

# An Naidheachd Againne

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

Am Foghar 2022, Leabhar XXXVIII, Àireamh 3  
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'S e tha ann an Culturlann ach pròiseact gus ionad cultarach Gàidhlig a stèidheachadh ann an Inbhir Nis. Tha slugh mòr le Gàidhlig anns a' bhaile agus tha mòran chomainn cànan ann cuideachd. 'S e amas a' bhuidhinn gum bi tachartasan dibhearsain agus cultair air an cur air aig an ionad. Tha am buidheann ag iarraidh cuideachd gum bi an t-ionad na àite far am faod daoine coinneachadh agus bruidhinn ri chèile sa Ghàidhlig. Feumaidh am pròiseact suimean mòra airgid. Tha Susanne NicDhòmhnaill a' toirt dhuinn naidheachd air na bha am buidheann a' dèanamh.

Culturlann is a Gaelic-speaking cultural centre proposed to be located in Inverness, which has an active Gaelic community and is the home of a number of Scotland's Gaelic support organisations. The plan is to hold entertainment and cultural events in the centre, but the group's vision also calls for it to be a place for the community to gather for chats and friendship through Gaelic. However, this is a project that will require significant funding to bring to fruition. Susanne MacDonald shares with us here her group's efforts to date.

## A' togail airgid son Culturlann Inbhir Nis

le Susanne NicDhòmhnaill

'S e "Togaidh sinn e agus thig iad" am mantra a tha air a bhith agam on a thòisich mi air a' phròiseict seo. Ach ciamar? Gun togalach, gun airgead, agus, gun fhios aig muinntir an àite dè air thalamh a bh' ann an culturlann!!

Dh'fheuch sinn buidhnean-maoineachaidh na stàite, gun soirbheas, mar sin thionndaidh sinn gu slugh-mhaoineachadh mar an dòigh a b' fheàrr is a bu deamocrataiche son airgead a thogail.

## Raising money for Culturlann Inbhir Nis

by Susanne MacDonald

"We will build it and they will come" has been my mantra since I began working on this project. But how? Without a building, without money and, without people knowing what on earth IS a culturlann?

We initially tried the state funding bodies, with no success, and so turned to crowdfunding as the best and most democratic means to raise money.



Core Supporters of the first Culturlann "Walk and Talk", September 2021  
Courtesy of Susanne MacDonald

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

Ach ciamar a bha sinn dol a reic na lèirsinn againn, a' bhun-smuain eas-chruthach ùr a bha seo; ionad cultarail Gàidhlig an Inbhir Nis, gun togalach sònraichte fa-near dhuinn son sealltainn ri daoine?

Rinn sinn tòrr smaoinachaidh mu dheidhinn aig toiseach gnothaich, feuchainn ri tuairisgeul na lèirsinn sin a tharraing ri chèile ann an sgeulachd ghoirid, gun cus mìneachaidh air eachdraidh staid cugallach a' chàinain, is carson a tha an seòrsa àite seo cho cudromach an-dràsta ma tha Gàidhlig gu bhith beò is fallain son nan ath-ghinealachdan.

Mar a thachair bha e na b' fhasa na bha sinn an dùil. Carson sin? Uill, is coltach gun do rinn sinn deagh obair air! Chan eil teagamh ann gun do dh'obraich sgioba a' Chultarlainn gu cruaidh thairis air na deich seachdainnean den iomairt; le tachartasan poblach leithid cèilidh aig deireadh a' Mhòid ionadail, le puist ùra a nochdadh gu tric air na meadhanan-sòisealta, a' cur seachad làithean air na sràidean a' toirt a-mach bileagan is a' còmhradh ri daoine, bhideothan, mi fhìn a' gabhail òran mu na fuadaichean air Blàr Chùil Lodair nam measg! Bha agallamhan againn air BBC Alba is Rèidio nan Gàidheal, artagailean sna paipearan-naidheachd agus tòrr a bharrachd. Dh'iarr sinn air ar luchd-leantainn bhideothan a chur thugainn far an robh iadsan a' gairm "Cultarlann Inbhir Nis, bidh mise dol ann!". Bha sinn fortanach is taingeil gur e Calum Dòmhnallach bho Runrig a rinn a' chiad tè dhuinn. Lean iomadh bhideo snog às dèidh na tè sin. Chanainnsa gun do ruith sinn iomairt dhathach, spòrsail, phroifeasanta, agus nas cudromaiche, a bha a' còrdadh ri daoine.

Tha e a-nis foilleasach gun robh is gu bheil fìor dheagh thuigse aig daoine gu bheil feum ann son a leithid, agus gu bheil iad da rìreabh son ar cuideachadh is ar brosnachadh gus am pròiseict seo a thoirt gu bith. Dhearbhaich an iomairt Crowdfunder gu bheil muinntir Inbhir Nis (agus nas fhaide air falbh), Gàidheil is luchd-ionnsachaidh airson 's gum bi dachaigh thèarainte anns a' bhaile seo son na Gàidhlig.

Aig a' mhionaid seo tha £29,000 anns a' Chrowdfunder, agus còrr is mìle not sa chunntas-bhanca, air fad fo cholbh "Togalach", 's ann airson togalach a-mhàin a tha an t-airgead sin.

Leis an iomairt Crowdfunder air ar culaibh, dè a-nis? Tha am Bòrd-stiùiridh ag obair air ro-innleachd ùr son na bliadhna ri teachd. Bidh iad a' coinneachadh leis a' bhuidheann-chomhairle ùr aca son a' chiad uair air a' mhìos seo. Cumaidh sinn oirnn a' togail inbhe a' phròiseict, agus a' togail airgeid air a shon. Cuiridh sinn air dòigh coinneamhan le buill Pàrlamaid na h-Alba, agus luchd-poilitigs ionadail son fios a chumail

But how were we going to sell our vision, this new abstract concept for a Gaelic cultural centre in Inverness, without a specific building in mind?

We did a great deal of thinking at the start, trying to draw together a description of our vision in a short story, without too much explanation of the history of the fragile state of the language, and why this kind of place is so important now, if Gaelic is to survive and thrive for the next generations.

As it happened, it was easier than we were expecting. How so? Well, it seems we made a good job of it! There is no doubt that the Cultarlann team worked hard over the ten weeks of the campaign; with public events such as the ceilidh at the end of the local mod, with new posts appearing often on our social media, spending days on the streets handing out leaflets and speaking to people, videos, including one with me singing a song about the clearances at Culloden battlefield! We had interviews with BBC Alba and Radio nan Gàidheal, articles in newspapers, and much more. We asked followers to send in videos of themselves saying, "*Cultarlann Inbhir Nis: Bidh mise dol ann.*" / "Cultarlann Inbhir Nis: I will be going there." We were fortunate and grateful that it was Runrig's Calum Macdonald who did the first one for us. Many other great videos followed after that. I would say that we ran a campaign that was colorful, fun, professional and more importantly, that people enjoyed.

It is now obvious that people did have a very clear understanding of the need for this kind of place, and that they are indeed willing to help and support us to bring this project into reality. The Crowdfunder campaign proved that the people of Inverness (and further afield), Gaels and learners are in favor of a secure home for Gaelic in this city.

At this moment there is £29,000 in the Crowdfunder, with more than a thousand pounds in the bank account. This money lies in the "Building" column and will not be used for anything other than a building.

With the Crowdfunder now behind us, what now? The Board of Directors is working on a strategy for the coming year, with support from the newly-formed advisory group. We will continue raising the status of the project, and fund-raising for it. We will be arranging meetings with Members of the Scottish Parliament, as well as local councillors, to keep them informed of our

riuthasan air na h-amasan againn, agus son taic a shireadh bhuapa. Mar a chanadh iad, “Is fheàrr caraid sa chùirt, na crùn san sporan”!

Aig an aon àm bidh sinn a’ lorg togalach iomchaidh son nam feumalachdan againn, le àite ann son cafaidh, bùth, seòmraichean-teagaisg, is talla son tachartasan mòra soisealta. Tha dhà no trì togalaichean sa bhaile aig an àm seo a tha fo sgrùdadh.

Uill, sin agaibh e. Sin mar a thog sinn, air neo a thog an luchd-taic againn faisg air £30,000. Tha rathad fada againn ri dhol fhathast, ach gun teagamh thug e misneachd is creideas dhuinn gus an ath-cheum a ghabhail a dh’ionnsaigh cultarlann a stèidheachadh sa bhaile seo. Ma tha ùidh agaibhse anns a’ phròiseict shònraichte a tha seo, agus son barrachd fios fhaighinn, nach toir sibh sùil air an làrach-lìn is na meadhanan sòisealta againn.

Gach deagh dhùrachd à Inbhir Nis.

