

# An Naidheachd Againne

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Dè bu chòir do neach-ciùil, tidsear agus cleasaiche trang dèanamh nuair a bhuaileas galar mór-sgaoilte oirn agus chan eil luchd-èisteachd beò no conaltradh aghaidh ri aghaidh ceadaichte? 'S e sin an suidheachadh anns a bheil Gillebrìde Mac 'IlleMhaoil agus an seo, tha e ag innse dhuinn mar a tha e a' cumail air adhart leis an obair aige a thaobh na Gàidhlig.

What is a busy musician, teacher and actor to do when a pandemic strikes and there is no longer the possibility of live audiences or face-to-face contact? That's the situation that Gillebrìde MacMillan finds himself in, and here, he tells us how he is continuing to work on behalf of Gaelic.

## Nach ann oirn a tha an dà latha!

le Gillebrìde Mac 'IlleMhaoil

### 14mh dhen Ghearran

Cha b' e buileach Là Naomh Bhaileantain àbhaisteach a bh' agam am-bliadhna agus mi a' fàgail an dachaigh ann an Glaschu gus sgèith gu Èirinn gus cùrsa Gàidhlig a theagasg anns an Omaigh. Anns a' chàr a fhuair mi air màl, dh'eist mi ri prògram anns an robh eòlaiche-saidheans a' mìneachadh mar a bheireadh galar-sgaoilte COVID-19 buaidh air a h-uile mac-màthar againn am-bliadhna. B' e sin ga rìribh a' chiad turas a bhuail an naidheachd orm ach cha robh mi fhathast buileach a' tuigsinn na buaidh sin.

## What a difference a day (or a pandemic) makes!

by Gillebrìde MacMillan

### 14th February

It was a typical St Valentine's Day for me this year as I jetted off to Ireland to teach Gaelic at a weekend school in Omagh. In the hire-car I picked up at the airport I listened as a scientist explained how the COVID-19 pandemic would affect each and every one of us this year. That was really the first time that the news of the pandemic had hit home though I really didn't understand the importance as yet.



Gillebrìde Mac 'IlleMhaoil

Robin Mitchell

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

## 10mh dhen Mhàrt

Oidhche mhòr ann an Glaschu le Gàidheil na h-Alba agus na h-Èireann a' tighinn còmhla gus seachdain Fhèill Pàdraig a chomharrachadh sa bhaile. Eadar an ceòl is na h-òrain cha robh dad air bilean an t-sluaigh ach “dè do bheachd air a' chorònbhioras?” Aig an àm, bha e fhathast fada gu leòr air falbh 's gun ach deannan dhaoine ann an Alba air fullang leis – fada gu leòr air falbh 's gum b' urrainn dhuinn gàire a dhèanamh mu ‘Teann a-nall 's thoir dhomh do làmh’ agus cho mì-iomchaidh 's a bha an t-òran sna làithean ud.

## 14mh dhen Mhàrt

Bha mi a' seinn agus a' cleasachd ann an dealbh chluich ‘Endling’ a bha a' dol air chuairt air feadh Alba an t-seachdain an dèidh sin. Bha a' chiad oidhche air a dhol gu math ach le fìor bheagan san luchd-èisteachd, bha na naidheachdan ge-tà a' sealltainn dhaoine a' sabaid mu phasta is mu phàipear an taigh-bhig. Agus nochd an naidheachd...gun robh a' chuairt againn dheth a chionn 's gun robh daoine air earbsa a chall ann a bhith a' dol a-mach agus nach robh sàbhailteachd air a ghealltainn tuilleadh.

Nach neònach mar a tha a' chuimhne a' dol agus mi a' faicinn nan ìomhaighean sin nam inntinn gu soilleir chun an latha an-diugh. An toiseach chaidh na clasaichean aig an oilthigh air-loidhne, nochd òrain agus ceòl Gàidhealach fon taga #covidceilidh.

Dhomh fhìn dheth, bha cuirmean air an cur air dòigh agam tron t-samhradh agus chuir mi romham na b' urrainn dhomh a dhèanamh air-loidhne. Eadar ceilidhean le seinn is sgeulachdan air an aithris bha e air leth tlachdmhor a bhith a' faighinn cothroman coinneachadh ri daoine ris nach coinnicheadh tu gu bràth gu h-àbhaisteach. Agus chuir sinn air dòigh cèilidhean far nach robh ach Gàidhlig air a bruidhinn – bha mi a' fàs sgìth de chèilidhean gun dad ach na h-òrain ann an Gàidhlig – agus bha e na thlachd gun robh ùidh aig mòran dhaoine san leithid agus ar cànan a neartachadh. Math agus gun robh iad – ach an sgìths! 'S dòcha gu bheil an aois a' laighe orm ach gach turas a dhèanainn cèilidh air loidhne bhithinn claidhte an ath mhadainn.

Nuair a tha thu a' seinn agus a' bruidhinn ri daoine aghaidh ri aghaidh bidh thu a' faighinn spionnadh bhon chòmhradh, bhon chàirdeas bhon taic – tha sin gu math eadar-dhealaichte air-loidhne. Chan eil thu a' faighinn an aon fhaireachdainn nuair a chì thu daoine a' bualadh am basan ach nach cluinn thu dad agus tha

## 10th March

A big night in Glasgow between Scottish and Irish Gaelic with a ceilidh to celebrate the week of festivities running up to St Patrick's Day. Between the songs and the music sets all talk was on “what do you think is going to happen with this whole business?” At that time, it still felt far enough away with only a couple of people in Scotland with the virus – far enough away to make jokes about how inappropriate the Gaelic song ‘Teann a-nall 's thoir dhomh do làmh / Come over and hold my hand’ was in these times!

## 14th March

I was singing and acting in a play, ‘Endling’, which was due to tour throughout Scotland the following week. The first night at the Eden Court Theatre in Inverness had gone well, if the audience numbers were low. The news were showing pictures of people fighting over pasta and toilet-paper but Inverness was detached from the madness. And then the news which we had all expected came, the tour was cancelled as ticket sales had slumped with people deciding not to go out, and promoters fearful of the safety implications.

Isn't it strange how memory works as I see these three images imprinted on my mind. At first, university classes moved online and then Gaelic songs and traditional tunes popped up on the hashtag #covidceilidh.

For myself, I had had gigs and concerts booked for most of the summer, so I decided to try my hand at moving these online. Ceilidhs with singing and



Gillebrìde Biorntail / Virtual Gillebrìde

storytelling provided a wonderful way to meet people with similar interests – many of whom I would never normally get the chance to meet. And I also arranged ceilidhs where Gaelic was the language of delivery – I wanted to make Gaelic the language of the stories and not just of the songs. I was particularly encouraged by the number of people who wanted to take part and watch the Gaelic ceilidhs. But 4-hour ceilidh marathons are certainly tiring! Maybe I am just showing my

age now but every morning after a ceilidh the night before I would be exhausted. When you sing in front of a live audience you get a buzz from the feedback from the audience and from the interaction – that is quite different in an online setting as the feedback from silent applause takes time to

daonnan eagal ort gun caill thu an ceangal – co-dhiù leis an eadar-lìon lapach agamsa aig an taigh.

Mar sin, math agus gu bheil cèilidhean air-loidhne – agus bidh iad ann bho seo a-mach anns an t-saoghal ùr againn - bidh mise co-dhiù a’ dèanamh fiughar ris an latha a thèid againn a dhol gu cèilidhean aghaidh ri aghaidh, gu fèisean aghaidh ri aghaidh agus càirdeas a chumail ri chèile air falbh bho sgrìon. Tha iomadh buannachd anns an eadar-lìon ach nach math a’ Ghàidhlig bhlàth bhreagha a bhruidhinn agus a chluinntinn às aonais ‘unmute’ no ‘Zoom’ no dad eile tighinn dhan chòmhradh!

filter through! And there is always the fear of a connections dropping – especially with my fragile Glasgow internet.

Therefore, enjoyable and worthwhile as online ceilidhs are – and they will continue in the new-normal – I am certainly looking forward to the day when we can have face to face interaction again at ceilidhs and festivals and be able to maintain and develop relationships away from the screen. The internet has many great benefits for Gaelic but it will be great to hear and speak Gaelic without having words such as ‘unmute’ and ‘Zoom’ as part of the conversation.

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## August 2020 Officers Election

The ACGA Board of Directors met on Sunday, August 9, 2020, and elected its new President, Liam Cassidy, who succeeded outgoing President Michael Mackay. Jeff W. Justice was re-elected for another term as Vice-President. Congratulations to both Liam and Jeff, who will be leading ACGA into 2021.

We also welcome new board members Reese McKay and Eileen Walker.

### 2020 ACGA Board of Directors

**President**

Liam Cassidy

**Vice President**

Jeff Justice

**Treasurer**

Mike Mackay

**Board Members**

Shannon Duncan

Reese McKay

Cam MacRae

Barbara Lynn Rice

Eileen Walker

## 2020 US Virtual National Mòd

On November 7, ACGA will hold its first ever US Virtual National Mòd on Zoom.

Categories include:

- ◆ Beginner and Advanced Song
- ◆ Poetry Recitation from the works of Flòraidh NicPhàil in *Maraiche nan Cuanan*
- ◆ Storytelling
- ◆ Original Poetry

ACGA welcomes our virtual adjudicators Gillebrìde Mac 'IlleMhaoil and Rachel Walker. We hope everyone can join as a spectator or participant.

More information, as well as registration details, will be found at [www.acgamerica.org](http://www.acgamerica.org) as it becomes available.

## Litir bhon Cheann-Suidhe

le Liam Ó Caiside



## Letter from the President

by Liam Cassidy

A Chàirdean Còire,

Seo a' chiad litir bhuam mar cheann-suidhe a' chomainn seo. An toiseach, feumaidh mi taing a thoirt do Mhicheal MacAoidh, a bha na cheann-suidhe romham agus na charaid iomadh bliadhna. Feumar taing cuideachd a thoirt do bhuill a' bhùird-stiùiridh, agus taing mhòr dhuibhse, a chàirdean, airson an taic a thug sibh uile dhan chomann fad nam bliadhnaichean.

Tha mi caran diùid innse dhuibh dè cho fada air ais 's a thàinig mi gu ACGA. Còrr air deich bliadhna fichead air ais (no trithead bliadhna, mar is cumanta a ràdh an-diugh), nuair a bha mi a' fuireach ann am Baile New York agus dìreach a' tòiseachadh air a' Ghàidhlig. Tha mi air a bhith an sàs ann an ACGA bhon uair sin (sgriobh mi mo chiad alt anns an iris seo an 1990).

Is beag an rud e sin ge-tà. Seo an rud as cudromaiche: dè nì mise - gabhaibh mo leisgeul, *sinne* - anns an àm ri teachd? Is neònach an t-àm a th' againn, gu dearbh. Mar a thuirt Micheal na cholbh an-uiridh, "Is ùrachadh atharrachadh." 'S dòcha gu bheil sibh uile seachd searbh sgìth leis na h-atharrachaidhean a thàinig oirnn am-bliadhna am measg a' choròna-bhìoras. Tha agus mise.

Ach gheibhear cothromman ann an atharrachadh, chanainn. Tha an saoghal ag atharrachadh agus feumaidh sinn atharrachadh còmhla ris agus cothrom-ùrachaidh a ghlacadh nuair a thigeadh an cothrom thugainn. Agus seo an cothrom: Ged nach fhaod sinn cruinneachadh ri chèile, aghaidh ri aghaidh, guailnean ri chèile, faodaidh sinn cruinneachadh air loidhne.

