

# An Naidheachd Againne

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

An Geamhradh 2021, Leabhar XXXVII, Àireamh 4  
Winter 2021, Volume XXXVII, No. 4

Anns gach àite dhan deach i san t-saoghal, bho Ghlaschu gu Toronto gu Bern agus an uairsin air ais a Steòrnabhagh ann an Alba, tha June Ghreumach air Gàidhlig ionnsachadh. A-nis tha cothrom aice an cànan a thoirt seachad, chan ann a-mhàin don chloinn aice fhèin, ach do dhaoine eile cuideachd.

Everywhere she went in the world, from Glasgow to Toronto to Bern and then back to Stornoway in Scotland, June has learned Gaelic. Now she has the opportunity to pass the language on, not only to her own children, but to others as well.

## An cearcall ionnsachaidh

*le June Ghreumach*

Bha mi nam oileanach ann an Sasainn agus bha mi ag ionndrainn Alba gu mòr. Choisich mi a-steach dhan leabharlann sa bhaile agus dè bha air mo bheulaibh ach lethbhreac de *Teach Yourself Gaelic*. 'S ann à Èirinn a tha an duine agam agus chuir e uabhas air nach robh cothrom air a bhith agam Gàidhlig ionnsachadh san sgoil. Smaoinich mi, "Carson nach fheuch mi a-nis?"

Chluich mi an teip a bha an cois an leabhair. Bha na guthan cho coltach ri daoine nam theaghlach 's cha mhòr nach robh mi a' caoineadh mus d' fhuair mi seachad air an stiùir air fuaimneachadh! Às dèidh dhomh beagan ionnsachaidh a dhèanamh nam aonar, rinn mi cùrsa goirid aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig san Eilean Sgitheanach.

## The circle of learning

*by June Graham*

I was a student in England and missing Scotland when I walked into a library in the town. To my surprise, a copy of *Teach Yourself Gaelic* was on a shelf right by the entrance. My Irish husband was appalled that I hadn't had the opportunity to learn Scottish Gaelic at school, so I thought, "Why don't I try now?"

When I played the tape that came with the book, the voices sounded so like people in my family that I was almost crying before I had reached the end of the pronunciation guide! After studying Gaelic on my own for a while, I did a short course at Sabhal Mòr on Skye.



June Graham and family at Calanais

## In This Issue

Litir bho'n Cheann-Suidhe/Letter from the President.....	4
Interview with Angus MacLeod .....	5
<i>Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig</i> .....	7
Book Review: <i>Às a' Chamhanaich</i> le Aonghas MacLeòid.....	9
Litir à Dùn Èideann bhon Taigh Agam .....	11
Scary Things About Gaelic (STAG) .....	13
Meek Lines.....	15
An t-àite agam fhìn.....	16
Bàrdachd airson ar linn.....	19
Mòd Nàiseanta ACGA Results.....	20
A Bharrachd.....	22
Christma Apple Dessert (Bilingual Recipe).....	24
Dè Tha Dol? .....	25

Go to [www.acgamerica.org](http://www.acgamerica.org) for more on upcoming ACGA events and other Gaelic-related activities.

Chùm mi orm leis an leabhar agus rinn mi cùrsaichean goirid ann an Lunnainn agus anns an Eilean Sgitheanach. Nuair a bha mi comasach beagan còmhraidh a dhèanamh, dh'fheuch mi ri Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn ri mo theaghlach ann an Glaschu. Mhìnich Antaidh Seonag dhomh dè bha am facal 'tilleadh' a' ciallachadh. B' ann bho m' athair a dh'ionnsaich mi am facal 'sglongaid' agus faclan mì-mhodhail a chanadh e ri a sheanmhair san Eilean Sgitheanach nuair a bha e òg (agus crosta). Cha do thuig mo sheanmhair am blas neònach agam a chionn 's gun robh i gu math bodhar ach bhitheamaid a' suidhe còmhla agus a' leughadh leabhraichean sìmplidh sa Ghàidhlig.

Bha an saoghal farsaing agus bha mi airson fhaicinn. Fhuair mi obair mar neach-saidheans ann an Toronto far an deach mi gu clasaichean Gàidhlig air Disathairne. Feasgar Diciadain, bhithinn ann an cafaidh am measg nan àrd-thogalaichean air Sràid Bhloor agus a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig ri luchd-ionnsachaidh eile.

Bho Chanada, chaidh sinn dhan Eilbheis far an robh mi a' rannsachadh atharrachadh na gnàth-shìde. Nuair a rugadh an nighean againn, dh'fheuch mi ri rud beag Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn rithe ach cha robh tòrr misneachd agam.

Fhuair an duine agam obair ann an Eilean Leòdhais nuair a bha Ailsa sia bliadhna a dh'aois. Ged a bha mi air oidhirp mhòr a dhèanamh Gàidhlig ionnsachadh, bha tòrr imcheist orm mu fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. An robh Ailsa ro aost'? An robh mi a' sparradh cànan gun fheum oirre? An latha a chaidh i a-steach gu clàs Gàidhlig, dh'fhairich mi tòrr ciont. Thàinig na faireachdainnean seo bhon dòigh anns an robh ar cànan air a bhith air a cur sìos thar nam bliadhnaichean ach bha iad gun adhbhar. Dh'ionnsaich Ailsa Gàidhlig ann an ùine ghoirid. Tha tòrr chothroman air a bhith aig an triùir chloinne againn, mar eisimpleir a' gabhail pàirt ann an dealbhan-cluiche aig a' Mhòd no a' bruidhinn air prògraman rèidio.

Nuair a rugadh am balach as òige againn, chuir mi romham Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn ris. Ach ciamar a bha mi a' dol a thòiseachadh? Chan eil cùrsa Gàidhlig do dh'inbhidh a' teagasg abairtean feumail mar, 'Cuir ort do bhòtannan'. Fhuair mi taic bho oide Gàidhlig aig a' chomhairle agus còmhla ri pàrantan eile stèidhich sinn buidheann pàrant 's pàiste. Bhiodh stiùiriche-cluiche a' dèanamh ealan còmhla ris a' chloinn agus bhiomaid a'

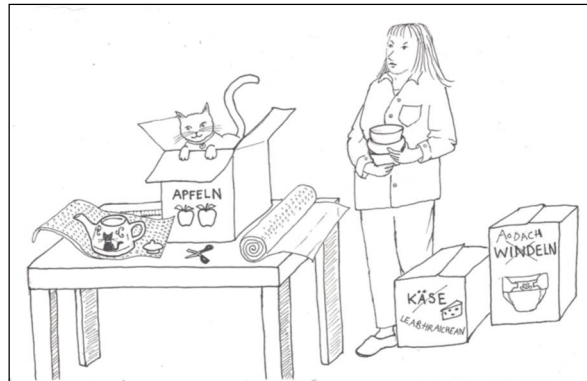
I continued to learn with the book and also did short courses in London and on the Isle of Skye. When my Gaelic was up to it, I began to practice with family members. Auntie Joan explained the meaning of the word *tillidh* (returning). From my father, I learnt *sghlongaid* (snot) and the rude words he called his grandmother when he was growing up on Skye (and in a bad mood). My grandmother didn't understand my strange accent because she was quite deaf, but we would sit down together and read simple books in Gaelic.

The world was big and I wanted to see it. I got work as a scientist in Toronto where I went to Gaelic classes on Saturday mornings. On Wednesday evenings, I would be in a café amongst the skyscrapers on Bloor Street and speaking Gaelic with other learners.

From Canada, we went to Switzerland where I was researching climate change. When our daughter was born, I tried to speak some Gaelic with her, but I wasn't very confident.

My husband got a job on the Isle of Lewis when Ailsa was six years old. Although I had put a huge effort into learning Gaelic, I still had a lot of uncertainty about Gaelic medium education. Was Ailsa too old? Was I forcing her to learn a language that no longer had any use? The day that she went into the Gaelic class, I felt incredibly guilty. These feelings came from the way in which our language has been put down over the years, but they were unfounded. Ailsa learnt Gaelic very quickly and our three children have had many opportunities, for instance taking part in Mod plays or speaking on radio programs.

When our youngest son was born, I decided to speak Gaelic to him. But where would I start? Adult Gaelic classes don't generally teach useful phrases like *cuir ort do bhòtannan* (put on your boots). Through the council, I got support from a Gaelic tutor and along with other parents we started a *pàrant 's pàiste* (parent and toddler) group. We had a playleader who would do crafts with the kids and we also sang and listened to a story.



An Cat Coigreach – Pangur helping to pack.

Drawing by June Graham

seinn agus ag èisteachd ri sgeulachd.

Chaidh an cat againn air chall greiseag às dèidh dhuinn dol a Leòdhas. 'S e mìorbhail a bh' ann nuair a nochd e a-rithist às dèidh dà bhliadhna. Carson a dh'fhalbh e? Càite an deach e? Gus na ceistean seo a fhreagairt, sgrìobh mi leabhar chloinne, *An Cat Coigreach*. A chionn 's gun robh mi a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig le mo phàiste, bha e nàdarrach dhomh an leabhar a sgrìobhadh sa Ghàidhlig. Ann an 2019, fhuair mi aon de thè de Dhùaisean nan Sgrìobhadairean Ùra bho Chomhairle nan Leabhraichean. Thug sin taic agus brosnachadh dhomh agus tha mi a' cumail orm a' sgrìobhadh leabhraichean cloinne sa Ghàidhlig.

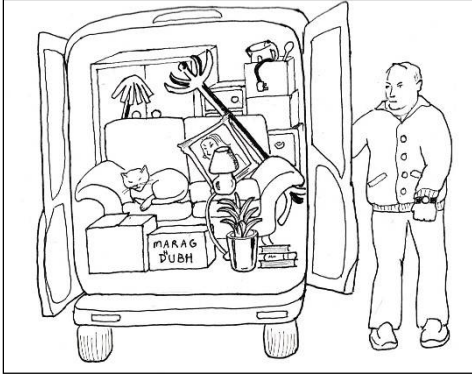
Nuair a dh'fhònas mi m' athair, 's e Gàidhlig an cànan a bhruidhneas sinn. Tha iomadh cothrom eile agam Gàidhlig a chleachdadh. Bho chionn greiseig, thòisich mi ag obair mar Oifigear Tràth Ìrean aig Comunn na Gàidhlig. Tha sinn a' ruith seiseanan cluich Gàidhlig do phàrantan agus clann bheag aois 0 gu 3. Tha mi a' faireachdainn gu bheil mo bheatha air a bhith a' dol ann an cearcall: chuala mi Gàidhlig mar phàiste gun a bhith ga tuigsinn, dh'ionnsaich mi Gàidhlig mar inbheach agus an-dràsta tha mi a' brosnachadh dhaoine eile Gàidhlig ionnsachadh agus a chleachdadh ri an cuid chloinne.

