

An Naidheachd Againne

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

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Thogadh ann an Talamh an Èisg agus Baile Àtha Cliath, tha Brian air a bhith seinn fad a bheatha. Tha e na neach-ealain clàraidh soirbheachail, a' seinn ann an Gàidhlig na h-Alba, Gaeilge, Albais is Beurla. Tha Brian cuideachd ag obair do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig mar mhanaidsear-maoineachaidh a thuilleadh a bhith teagasg òrain air loidhne agus aig iomadh fèis. Gheibh thu barrachd fiosrachaidh mu Bhrian an-seo: www.brianoheadhra.net.

Raised in Newfoundland and Dublin, Brian has been singing for most of his life. A successful recording artist, he sings in Gaelic, Irish, Scots and English. Brian also works for Bòrd na Gàidhlig as a funding manager, as well as teaching song online and at many festivals. You can find more information about Brian here: www.brianoheadhra.net.

Gàidheil Còmhla:

Ceanglaichean ealantach, cultarail agus cànanach eadar muinntir Gàidhlig na h-Èireann agus na h-Alba san latha an-diugh.

le Brian Ó hEadhra, Inbhir Nis, Alba

Tha rudeigin inntinneach air tachairt thairis àm COVID a thaobh conaltradh eadar daoine. Beagan bhliadhnaichean air ais, cha bhiodh e cho nàdarra no àbhaisteach a bhith a' bruidhinn ri daoine aghaidh ri aghaidh air làraich mar Zoom no MS Teams. Tha cùisean gu tur eadar-dhealaichte san latha an-diugh.

Gaels Together:

Artistic, cultural and linguistic links between the Gaels of Ireland and Scotland today.

by Brian Ó hEadhra, Inverness, Scotland

Something interesting has happened over the time of COVID in terms of human communication. A few years ago, it would not have been so natural or normal to talk to people face-to-face on sites like Zoom or MS Teams. Things are completely different nowadays.



Brian Ó hEadhra

Photos for this article courtesy of Brian Ó hEadhra

In This Issue

Litir bho'n Cheann-Suidhe/Letter from the President.....	4
An tuiséal ginideach "àlainn"!	6
2022 Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Week	7
Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig.....	8
Won't you help An Naidheachd Againne?	10
An t-àite agam fhìn	11
Criomagan / Bits of This and That	12
Litir à Dùn Èideann.....	13
A Website to Watch: Sgeulachdan	14
Bàrdachd airson ar linn	15
Gaelic Crossword Puzzles	16,18
Book Review: <i>Constabul Murdo</i> le Aonghas Pàdraig Caimbeul	17
Tattie Scones (Bilingual Recipe)	19
Dè Tha Dol?	21

Go to www.acgamerica.org for more on upcoming ACGA events and other Gaelic-related activities.

Thairis a' ghlaisidh thòisich mi fhìn a dhol gu clasaichean òrain Gaeilge air-loidhne le Bláithín Mhic Cana a tha fuireach ann an sgìre Àrd Mhacha ann an Uladh. Bha e cho math dìreach a bhith ag ionnsachadh òrain ùra na Gaeilge tro mheadhan na Gaeilge le Gàidheil eile. Rinn mi cùrsa ag ionnsachadh Gaeilge air-loidhne cuideachd le Gael Chultar. Chòrd e rium a bhith am measg luchd-labhairt na Gaeilge bho gach cèarn den t-saoghal.

Is ann à Èirinn a tha mi agus tha mi air a bhith a' fuireach ann an Alba fad còig bliadhna air fhichead a-nis. Dh'ionnsaich mi a' Ghàidhlig an seo agus chuir mi mo chuid Gaeilge gu aon taobh leis nach robh mi timcheall luchd-labhairt na Gaeilge gu làitheil. Ach, tron ghlasadh, dh'fhàs an cianalas orm airson Èirinn is a bhith bruidhinn na Gaeilge. Tro theicneòlas is an t-àm a bh' againn ann am pailteas thairis COVID, dh'fhàs an cothrom a bhith ann an conaltradh le Gàidheil air feadh an t-saoghail.

Tron ghlasadh, stèidhich mi buidheann ealain ùr le dithis eile, Joy Dunlop agus Pàdruig Moireasdan, leis an ainm "Ealantas" is an t-amas ealain na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh ann an Alba agus thall thairis. Tron bhuidheann ùr a tha seo chuir sinn air dòigh pròiseactan air-loidhne far an d' fhuair sinn cothrom Gàidheil à Alba, Èirinn, Eilean Mhanainn, Alba Nuadh, is eile fhaighinn còmhla airson bruidhinn, seinn, cluich le chèile ann an Gaeilge, Gàidhlig agus beagan Gaelg. Fhuair sinn maoin bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig agus Alba Chruthachail airson cèilidhean is còmhraidhean cruthachail a chlàradh air-loidhne le Gàidheil air feadh an t-saoghail agus a chraoladh air Facebook is YouTube. Abair tlachd a bh' ann a bhith ann an conaltradh le luchd-ealain eile a' comharrachadh ceòl, sgeulachdan is ealain na Gàidhlig, ùr is tradaiseanta. Am measg na daoine a bha nar n-aogheachd bha Dr Micheal Newton, Ruairidh MacIllEathain, Màiri NicIllÌosa, Bláithín Mhic Cana, Diane Cannon, Emily McEwan, Eilidh NicCarraig, agus Dr Màrtainn Mac An t-Saoir.

Ach, ged a bha cèilidhean is còmhraidhean air-loidhne spòrsail is cudromach dhuinn aig an àm, bha faireachdainn ann nach robh an rud seo nàdarra no gu leòr dhuinn mar Ghàidheil. Sheall sinn gun robh e comasachadh Gàidhlig is Gaeilge a chleachdadh eadarainn ach bha na seiseanan goirid agus dh'fhàs daoine sgìth a bhith air beulaibh sgrìnichean coimpiutair fad an latha is oidhch'.

Over the lockdown, I started attending online Irish song classes with Bláithín Mhic Cana, who lives in the Armagh area of Ulster. It was so good just learning new Irish songs through the medium of Irish with other Gaels. I also did an online Irish language course with Gael Chultar. I enjoyed being with Irish speakers from all over the world.

I am from Ireland and have lived in Scotland for twenty-five years now. I learned Gaelic here and put my Irish to one side as I was not around Irish speakers on a daily basis. However, during the lockdown, I grew homesick for Ireland and speaking Irish. Through technology and our time in abundance over COVID, the opportunity to connect with Gaels around the world grew.

During the lockdown, I set up a new arts group with two others, Joy Dunlop and Pàdruig



Seumaidh, Brian, and Joy

Moireasdan, called "Ealantas" with the aim of promoting Gaelic arts in Scotland and abroad. Through this new group we have set up online projects where we have had the opportunity to get together Gaels from Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Nova Scotia and elsewhere to

speak, sing and play together in Irish, Gaelic and some Manx. We received funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Creative Scotland to record ceilidhs and creative conversations online with Gaels around the world and broadcast them on Facebook and YouTube. It was a pleasure to interact with other artists celebrating Gaelic music, storytelling and art, new and traditional. Guests included Dr Michael Newton, Roddy MacLean, Màiri Gilles, Bláithín Mhic Cana, Diane Cannon, Emily McEwan, Eilidh Cormack, and Dr Martin MacIntyre.

But, while ceilidhs and online conversations were fun and important to us at the time, there was a feeling that this was not natural or enough for us as Gaels. We showed that it was possible to use Gaelic and Irish between us, but the sessions were short and people grew tired of being in front of computer screens all day and night.

Airson ar “càirdeas nan Gàidheal” a shàsachadh rinn sinn co-dhùnadh pròiseact Cuairt nan Gàidheal (Cuairt na nGael sa Ghaeilge) a chur air bhon. Bhiodh Cuairt nan Gàidheal na phròiseact ùr a’ comharrachadh nan ceanglaichean ealantach, cultarail agus cànanach eadar muinntir Gàidhlig na h-Èireann agus na h-Alba. Air a bhrosnachadh leis a’ phròiseact Turas na bhFìlì / Turas nam Bàrd a ruith na bu thràithe san linn seo, bhiodh Cuairt nan Gàidheal ag ath-stèidheachadh cheanglaichean eadar luchd-ealain Gaeilge agus Gàidhlig anns a’ bhliadhna shònraichte – Colmcille 1500, a’ comharrachadh 1500 bho rugadh an naomh ainmeil.