Agus 's e sin a rinn sinn as t-samhradh nuair nach b' urrainn dhuinn tighinn ri chèile ann an Carolina a Tuath airson seachdain tumaidh cànan agus òrain Ghàidhlig aig Beinn Sheanair. An àite sin, thàinig còrr is dà fichead neach gu tachartas biortail barraichte a chuir an comataidh ri chèile tro mheadhan Zoom - mòran taing dhaibh air sin!

Seo an rathad a tha romhainn - feumaidh sinn tuilleadh a dhèanamh air loidhne airson na ballrachd againn agus airson luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig, agus

Dear Friends,

This is my first letter to you as president of this society. First, I must thank Michael Mackay, who was president before me and has been my friend for many years. Another thanks must go to the members of the board of directors, and a big thanks to you, friends, for your support for the society throughout the years.

I'm a bit shy to tell you how far back I came to ACGA. More than ten years and twenty ago (or thirty, as it is more common to say now), when I was living in New York City and just starting to learn Scottish Gaelic. I've been involved in ACGA since then (I wrote my first article for this journal in 1990).

But that's a small thing, anyway. This is the most important thing: What am I - excuse me, what are we - going to do in the time to come, the future? These are strange times, indeed. As Michael said in his column last year, "Change is renewal." Perhaps you're fed up with the changes that have come on us this year amid the coronavirus. Me too.

But with change opportunities are found, I'd say. The world is changing and we have to change with it and seize opportunities for renewal when the chance comes to us. And this is the opportunity: Although we cannot gather together person to person, shoulders together, we can gather online.

And that's what we did this summer when we couldn't come together in North Carolina for a week of immersion in Scottish Gaelic language and song at Grandfather Mountain. Instead, the Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week committee organized an excellent virtual event through the medium of Zoom - and many thanks to them!

That's the road before us - we must do more online for the membership and for Scottish Gaelic

coimhearsnachdan-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig, air feadh Aimeireagaidh a' Chinn a Tuath.

Faodaidh mise a ràdh gun tig Mòd Naiseanta nan Stàitean Aonaichte air ais am-bliadhna air loidhne, ann am mìos na Samhna. Tha sinn ag obair air prògramman Zoom anns am bi sinn a' bruidhinn ri daoine air cuspairean inntinneach agus farsaing. Agus tha sinn ag obair cuideachd air prògram ùr tabhartais airson luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig.

Cluinnidh sibh tuilleadh bhuainn a dh' aithghearr, gu h-àraid mu dheidhinn a' Mhòid agus Coimhearsnachdan Ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig. Anns an eadar-ama, 's e mo dhùrachd gum biodh sibh cho slàn ri breac, cho sona ri bròig, agus cho sàbhailte ri bhith ann an seòmar glaiste 's an iuchar air chall!

Le dùrachdan,

*Liam Ó Caiside*

Ceann-suidhe, ACGA

learners, and Scottish Gaelic learning communities, throughout North America.

I may say that we will have an online US National Mòd this year in November. We are working on Zoom programs in which we will speak with people on interesting and broad topics. And we are also working on a new grant program for Scottish Gaelic learners.

You'll hear more from us soon, especially about the Mòd and Gaelic Learning Communities. In the meantime, may you be as "healthy as a trout," "happy as a shoe," and "safe as a thing in a locked room, and the key lost!"

Respectfully,

*Liam Ó Caiside*

President, ACGA

## North Carolina Virtual Regional Mòd

The first virtual North Carolina Regional Mòd was held on the Zoom platform Friday, July 9, 2020, with adjudicators Màiri Britton (Scotland and Cape Breton) and Wilma Kennedy (Scotland). Thirteen singers from around the United States and Canada participated. There were no prescribed songs, and each person sang a song of their own choosing. The scores for both Gaelic and music were very close amongst the competitors, and each singer was given valuable feedback from the two experienced adjudicators.

Special thanks to Shannon Duncan for organizing the Mòd, and to Danielle and Ellen for technical assistance.

Winners of the 2020 North Carolina Virtual Mòd are:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Mary Traywick (NC)  | Ann an Caolas Od Odrum |
| 2 Eve Gordon (WA)     | Eilean a' Cheò         |
| 3 Cynthia Knight (VA) | Òran an Ròin           |

Other participants, in alphabetical order were:

- |                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ellen Beard (VA)         | Niall MacAoidh is a Sgioba           |
| Caroline Bennett (NY)    | Laoidh Fhearchar Eòghainn            |
| Krista Casada (AR)       | Sìos dhan an Abhainn                 |
| Doha Chabot (NC)         | Òran an Ròin                         |
| Penny DeGraff (WA)       | 'S e Tìriodh an t-Eilean as Bòidhche |
| John Grimaldi (NY)       | Carson a Bhios Sinn Muladach         |
| Cathleen MacKay (VA)     | Guma Slàn do na Fearaibh             |
| Emily McEwan-Fujita (NS) | Dèan Cadalan Sàmhach                 |
| Rudy Ramsey (CO)         | Àirde Chuain                         |
| Barbara Rice (NY)        | A' Bhanarach Chaoin                  |

Bu toil leinn meal an naidheachd a chur air a h-uile duine!



Uill, thàinig latha na bainnse agus abair sealladh! Bha bean na bainnse agus fear na bainnse ann, bha Aoife is sluadh de shìthichean ann. Bha an Draoidh Mòr ann is aodaich iongantach air nach fhaca na foghlaimtich a-riamh roimhe. Ach, bha fear eile am measg nan aoighean. Cò bha sin?

## Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig

le Liam Ó Caiside

### Caibideil a h-Ochd Deug: Pàirt a dhà

*“And, bending o’er his harp, he flung  
His wildest witch-notes on the wind...”*

— Glenfinlas, or Lord Ronald’s Coronach, by Walter Scott

Ged a bha iad air chois anmoch, dhùisg a h-uile duine anns a’ chaisteal tràth sa mhadainn. ’S e Latha na Bliadhna Ùire a bh’ ann, agus latha na bainnse.

Chruinnich iad uile san talla. Bha an Draoidh Mòr ann, ach chan fhaca Iain athair neo Aoife, sìtheanaich bheaga neo sìtheanaich mhòra. Thàinig Nighean an Sgàthain a-steach còmhla ri a leth-pheathraichean, agus shuidh iad còmhla ri chèile air taobh thall an talla, faisg air an Draoidh Mhòr. Thug an nighean grad-amharc air Iain, shaoil e, agus chuir i meuran ri a sròn a’ dèanamh samhla ann an cainnt-sanais nan draoidh: “FAN.” Agus cha robh rud eile aige ri dhèanamh.

Bha na h-aoighean a’ bruidhinn mu dheidhinn na bainnse, agus na draoidhean, sean agus òg, mu Mhac na h-Oidhche. Chaidh Iain a shàrachadh leis na ceistean a dh’fhaighnich na gillean òga dha, ach cha robh freagairt aige airson gach ceist. Bha iad fo fhiamh air Nighean an Sgàthain co-dhiù, agus air sgàth sin, air Iain, gu ìre.

“An tàinig i à Èirinn an cruth calmain?” dh’fheòraich Ceann-Cleiteig dheth gu farmadach. “Thàinig i ann an cruth na faoileige, ach bha i ann an cruth calmain nuair a thachradh sinn,” ars Iain. “An e nighean Mac na h-Oidhche a th’ innte an da-rìreabh?” thuirt Niall mo Nuar. “’S e” ars Iain. “Thuirt iad gun do chuir i geas air an Draoidh Mhòr fhèin,” arsa Mac Mhanainn. “Bu thoil leam sin fhaicinn!”

“Chan e cùis-ghàire a th’ ann,” arsa Ladhar Beag, am foghlaimte as sine. “Tha ur maighstir fo gheasaibh do charaid, ’Ille Dhuibh,” thuirt e ri Iain. “Chan eil fhios againn dè bhios sin a’ ciallachadh, neo dè bhios a’ teachd a-nise.” “Tha fhios againn cò bhios a’ tighinn,

Mac na h-Oidhche,” arsa Calum mo Chreach. “Ach dè fon ghrèin a nì sinn?” Cha robh deagh fhreagairt air bith aig na balaich.

Mu dheireadh ’s mu dheoghaidh, thàinig àm na bainnse. Chaidh iad uile a-mach gu clobhsa a’ chaisteil. Bha an t-àite loma-làn leis na h-aoighean agus na sìtheanaich. Sheas iad uile ann an cearcall a’ coimhead a-steach gu làr a’ chlobhsa. Bha rud ann nach fhaca Iain roimhe – clach mhòr chruinn le mullach rèidh. Shaoil e gun deach a togail às an talamh lom. Bha seann-litreach oghaim a’ ruith mu thimcheall na cloiche, a’ measgachadh le ìomhaighean àrsaidh Chruithneach: na h-eòin, bradain, sgàthan agus cirean, tuirc, coin, agus uilebheistean mara. Cha b’urrainn do dh’Iain ach beagan den ogham na cloiche a leugh: “Leaba Sgàthaich.”



Thàinig an Draoidh Mòr a-mach agus leum e suas air a’ chlach. Bha e còmhdaichte ann an dòigh nach fhaca Iain riamh roimhe – an àite aodach Gàidhealach neo aodach duine bheartaich, bha lèine fada gorm air, agus crios airgid mu mheadhan. Air a ghuallean, cleòca ioma-dhathach a rinneadh de dh’iteagan eòin, agus air a cheann, clogaid mhòr òrach ann an cruth cinn eòin, le gob fada, a’ dearsadh mar lasair anns a’ mhadainn shoilleir gheamhraidh.

Chunnaic Iain gun robh draoidhean eile nan seasamh air adhart bhon chearcall: Am bàrd air an taobh tuath, an sagart air an taobh an iar, am ministear air an taobh an ear, agus gu deas, Bhrìd Mhòr Each, na còta a bha còmhdaichte le iteagan cuideachd. Bha cruit bheag na làimh, agus thòisich i a’ seinn ciùil cho binn ’s gun dùsgadh e a’ ghrian às a suain an dubh na h-oidhche.

Thog na draoidhean eile an làmh, agus thuir iad faclan fon anail nach cualar aig daoine eile, agus dh'èirich daraich mhòra às an talamh air an cùlaibh. Dh'fhàs iad nam bileachan làn duillich ann am prioba na sùla. Bha na h-aoghean air fad fo gheugan ùra nan darach air a' mhadainn ghrianach shamhraidh, fada bhon gheamhradh. "Abair draoidheachd!" thuir Mac Mhanainn ri Iain.

An uair sin, chuala iad gliongan aotrom, agus thàinig Aoife a-mach às na craobhan, geug nan ubhal na làimh, agus thàinig gliongan bho na h-ùbhlan airgid agus òir a bha air bàrr gach meangan. Às a dèidh thàinig Gormfhlaith, Fearbhlaith, Dearbhlaith, agus aig an deireadh, Nighean an Sgàthain.

Theab gun do leum cridhe Iain na bheul nuair a chunnaic e i. Dheàrrs i na shùilean mar reul na maidne. Thug Gormfhlaith ceum gu mullach na cloiche, agus sheas i ri taobh a h-athar. Lean Aoife i, ach dh'fhuirich na cailleagan eile gu h-ìosal fodhpa.

An sin, chuala iad sgàl nam pìob, agus thàinig fear na bainnse, an Dòmhnallach, a-mach às na craobhan le a bhràthair, Ladhar Beag. Choisich iad dhan chloich, agus leum an Dòmhnallach suas. Bha e na sheasamh a-nise ri taobh an Draoidh Mhòir. Thuit tost air gach fear agus bean, duine agus sìtheach.