Togar càrn mòr de chlachan beaga

**Susanne NicDhòmhnaill**

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[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/cultarlann](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/cultarlann)

Facebook: Cultarlann Inbhir Nis

Twitter: @cultarlann

Instagram: cultarlann\_inbhir\_nis

aims and to seek their support. As they say in Gaelic, “Better to have friends in court than money in the purse”!

At the same time we will be looking for a suitable building to fit our requirements, with space for a café and retail area, teaching rooms and a hall for large social gatherings. There are two or three buildings under consideration at the moment.

Well, there you have it. That is how we raised, or rather our supporters have raised almost £30,000. There is still a long way to go, but there is no doubt that this has given us the confidence and credibility to take the next steps towards establishing a Gaelic centre in this city. If you are interested in this unique project, and want to find out more, why not take a look at our website and social media.

Every best wish from Inverness, Scotland.

A great cairn is built from small stones

**Susanne Macdonald**

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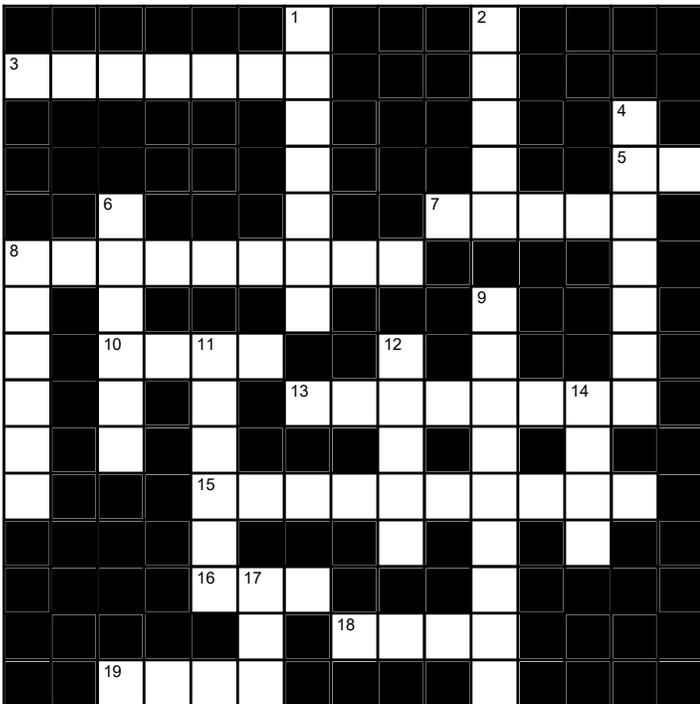
[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/cultarlann](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/cultarlann)

Facebook: Cultarlann Inbhir Nis

Twitter: @cultarlann

Instagram: cultarlann\_inbhir\_nis

**Elementary Crossword: Biadh (Food)**



**Across**

- 3 Potato (7)
- 5 Butter (2)
- 7 Meat (5)
- 8 Biscuit (9)
- 10 Fish (4)
- 13 Sausages (8)
- 15 Sandwiches (10)
- 16 Rice (3)
- 18 Cake (4)
- 19 Juice (4)

**Down**

- 1 Cream (7)
- 2 Cheese (5)
- 4 Sweets (7)
- 6 Jam (6)
- 8 Milk (6)
- 9 Vegetables (9)
- 11 Sugar (6)
- 12 Apple (5)
- 14 Bread (4)
- 17 Egg (3)

See page 16 for solution.

## Litir bhon Cheann-suidhe le Liam Ó Caiside



## Letter from the President by Liam Cassidy

A chàirdean còire,

Feumaidh mi fàilte mhòr a thoirt dhan t-seachdnar a thàinig air bòrd ACGA sa mhìos sa chaidh, na stiùireachan ùra a chaidh a thaghadh am-bliadhna. Tha sinn toilichte gu bheil iad uile ann agus gum bi iad ag obair còmhla rinn. Fàilte chridheil air Taylor Ashlock, Valeria Campbell, Rick Gwynallen, Megan Kotz, Nicole Rodriguez, agus Mallie Steele! Agus fàilte air ais air Seumas Dòmhnallach [Jamie MacDonald], Adam Dahmer, Jeff Justice, agus Eileen Walker.

Chaidh m' ath-thaghadh mar cheann-suidhe ACGA airson bliadhna eile, agus tha mi toilichte an obair a ghabhail a-rithist. Tha Jeff agus Seumas nan iar-cinn-suidhe cuideachd. Agus tha sinn glè thoilichte gum bi Janice Chan, Joyce Campbell, agus Mike MacKay còmhla rinn mar oifigearan suidhichte. Tha sinn taingeil airson na h-obrach a tha iad a' dèanamh.

Cha robh bòrd cho mòr – aon stiùiriche deug agus trì oifigearan suidhichte – agus ioma-nàdarrach againn riamh roimhe, le ochdnar bhoireannach agus sianar fhìr. Tha sinn a' fuireach air feadh na dùthcha, ann an àiteachan mar San Mateo agus Baltimore, Oklahoma agus Alabama. Agus tha sin cudromach. Tha tòrr obair ri dhèanamh againn am-bliadhna.

Tha mi toilichte ri ràdh gun robh seachdain shoirbheachail againn ann am Beinn Sheanair – a' chiad Seachdain na Gàidhlig agus na h-Òrain bheò ann an trì bliadhnaichean. Bha trioblaidean ann – cha b' urrainn dha aon de na tidsearan a bhith ann – ach fhreagair an sgioba air an làrach gu sgiobalta. Taing mhòr dhaibh! Tha sinn a' smaoinichadh air 2023 a-nise.

Bha Latha Chalum Chille soirbheachail againn air-loidhne cuideachd anns an Ògmhios, agus bidh sinn ag obair air tuilleadh thachartasan air-loidhne am-bliadhna. 'S dòcha gun dèan sinn rudeigin mu *Oidhche Shamhna*. Agus bi am Mòd Nàiseanta air-loidhne a-rithist air an 12mh-13mh den t-Samhain. Agus na diochuimhnichibh Oidhche nam Bàrd cuideachd.

'S an ath-bhliadhna, thig Oidhche nam Bàrd air ais anns an Fhaoiltich – dh'fhaidte gum bi "deireadh-seachdain

Dear friends,

I must give a big welcome to six new directors who joined the Board last month, along with returning Board member Jeff Justice. We're delighted they've joined us and that we'll be working together. A hearty welcome to Taylor Ashlock, Valeria Campbell, Rick Gwynallen, Megan Kotz, Nicole Rodriguez, and Mallie Steele! And welcome back Seumas Dòmhnallach [Jamie MacDonald], Adam Dahmer, Jeff Justice, and Eileen Walker.

I was re-elected as president of ACGA for another year, and I'm happy to accept the post again. Jeff and Seumas are co-vice presidents again as well. And we're delighted that Janice Chan, Joyce Campbell, and Mike Mackay are with us as appointed officers. We're grateful for the work that they do.

We haven't had a board so big and so diverse ever before, with eight women and six men. We live throughout the country, in places such as San Mateo and Baltimore, Oklahoma and Alabama. And that's important. We have plenty of work to do this year.

I'm delighted to say we had a successful week at Grandfather Mountain – our first live Scottish Gaelic Song and Language Week in three years. We had troubles – one of the teachers couldn't be there – but the onsite team responded quickly. A big thanks to them! We're thinking about 2023 now.

We had a successful online St. Columba or Calum Cille Day too in June, and we're working on more online events this year. Perhaps we'll do something about *Oidhche Shamhna*, the Gaelic holiday that gave us Halloween. And the US National Mòd will be online again Nov. 12-13. And don't forget the Night of the Bards.

In the new year, Oidhche nam Bàrd will come in January – and perhaps we'll have a

nam Bàrd” againn, le buthan-obrach air feadh an latha agus cèilidh. Agus feumaidh sinn cruinneachadh airson coinneamh bhliadhnail ACGA ann an 2023 cuideachd. Tha mi ’n dòchas gum faic sinn sibh uaireigin, beò neo air-loidhne!

Tha 155 buill againn an-dràsta, le 44 buill ùra am bliadhna. Ach chaill sinn mu 40 ball cuideachd, agus chan eil sinn cinnteach carson. Cùmaibh ur sùilean a-mach airson suirbhidh bhuainn.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd,

*Liam Ó Caiside*  
Ceann-suidhe, ACGA

“Weekend of the Bards” with workshops and a cèilidh. And we must gather for our Annual General Meeting in 2023 too. I hope we’ll see you sometime, in person or online!

