

An Naidheachd Againne

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

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'S e oifigear leasachaidh Gàidhlig a th' ann an Donnchadh Sneddon airson Eaglais na h-Alba. Ghabh e ceum dotaireil ann an Eachdraidh na h-Alba bho Oilthigh Dùn Èideann. O chionn ghoirid chuir e ri chèile, am measg phròiseactan eile, leabhar-iùil Gàidhlig adhraidh airson na h-Eaglaise.

Duncan Sneddon is the Gaelic language development officer for the Church of Scotland. He received his doctoral degree in Scottish history from the University of Edinburgh. He recently compiled the Church's Gaelic guide to worship, among other projects.

Eaglais na h-Alba ann an àm COVID

le Donnchadh Sneddon



Inside Greyfriar's Kirk, location of Edinburgh's only remaining Gaelic services.
Jeff Justice

Tha iomadh rud air atharrachadh gu mòr thairis air a' bhliadhna seo chaidh, agus tha sin ceart cho fìor ann am beatha na h-eaglaise 's a tha e ann am beatha na sgoile, saoghal ciùil agus ar n-àiteachan obrach. Tha ar toglaichean eaglaiseach air a bhith dùinte – no fosgailte ach air an cuingealachadh gu teann – fad còrr is bliadhna a-nis, agus 's e rud cruaidh do mhòran a tha sin.

Ach tha e fìor, cuideachd, gu bheil cothroman an lùib nan trioblaidean seo – gu sònraichte le teicneòlas an latha an-diugh. Uair agus uair thairis air a' bhliadhna neònaich seo, tha mi air a bhith taingeil gun tàinig an èiginn nuair a thàinig i agus nach ann, can, còig no deich bliadhna air ais. Seadh, bha Skype agus YouTube ann anns na làithean sin, ach tha fada a bharrachd dhaoine – gu sònraichte am measg nam feadhainn as sine agus nam feadhainn ann an sgìrean dùthchail agus sna h-eileanan – a' faighinn Cothrom na Fèinne air an eadar-lìn an-diugh na bha o chionn ghoirid. Bidh mi a' smaoinichadh air cuid anns an teaghlach agam fhìn a tha "a'

frithealadh" na h-eaglaise air-loidhne, rud nach biodh idir air chomas dhaibh o chionn beagan bhliadhnaichean. Uill, ma-thà, dè tha an eaglais a' dèanamh leis an teicneòlas ùr seo? 'S iomadh rud sin.

Tha eaglaisean air a' Ghàidhealtachd a' cumail sheirbheisean agus bhuidhnean òigridh air Zoom – agus tha cothrom an sin do dhaoine a dh'fhàg sgìre an dùthchais "tighinn dhachaigh" airson na seirbhis. Tha an dà choithional ann an Glaschu agus Dùn Èideann air sianal YouTube a chur air dòigh (Eaglais Air-loidhne) le seirbheis ùr gach seachdain, le daoine a' gabhail pàirt chan ann a-mhàin anns na bailtean sin, ach air feadh na h-Alba agus (gu ruige seo!) An Ruis, Argentina agus Canada cuideachd. Aig àm na Nollaige bha co-dhiù dà eaglais (Dùn Èideann agus

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

Lunnainn) a rinn seirbheis le laoidhean na Nollaige air Zoom, le daoine a' gabhail pàirt agus a' seinn còmhla ann an spiorad.

Tha làrach-lìn ann le goireasan de gach seòrs' – laoidhean, ùrnaighean, sgeulachdan Bìobail ann an Gàidhlig shìmplidh airson na cloinne – agus iomadh rud eile aig www.AnSgeulMor.co.uk.

Tha dà bhuidheann leughaidh ann do luchd-ionnsachaidh aig diofar ìrean gach seachdain, a' cleachdadh an eadar-theangachaidh ùir dhen Tiomnadh Nuadh – rud a thòisich le ceathrar anns a' Ghearasdan mus deach sinn “fo ghlas” agus a-nis tha mu fhichead 's a deich a' gabhail pàirt – chan ann a-mhàin ann an Alba, ach às na Stàitean, Nirribhidh, Sasainn, Èirinn, Canada, Brasail agus Argentina cuideachd. Nach e rud mìorbhaileach a th' ann an sin? Sgapte o chèile gu corporra ged a tha sinn, tha e comasach dhuinn chruinneachadh timcheall air Facal an Tighearna, a' fàs ann an comas agus ann am misneachd, ann an eòlas air Fhacal agus air a' Ghàidhlig.

Bidh mi toilichte nuair a tha e sàbhailte dhuinn cruinneachadh gus adhradh a dhèanamh san eaglais a-rithist, ach tha mi an dòchas nach fàg sinn air ar cùlaibh gach rud a dh'ionnsaich agus a dh'fhiosraich sinn tro làithean a' ghalair, oir tha leasan luachmhor air a bhith ann an luib an àmhghair.

Tha mi a' guidhe gach beannachd agus gràs oirbh uile.

Tha Donnchadh Sneddon na bhall de Chomataidh na Gàidhlig aig Eaglais na h-Alba.