Our cat went missing shortly after we moved to the Isle of Lewis. It was a miracle when he turned up again two years later. Why did he leave? Where did he go? To answer these questions, I wrote a children's book, *An Cat Coigreach*. In 2019, I won a Gaelic New Writers Award from the Gaelic Books Council.

This gave me access to support and was also a huge encouragement and I am writing other children's stories in Gaelic.

When I phone my father, Gaelic is our language of choice. I also have many other opportunities to use the language. Not long ago, I started a new job as a Gaelic Early Years Officer at *Comunn na Gàidhlig*. We run play

sessions for parents and young children in the zero to three age range. I now feel that my life has come full circle: I heard Gaelic as a young child without being able to understand it, I learnt Gaelic as an adult and now I am encouraging other people to learn Gaelic and to use it with their children.



*An Cat Coigreach* – Pangur getting a lift  
Drawing by June Graham

## Photo Quiz

How many islands in this photo can you name?  
Extra points if you can name them in Gaelic!

See how well you did on page 18. Did you find any that we didn't?



Photo courtesy of NASA



## Litir bhon Cheann-suidhe

le Liam Ó Caiside



## Letter from the President

by Liam Cassidy

A chàirdean còire,

Tha sinn a' teannadh ri deireadh na bliadhna, bliadhna eile fo sgàil COVID-19. Is mòr mo dhòchas gu bheil sibh uile slàn agus gum bi sibh sàbhailte agus sona san ath-bhliadhna.

Rinn sinn deagh oidhirp am-bliadhna ACGA agus a h-uile sion a bhios e a' dèanamh a chumail a' dol air adhart, agus cha bu bheag an obair e uaireannan. 'S ann bhiortail a bha Seachdain na Gàidhlig agus nan Òran againn agus Mòd Nàiseanta Aimeireagaidh.

Tha mi toilichte gun tàinig mòran agaibh gu Seachdain Beinn Sheanair agus dhan Mhòd, eadhon ged nach b' urrainn dhuinn coinneachadh beò ann an dà-rìreabh.

Thig sinn ri chèile a-rithist mu dheireadh thall aig Beinn Sheanair san Iuchar ri thighinn, ma thèid a h-uile nì mar bu chòir. Cha lèir dhuinn fada sìos an rathad.

Ach 's mòr mo dhòchas gum b' urrainn dhuinn a dhol gu Carolina a Tuath a-rithist airson Seachdain na Gàidhlig agus nan Òran, mar a b' àbhaist dhuinn. Tha Àdhamh Dahmer ag obair còmhla ri Seumas Dòmhnallach air a' phrògram ann am Banner Elk a-nise.

Dè mu dheidhinn a' Mhòid? Uill, tha diofaran ann eadar am Mòd agus an t-Seachdain, nam bheachd. An toiseach, tha am Mòd fada nas giorra. Tha structar cosgais eadar-dhealaichte aig a' Mhòd. Agus tha am Mòd bhiortail a' fàs – thàinig barrachd dhan Mhòd bhiortail am-bliadhna agus an-uiridh na thàinig dhan Mhòd bheò.

Chan e a-mhàin gur e Mòd naiseanta e, 's e Mòd eadar-naiseanta a th' ann! Thàinig seinneadairean, sgeulaichean agus luchd-èisteachd bho gach àite eadar Alba Nuadh agus Carolina agus Seattle. Tha eagal orm gun cailleadh sinn sin nan rachadh sinn air ais gu Mòd beò, mar a bha againn iomadh bliadhna ann an Ligonier agus Virginia roimhe sin.

Ach dè mu dheidhinn mòdan beaga? Dh'fhaodadh sinn mòdan ionadail a thogail agus a bhrosnachadh ann an iomadh àite air feadh na dùthcha. Tha beagan dhiubh

Dear friends,

We're drawing close to the end of the year, another year under the shadow of COVID-19. I greatly hope you are all well and that you'll be safe and happy in the New Year.

We made a good effort this year to keep ACGA and all its activities moving forward, and that's no small job sometimes. Both the Gaelic Song and Language Week and US National Mòd were held virtually.

I'm delighted many of you came to the Grandfather Mountain week and the Mòd, although we were not able to really meet, live.

We'll come together again at last at Grandfather Mountain this coming July, if everything goes as it should. We can't see far down the road.

But I greatly hope we'll be able to go to North Carolina again for the Gaelic Song and Language Week, as we used to. Adam Dahmer is working with Jamie MacDonald on the program for Banner Elk now.

What about the Mòd? Well there are differences between the Mòd and the (Gaelic) Week, in my opinion. First, the Mòd is a much shorter event. The Mòd has a different cost structure. And the virtual Mòd is growing. More people came to the virtual Mòd this year and last than came to the live one.

And it's not only a national mod, it's an international one! Singers, storytellers, and an audience came from everywhere from Nova Scotia to Carolina to California. I'm afraid we'd lose that if we went back to a live mod, like we used to hold in Ligonier and in Virginia before that.

But what about small mods? We could begin and encourage regional or local mods in many places throughout the country. There are a few there

ann a-nise: ann an Ohio, Pennsylvania, Carolina a Tuath, agus Virginia. Nuair a dh'fhalbhas COVID, dh'fhaidte gum faic sinn tuilleadh dhiubh.

Am b'urrainn dhuinn cuideachadh a thoirt do dhaoine aig a bheil ùidh ann am mòdan ionadail? Ar leam gum b' urrainn, ach ciamar? Adhbhar breithneachaidh a' gheamhraidh seo.

Rud eile a bhios a' tighinn san ath-bhliadhna: cùrsa Gàidhlig neo còmhlan-ionnsachaidh aig ACGA, air-loidhne, tro mheadhan SpeakGaelic. 'S ann airson luchd-tòiseachaidh a bhiodh an cùrsa seo, agus gheibh sibh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh a dh'aithghearr.

Gus an uair sin, Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhn' Ùr Mhath dhuibh uile!

Ur caraid seasmach,

*Liam Ó Caiside*  
Ceann-suidhe, ACGA

already, in Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Virginia. When COVID goes, it's possible we'll see more of them.

Could we help people who are interested in regional mods? I think we could, but how? Food for thought this winter.

Something else that will be coming in the New Year: an online ACGA Gaelic course or study group, through the medium of SpeakGaelic. This will be a class for new beginners, and you'll get more information soon.

Until then, Merry Christmas and a Good New Year to you all!

Your steadfast friend,

*Liam Ó Caiside*  
President, ACGA



*An Naidheachd Againne* contributor Hilary NicPhàidein recently had an opportunity to interview Cape Breton author, Gaelic instructor, and actor Aonghas MacLeòid (Angus MacLeod) about his new Scottish Gaelic graphic novel, *Às a' Chamhanaich*.

## Interview with Angus MacLeod

by Hilary Rosado

**Hilary:** First of all, Angus, congratulations on the October launch of your graphic novel *Às a' Chamhanaich*. I know, from reading some of the other interviews that you have done, that you started this project as a hobby in 2011, and that you both wrote and illustrated the book. And what is also important to know is that *Às a' Chamhanaich* is the first Scottish Gaelic graphic novel to be written initially in Gaelic, that is, not translated from the English.

Readers will see for themselves that many of these tales are rather fantastical and some are pretty dark. These were not familiar themes or story lines, at least for me. From where did you draw your inspiration for this collection of stories?

**Angus:** There are Celtic themes in almost all of the stories but I also drew from other authors I've enjoyed. "Eòs an t-Iasgair" has an H.P. Lovecraft influence.

**Hilary:** Are you a fan of the graphic novel as a literary form? If so, did that influence your decision to create a graphic novel that has empowered these tales with such an emotional effect?

**Angus:** I'm a fan of comic books, or at least I was in the old days. I wasn't intending to write a graphic novel, just to illustrate a few stories that I had in my head.

**Hilary:** How did you approach the creation of your graphic novel – did the drawings come first, or the writing, or was it a combination of both? What did the creative process typically involve, and what was the more difficult part of the process for you – the writing or the drawing?



Aonghas MacLeòid /  
Angus MacLeod  
Bradán Press

**Angus:** I wrote the stories first, but often with an idea of how the page that the words would be on would look. The stories would swim around in my head until they were firm enough to write down and generally the first draft was the final one, with minor alterations coming when I put the words on the actual comic pages to draw them. I think the inking is the hardest part for me now because I recognize there's still a lot of rust from what I was able to do long ago.

**Hilary:** The illustrations are beautiful, powerful and, for lack of a better word, graphic. I was wondering if you have been drawing from a young age, or were you self-taught later in life.

**Angus:** I'm mostly self-taught, I took a drafting course as a teenager which helped a lot.

**Hilary:** I personally thought that the illustrations were very reflective of the stories and certainly brought them to life. Can you tell us what materials you used for the black and white illustrations?

**Angus:** I use a small paint brush (size 00 to size 2) for almost everything. I use black India ink. A brush is harder to learn to use, but I very much prefer the effects you can get with it.



"Oidhche nan Stoirme"

Bradán Press

**Hilary:** One particular story I enjoyed was "Fear a' Bhàta", perhaps because I recognised the premise of the story from a Cape Breton Gaelic story called "Am Fear a dh'Fhalbh Oidhche na Bannse 's nach do Thill". It's a story of fairy magic and a not-so-happy ending. Do you have a favorite story in this collection?

**Angus:** If I were to choose a favorite, I think it would be "Cailleach na Coille".

**Hilary:** Many people know you as a storyteller. Are you planning to write and illustrate another graphic novel, a second volume, if you will, of *Às a' Chamhanaich*?

**Angus:** I have enough material ready now for a second graphic novel and there's some talk about printing another book.

**Hilary:** Do you have any advice for someone who might want to start writing / drawing?

**Angus:** Be who you are. Don't let anyone turn you aside from that. Don't listen to the naysayers. Believe in yourself. Remember that the "rules" are only guidelines and you can break them. And most important of all, have fun with it!

**Hilary:** I mentioned at the beginning of the interview that you started this writing and illustration project in 2011. Was it your intent to publish a book? Can you tell us how this material came to be published?

**Angus:** I was drawing the stories because I wanted to. It's my hobby, my relaxation. It was always in the back of my mind that someday they MAY be published, but I didn't look for that. Wayne MacIntyre saw some of my work, showed it to Emily and she asked if she could publish it. So it all kind of just happened by accident!