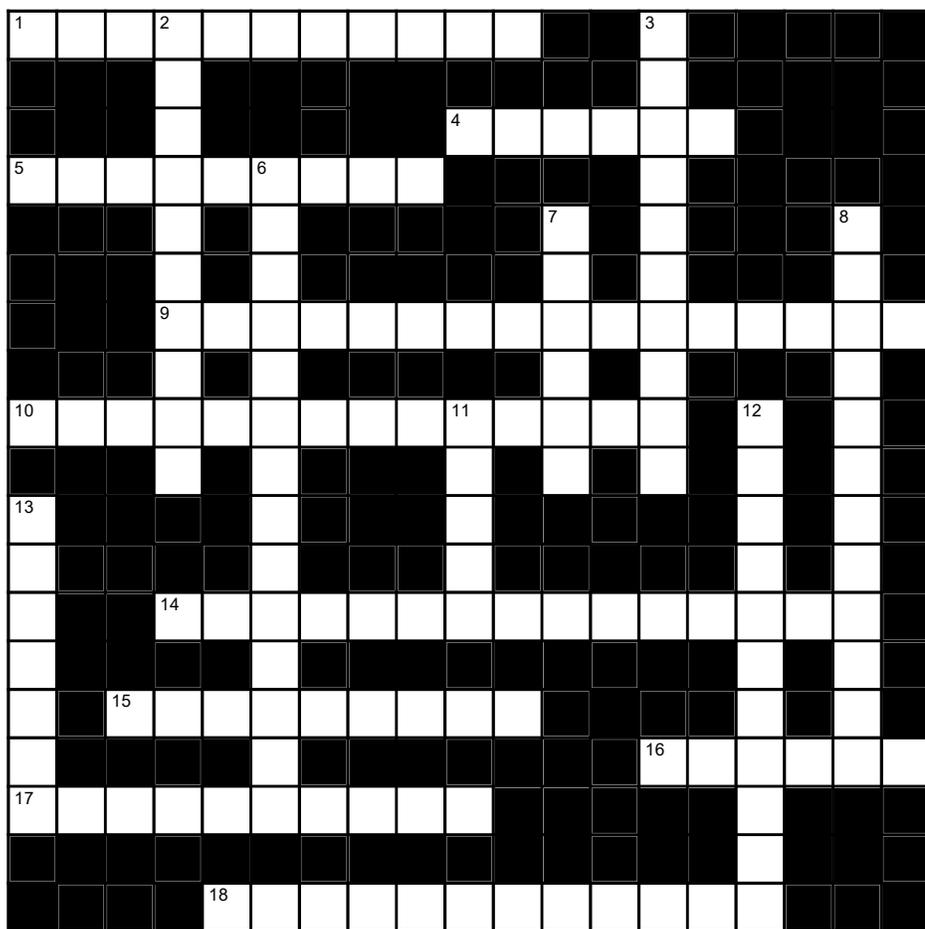
We have 155 members now, with 44 new members this year. But we lost about 40 members too, and we don’t know why. Keep your eyes out for a survey from us.

With every good wish,

*Liam Cassidy*  
President, ACGA



## Tòimhseachan-tarsainn Adhartach: As t-fhoghar



See page 16 for solution.

### Tarsainn

- 1 Taingealachd (11)
- 4 Snaidh i is cuir coinneal innte (6)
- 5 Geama air a chluich le bàla is tadhal (4-5)
- 9 Samhla pailteis (6,1,9)
- 10 Cùm air falbh, fheannag! (6-8)
- 14 'S beag orra Latha na Taingealachd (7-8)
- 15 Na bhuaineas tuathanach (9)
- 16 Dath na ràithe (6)
- 17 Còmhdhaichte le sioc (10)
- 18 Toiseach an fhoghair, tro mhineachadh (2-4-6)

### Sios

- 2 Atharraichidh iad an dathan a-nis (10)
- 3 Fras air taobh a-muigh (5-5)
- 6 Àm a bhios bana-bhuidisichean rim faicinn (7,7)
- 7 Riatanach airson seudar a dhèanamh (6)
- 8 Losgadh airson subhachais (5-7)
- 11 Inneal airson duilleagan a ghluasad (5)
- 12 Aodach airson sgòrnan fuar (4-7)
- 13 Eadar cofhurtail is fuar (7)



## 2022 U.S. National Mòd / Mòd Nàiseanta Aimeireagaidh 2022

*Mòd Nàiseanta Aimeireagaidh*, the U.S. National Mòd, is an annual celebration of Scottish Gaelic song and culture in North America featuring competitions, ceilidhs, performances, and workshops. ACGA will hold this online celebration of language arts, song, poetry, and storytelling, on Saturday, Nov. 12 and Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022.

To register, click here: <https://acga.wufoo.com/forms/k4v73na0jugbjg/>

This will be our third online Mòd, enabling Scottish Gaelic learners from around the globe to join us from the comfort of their own homes. The weekend begins with competitions and a ceilidh on Saturday and ends with special workshops from our adjudicators on Sunday morning.

All registrants pay a base fee of \$25, which includes workshops and the ceilidh, while competitors pay an additional \$20 fee covering all competitions.

This year's adjudicators will be announced shortly. Watch our blog (<https://acgamerica.org/news/>) for more news and check our page on Facebook.

The competitions this year will include:

- *Ag Aithris Bàrdachd* / Poetry recitation (either own choice or a poem chosen by the adjudicator)
- *Bàrdachd Ùr* / Original Poetry Composition
- *Ag Innse Sgeulachdan* / Storytelling (in Scottish Gaelic, up to 5 minutes)
- *Leughadh aig a' chiad shealladh* / Sight Reading (reading text selected by the adjudicator)
- *Òran Neach-tòisichidh* / Song for beginners (one song, for those who have never competed in a mod)
- *Na h-Òrain* / Song at the general level (two songs, for those who have competed in a mod)

The U.S. National Mòd is, at its core, a series of competitions in Scottish Gaelic song, poetry, and storytelling. But the Mòd also is much more than competitions.

- It's a chance to join a Gaelic community that's enthusiastic and supportive of learners at every level, from fluent speakers to new beginners.
- It's a chance to learn Gaelic songs from some of the best singers and instructors from Scotland and Nova Scotia.
- It's a chance, if you're a Gaelic learner, to use the language. And it's a fun weekend with old and new friends.

An dòchas gum bi sinn gur faicinn! / Hope to see you there!

# Oisean a' Ghràmair (The Grammar Nook) Reprinted

We've derived many hours of fascination and enjoyment from the grammar columns written for us by Dr. Wayne Harbert. Wayne is professor emeritus in the Department of Linguistics at Cornell University, and from 2016 to 2022 he wrote a series of humorous and often quirky columns that appealed to even the most grammar-phobic among us.



As a thank-you to Wayne and a gift to the Gaelic learner community, we've republished the entire series as a single document. In the reprint, you'll find an interview with Wayne published in the March 2022 *ANA* issue with his last "Scary Things About Gaelic" (STAG) article. It explains how he came to study Celtic languages and where the name "STAG" comes from. Then all the delightful and informative STAG articles are given in order of publication.

ACGA members should have received a copy by email, but anyone can download it at <https://tinyurl.com/Ana2022StagReprint>



## ACGA Elections

Earlier this year, ACGA's Board of Directors decided to expand the Board to eleven members. At an election held during June, the following were elected to three-year terms:

- Taylor Ashlock
- Valeria Campbell
- Richard Gwynallen
- Jeff Justice
- Megan Kohtz
- Nicole Rodriguez
- Mallie Steele

*Mealaibh ur naidheachd!*

They will join continuing members:

- Adam Dahmer
- Jamie MacDonald
- Liam Ó Caiside
- Eileen Walker

At the August meeting of the newly-expanded Board, the following were elected as officers for the coming year:

- President: Liam Ó Caiside
- Co-vice President: Jeff Justice
- Co-vice President: Jamie MacDonald

For news of the Board's activities, see *Litir bhon Cheann-suidhe* / Letter from the President on page 4.

## North Carolina Regional Mòd MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain

9 July 2022

Adjudicator: Màiri MacInnes

Competitors:

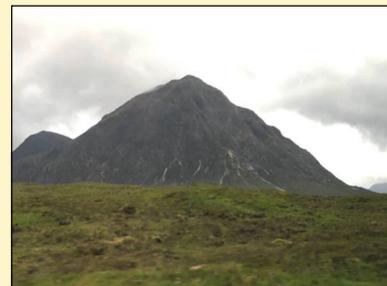
- Isaac Baird
- Seán Heely
- Ailean (Kyle) Henderson
- Maria Monk
- Tom Terry

Because the competitors were at such different skill levels, Màiri did not rate them. She did however, give "fabulous individual tips."

## Photo Quiz

What is the name of this mountain with ties to James Bond?

The answer is on page 20.



Hilary NicPhàidein

Although the 7th of December, 2021, marked the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of Calum Cille, as St. Columba is known in Scottish Gaelic, his memory is still being celebrated in 2022. *An Naidheachd Againne* is observing this with an article by Barbara L. Rice, one of our editors.

## Latha Chalum Chille

by B.L. Rice

ACGA celebrated *Latha Chalum Chille* / Saint Columba Day on Saturday, June 11, 2022, although it is traditionally celebrated on June 9 in Scotland. In 563 AD, Calum Cille – also known as Saint Columba – established the abbey at the Isle of Iona, a center of Christianity and literacy in Scotland.