Ann an toiseach a’ Mhàirt 2022, às deidh a bhith air a chur dheth dà thuras, chaidh trì luchd-ealain à Alba gu Uladh airson bùthan-obrach is consartan a chumail le luchd-ealain na Gaeilge ann an ceithir coimhearsnachdan. Chaidh mi fhìn, Joy Dunlop is Seumaidh MacDhòmhnaill air an turas gu Beul Feirste, Gaoth Dobhair, Doire is An Mullach Bán. Abair turas Gàidhealach a bh’ againn; làn seinn, cluich, dannsa, bàrdachd is craic. Fhuair sinn cothrom Gàidhlig is Gaeilge a chleachdadh fad na h-ùine agus dh’fhàs e soilleir dhuinn gu bheil e comasach conaltradh a dhèanamh gu reusanta math eadar luchd na Gaeilge is na Gàidhlig. Rinn sinn agallamhan airson stèiseanan rèidio is làraichean-lìn na Gaeilge. As dèidh dà bhliadhna air a ghlasadh, bha an turas seo na leigheas dhuinne mar luchd-ealain agus don luchd-èisteachd ionadail.

Bidh rudeigin sònraichte a’ tachairt nuair a bhios luchd na Gàidhlig is Gaeilge tighinn còmhla. Bidh sinn a’ fàs mothachail gu bheil ar saoghal Gàidhealach nas motha na dìreach cùisean ann an Èirinn no Alba; gu bheil sinn gu math coltach ri chèile agus gum bu chòir dhuinn a bhith ann an conaltradh nas trice. Tha sgaraidhean air a bhith eadarainn air sgath iomadh rud – eachdraidh, creideamh, colonachadh, is eile. Tha an t-àm ann airson a bhith ag obair is a’ conaltradh nas trice le chèile mar Ghàidheil, ge brith an ann aghaidh ri aghaidh no air-loidhne.

To satisfy our “friendship of the Gaels” we decided to set up the project: *Cuairt nan Gàidheal* (*Cuairt na nGael* in Irish). *Cuairt nan Gàidheal* would be a new project celebrating the artistic, cultural and linguistic links between the Irish and Scottish Gaelic speakers. Inspired by the *Turas na bhFìlì / Turas nam Bàrd* project run earlier this century, *Cuairt nan Gàidheal* would re-establish links between Irish and Gaelic language artists in the special year – Colmcille 1500, the 1500th anniversary of the birth of the famous saint.

At the beginning of March 2022, after being canceled twice, three Scottish artists traveled to Ulster to run workshops and concerts with Irish language artists in four communities. Joy Dunlop and Jamie MacDonald and I went on the trip to



Belfast, Gweedore, Derry and Mullabawn. What a *Gàidhealach* trip we had; full of singing, playing, dancing, poetry and *craic*. We were given the opportunity to use Scottish Gaelic and Irish at all times and it became clear to us that it is possible to communicate reasonably well between Irish and Gaelic speakers. We conducted

interviews for Irish language radio stations and websites. After two years locked up, this tour was a real treat for us as artists and for the local audience.

Something special happens when Gaelic and Irish speakers come together. We become increasingly aware that our Gaelic world is more than just what happens in Ireland or Scotland – that we are very similar and that we should be in more frequent communication. There have been divisions between us for many reasons – history, religion, and colonization amongst them. It’s time to work and communicate more often with each other as Gaels, in whatever way, face-to-face or online.

Am feum thu fios a chur thugainn? / Need to get in touch?

Ceann-Suidhe / president
Iar Cheann-Suidhe / vice-president
Ionmhasair / Treasurer
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Litir bhon Cheann-suidhe le Liam Ó Caiside

A chàirdean còire,

Abair gur e mise a tha air mo dhòigh gun bheil an t-earrach air tighinn mu dheireadh thall, agus an samhradh gu bhith ann a-rithist às dèidh geamhradh nach robh goirid. Tha mi 'n dòchas gum faigh an litir seo sibh slàn, sàbhailte, agus cho sona ri bò ann an loch, neo ri luch ann an lofa, ma's fheàrr leibh.

An toiseach, feumaidh mi taing mhòr a thoirt do thriùir a dh'fhagas am Bòrd againn a dh'aithghearr: Shannon Duncan, Cam MacRae, agus Barbara Lynn Rice. 'S mòr an obair a rinn iad airson ACGA ann an iomadh dòigh mar bhuill den Bhùird. Mura b' e na rinn iad cha bhiodh *An Naidheachd Againne* seo againne. Cha bhiodh Seachdain na Gàidhlig agus nan Òran againn ann an Carolina a Tuath. Agus bha iad cuideachd an sàs ann an iomadh saothair a rinn ACGA tro na bliadhnaichean.

Bidh sinn gan ionndrainn, gun teagamh.

Ach tha ar teirmichean-dreuchd cuingichte, agus cha b'urrainnear fuireach air a' Bhòrd às dèidh dà theirm. Feumaidh iad falbh, agus feumaidh sinne "tapadh leibh gu mòr" a ràdh agus gach meala-naidheachd a thoirt dhaibh. Chì sinn iad a-rithist, tha mi cinnteach.

Ach bidh oifigearan ùra a' tighinn a-steach nan dèidh. Fhuair sibh fiosrachadh o chionn ghoirid mu na tagraichean. Tha sinn gu math toilichte gum bi stiùirichean ùra dhan Bhòrd am-bliadhna. Is mòr am feum againn air saor-thoilich ùra.

Tha mi glè thoilichte gun cruinnich sinn beò ann am Banner Elk, Carolina a Tuath, airson Seachdain na Gàidhlig agus nan Òran anns an Iuchar. 'S e seo a' chiad thachartas beò againn bho thoisich an galar lèir-sgaoilte. Faodaidh sibh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh fhaighinn agus clàradh air an làrach-lìn againn:

<https://acgamerica.org/2022-gm-gaelic-week/>

Tillidh Màiri NicAonghais air ais na tidsear am bliadhna, agus bidh Stèiseag NicIlleathain agus Jason Bond ann airson a' chiad uair. Tha sinn fìor-thoilichte gun tig iad uile. Tòisichidh an t-seachdain air an Dòmhnach, 3mh den Iuchair, agus ruithidh na cùrsaichean gu Dihaoine,

Letter from the President by Liam Cassidy

Dear friends,

I'm delighted that spring has finally returned and summer is almost here after a winter that wasn't short. I hope this letter finds you all healthy, safe, and as happy as a "cow in a lake," or a "mouse in a loaf," if you prefer.

For starters, I must give great thanks to a trio who will leave the ACGA Board soon: Shannon Duncan, Cam MacRae, and Barbara Lynn Rice. They have done great work for ACGA in many ways as members of the Board. But for them, we wouldn't have *An Naidheachd Againne*. We wouldn't have the Gaelic Song and Language Week in North Carolina. And they have been involved in many of ACGA's labors throughout the years.

We'll miss them without doubt.

But our terms of office are limited, and one can't stay on the board after two terms. They must leave and we must say "many thanks" and wish them the best. We will see them again, I'm sure.

But new officers will come in after them. You have recently received information about the candidates. We are pleased that a number of new directors will be joining the Board this year. We desperately need new volunteers.

I'm delighted we will gather again "live" in Banner Elk, North Carolina, for the Gaelic Song and Language Week in July. This is our first live event since the start of the pandemic. You may find more information on our website:

<https://acgamerica.org/2022-gm-gaelic-week/>

Màiri MacInnes will return as a teacher this year, and we will have Stèiseag MacLean and Jason Bond for the first time. We're truly delighted they will come (from Scotland, Cape Breton, and the US). The week will begin

8mh den Iuchair.

Bidh Bothan Gàidhlig ann aig na Geamaichean Gàidhealach agus Mòd Charolina a Tuath cuideachd air Disathairne, 9mh den Iuchair. Tillibh air ais dha na beanntan agus ionnsaichibh còmhla ruinn!

Na bu tràithe san Òg-mhios, chruinnich sinn air-loidhne a' comharrachadh Latha Chaluim Cille le tachartas sònraichte. Bhruidhinn sinn mu dheidhinn an naomh ainmeil agus an dileab a dh'fhàg e dhuinn. Thachair sinn ri aoighean àraid agus ghabh sinn òran neo dhà. Mura b' urrainn dhuibh thighinn còmhla rinn, leughidh sibh mu dheidhinn san ath iris *An Naidheachd Againne*.

Dè rinn sibh airson Seachdain na Gàidhlig anns a' Mhàrt? 'S iomadh tachartas a bh' ann, air loidhne agus beò ann an àiteachan. Chaidh mi fhèin a bhruidhinn ri Scott Morrison agus Rick Gwynallen bho Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taighe Mhòir, agus Micheal Newton, ollamh agus stiùiriche den Hidden Glen Folk School, mu bhàrdachd agus guthan Gàidhealach ann an Aimearagaidh a Tuath. Gheibh sibh na pod-craolaidhean a rinn sinn fhathast air Spotify an-seo.

More than Kilts and Cabers: Scottish Gaelic Voices from North America

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6hS1AHwKrxHCXpJeTYKOg>

Tha mi 'n dòchas gum faic mi sibh air-loidhne neo beò as t-samhradh seo. Slàn agus beannachd.