Chuir an Draoidh làmh a nighinn ann an làmh a fhoghlaimteach, an Dòmhnallach, agus phòs e iad le beagan faclan. Dh'fhaoidte gun deach iad gu eaglais air choreigin uair eile agus gun do phòs iad a-rithist, ach chan eil fhios agam. Ach bha iad pòsta anns an t-seann-nòs agus ann an sùilean nan draoidhean, co-dhiù.

Bu thoil leam a ràdh gun d' rinn iad banais mhòr a mhair latha agus bliadhna, ach cha d' rinn. Bha an càraid ùr fhathast nan seasamh air Leaba Sgàthaich nuair a mhothaich a h-uile duine a' ghaoth ag èirigh, agus chaidh sgòthan eadar iad agus a' ghrian. Dh'fhalbh an samhradh draoidheil agus thàinig an geamhradh air ais. Gu h-obann, fhuair Iain Nighean an Sgàthain air a thaobh. "Thàinig an t-àm, agus tha an duine a' tighinn," chagair i ris.

Chuala iad ceòl clàrsaich air a' ghaoith, ceòl àrd, meatailteach a bha searbh agus milis aig an uair cheudna. Bhuail trom sgìos Iain a chuir a cheann ann an tuaineal. Chunnaic e mòran de na h-aoghean a' tuiteam ann an laigse far an robh iad nan seasamh. Thuislich e ach dh'fhairich e teas an uair sin a chaidh dìreach troimhe. 'S e Nighean an Sgàthain a bh' ann, a gàirdeanan uime ga chumail air a chasan. "Dùisg,

'ille, dùisg! 'S e draoidheachd m' athar a th' ann! Feumaidh sinn strì agus na dèan gèilleadh! Dùisg!"

Dh'èirich an Draoidh Mòr na leum agus mar eun mòr chaidh e bho Leaba Sgàthaich suas gu balla a' chaisteil. Sheas e os cionn an geata, mar iolair a' dìon a nead. Ruith iomadh draoidh agus sìtheanach suas na staidhrichean dha na caisealachdan, Iain agus Nighean an Sgàthain nam measg, agus sheas iad còmhla ris an Draoidh Mhòr, agus choimhead iad a-mach thairis na drochaid sheang.

Cò a chunnaic iad air taobh thall na drochaid ach fear beag cruinn le feusag fhada bhàn, na shuidhe air clachan, a' seinn air clàrsaich a bha na bu mhotha na a chorp fhèin. Cha b' ann an aodach an latha a bha e còmhdaichte, ach ann an lèine cròch agus cleoca.

Stad e, chuir e a mheuran fada air na teudan, agus sheall e suas. Rinn e glag-gàire gharbh. "Tha thu ann fhathast, mo pheata-feannaige, a' spalpadh air do spiris àrd!" a thuir e ris an Draoidh Mhòr. "Ach tha thu a' cur nan itean, tha mi faicinn."

"A sheana-choilich," fhreagair an Draoidh Mòr, "cha do mhilsich an aois do theanga. Chan eil annad ach eun aonaranach a dh'fhàg an ealt aige fad air ais, agus a dh'fhàg gliocas na dhèidh cuideachd. B' fheàrr dhut a dhol dhachaigh dha do nead fhèin, gun tighinn air ais a dh'Alba agus a Sgoil nan Eun gu bràth."

"Mo nead fhèin?" arsa an Draoidh Èireannach. "Ach b' fheàrr leam gu mòr an nead a tha romham! Agus gach ugh beag agus mòr a th' ann! Tha mi faicinn ugh beag a ghoid thu bhuan, ach tha mi coma co-dhiù," thuir e, a' coimhead air Nighean an Sgàthain. "Leig a-staigh mi, agus thoir dhomh iuchair gach seòmair dìomhair, oir 's ann agam a bhios Sgoil nan Eun agus a h-uile rud innte."

"Cha tig thu a-staigh an taigh mo mhàthar a-rithist tuilleadh," dh'èigh Aoife, a bha na seasamh ri taobh an Draoidh Mhòir. "Aoife!" thuir an Draoidh Èireannach. "Is truagh nach do dh'fhuirich thu anns an t-sìthein gus an d' ràinig mi an-raoir. Chum do rìghsa na dorsan dùinte cho fada 's a b' urrainn dha, ach tha iad briste a-nise."

"An aithne dhuit a' chlàrsach seo, a bhan-thighearna? Thug mi às an t-sìthein i, nuair a theich do rìgh agus a dhaoine-shìth. Seo a' chlàrsach a bha aig Aillén Mac Midhna nuair a dh'ionnsaigh e Teabhair o chionn fhada, agus a loisg e an dùn

sin bliadhna às dèidh bliadhna, air Oidhche Shamhna, dìreach mar a loisgeas mise Sgoil nan Eun, mur a gèill sibh dhomhsa an-dràsta fhèin.”

“Is mòr do bhòst, ach cuimhnich dè thachair do dh’Aillén Mac Midhna, agus an seòrsa crìoch a thàinig air,” thuirt an Draoidh Mòr. “O tha mi cuimhneachadh,” thuirt an Draoidh Èireannach, “ach càite am faigheadh tu Fionn Mac Cumhail an latha an-diugh? Tha Fionn agus a ghaisgich marbh, agus tha Sgàthach agus Coibhidh air falbh thar chuan.”

Nuair a bha e bruidhinn, leum cuideigin air adhart. Athair Iain a bh’ ann, agus bha sleagh bhiorach ghathach na làimh. Thilg e an sleagh air an Draoidh Èireannach cho luath ’s mar gun robh e a’ sgèith tron adhar mar dhealanach. Ach cho luath ’s a thilg e an sleagh, leum an draoidh gu taobh. Sgoilt an sleagh a’ chlach far an robh e na shuidhe. “Fhuair thu gath a’ ghaisgich, gun ghaisgeach ga thilgeadh!” dh’èigh e, a’ gàireachdainn is a’ bocadaich.

“Cha b’ ann ach rabhadh, an rabhadh deireannach,” thuirt an Draoidh Mòr. “Thalla agus falbh, a Mhic na h-Oidhche, mar tha thu ainmichte a-nise. Tha oidhche gun latha a’ feitheamh riut. Tha doras na sgoile dùinte romhad, agus tha na ballaichean ro threun dhut, le orthannan làidir Sgàthaich agus Coibhidh orra. Agus chan urrainn dhut, mar tha fios agad, tighinn a-steach air sgèith.”

“Mac na h-Oidhche!” thuirt an draoidh eile. “Bidh oidhche agus latha aig barran mo mheuran a dh’aithghearr. Ach tha thu ceart, chan urrainn dhomh doras neo ballaichean na sgoile a bhriseadh leis an draoidheachd bho chd a th’ agam. Ach gu dè am feum? Tha iuchair agam. Tha i faisg air làimh. Dh’fhosgail i an doras.”

Thòisich Mac na h-Oidhche air seinn air a’ chlàrsaich a-rithist, agus leig Nighean an Sgàthain ospag a bha cruaidh aiste. Chaidh a gairdeanan suas, agus sheall i air Iain agus sgeun na sùilean. “Is tighe fuil na uisge, agus is treasa an ceangal eadar mi fhìn agus m’ fhaileasag bheag, mo nighean, na d’ orthannan, a phreachain ghrànnda!” dh’èigh an Draoidh Èireannach. Bha an nighean ag èirigh suas san adhar a-nise, a’ crith mar a bha fiabhras oirre. Dhùin i a sùilean, agus leig i sgread oillteil aiste.

Ann an tionndadh na boise, leum Gormfhlaith, Fearbhlaith, agus Dearbhlaith a-steach agus tharraing iad an nighean a-nuas. Chum iad grèim làidir oirre. Thàinig Aoife agus theann-ghlac i

Nighean an Sgàthain ri a h-uchd.

Chaidh Iain gan cuideachadh ach nuair a bhean i riutha fhuair e clisg a chuir a cheann fo a chasan. Chuala e beuc uamhasach. Bha Mac na h-Oidhche na sheasamh aig bun na drochaid. Bha a’ chlàrsach aige air a bhristeadh na bhloighean, agus gheàrr na teudan uèir geur a aodann. Bha a làmhnan a’ losgadh. Chuir e a làmhnan ri chèile agus le brag dh’fhalbh e às an t-sealladh.

Gu mall, leig peathraichean Nighinn an Sgàthain a’ chaileag air an ùrlar. “Tha thu fortanach,” thuirt Aoife ri Iain. “Chuir a h-athair a neart uile innte, agus ise a-staigh anns a’ chaisteal mar tha, ag obair troimhpe gus na h-orthannan a bhios gar dìonadh an seo a bhriseadh. Theab gun d’ rinn e sin, agus gun do mharbh e a nighean. Nan glacadh tu i nad ghàirdeanan, mar bu thoil leat, bhiodh tu marbh a-nise.”

“Ciamar a tha i? Ciamar a shàbhail sibh i? Am biodh i ceart gu leòr?” ars’ Iain.

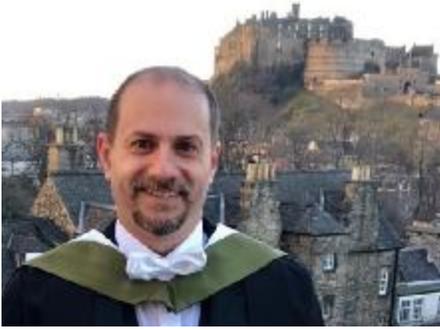
“Bidh. Tha i na suain an-dràsta. Bha Mac na h-Oidhche ud ceart nuair a thuirt e gur e fuil a bu treasa na uisge, agus thug an ceangal eatarra cumhachd dha. Ach dhìochuimhnich e gu bheil fuil am màthar a’ ruith tro chuislean nan nighneagan seo, agus nam chuislean cuideachd. Fuil Sgàthaich. Agus is treasa boinne dhi na gach braon na chorp.”

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Shuidh an sgeulaiche air ais anns a’ chathair, agus leig e osna. Bha solas na grèine ag èirigh thar nam beann, agus ceò na camhanaich a dh’èirich.

“Chan e sin deireadh na sgeòil,” thuirt Calum. “Chan e,” thuirt an sgeulaiche. “Dè thachair do Mhac na h-Oidhche? An do mharbh iad e?” dh’fhaighnich Eòghann. “Cha do mharbh, agus bidh tuilleadh ri ràdh mu Mhac na h-Oidhche,” ars an sgeulaiche. “Taing do Shealbh gun robh Nighean an Sgàthain agus Iain sàbhailte,” thuirt Èilidh. “Tha iad sàbhailte a-nise, ach thig gu leòr chunnartan dhaibh fhathast,” fhreagair an sgeulaiche.

“Thigibh air ais feasgar an-diugh,” thuirt e. “Bidh oidhche eile againn ag innse na sgeòil seo, naidheachd nach cuala duine beò riamh roimhe. Chì sinn a-màireach dè am beachd a bhios agaibh air Iain agus Nighean an Sgàthain, an Draoidh Mòr, Aoife, agus Mac na h-Oidhche.”



## Litir à Dùn Èideann bhon Taigh Agam

by Jeff W. Justice

A chàirdean,

One year ago, who would have thought that we would be in this predicament? Looking over comments from friends on social media, many of us wish we could travel to distant lands or anywhere, for that matter, that falls outside the four walls of our homes. I have had to content myself with traveling vicariously, through the photos I have taken on trips over the years. I actually have a couple of decent quality snapshots I took while going through the Real Mary King's Close in Edinburgh. This exhibition takes visitors under the current City Chambers to a mediaeval close (a very narrow "street" where the buildings are very close together, hence the name) now covered by the modern buildings built on top of it. Among the things they show visitors is the way Edinburgh's citizens lived and dealt with the bubonic plague outbreak that killed about one-third of Europe. No, we have not seen nearly as drastic a death toll around the world, but still... COVID-19 is our plague.