The celebration was held via Zoom, and organized by ACGA Board Members Adam Dahmer, Jeff W. Justice, Jamie MacDonald, and Barbara Lynn Rice. The program began with Duncan Sneddon, who has a Ph.D in Celtic Studies from the University of Edinburgh and who authored the *Handbook of Biblical and Ecclesiastical Gaelic*. Next on the program were: Barbara, Jeff, and Sandaidh NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Gaelic Crowned Bàrd (Bàrd a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich) 2019-2021. ACGA Board Member Valeria Campbell moderated. There was a short cèilidh afterwards.

Duncan opened with a blessing in Gaelic. Barbara then gave a brief introduction to Calum Cille, an Irish abbot, who came as a missionary to Scotland, and a few stories about miracles attributed to him. Duncan followed with a thorough history of Calum Cille, separating fact from fiction, touching briefly on apocryphal stories about him. Jeff spoke about the *Book of Kells*, which is often associated with Calum Cille but was actually written after his passing. It is said that the book was written on the Isle of Iona. An interesting tidbit was mentioned about the monks occasionally drawing their cats – and also peacocks – in the page margins.

Sandaidh read her poetry and noted that she prefers traditional meter and rhyme. Among the poems were: “Èilean Ì, O Thì, Sìth Èilean Ì”; another poem about a dream that Calum Cille’s mother had while he was in her womb, and a summing up of what Saint Columba meant to the monks of Iona and to his mother. She also sang her poem about the Isle of Iona, set to music, which was quite lovely.

The cèilidh followed, headed by Eliza Pederson (Ealasaid NicPheadair) who joined the celebration from Utah. To the tune of “Highland Cathedral”, she sang “Oran do Chalum Chille” with lyrics written by Adam Dahmer. Accompanying herself on the guitar, she also sang a second song, Psalm 23. Both were quite wonderful.

Following Eliza, ACGA President Liam Cassidy thanked everyone for coming, and he read a Manx prayer / charm about Calum Cille, who was venerated on the Isle of Man as well. Next, Sandaidh read an amusing poem about the Loch Ness monster, “The Monster’s Courtship”, in which Nessie has placed a lovelorn ad in a newspaper. Lastly, Jamie MacDonald read a 1750 handwritten charm from North Carolina by Dugald McFarland, known as “Dugald McFarland’s Charm”, regarding nine of Calum Cille’s miracles. The charm can be found in this issue, in “A Bharrachd” on Page 22.

From Manus O’Donnell’s (Adomnán) biography *Vita Columbae* / Life of Columba, Duncan Sneddon closed the program by reading a short selection from its final chapter on Columba’s last days. It told how even Columba’s horse wept as Columba was going to pass. It was as if the horse was saying goodbye to his master when he wept, knowing that Columba’s end was near. Duncan ended the evening by singing a beautiful and moving rendition of Psalm 34.



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## 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, Marcas Mac An Tuairneir, to pick a poem from “Meek Lines” and tell us about it.

Marcas Mac An Tuairneir is a fluent Gaelic speaker, poet, and musician. His published works include his poetry collections *Deò*, *Gracenote*, *Lus na Tùise*, and *Dùileach*. He just released *Speactram*, a collection of his own Gaelic songs.



### Dàn Leabanoin

*le Dòmhnall E. 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 sèdar 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 fasnadh 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 faire  
Solamh a’ teachd le gliocas slàinteil.

Sgrìobhadh an dàn seo mar fhreagairt don spreadhadh is don uabhas a dh’adhbharaich e ann am Beirut air 4mh an Lùnastail, 2020. Ri linn an spreadhaidh, fhuair 218 daoine bàs le còrr is 7,000 a bharrachd air am fàgail leònte, is 3,000 gun dachaigh. Thug an t-uabhas buaidh eaconamach air Beirut le dochann

This poem was written as a response to the explosion and subsequent horrors that befell Beirut on 4th August, 2020. As a consequence of the explosion, 218 people lost their lives, with 7,000 more wounded and 3,000 left homeless. It was an event which had considerable economic impact on

seilbh luach US\$ 15 billean, a bharrachd air a' bhuaidh a thugadh air daoine ann.

Sgrìobh Dòmhnall E. Meek an dàn seo, beagan uairean as dèidh dha faighinn a-mach mu na thachair, tro mheadhanan an t-saoghail. Bha mi fhìn, mar dheasaiche *Poblachd nam Bàrd* toilichte an dàn seo fhoillseachadh, mar phàirt den t-sreatha air loidhne againn *Poets' React*, a thug cothrom do sgrìobhadairean air feadh an t-saoghail bàrdachd a sgrìobhadh air rudan a thachair, mar a thachair iad. B' e cothrom do Dhòmhnall, mar a bha do mhòran bhàrd, steam a dhèanamh dè na tachartasan is trioblaidean as motha a tha air buaidh a thoirt air a' chinne-daonna, anns na bliadhnaichean a dh'fhalbh. Thàinig an sreath seo gu crìch aig àm a' Chòrona-bhiorais agus, le làrach-lìn ùr, bha cothrom eile againn àite a thoirt do bhàird dlùth-phàirteachas a nochdadh ri muinntir na h-Ùcraine.

Mar dheasaiche na Gàidhlig, bha mi riamh ga fhaicinn cudromach cothrom a thoirt do sgrìobhadairean ar cànan an cuid bheachdan a chur an cèill ann am fòram far a bheil diofair chànanan – Beurla, Beurla Ghallta is Cànanan Ceilteach – air an cleachdadh. Tha e deatamach dhomh gu bheil àiteachan air an cruthachadh do sgrìobhadairean na Gàidhlig, far am faic iad a chèile am measg sluaigh na rìoghachd seo is am measg sluagh an t-saoghail gu lèir. Mar dhaoine dà-chànanach, tha e furasta dhuinn, air dòigh nach eile e cho furasta, is dòcha, do dhaoine aona-chànanach, an saoghal fhaicinn air tuilleadh is aon dòigh. 'S e sin ar gibht – an saoghal a thuigsinn tro chultar na Gàidhlig, cho math ri cultar na Beurla. 'S ann mar sin a tha sinn mar shaoranaich coimhearsnachd eadar-nàiseanta.

Anns an dàn seo, tha Dòmhnall a' lionadh a chuid bhriathran le iomraidhean a' Bhìobuill is an oideachaidh a fhuair e ann an Tioradh, aig luchd-teagaisg, ministearan is coimhearsnaich. Mar sin, tha iomradh air àiteachan san dàn a tha air a bhith beò nar n-inntinn, o thuig sinn bho thùs a' Chrìostaidheachd is an uairsin na creideamhan Abrahamach uile. 'S iad àiteachan dhan do shiubhail sinn tro sgeulachdan Aràibia ann am ficsean, a bha aig cridhe cùisean tro na linntean ann an leabhraichean eachdraidh. A bharrachd air sin, 's iad àiteachan a tha air sìor nochdadh sna naidheachdan fad ar linn-ne. Mar sin, tha luchd an Ear-mheadhanaich dlùth rinn, ged a tha e coltach gu bheil na dùthchannan fhèin fada bhuainn.

'S e sin tha mise a' leughadh anns an dàn seo – dlùithe na dàimh. Mar a chruthaicheas Dòmhnall ceangal eadar beairteas is bòidhchead, saoghal a' chinne-dhaonna is nàdar, agus Leabanon nan linntean a dh'fhalbh is an là an-diugh. 'S e an dà-fhillteachd sin a th' againn nar cuid

Beirut with property damage to the tune of US\$ 15 billion, as well as the human cost.

Donald E. Meek wrote this poem a matter of hours after finding out about the event through the world's media. As an editor of *The Poets' Republic*, I was pleased to publish the poem as part of our online *Poets' React* series, which gave poets across the world the opportunity to write about what happened, when it happened. It was an opportunity for Donald, as it was for many poets, to make sense of the events and atrocities that have impacted humanity in the last few years. The series came to an end around the time the Corona virus struck and, with a new website, we had a new opportunity to offer poets wishing to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

As a Gaelic editor, I have always thought it important to give the writers of our language an opportunity to express themselves in a forum where other languages – English, Scots and Celtic Languages – are used. It is crucial, for me, that we create space for Gaelic writers, where they can see themselves alongside the peoples of our country and the rest of the world. As bilingual people, it is easier for us than it is for monolingual people, perhaps, to see the world in more than one way. That is our gift – to understand the world through Gaelic culture as well as the culture of the English language. In this way we are citizens of a world community.

In this poem, Donald imbues his words with references to the Bible and the education he received in Tìre from teachers, ministers and neighbours. In this way, he references places in the poem which have lived in our minds since we first came to understand Christianity and consequently all the Abrahamic faiths. These are places to which we have travelled through the stories of Arabia in fiction, that have been at the heart of the histories we have read in books. They have also featured regularly in the news of our own era. In this way, the people of the Middle East remain close to us, even when it might seem that they belong to far away lands.