Liam Ó Caiside

Ceann-suidhe, ACGA

Sunday, July 3rd, and the courses will run through Friday, July 8th.

There will be a Gaelic Tent and North Carolina Provincial Mòd at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games on July 9th. Come back to the mountains and learn with us!

Earlier in June, we met online to celebrate Calum Cille's Day with a special event. We talked about the famous saint and the legacy he left us. We met special guests and gave a song or two. If you were unable to join us, you will be able to read about it in the next issue of *An Naidheachd Againne*.

What did you do for Global Scottish Gaelic Week in March? I spoke with Scott Morrison and Rick Gwynallen of the Gaelic School of Baltimore, and Michael Newton, director of the Hidden Glen Folk School, about Scottish Gaelic poetry and voices in North America. You will find the podcasts we recorded on Spotify here:

More than Kilts and Cabers: Scottish Gaelic Voices from North America

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6hS1AHwKrxHCXpJeTYKOg>

I hope to see you online or in person this summer. All the best.

Liam Cassidy

President, ACGA

THA A' BHÒT AGAD CUDROMACH! / DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

ACGA Board of Directors Election



Polls close at midnight June 30

Questions?

Email:

Cam MacRae at cam.macrae70@gmail.com

Shannon Duncan at Shannon.Duncan01@gmail.com

Those of you who have attended the Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week or the U.S. Mòd in the past may have had the absolute pleasure of attending a language or song session taught by Catriona Parsons. Originally from Lewis, Catriona is a long-time advocate for Scottish Gaelic in her adopted home of Cape Breton, as well as throughout North America.

This article first appeared in *An Naidheachd Againne* in 2013, Volume XXIX, No. 4.



An tuiseal ginideach “àlainn”! / The “lovely” genitive case! by *Catriona NicIomhair Parsons*

I was recently reminded by a student who had attended a class of mine at the Gaelic College that I had referred to the Gaelic genitive case as the “lovely” genitive. Actually, when I was studying Linguistics at university, long ago now, and had to write a description of my own language, it was then I discovered for the very first time how beautiful the structures of Gaelic really were.

The word ‘grammar’ strikes fear into the hearts of many, or fills them with distaste. At the same time, it’s in the nature of human beings to respond to patterns; if learners could think of grammar as possessing patterns that allow them to express clear thoughts, and if they would go after them systematically, little by little, they would have fewer difficulties seeing both the forest and the trees.

As we know, living languages change over time. You will hardly ever see the genitive case used in Scotland these days in an indefinite noun following a verbal noun; e.g., most people would write “*a’ cur eagal*”, which is usually understood as “at putting of fear”. But that construction would traditionally require the genitive case in the word ‘fear’ – “*a’ cur eagail*” – thus rendering the ‘l’ slender instead of broad. Gaels in Scotland often consider us here in Nova Scotia ‘old-fashioned’; but we see ourselves as more conservative of traditional Gaelic structures. However, in a true possessive noun phrase, the genitive case must be used even when the noun in question is indefinite; e.g. “*duan bàird*”, a bard’s poem. But expect to see the genitive case in play after verbal nouns – at least in good Gaelic – and when the connection is possessive, when the noun in question is definite – i.e., preceded by the (definite) article.

Part of the difficulty for learners is the complex nature of the article in Gaelic. Let’s look at a little group of nouns pertaining to the family – a short declension, in the singular. (A declension is a group of nouns sharing the same patterns).

The (nominative) subject case with article:

Masculine

an t-athair: the father
am bràthair: the brother
an seanair: the grandfather

Feminine

a’ mhàthair: the mother
a’ phiuthar: the sister
an t-seanmhair: the grandmother

Compare the ways in which the article behaves in the subject case:

Along with **masculine nouns** beginning

- a) with a vowel, **an t-**
- b) with b, f, m, p (labial consonants), **am**
- c) with every other consonant, **an**

Along with **feminine nouns** beginning

- a) with a vowel, f+vowel, d,t, l,n,r, **an**
- b) with s, sl, sn, sr, **an t-**
- c) with b, c, d, g, m, p, **a’+ lenition**

That’s the pattern of the article with singular nouns in subject case, no matter what declension they belong to!

Now, did you notice that every one of these family words ends in **-air** – except **piuthar**? That noun is irregular. Here they are in the genitive case with article, where the slender ‘r’ morphs into a broad ‘r’:

taigh an athar: the father’s house
taigh a’ bhràthar: the brother’s house
taigh an t-seanar: the grandfather’s house

taigh na màthar: the mother’s house
taigh na peathar: the sister’s house
taigh na seanmhar: the grandmother’s house

Notice that the masculine nouns in the genitive case follow the pattern of the article found in the feminine nouns, subject case! The feminine nouns are – as it were – ahead of the masculine nouns in this respect! And in the singular forms of the feminine nouns, genitive case, the article remains the same: **na**. (One small point: **na h-** is used if the noun begins with a vowel, e.g. *bun na h-aibhne*.)

Second last point: Notice that each word ending in **-air** goes to **-ar** in the genitive singular. In the word for sister, ‘*piuthar*’, the genitive form is disappearing, at least in speech. Usually today, it’s **taigh mo phiuthar** that one hears instead of **taigh mo pheathar**.

Plural forms of these nouns are, in the subject case: **na h-aithrichean, na bràithrean, na seanairean; na màthraichean, na peathraichean, na seanmhairean**; and in the genitive case: **nan aithrichean, nam bràithrean, nan seanairean; nam màthraichean, nam peathraichean, nan seanmhairean**.

There you have the patterns, then, of genitive and subject case, with article, in this tiny declension!

2022 Grandfather Mountain & Mòd Gaelic Song and Language Week

This year ACGA’s Scottish Gaelic Song & Language Week will be held in person at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina, from Sunday, 3 July 2022 to Friday, 8 July 2022. The GS&LW features four days of instruction with several classes a day to choose from. This year’s instructors are Màiri MacInnes, Stacey MacLean, and Jason Bond. The costs are listed on the registration form. The GS&LW will be followed on Saturday by the North Carolina Provincial Gaelic Mòd, a song competition, held at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, in Linville, North Carolina.

Registration is now open until Friday, June 24, 2022 at:

<https://acga.wufoo.com/forms/grandfather-mtn-gaelic-song-language-week-2022/>

You’ll find complete information about the event, including teacher bios and a list of items that you may find useful to bring with you on our website here: <https://acgamerica.org/2022-gm-gaelic-week/>



Màiri MacInnes



Stacey MacLean



Jason Bond

Tha Iain air dùsgadh ann an uaimh mhòir, is cat mòr buidhe ag imleachadh aodann le teanga gharbh. Ach cò eile a th' ann agus càit a bheil iad?

Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig le Liam Ó Caiside

Caibideil Fichead 's a Dhà: Long-Bhriseadh

“Chuir iad mise dh'eilean leam fhìn, dh'eilean mara fada bho thìr ...”
– Òran Gàidhealach

“Dhùisg Iain anns an leth-dhorchadas air tràigh ghairbhealach,” ars an sgeulaiche, a' leantainn ri a sgeulachd. “Bha a chasan fhathast san uisge, ach bha a chom air an tràigh. Bha e cho fliuch ri sgarbh.

A' chiad rud a mhothaich e, b' e gun robh e ann an uaimh mhòir, glè mhòr le mullach àrd. Bha toll anns a' mhullach agus thuit gathan-grèine sìos troimhe air gluma mhòr uisge far a bheil Saighead Sgàthaich bhochd na laighe. Bha a crann briste.

Bha toll neo beàrn mhòr eile ann am balla na h-uaimhe, far a bheil an fhairge a' tighinn a-steach. Sin mar a thàinig am bàta a-steach.

An dàrna rud a mhothaich e, b' e gun robh teanga gharbh ag imleachadh aodann. Bha pliu air a bhathais, a' cumail a cheann sìos. Cò bh' ann ach Gugtrabhad an cat mòr ruadh. “Stad! Stad!” arsa Iain, ag èirigh na shuidhe. Sgeann Gugtrabhad air Iain le a shùil mhòr uaine. “Na h-abair ‘taing’, ged bha thu bàite,” thuirt e.

Thug Iain sùil na b' fheàrr air an àite far an robh e. Bha an uamh coltach ris an uaimh a ris an abair iad Uamh Fhinn ann an Stafa, làn cholbhan àrda basalt. Bha dà ròn a' snàmh thuige thairis na gluma agus nuair a ràinig iad an tràigh 's e Nighean an Sgàthain agus Dearbhlaidh a bh' ann.

“Tha sinn uile beò,” thuirt Nighean an Sgàthain ris. “Ciamar a tha thu fhèin? Bha eagal orm gun deach do bhàthadh!”

“Chaidh a bhàthadh, ach shàbhail mise am balach,” arsa Gugtrabhad. “‘S math gun tàinig mi còmhla ribh.” Agus thòisich e ga ghlanadh fhèin air an tràigh.

