developing *Isle20* (see lead article this issue), Rhoda Meek has been coping with the lockdown like the rest of us, keeping busy at home. Unlike most of the rest of us, however, Rhoda has joined those sharing the experience on "A-staigh," BBC Alba's series of short videos on what it's like to be a-staigh. You can catch Rhoda and the others on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsMwGkL7CHg>

A bheil Gaelg agad?

In this issue's grammar column, Wayne Harbert tells us a little bit about the history of perhaps a lesser known Gaelic language that is closely related to Scottish Gaelic – Manx. Although it suffered a decline beginning as early as the 15th century under English rule, the language persisted orally, with a written language being revived much later on.

If you have taken up Wayne's challenge to translate the Manx phrases to Scottish Gaelic from the English translation, how did you do? Written Manx doesn't bear much resemblance to Scottish Gaelic, but if you download the free Learn Manx app from either the Apple Store or Google Play, you can hear how closely spoken Manx resembles spoken Scottish Gaelic.

Manx

Bare lhiam ooyllyn.
Foddee dy vel eh feayr.
Haink mee thie anmagh.
Jinnin gynsagh?
Nagh jinnagh eh giree?
Ren oo gynsagh Gaelg?
Shocklaid çeh
Ta daa hie aym.
Ta daa voddey ayns my gharey.
Ta mee geaishtagh rish kiaull Manninagh.

Scottish Gaelic

B'fheàrr leam ùbhlàn.
Faodaidh gu bheil i fuar.
Thàinig mi dhachaigh anmoch.
An ionnsaichinn?
Nach èireadh e?
An do dh'ionnsaich thu Gaelg?
Seòclaid theth
Tha dà thaigh agam.
Tha dà chù sa gharradh agam.
Tha mi ag èisteachd ri ceòl Manannach.

English

I would prefer apples.
Perhaps it is cold.
I came home late.
Would I learn?
Wouldn't he get up?
Did you learn Manx?
Hot chocolate
I have two houses.
There are two dogs in my garden.
I am listening to Manx music.



International Space Station, April 20, 2020

Answer to Photo Quiz, p. 3

Try turning the photo upside down!

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

Warrenton

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

Classes are on-site in Lake City neighborhood.

Monthly classes: Sequenced language modules called
Gaelic Intensive Days (GIDs); plan to attend the
whole season (6–8 days total).

January & May: Mixed-level, activities-based Lan-
guage Enrichment Day (LED) offered to anyone with
a bit of Gaelic.

<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>

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A Note on ANA's Gaelic and English Orthography

ANA generally publishes articles in Gaelic using the Gaelic Orthographic Conventions published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45356.html). However, articles employing older spelling are welcome, as are articles written in a particular Gaelic dialect (e.g., Cape Breton, Argyll).

For English articles, both British and American orthography are acceptable, as long as usage is consistent within the article.

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

An Naidheachd Againne is the quarterly newsletter of *An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach (ACGA)*. The newsletter is published in the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. It is produced by the Publications Committee of ACGA.

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