Nam biodh ùidh agad ann a bhith an sàs anns na buidhnean-leughaidh, nach cuir thu post-d thuige aig sneddon.duncan@gmail.com.



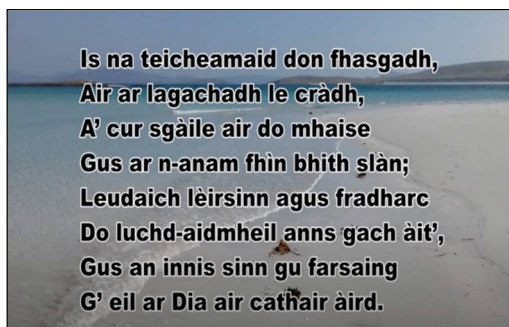
Duncan Sneddon
Courtesy, the author

The Church of Scotland in COVID

by Duncan Sneddon

The last year has seen many changes and disruptions, not least in the Church, with services suspended or held under tight restrictions. Even so, the widespread availability of modern communications technology has opened up new opportunities that would have been hard to imagine, let alone put into practice, only a few years ago. Computer literacy among older people and better broadband access in rural and island communities have meant that in some respects the isolation and church closures over the last year have been less hard to bear than they might have been even a decade ago.

Churches have held online services – among other things this has meant that people who left their home districts perhaps decades ago have been able to “go home” for the services. The Gaelic congregations of Glasgow and Edinburgh have established a YouTube channel (*Eaglais Air-loidhne*) which broadcasts a Gaelic service every week, with people taking part from all over and furth of Scotland. There were at least two Gaelic Christmas Carol nights on Zoom last year as well. The Church of Scotland has developed a website full of Gaelic worship resources of all kinds for adults and children, www.AnSgeulMor.co.uk.



Screenshot from the Gaelic language service on YouTube

There are also two reading groups for Gaelic learners of different levels, using the new translation of the New Testament and bringing together about thirty people each week to study God's word and to grow in ability and confidence in the Gaelic language – a group that started with four people in Fort William has now taken on a form and a reach that even at the start of last year would have seemed most unlikely!

We'll all be glad when these days are behind us, but we should not be too quick to forget all that we have learnt and experienced, for there have been valuable lessons amid the anguish.

Duncan Sneddon is a member of the Gaelic Committee at the Church of Scotland. If you are interested in being involved in the reading groups, why not email him at sneddon.duncan@gmail.com.

2021 Virtual Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week & Mòd

Monday July 5 to Friday July 9, 2021
Online, through Zoom video conferencing software

Join us for four days of instruction in Scottish Gaelic song and language from Monday to Thursday. There will be six classes a day to choose from, with levels from absolute beginner on upwards. Fluent speakers are welcomed. We offer a great learning experience for all language levels. The Mòd on Friday, July 10, will also be held through Zoom.

Registration is open now. Tuition is 125 USD. Simply fill out our registration form and pay via PayPal here: <https://acga.wufoo.com/forms/grandfather-mountain-gaelic-song-language-week/>

A PDF schedule will be emailed to all registrants.

To help with planning, please also indicate your interest in the Friday Mòd on the form as a Participant, Spectator, or Not Attending.



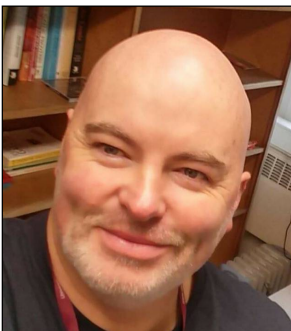
Our Instructors



Christine Primrose was born and brought up in Carloway in a Gaelic speaking community on the Island of Lewis and has been singing for as long as she can remember.

She has toured in America, Canada, Australia, Ireland and Europe. She is Head of Gaelic Song at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic College on the Isle of Skye, where she teaches short courses and full-time classes on the BA (Hons) Gaelic & Traditional Music Programme.

She has won many awards for her singing, amongst them 'Gaelic Singer of the Year' at the Traditional Music Awards in 2009. She was inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame in 2017 and was awarded an MBE in the Queens Birthday Honours List for "Services to Gaelic Music, Culture and to Education in Scotland and internationally".



Alec MacDonald is known locally as Alec 'Bhaltos', Bhaltos being the village where he comes from. He was born and bred on Skye, with Gaelic being the language of the home and the surrounding crofting community.

Although Alec still has the family home there, today he lives and works in Aberdeen. He is a Teaching Fellow at Aberdeen University and he also works at translating scripts and doing voiceovers for children's cartoons, which can be seen on BBC Alba.

He has been teaching Gaelic to adults for over thirty years; the majority of those years in Scotland itself but some also in America, Canada and Germany. He teaches regularly at Ceòlas in South Uist, at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye and at evening and weekend classes throughout Scotland.