“Tha mi ceart gu leòr, a-nise,” thuirt Iain. “Ach dè mu dheidhinn a' bhàta?” Rinn Dearbhlaidh braoisg. “Cha tèid i a-mach à seo a dh' aithghearr, a rèir Mac Glumaig,” thuirt i.

“Chan eil sgeul air Cnàmhan Dubha agus m' athair, co-dhiù,” arsa Nighean an Sgàthain, a' coimhead a-mach air a' mhuir tron mhòr-sgor. “Chan eil fhios aig Dia cho luath 's a bha sinn a' seòladh nuair a leig thu na gaoithean mu sgaoil!”

Sheas Iain gu mall. “A bheil slighe a-mach às an uaimh seo?” dh'fharraid e. “Tha dhà dhiubh ann,” thuirt Dearbhlaidh. “An t-slighe a leig sinn a-steach, agus an t-slighe shuas.”

Thomh i suas air an toll ann am mullach na h-uaimhe fada os an cionn. “Chaidh Ceann-Cleiteag suas ann an cruth eòin, ach cha tàinig e air ais fhathast. Tha Mac Mhanainn a' toirt cuideachaidh do Mhac Glumaig anns a' bhàta.”

“Chaidh sinne a-mach a shnàmh anns an fhairge, ach chan fhaca sinn ach sgallan agus sgùrran,” thuirt Nighean an Sgàthain. “Cha robh dòigh ann iad a dhìreadh.”

Choisich Iain agus na nigheanan air an tràigh dhan bhàta, Gugtrabhad a' leum bho chreag gu creag. “An deach mo bhàthadh ann an da-rìreabh?” dh'fhaighnich Iain den chat. “Bha aon chas agad thar balla a' bhàis agus na h-èisg a' deasachadh fàilte dhut,” fhreagair Gugtrabhad. “Tapadh leat, tha mi fada nad chomain, ma-tà,” thuirt Iain ris. “Tha,” arsa an cat.

Thachair iad ri Mac Mhanainn agus Mac Glumaig trang ag obair. “‘Ille dhuibh nan eun! Tha mi toilichte



d' fhaicinn,” thuir an duine sìth. “Shaoil mi gun robh thu caillte.”

“Bha e caillte,” thuir Gugtrabhad. “Nach innis mi dhuibh gun robh e bàite? Shàbhail mi e.”

“Bha sinn uile gu bhith caillte,” arsa Mac Mhanainn. “Agus ’s dòcha gum bi sinn fhathast. Tha an cuid as motha den bhiadh againn millte aig an uisge a thàinig a-steach dhan chaibean.”

“Na gabh dragh mu sin,” thuir Dearbhlaidh. “Nach cuimhnich thu an tubhailte a thug a’ bhan-shithe dhomh? Tha i anns a’ bhaga agam air bòrd.” Chaidh iad air bòrd agus thug Dearbhlaidh a tubhailte às a бага. Nuair a sgaoil i an tubhailte a-mach air an deic, leum a h-uile sian a b’ fheàrr na chèile air: gach im agus càise agus feòil, uisge glan ann an cupannan agus fion.

Nuair a ghabh iad am biadh, bhruidhinn iad mu dheidhinn na thachair dhaibh.

“Ged tha sinn ann an staing, ’s mòr na b’ fheàrr a bhith san uaimh seo neo ann an greim an spùinneadair,” thuir Mac Glumaig. “Dh’fhaodainn am bàta a chàirich nam biodh fiodh againn. Am b’ urrainn dhuibh aon seòrsa draoidheachd a dhèanamh a bhiodh freagarrach?” thuir an duine sìth, a’ coimhead air Iain agus Nighean an Sgàthain.

“Chan urrainn dhuinn fiodh a tharraing às na clachan,” arsa Mac Mhanainn gu gruamach. “Seallaibh suas,” thuir Dearbhlaidh, a bha coimhead air an toll. “Tha ar caraid a’ tilleadh.”

Gu h-àrd os an cionn, chunnaic iad iolair-uisge a’ tighinn a-nuas gan ionnsaigh. Nuair a ràinig e an deic, ’s e Ceann-Cleiteag a bh’ ann, fiamh a’ ghàire air aodann.

“A charaidean,” thuir e, “ged tha e dorcha, dubharach ann a’ sheo, tha e geal grianach shuas an sin. Tha an t-eilean seo cuibheasach mòr, le raointean, coilltean agus cnuic. Chunnaic mi loch beag, alltan, agus easan a’ dol thairis nan creaganan dhan mhuir fada shìos. Chunnaic mi caoraich agus bà, ach chan fhaca mi daoine. Tha creaganan àrda air gach taobh an eilein. Chan fhaca mi dòigh sam bith thigheinn a-nìos on mhuir, ach tron uaimh seo.”

“Cha b’ urrainn dhomh itealaich,” thuir Mac Glumaig. “Agus chan fheum thu,” arsa Ceann-Cleiteig.

“Chunnaic mi staidhrichean nuair a bha mi shuas, staidhrichean nach fhaic sibh an seo. Feumaidh ’s gum biodh sinn ga faighinn ann an àiteigin air cùl nan colbhan.”

Chaidh iad a lorg nan staidhrichean agus air cùl na h-uaimhe, ann an àite leth-fhalaichte, fhuair iad doras mòr briste agus tunail le ceumannan a’ dol suas ann. Bha gut faisg air làimh cuideachd far an robh seann-churach na laighe, a taobhan briste.

“Tha fhios againn gun robh daoine ann uair, ged nach fhaca tu duine beò shuas,” thuir Iain ri Ceann-Cleiteig. “Saoil cò rinn an tunail agus staidhrichean, agus dè thachair riutha?” arsa Mac Mhanainn. “Cha b’ ann an-dè a bha iad an seo.”

Thuir Nighean an Sgàthain facal, agus nochd cruinne beag de sholas na làimh.

“Bu chòir dhuinn faighinn a-mach dè th’ ann a’ seo, co-dhiù,” thuir i. “Cha bhithinn glè chofhurtail mura bhiodh fhios againn dè bhiodh ann.”

Thòisich iad na staidhrichean a dhireadh, an cruinne beag de sholas a’ fleodradh romhpa. Chaidh iad suas gu mall. Bha seann-sgoragan anns na staidhrichean. Bha mullach na tunaile gu math àrd, dà through dheug, ’s dòcha. Às dèidh uairean, thàinig iad a-mach às an tunail. Dh’fhaodadh iad coimhead a-nuas thar balla ìosal air a’ bhàta fada shìos. Bha na staidhrichean a’ cromadh ann an lùb cho fada ’s a bha iad a’ direadh nas àirde. Bha iad a’ teannadh ris a’ mhullach.

Mu dheireadh ’s mu dheaghaidh, thàinig iad gu ceann-staidhre còmhnard, leacach. Chùm na staidhrichean a’ dol suas, ach bha doras air an làimh chli. Cha robh e dìreach dùinte. Bha iad uile cho sàmhach ri luch eaglais, a’ seasamh nan tost ri taobh an dorais, ag èisteachd airson fuaim.

“Am bu chòir dhuinn a dhol a-steach?” dh’fhaighnich Dearbhlaidh. “Chan eil sinn ro fhada bhon mhullach no bhon fhosgladh,” thuir Mac Glumaig. “Fuirichibh an seo, agus thèid mise a-steach. Tha mi cho beag, cho sàmhach, nach fhaic neach sam bith mise,” ars an cat Gugtrabhad.

Chaidh an cat thairis air an stairsich, a-steach tro fhosgladh an dorais, agus à sealladh. Dh’fhuirich iad air a’ chlàbadaich gus an cuala iad dranndan garbh Ghugtrabhad air an taobh eile.

“Thigibh a-steach,” ars an cat, “ach cha toil leam an

t-àite.” A-steach leotha, leis a’ chruinne bheag de sholas a’ fleodradh romhpa. Bha iad ann an seòmar nach robh mòr, le bòrd, being, preas, cagailt, sèithear, agus leabaidh. Ach bha a h-uile rud nas motha na bha an dùil. Cha mhòr nach do ràinig an làmhan clàr a’ bhùird, agus nach b’ urrainn dhuibh suidhe air a’ bheing.

“Uill, tha fhios againn a-nise dèan t-seòrsa duine a dh’fhuiricheas ann a’ seo,” arsa Mac Glumaig. “Agus cha b’ fhiù dhuinn fuireach an seo gus an till e dhachaigh.”

“Ach is dòcha gun do dh’fhalbh e bliadhnaichean air ais,” thuirt Mac Mhanainn. “Seall air a’ bhòrd. Am faca tu duslach ann?” dh’fharraid Gugrabhad. “Tha

boladh neònach ann cuideachd, ged nach tug sibh an àire dha. Bha cuideigin ann a’ seo latha neo dhà air ais, tha mi cinnteach.”