**Hilary:** Thank you, Angus, for giving us the interesting backstory to the production and realisation of this wonderful and fascinating graphic novel. Everyone should have this book on their bookshelves. Congratulations, again, on the publication of *Às a' Chamhanaich*.

See page 9 for Ted Neveln's review of *Às a' Chamhanaich*.

Nuair a dh'fhàg sinn Iain agus Nighean an Sgàthain aig deireadh Caibideil 19, bha iad an dùil turas a dhèanamh gu eilean a chunnaic Iain sa chloich aige. Sa chaibideil sa, leughaidh sinn mu uallachadh airson an turais agus aig an deireadh, tachraidh sinn ri Gugtrabhad. Obh, obh, cò i Gugtrabhad?

## Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig

le Liam Ó Caiside

### Caibideil Fichead: An t-Sianar agus an Soitheach

– “An Soitheach a Dh’fhalbhadh air Muir ’s air Tìr”<sup>1</sup>

“Cha b’ e seachdain neo mìos a chuir iad seachad ag ullachadh airson an turais ach trì mìosan,” thuirt an sgeulaiche rinn, “trì mìosan fada gus am biodh a h-uile nì deiseil agus gun tigeadh sìde na b’ fheàrr airson bhòidse air a’ chuan. Agus iomadh rud a bha dhìth orra mus dèidheadh iad thar nan tonn, a’ seòladh gu àite fad air falbh gun fhios ’s gun eòlas aca càite.”

Bha an uair a’ teannadh ri meadhan-oidhche, agus bha i cho dorcha ri maodal a’ mhairt dhuinn a-muigh. Bhuail steallan uisge na h-uinneagan bho àm gu àm, ’s chuala sinn a’ ghaoth a’ sèideadh agus a’ feadanaich sa bhealach suas an rathad bhon taigh.

Ach bha e blàth ri taobh a’ ghealbhain far an robh sinn nar suidhe, ag èisteachd ris a’ bhodach chòir oidhche eile. Cha robh sinn sgèth idir, agus cha robh sgòs air an sgeulaiche nas motha. Lean e air an naidheachd innse, agus lean sinne gach facal.

“Latha a bh’ ann,” thòisich e, “bha an Draoidh Mòr agus Aoife nan suidhe anns an talla a’ bruidhinn ri Iain agus Nighean an Sgàthain.

“Mu dheireadh thall,” thuirt an Draoidh Mòr, “tha fhios againn air an eilean a tha sibh a’ lorg – an t-Eilean Uaigneach. Fada bhuainn a tha e, air iomall a’ chuain shiar. Ach creidibh gum faigh sibh an t-eòlas a tha dhìth oirnn an sin – an dòigh a chuireadh sinn crìoch air Mac na h-Oidhche gu sìorraidh bràth.”

“Ach an t-Eilean Uaigneach, an e fìor-àite a th’ ann? Chan ann ach ann an sgeulachdan a chuala mi ainm an eilein sin,” thuirt Nighean an Sgàthain.

“S e fìor-àite a th’ ann, gu dearbh,” ars Aoife, a’ bhan-shìthe. “Nach ann bho sgeulachdan a dh’ionnsaich sinn an fhìrinn? Ach chan fhaigh sibh an t-eilean siud anns an t-saoghal seo, ach anns an t-saoghal eile, an saoghal againne. Bidh an ceann-turais glè chunnartach dhaibh. Seòlaidh sibh air iomall an dà shaoghal. Feumaidh sinn cuideachan a thaghadh dhuibh.”

Agus sin a rinn iad. Thagh iad Mac Mhanainn, an caraid as fheàrr aig Iain, agus Dearbhlaidh, an leth-phiuthar as òige aig Nighean an Sgàthain, mar chompanaich dhaibh. ‘S ann à Eilean Mhanainn a thàinig an gille, agus bha e na sheòladair bhon ghlùn.

“Feumaidh sìtheach a dhol air a’ bhòidse cuideachd,” thuirt Aoife. “Tha an aon bhagairt oirnn uile.”

Agus cò a rogh iad ach fear dhiubh a thachair ri Iain nuair a bha e na phrìosanach anns an t-sìthein, Mac Glumag na Mias. Chan e duine beag a bh’ ann, ged nach robh e mòr. Bha meuran fada, sgiobalta agus sùilean geura aige, sròn fhada agus ceann caran biorach, falt fada ruadh coltach ri feamainn fo a churac. “Tha Mac Glumag gu math eòlach air seòladaireachd, dh’fhuirich e fada ann an Tìrìodh,” thuirt Aoife.

Thuirt Ceann-Cleiteig nach tèid fhàgail air chùl. “Leanaidh mi iad ann an cruth albatrais ma dh’fheumas mi,” ars esan, greann air gach iteig air a cheann. Mu dheireadh, leig an Draoidh Mòr leis a dhol còmhla riutha. “Cha bu chòir dhuinn casg a chur air càirdeas,” thuirt e. Mar sin, lorgadh sianar an t-Eilean Uaigneach ri chèile.



<sup>1</sup> Luirgean Eachainn Nill: *Folktales from Cape Breton*, collected and edited by Margaret MacDonnell and John Shaw, Acair, Stornoway, Scotland, 1981.

Bha sin math, ach bha rud eile bhuapa nach robh aca – bàta. “Dè mu dheidhinn aon de na bàtaichean mòra agaibh ann an Glaschu?” dh’fharraid Iain dhan Draoidh Mhòr.

“O cha dèanadh iad an gnothach,” ars an Draoidh Mòr. “Cha b’ urrainn do bhàtaichean-carago mar sin an turas a tha romhaibh a thoirt gu buil. Tha feum againn air soitheach sònraichte, soitheach draoidheil. Feumaidh sinn soitheach a dh’fhalbhadh air muir ’s air tìr.”

Soitheach a dh’fhalbhadh air muir ’s air tìr! Cha chuala Iain mu a leithid riamh roimhe. “Ciamar a gheibh sinn bàta mar sin?” thuirt e. “Le draoidheachd, ’ille! Tha planaichean anns an leabhar dhubbh agam, agus le cuideachadh bho na h-uaigsean an seo,” thuirt e le smèid ri Aoife, “feuchaidh sinn ris a’ bhàta a thogail.”

Agus chaidh an Draoidh Mòr agus buidheann sìthich a dh’obair air a’ bhàta. Chuirte Mac Glumag an ceann an sgioba. “Rinn mi bàta den t-seòrsa seo dhan mhac iasgair a bh’ ann uair,” thuirt Mac Glumag, “agus phòs esan nighean rìgh aig deireadh na sgeòil.”

Cha robh e fada gus an robh an obair rèidh. Thàinig a h-uile duine a-mach às a’ chaisteal gu òb beag far an robh am bàta. Bha iad uile ag ràdh nach fhaca iad bàta nas fheàrr neo nas bòidheche rè am beatha. ’S e slup bhiorach de stoidhle Bhermuda a bh’ ann, le aon chrann mòr, seòl agus bòma, agus sioba neo “jib.” Bha caibean ann le seòmar air leth airson nan nigheanan. Air bòrd, fhuair iad a h-uile rud sguabanta, sgiobalta, gleusta.

Bha ainm an t-soithich gràbhete air a deireadh: “Saighead Sgàthaich.”

Dheasaich iad biadh-siubhail agus sholair iad am bàta airson na bhòidse. Cha robh fhios aca dè cho fada ’s a bhiodh iad aig muir. Shaoil Iain nach robh rùm gu leòr anns a’ bhàta airson a h-uile sìon a bha dhith orra, ach aig a’ cheann thall bha.

Agus chuir na draoidhean agus na sìthichean an soitheach fo gheasaibh throma, mhòr-chumhachdach, ga seunachadh bho chunnartan na mara agus droch dhraoidheachd Mhic na h-Oidhche. Oir bha iad cinnteach gum biodh Mac na h-Oidhche gan leantainn neo a’ feitheamh orra.

“’S e rèis a th’ ann a-nise,” thuirt Nighean an Sgàthain ri a caraidean an oidhche mus do sheòl iad. “Tha sin soilleir dhomh a-nise. Cho luath ’s a

shlànaicheas a lotan, thig m’ athair às ar dèidh, a lorg an Eilein Uaignich cuideachd, agus bidh eagal an domhain air gun ruigeadh sinn an t-àite roimhe.”

Thàinig Aoife thuca an oidhche sin agus thug i tìodhlacan dhaibh. “Seo rud neo dhà bho chruinneachadh an Draoidh Mhòir, agus saoilidh sinn gum faigheadh sibh tuilleadh feum asta nam biodh iad nur làimh na gum biodh iad fo ghlas ann a sheo.”

Thug i tubhailte do Dhearbhlaidh. “Uair sam bith a bhios an t-acras ort, chan eil agad ach an tubhailte a sgaoileadh air a’ bhòrd agus biadh sam bith a tha thu ag iarraidh, thig e air an tubhailte.” Thug i bogsa beag do Cheann-Cleiteig. “Anns a’ bhogsa seo, gheibh thu seillean a sheinneas an fhidheall, agus luchag a dhannsas. Tha mi cinnteach gum biodh iad feumail dhut.” Cha robh Ceann-Cleiteig cho cinnteach, ach thuirt e, “Tapadh leibh.”

Do Mhac Mhanainn, thug i bata. “Uair sam bith a bhios tu ann an cunnart, chan eil agad ach, ‘Seas suas, a laochain’, a ràdh ris a’ bhata ’s thig am bata gad chuideachadh.” Thug a’ bhan-shìthe an uair sin sgàthan ùr do Nighean an Sgàthain. “Chan eil an sgàthan seo dìreach mar do sgàthan bhrìste, ach ma bhios feum mòr agad, seallaidh e dhut rùn do chridhe.”

Aig an deireadh, thionndaidh Aoife do dh’Iain. “A mhic mo leannain,” thuirt i ris, agus “seadh, tha fhios agam cò d’ athair,” nuair a chuir sin iongnadh air Iain. Thug i dha pìos snàithlein. Bha trì snaidhmeannan ann. “Ma bhios feum agaibh air gaoth nuair a bhios tu aig muir, chan eil agad ach a’ chiad shnaidhm fhuasgladh, agus thig beagan gaoithe. Fuasgail an dàrna snaidhm, agus thig barrachd gaoithe. Ach na fuasgail an treas snaidhm, mura biodh tu gu dìreach ann an cunnart do bheatha.” Thug iad uile taing dhi, agus dh’fhalbh i.

Mu dheireadh thall, thàinig an latha air an robh a h-uile càil deiseil. Dh’fhàg iad Sgoil nan Eun aig beul gorm an latha, agus chaidh iad sìos dhan òb.