Litir bhon Cheann-suidhe

le Liam Ó Caiside



Letter from the President

by Liam Cassidy

A chàirdean còire,

Ciamar a tha sibh uile? Tha mi 'n dòchas gu bheil sibh slàn agus sona. Tha e doirbh dhomh chreidsinn gur e seo an ceithreamh litir a sgrìobh mi thugaibh mar cheann-suidhe ACGA, ach 's e sin an fhìrinn. Bidh Bòrd ùr againn ann am mìos neo dhà, agus tha fiughair mhòr orm ris a' bhliadhna a tha a' tighinn. Cuiridh sinn fàilte chridheil air an luchd-stiùiridh sean agus ùr.

'S iomadh rud a rinn sinn, agus iomadh tachartas biortail a chuir sinn ann an òrdugh, bhon Lùnasdal sa chaidh. Tha mi toilichte ri ràdh gun tog sinn làrach-lìn ùr air an eadar-lìon am mìos sa chaidh. 'S dòcha gur e sin an rud as cudromaiche a rinn sinn ann an ùine mhòr. Seallaibh air <https://acgamerica.org> agus chì sibh dè bhios ri fhaotainn ann a-nist.

Nì sinn tuilleadh tro mheadhan an làrach-lìn san àm ri teachd. Gu h-àraidh, bu toil leinn ceanglaichean eadar Coimhearsnachdan Ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a thogail agus a leasachadh tron làrach-lìn againn. Ach tha sinn ag obair air an t-sianail YouTube againn cuideachd: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ACGAmerica>. Tha tuilleadh bhidiothan ri fhaotainn a-nist.

Chuir sinn sreath ùr de bhidiothan air bhog air a bheil *ACGA Agallamh*, agallamhan agus còmhraidhean ann an Gàidhlig agus Beurla còmhla ri daoine a tha a' sàs anns an t-saoghal Ghàidhealach Aimeireaga a Tuath. Thòisich sinn còmhla ri Michael Newton agus a leabhar ùr, *Gaelic in Your Gob*, agus thig tuilleadh prògraman a-mach am bliadhna agus an ath-bhliadhna.

Gheibh sibh an Coinneamh Choitcheann Bhliadhnail (CCB) air YouTube cuideachd. Rabhadh: Tha e glè fhada! Ach cluinnidh sibh aithrisean bho na h-oifigearan againn agus Seumas Greumach bhon Chomunn Gàidhealach agus Iseabail Mactaggart aig MG Alba. Tha fhios agam gu bheil sinn uile a' fàs sgìth ri gach rud biortail, ach tha feum anns na bhidiothan againn fhathast.

Cha bhi e fada gus am bi sinn a' coinneachadh beò ann an àite air choireigin, ge b' e dè bhios sinn a' dèanamh no càit' am bi sinn. Tha fiughair mhòr orm ri sin. 'S e mo bheachd gum biodh sinn a' cruinneachadh airson

Dear Friends,

How are you all? I hope you are well and happy. It's hard for me to believe this is the fourth letter I've written to you as president of ACGA, the American Scottish Gaelic Society, but that's the truth. We will have a new Board in a month or two, and I'm greatly looking forward to the coming year. We'll give a hearty welcome to our directors new and old.

We've done many things, and organized many online events, since last August. I'm delighted to say we have launched a new website in the past month. That may be the most important thing we've done in a long time. Take a look at <https://acgamerica.org> and see what's available there now.

We'll be doing more through our website in the future. Especially, we would like to build and improve ties between Gaelic Learning Communities through our website. But we are working on our YouTube channel as well: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ACGAmerica>. There are more videos available there now.

We've launched a new series of videos we call *ACGA Agallamh* / the *ACGA Interview*, interviews and conversations in Gaelic and English with people involved in the North American Gaelic world. We started with Michael Newton and his new book *Gaelic in your Gob*, and more programs will be coming out this year and in the next year.

You'll also find our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on YouTube. Warning: It's very long! But you'll hear reports from our officers and from James Graham of An Comunn Gàidhealach and Iseabail Mactaggart of MG Alba. We know everyone is growing tired of everything virtual, but there's value in these videos yet.

It won't be long now before we are meeting live somewhere – whatever we are doing or wherever we are. I greatly look forward to it. It's my

tachartasan a-rithist san ath-bhliadhna, ach bidh tachartasan biortail againn fhathast cuideachd. Cha tèid sinn air ais ach air adhart.

Leis gach deagh ghuidhe,

Liam

Ceann-suidhe, ACGA

opinion we'll be meeting for events again next year, and that we'll have virtual events as well. We're not going backward but heading forward.

With every good wish,

Liam

President, ACGA

2021 ACGA Board of Directors Election Results

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

William Cassidy (Liam Ó Caiside)

Liam became a member of ACGA in the late 1980s, served on the board in the 1990s and is a past editor of *An Naidheachd Againne*. He is the current president of ACGA.

Liam is especially interested in the development of virtual versions of ACGA's major events as well as new virtual events. He aims to work with any and all organizations and persons that share the goals of ACGA, supporting and promoting the Gaelic language and culture.