“Ach dèan seòrsa duine a bh’ ann?” arsa Nighean an Sgàthain. Chaidh a freagairt bhon doras, far an robh fear mòr, glè mhòr, na sheasamh. “Famhair,” thuirt e. “S e famhair a th’ annam.”

“Famhair!” thuirt Calum, nuair a stad an sgeulaiche airson balgam uisge. “Mura robh iad ann an cunnart am beatha roimhe seo, tha iad a-nise.”

“S iomadh car a tha san t-saoghal,” thuirt an sgeulaiche, “agus iomadh cunnart. Chì sinn dè cho cunnartach ’s a bha am famhair seo.”

Nach Cuidich thu *An Naidheachd Againne?* Won't you help *An Naidheachd Againne?*

Here are some of the ways you can volunteer so that we can continue to provide a quality, bilingual Scottish Gaelic quarterly to ACGA members. There are plenty of ways to help, even if you can't read Gaelic (yet!)

- Proofread articles in either English or Gaelic – we'll help with guidelines.
- Become an assistant layout editor. We're delighted to say that our current editor, Suzanne McDougal, isn't going anywhere anytime soon, but we feel it prudent to have a backup layout editor. If you have a few Windows computer skills, we will provide training (and software, if necessary).
- Send us your favourite recipe – we'll help you with the Gaelic translation.
- Tell us what's happening in your Gaelic community by writing short articles about local events in English or Gaelic.
- Find appropriate open-source graphics as needed to accompany articles.

Interested? Email membership@acgamerica.org



Graphic by Tumisu,
www.pixabay.com

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 her upcoming trip to Scotland, and Cam MacRae tells us about the latest fighe aig astar knitting project.

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.

Fighe aig astar

le Cam MacRae

A bheil thu eòlach air Sgàthach? Uill, 's e banrigh ghaisgeil Ceilteach a bh' innte, agus ma bhios tu a' leughadh *Sgoil nan Eun* san iris seo, bidh fios agad gun do thog i caisteal anns an Eilean Sgitheanach, an aon chaisteal anns an robh Iain a' frithealadh na sgoile.

Ciamar a tha Sgàthach ceangailte ri fighe? An e figheadair a bh' innte? Chan eil fhios a'm, ach nuair a chunnaic mi pàtran fighe leis an ainm “Scathach's Hat,” air Ravelry, bha fhios a'm gun robh mi a' dol ga dhèanamh air sgàth 's gun d' rinn Mona NicLeòid, boireannach Gearmailteach aig a bheil Gàidhlig, am pàtran.

'S e seòrsa de bhonaid a th' anns an ad seo, is am bann air a dhèanamh le dualan Ceilteach. Dh'innis càch ann am buidheann fighe againn, Fighe Còmhlà, gun robh iad airson a dhèanamh cuideachd. Ged a chuir sinn feum air an aon pàtran, tha na h-adan aig gach tè againn eadar-dhealaichte. Rinn Hilary NicPhàidein bonaid ghorm fhasanta, agus tha na dhà a rinn Janice Chan cho grinn 's a ghabhas! Tha an tè aig Annag Landin ioma-dhathte agus aotrom, ach tha an tè agamsa liath trom le coltas cudromach oirre. Nach sinn uile a bhios cofhurtail is snasail as t-fhoghar nuair a thig e.

Ma bhios ùidh agad ann an ad ùr flighe, tha am pàtran, “Scathach's Hat” ri fhaotainn saor an asgaidh an seo air Ravelry. <https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/scathachs-hat>



Hilary NicPhàidein



Janice Chan



Cam MacRae



Anne Landin

A' falbh air dàna-thuras

le Hilary NicPhàidein

Tha mi a' sgeamachadh a dhol a dh'Alba. Chan eil mi air mo phiuthar no mo dhithis bhràithrean fhaicinn o chionn faisg air trì bliadhna. Le sin thèid mi a Dhùn Dè ann an taobh an ear na dùthcha agus a Laurieston, baile beag faisg air Caisteal Dhùghlais, san iar-dheas. Ach ro na cèilidhean sin, thèid mi a Leòdhas fad seachdain agus an uairsin a Ghlaschu fad seachdain eile.

Gheibh mi càr air mhàl ann an Steòrnabhagh. Bidh feum agam air càr air sàillibh 's gum bi mi a' fuireach ann an àite-còmhnaidh ann an Grinneabhat air taobh an iar an eilein. 'S ann le Urras Coimhearsnachd Bhradhagair agus Arnoil a tha an t-àite-còmhnaidh. Tha mi cinnteach gum bi mòran chothroman ann gus Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn. Fhad 's a bhios mi ann an Leòdhas bidh iomadh àite ann a bu toil leam fhaicinn – Tursachan

Chalanais, Clach an Truiseil, carragh-chuimhne call na h-Iolaire, Port Nis agus Cnàimh na Muice-mara, mar eisimpleir. Bidh càr feumail gu dearbha.

Gach uair a bhios mi ann an Glaschu thèid mi an-còmhnaidh gu Rathad Achadh a' Mhansa far am faighear Comhairle nan Leabhraichean. Ceannaichidh mi dhà no trì leabhraichean. Ged a thogadh mi ann an Alba, tha iomadh àite ann air nach eil mi eòlach. Mar sin dheth gabhaidh mi trì tursan-latha air a' Ghàidhealtachd fhad 's a bhios mi ann an Ghlaschu.

Innsidh mi dhuibh mu dheidhinn an turais agam anns an ath chuairt-litir.

Criomagan / Bits of This and That

***Bho Bheul an Eòin* / From the Bird's Mouth**

An art project exploring nature through paintings, poetry and the Scots Gaelic language

What happens when something new comes along and there's no Gaelic word for it? Sometimes we get a word like *coimpiutair* / computer, and sometimes we get *eadar-lìon* / internet. As Scotland's climate warms, several dozen species have been identified as new arrivals from England. They all have scientific names and English names, but as of yet, no formal Gaelic names. Wildlife watercolor artist Derek Robertson has been working with Gaelic language and nature conservation agencies to identify and give Gaelic names to about forty of these immigrants. Gaelic poet Rody Gorman has written three-line poems about them, and this summer, *Bho Bheul an Eòin*, a book of their paintings and poems, will be published. For more on the project to give Gaelic names to newly arrived species see: <https://www.fromthebirdsmouth.com>



lach Shìonach
mandarin duck
(*Aix galericulata*)
às an àird an ear anns a' mhadainn,
lachan air an slighe gu badeigin
eadar an Tìr Iseal 's Crìoch Lochlainn

Photos by
Hilary NicPhàidein

* * * *

Jigsaw Puzzle Time

Are you one of those folks who has rediscovered the joys of jigsaw puzzles during the pandemic and you've just kept on going? The Orkney Library and Archive currently offers about a hundred free digital jigsaw puzzles on their website, and they regularly add new ones. They're not particularly difficult puzzles to solve, none have more than 100 pieces, but all of the artwork celebrates Orkney culture, history, wildlife, and scenery. From the library's home page, depending on the kind of device you are using, click on either "Online" or "Online Resources," and then "Jigsaws."

<https://orkneylibrary.org.uk>

Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Rather than a Gaelic proverb, this month we have a well-known quote about language translated into Gaelic. Can you guess what it is and who said it?

'S e crìochan mo chànan crìochan mo shaoghail.

Check page 16 to see if you're right.



Picture credit: NASA



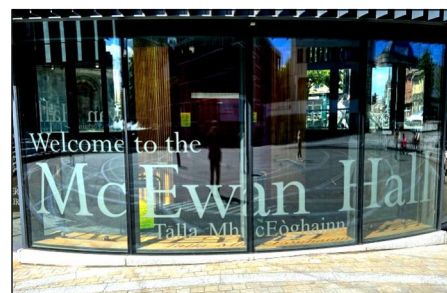
Litir à Dùn Èideann

by Jeff W. Justice

A chàirdean,

After two years, I can finally write a letter from Edinburgh again. The last time I was here in person was a very short visit in April 2019, about eleven months before the world went into lockdown. I cannot begin to say how great it feels to be back in the Scottish capital again. I came on a whirlwind trip mainly to do some field research, but it has also been a good opportunity to catch up with a few friends, to speak Gaelic with some of them, and take stock of how Edinburgh and Scotland have changed over these difficult months.

The last time I was here, I saw “*Tha Gàidhlig Beò*” written in chalk graffiti on the side of a university building, as if to plead with naysayers that the language really is alive and well. I can say, confidently, that its presence has grown since I was last here three years ago. For instance, while I was on the coach from the airport to the city centre, we passed two ambulances. The signage on both was entirely in Gaelic: *Ambaileans Èiginn*. Signage at the University of Edinburgh is slowly becoming more bilingual, including on the prominent McEwan Hall entrance pavilion. I just wish the Gaelic name was written in letters just as large as the English name was. I cannot say the same for Teviot Row House; five years ago, the student body overwhelmingly approved a motion calling for bilingual signage in all Student Union properties. As far as I could see, that motion has never been carried into action.