So, we continue to work and "gather" over Zoom and other video conferencing platforms. I have even seen members of conversational groups coin a new Gaelic verbal noun: "a' Zoomadh." The pandemic forced our conversations online, and it instantly felt like Gaelic has found a new life for itself. I would be willing to wager that I am the only person within about a 100-mile radius of my current home who can speak Gaelic to any degree. I have struggled to learn this language for many years. One of the obstacles I have faced has been no real community with which I could speak it. Writing is one thing; we have email and social media. Speaking it live with another human being has been another, at least until this pandemic struck. While I was living in Edinburgh, I took part in a circle that was a short walk from Princes Street Gardens, and my skills grew quickly due to human interaction in Gaelic. Misneachd, a Gaelic promotion group in Scotland, staged a series of Pop Up Gaidhealtachd events in local pubs, which were very well-attended, and those provided additional opportunities to speak in our language. As soon as I had to move back to America, my skills atrophied. The brain "muscle" has to have exercise to maintain itself, just like the rest of our muscles do.

Regular readers of *An Naidheachd Againne* no doubt know of Grandfather Mountain's move to a virtual setting this summer. Work and other considerations kept me from attending in person in years past, something I regret, but the virtual setting gave me a chance to participate somehow for the first time. I was not alone. To be sure, we do need to meet in-person again when this mess is finally behind us, and we will. However, there was also a consensus that the virtual Gaelic community, now budding, must continue and be nurtured as it does.

Gaelic social media groups went into overdrive with the recent publication of Conchur Ó Giollagáin's (*et al.*) controversial *The Gaelic Crisis in the Vernacular Community*. The book suggests that the language is in severe danger of dying due to a lack of transmission of it from generation to generation and also, more relevantly, that it is hardly used as a means of daily communication. Many speakers and learners changed their social media profile names to a Gaelic spelling, and many even began posting largely or entirely in Gaelic, complete with the hashtag #DèAnTAinmATHort? I have recently begun reviewing the book for purposes of my own research. I can certainly see why some Gaels take umbrage at the research team's findings, and I have my own (ahem) concerns about their lengthy, detailed study.

Nonetheless, one thing at the beginning struck me, and that was the comment questioning whether Gaelic could survive in a postmodern world. They defined postmodernism as a situation where things are taken from their previously understood contexts and reconsidered in situationalist terms. Yes, prior work shows that the geographical space occupied by Gaelic has shrunk over the centuries. What cannot be in doubt is that Gaelic's space has grown in a cyber-geographical sense, and it has done so very quickly over these months of lockdowns, *astarachadh sòisealta*, and wearing masks. At least online, we can still speak to one another with

our faces uncovered, if we so choose. Speaking for myself, I know my own skills in understanding and using the spoken language have grown markedly, and this is largely due to these online conversation circles.

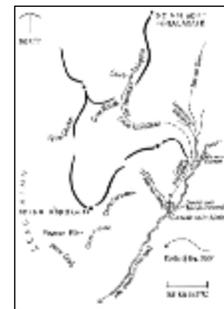
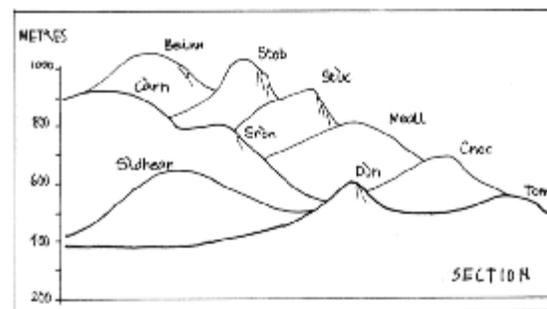
Will this online community continue? I certainly hope so, but it will take the efforts of all of us to keep it going when we do return to “normal” (whatever that will be). We will need to recruit more participants. We will need to spawn new circles. Gaelic may well have found in cyberspace the space it has lacked in the real world, and we can only hope that this move online will have a boomerang effect with the language being used again in real spaces, once we do return to them.

*Tha mi an dòchas, co-dhiù.*

Le meas,

*Gairidh | Jeff*

## John Murray Book Discussion Event



John Murray discusses his new book *Reading the Gaelic Landscape / Leughadh Aghaidh na Tìre* in an online event, delivered in Gaelic and English.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020, from 12:00pm – 12:45pm EDT

This event is hosted in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council and the National Library of Scotland, and will be a Gaelic-English event suitable for fluent speakers and learners.

Registration is free through EventBrite:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reading-the-gaelic-landscape-with-john-murray-tickets-118431962187](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reading-the-gaelic-landscape-with-john-murray-tickets-118431962187)

For a review of this book, see the Spring 2020 issue of *An Naidheachd Againne*.



## Oisean a' Ghràmair / The Grammar Nook

by Wayne Harbert

### Scary Things About Gaelic (STAG): The Story of A, Chapter 1

It's April as I write this (deep in self-exile, of course. I am sure – or at least I hope – that you all are hunkering down as well), but it will probably be June before I venture out. And it's raining, so I can't even spend time in my garden. That convergence of circumstances reminds me of a little rhyme. Can you guess which one? No, not that one. I was actually thinking of the opening lines of the Canterbury Tales:

Whan that Aprill with his shoures soot  
The droghte of March hath perced to the root...

Chaucer's language is removed from the English I'm writing in by several centuries, but, aside from a few differences in spelling and pronunciation, it isn't so far from what we speak now as to be unintelligible. The first line translates as: When April with its showers sweet.... As a syntactician, I get hung up on little puzzles like "How is it that Chaucer can start out a clause with *when* and follow it up with the sentence-introducing particle *that*?" (We syntacticians call sentence-introducing particles like *that* 'complementizers'). In Modern English, we can't have both. A clause can begin with *when*, or it can begin with *that*, but it can't begin with both. Chaucer, but not we, could get away with:

No drynke **which that** myghte hem dronke make

So, are there other languages that let you say 'when that...'? Well, yes. In fact, you are learning one of them. In Gaelic, 'When I was young...' is *nuair a bha mi òg*, with the little particle *a* corresponding to Chaucer's *that*. This particular *a* (there are, alas, others) appears as the second element of all kinds of subordinate clauses. Besides *nuair a*, it shows up after *ged* 'although' (*ged a bha mi òg* 'although I was young'), *fad* 's' 'while' (*fad 's a bha mi òg* 'while I was young'), *cho fad* 's' 'as long as' (*cho fad 's a bha mi òg* 'as long as I was young'), *am feadh* 's' (*am feadh 's a bha i a' coiseachd* 'as she was walking'). And it shows up after most question words: *Ciamar a tha thu?*, for example. And *carson a tha thu...?* and *Cò mheud ugh a tha thu ag iarraidh?* 'How many eggs do you want?' and so on. (Chaucer could use *that* after question words too, as in: Tel me **what that** ye seken 'Tell me what you seek'.)

Some things to know about this *a*:

1. First, it is pronounced /ə/ (that is, roughly, 'uh') – when it is pronounced at all. Which brings us to thing-to-know number-two:
2. Remember that in Gaelic, in general, unstressed vowels tend to be deleted when they are next to other vowels. Some question words, like *cò* 'who' and *dè* 'what', are not followed by *a*: *Dè tha thu ag iarraidh?* It is arguable, though, that *dè* and *cò* really are followed by *a*, but that it is unpronounced after them because they end in vowels. We can in fact show this to be the case: when we add a word after the *dè* or *cò* that ends with a consonant, the *a* reappears: *Dè am fear a...?* 'which one?', *Cò am boireannach a...* 'Which

woman?’ *Cùin’ a dh’èireas tu?* ‘When do you get up’ is often (but not always) written as if it were the final vowel of *cùine* that gets deleted, rather than *a*. Hard to tell which one is missing, though, since they are both pronounced the same. We can similarly surmise that the conjunction *ma* ‘if’ is also followed by an *a* in phrases like: *Ma tha i òg* ‘if she is young’, but that this *a*, too, gets gobbled up by the vowel before it. Why should we think so? That question brings us to thing-to-know numbers three and four:

3. The particle *a* causes the consonant following it to undergo lenition. This is why ‘when you sing’ is *nuair a sheinneas tu*, with lenition of the *s*. And *a* causes a *dh’* to grow in front of a vowel following it: *nuair a dh’èireas tu* ‘when you arise’
4. And, finally, this *a* is followed by the independent form of the verb most of the time, EXCEPT if the verb is in future tense. In that case, the verb appears not in the regular independent future form (*seinnidh*, for example), but in the special relative future form (*seinneas* for example). The relative future form can be recognized because it ends in *-(e)as*.

Since we’re this far down the rabbit hole, I might as well point out that the second person pronoun doesn’t show up as *thu* after these relative future forms, but as *tu*. (I’ll talk about why this is in a future essay). Which brings us back to *ma* ‘if’. It turns out that *ma* behaves in exactly the same ways as *a* in every one of these respects (causing lenition, taking independent forms of verbs, and requiring the relative future): *Ma sheinneas tu* ‘if you sing’. We can explain this if we imagine that *ma*, like *ged*, is followed by an *a*, but that this one gets gobbled up by the vowel in front of it.

So, that’s the story of *a*. Just one more thing: most dictionaries will tell you that *a* as a relative pronoun. It’s not really, I think. After all, look at all the examples we’ve just discussed, which don’t seem to involve relative clauses. *A* does, however, play an important role in the formation of relative clauses in Gaelic. That, though, is a whole ‘nother story. So, next time, I’ll offer you an essay on dealing with troublesome relatives. *Ma thogras tu*.

## Seanfhacal na Ràithe

Do you know what familiar Gaelic proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 21 to see if you’re right.



“Glide” by Dr. Rawhead.  
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Tha an reasabaidh seo a' tighinn thugainn bho Molly MacRae. Ann an *Heather and Homicide*, an ath leabhar aice san t-sreath Highland Bookshop Mysteries, tha fear Basant Paudel, an duine a tha an sàs anns a' bhùth ann an Inversgail, a' leasachadh an reasabaidh seo. Nach eil mac-meanmna math aig Basant!