Dh’fhàg an t-sianar am beannachd aig na draoidhean, Aoife, agus an caraidean eile, agus chaidh iad air bòrd. Thog iad na siùil, agus thug iad toiseach an t-soithich do mhuir ’s a deireadh do thìr. Leig iad am bàta a-mach air a’ chuan, far am bi a’ bhèist as motha ag itheadh na bèist as lugha, ’s a’ bhèist as lugha a’ dèanamh mar a thogradh i.

Bha Iain na shuidhe aig deireadh a’ bhàta, còmhla ri Ceann-Cleiteig agus Nighean an Sgàthain. Bha an



t-Eilean Sgitheanach nan dèidh, agus chaidh Eige agus Rùm seachad orra. Bha Mac Glumag air a' chuibhle. Cò thàinig a-mach às a' cheabain ach cat mòr ruadh le aon sùil mhòr uaine. Leum Iain suas. "Seo an aon chat cam a chunnaic mi ann am Baile Àtha Cliath, nuair a bha mi nam chù! Cò leis an cat seo?" dh'fhaighnich e.

Shuidh an cat air a' chlàr, agus sgeann e gu dàna air Iain le a shùil mhòr uaine. "'S ann leamsa a tha mi fhìn," thuirt an cat ris, ann an guth ìseal, garbh. "Is mise Gugtrabhad, agus dh'innis caraid dhomh gun

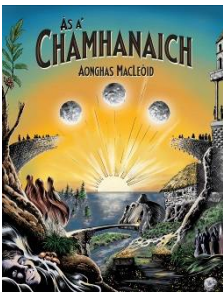
robh feum agaibh air cat luinge. Cò na b' fheàrr gus sùil a chumail oirbh?"

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"Tha cuimhn' a'm air a' chat seo!" thuirt Eòghann. "Chaidh e à sealladh nuair a ruith Iain às a dhèidh. Ach cò an caraid aige?"

"Uill," ars an sgeulaiche, a' tàladh seann chat a rinn crònna na uchd, "leigeamaid leis a' chat a naidheachd fhèin innse dhuinn. Tha gu leòr aige ri ràdh."

## REVIEWS



### Book Review:

***Às a' Chamhanaich* le Aonghas MacLeòid**  
**Bradán Press, 2021. 154 pages (large format paperback)**  
**ISBN 978-1-988747-65-1**

*Reviewed by Ted Neveln*

*Às a' Chamhanaich* means out of the twilight. I assume it is morning twilight and perhaps is the antonym of Celtic Twilight. It is not a graphic novel but a graphic anthology of twelve short stories. They cover any sort of twilight you please as well as bright dawns and the spookiest hours of the night.

This does not have the rat-a-tat rhythm of the *Tintin* series. The stories are short and diverse. The Gaelic is not ornate but it can be terse and is not always decrypted by looking at the pictures. Sometimes I turned to a dictionary multiple times per page though not at every page. Expanding my vocabulary is of course no bad thing. I could slither through *Am Bounty* or *Anna Ruadh* without looking up every last word but that is not advisable here – and you will need your Dwelly's dictionary at hand. MacLeòid uses Cape Breton spelling rather than GOC. Here is a dialogue sample:

A dhuine. Tha sibh 'nur n-éiginn.  
'S mi a tha. Tha mi 'gam thilgeil air ur truacantas . . . ma 's truagh leibh mi.  
Tha truas agam ruibh. Dé dhìom a tha sibh ag iarraidh? (page 83)

I cannot translate that into English that sounds half as good.

"Mise is Ailean" is the first and easiest story but still I had to read it twice to understand it. It is not obviously rooted in Gaelic folklore except for the time-travel theme which it shares with other stories. It hinges on a magical book but psychology submerges the fantasy. It's one of two or three stories that describe the damage that urban poverty can wreak on the soul. Another is "Teine Beag no Mór" which describes the resilience of a slum child – resilient but damaged, or if not exactly damaged then overly pragmatic.

"Fear a' Bhàta" has nothing to do with the song but has a recognizable Celtic sensibility that left me wondering what 'real' tale it might be based on. If the name *Turloch Donn an Dannelsair* means anything to any of you, let me know.

“Bho’n Taobh Tuath” made me question an old movie Western stereotype: a stranger comes to town; he rescues a young widow from dastardly villains; then he rides off into the sunset. I never thought to wonder why he didn’t settle down with her. This story suggests to me that perhaps he is suffering from some form of post-traumatic stress disorder. The ‘whats’ of this story are not hard to follow but I am mightily puzzled by some of the ‘whys’.

“Cailleach na Coille” has a very minimal plot. The details happen off-stage and are not important anyway. Nothing happens except a woman loses and re-gains her beauty over the course of a difficult life.

These stories have lots of women protagonists who are always buxom (often wearing improbably scanty dresses), but never shallow. They are not always good but never shallow. “Buaidh no Bàs” and “Eòs an t-Iasgair” have supernatural women who offer deliverance to lost men although the terms are unsettling. The first story is my personal favorite of the anthology because it has a simple plot, but it’s thought-provoking and rather romantic. The second has a fisherman named Mac Codruim who finds a supernatural lover who is not a seal and not a victim.

Freddy Krueger and Jason Voorhees are well-matched by the *each-uisge* in “Oidhche Na Stoirme”. The plucky heroine is not a ‘Last Girl’ because it is just her and the monster from start to finish. It is longer than some and comes near the back but could make a good early choice.

“Tilleadh á Leòdhas” is challenging to read, but it is my second favorite story; it starts in a metaphorical Inferno aka Edinburgh and ends in a Paradiso aka Lewis.

Circles are completed, re-joined, or twisted into a Möbius strip. Another of the time-travel stories is even named “Cearcall”, wherein you could spend a lot of time looking for its beginning and ending and is one reason why I am relieved to hear assurances that time-travel is probably impossible.

“Dà Bheatha” has two stories in parallel running along the top and bottom of the pages and joining at the end. I am still figuring it out, but it seems to be a kind of time-travel / reincarnation story.

“Na Bha Bhuaipe” takes place in Venice and has a plot as interwoven with shadow and light as the canals of that city. I still have trouble keeping track of the characters.

Some stories have shadowed-over nudity and rainbows of blood swishing in the arc of a flashing sword although they don’t reach Mel Gibson levels of gore. Most stories have solid arcs and a couple dwindle into ambiguity onto which readers must supply their own resolutions. Most but not all culminate in some sort of redemption. Several still puzzle me and I am not sure if it is because of their subtle language, or storytelling intricacies, or cultural assumptions.

*Às a’ Chamhanaich* would be great for a reading group around a table, but remote reading would require every person to have their own copy. Most of these stories cannot be raced through. If it is not obvious yet, expect to spend as much time discussing the stories and characters as studying the language.

The drawing style is painstaking. This is not MacLeòid’s first foray into illustrated story-telling. Some readers may be familiar with his style from *An Suiridhe Sìth / An Tàillear’s an Taibhse* which he did for Siol Cultural Enterprises.

The cover has a dreamlike appearance, resembling a psychedelic poster but more substantial than most. It seems to have motifs from the stories but they are like dreams of dreams. The surface of the cover feels pleasant to the touch.

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See Hilary NicPhàidein’s interview with Aonghas MacLeòid on page 5 of this issue.



## Litir à Dùn Èideann bhon Taigh Agam

by Jeff W. Justice

A chàirdean,

I'm sick and tired of having to live vicariously, having to 'visit' Scotland (or anywhere else) by watching YouTube or the National Geographic channel. I'm sick and tired of having to relive old memories by looking at the photos I've taken when I've been visiting or living abroad. I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired. I'm sick and tired of

As;dlkfjak;sldkf

Sorry, I just face-planted into my keyboard. What was I saying? Oh yes, living vicariously. So my house is now decorated for the festive season, including a number of Celtic ornaments and decorations. This is my favourite time of the year. I know a lot of people don't care for it nowadays, but I have always enjoyed the twinkling coloured lights, the sweet scents of holiday confections, the joyous sounds of choirs and carollers singing. As I write this, Kathy Mattea is singing the "Christ Child's Lullabye" over my Apple TV, and it brings back memories of walking Edinburgh's New Town during its month-long plus Christmas and Hogmanay celebrations.

Sure, we have Christmas markets in America, usually lasting a weekend to a few days in many communities. Edinburgh's market transforms Princes Street Gardens and much of George Street into a mini-shopping mall of sorts, complete with a carnival and holiday-themed exhibitions, not unlike those famous Christmas markets one finds in central European countries.

A temporary ice skating rink fills St Andrew Square Garden, with mulled wine and spiced hot chocolate available in the pagoda at its centre to warm you after a cold Scottish evening.







Vendors sell items like rustic holiday decorations, many of which come with a Scottish flair and even a few in Gaelic (but only a few).



Concerts take place on a temporary bandstand close to Charlotte Square, and often an ice sculpture exhibition delights the crowd.



Christmas confectionery of every type is available, even some that evoke memories of a state fair in the US.



In many ways, Edinburgh's Christmas resembles that traditional staple of late summer-to-autumn America, but with a Scottish / European flair that ties it into those markets one might find in Munich.

Once the world gets back to normal, it's worth braving the cold, dark, dank early days of the Scottish winter to experience Edinburgh's Christmas. For now, I'll alleviate my boredom with not being there by sharing with you these photos I took the last time I was there, so you can live vicariously through me until we get to go to Scotland again in person.

Le gach deagh dhùrachd,

*Gairidh / Jeff*





## Oisean a' Ghràmair / The Grammar Nook

by Wayne Harbert

### Scary Things About Gaelic (STAG): Two Negatives Make a Positive. Or Do They?

I was reading the story “Tiodhlaic Nollaig” with a student the other day when we came across the sentence, *Chan eil teagamh nach d'fhàgadh claisean na inntinn*. From the context it's clear that it is supposed to mean ‘There is no doubt that grooves were left in his mind’. But translated word for word, it seems to say the exact opposite: ‘There is no doubt that grooves were not left in his mind.’ What's going on with the extra negative word *nach* here? Trying to explain that set me rolling along the grooves of my own mind, just in time for another Gaelic grammar column.

Most sentences expressing a negative meaning contain one of the basic negative words, *chan*, *nach* or *na* (the last of which is used in commands: *Na dèan sin!* ‘Don't do that!’).

**Hidden Negatives.** There are some sentences with negative meaning in which none of the basic negative words appear. For example, the negative meaning can be hidden in the meaning of the preposition / conjunction *gun* ‘without’.

*Bha sin fhathast gun tachairt aig an àm sin.* Literally, ‘That was yet without happening at the time’, or ‘That had not yet happened at that time.’