This is what I read in this poem – the ties that bind. Similarly, Donald builds a link between wealth and beauty, the world of humanity and nature and the Lebanon of centuries past and today's day and age. It is this duality that is in

dà-chànanachais is a leigeas leinn dlùth-phàirteachas  
sònraichte a nochdadh do dhaoine fo leòn.

our bilingualism and which is a conduit for the  
solidarity we show to people in need.

Marcas Mac an Tuairneir  
Dùn Èideann, An Lùnastal, 2022

Mark Spencer Turner  
Edinburgh, August, 2022



## Grandfather Mountain Song & Language Week 2022

Great instructors made a great week!

~Sabrina

Bha an t-seachdain Ghàidhlig glè spòrsail agus inntinneach.  
Bha na tidsearan againn air leth math agus dh'ionnsaich mi tòrr.

~Andi



**Jason Bond**

photo credit: Sabrina Pittillo

Jason at the Gaelic tent.



**Adam Dahmer**

photo credit: Sabrina Pittillo

Adam Dahmer enjoying a break.



**Jason and Andi**

photo credit: Andi Damewood

Fhuair mi cothrom coinneachadh ris an  
tidsear air-loidhne agam, Jason Bond,  
aghaidh ri aghaidh airson a' chiad uair.  
'S e tidsear fìor mhath a th' ann an  
Jason. Anns na clasaichean aige,  
sgriobh sinn sgeulachdan anns  
a' Ghàidhlig agus òran Gàidhlig mu  
Sheumas, am mathan draoidheil. Bha  
an t-seachdain sgoinneil.



**Màiri MacInnes**

photo credit: John Grimaldi

Seo Màiri a' coiseachd dhan chlas.

### Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Do you know what familiar Gaelic  
proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 18 to see if you're right.



Image by Hands off my tags! Michael Gaida [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)



## Litir à Dùn Èideann

by Jeff W. Justice

A chàirdean,

Look about this issue of *An Naidheachd Againne*, and I hope that you see it's a great time for Gaelic, both here in North America as well as Scotland and even globally. When we moved online two years ago, we very quickly found a community connecting with itself in ways we never seriously considered before. We also quickly recognised that the energy we put into it online in those awful early days of the pandemic could fizzle when the new 'normal' would begin to assert itself.

Well, we are there. The pandemic is finally, mercifully, drawing to a close. If anything, however, the momentum we started is growing. Gaelic activism is rising, as our lead article in this issue points out. Bòrd na Gàidhlig's new Gaelic plan drew significant and positive attention in Scotland, and we are on the cusp of the Scottish Parliament giving Gaelic (along with Scots) official legal status at long last. Initial results from the 2021 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey indicate that Gaelic's speakership actually *grew* since the previous in-depth survey conducted on it in 2012. Glasgow's Partick Thistle Football Club has installed Gaelic signs at its Firhill playing ground, although Scottish newspapers also reported that this change did draw some negative blowback. No doubt the new language law will draw its share of opposition as well, but for those of us who know better, these are all major victories for the future of Gaelic.

Scotland is not the only place where Gaelic is on the rise. Great things are happening here in ACGA. We have welcomed our largest-ever intake of new directors on the Board, and we are already feeling their energy. The recent *Latha Chaluim Chille* event is still drawing rave reviews, and our members are demanding more events like that. Those are being planned actively as I write this. We are working toward starting a monthly online *Cofaidh agus Gàidhlig* lunchtime presentation and conversation, which I personally envision as a sort of Rotary Club meeting but for Gaelic learners, speakers, and enthusiasts. We will soon add a daily Gaelic calendar to our website where groups, institutions, and interested individuals can advertise their events. This calendar is the brainchild of board member Adam Dahmer, who, incidentally, just passed his viva (defense) for his doctor's thesis at the University of Edinburgh. We have a new doctor on the board! Congratulations, Adam! All of this just scratches the surface as to the great things that are going on in ACGA and the broader Gaelic community.

Now it is up to us to keep the momentum going, if not push it ahead faster. Can you feel the excitement for Gaelic? I certainly can. *Chì mi ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig a dh'aithghearr thu!*

Le meas,

*Gairidh | Jeff*



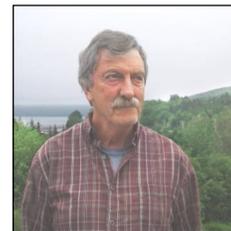
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# Facal à Aonghas / A Word From Angus

Have you ever wondered how to say a particular word or phrase in good idiomatic Gaelic? Want to expand your vocabulary? Then you might find our new feature helpful.



Angus MacLeod, Gaelic teacher and author from Cape Breton, often answers these kinds of questions in his classes, sometimes with a Cape Breton *blas*. His graphic novels also provide many useful phrases in idiomatic Gaelic.

*Ceann* has the meaning of a head or end amongst others, but consider this sentence from Angus' graphic novel *Às a' Chamhanaich*:

*Ach, an ceann ùine chunnaic sealgair a bha siubhal rudha uaigneach tòrr de dh'fhiodh air a' chladach agus mullach tughaidh air. (Eòs an t-Iasgair, td 92)*

Here *an ceann* with *ùine* has the meaning of 'after a while'.

"But after a while a hunter who was travelling on a lonely headland saw a pile of wood on the shore and a thatch roof on it."

Here are some useful phrases using *an ceann*.

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>an ceann greis</i>        | after a while / in a while                         |
| <i>an ceann greiseig</i>     | after a little while                               |
| <i>an ceann ùine</i>         | after a while / eventually / in the course of time |
| <i>an ceann seachdain</i>    | after a week's time                                |
| <i>an ceann latha no dhà</i> | within a few days / in a day or two                |
| <i>an ceann sreatha</i>      | later on, in due course                            |



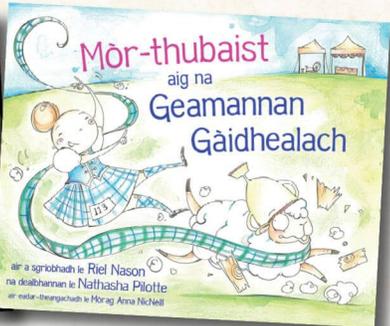
**bradan  
press**

## Leabhraichean ùra á Albainn Nuaidh

New Gaelic books from Nova Scotia



**IAIN**  
of New Scotland  
Margaret Mackay  
with a foreword by Diana Gabaldon

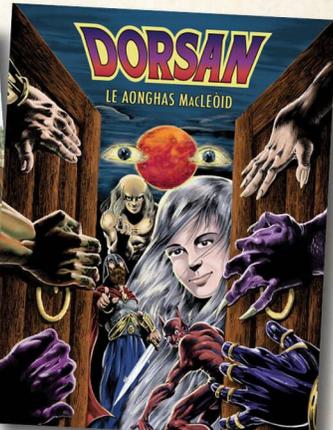


**Mòr-thubaist**  
aig na  
**Geamannan**  
**Gàidhealach**  
air a sgrìobhadh le Rìel Nason  
na dealbhan le Nathasha Pilotte  
air mair-thubaist le Mòrag Anna NicNeil

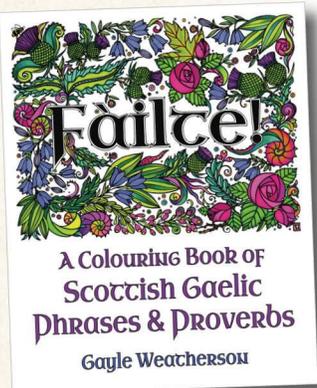
← L: Historical fiction with a foreword by *Outlander* author Diana Gabaldon. R: *Mo chreach!* It's a Highland dance disaster at the Games!



**Ros Friadhraich**  
Nicola R. White  
Katia Vecchio  
Nathaniel Harrington · Eimilidh NicEòghainn  
Kara Braum · Joni Donohoe · Maire Neron



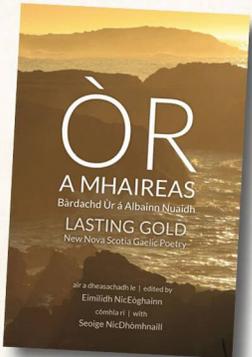
**DORSAN**  
LE AONGHAS MACLEOD



**Fàilte!**  
A COLOURING BOOK OF  
SCOTTISH GAELIC  
PHRASES & PROVERBS  
Gayle Weatherson

← 30 intricate drawings to colour by Gayle Weatherson, with Gaelic translations & pronunciation.