Adam Dahmer

While pursuing graduate degrees in Celtic Studies at the University of Edinburgh, Adam became very involved with local Gaelic organizations like *Misneachd Dhùn Èideann*, *Comann Ceilteach* and the Gaelic services at Greyfriars Kirk. Having returned to North America, he would like to increase local engagement with Gaelic and ACGA in his native Kentucky, where there is a strong consciousness of Scottish heritage, and hopefully, a great potential for Gaelic-language promotion.

Jamie MacDonald

A long-time ACGA member, Jamie has published a number of Gaelic learning materials and books. He is also the founder of the yearly Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week held at Lees-McRae College and the North Carolina Provincial Gaelic Mòd. In addition, he was co-founder of the US National Mòd now held in Ligonier, PA. While also teaching Celtic Studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, Jamie also served on the board of directors for the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia, the Antigonish Highland Society, and the Highland Village Museum in St. Anns, Cape Breton. Jamie is interested in promoting more online Gaelic learner groups for those interested in not only the Gaelic language, but Gaelic song and poetry.

Mealaibh ur naidheachd!

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

le Hilary NicPhàidein

O chionn ghoirid, ghabh mi pàirt ann am bùth-obrach òran le Gillebrìde Mac'IlleMhaoil na thidsear. Air sgàth 's gun robh a' mhòr-chuid de na daoine à Alba sgrìobh mi anns an "chat": a bheil duine sam bith an seo à Fìobha neo a' fuireach ann am Fìobha? Gu dearbh, bha fear ann a bha a' fuireach ann am Marc-Innis. An uairsin dh'fhaighnich Gillebrìde dhomh an robh mi à Auchtermuchty (*Uachdar Mucadaidh*). Chuala mi fiamh gàire na ghuth fhad 's a bha e a' cantainn an fhacail "Auchtermuchty". "Cha robh," fhreagair mi, "ach thogadh mi ann an Cill Rìmhinn ann an ear-thuath Fhìobha."

'S toil leam fuaim "Auchtermuchty" gu sònraichte ann am blas Fìobhach, agus nam bheachdsa, chòrd e gu mòr ri Gillebrìde a bhith a' fuaimneachadh "Auchtermuchty". Le sin thòisich mi ri smaoinneachadh mu dhèidhinn a' bhaile fhèin. Nuair a bha mi nam dheugaire bhithinn a' draibheadh tro Auchtermuchty air an t-slighe gu Dùn Èideann. Agus thug sin gu cuimhne stòiridh a chaidh innse gu tric mu dhèidhinn mo sheanmhar – fhuair i ticead airson a bhith a' dol ro luath ann an Auchtermuchty sna 1930an. Bha i a' siubhal aig 30 mìle san uair!

Chòrd draibheadh ri mo sheanmhair gu mòr. Aon uair ghabh i turas bho Ghiofnag chun na Càrnaich còmhla ri mo mhàthair (a bha sia bliadhna a dh'aois) is dithis bhan-nàbaidhean. 'S e deagh astar a th' ann eadar Giofnag is a' Chàrnaich, mu cheud mìle. Chan eil fhios agam idir dè cho fad 's a bha an turas ann an 1930, chan eil e ach mu dhà uair a thide ann an càr sna làithean seo.

Cò-dhiù, an dèidh uair no dhà anns a' bhaile sin, chuir mo sheanmhair roimhe gu robh e ro anmoch tilleadh dhachaigh agus mar sin chaidh iad do Leabaidh is Lìte gus seòmraichean fhaighinn. Ach nuair a bha iad a' coiseach tron taigh ud thuirt mo sheanmhair, "Tha rudeigin san àite seo a' faireachdainn beagan neònach, fiù 's eagalach feagalach." Bha mo mhàthair is na nàbaidhean a' dol le mo sheanmhair: bha rudeigin nach robh ceart anns an togalach. An robh taibhsean fulangaichean Murt Ghleann Comhann fhathast ann? Dh'fhalbh na boireannaich sa bhad is dhraibh mo sheanmhair gu luath dìreach air ais a Ghiofnag. Slàn sàbhailte.

by Hilary McFadyen

I recently took part in a song workshop on Zoom with Gillebrìde MacMillan as the teacher. As the majority of the people were from Scotland, I wrote this in the "chat": does anyone here come from or live in Fife? Indeed, there was one person who was living in Markinch. Then Gillebrìde asked me if I was from Auchtermuchty. I sensed a wee smile in his voice while he was saying the word "Auchtermuchty". "No," I answered, "but I grew up in St Andrews in Northeast Fife."

I like the sound of "Auchtermuchty", especially when said in a Fife accent, and I think that Gillebrìde really liked pronouncing "Auchtermuchty". Then I started to think about the town itself. When I was a teenager I would drive through Auchtermuchty on the way to Edinburgh. And then an oft-told story about my Granny came to mind – she got a speeding ticket in Auchtermuchty in the 1930s. She was going 30 miles per hour!

My Granny loved to drive. Once she took a trip from Giffnock to Glen Coe village with my Mum (who was six years old) and two neighbour ladies. It's a good distance between Giffnock and Glen Coe, about a hundred miles. I don't know at all how long the journey was in 1930, but it takes about two hours by car today.