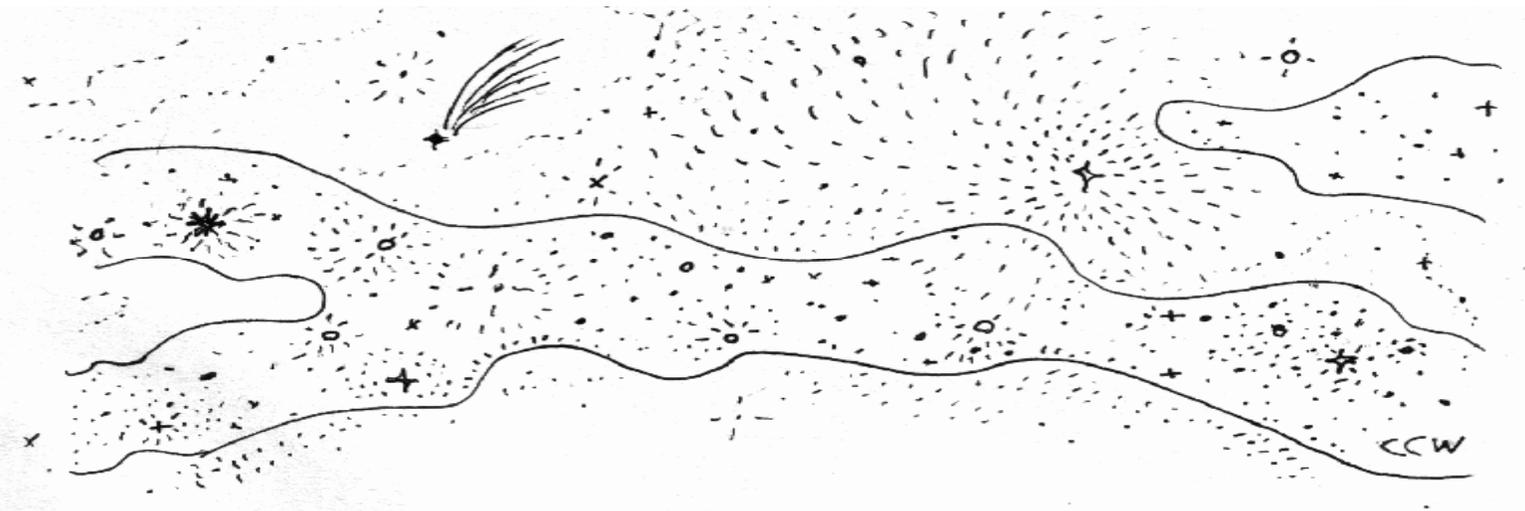
This recipe comes to us from Molly MacRae. In *Heather and Homicide*, the next book in her Highland Bookshop Mystery Series, Basant Paudel, who runs the convenience store in Inversgail, is developing this recipe. Doesn't Basant have a good imagination!

## Cèic Speur na h-Oidhche

*"Speur na h-oidhche air a shoilleireachadh le slighe de ghathan-gealaich agus rionnagan boillsgeach."*

## Night Sky Cake

*"The night sky brightened by a path of moonbeams and sparkling stars."*



Ro-theasaich an àbhainn gu 350° F  
Cuir ìm air pana cheart-cheàrnach meud 9 gu 13 òirlich agus dust le còco e.

Preheat oven to 350° F  
Butter a 9"x13" pan and dust with cocoa.

### A' Chèic

1 ½ chupa min-fhlùir  
1 chupa siùcair  
1/3 cupa còco  
½ spàin-tì salainn  
2 spàin-tì càrdamoin  
1 spàin-tì sòda-fuine  
1 chupa uisge  
1/3 cupa ola glasraich  
1 spàin-tì brìgh almoin  
1 spàin-bhuird fion-geur

### Cake

1 ½ c. flour  
1 c. sugar  
1/3 c. cocoa  
½ tsp. salt  
2 tsp. cardamom  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 c. water  
1/3 c. vegetable oil  
1 tsp. almond extract  
1 tbsp. vinegar

Measgaich a' mhin-fhlùir, an siùcar, an còco, an càrdamon, an sòda-fuine, agus an salann. Cuir ann an t-uisge, an òla, am fion-geur, agus brìgh almoin. Dòirt am measgachadh dhan phana ullaichte.

Whisk together flour, sugar, cocoa, cardamom, soda, and salt. Add water, oil, vinegar, and almond extract. Pour into prepared pan.

### An Lìonadh

8 unnsaichean mascarpone  
1 ugh  
¼ cupa siùcair

### Filling

8 oz. mascarpone  
1 egg  
¼ c. sugar

Co-mheasgaich am mascarpone, an t-ugh, agus an siùcar gus am bi iad mìn.

Stir mascarpone, egg, and sugar together until they are smooth.

## Am Barradh

8 unnsaichean mascarpone  
1 chupa siùcair fùdair  
1 chupa iogairt Greugach lom  
1 spàinn-tì brìgh almoin  
1 spàin-bhùird faoineig  
Bleideagan salainn Himalaidheach  
airson crathadh, ma thogras tu

Nuair a bhios a' chèic a' bruich measgaich na grìtheidean (ach a-mhàin an salann Himalaidheach) gus am bi iad mìn agus aotrom. Cuir am barradh anns an fhuaradair gus am bi a' chèic fionnar.



Molly MacRae

## Frosting

8 oz. mascarpone  
1 c. powdered sugar  
1 c. plain Greek yogurt  
1 tsp. almond extract  
1 tbsp. vanilla extract  
Himalayan flake salt for sprinkling  
(optional)

While the cake is baking, mix all ingredients (except for Himalayan flake salt) until smooth and creamy. Refrigerate until cake is cooled.

## Gus a' chèic a chur ri chèile

- 1 Dòirt leth an taois ann am pana ullaichte.
- 2 Cuir slagan dhen lìonadh an siud 's an seo air an taois.
- 3 Dòirt an còrr dhen taois thairis air an lìonadh.
- 4 Bruich airson 25-30 mionaidean (gus an tig bior-fhiacaill steigte sa chèic a-mach glan).
- 5 Leig leis a' chèic fuarachadh gu tur mus gearr thu ann an ceàrnagan i.
- 6 A' smaoinichadh air coltas Sgrìob Chlann Uisnich, sgaoil pàilteas dhen bharradh air gach pìos dhen chèic.
- 7 Crath bleideagan salainn gu tearc air an Sgrìob Chlann Uisnich agad (ma thogras tu).

## To assemble

- 1 Pour half the cake batter into prepared pan.
- 2 Dollop filling evenly over batter in pan.
- 3 Pour remainder of batter over filling.
- 4 Bake 25-30 minutes (until toothpick stuck in cake comes out clean).
- 5 Cool completely before cutting cake into squares or rectangles.
- 6 Thinking about the Milky Way, spread a generous swath of frosting over each cake piece.
- 7 Sprinkle your Milky Way sparingly with flake salt (optional).



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!



Jeff Justice

## Photo Quiz

Who wrote the poem on this planter, and where in Scotland can this planter be found?

The answers are on page 25.

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

## Seachdain Òrain is Cànan na Gàidhlig, 2020

le Laura Clarke-Steffen

Is mise Laura. 'S e Brodie an t-ainm a bha air athair mo mhàthar. Rugadh mo sheanair an dèidh dha pharantan tighinn gu Canada. Agus 's e Gordon an t-ainm a bha air seanair m' athar. Dh'ionnsaich mi seo nuair a bha mi òg. Bha sinn moiteil às an dualchas Albannach againn. Ann an 2014 leugh mi *Outlander* agus chunnaic mi "Outlander" air an TV. An uair sin bha mi ag iarraidh a bhith ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig.

Ann an 2015 chaidh mi chun a' chiad Seachdain Òrain is Cànan na Gàidhlig agam ann am Beinn Seanair. 'S e fèin-fhiosrachadh iongantach a bha ann. Bha daoine eile ag iarraidh Gàidhlig ionnsachadh cuideachd. Bha a h-uile duine càirdeil agus cuideachail. Bha na tidsearan dìoghrasach, cruthachail, agus foighidneach. Chaidh mi chun a' chiad chèilidh agam.

Am-bliadhna, chaidh mi gu Beinn Seanair "Biortail". Ann an 2020 bha tidsearan sgoinneil ann, bha cèilidh ann, bha na h-oileanaich càirdeil, agus bha na clasaichean dìreach doirbh gu leòr cuideachd. Am-bliadhna cha do bhruidhinn sinn ris na tidsearan agus na h-oileanaich eile aig fois chofaidh agus aig biadh. Bha mise ag ionndrainn sin.

'S e na clasaichean le daoine fhèin a bha làn beartais. Ach bha na clasaichean "biortail" nas fheàrr dhomh airson 's gun robh iad na b' fhasa. Agus cha robh agam ri bhith a' siubhal seachd ceud deug mìle gu Carolina a Tuath. Agus cha robh agam ri bhith a' faighinn cuideigin gus coimhead às dèidh mo theaghlach. Dh'ionnsaich mi mòran agus lorg mi caraidean anns na clasaichean "biortail". 'S e cothromach a bh' ann eadar an dà sheòrsa teagasg.

My name is Laura. My mother's father was a Brodie. He was born after his parents came to Canada. And my father's grandmother was a Gordon. I learned this when I was a child. We were proud to be Scottish. In 2014 I read *Outlander* and I saw "Outlander" on TV. Then I wanted to learn Gaelic.

In 2015, I went to my first Grandfather Mountain Song and Language Week. It was a wonderful experience. There were other people wanting to learn Gaelic too. Everyone was friendly and helpful. The teachers were enthusiastic, creative and patient. I went to my first ceilidh.

This year I went to the "virtual" Grandfather Mountain. In 2020, there were brilliant teachers, a ceilidh, friendly students and challenging classes too. This year we did

not talk with teachers and other students on breaks and at meals. I missed that.

The classes with people were the best. But the virtual classes were better for me because they were easier. I did not have to travel 1700 miles to North Carolina. And I did not have to find someone to care for

my family. I learned a lot and I found friends in the virtual classes. It was a fair trade-off.



Language Class with Màiri Britton at 2020 Virtual Gaelic Song and Language Week

## Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, 2020

by Taylor Ashlock

This year's online Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language week was a great success! I had never been able to travel to North Carolina to attend, so I was thrilled when I heard the week would be offered online. I was also nervous because, although I had taken the year-long Gaelic course at the University of Edinburgh, ten years had passed without any meaningful amount of practice speaking or writing. I was a bit of an outlier in the group as a twenty-something from the West coast and first-time participant, but I felt very welcome from the beginning. I already have plans for a Gaelic Zoom chat with two fellow participants, and hope that the success of this week will lead to more online Gaelic speaking for others who are not able to attend in-person conversation groups or classes. I was impressed by how smoothly the week went, and cannot say

enough “mòran taing”s to Shannon Duncan for organizing and Zoom hosting the week, and to all who helped to make the week possible.

Our instructors were Màiri Britton for language, and Wilma Kennedy for song. In the song classes, Wilma sang the songs for us, shared a bit about the context and meaning of each text, went through the pronunciation, and then led us through the songs. I was amazed at how many songs we were able to learn and enjoyed hearing about the historical context and the song texts. It was also fascinating to hear from Wilma about her experience singing this music. I did my best to sing along, but occasionally had to turn my video off when I fell far behind in the *puirt-a-beul* or got so distracted by how beautifully Wilma was singing that I forgot to sing along! We learned a range of pieces from lighthearted to very sad, and I loved all of them. By the end of the week, I had a list of songs to continue working on, and a few new albums downloaded on my computer to add a bit more Gaelic music to my daily life.

In the language class, we learned about the Gaelic community and culture of Nova Scotia. Before this week I was aware there were Gaelic speakers there, but didn't know anything about them. The highlight of the Gaelic class was working with some of the stories from *Na Beanntaichean Gorma*, a collection of stories from Cape Breton. I enjoyed hearing Gaelic spoken by native speakers who sounded so different from those from Lewis that I heard in my last Gaelic class. Màiri also introduced us to *Gàidhlig aig Baile*, a way of learning Gaelic through immersion with an emphasis on words and structures that are most commonly used in daily conversation. My favorite part was when we learned a greater variety of responses to common questions like *Ciamar a tha thu?* to make our conversations more interesting. It was a wonderful week and I am so grateful to Shannon, Wilma, Màiri, and all who helped to create such a positive experience for us under such unusual circumstances. It was the highlight of my summer and I hope to be able to attend another Song and Language week in the future!

## Fèis Chomunn Gàidhlig Toronto, 2020

by An Phillips

Fèis Chomunn Gàidhlig Toronto was held virtually this year via Zoom, August 21–23. The festivities started off on Friday night with a ceilidh which was well attended, with around twenty people from Canada, the US and Brazil. ACGA members Cathleen MacKay and Liam Cassidy sang.