New Nova Scotia Gaelic poetry about love, loss...and cookies. Parallel English translations. →



**ÒR**  
A MHAIREAS  
BÀRDACHD ÙR Á ALBAINN NUAIDH  
LASTING GOLD  
New Nova Scotia Gaelic Poetry  
air a dhealbhadh le | edited by  
Eimilidh NicEòghainn  
còmharr | with  
Seòige NicDhòmhnaill

^ L: "Wild Rose," a graphic novel tale of love, betrayal, and revenge set in 18th-century Ireland & London by award-winning romance novelist Nicola R. White. R: "Doors," the second graphic novel of eldritch horror & fantasy short stories by Cape Breton author-artist Angus MacLeod.

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## Book Review:

**Constabal Murdo 2: Murdo ann am Marseille le Aonghas Pàdraig Caimbeul**

**Luath Press, 2022, 165 pages**

**ISBN: 9781910022733; Winner of the Highland Society of London Prize for Best Fiction Book, Gaelic Literature Awards 2022**

*Reviewed by Ted Neveln*

Don't read Angus Peter Campbell's new detective novel about Constable Murdo expecting to be swept along in the plot, although this time it actually has a plot, as well as spy craft, police craft and danger. Murdo is enticed out of retirement and goes undercover to break up an international drug smuggling ring. As before, he muses about the nature of law and justice and the occasional arbitrariness of the war on drugs, once again feeling pity for victims and even some of the perpetrators. He gets personally caught in some of the unpleasant ambiguities of this war; but his jaw is set against the real harm that hard drugs do to the young.

As with the previous book, do expect long plotless paragraphs and even chapters. A lot just happens inside Murdo's mind. Vehicles get driven and there is even a car chase, but the plot does not drive much. Murdo is a retired old guy with a head stuffed full of ancient proverbs and police precepts, but he unceasingly weighs and optimizes them against new technologies and innovations. Murdo has a good grasp of Scottish pop culture – a better grasp than many American readers are going to have. He is as persnickety as James Bond over his personal tastes in food, drink, and dress – except that it's about tea and sausage rather than martinis. There is a lot to look up if that is your inclination. You could feel delighted or bogged down, and you will have to decide how much to research and how much to just absorb the gestalt. Some proverbs are not self-explanatory. Murdo digresses, discourses and discusses at a length which can be a purgatory for readers who want to just get on with the story and a paradise for those who want to study the subtleties of Gaelic.

The sinews of the story come from the Gaelic language itself. This became obvious when I tried to translate it into English. My own attempts are clunky and translating could be painful for a group of readers who still seriously struggle with Gaelic. I had almost no choice but to try to read the Gaelic as Gaelic and translate as little as possible. In this volume, the chapters are quite uneven in length and it is not practical to read one per session. Certain words and proverbs resist easy dictionary searches and I skimmed more than I should have; I need to read this at least three times before I feel like I have done it justice. Sometimes it seems intractably tangential – I do not understand why the little Sutherland town of Bearghdal keeps getting mentioned.

Murdo likes to describe himself as an old man set in his ways and happy to spend his sunset years on a couch watching other people on TV live the good life in France, but he is easily persuaded to upend his life, learn a rigorous new profession as a delivery driver and wend his way to France to track and apprehend drug smugglers and ameliorate the lives of drug addicts. He is Don Quixote and Sancho Panza combined into one aging Gael.

The following gives an idea of how he gets recruited and also how tricky it is to translate the text into English:

*'... Cò tha thu smaoinichadh a th' annam? Sherlock is Superman còmhla?'*

*'Chan e, a Mhurchaidh. Ach Murchadh Beag Mhurchaidh 'ic Mhurchaidh Bhig a tha cho neoichiontach ri brù-dhearg a' gheamhraidh. Am brù-dhearg a gheibh faisg air daoine chionn 's gu bheil e cho beag is bòidheach. Cha thàl duine sam bith iolair le a spògan mòra biorach gu dùirn, ach seall air Robin Brù-Dhearg agus gach duine san t-saoghal a' càradh chriomagan arain nan làmhan feuch an tig e a laighe air cùl an dùirn, a' criomadh 's a crònan 's a' ceilearadh.'*

*'Bu chòir dhut a bhith nad bhàrd, a Thormoid,' thuirt mi ris. 'Ach thèid mo phronnadh. Fhios agad, a charaid, nuair a chì thu brùid mhòr de dhuine a' faighinn grèim air rud beag bochd na làimh agus ga*

*fhàsgadh gu bàs, mar a phronnadh tu ugh an dreathain-duinn nuair a bha sinn beag. Rud a bha toirmisgte.’ (tdd 22-3)*

‘ . . . Who do you think I am? Sherlock and Superman combined?’

‘No Murdo. But Little Murdo, son of Murdo, son of Little Murdo, you are as harmless-looking as a robin in the winter. The robin that gets close to people because he is so small and cute. No one is attracted to the eagle with big sharp talons on his limbs but look at Robin Redbreast and everyone placing bread crumbs in his hands trying to get him to lay on the back of their hand, nibbling, crooning and warbling.’

‘You would make a good poet, Tormod,’ I told him. ‘But I’ll get pounded. Friend, you know when you see a big brute of a guy getting hold of some poor creature in his hands and crushing it to death, as you used to crush a wren’s egg when we were young. A prohibited thing.’

Then his old superior, Tormod, begins to quote from the Bible about birds (Psalm 84:3) and Murdo is recruited.

I keep noticing that the first chapter is always the hardest in the books I review and that holds true here also. The first paragraph has a snarky reference to Donald Trump plus more snark that I still have not figured out. Things get clearer reasonably quickly but it takes a plugged-in person to keep up with all the contemporary references. Old Murdo is way more plugged-in than me. The story takes place unmistakably in the year 2020.

Previously Murdo had settled down with the yoga teacher Iona Scott (girlfriend? wife?). She is still here with him in this second book but not really as a character, just a background influence. She is a very important influence as Murdo often testifies, but neither she nor any other female characters are actively present as they were in the previous book.

Here is a brief clip of Caimbeul reading the first paragraph of this book, first in his own voice, and then as Murdo himself would sound <https://www.luath.co.uk/new-releases/constabal-murdo-2>



## Book Review:

*The Hebridean Baker: Recipes and Wee Stories from the Scottish Islands*

by Coinneach MacLeod

Sourcebooks, 2022, 321 pages

ISBN: 9781728263267

Reviewed by Cam MacRae

There are probably a lot of you out there just like me: We don’t cook a lot, but we love cookbooks, especially regional ones with lots of photos and descriptive essays. And then there’s my sister Molly who is a wonderful cook, and she loves cookbooks. And Scotland. The easy choice for her present last Christmas was a copy of *The Hebridean Baker: Recipes and Wee Stories from the Scottish Islands* by Coinneach MacLeod.

A quick look through its pages showed Gaelic phrases and poetry sprinkled throughout the colorfully illustrated recipes, and I knew it wasn’t going to be easy keeping Molly’s gift in pristine condition until Christmas. I wrapped it up quickly in our traditional tartan wrapping paper and put it under the tree with plans to ask to borrow it after a suitable length of time had passed. And then luckily for my sister and even more happily for me, Hilary NicPhàidein returned from a visit to Scotland and brought me my own copy signed by both Coinneach and his Westie (West Highland White Terrier), wee Seòras! (See “An t-àite agam fhin,” page 19, for more about Hilary’s adventures in Scotland.)



Our Bilingual Recipe for Sticky Toffee Pudding comes from the 2021 publication, *The Hebridean Baker: Recipes and Wee Stories from the Scottish Islands*, by Coinneach MacLeod. With the author's kind permission, here is the original recipe in English along with a Gaelic translation from the editors of *ANA*. Since we admittedly are not the best of bakers, we're lucky that our friend Molly MacRae recently made this ever-popular dessert and managed to take the photo on the next page before her family devoured the pudding. For a review of *The Hebridean Baker: Recipes and Wee Stories from the Scottish Islands*, see page 15 of this issue.

## Milseag Tofaidh Steigeach

(Nì an reasabaidh 6 milseagan beaga)

## Sticky Toffee Pudding

(Makes 6 mini puds)

There are no three words in the English language more beautiful than “sticky toffee pudding”; okay, maybe “I love you” comes a close second! This is an indulgent pud that will make a weekend lunch with family end perfectly. From: *The Hebridean Baker: Recipes and Wee Stories from the Scottish Islands*, page 165.

### Grìtheidean

Airson na Milseige

200g deataichean

200ml tì dhubh theth

1 spàin-tì sòda-fuine

80g ime

2 spàin-bhùird trèicil dhuibh

50g siùcair muscovado, neo siùcair dhuibh-dhonn

2 ugh

150g min-fhlùir

2 spàin-tì pùdair-fhuine

Airson an t-saibhse

150g ime

300g siùcair muscovado neo siùcair dhuibh-dhonn

1 spàin-bhùird trèicil dhuibh

200ml uachdar-dùbailte

### Stiùiridhean

Sgud na deataichean agus dòirt an tì dhubh theth thairis orra. An uair sin, measg iad leis an t-sòda-fuine agus fàg am measgachadh sin fad 30 mionaid.