Gaelic has always been present in the Scottish Parliament, but it seems far more noticeable than it was the last time I visited the building. Not only was it on the permanent signage, but it also appeared on all mobile signage as well. It was also treated on an equal footing with English.

Among the meetings I attended was a public consultation on Bòrd na Gàidhlig’s language plan for 2023–2028. Their goals in their summary of the plan are ambitious, calling for a quarter million more people able to use Gaelic by the end of the plan. They – and others – gave significant credit to Duolingo for increasing interest in it in Scotland and beyond, but they also want to see local governments increase availability in Gaelic medium education for children throughout the country, plus the language actually being used in life generally as a perfectly normal thing. According to the Bòrd, there is a rapidly growing demand for it.



In addition to this, I met with representatives of several Gaelic organisations to gauge their views on where the language is, where they think it is going, and where they wish it would go. One theme permeated all of these meetings: Gaelic is indeed advancing, but the steps it is taking are baby steps. I would agree, and I was heartened to see more Gaelic throughout Edinburgh than I saw previously, particularly during the two years that this city was my primary home. Baby steps may be small, but the important thing is that they move forward. As was famously said by Neil Armstrong a half-century ago: “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.” I feel the same about Gaelic. Those baby steps are poising the language to make a big leap forward, and “baby” has another connotation here from my point of view: Gaelic is being reborn. So, that chalk graffiti I saw in 2019 is very much relevant, and it is very much true: “*Tha Gàidhlig beò!*”

Le meas,

Gairidh | Jeff

A Bharrachd

Catriona Parsons, who wrote this issue's grammar column (see page 6), has been given the annual Award of Merit from the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society. This award recognises individuals and organisations who have made outstanding contributions to *Baile nan Gàidheal* / The Highland Village, or to Gaelic culture in Nova Scotia. Catriona, a native of Lewis, has been involved in teaching and language development at both St. Francis Xavier University (Antigonish) and the Gaelic College (St. Ann's), and has been a popular instructor at countless community Gaelic classes throughout North America, including ACGA's Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week and the U.S. Mòd. Catriona also served for many years on the board of the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia.

Meal ur naidheachd a Chatriona!

A Website to Watch

Sgeulachdan

If you've been reading *An Naidheachd Againne* for a few years, you might have noticed that we recommended this website in our June 2018 issue. But because listening to stories is such a great way to learn, here you go again. Stories! These short videos with Gaelic text on the screen (though not translations) are just about right for advanced beginner / intermediate level Gaelic learners. There are eighteen traditional stories here, all fun to watch and listen to, but my favorite is *An Gobha agus na Sithichean*. What's yours? <https://www.sgeulachdan.scot>



Screenshot of An Gobha agus na Sithichean from <https://www.sgeulachdan.scot/>



Rudy Ramsey

Photo Quiz

Sometimes art has an additional purpose. What do you suppose is the purpose of this sculpture?

The answer is on page 16.

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. Here is another poem from Àdhamh Dàmaireach (Kentucky/Canada). In our last issue, we featured his poem “Òran Loch Laomainn”.

Thig an Latha

Fonn is faclan le Àdhamh Dàmaireach

Sèist

**Thig an latha! Thig an latha!
Nuair a bhios sinn saor gu bràth
Cha bhì uachdaran ri fhaighinn an sin
Ach tròcair, ciall, is àgh
Bidh gach màthair air a dòigh,
Is gach athair proiseil fhèin
Nuair air feadh na cruinn’
Cuiridh clann an duin’
Saoghal a’ chalpachais fo thein’**

Cha bhì poileas ann
Oir cha bhì sinn fann
Ann an cuirp no ann an cridh’
Ma nì daoine ceàrr, nì sinn fad’ nas fheàrr
Na an cuir amach air bith
Bidh ann ciall an àite lagh’,
Bàidh is ioc an àite pian
’S ma cho-roinneas sinn
Thig an sin an linn
Nuair a nì gach duin’ fhèin-rian

Bidh mic tìre ann,
’Ruith thar tìr nam beann
’S fàsaidh craobhan ann am mais’
Mar sin às an dèidh,
Le nas lugha de dh’fhèidh,
Thig na coilltean caillt’ air ais
Bidh na bà a-rithist sna ghlinn
Bric is bradan anns gach allt
Is gun riaghaltas ann
Seinnear marbh-rann
Airson mì-rùn mòr nan Gall

Cha bhì màl ri pàigheadh
Ann an linn nan Gàidheal
’S cha bhì luach sam bith an òr
No an airgead, oir san àm ri teachd
Bidh gach duine beart gu leòr
Cha bhì aonarachd an siud,
Cha bhì acras ann, no òrn
Agus gheibh sinn buaidh,
’G èirigh ’n àird mar shluagh,
Son na cùis’, le cruas nan dòrn!

The Day Will Come

Melody and lyrics by Adam Dahmer

Chorus

**The day will come! The day will come!
When we’ll be free forever
There will be no rulers to be found then
But mercy, reason, and joy
Every mother will be content
And every father truly proud
When throughout the world,
The children of man set
Fire to the world of capitalism**

There will be no police
For we won’t be weak
In body or in heart
If people do wrong, we’ll do far better
Than to kill them
There will be reason in place of law
Kindness and healing in place of pain
And if we share
Then the age will come
When each person will govern themself

There will be wolves
Running over the highlands
And trees will grow in beauty
And so, after them,
With fewer deer
The lost forests will come back
The cattle will again be in the glens
Trout and salmon in every stream
And without government,
A eulogy will be sung
For the Lowlanders’ ill will against Gaelic

There will be no rent to pay
In the age of the Gael
And there will be no value in gold
Or in money, for in the time to come
Everyone will be rich enough
There will be no loneliness there
There will be no hunger or violence
And we’ll be victorious
Rising tall as a people
For the cause, with the hardness of fists!



Picture credit: NASA

Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 12

The limits of my language are the limits of my world.

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) was an Austrian-British philosopher of mathematics, mind and language. His original quote reads “The limits of language are the limits of my world.”

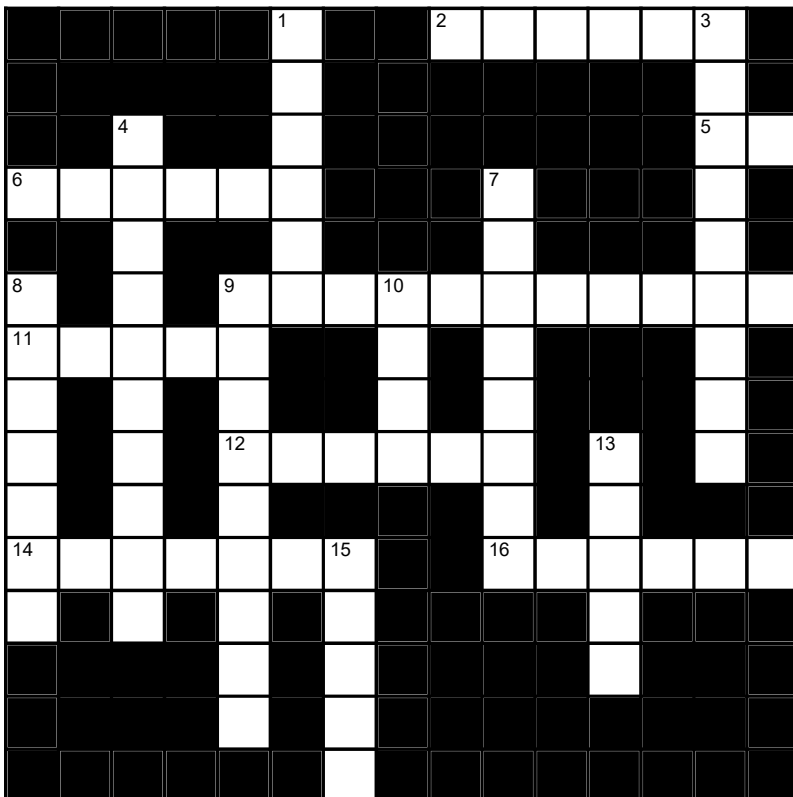


Rudy Ramsey

Answer to Photo Quiz, p. 14

It's the “gnomon” of a sundial. That's the part whose shadow is cast over a dial that shows the time. It's on Cromwell Street, in Stornoway, on the Isle of Lewis. The quotation is “A' leth-aithneachadh gach duine air a chuideachd, aithne gun chuimhne, is cuimhne gun aithne.” That's a quotation from “Air an Aiseag gu Leòdhas”, by Ruaraidh MacThòmais (Derick Thomson). To see the whole sundial (and a translation if you need it), see <https://sundialsoc.org.uk/dials/cromwell-street7413/>.