We can do that in English too, in restricted contexts like ‘I left without talking to him’, but the construction is used more generally in Gaelic. Similarly, *mur(a)* combines the meaning of ‘if’ and ‘not’, so there is no need for a separate negative word: *mur eil thu sgìth* ‘if you are not tired’. Again, English offers its own one word translation of *mur*, ‘unless’, which can be used (without *not*) in most contexts ‘Unless you are tired’.

**Double Negatives that Cancel Each Other Out.** Sometimes, in language, as in logic, two negatives do indeed make a positive, and Gaelic speakers take advantage of this fact, doubling up on negative words with the expectation that they will cancel each other out, resulting in an affirmative meaning. For example, one way to say ‘I almost fell’ is *Theab mi tuiteam* ‘I almost fell’ (actually, ‘I almost was [in the act of] falling’, since *theab* is a past tense verb in Gaelic). But you can also express the same thing by saying *Cha mhòr nach do thuit mi*. ‘Not [by] much didn't I fall’. The two negatives yield a positive meaning.

Similar to this, *is gann* ‘it is scarce / scarcely’ carries its own implied negative, but if you throw in an extra negative it comes to mean ‘almost’: *Is gann nach robh dia no ban-dia aca airson nan uile nithe* means literally ‘Scarcely they didn't have a god or goddess for everything’ but it translates as ‘They almost had a god or goddess for everything’.

This double negative construction is so common that you even run across it in the early chapters of beginning Gaelic textbooks.

*Cha chreid mi nach bi feadhainn brèagha aca.* (Complete Gaelic)  
‘I don't think that they will not have some nice ones’.

*Cha chreid mi nach cuir mi an còta orm.* (Complete Gaelic)  
‘I don't believe that I won't put on the coat’.

Gaelic speakers tend to prefer this round-about manner of expression because they make the assertions sound somehow softer. Though we aren't so fond of this construction in English, there is no problem figuring out what is intended.

**Rogue Negatives.** But there are a few cases where Gaelic throws in negative words, that, if we translate them directly into English, give us entirely the wrong meaning. Consider the following:

*Is fhada bho* means 'It's a long time since'. But in expressing 'It's a long time since I saw...' (and apparently only in this case), Gaelic requires a negative:

*Is fhada bho nach fhaca mi thu.*

Literally, 'It is a long time since I didn't see you', but it actually means 'It's a long time since I saw you'.

**gun fhios** 'in case'<sup>1</sup> We would say in English 'Buy an extra loaf in case they come', but in Gaelic it's:

*Ceannaich lof a bharrachd gun fhios nach tig iad!*

Literally. 'Buy an extra loaf in case they don't come'.

**neo-ar-thainig** means 'of course, naturally' in some contexts:

*Smaoinich air amhaich na h-eala; neo-ar-thaing bòidheach is caol is seang.*

'Think of the neck of the swan: Of course / Naturally it is pretty and narrow and slender'.

But it is very frequently followed by a clause introduced by a *nach* that doesn't translate:

*Neo-ar-thainig nach robh oidhche mhath againn,* means 'Of course we had a good time'.

*Neo-ar-thainig nach reiceadh sibh iad, agus sin air prìs mhath,* means 'Naturally you could sell them, and at a good price'.

*Neo-ar-thainig nach robh e fialaidh le airgead dhaoine eile,* means 'Of course he was generous with other people's money'. (Cox, *Geàrr-Ghràmair na Gàidhlig*, p. 291 – a rich source for other examples of rogue negatives)

Which brings us finally back to *teagamh* 'doubt'. This word almost always appears in the negative phrases *gun teagamh* and *chan eil teagamh*, and when these are followed by a clause, that clause is introduced by a *nach*. They look like double negatives, but if you try to translate the *nach* you'll end up with the wrong meaning. It's a rogue negative, up to no good. Just ignore it.

*Chan eil teagamh nach robh gràdh mòr aig an dithis dhì.*

'There is no doubt that both of them had great love for her'.

*Chan eil teagamh nach b' e tinneas a' chridhe a thug a bàs.*

'There is no doubt that it was heart disease that caused her death'.

As a side note, I gleaned some of the examples above from the Digital Archive of Scottish Gaelic. This is a wonderful resource for people interested in exploring patterns of word use in Gaelic. You can access the database yourself and play around with it simply by going to the site <https://dasg.ac.uk/corpus/>. The home page explains (in English or Gaelic) the goals of the project. Click on the button that says *Corpas na Gàidhlig* and you can search the thousands of pages of Gaelic texts that they have thoughtfully digitized for us for any word or phrase you want to check on (*chan eil teagamh*, for example), and call up a list of examples (page after page of them) of that word or phrase in context. Clicking on an example brings up the full passage in which it occurs.

Gabh spòrs!

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<sup>1</sup> A thoughtful reviewer has pointed out that *gun fhios* 'in case' literally means 'without knowledge', so these can perhaps be viewed as an instance of a double negative: '...since one doesn't know that they won't come'.

## 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, longtime ACGA member Ashby McCown, “am Bodach”, explains that he has chosen this powerful poem because he is fascinated by visual imagery in poetry. Professor Meek wrote this poem just a few days after the devastating chemical explosion at the Port of Beirut, Lebanon, in August 2020. The visual images of the disaster that filled the media in the days immediately following the explosion become part of the poem’s strong visual impact.



### Dàn Lebanoin

*le Dòmhnall Meek*

Ciod e do dhàn, a Lebanoin chràidhte,  
bha uair 's tu làn de bheairteas slàinteil,  
luingeas Sholaimh tighinn gu d' thràighean,  
a' sireadh mais' nan sèadar àlainn?

Tioras is Sìdon, puirt bha làidir,  
's iad dùmhlaichte le mìle bàta,  
seirm nan guthan bho chruinn àrda,  
an saoghal air do starsaich chàirdeil.

Ach tha thu reubte nis le blàran,  
aimhreitean is creachan grànda,  
mort is marbhadh, toradh Shàtain  
tighinn gu d' chalachan is bàs annt'.

Thàinig luchd de phuinnsean gràineil  
's thug thu fasgadh dha nad fhàrdaich;  
nad chridhe bha e taisgt' gun fhàgail  
gus 'n do spreagh e feadh do shràidean.

Beirut an-diugh na spruilleach gàbhaidh,  
dachaighean nan smàl 's gach àite,  
guthan feargach, searbh, a' càineadh  
cheannardan na ceilg gun ghràdh annt'.

Chan eil na facail ann don àmhghar  
tha nam chuislean-sa an-dràsda,  
do phian-sa ruith air feadh mo chnàmhan -  
a thìr bha leam nad neamhnaid bhàrdail!

Ciod e do dhàn, a Lebanoin chràidhte?  
Thoirinn na th' agam bhith nam fhàidhe  
's mo shùil a' faicinn thall air fàire  
Solamh a' teachd le gliocas slàinteil.

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Tha iomadh adhbhar ann gu bheil ùidh agam anns an dàn seo. Sa chiad dol a-mach bha mi a' fuireach mu fhichead mìle o Texas City, Texas, air 16 Giblean 1947 nuair a spreadh soitheach le 2,300 tunna amònium-naidhtreat air bòrd, agus bha feadhainn dhen teaghlach agam a' fuireach anns a' bhaile seo. Ach 's e gur fhìor thoigh leam an ìomhaigheachd lèirsinneach anns a' bhàrdachd am prìomh adhbhar. 'S urrainn do dhàn

ìomhaigheachd lèirsinneach a chruthachadh gu neo-eisimeileach o na feartan-bheòil a tha aig an dàn. Dà eisimpleir: “Sgiath Achilles” le Homer agus “On a station at the Metro” le Ezra Pound. Chruthaidh “Dàn Lebanoin” ìomhaigheachdan lèirsinneach le dòigh-obrach sònraichte.

Phostaich An t-Oll. Meek “Dàn Lebanoin” air an duilleag Leabhar Aodainn aige còig làithean an dèidh spreadhadh mòr Beirut. Bha na meadhanan làn de dhealbhan agus tuairisgeulan mu àitean-lèirsgrios, na mairbh agus na leòntaich. ’S ann aig an àm sin a shruth na h-ìomhaighean lèirsgriosa seo a-steach am broinn leughadh an dàn. Mar sin, chruthaich an dàn ìomhaighean mar a gheibhear anns a’ pheantadh Guernica le Pablo Picasso. ’S e “Bisearta” le Deòrsa Mac Iain Deòrsa dàn eile dhen ghnè seo.

Tha eadar-dhealachaidhean mòr eadar Guernica neo “Bisearta” agus “Dàn Lebanoin”. Thòisich agus choilean “Dàn Lebanoin” le iomraidhean saoghal Sholaimh. Bha brìtheamh glic ann an Solamh agus bheir na loidhneachan seo faireachdainn dòchais dhuinn, ged nach eil faochadh a’ ruigsinn fhathast.



## An t-àite agam fhìn

“An t-àite agam fhìn,” is where you will find short pieces by ACGA members and friends about their families, their homes, and their world. In this issue, Hilary NicPhàidein writes about a conversation with her brother about some of the things she missed after leaving Scotland for the United States. Sarah Snow tells us about a day spent beside a river, and Mary Traywick recounts an odd experience in the night when she was very young.

And if you would like to try your hand at a short anecdotal piece in Gaelic about the place where you live or the people in it, we’d love to publish it in “An t-àite agam fhìn.” Don’t worry about making your Gaelic perfect. We’ll help you with the editing process.

### Ag ionndrainn Alba *le Hilary NicPhàidein*

Dh’fhàg mi Alba ann an 1978 airson gabhail san Arm Aimeireaganach. Ged a dh’ionndrainn mi mo theaghlach uile gu mòr, dh’ionndrainn mi cuideachd am biadh ris an robh mi cleachdte: taigeis, marag dhubh, mions is buntàta, buntàta stòbhte, aran-coirce, briosaidean mar Digestives is Rich Tea, is aran goirid le cupa tì san fheasgar. An ath thuras a thèid mi a dh’Alba gus cèilidh air mo theaghlach (ge be cuin a bhios sin) ithidh mi a h-uile rud as miann leam.

A bheil cuimhne agaibh gun do dh’ainmich mi ann an cuairt-litir na bu thràithe am baile Auchtermuchty, is cho snog ’s a tha fuaim an ainm. Uill, o chionn ghoirid bha mise ’s mo bhràthair Eric a’ bruidhinn air-loidhne mu dheidhinn a’ bhaile sin.

“An do thogadh Jimmy Shand, an ceòladair a chluicheadh ceòl-beag tradaiseanta Albannach air a’ bhogsa-ciùil, ann an Auchtermuchty?” dh’fhaighnich Eric dhomh.