Anyhow, after an hour or two in the area, Granny decided it was too late to go home and so they went to a B&B to get rooms. But when they were walking through that house, Granny said, "There is something in this place that feels a little strange, even downright scary." Mum and the neighbours agreed: something wasn't right in the building. Were the ghosts of the victims of the Massacre of Glen Coe still there? The ladies left straight away and my Granny drove quickly, straight back to Giffnock. Safe and sound.

Pròiseactan Ùra Gàidhlig bho MG ALBA

le Murchadh MacSuain

Tha MG ALBA a' cur air bhog trì pròiseactan leantainneach a bheir an cothrom an coimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig air feadh an t-saoghail a neartachadh a thaobh faicsinneachd, sgilean cànanais agus misneachd.

Tha seanaile YouTube aig BBC ALBA, a thòisich ann an 2020, a' toirt dhuibh criomagan tarraingeach bhon t-seanaile; susbaint gu sònraichte airson cloinne; ceòl sgoinneil agus susbaint fèin-chruthaichte tharraingeach leithid an sreath *A-staigh* a bha gu math soirbheachail tro ghlasadh a' Chorròna-bhìorais.

Cuideachd, gheibh luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig an cothrom sealladh nas fhèarr fhaighinn air coimhearsnachd dhigiteach Ghàidhlig air na meadhanan sòisealta le pròiseact cruinneachaidh ùr bho MG ALBA a' tòiseachadh as t-samhradh, ge bith dè na h-ùrlaran a thathar a' cleachdadh air na meadhanan sòisealta. Mar phàirt den phròiseact seo tha sinn ag amas air misneachd agus brosnachadh a thoirt do luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig susbaint tharraingeach a chruthachadh dhaibh fhèin agus eòlas a chur air na tha daoine eile a' dèanamh. Thèid barrachd fiosrachaidh mun phròiseact fhoillseachadh san àm ri teachd ach 's dòcha gun nochd seo air na duilleagan agaibh fhèin an toiseach!

Tha MG ALBA cuideachd a' cur air bhog goireas ionnsachaidh SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 le Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Ionad Nàiseanta Cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig air an Eilean Sgitheanach mar a' phrìomh chom-pàirtiche acadaimigeach, agus am BBC mar riochdaire na susbaint mheadhan.

Bidh SpeakGaelic a' tabhann do luchd-cleachdaidh an roghainn airson clasaichean aghaidh ri aghaidh, ionnsachadh fèin-stiùirichte, agus susbaint nam meadhanan tro fharsaingeachd de dh'ùrlaran – no gach fear dhiubh aig an aon àm. Chan eil an leithid de chothrom air a bhith aig daoine Gàidhlig a chleachdadh agus ionnsachadh a-cheana.

Bidh prògraman TBh, rèidio agus pod-chraolaidhean uile ri fhaighinn gu h-eadar-nàiseanta tro BBC Sounds agus tro YouTube BBC ALBA, a bharrachd air an làrach-lìn ùr aig SpeakGaelic agus na meadhanan sòisealta.

New Gaelic Projects from MG ALBA

by Murdo MacSween

Upcoming, MG ALBA are launching projects which will support the development and strengthening of the Gaelic community across the world through discoverability, language skills and confidence.

The BBC ALBA YouTube channel, which launched in 2020, allows viewers to access short clips from the channel, children's content, excellent music, and some other user-generated content, such as the series *A-staigh* (meaning 'inside') which was successful during the Coronavirus lockdown.

Also, a new opportunity for the discoverability of Gaelic digital content on social media will be available in the summer with a new social media aggregation project which will be beneficial to Gaelic speakers regardless of what social media platforms they engage with. As part of this new project, we aim to increase the confidence and promote Gaelic speakers to create more of their own digital content and to easily see what other Gaelic speakers are doing. More information about this project will be published soon but this might just start appearing on your own feeds first!

MG ALBA are also launching SpeakGaelic, a new Gaelic learning platform, which will be launched in September 2021 in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture in Skye as the lead academic partner, and the BBC as media content provider.

SpeakGaelic will offer users the option of face-to-face classes, self-guided online learning, and media content through a variety of platforms. It will never have been easier to learn and use Gaelic.

TV programmes, radio programmes and podcasts will all be available internationally via the BBC Sounds app and the BBC ALBA YouTube page, as well as the new SpeakGaelic website and social media content.



A bharrachd air fìor luchd-tòiseachaidh, bidh SpeakGaelic ag amas air luchd-labhairt a tha air an cànan a chall, agus luchd-labhairt le cion-mhisneachd an cuid Gàidhlig a chleachdadh. Bidh an iomairt a' cur ri agus a' meudachadh an taghadh fharsaing a tha ri fhaotainn mar-tha do luchd-ionnsachaidh tro thùsan eile, leithid LearnGaelic, cùrsaichean foirmeil a tha stèidhte mar-tha agus an iomairt shoirbheachail a th' anns a' chùrsa Ghàidhlig air Duolingo. Le soirbheachas Duolingo, aig a bheil mu 600,000 luchd-cleachdaidh clàraichte a tha ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig, an dùblachadh air luchd-cleachdaidh làrach-lìn LearnGaelic, agus fàs ann an ùidh anns a' Ghàidhlig, an dà chuid ann an Alba agus gu h-eadar nàiseanta, bidh SpeakGaelic a' tabhann structar a tha air fhighe ri chèile gu dlùth aig àm air leth cudromach.