Ro-theasaich an àbhainn gu 160°C/320°F.

Buail an t-ìm agus an trèicil còmhla gus am bi iad mìn. An uair sin, cuir ris an siùcar, na h-uighean, a' mhìn-fhlùir, agus am pùdar-fuine. Measgaich iad gu math.

Nuair a bhios na deataichean fionnar, pronn iad dhan tì agus cuir ris an taois iad.

Measgaich an taois. An uair sin, le spàin, cuir i gu cunbhalach do phana foileige air a crèiseadh agus bruich iad airson 20 mionaid, gus am bi iad air an tòcadh agus seasmhach.

### Ingredients

For the pudding

200g dates

200ml hot black tea

1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

80g butter

2 tablespoons black treacle

50g muscovado sugar

2 eggs

150g plain flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

For the sauce

150g butter

300g muscovado sugar

1 tablespoon black treacle

200ml double cream

### Method

Chop up your dates and pour your hot black tea over them, then stir in the bicarbonate of soda and leave for 30 minutes.

Preheat your oven to 160°C/320°F.

Cream your butter and black treacle together. Then add your sugar, eggs, flour, and baking powder and mix well.

Once cooled, mash the dates into the tea and add to the batter.

Combine and spoon evenly into a greased muffin tin tray and bake for 20 minutes, until risen and firm.

Gus an sabhs a dhèanamh, cuir ris an siùcar agus an trèicil do phana agus teasaich iad gus am bi an siùcar sgaoilte agus an t-im leaghte. An uair sin, cuir barrachd teas ris agus leig leis a' mheasgachadh bruich fad mionaid neo beagan nas fhaide gus sabhs dorcha a dhèanamh de dhath tofaidh. Thoir far an teas e agus cuir ris an t-uachdar.

Riaraich i fhad 's a tha i blàth, còmhdaichte leis an t-sabhs tofaidh agus le sgonn mòr reòiteige.

To make the sauce, add the butter, sugar and black treacle to a pan and simmer until the sugar has dissolved and the butter melted. Then turn up the heat and let it bubble for a minute or so to create a dark toffee coloured sauce. Take it off the heat and stir in the cream.

Serve warm with the pudding covered in the toffee sauce and a big scoop of vanilla ice cream.



Molly MacRae

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!



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. . . . . by finding appropriate open-source graphics as needed to accompany articles.

Interested? Email [naidheachd@acgamerica.org](mailto:naidheachd@acgamerica.org)



Image by Hands off my tags! Michael Gaida [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)

## Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 11

**Mar a bhith a' bruidhinn ri each na chadal.**

It's like talking to a sleeping horse.  
(Like talking to a brick wall.)

# 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 recent 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.

## Dàna-thuras a dh’Alba

le Hilary NicPhàidein

Uill, tha mi air ais ann an Washington, DC an dèidh an turais agam a dh’Alba. A’ coimhead air ais cha robh seachdain ann an Eilean Leòdhais fada gu leòr no mìos ann an Alba uile gu lèir na bu mhotha. Fanaidh mi nas fhaide an ath-bhliadhn’ gu cinnteach.

Dh’innis mi dhuibh mu dheidhinn a’ chùrsa-siubhail agam anns a’ chuairt-litir ron tè seo. Bha ùine mhìorbhaileach agam còmhla ri mo theaghlach oir nach robh mi air mo cho-linteann fhaicinn o chionn dà bhliadhna air sgàth COVID. Chòrd na trì tursan-latha air a’ Ghàidhealtachd rium. Mar as àbhaist bha na beanntan agus na seallaidhean fìor bhòidheach fiù ’s ged a bha an t-uisge ann agus na meanbh-chuileagan, gu mì-fhortanach, a’ ciobadh.

Bha an tadhal a rinn mi air Leòdhas air leth barraichte – an rud a b’ fheàrr mun turas agam. Dh’fhuirich mi aig Grinneabhat an t-ionad-coimhearsnachd ann am Bràdhagar. Feumaidh mi ràdh gun do chòrd am bogadh cànan rium. Bha a h-uile duine cho càrdeil is cho fàilteach is foighidneach agus bhruidhinn mi sa Ghàidhlig gach latha. Bha mi a’ faireachdainn gun robh mi nam phàirt dhen choimhearsnachd on chiad dol-a-mach. Ghabh mi pàirt ann an “charity walk for Dementia Awareness Week” mun cuairt Bhràdhagair, chaidh mi gu madainn-chofaidh san ionad-coimhearsnachd, agus dh’ith mi lòn còmhla ri aon de bhoireannaich na sgìre (bhruidhinn sinn sa Ghàidhlig fad na tìde). Tha bana-charaid ùr agam a tha a’ fuireach ann am Bràdhagair – Oighrig – ’s e “pen pals” a th’ annainn a-nis. Chunnaic mi “Bho Bheul An Eòin” an fhèill-thaisbeanaidh eireachdail san taisbean-lann san ionad-coimhearsnachd (faic Criomagan: An Samhradh 2022, Leabhar XXXVIII, Àireamh 2, td 12). Ò, agus thachair mi ri Coinneach Mòr (Coinneach MacÌomhair) neach iomraiteach air BBC Radio nan Gàidheal a bha ag ithe lòn sa chafaidh an latha ud.

Fhad ’s a bha mi ann an Leòdhas chunnaic mi cuid de na h-àiteachan a bha air an liosta mhiannan agam. Chunnaic mi Tursachan Chalanais, Clach an Truiseil, na Geàrrannan, agus am Muileann is Àth (Norse Mill and Kiln). Cha robh na Gèilleanan (ainm ionadail airson Cnàimh na Muice-mara) ach ceud meatair a dh’astar on àite far an robh mi a’ fuireach. Agus chunnaic mi an taigh-tughaidh ann an Àrnol, am baile-dùthchail ri taobh Bhràdhagair. Fhad ’s a bha mi aig taigh-tughaidh Àrnol thachair mi ri Coinneach MacLeòid, Bèicear Innse Gall. Cheannaich mi an leabhar còcaireachd aige a bha ri reic sa bhùth-tìodhlaic agus sgrìobh e ainm air an duilleig-aghaidh.

Chòrd an ùine ann an Alba rium cho mòr ’s gu bheil mi a’ dèanamh plana airson an ath-thurais agam mar-thà.



Ionad-Coimhearsnachd ann am Bràdhagar



Clach an Truiseil



Na Gèilleanan



Gibeagan air feansa

# Fighe aig astar

le Cam MacRae

Air làithean uabhraidh teth samhraidh 's ann tric a bhios sinn a' smaoinichadh air fuachd a' gheamhraidh. Làmhnan fuara is casan fuara. Carson nach figh sinn stocainnean gus am bi sinn deiseil?

Ged a dh'fhaodadh coltas stocainnean a bhith a' coimhead iom-fhillte; ann an da-rìribh, chan eil ann ach tuba, tuba fosgailte aig aon cheann agus dùinte aig a' cheann eile. Agus anns a' mheadhan, an t-sàil. Uill, an t-sàil. Tha eagal air feadhainn ron t-sàil, ach chan eil i cho dona ma bhios stiùiridhean soilleir agad. Agus, mar a sgrìobh tè Stephanie Pearl-McPhee, tidsear fighe ainmeil, "le bhith a' tionndadh sàil, bidh thu a' faireachdainn glic / turning a heel makes you feel smart."

Agus sin a rinn am buidheann glic "Fighe aig Astar" tro theas an Ògmhios, an Iuchair, agus an Lùnastail. Stocainnean mòra, beaga, simplidh, agus iom-fhillte. Seo na stocainnean againne:



Chunnaic mi stocainnean eireachdail mar seo ann an taigh-tasgaidh o chionn fhada agus rinn mi iad ann an snàth cotain. ~Anne



Stocainnean stiallach a rinn mi le snàth a shniomh mi le rùsg caorach Sealtainneach. Nach bi mo chasan blàth nuair a thig an geamhradh? ~Cam



Cha d' rinn mi rud sam bith a bha leòmach. Rinn am pàtran is na dathan an obair. ~Hilary



Stocainnean ioma-dathte ann an stoidhle Nirribhidh - bidh iad cho blàth 's a ghabhas sa gheamhradh. No, is dòcha gun lion Santa Claus iad le suiteas aig àm na Nollaige. ~Janice

Ma bhios thusa ag iarraidh stocainnean blàth ùra a dhèanamh ro na làithean fuara a tha a' tighinn bheir thu pàtran saor an-asgaidh, Fiddlers Elbow Socks, an seo, air Ravelry:

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/fiddlers-elbow-socks>

Agus seo bhideo air YouTube le Kristin Lehrer a bhios cuideachail dhut:

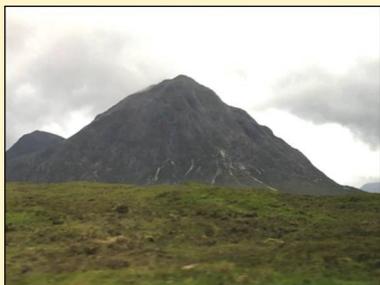
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aA0ZE52Sn4>

Figheamaid!