“Thogadh. Agus tha ìomhaigh mhòr dheth ann an Auchtermuchty”.

An uairsin rinn sinn cabadaich air fuaim ainmean-àite Albannach eile.

“Dè mu dheidhinn Ecclefechan?” dh’fhaighnich Eric. “Tha Ecclefechan mu fhichead mìle an ear air Dùn Phrìs. Tha fuaim is ainm a’ bhaile sin air leth taitneach is inntinneach.” Tha Eric a’ fuireach faisg air Dùn Phrìs agus air sgàth sin tha e eòlach air an sgìre.

“’S e Eaglais Fhèichein ainm a’ bhaile sa Ghàidhlig.”

Dh’atharraich Eric an cuspair. “A bheil thu eòlach air greidhlean Ecclefechan?” dh’fhaighnich e.



“Gu dearbh! Blasta! Nach eil e car coltach ri Border Tart?”

“Agus a bheil cuimhn’ agad air Cladh na Cuileige?” (Fly Cemetery neo Fruit Slice an t-ainm tòiseil).

“S fìor thoigh leam Cladh na Cuileige!”

Agus gu h-obann bha cianalas ana-mhòr orm airson biadh Albannach a-rithist.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Iasgachd air Didòmhnaich

*le Sarah Snow*

’S e Didòmhnaich a th’ ann an-diugh. ’S e feasgar àlainn a th’ ann. ’S e foghar geal grianach a th’ ann. ’S toigh le Steve iasgachd as t-fhoghar. Chaidh sinn gu Fredonia, WI. Tha pàirc shnog an sin, faisg air abhainn Milwaukee. Tha e glè mhath airson iasgaich. Tha e glè bhrèagha!

Chan e abhras a tha air mo chuigeal. Dè an rud a bu choir dhomh a dhèanamh? Bha mi a’ ceartachadh “lab reports”!! Ach ... bha an “wifi” ro shlaodach anns a’ phàirc. Air an adhbhar sin, tha mi a’ sgrìobhadh na sgeulachd Ghàidhlig agam!

Tha Steve ann an caidheag. Chan urrainn dhomh Steve fhaicinn. Tha mi an dòchas gum beir e air gad iasg!! Seall! Sin e anns an dealbh! Tha an t-àm ann dhuinn a dhol dhachaigh. Tha an latha air a bhith math.



Steve ann an caidheag.

*dealbh le Sarah Snow*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Carson a tha a h-uile rud a’ gluasad?

*le Mary Traywick*

Seo sgeul air an àm nuair a bha mi fhèin ’nam phàiste, ’s bha mo theaghlach a’ fuireach ann an California, ann am baile beag faisg air na beanntan. Aig an àm sin, bha sinn a’ fuireach ann an tràilear, ’s bha sin caran coltach ri fuireach ann am bogsa mòr – ma bha a h-uile doras fosgailte, b’ urrainn dhuibh seasamh aig ceann an tràileir, agus sealltainn dìreach troimhe chu’n a’ chinn eile.

Bha e mar fuireach ann am bogsa cuideachd air sgàth ’s nach robh mòran àirneise ann idir. Cha robh ach aon fhìor leabaidh ann; chaidh fhèin air a’ bhòrd anns a’ chidsin, ri taobh na h-àmhainne. ’S e bòrd-pasgaidh a bh’ ann, agus nuair a bha an latha seachad, phaisgeamaid e agus bhiodh e ’na leabaidh fad na h-oidhche. Bha e cofhurtail gu leòr, ged a bha e cho beag. Bu toigh leam a bhith ’nam chadal anns a’ chidsin, mo bhràthair air an ùrlar air mo chùlaibh agus mo phàrantan faisg air mo bheulaibh.

Co-dhiù, oidhche bha seo, bha mi ’nam chadal ’san leabaidh-bùird seo, nuair a dh’fhairich mi mothachadh neònach. Dhùisg mi, agus chunnaic mi ’s chuala mi gun robh a h-uile rud ’san tràilear a’ gluasad - dorsan nam preasan, na dealbhan air na ballachan, na ballachan fhèin, a h-uile rud. Cha robh iad a’ gluasad mòran; ’s ann a bhiodh iad a’ crithneachadh, mar gun robh an tràilear gu lèir fuar.

Bha mi glè bheag, ’s bha mi dìreach air dùsgadh, agus smaoinich mi aig an toiseach, “Ò, ’s ann air trèan a tha sinn!” Ach an uair sin smaoinich mi, “Chan ann idir, tha mi ’san leabaidh agam fhèin, anns an tràilear, mar as àbhaist.”

Mar sin, carson a bha a h-uile rud a' gluasad?

Cha robh an t-eagal orm idir, ach bha ùidh agam, agus choimhead mi mun cuairt airson na freagairt. Chunnaic mi gun robh m' athair 'na shuidhe air an leabaidh agam, a' coimhead air an t-seòmar a bha fhathast a' crithneachadh gu h-annasach, agus smaoinich mi, "Uill, seo Athair. Ma bhios fhios aig duine sam bith ciamar a tha seo a' tachairt, bidh fios aigesan."

Mar sin, dh'fhaighnich mi dheth, "Athair, carson a tha a h-uile rud a' gluasad?"

"Ist," thuirt esan. "Na gabh dragh, a Mhàiri. Dèan cadal a-rithist."

Cha robh mi a' gabhail dragh, mus tuirt e sin, ach a-nise, bha mi caran fo chùram. Gabh dragh? Am bu chòir dhomh dragh a ghabhail, ceart gu leòr?

Ach bha Athair ann, agus bha fhios agam gun robh mi sàbhailte gu leòr fhad 's a bha esan còmhla rium, 's rinn mi cadal a-rithist.

Agus 'sa mhadainn, nuair a bha mi ag ithe bracaist, dh'fhaighnich m' athair dhìom an robh an ioma-chrìth air cordadh rium a-raoir.

Sguir mi a dh'ithe, 's dh'fhaighnich mi, "An e ioma-chrìth a bha siud?"

"'S e," fhreagair e, "ach cha robh innte ach tè bheag, 's tha sinn uile sàbhailte. Mar sin, na gabh dragh."

Uill, ghabh mi dragh fad latha no dhà, ach bha e ceart. 'S e sin an ioma-chrìth a bu mhotha a dh'fhairich mi riamh. Cha robh i dona idir, agus 's e cuimhne inntinneach a th' ann dhomh, mar sin, tha mi a' smaoineachadh gu bheil mi toilichte gum faca mi i. Ach tha mi sar-thoilichte nach robh i càil na bu mhiosa, gu dearbh.

## Answers to Photo Quiz, p. 3



*Photo courtesy of NASA*

Ireland	Èrinn
Great Britain	A' Bhreatann Mhòr
Islay	Ìle
Jura	Diùra
Colonsay	Colbhasa
Arran	Arainn
Skye	An t-Eilean Sgitheanach
Lewis and Harris	Leòdhas agus na Hearadh
Orkney	Arcaibh
North Uist	Uibhist a Tuath
South Uist	Uibhist a Deas
Mull	Muile
Coll	Cola
Tiree	Tiriodh
Barra	Barraigh
Benbecula	Beinn nam Faodhla / Beinn a' Bhaoghla
Muck	Muc
Eigg	Eige
Rum	Ruma
Canna	Canaidh
Vatersay	Bhatarsaigh
St. Kilda!!	Hiort

# Bàrdachd airson ar linn

We love it when Gaelic learners turn into Gaelic poets! “Bàrdachd airson ar linn” is an ongoing column to encourage and promote original contemporary Scottish Gaelic poetry. Poets may range from fluent and native speakers to adult learners.

One of the two poems that ACGA member Caroline Bennett shares with us in this issue is the first poem that she ever wrote in Gaelic, “An Dùsgadh”. That poem was short-listed in the Wigtown Poetry Scottish Gaelic Prize competition in 2016. Her poetry was again short-listed in the 2021 competition.

## An Dùsgadh

Caroline Bennett 2016

Thàinig an t-Earrach gu fiatach slaodach,  
Fhad 's a chaidil an leitir chraobhach.  
Shnàig e troimh 'n ùir na tàmh 's air raointean,  
'S dhùisg e an saoghal le ceòl.

Thàinig an t-Earrach le blàthan 's le mànnan.  
'Gabhail port sàmhach air na gealagan-làir e.  
Dh'fhuirich mi fada ri deò-ghaoithe bhlàth-mhor  
'S dh'fhàs anns a' bhlàths mi beò.

Chuir mi failt' air an Earrach le aighear is èibhneas.  
Dh'aodaich e l' blàthan cho àlainn mo gheugan.  
Dhannas mi 'sa ghaoith nam èideadh ùr sgèimhichte  
'S sheinn sinn le chéile ar ceòl.

Thàinig an t-Earrach gu fiatach slaodach,  
Fhad 's a chaidil an leitir chraobhach.  
Shnàig e troimh 'n ùir na tàmh 's air raointean,  
'S dhùisg e an saoghal le ceòl.

## Aig Beul a' Gheamhraidh

Caroline Bennett 2016

Aig beul an là bha ànradh fuar làidir  
A' séideadh thar bhlàran is òba 's bàgh-shàile  
Bha réidheas na glòmanaich blàthmhòir air fhàgail  
'S a' chòbh bha bàtaichean tréigte.

Is chailleadh aisling nan dìthean air sléibhtean  
'S air tràighean is machair bha sìde fhliuch éitidh  
Bha àirigh na dìseart aig ìochdar na beinne  
'S ann liath bha éirigh na gréine.

'S fuar bha faobhar na gaoithe bho sgùrr dubh  
'S le cluasan 's aodann 's gualainn gun dùbhlán  
Air cuairsgeadh le aodaich gus fuachd a ghiùlan  
Bha gaoth mhòr a' bùrach 's mi 'g éisteachd.

Bha gugail nan gugachan's ràc-ràc a' gheòidh-ghlais  
Is glagadaich fharspaig a' rànaich bho sgòrr ghlas  
Air briseadh na mara snàmh càlagan 's ròin-ghlas  
Is iadsan a' crònadh 's ag éigheach.

'S a' bhaile bha solais a' nochdadh bho àrasan  
Nuair lasadh iad coinnean bha brochan a'  
blàthachadh  
Bha fabhradh na toite bho bhothain is fhàrdaich  
Aig toiseach an là 's 'ad ag éirigh.

Gun tòisicheadh ràith nan ànradhean an là seo  
Le reòth geal bha tràth air càthar is fàireadh  
Is ceò-uisg' 'san àile is fàir' air a sgàileadh  
Is dathan a' fàsas nas céire.