Thèid am pròiseact a chur air bhog thairis air ceithir diofar ìrean bho 2021-2023, gach fear dhiubh ag amas air ìre-sgil eadar-dhealaichte a rèir sgèile CEFRL (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages); A1, A2, B1 agus B2. Thèid am pròiseact a chur air bhog san t-Sultain, ag amas orrasan aig ìre A1 ach thèid ìre ùr a chur air bhog gach trì mìosan.

Tha beagan mhìosan air leth inntinneach romhainn agus tha sinn a' cur fàilte oirbh a bhith mar phàirt dheth! Lean duilleagan MG ALBA no LearnGaelic air na meadhanan sòisealta gu faigh sibh fios sa bhad mu dheidhinn SpeakGaelic.

Cuiribh fios thugainn air MG ALBA ma tha ceistean no molaidhean sam bith eile agaibh, aig àm sam bith tro conaltradh@mgalba.com.

As well as complete beginners, SpeakGaelic will be aimed at enabling lapsed or less confident speakers to use their Gaelic with confidence. The initiative will complement and extend the range of options already available to learners through other sources, such as LearnGaelic, existing formal courses and the wonderfully successful Scottish Gaelic offering on Duolingo. Duolingo's success, with around 600,000 registered users learning Gaelic, the doubling of LearnGaelic's website users, and a surge in interest in Gaelic both in Scotland and internationally, will allow SpeakGaelic to offer an integrated structure at a crucial time.

The project will launch in four stages across 2021-2023, each directed at a different proficiency on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL) scale of A1, A2, B1 and B2. The project will launch in September aimed at those at level A1, but a new level will launch every three months.

We have an exciting few months ahead of us and we welcome you to be a part of it! Follow the MG ALBA or LearnGaelic social media pages to get up to date information about SpeakGaelic.

Contact us at MG ALBA at any time if you have questions or comments at conaltradh@mgalba.com

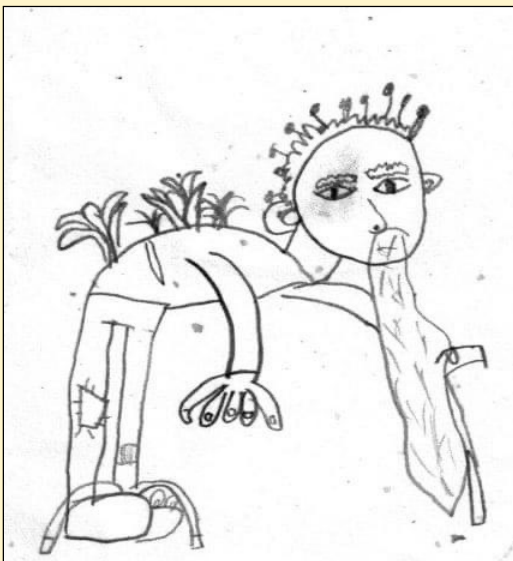


Photo Quiz

What popular *port-à-beul* is illustrated in this drawing by 7-year old Róisín Newton?

Check page 17 for the answer and the lyrics.

Uill, tha coltas gu bheil Nighean an Sgàthain sàbhailte a-nis, ach a bheil i ann an dha-rìribh? Dè mu dheidhinn a' bhrudair neònach a bh' aice? Carson a tha dragh air càch?

Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig

le Liam Ó Caiside

Caibideil a Naoi Deug: Comhairle nan Draoidh

“An uair a thig an latha, thig comhairle.”

— Seanfhacal

Cha mhòr an cadal a fhuair sinn madainn an latha ud, nuair a dh'fhàg sinn taigh an sgeulaiche. Dh'fhaoitde gur e sin a bu choireach dha na rudan a chunnaic sinn nuair a chuir am bodach crìoch air a sgeul. Cò aige a tha fios no cinnt an-diugh? Cha b' urrainn dhuinn ceist a chur air Calum.

Dh'fhalbh sinn tràth sa mhadainn agus ghabh sinn greim bidh anns a' bhaile. Bhruidhinn Calum gun stad air an naidheachd sgoinneil a chuala sinn mu Nighean an Sgàthain, An Draoidh Mòr, Mac na h-Oidhche, agus Iain Fhearchair Òig fhèin. Mu dheidhinn Aoife, na peathraichean, agus na sìthichean. Cha b' ann mar characteran ann an sgeòil no faoinsgeil a bha mo charaid a' coimhead orra a-nise. Bha iad nan daoine beò dha – agus dhuinne, feumaidh mi ràdh.