Elementary Crossword: Aodach (Clothing)



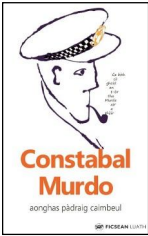
Across

- 2 Glove (6)
- 5 Hat (2)
- 6 Shoes (6)
- 9 Socks (11)
- 11 Shirt (5)
- 12 Dress (6)
- 14 Jacket (7)
- 16 Skirt (6)

Down

- 1 T-shirt (5-1)
- 3 Sweater (9)
- 4 Boots (10)
- 7 Pants (8)
- 8 Blouse (7)
- 9 Jewelry (9)
- 10 Coat (4)
- 13 Belt (5)
- 15 Suit (5)

See page 23 for solution.



Book Review:

Constabal Murdo le Aonghas Pàdraig Caimbeul
Luath Press, 2018, 167 pages
ISBN: 9781912147496

Reviewed by Ted Neveln

I cannot wait to order and read *Constabal Murdo 2*, the recently published sequel to *Constabal Murdo*. First though, don't be fooled by the "crime fiction" genre label slapped on by the publisher. This is not a traditional detective story: no trail of clues, deductions, traditional red herrings, interrogations or a dramatic unveiling of the "guy whodunit." Rather, the quiet integrity of a very competent constable who is as much a social worker as cop; a man who made good use of a limited life with limited career opportunities and who fortifies himself with strong tea and innumerable Gaelic proverbs. There are many vivid passages such as this from another character:

'Feumaidh rian is ùghdarras a bhith ann,' chanadh e. 'Ged nach biodh ach dà Chaitleagach air fhàgail san t-saoghal dh'fheumadh aon dhiubh a bhith na Phàp. Sin mar a tha an gnothach ag obrachadh.' (dd 51-52).

Murdo is a Protestant serving in the mostly Catholic Island of Barra. I am leaving passages untranslated to give a feel for the general level of difficulty.

This is no story about catching criminals but an examination of the nature of crime, law, and justice from many aspects. As I study Gaelic, I am struck by how often it seems more objective than English. English seems to say "this leads to that and hence this conclusion", but I often fancy that Gaelic says "this and that happened and they may be connected but not sure how or even if". It's a more scientific attitude. It is pervasive in this book.

Oir dè eile a bh' ann ann an 'Acting suspiciously' ach modh a-mach às an àbhaist? Ged a bha Murdo Beag gleusta gu leòr gus tuigsinn gur e an àbhaist an cleòca-falaich a b' fheàrr a bh' ann. (d 41).

A precious golden brooch has disappeared from Kisimul Castle, Barra. It has a storied history but the actual story is uncertain. That mystery does get solved. There are seven suspects. The brooch gets recovered, but the real point is the partial recovery of misplaced justice.

I am not sure if this book is ideal for a once-a-week reading group. It requires a more concentrated pace, ideally led by a native-speaking Gael who knows the proverbs and Scottish cultural references. A Gael could do a lot expounding about Murdo's world. It's best to read one whole chapter each time, not because they're suspenseful but because they are revelatory in a way that requires contemplation. Most chapters are not all that long. My wife and I pressed forward faster than usual when we read it together just because we wanted to enjoy the writing. We still have to look up things and we yearn to ask a Gael about some of them. We underlined a few words to look up later but they don't look difficult. Familiarity with the Bible will help readers. There were a couple of paragraphs where we lost track of who was talking – Caimbeul may have done that for stylistic reasons.

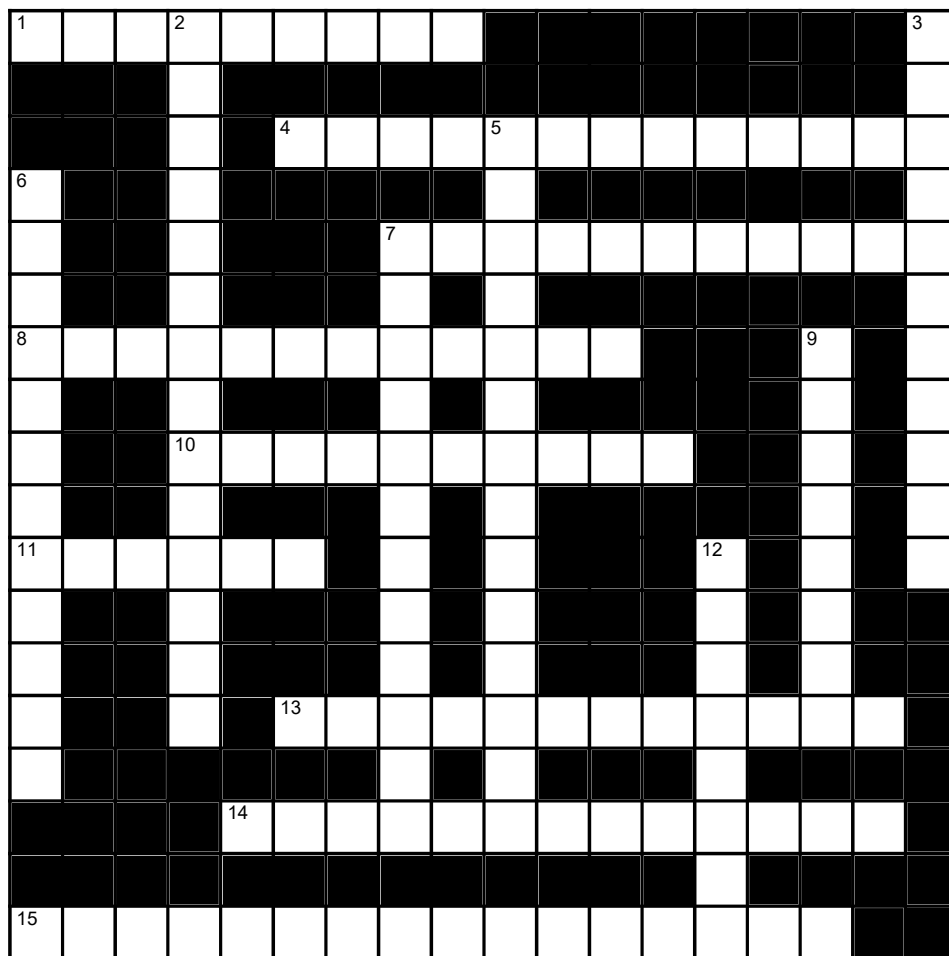
Speaking of Caimbeul, I read three of his other books and they all annoyed me. I am very grateful for this modest, simple, deep, many-layered, non-annoying book that has many things to say. I did not always catch the plot logic and one of the suspects is so elusive that I am not sure what his purpose is. The other suspects however are almost as interesting as Murdo himself. Murdo is one of the best characters I have read so far in a Gaelic novel. Multiple versions of his name are given throughout, and it's obvious they are as significant as when the characters in a Russian novel have different versions of their names. Again, not all plot points seemed to hang together and perhaps re-reading them will clarify them for me, but the plot points did not seem terribly important anyway.

Murdo himself is a subtle mystery who reveals many nuances of his superficially simple life and outlook in a long series of surprises.

The binding of the physical book is glued and not sewn. The last pages of my first copy were missing and required the book to be ordered again. Let's hope that was just a one-time snafu.



Tòimhseachan-tarsainn Adhartach: Samhradh



Tarsainn

- 1 Gabhail cas dha (9)
- 4 Dìreadh beinn uchdach (5,8)
- 7 Ithe fon ghrèin (5-6)
- 8 Siùbhladh air dà chuibhle (12)
- 10 Àite fliuch (4-6)
- 11 Àite gainmheachail (6)
- 13 Gabhail cùram air na lusan (12)
- 14 Atharrachadh an ama (4,9)
- 15 Gabh dreallag is fois an seo (8-8)

Sios

- 2 Seòladh air bòrd (7-7)
- 3 Còcaireachd a-muigh (4-7)
- 5 Raon uaine na dùthcha (5-9)
- 6 Ùine airson siubhal no fois (4-8)
- 7 Tha iad dathail is toirmeil (7-5)
- 9 Soilleir, mar latha (8)
- 12 Laighe anns a' ghrèin (8)

See page 23 for solution.

Rugadh 's thogadh mo shean-phàrantan anns a' Ghalldachd, agus mar sin dheth, cha robh a' Ghàidhlig aca, ach dh'fhàs mi suas le bhith ag ithe rudan leithid mharag-dhubh, lùte, agus breacagan-buntàta.

Bha m' athair math air còcaireachd, agus b' esan mar bu trice a bhiodh anns a' chidsin. Uaireannan air maidnean Dòmhnach nuair a thilleadh e bhon obair aige, dhèanadh e breacaist mhòr airson a theaghlach. B' e breacagan-buntàta a b' fheàrr a chòrd riumsa.

San latha an-diugh, ceannaichidh mi breacagan-buntàta anns a' bhuth-gròsaireach fiù 's ged a tha iad furasta gu leòr an dèanamh. Uill – furasta mura lean thu an reasabaidh aig m' athair co-dhiù!