Ged b' àbhaist do'n àm seo bhith gruamach 's làn  
ònrachd  
Bidh blàth-fhuil 'san àiteachan fhuarach làn òrain  
Bidh càirdeas ri teallaich is duain 's sgeòil-mhòra  
Le cuimhneachan dreòis a' Chéitein.

'S thionndaidh mi 'n uairsin le gaoth air mo chùlaibh  
'S mi gluasad gu slaodach gu smuainteach 's mi  
dùil-mhór  
Air buadh is aigheachd is suaimhneas is sùgradh  
'S sinn fuadachadh dùdlachd le èibhneas.

## ACGA Now on Amazon Smile

Amazon offers a feature called AmazonSmile which allows the purchaser to direct a small percentage of Amazon's profit on the sale to the purchaser's preferred charitable organization. Now, your AmazonSmile purchases can raise money for ACGA. When you make an eligible purchase, Amazon will donate a portion of the sale back to ACGA. Use <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1352293> to link to our account.

For more information on AmazonSmile, use <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/>.  
Note: This service is not available in Canada or the UK.

# Mòd Nàiseanta ACGA

November 13, 2021 [via Zoom]

Adjudicators: Joy Dunlop and Angus G. MacLeod

Following the model set by the Royal National Mòd last year, the adjudicators did not award first, second, and third places in each category, but instead named each competitor's effort as *sònraichte* / exceptional, *air leth math* / highly commended, or *ri mholadh* / to be commended.

## Spoken Word Competitions:

### Poetry Recitation

Iain Grimaldi – ri mholadh  
Barbara Rice – ri mholadh  
Hilary NicPhàidein – air leth math

### Original Poetry

Caroline Bennett – air leth math  
Jamie MacDonald – sònraichte  
Barbara Rice – ri mholadh

### Storytelling

Iain Grimaldi – air leth math  
Róisín Newton – sònraichte  
Hilary NicPhàidein – ri mholadh

### Sight-reading

Cathleen MacKay – sònraichte  
Hilary NicPhàidein – sònraichte  
Barbara Rice – ri mholadh

## Singing Competitions:

### Beginner Song (combined score for music and Gaelic)

Valeria Campbell – ri mholadh  
Will Collings – ri mholadh

### General Song (each competitor sang two songs)

Adam Damher – sònraichte, air leth math  
Penny DeGraff – ri mholadh, ri mholadh  
Eve Gordon – air leth math, air leth math  
Iain Grimaldi – ri mholadh, ri mholadh  
Cathleen MacKay – ri mholadh, air leth math  
Glenna Mackay-Johnstone – ri mholadh, air leth math  
Hilary NicPhàidein – ri mholadh, air leth math

## Special Awards:

Women's Song: Duais Marietta NicLeòid – Eve Gordon  
Men's Song: Duais Dhòmhnail MhicDhòmhnail – Adam Dahmer  
Original Poetry: Duais Iain mac Mhurchaidh – Jamie MacDonald

Following the announcement of singing awards, Joy and Angus gave suggestions to the competitors for improving their singing. Most important of all, said Joy, is to let the words steer the music. Also, pick songs that suit your voice, that are in the correct key for your voice. Beyond that, practice a lot, work on your starting note, and get the “push and pull” of the sound of the Gaelic.

Angus reminded singers that songs tell a story. To help communicate that story, work on individual words, pay attention to diphthongs and triphthongs, and be sure to make the ends of the words clear. He also pointed out that Gaelic songs have a purpose that fits into life, which means that the rhythm of work songs, for instance, is an important part of the message.

Both Angus and Joy praised the mòd singers and urged them to *cumaibh oirbh*!

## Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Do you know what familiar Gaelic proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 24 to see if you're right.



Image by Rogers-Fotodesign from Pixabay [www.pixabay.com](https://www.pixabay.com)



# Original Poems at the 2021 U.S. Mòd

Jamie MacDonald (Seumas Ruairidh MacDhòmhnaill), Caroline Bennett, and Barbara L. Rice presented their poems in Scottish Gaelic at the 2021 U.S. Mòd. Jamie won the Duais Iain mhic Mhurchaidh, the prize for best original poem.

## 'S mòr am mulad a-nochd tha orm *Seumas Ruairidh MacDhòmhnaill*

'S mòr am mulad a-nochd tha orm  
Stiùireadh dhachaigh is mi leam fhìn  
bhon a chuala mi naidheachd bhrònach  
O nach robh thu còmhla rinn!

Bu tu fear èibhinn, ealanta, eirmseach  
Tha mi nad chomain mhòir an-diugh  
Thug thu dhomhsa prèasant priseil  
Cànan nan connspann, gaisgeach, is laoch.

'S tric a chluinneadh do bhriathran còire  
Ga mo bhrosnachadh gu binn  
'Sin thu fhèin, a bhalaich, cum ort  
Bidh tu 'dh' aithghearr nas fheàrr na mi."

Bidh cuimhn' an còmhnaidh agam ort  
Is mi gad ionndrainn gu mòr  
Mo cheud soraidh slàn leat, a charaid  
Theagamh gun tachair sinn an glòir.

Nì fear eile do chuid obrach  
Bidh mòran dhaoine às do dhèidh  
Ged a bhiodh 'ad comasach teòma  
Chan fhaicear a-rithist leithid do ghnè.

## Gaelic Song Stories

Gaelic singer Deirdre Graham hosts a weekly podcast series that looks at the stories and themes behind Scottish Gaelic songs. Special guests include folklorist, singer and writer Margaret Bennett. Full transcripts of the podcasts are also available through the link below.

<https://www.deidregraham.com/gaelicsongstories>

## Cànan mo Rùin *Caroline Bennett 2021*

Ma dh'fhaoidte gun d'thàinig an gaol seo nam chridhe  
Gu slaodach – a' tighinn gu dìomhair nam inntinn.  
Is dh'aitich e m' aigheadh - gu sàmhach 'na thighinn.  
Bha m' anam 'ga lìonadh gu 'chùl.

Bha mis' air mo thàladh le òrain bha ceòlmhor,  
Is cànan cho àlainn 's bha mise gun eòlas.  
Gun cuala mi fuaimean ghruamain 's iad brònach  
Is guthan làn sòlais is sunnd.

Gun d' dh'innis iad mu chianalas, éibhneas is ghaol dhomh  
'S le faclan bha rìomhach sheinn iad mun t-saoghal dhomh.  
Bha miann orm air ciall is tuigse an smointean,  
De'n bhrìgh seo gar n-aonadh às ùr.

Gun d' dh' iarr mi aithneachd air àilleachd na bàrdachd  
Gus bruidhinn mu dhaonnachd 's mu ghaol 's mo  
ghràidhean'  
Is dìomh' reachd mo chridhe is grinneas an Nàdair  
Is fhuair mi cànan mo rùin.

## Do Chuileig *B.L. Rice*

Cò thomhaiseadh,  
Gun cuireadh plàigh den t-seòrsa sin loinn,  
Air ceann duine ainmeil is neartail?

Ò chuileig bhig!  
Fhad's a dh'fhaodadh cogadh-facail a dhol na chaathach,  
A dh'aindeoin cùise, thionndaidheadh tu duilleag eachdraidh.

Nan tigeadh e a-steach air fir, agus air mnathan, cuideachd,  
Nach biodh gnothach mòr a-mhàin gu diofar  
Ach cuideachd tro mheadhanan ìosal anns an t-saoghal.



# Gabh do Naidheachd

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

In this YouTube video recorded by her father, Michael Newton, we see nine-year old Róisín as she reprises her entry in the U.S. National Mòd in November 2021, “Cinn-Tàile a-rithist”, about a Kintail fisherman whose boat breaks up on the rocks during a storm at sea, and who then seeks shelter with three strange old women.

Róisín’s storytelling delighted Mòd attendees and impressed the adjudicators, who awarded her a “Sònraichte.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McwqaVq1QBI>



Róisín Newton

## A Bharrachd

If you are looking for that last minute gift, in addition to *Às a’ Chamhanaich* reviewed in this issue, Bradan Press (<https://www.bradanpress.com/>) has published a number of books in Gaelic or about Gaels, including titles for children.

### *Inbhich / Adults*

***Ròs Fiadhaich*, by Nicola R. White, translated by Nathaniel Harrington**

This is the Scottish Gaelic translation of the indie comic book series *Wild Rose*, a retelling of an Irish folktale in graphic novel format. Eliza Day is a young woman in rural Ireland in 1790 who seeks revenge when she is betrayed by her wealthy English lover. Mature themes. Gaelic only.

***Fàilte, A Colouring Book of Scottish Gaelic Phrases and Proverbs*, by Gayle Weatherson**

This colouring book offers a wealth of Gaelic phrases and traditional proverbs, intricately decorated with flowers, foliage, birds, and beasts, and ready to colour. Includes 30 black-and-white drawings by the author printed on one side only. Suggested for older children, teens, and adults due to the intricacy of the designs. Gaelic with English translations.

### *Clann / Children*

***Mòr-thubaist aig na Geamannan Gàidhealach*, by Riel Nason, translated by Mòrag Anna NicNèill**

This is the Scottish Gaelic translation of *Disaster at the Highland Games*. Kate loves going to Highland dance class each week and is thrilled when her teacher suggests she compete at the Highland Games for the first time, but a misstep sets off a hilarious chain of events across the whole Highland Games. Gaelic only.

***Luran agus a’ Mhaighdeann-mhara*, as told by Mickey MacNeil, ed. by Shamus Y. MacDonald**

Beautifully illustrated by Emily MacDonald, this book for young readers tells the tale of Luran whose live-stock is being stolen by the fairies. He doesn’t know what to do, but one day while he is out in his boat, a mermaid gives him some advice. Originally a folktale from Barra, this was a favourite of Mickey MacNeil, a renowned Gaelic storyteller from Cape Breton who was told this as a boy and never forgot it. Available in a Gaelic Orthographic Conventions edition for schools in Scotland, and in a Nova Scotia Gaelic orthography edition, as well as English (*Luran and the Mermaid*).

***G airson Gàidheal: Aibidil de chultar nan Gàidheal an Albainn Nuaidh*, by Shelayne Hanson, illustrated by Etta Moffatt**

This picture book is a first step for children and adults looking to understand and connect with Gaelic history, culture, and identity in Nova Scotia. Available in a Gaelic Orthographic Conventions edition for schools in Scotland, and in a Nova Scotia Gaelic orthography edition, as well as English (*G is for Gael: An alphabet of Nova Scotia's Gaelic Culture*). See free sample page below.