Co-dhiù, nuair a thàinig an anmoch a-rithist, chaidh sinn air ais gu taigh an sgeulaiche, a bha fada a-mach air an dùthaich. Cheannaich sinn beagan bìdh anns a' bhaile agus thug sinn sin còmhla rinn. Agus nan robh sinn deiseil deireadh an sgeòil a chluinntinn, bha am bodach còir air leth deònach a naidheachd innseadh dhuinn. Bha e ann am boile agus air bhioran nuair a ràinig sinn.

“Creid gu bheil coltas nas òige air,” thuirt Èilidh rium. “Nach neònach sin?” Cha b' e 's gun robh e na b' òige, shaoil mise, ach bha e cho dìreach ri saighead, neo slat-draoidheachd, ma dh'fhaoitde. Cha robh cam neo crìonadh neo crath air, ged bha e na bhodach aosta. Dè an aois a bha e, ann an dà-rìreabh?

Aig beul na h-oidhche, shuidh an còignear againn, an sgeulaiche agus na h-oileanaich – Èilidh, Calum, Eòghann, agus mi fhìn, ri taobh a' ghealbhain

a-rithist. “Seo an oidhche dheireannach a chruinnich sinn ri chèile, agus crìochnaichaidh mi an sgeul a dh'iarr sibh orm innseadh,” ars' am bodach. “Sgeul nach cuala sibh riamh, agus nach do dh'innis mi riamh rim bheatha. Ach feumaidh sinn a dhol air ais dhan ionnsaigh a rinn Mac na h-Oidhche air Sgoil nan Eun, nuair a dh'fhairtlich e air an sgoil a bhuannachadh air a shon fhèin.” Ghabh e anail, agus thòisich e mar a leanas.

“Bha Nighean an Sgàthain sa leabaidh na suain fad cealla-deug as dèidh na h-ionnsaigh a rinn Mac na h-Oidhche, a h-athair fhèin, oirre. 'S beag nach do dh'fhàg Iain a taobh agus cha mhòr gun do mhothaich e dè bha dol ma thimcheall. 'S tric a thàinig leth-peathraichean Nighinn an Sgàthain, a' bhan-shìthe Aoife, agus an Draoidh Mòr ga coimhead agus a' gabhail cùram agus leighis dhi. “Na biodh eagal ort,” thuirt Aoife ri Iain aon latha, “chan e suain a' bhàis a th' oirre. Thèid a slànachadh beag air bheag. Nach i tha làidir! Ach tha draoidheachd neimheil a h-athar trom oirre.”

Thàinig athair Iain gach latha gan coimhead, agus shuidh e còmhla ri a mhac ag innse dha a naidheachd fhèin, bhon uair a bha e òg gus an robh e na shaighdear an arm a' Phrionnsa. Dh'ionnsaich Iain mòran mu a dheidhinn agus mun teaghlach aige air nach robh fios aige roimhe.

Thàinig na foghlamaichean eile gan coimhead cuideachd, gu h-àraidh Mac Mhanainn agus Ceann-Cleiteig. Dh'innis iad do dh'Iain dè bha a' tachairt anns a' chaisteal. Dh'fhalbh na h-aoghean a thàinig dhan bhanaid dhachaigh, ach bha na sìthichean fhathast ann, agus na draoidhean eile. Bha iad an còmhnaidh a' coinneamh ris an Draoidh



Mhòr, a' bruidhinn air dè bu chòir dhaibh a dhèanamh mu Mhac na h-Oidhche, nan robh e beò fhathast idir. Fhuair e droch-lot gun teagamh.

“Chaidh a losgadh agus a ghearradh, chunnaic sinn sin,” thuirt Mac Mhanainn. “Agus bha a chlarsach briste,” arsa Ceann-Cleiteig. “Ach tha mi cinnteach nach e sin deireadh a sgeòil,” fhreagair Iain.

“Feumaidh sinn ionnsachadh dè thachair dha agus càite an deach e. Ged a chaidh a ghonadh, is dòcha gun tig e air ais dhuinn ann an cruth nas miosa.” Cha tuirt e dad dhaibh, ach bha bruadairean aige anns an robh cuideigin neo rud air choireigin ga leantainn, a' gabhail anail gu trom air a chùlaibh. 'S fheudar dha ainm a thoirt ris an uamhas, ged nach fhaca e aodann.

Mu dheireadh 's mu dheaghaidh, thàinig an latha nuair a dh'fhosgail Nighean a Sgàthain a sùilean. Choimhead i mun cuairt le maoin, ach chiùinich i nuair a chunnaic i Iain. “Bha mi fad air falbh 'Ille, ach tha mi air ais a-nise,” thuirt i. “Tha, agus tha thu sàbhailte,” ars' Iain. “Na bi cinnteach,” fhreagair an nighean. “Chan eil mise a' faireachdainn sàbhailte, ged tha mi a' faireachdainn fada nas fheàrr na bha mi. Dè cho fada 's a bha mi nam chadal an seo?”

Bha iongnadh oirre nuair a dh'ionnsaich i gun robh i na suain cealla-deug. Bha an t-acras ga tolladh. Thàinig an Draoidh Mòr, Aoife, agus a peathraichean le biadh agus deoch agus ceistean.