Saturday morning came with a line up of three presentations. First up was Brian Ó hEadhra who presented information regarding policies, learning, and history of Scottish Gaelic that is available on the internet. Here are a few sites of interest: Wiki/Scottish\_Gaelic, gov.scot, [www.tasglann.org.uk](http://www.tasglann.org.uk), and Bòrd na Gàidhlig. During the second segment, Brian Ó hEadhra and his wife Fionnghal NicChoinnich also taught us six songs in Scots Gaelic, Irish, Scots, and English. What a treat to hear them singing together.

Angus MacLeod of Cape Breton finished off the morning with a storytelling workshop. He started by giving us details of the four major Irish story cycles: the Mythological Cycle, the Ulster Cycle, the Fenian Cycle, and the Historical Cycle or Cycle of Kings. Angus then explained to us who “the wise fool,” Gilleasbuig Aotrom, was before immersing us in his hilarious tales. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to this presentation by Angus.

David Livingston-Lowe closed out the night with his “Gaelic in the Whisky” presentation which was more like a social visit since we were all comfortable at home and having our drink to follow along with his directions on appreciating our drink. What great fun we had.

Three more presentations on Sunday started off with Deborah Livingston-Lowe taking us on a textile adventure. I enjoyed all the photos especially the warp-weighted loom and the suit she made for a client. Also I appreciated the items she showed us, such as the *mùdag*, which is a football-shaped basket for collecting bits of wool. Great presentation.



Deborah Livingston-Lowe and her Mùdag.

Next up was Gillebrìde Mac 'IlleMhaoil with Bàrdachd Baile: Village Verse – the story of 20<sup>th</sup> century Scottish Gaelic traditional poetry. Gillebrìde discussed the bards and their poetry, and he elaborated on the differences between the bards educationally, their message, their audience, rhyme vs. free verse, etc. I could go into detail because I took two pages of notes. This presentation is not to be missed if you could ever attend. Gillebrìde wrapped up the fantastic *fèis* by teaching us eight songs.

I thoroughly enjoyed every event and so can't pick out a favorite. I am truly glad I was able to attend and I'm sure the other nineteen attendees feel the same way.

### **A' seinn ri chèile le Gàidhlig Photomac**

*le Hilary NicPhàidein*

Aig toiseach an t-samhraidh bha cothrom eile aig Gàidhlig Photomac cruinneachadh air Zoom rè àm a' choròna-bhìorais. B' ann airson a bhith "a' seinn ri chèile" a bha sinn còmhla, feasgar 27 an t-Ògmhios. Cha robh ach naoinear againn ann, ach cha robh sin gu diofar air sgàth 's gun robh a h-uile duine deiseil airson seinn no èisteachd ri òrain. Thàinig an luchd-pàirteachaidh bho àiteachan fad is farsaing a-rithist, agus chuir sinn fàilte air Michelle ann am Maryland is Shannon ann an Tennessee.

Mar as àbhaist, b' e tachartas spòrsail tlachdmhor a bh' ann. Ghabh sinn òrain, duine mu seach. Chaidh sinn ceithir tursan mun cuairt air an t-seòmar. A bharrachd air na h-òrain, chluich Cam MacRae seann fhuinn a chaidh a sgrìobhadh airson na clàrsaich air a' bhogsa-ciùil.

Mòran taing a-rithist do Liam Ó Caiside agus Caitlin NicAoidh airson an t-seisein a chur air dòigh agus airson feadhainn de na h-òrain a stiùireadh.

Gàidhlig Photomac had another opportunity at the start of the summer to get together on Zoom since the Coronavirus was still preventing us from meeting in person. The reason for the gathering, on June 27th, was for an afternoon of song sharing. There were only nine of us there, but that didn't matter because everyone was ready to sing or listen to a variety of Gaelic songs. The participants came from far and wide, and we welcomed first-timers Michelle from Maryland and Shannon from Tennessee.

As usual it was a fun and pleasant event. We took turns singing and managed to go four times around the room. Besides the songs, Cam MacRae played some old tunes originally written for the harp on her button box.

Thanks again to Liam Cassidy and Cathleen MacKay for making the session possible and for leading some of the songs.

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## **A Bharrachd**

### **Cooking anns a' Ghàidhlig**

Here's a link to a tasty BBC Alba YouTube video with English subtitles: *An Tort Apracot is Almoin aig Griogair / Gregor's Apricot Frangipane Tart*. If you try this, save us a piece!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGCcvYNxSx4>

### **Ted Neveln's Master Index**

In his review of TAIC, the Scottish Gaelic Learners' Resource, on page 23 in this issue, Ted Neveln included a link to his handy correlation of the indexes of over a dozen Gaelic teaching texts. We think it's a good enough resource to include the link a second time.

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaidhlig/ionnsachadh/correspondences/>

# Bàrdachd airson ar linn

We love it when Gaelic learners turn into Gaelic poets! Bàrdachd airson ar linn is a new 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 three very different examples: Marcas Mac an Tuairneir (Edinburgh), Eve Gordon (Washington State), and Jone MacCulloch (Oregon).

## Marcas Mac an Tuairneir

Stèidhichte ann an Dùn Èideann, bidh Marcas Mac an Tuairneir a' sgrìobhadh bàrdachd, òrain, dràma is naidheachdas ann an Gàidhlig is Beurla. Tha dà cho-chruinneachadh air a bhith aige: 'Deò (Grace Note, 2013) agus 'Lus na Tùise' (Bradán, 2016) agus a' phamflaid 'beul-fo-bhonn / heelster-gowdie' co-sgrìobhte, air fhoillseachadh ann an 2017 mus deach caisgireachd a thoirt oirre, le Tapsalteerie. Thathar an dùil ris an treas co-chruinneachadh aige 'Dùileach' aig Everttype ann an 2020. Bhuannaich e Duais Bàrdachd na Gàidhlig aig Fèis Leabhraichean Bhaile na h-Ùige ann an 2017, far an robh e air a' ghearr-liosta ceithir tursan eadar 2015 is 2019. Tha e na bhàrd air mhuinntearas aig Taigh-òsta Bhoth Mhoireil ann an Dùn Èideann.

### Cìocharan

*le Marcas Mac an Tuairneir*

Air bòrd na luinge,  
rinn e bhòidse,  
thar fairsingeachd a' chuain.

Aig uchd a mhàthar,  
ann am plaide clòtha,  
cìocharan a' dèanamh deoc.

Srùbag, srùbag.  
Gabh gach boinneag uileag,  
gabh blasad  
air bainne lanntair do thùis.

Foghidinn sna ciudhan,  
an eilean nan deuran,  
far an do nochd gach gin na cruinne.

Naoi ceistean air fhichead,  
cìreadh son snigean,  
àireamhachd gach sgillinn ruaidh.

Clambraid is cabhag  
gach gin bhoichd a' lorg,  
a cuid,  
san dùthaich ùr-nodha.

Ann an gabhaltas salach  
cùl-shràid Nuadh-Eabhraig,  
co-sheirm tàirneanaich is caoinidh.

Fan air do chasan,  
gabh ri cleachdaidhean, gnàthasan,  
gach briathar do mhuinntire ùire.

Bà thu, Bà thu.  
gabh gach boinneag uileag,  
gabh blasad  
Air bainne lanntair do thùis.

Lìon do bhrù,  
le bangaid an domhainn  
nas blàsta na garbhag is buntàta.

Tog ar lanntair as ùire,  
a-rèir meudachd matamataig,  
le luaithe na sgeulachd nad chuimhe.

Cosnaich is cosg,  
an notaichean uaine,  
gach dolar.  
Ceannaich do dhualchas air ais.

Grinnich is finich e,  
meudaich na mion-phuingean,  
dreach dathan an deilbh-tìre àrsaidh.

Cleachd thu an clò,  
son dèise chiataich do chliù,  
Clachan-lèig is boillsg de gach seòrs'.

Inns dhuinn, nach inns thu dhuinn.  
gach loidhn' ar làmh-sgrìobhainn,  
gach nòs,  
ò, chìocharain, a chruthaich ar fine.

Bhuannaich an dàn seo a' cho-fharpais Write Up North! aig Comann Sgrìobhadairean na h-Alba ann an 2015.

## Eubha Ghòrdan (Eve Gordon)

Eve, who recently retired to Washington State after living in California for many years, has been a regular attendee at ACGA's Gaelic Song and Language Week since its beginning. She wrote "A' Fàgail Carolina a Tuath" almost 20 years ago to record her thoughts as she traveled home from the event. This summer, Eve came in second at the virtual North Carolina Mòd held at the end of the week of classes.

### A' Fàgail Carolina a Tuath *le Eubha Ghòrdan*

Ged bu cheòlmhor a sheinn sinn òrain  
Ged bu bhinn a sheinn sinn ceòl  
Ged bu bhlàth ar còmhradh crìdheil  
'S ann a thèid mi dhachaidh 'nochd.

Soraidh bhuam do choilltean cùbhraidh  
Far am bith na h-eòin ri ceòl  
Shuidh sinn cruinn fo chraobh nan òran  
'Falbh a-nis do h-uile h-àit'.

Ceòl nam feadag, pìob' is clàrsaich  
Guthan ri seinn a meas nam beann  
Coibhneas càirdeal air mo chuimhne  
Tillidh sinn 'san àm ri teachd.

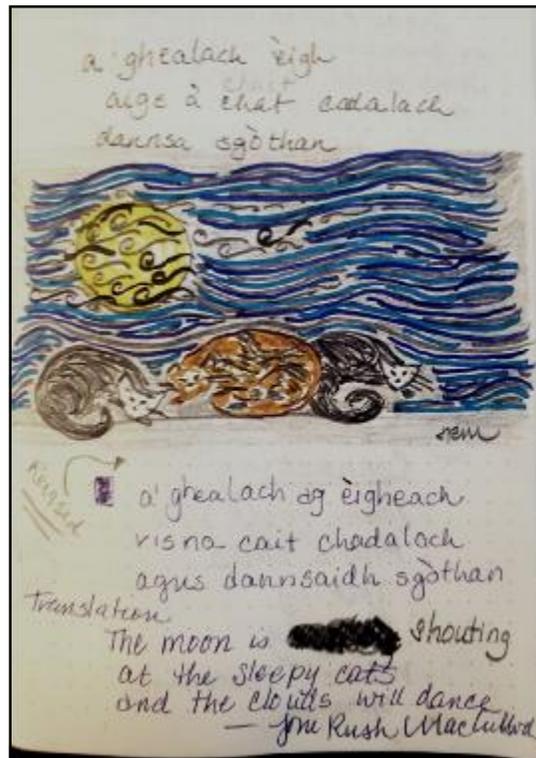
Soraidh slàn do luchd na Gàidhlig  
Anns gach àit' a' trialladh iad  
Do luchd ciùil, 's do luchd teagaisg  
Le gràdh do'n chànain anns gach crìdhe.

"Written as the author was returning home to California from the week-long Gaelic song class at Banner Elk and Grandfather Mountain, NC [July 2001]."

Reprinted from *An Naidheachd Againne*, An Geamhradh, 2001-2.

## Jone MacCulloch

Jone, a retired school librarian, is a poet and photographer who lives in Oregon. She wrote and illustrated "Tha a' Ghealach Fuar," (see *ANA*, June 2020) as a class exercise and has continued to write beautiful Gaelic poetry.



If you have written an original poem in Gaelic and would like to submit it, please email [naidheachd@acgamerica.org](mailto:naidheachd@acgamerica.org), and be sure to tell us a little about yourself. We love to read new poetry!