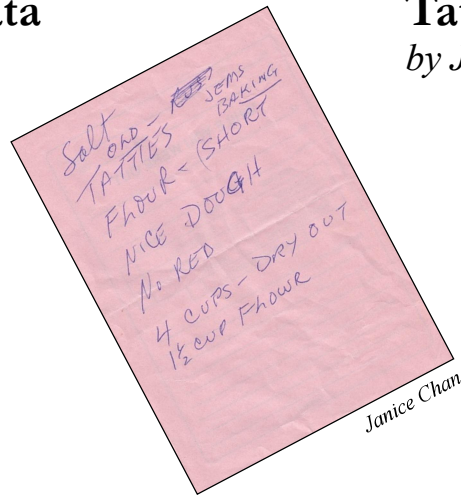
My grandparents were born and raised in the the Lowlands, and so they didn't speak Gaelic, but I grew up eating things like black pudding, porridge and tattie scones.

My father was a good cook and he would usually be the one in the kitchen. Sometimes, on Sunday mornings when he returned from work, he would make a big breakfast for the family. Tattie scones were the part that I liked best.

Today I buy tattie scones in the grocery store, even if they are easy enough to make. Well – easy if you don't follow my father's recipe anyway!

Breacagan-buntàta

le Janice Chan



Tattie Scones

by Janice Chan

Grìtheidean

- 4 buntàta mòr (Russet, Yukon Gold no buntàta stàrrsach eile)*
- 1/2 chupa min-fhlùir
- 2 spàin-bhùird ime buige
- 1/2 spàin-tì salainn

* Faodaidh tu buntàta pronn a chleachdadh a tha air fhàgail mura bheil e ro fhliuch.

Ullachadh

1. Rùisg am buntàta agus bruich iad ann an uisge goileach saillte.
2. Drùidh an t-uisge bhon bhuntàta agus fàg iad airson tiormachadh san adhar beagan mhionaidean.
3. Blàthaich greideal no pana-fraighigidh trom a th' air a ghrìseadh gu h-aotrom air teas meadhanach-àrd.
4. Pronn am buntàta, an t-im agus an salann ri chèile. Taoisnich a' mhin-fhlùir dhan mheasgachadh mean air mhean gus am bi an taois cruaidh. Na cuir a-steach cus min-fhlùir!
5. Cuir an taois air clàr-fuine a tha air a fhlùrachadh. Taoisnich an taois gu h-aotrom.

Ingredients

- 4 large potatoes (Russet, Yukon Gold or other starchy potato)*
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons of butter, softened
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

* You can use leftover mashed potatoes as long as there isn't too much liquid in them.

Preparation

1. Peel the potatoes and cook them in salted, boiling water.
2. Drain the water from the potatoes and leave them to dry in the air for a few minutes.
3. Heat a griddle or a heavy frying pan that has been lightly greased on medium-high heat.
4. Mash the potatoes, the butter and the salt together, Knead the flour into the mixture little by little until the dough is stiff. Don't add too much flour!
5. Put the dough on a floured baking board. Knead the dough lightly.

6. Cùm 4 no 5 bàlaichean taois agus roilig gach bàl a-mach ann an cearcall mu 1/4 òirleach de thiughad. Bior an taois le forca. Gearr gach cearcall ann an ceithir pìosan.

7. Cuir pìos no dhà aig aon àm air greideal theth agus bruich iad mu 4 gu 5 mionaidean air gach taobh, gus am bi iad òr-dhonn.

Tha breacagan-buntàta uabhasach blasta leotha fhèin no le uighean, isbeanan agus marag-dhubh!

6. Form 4 or 5 balls of dough and roll each ball out into a circle about 1/4 inch thick. Prick the dough with a fork. Cut each circle into 4 pieces.

7. Put a piece or two at a time on the griddle and cook them about 4 to 5 minutes on each side, until they are golden brown.

Tattie scones are awfully tasty by themselves or with eggs, sausages and black pudding!



Janice Chan

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!



Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2022 / Royal National Mòd 2022 Mòd Pheairt / Mòd Perth

14–22 den Dàmhair 2022 / 14–22 October 2022

The Royal National Mòd will take place both virtually and in person this year in Perth.

All entries must be submitted using the online entry system here <https://enter.ancomunn.co.uk/>
by **July 15, 2022**

Syllabus and guidelines for all levels may be found here: <https://www.ancomunn.co.uk/nationalmod/syllabus>

Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

An t-Ògmhios 2022 / June 2022

Cèilidh Oidhche Haoine Bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidh, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, June 17, 2022

Please join us on Friday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m. EDT for our Friday Night Online Ceilidh with our host, Chrissie Drake. Continuing with our themed ceilidhs for 2022, the June ceilidh will be: Canada! in honour of the upcoming Canada Day celebrations. It will encompass all things maple leaf, so be sure to wear your reds and whites and prepare your Canadian Gaelic songs, stories and poems.

If you are on Facebook, please consider joining our Ceilidh Group for updates on our Ceilidhs and links to lyrics, ideas for future ceilidhs and more.

Simply fill out this form <https://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html> and we will send you the Zoom link to join in online and the (toll) phone # to call in. If you have already requested monthly invitations, you do not need to register again.

Fèis Seattle, Seabeck Conference Center, Seabeck, WA, June 21–26, 2022

We bring you together with leading tradition-bearers from Scotland and Cape Breton for an unforgettable event. Whether you are interested in fiddle, harp, whistle, guitar, Gaelic song or language, we have something for everyone. To register, see

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/feis-seattle-2022-registration-262311369367?aff=ebsdoporgprofile>

An t-Iuchar 2022 / July 2022

Beinn Seanair / Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week & Mòd, July 3–8, 2022

Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week will be held in person this year at Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC. Instructors: Jason Bond, Stacey MacLean and Màiri MacInnes. See page 7 for registration information.

North Carolina Regional Mòd, Saturday, July 9, 2022

The North Carolina Regional Mòd will be on the field at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

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

Cèilidh Oidhche Haoine Bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidh, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, July 15, 2022

Please join us on Friday, July 15 at 7:30 p.m. EDT for our Friday Night Online Ceilidh. Come prepared with your Gaelic songs, stories and poems.

If you are on Facebook, please consider joining our Ceilidh Group for updates on our Ceilidhs and links to lyrics, ideas for future ceilidhs and more.

Simply fill out this form <https://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html> and we will send you the Zoom link to join in online and the (toll) phone # to call in. If you have already requested monthly invitations, you do not need to register again.

An Lùnasdal 2022 / August 2022

Cèilidh Oidhche Haoine Bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidh, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, August 19, 2022

Please join us on Friday, August 19 at 7:30 p.m. EDT for our Friday Night Online Ceilidh. Come prepared with your Gaelic songs, stories and poems.

If you are on Facebook, please consider joining our Ceilidh Group for updates on our Ceilidhs and links to lyrics, ideas for future ceilidhs and more.

Simply fill out this form <https://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html> and we will send you the Zoom link to join in online and the (toll) phone # to call in. If you have already requested monthly invitations, you do not need to register again.

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 Inntigidh* for those with little or no 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>

Ongoing

Explore Gaelic with Angus MacLeod and Fiona Smith

The Explore Gaelic classes are 10-week sessions held throughout the year, designed to help learners of all levels to move toward fluency in Scottish Gaelic. Angus and Fiona believe that learning works best when it's fun. They are always trying out new ways to teach and learn. Classes on offer include translation, transcription, conversation, listening, and song. They also drill tricky subjects and plunge into deeper explorations of the nooks and crannies of Gaelic. For more information about upcoming sessions, contact Nickie Polson at nickiepolson@shaw.ca.

Seinn air Loidhne / Gaelic Song Class with Brian Ó hEadhra

Brian is a well-known musician and singer based in Inverness, Scotland. You may know him as one of the members of the Gaelic quartet *Cruinn*. He holds Gaelic song classes on Zoom every so often, sharing great ceilidh and traditional songs. For more information, check Brian's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/brianoheadhramusic> or his new *Seinn air Loidhne* Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/seinnairloidhne>.

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 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 for more information.

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/>

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

- 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)



Solutions to Crossword Puzzles

Elementary Crossword (p. 16)



Tòimhseachan-tarsainn Adhartach (p. 18)



Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

United States

California

Sacramento Area

Classes

(on pandemic hold, will resume when possible)

Donnie MacDonald 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

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

Maryland

Baltimore

Online Classes and Conversation Group

Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhóir

<https://sgoilgaidhlig.org/>

Rick Gwynallen 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

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

North Carolina

Triangle / Raleigh area

Study Group (online during pandemic)

An Phillips 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

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

<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



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

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

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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.
- www.facebook.com/ACGAGaelic, our Facebook page.
- www.youtube.com/user/ACGAmerica, our YouTube channel with video content.
- www.twitter.com/ACGAGaelic, our Twitter account, used for ACGA announcements.
- 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.