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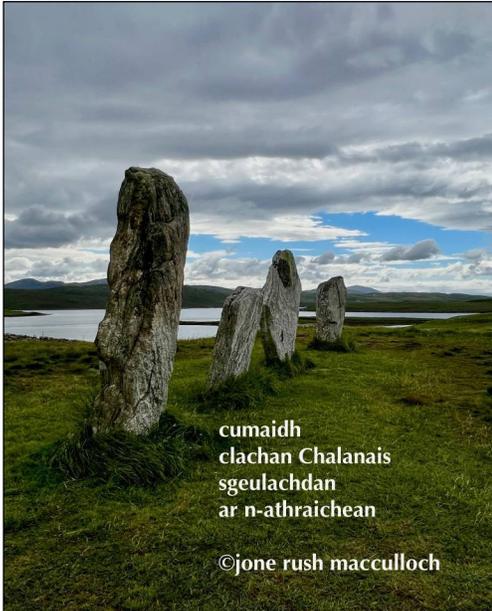
Hilary NicPhàidein

## Answer to Photo Quiz, p. 7

*Buachaille Èite Mhòr (Buachaille Etive Mor)* is a mountain at the head of Glen Etive. The Buachaille, or Great Herdsman of Glen Etive, is one of 282 Munros, mountains in Scotland that are over 3,000 feet high. Scenes from the 2012 James Bond film, *Skyfall*, were shot in Glen Etive as well as in Glencoe.

## 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 we have two poems from Jone MacCulloch illustrated by photos she took when she visited Lewis this summer. Jone, from Oregon, is a retired librarian, artist, and poet.



## Criomagan / Bits of This and That

### Gaelic Literature Awards 2022

The shortlists for the Gaelic Literature Awards 2022 include two books from Bradan Press. Angus MacLeod’s graphic novel *Às a’ Chamhanaich* is shortlisted for The Highland Society of London Prize for Best Fiction Book. Morag Ann MacNeil’s translation of *Mòr-thubaist aig na Geamannan Gàidhealach* by Riel Nason is on the shortlist for Best Book for Children/Young People. The full list of shortlisted books can be found at <https://www.gaelicbooks.org/the-gaelic-literature-awards-2022-shortlists> The winners will be announced on September 15.

### *Às a’ Chamhanaich*

If you’ve read Angus MacLeod’s graphic novel *Às a’ Chamhanaich*, or even if you haven’t, you might enjoy hearing Angus read his stories in this audio book version available on YouTube. The video includes time stamps for each story.

<https://youtu.be/jCbQYJ07ACw?t=1> [1:18:44]

### The Portable Fairy Hill

In July of this year, Michael Newton spoke over Zoom at an event held by the Association for Scottish Literature. You can watch Michael’s talk, “The Portable Fairy Hill: Scottish Gaelic Storytelling in the Highlands and the Nova Scotian Diaspora,” as well as the question and answer session which followed, on this YouTube link. <https://youtu.be/C8ofXqsB6Jg?t=1> [1:21:18]

# A Bharrachd

## Dugald McFarland's Charm

Here's the charm about nine of Calum Cille's miracles that Jamie MacDonald read in June at ACGA's Latha Chalum Chille event (see page 8). Jamie tells us that the handwritten original of this charm, known as "Dugald McFarland's Charm," is kept at the North Carolina State Archives. Written down about 1750, the writing is fading now and is very difficult to read. Gaelic scholar Ronald Black made the following tentative transcription and tentative translation.

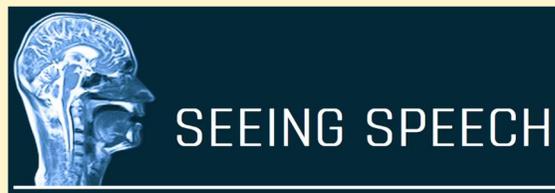
In the name of the father, son and Holy Ghost.  
na naoi. Uba seo air a h-uile mìr  
a dh'òrdaich Calum Cille, is rinne[adh]  
naoi dùile mìorbhaileach, nì a ch-  
cuir brìgh sna facail seo air  
an t-sùil bhig agus air an t-sùil mhóir  
air a' chridhe a chì 's nach beannaich.  
Naoi beanna is air naoi  
glinn, naoi cona seanga  
sìthe th' aig sìthiche thun a' bhaile  
ud thall. Gun tog e dhiotsa, I.D.,  
gach sùil 's gach tnu 's gach  
farmad, is S[ùil]. Le Dia as cumhachdaile.

In the name of the Father, of the Son,  
And of the Holy Ghost.  
"The Nine."  
This is a charm for every part  
That St. Columba ordained,  
And nine miraculous elements were made  
Which is what has put substance in these words:  
Upon the little eye  
And upon the big eye,  
Upon the heart which sees but blesses not,  
Nine mountains and upon nine glens,  
May nine slender fairy hounds that a fairy possesses  
Go to yonder township.  
May he protect you, I.D.,  
From each eye and each jealousy and each envy  
Along with God the most powerful.

---

Ronald Black's text and translation may be found in Ronald Black, "The Nine: A Scottish Gaelic Charm in the North Carolina State Archives," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, LXXXIV, No. 1 (January 2007) p. 37-58.

## A Website to Watch



### *Teangannan na Gàidhlig / Gaelic Tongues*

This website is different than the ones we usually feature here, but the research being done on "tongue movement during the production of Gaelic and English words and phrases" is fascinating!

Take a look at what they're learning here: <https://www.seeingpeech.ac.uk/gaelic-tongues/> ...and read more about the research in this article from BBC Alba: <https://www.bbc.com/naidheachdan/62296368>

# Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

## **An t-Sultain 2022 / September 2022**

### **Cèilidh Oidhche Haoine Bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidh, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, September 16, 2022**

Please join us on Friday, September 16 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 (CGT's Friday Night Ceilidhs) for updates on our Ceilidhs and links to lyrics, ideas for future ceilidhs and more. Simply fill out the form at the link below 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.

<https://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html>

## **An Dàmhair 2022 / October 2022**

### **Celtic Colours International Festival, throughout Cape Breton Island, October 7-15, 2022**

Forty-eight concerts and 200 community events, including Cathy Ann MacPhee, Mary Jane Lamond, Dàimh, Beòlach and Ashley MacIsaac. See <https://celtic-colours.com/> for the full schedule and ticket information.

### **Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2022 / The Royal National Mòd 2022, Perth, Scotland, October 14-22, 2022**

Fringe concerts, shows, ceilidhs, exhibitions and competitions will take place across the city between October 14 and 22. Tickets available through Horsecross Arts box office, <https://tinyurl.com/2022royalmod>

### **Cèilidh Oidhche Haoine Bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidh, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, October 21, 2022**

Please join us on Friday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m. EDT for our Friday Night Online Ceilidh. Come prepared with your Gaelic songs, stories and poems. See September entry for registration details.

## **An t-Samhain 2022 / November 2022**

### **Cèilidh Oidhche Haoine Bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidh, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, November 18, 2022**

Please join us on Friday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m. EDT for our Friday Night Online Ceilidh. Come prepared with your Gaelic songs, stories and poems. See September entry for registration details.

## **An Dùbhlachd 2022 / December 2022**

### **Cèilidh Oidhche Haoine Bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidh, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, December 16, 2022**

Please join us on Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. EDT for our Friday Night Online Ceilidh. Come prepared with your Gaelic songs, stories and poems. See September entry for registration details.

## **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 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](mailto: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

*An Clas Camelon* is a thriving community of Gaelic learners based in the village of Camelon near Falkirk in Scotland. Throughout the year, the group offers Gaelic song and language workshops on Zoom. The workshops have been taught by the likes of Gillebride MacMillan, Maeve MacKinnon, Joy Dunlop and Robert Robertson just to name a few. For more information or to register, email [anclascamelon@gmail.com](mailto:anclascamelon@gmail.com) or see the group's FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1107654493032641>

### Gaelic Song Sharing on Meetup

Gàidhlig Photomac hosts a song sharing session most months. 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.

### 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 [naidheachd@acgamerica.org](mailto:naidheachd@acgamerica.org)

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

Please keep in mind the following deadlines:

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

# 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 (via Zoom)

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

on <https://www.meetup.com/Gaidhlig-Photomac/>

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

### **Washington**

#### **Seattle**

Slighe nan Gàidheal

Online Classes & Informal Study Groups

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

### **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 at [naidheachd@acgamerica.org](mailto:naidheachd@acgamerica.org)

## ACGA Officers

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Jeff Justice  
[webmaster@acgamerica.org](mailto:webmaster@acgamerica.org)

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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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