# Dè Tha Catrìona Ris?

Last year, before COVID-19 struck, Catrìona NicilleDhuibh / Catriona Black visited Tate Modern, in London, one of the world's largest museums of modern and contemporary art. She was there to view a show by Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson, known for his sculptures and large-scale art installations. In this bhlog, Catrìona, an artist herself, films and talks about some of Eliasson's pieces.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y5KiIVMGMc>

## Meek Lines

Professor Donald Meek, academic, editor, writer, and poet, shares his poetry on a Facebook page called “Meek Lines,” explaining that he uses Facebook “in the same way our ancestors used the oral airwaves of their own day. Songs were sung and recited far beyond the composer's original locality.” And as Meek reminds us, “Poems and songs are for sharing, and that is what gives them life.”

In that spirit of sharing (and with Professor Meek's permission), in this issue of *An Naidheachd Againne* we have again asked one of our friends to pick a poem from “Meek Lines” and tell us about it.

Here, Jamie MacDonald, long-time ACGA member and teacher and supporter of Gaelic, tells about Donald Meek's poem “Rùsgadh Dhòmhnail” and why he chose it.



'S aithne dhomh Dòmhnall Meek gu math seach gun robh e gam theagasg Gàidhlig aig Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann nuair a bha mi ag obair air a' PhD agam. 'S e Gàidhlig foirfe a th' aige a tha cho soillier agus furasta a tuigsinn, gu sònraichte airson luchd ionnsachaidh. Ged a bha fios agam gur e sgrìobhadair agus àrd-ollamh uamhasach math a bh' ann, cha robh fios agam gun robh e cho math air bàrdachd gus an robh sinn nar caraidean air Facebook. Bidh e a' dèanamh bàrdachd Beurla agus Gàidhlig an dà chuid agus ga cur air an duilleig Facebook aige. A bharrachd air bàrd, sgrìobhadair, agus àrd-ollamh, tha e na mhinistear neo-chlèireach san Eaglais Bhaisteach agus ghabh mi tlachd ann an searmon Gàidhlig no dhà a rinn e. Gheibh mi toileachas às na dàin aig Dòmhnall seach gu bheil iad dìreach às an dualchas bàird-baile. Tha am pìos bàrdachd a roghnich mi, “Rùsgadh Dhòmhnail,” na dhàn èibhinn. Sa phìos seo, tha Dòmhnall bruidhinn air nuair a chaidh e dhan bharbair airson cliop. Nì e bòsd mu dheidhinn fhuilt agus e cho àlainn agus sòghail! An uairsin tha e a' dèanamh coimeas eadar a chliop agus rùsgadh caorach a tha air leth bòidheach. As dèidh a chliop, tha fhalt air fhighhe ann an clò cho rìomhach gum bi a h-uile duine ga iarraidh. Bidh Prionnsa Tearlach agus a bhean Camilla ag iarraidh drathars air an dèanamh leis!

I am well acquainted with Donald Meek since he taught me Gaelic at the University of Edinburgh when I was working on my PhD. He has perfect Gaelic that is so clear and easy to understand, especially for Gaelic learners. Although I knew that he was an excellent writer and teacher, I didn't know that he was so good at poetry until we became Facebook friends. He composes poetry in both English and Gaelic and posts it on his Facebook page. In addition to a poet, writer, and professor, he is also a lay minister in the Baptist Church, and I have enjoyed one or two of his sermons in Gaelic. I enjoy his poems because they are straight out of the tradition of the village bard. The piece that I selected, “Donald's Shearing,” is a humorous poem. In this piece, Donald speaks about when he went to the barber for a haircut. He boasts about his hair and how beautiful and luxurious it is. Then he compares his haircut to the shearing of a prize sheep. When the barber is finished, his hair is woven into cloth so elegant that everyone wants it. In fact, Prince Charles and Camilla both want underpants made out of the material!

**Rùsgadh Dhòmhnail**  
*le Dòmhnall E. Meek*

An-diugh, a chàirdean gràdhach,  
bidh ùpraid mhòr san àite,  
nuair thèid mi chun a' bhàrbair gam rùsgadh;  
cha robh caora riamh san fhàsach  
le clòimh a bha cho àlainn,  
mar Mherino le Astràilia nam dhùthchas.

Bidh gach caileag air na sràidean  
a' sealltainn orm gu gràdhach,  
's bidh farmad orr' ag ràdh, 'Abair gruagach!  
Chan fhacas falt cho àghmhor  
no camagan cho làidir,  
's a' ghrian orra deàrrsadh gu h-uallach!

An sin nuair thig an ràsar,  
bidh am fang ud luma làn dheth,  
bidh tunna air an làr dheth, 's beag  
m' iongnadh;  
's bidh Becca às na Bàghan  
a' tighinn leis an làraidh  
gus am faigh i cuid is pàirt dheth ga dhlùthadh.

Is bidh e air a chàrdadh,  
's air a chìreadh mar as àbhaist,  
is air fhighe ann am pàtran bhios snuadh-mhor;  
bidh am Prionnsa Teàrlach  
is Camilla 'g iarraidh dràthas  
à Clò Dhòmhnail tha cho àrd agus uasal.

Bidh Isle20 sin ag ràidhtinn  
gu bheil e air an làrach,  
's gur fhiach e h-uile fàrdain dar cùmhnadh;  
is ceannaichibh e 'n-dràsda  
fhad 's a mhaireas stoc san àite –  
cha bhì a leithid gu bràth anns an dùthaich!

**Donald's Shearing**  
*by Donald H. Meek*  
*Translation by Jamie MacDonald*

Today, dear friends,  
there will be a great uproar in the place,  
when I go to the barber for my shearing;  
there was never a sheep in the wilderness  
with wool that was so beautiful,  
as an Australian Merino in my heritage.

Every girl on the streets  
will be staring at me lovingly,  
and they will be envious saying "What hair!"  
Hair so magnificent has never been seen  
or curls so luxurious,  
and the sun shining on them so proudly!

Then when the razor comes,  
that fank will be chock full of it,  
there will be a ton of it on the floor, and it is of little  
wonder;  
and Becca from the Bays will be  
coming with the truck (lorry)  
so she will get a portion and part of it in stacks.

And it will be carded,  
and combed as usual,  
And woven into a pattern that will be beautiful;  
Prince Charles and Camilla will be  
wanting drawers (underpants)  
Made out of Donald's cloth so noble and fine.

And Isle20 (web shopping site) will be saying  
that it is on the site,  
and it is worth every farthing to our conversation;  
and you should buy it now  
while it remains in stock –  
the likes of it will forever not be [found] in the  
country!



*"Glide" by Dr. Rawhead.*  
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<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>

**Answer to  
Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 12**

**Innsidh na geòidh as t-fhoghar e.**

The geese will tell it in autumn.  
(All will be revealed in due course.)



# Criomagan / Bits of This and That

## The Gaelic Literature Awards 2020 Shortlists

(titles published between May 1, 2019, and April 30, 2020, and manuscripts for books not yet published)

The prizes will be awarded on Thursday, September 17, 2020, in an online event to be broadcast on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

Duais Chomann Gàidhealach Lunnainn / Highland Society of London Prize for best work of fiction

- *Air an Oir* le Iain D. Urchardan
- *Cuibhle an Fhortain* le Mòrag Law
- *Dà Shamhradh ann an Raineach* le Graham Cooper
- *An Tiortach Beag agus Sgeulachdan Eile* le Mòrag Anna NicNeill

Duais Ruaraidh MhicThòmais / Derrick Thomson Prize for best poetry book

- *dàin nan dùil* le Deborah Moffatt
- *Nàdar de / Some Kind Of* le Pàdraig MacAoidh / Peter Mackay
- *Cluaintean Uaine: Bàrdachd le Seòras Moireach agus Dòmhnall MacIllÌosa*, air a dheasachadh le Kenny MacLeòid agus Iain G. Dòmhnallach
- *Ceum air Cheum: cruinneachadh de dhàintean nas fhaide / Step by Step: a book of longer poems* le Crisdean MacIlleBhàin / Christopher Whyte

Duais Dhòmhnail Meek / Donald Meek Prize for best work of non-fiction

- *The Highest Apple: An Ubhal as Àirde: An anthology of Scottish Gaelic literature*, air a dheasachadh le Wilson McLeod agus Michael Newton
- *Eadar Dà Shaoghal / Between Two Worlds* le Dòmhnall MacLeòid
- *Seòl Mo Bheatha: Turas eadar Croit is Eilean is Oilthigh* le Dòmhnall Eachann Meek
- *Às na Freumhan: Eachdraidh air Iomairt na Sgoileadh Gàidhlig ann an Dun Èideann 1998-2011* le Timothy Currie Armstrong

Leabhar as Fheàrr do Chloinn/Òigridh / Best Book for Children/Young People

- *Mo Ghranaidh agus an Losgann Mòr* le Màiri C. NicAmhlaigh
- *Calum agus àirne Mhoire* le Flòraidh NicDhòmhnail
- *Tintin: Slat-Rìoghail Rìgh Ottokar*, air eadar-theangachadh le Raghnaid Sandilands
- *Tintin: Ciste Chastafiore*, air eadar-theangachadh le Raghnaid Sandilands

Làmh-sgrìobhainn as Fheàrr do Chloinn/Òigridh / Best Unpublished Manuscript for Children/Young People

- *Ailig agus an Dalek Gàidhlig* le Shelagh Chaimbeul
- *Cèic airson Màiri* le Uilleam Moireach
- *Donaidh Dathach* le Gwen Bowie
- *'S toigh leam slug salach* le Ceitidh Hutton

Làmh-sgrìobhainn as Fheàrr do dh'Inbich / Best Unpublished Manuscript for Adults

- *Anns a' Chiaradh* le Rody Gorman
- *cruthan* le Nathaniel Harrington
- *Àm nan Aisling Àraid* le Robbie MacLeòid
- *Linne Dhomhain* le Alistair Paul



### Book Review:

***100 Òran le Rob Donn MacAoidh*, Ellen L. Beard (ed.)**

**Taigh na Teud Music Publishers, 2018, 210 pages**

**ISBN - 9781906804688**

*Reviewed by Rachel Walker*

Having purchased this songbook pre-COVID-19 days, and not having had time to sit and enjoy it, the opportunity to write this review came as a welcome distraction from world news amid a global pandemic.

It is always exciting to find a new songbook, so when I saw this for sale in an Oban bookshop on the west coast of Scotland, I knew I had to have it. A brief browse through the pages showed promise, with a detailed introduction with staff notation along with translations for each song – all the basic ingredients needed for a good Gaelic song resource.

Having now had time for a deeper look into the contents, this collection of 18<sup>th</sup> century songs, composed by Rob Donn, one of the most prolific Gaelic poets of his time, and expertly edited by Ellen L. Beard, is surely one of the most thoroughly researched and well-presented resources available to learners and scholars alike.

A lengthy introduction provides a background to the research, as well as an interesting insight into the melodies of the songs, the use of language, and how any edits to the Gaelic language have been made.

The book is then divided into five sections of song types, from “Elegies and laments”, to “Praise, nature and sea songs”, each with its own introduction and insight into what the section includes. Songs are laid out in an easy-to-read format, with background information provided, and clear references to sources for each melody and text, allowing the reader to further their own research should they wish. The reader is also pointed towards further analysis of the songs, which is available in Ellen L. Beard’s three-volume PhD thesis, from the University of Edinburgh library.