***Iain of New Scotland*, by Margaret MacKay**

MacKay brings to life the experiences of her ancestors who sailed in the summer of 1773 from Loch Broom in Scotland to Pictou in Nova Scotia on the ship *Hector*. Things do not bode well for the newcomers when they find that the inhospitable land has not been cleared as promised, and they have to adapt to a cold, harsh new homeland. For readers 9 and up. English only.



## Savings on Acair Books

Acair would like to offer the opportunity to those interested in Gaelic to get a 30% discount on purchases from their website (<https://www.acairbooks.com/>) in an effort to help offset the cost of overseas shipping. All you need to do is to enter the code LEARN at checkout.

It's always nice to find new recipes around the holidays, but this recipe isn't new at all! Our friend Carol Neely has been making this tasty apple sheet-pan treat for her family for over thirty years.

## Milsean Ùbhlán airson na Nollaige

### Measgaich ri chèile:

2 1/2 chupan ùbhlán air an gearradh (an rùsg air no dheth)  
1 ugh  
1 spàin-buird min-fhlùir  
1 spàin-tì caineil  
1 1/2 chupa siùcair  
1/2 chupa chnòthan air an gearradh

Dòirt am measgachadh air clàr-fuine a tha air a chrèiseadh.

Cuir pìosan ime air, an siud 's an seo.

Bruich aig 350°F airson 10–15 mionaidean (gus am bi i mar charamal)

Riaraich e fhad 's a tha e blàth neo le uachdar air a sgìodadh.

## Christmas Apple Dessert

### Mix together:

2 1/2 cups diced apple (peeled or not)  
1 egg  
1 tbsp flour  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
1/2 cup chopped nuts

Pour onto a buttered cookie sheet.

Dot with butter.

Bake at 350°F until caramelized, about 10 or 15 minutes.

Serve warm or with whipped cream.



© Can Stock Photo / bhofack2

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 Rogers-Fotodesign from Pixabay [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)

## Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 20

Am fear a bhios fad aig an aiseig gheibh e thairis uaireigin.

He that waits long at the ferry will get across sometime.  
(Everything comes to him that waits.)



# Dè Tha Dol?

## Gaelic Events

### An Dùbhlachd 2021 / December 2021

#### **Seachdain na Gàidhlig Còmhraidh Air Loidhne / Virtual World Gaelic Week Launch, Dec. 17, 2021**

A live, online launch will be held at 2pm Scotland time across all *Seachdain na Gàidhlig* social medias (@sngaidhlig), featuring *Seachdain na Gàidhlig* Director Joy Dunlop in conversation with Agnes Rennie, Gaelic Ambassador of the Year 2021; Choirstaidh NicArtair, newly announced Young Gaelic Ambassador of the Year 2021; and Shona MacIannan, Ceannard Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

<https://seachdainnagaidhlig.scot/event/first-event/>

### Am Faoilleach 2022 / January 2022

#### **Latha nam Bàrd, Saturday, January 15, 2022**

*Oidhche nam Bàrd* becomes *Latha nam Bàrd* in 2022 as ACGA and Gàidhlig Photomac sponsor an online poetry reading and a live event in Alexandria, VA. Details will become available in early 2022 at

<https://acgamerica.org/> and <https://www.meetup.com/Gaidhlig-Photomac/>. For more information email [willbcassidy@gmail.com](mailto:willbcassidy@gmail.com).

#### **Oidhche nam Bàrd, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm (EST), Friday, January 21, 2022**

There will be no *Cèilidh Oidhche Haoine Bhiortail* / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidh in December, but Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto / Toronto Gaelic Society will once again host *Oidhche nam Bàrd*, an evening of Scottish Gaelic poetry and song. Register at <https://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html>

#### **Celtic Connections, Glasgow, Scotland, January 20, 2022 – February 6, 2022**

Celtic Connections, Glasgow's annual folk, roots and world music festival celebrates its connections to cultures across the globe. Held at various venues throughout the city, the festival returns to live concerts, ceilidhs, talks, art exhibitions, workshops, and free events after going virtual in 2020.

<https://www.celticconnections.com/>

### Am Màrt 2022 / March 2022

#### **Seachdain na Gàidhlig / World Gaelic Week, March 21 – March 27, 2022**

Seachdain na Gàidhlig / Gaelic Week will be officially recognised in Scotland in 2022 with events between Monday, March 21 and Sunday, March 27. Individuals and groups throughout the world are encouraged to create their own events and list them on the official website <https://seachdainnagaidhlig.scot/?lang=scg>

### An t-Iuchair 2022 / July 2022

#### **Ceòlas Sgoil Shamhraidh 2022 / Ceòlas Summer School 2022, South Uist, July 3 – July 8, 2022**

The main focus of Ceòlas is the week-long music and dance summer school featuring expert tuition in piping, fiddling, singing, Scotch reels and quadrilles, step dancing and Gaelic language. Plans are underway for an in-person event for 2022. Details will become available at <https://www.ceolas.co.uk/home/summer-school-2022/>

### Cùrsaichean Air Astar / Distance Learning

#### **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye**

The distance learning courses offered by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig are designed to enable students to become fluent in Scottish Gaelic and to progress to further study through the medium of Gaelic if desired. They range from *An Cùrsa Inntrigidh* for those with no or little Gaelic to BA(HONS) in Gaelic language and Culture.

For a description of all distance learning courses offered through Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, see

<https://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/distance-learning/?lang=en>

### **Colaisde na Gàidhlig, Leasanan Bhideo / The Gaelic College, Video Lessons**

Six different disciplines are taught by six knowledgeable and experienced instructors who will be sharing tips and techniques to get you playing, dancing, singing and speaking Gaelic the Cape Breton way. Each discipline is offered at 3 levels with 10 lessons per level for a total of 30 lessons in each discipline. Each level can be purchased for \$20 CDN for a 6 month subscription. For a list of lessons and more information, see <https://gaeliccollege.edu/learn/online-learning/video-lessons/>

### **Ongoing**

#### **Cèilidh Oidhche Haoine Bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidhs, Comunn Gàidhlig Thorontò**

A ceilidh is all about community and coming together. If you have a story, a song, or an instrument you play, you are invited to contribute, wherever you are in the world. Skill level is not the important thing, so simply join us on the third Friday of the month and tell, sing or play. Most of all, you are invited to contribute with your presence. To register, simply fill out the form at the link below and you will be sent the Zoom link to join in online, 7:30 pm eastern time. <https://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html>

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **An Clas Camelon**

Gaelic song and language workshops are offered on Zoom, from complete beginner to advanced / fluent. Ongoing classes include a beginner song class on alternate Wednesday evenings at 7pm GMT / 2pm EST. Each class is one hour, with new songs taught each class, so no need to attend each one. The cost is £6 per class. The instructor is a local musician, Eilidh, who is the singer in the band Madderam (on YouTube and Spotify). The songs and phonetics are sent out in advance and the price also includes a recording sent out afterwards.

For more information or to register, email [anclascamelon@gmail.com](mailto:anclascamelon@gmail.com) or see their FaceBook page.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **Gaelic Song Sharing on Meetup**

Gàidhlig Photomac hosts a song sharing session every month or so. You can find more information about this informal event at the Gàidhlig Photomac page on Meetup at <https://www.meetup.com/Gaidhlig-Photomac>. Email Cathleen MacKay at [amum44@yahoo.com](mailto:amum44@yahoo.com) for more information.

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 [seonaganna@gmail.com](mailto:seonaganna@gmail.com)

- 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)

# Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

## **United States**

### **California**

#### **Sacramento Area**

Classes

(on pandemic hold, will resume when possible)

Donnie MacDonald [minchmusic@comcast.net](mailto:minchmusic@comcast.net)

### **Colorado**

#### **Denver**

Conversation Group

(on pandemic hold, will resume when possible)

Monthly at Stella's Coffee Shop

Reese McKay [reese.mckay25@gmail.com](mailto:reese.mckay25@gmail.com)

### **San Luis Valley**

Daily Gaelic

Online lessons & classes; email courses

<http://www.gaidhliggachlatha.com>

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

### **Kentucky**

#### **Louisville**

Online Gaelic language and song lessons

Adam Dahmer [atdahm01@gmail.com](mailto:atdahm01@gmail.com)

### **Maryland**

#### **Baltimore**

Online Classes and Conversation Group

Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhóir

<https://sgoilgaidhlig.org/>

Rick Gwynallen [richard.gwynallen@gmail.com](mailto:richard.gwynallen@gmail.com)

301-928-9026

### **New York**

#### **New York**

Classes (online during pandemic)

New York Caledonian Club

Contact Barbara L. Rice, Chair, Scottish Studies

[Barbara.Rice@nycaledonian.org](mailto:Barbara.Rice@nycaledonian.org)

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

### **North Carolina**

#### **Triangle / Raleigh area**

Study Group (online during pandemic)

An Phillips [fiongeal@gmail.com](mailto:fiongeal@gmail.com)

### **Northern Virginia-Washington, DC-Maryland**

Gaelic Learning Community (online during pandemic)

Gàidhlig Photomac

Regular workshops and social events

Contact Liam [willbcassidy@gmail.com](mailto:willbcassidy@gmail.com)

### **Washington**

#### **Seattle**

Slighe nan Gàidheal

Online Classes & Informal Study Groups

<https://www.slighe.org/gaelic-classes>

## **Canada**

### **British Columbia**

#### **Vancouver**

Classes (online during pandemic)

Comunn Gàidhlig Bhancoubhair

[info.vancouvergaelic@gmail.com](mailto:info.vancouvergaelic@gmail.com)

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

### **Ontario**

#### **Toronto**

Gaelic classes & private tutoring via Zoom

Comann Luchd-Ionnsachaidh Thoronto

<http://www.torontogaelic.ca>

### **Québec**

#### **Montréal**

Study Group & Celtic choir (online during pandemic)

Linda Morrison [linda@lindamorrison.com](mailto:linda@lindamorrison.com)



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

For additions and corrections, contact Janice Chan, [seonaganna@gmail.com](mailto:seonaganna@gmail.com)

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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](http://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](http://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.
- [www.facebook.com/ACGAGaelic](https://www.facebook.com/ACGAGaelic), our Facebook page.
- [www.youtube.com/user/ACGAmerica](https://www.youtube.com/user/ACGAmerica), our YouTube channel with video content.
- [www.twitter.com/ACGAGaelic](https://www.twitter.com/ACGAGaelic), our Twitter account, used for ACGA announcements.
- [www.facebook.com/groups/1463155417230179](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1463155417230179), a special Facebook page for our Gaelic Song and Language Week at Grandfather Mountain. Click the "Join Group" button in the main menu to send a request to join.

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