I’ve now spent many hours enjoying this book, and each visit reveals yet more detail. As a Gaelic singer myself, I would struggle to find a better resource for learning and understanding these songs. I would happily recommend this beautiful collection to learners and experts alike, whether they are Gaelic singers planning to sing the songs, or those with an interest in Gaelic poetry and literature.

### Website Review:



***TAIC: Goireas do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig / Scottish Gàidhlig Learners' Resource***

**[www.taic.me.uk](http://www.taic.me.uk)**

*Reviewed by Ted Neveln*

I noticed the *TAIC* website (<https://taic.me.uk/>) long ago but never investigated it. I am not sure why but *TAIC* seemed a little mysterious and wary of the use of their intellectual property. Users must eventually register and donate £5 (for me at the time roughly \$6.50). At Féis Seattle 2019, Frances Acar recommended *TAIC*, so I decided to look deeper.

The developer of *TAIC* has worked hard on it and appears to continually tweak and improve it. Once inside *TAIC* the user clicks the icons along the top to proceed. The core is 62 often lengthy lessons, plus 26 appendix documents, plus a few documents that are accessed from inside the lesson documents. Embedded sound files accompany most of the examples thus creating a huge body of written and spoken material. It goes into a depth of grammatical and usage detail comparable to Ronald Black's *Cothrom Ionnsachaidh*. The examples and exercises are well-constructed, and the audio files are clear.

The drills usually appear in double columns and are read horizontally rather than vertically which I found oddly hard to get used to at first. Some chapters are quite long and would benefit from sub-chapter headings. For that matter *TAIC* could use a good index, and the table of contents is visually hard to read since it is slammed inside a thick slab of a grid. (I wrote a brief index which can be found here: [www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaidhlig/ionnsachadh/correspondences/](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaidhlig/ionnsachadh/correspondences/)). There are handy hot-linked cross-references inside the chapters. The typography and layout are legible, but I think that an expert layout and design artist could improve readability as has been done for the second edition of books such as *Everyday Gaelic* by Morag MacNeil.

*TAIC* is full of grammatical terminology. For instance, "In the situation where the verb takes a preposition then the sequence is finite verb + verbal noun + preposition + subject." My wife loves terminology, while I just try to absorb the auras. *TAIC* sometimes uses terms that are unfamiliar to me. "Word order reversal" is how it dubs the phenomenon that everybody else calls "nominal inversion." *TAIC* has three chapters on passive constructions and it gives the most formal one first.

Separate lessons are devoted to *aig*, *dèan*, *le*, and *do/dha* plus another on how to render the English word 'to' into Gàidhlig. I already (sort of) knew the idiom *Chaidh aig Calum air sin a dhèanamh* 'Calum was able to do that' but the *aig* chapter taught me that I can also say, *Tha dol agam air d' fhaicinn thall an-sin* 'I am able to see you over there'. An accompanying note says that the future is more normal for this present construction. *TAIC* often explains how to use different constructions to say equivalent things and there are many notes about the situational context of those constructions. It is a treasure-trove of usage examples.

Fully paid access opens the *Tuilleadh* sub-domain (T+). This is a group of 21 articles with three levels of proficiency. Each article has its own extensive glossary. Each article is linked to a detailed grammar topic which may be much longer than the article. Each has an audio narration and several have *only* narration with a brief English synopsis. So if you want to learn every word in *Pigcasso, a' Mhuc Thàlantach*, you need to listen intently and check the glossary. They have varying quantities of hover-text that provide an instant English translation. Some stories have a choice between slow and conversational replay speed. I loved the story of the gull that was rescued from a vat of curry. Many stories demonstrate an interest in poisonous creatures or art or environmental issues and one has a curious punctuation mark called an interrobang which merges the question mark with the exclamation point. In T+ I learned that

"Bha feum aca ri bhith sàmhach - They needed.. / They had.. to be quiet". Just leave out the *feum* and you have the idiomatic "Bha aca ri bhith sàmhach - They had to be quiet".

Full registration also unlocks the *Tomhas* sub-domain (T?) which contains word games.

The "taster" includes access to the first ten lessons, but it is the latter materials that show off the rich constructions and idioms of *TAIC*.

The bottom line is that this is a densely packed store of language knowledge even without T+. *TAIC* is an intense tool and useful for learners who want to become fluent.

These are the details from the *TAIC* website:

A login gives you access to the entire *TAIC* site with some limitations. Login credentials remain active for two months after which time continuing use is subject to a suggested donation of £5.

Donations are processed by PayPal and can only be made within the TAIC site.

More information regarding donations is available on the page following your login.

Site administration tasks are dealt with weekday mornings only (Scottish Time). Any correspondence outwith that period will be acknowledged the next weekday morning.

To receive a temporary user name and password to try the site free of charge for two months, email [fios@taic.me.uk](mailto:fios@taic.me.uk).



## A Website to Watch



### An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach

Well, you probably already know about ACGA's website, but did you know that among all the other resources available there, you'll find an archive of old issues of *An Naidheachd Againne*? Recently added issues stretch back into the 1980s and include some familiar names.

Click on: <http://www.acgamerica.org>  
Look for "ACGA Newsletter Archive" under "Organization" in the menu and enjoy!



*Jeff Justice*

## Answers to Photo Quiz, p. 14

Iain Mac a' Ghobhainn and Rose Street, Edinburgh.



## Fall 2020 Course Offerings

### Zero to Gaelic by Slighe nan Gàidheal

These courses are offered online via Zoom. All times are Pacific time.

- For more information about fees and to register see [www.slighe.org/gaelic-classes](http://www.slighe.org/gaelic-classes) as it becomes available or email [geoffrey@gaelicseattle.com](mailto:geoffrey@gaelicseattle.com).
- These classes are based on a “school year” program so it is best to start at the first class and not try to join at a later date.
- Classes are offered through Slighe nan Gàidheal [www.slighe.org/gaelic-classes](http://www.slighe.org/gaelic-classes).

#### Beginner Level

This program meets virtually two Saturdays a month for 1.5 hours a session, from 11:30am - 1:00pm Pacific time. There are 14 sessions in total on the following dates:

October 10 and 24, 2020	January 9 and 23, 2021
November 14 and 21, 2020	February 6 and 20, 2021
December 5 and 19, 2020	March 6 and 20, 2021
	April 3 and 17, 2021

#### Beginning Conversation

This course will run for 10 Saturday mornings from 9:00am - 11:00am Pacific time.

October 10 - December 19, 2020 (no class November 7).

### Other classes offered through Seattle Central College

All classes are via Zoom. Instructor: Geoffrey Sammons

#### Scottish Gaelic 1

October 5 - November 30, 2020 (no class November 9), 6:30pm - 8:30pm Pacific time.

<https://learnatcentral.org/lifelong-learning/language-travel-classes/scottish-gaelic-1/>

#### Ancient Monuments of Scotland & Ireland

September 30, 2020 (one session), 6:30pm - 9:00pm Pacific time.

<https://learnatcentral.org/lifelong-learning/language-travel-classes/monuments-scotland-ireland/>

#### Ireland: Beyond the Usual

October 7, 2020 (one session), 6:30pm - 8:30pm Pacific time.

<https://learnatcentral.org/lifelong-learning/language-travel-classes/ireland/>

#### Scotland: Beyond the Usual

October 28, 2020 (one session), 6:30pm - 8:30pm Pacific time.

<https://learnatcentral.org/lifelong-learning/language-travel-classes/scotland/>

#### The Romans in Scotland

November 4, 2020 (one session), 6:30pm - 9pm Pacific time.

<https://learnatcentral.org/lifelong-learning/language-travel-classes/romans-in-scotland/>

# Dè Tha Dol?

## Gaelic Events

### **An Dàmhair 2020 / October 2020**

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

Celtic Colours will be live-streamed with some pre-recorded events. Keep watching <https://celtic-colours.com/> for information as it becomes available.

#### **An Comunn Gàidhealach Mòd Air Loidhne / Virtual National Mòd, October 2020**

An Comunn Gàidhealach are delighted to announce that they will be holding an online version of Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail. The event will take place during October and allow our Gaelic community to celebrate and showcase our language and music. <https://www.ancomunn.co.uk/air-loidhne/en>

### **An t-Samhain 2020 / November 2020**

#### **Mòd Nàiseanta Aimearagaidh Air Loidhne / ACGA Virtual U.S. National Mòd November, 2020**

An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach will hold the U.S. National Mòd via Zoom the weekend of November 7. See <http://www.acgamerica.org> for more information as it becomes available.

## On-Going Events

#### **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, An Cùrsa Inntrigidh / Gaelic Entry Course**

An Cùrsa Inntrigidh is a supported distance learning Gaelic course for complete beginners and learners with a little Gaelic. The emphasis during learning is on speaking and listening skills, but reading and writing skills are also an important part of the course. For complete information see

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/an-cursa-inntrigidh>

#### **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, An Cùrsa Adhartais / Advanced Gaelic Course**

An Cùrsa Adhartais is aimed at intermediate level learners whose goal is fluency in the language. It is a Distance Learning course which normally requires a minimum of two years to complete and is broadly equivalent to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's An Cùrsa Comais. For complete information see

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/an-cursa-adhartais>

#### **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 \$20/6 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

## Arizona

### Tucson

Classes

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

## California

### Sacramento Area

Classes

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

## Colorado

### Boulder

Study Group

Sue Hendrix [susan.hendrix@colorado.edu](mailto:susan.hendrix@colorado.edu)

<http://moosenoodle.com/language/boulder/>

## Denver

Conversation Group

Monthly at Stella's Coffee Shop

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

## San Luis Valley

Daily Gaelic

Skype-based online private lessons and classes,  
and email courses

<http://www.gaidhliggachlatha.com>

Find us on Facebook

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

## Illinois

### Springfield

Study Group

Bill McClain

217-854-7918

<https://tinyurl.com/SpringfieldILLGaelic>

## Maryland

### Baltimore

Study Group

<https://tinyurl.com/BaltimoreGaelic>

Rick Gwynallen [Rgwynallen@yahoo.com](mailto:Rgwynallen@yahoo.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

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

## Virginia

### Warrenton

Local in-person and via Skype

Michael Mackay [mackay@progeny.net](mailto:mackay@progeny.net)

## Northern Virginia-Washington, DC-Maryland

Gàidhlig Photomac

Gaelic Learning Community

Regular workshops and social events

Join us on [www.Meetup.com](http://www.Meetup.com)

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

## Washington

### Seattle

Classes & Study Groups

Slighe nan Gàidheal

Classes are on-site in Lake City neighborhood.

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

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

<http://www.slighe.com>

## Canada

### British Columbia

#### Vancouver

Classes

Comunn Gàidhlig Bhancoubhair

Email [Vancouvergaelic@gmail.com](mailto:Vancouvergaelic@gmail.com)

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

## Ontario

### Toronto

Classes

Comann Luchd-Ionnsachaidh Thoronto

Gaelic classes & private tutoring via Zoom

<http://www.torontogaelic.ca>

## Québec

### Montréal

Study Group & Celtic choir

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,  
[naidheachd@acgamerica.org](mailto:naidheachd@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.
- <http://forum.acgamerica.org/>, our collection of conversational forums.
- <https://www.facebook.com/ACGAGaelic>, our Facebook page.
- [www.youtube.com/user/ACGAmerica](http://www.youtube.com/user/ACGAmerica), our YouTube channel with video content.
- <https://twitter.com/ACGAGaelic>, our Twitter account, used for ACGA announcements.
- <http://usmod.wordpress.com/>, the ACGA Mòd website, containing information about past, present, and future Mòds.
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1463155417230179/>, a special Facebook page for our Gaelic Song and Language Week at Grandfather Mountain.

## *An Naidheachd Againne*

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

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