“Dè tha thu a' cuimhneachadh?” dh'fhaighnich an draoidh. “Chaidh mi gu àite far an robh fear a' fàs a-nuas bhon speur agus coisichidh thu air uachdar na grèine,” fhreagair an nighean. “Chunnaic mi m' athair a' marcachd air muin eòin. Theich e bhuam. Bha a làmhnan loisgte. Bha aodann làn fuil aige. Chunnaic

mi gu soilleir an dorchadas agus an searbhadas a tha na anam. Bha pian ann cuideachd nach do dh'fhulaing mi riamh roimhe. Tha mise ga thuigsinn a-nise, ged nach eil e gam thuigsinn.

“Às dèidh greis, dh'fhàs e dorcha agus fuar, agus dh'fhairich mi mar gun robh mi ag iteagaich neo air fleod. Chan eil fhios agam dè cho fada 's a bha mi mar sin, ach mhothaich mi gun robh cuideigin còmhla rium, agus bha sinn a' snàmh ann an uisge. Shaoil mi gur i mo mhàthair a bh' ann ach cha b' e ach mo mhuime, Cailleach nan Cearc à Druim Alt na Muice an Èirinn. Ach ... 's e muc-mhara a bh' innte,” ars' an nighean. “Shnàmh sinn ri chèile gu uachdar a' chuain, agus dhirich mi air a druim.”

“Chunnaic mi an uair sin eilean mara fada bho thìr, eilean uaine, còmhdaichte le fear, agus dà chnocan cruinn ann. Thug sinn air an eilean ach bha cuideigin gar leantainn. Cha b' urrainn dhomh tionndadh, ach dh'fhairich mi gun robh e a' tighinn dlùth dhuinn. Cha mhòr nach do ràinig sinn an t-eilean nuair a dhùisg mi.”

“Le cinnt,” ars' an Draoidh Mòr, “chaidh do spiorad dhan t-saoghal eile, ged a bha thu nad shuain an seo. Feumaidh sinn uile smaoineachadh air na chunnaic thu. Bidh comhairle againn a-màireach, ma thèid agad air èirigh - a' chiad chomhairle aig na draoidhean ann an iomadh linn.”

“Agus bidh sinne ann cuideachd,” thuirt Aoife. “S ann aig na sìthichean a dh'ionnsaich sibh draoidheachd bho chionn fhada nam fad, agus tha feum agaibh air ionnsachadh bhuainn fhathast. Tha sinn uile ann an cunnart. Feumaidh sinn seasamh an gualaibh a chèile, no tuitidh sinn fa seach.”
(*Tuilleadh ri tighinn...*)

Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Do you know what familiar Gaelic proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 19 to see if you're right.

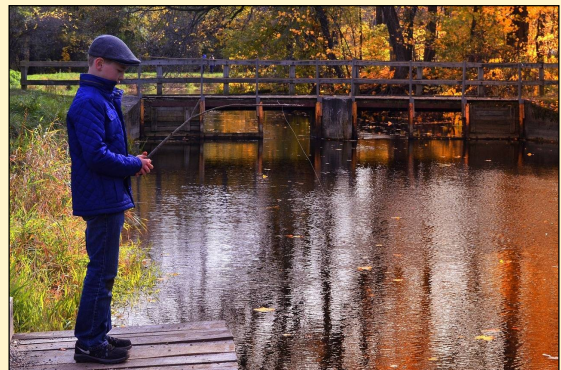


Image by Stephen Marc, www.pixabay.com

Criomagan / Bits of This and That

Bradan Press (<https://www.bradanpress.com/>) carries on the 180-year-old tradition of Scottish Gaelic publishing in Nova Scotia, publishing books related to Scottish Gaelic language and culture in Gaelic, English and French. Publications range from new versions of traditional tales, original fiction and poetry, and translations of well-known and loved stories for both adults and children.

In September 2021, Bradan Press will release two new graphic novels, and *An Naidheachd Againne* readers will recognize some familiar names involved in the projects.

- *Às a' Chamhanaich*

Written and illustrated by Angus MacLeod

This graphic novel by Cape Breton author and artist Angus MacLeod features twelve stories of magical creatures and strange worlds inspired by old tales, history and ancient beliefs of the Gaels, as well as the author's imagination.

- *Ròs Fiadhaich*

Written by Nicola R. White, translated by Nathaniel Harrington

This retelling of an Irish folktale in graphic novel format is the story of Eliza Day, a young woman in rural Ireland in 1790 who seeks revenge when she is betrayed by her wealthy English lover. Mature themes.

* * * *

In a first for Nova Scotia and North America, a new Gaelic immersion school will open in Mabou in September 2021.

The privately funded *Taigh Sgoile na Drochaide* will start with a primary (kindergarten) grade class with between 30 - 40 students, and a new class will be added every year. By the end of five years, it is expected that the school will offer primary to Grade 4 classes entirely through the medium of Gaelic for the first few years, before adding English, as is currently the practice for French immersion schools in Canada.

* * * *

New Content on ACGA YouTube Channel

After several quiet years, ACGA's YouTube channel is coming back to life with a range of new videos including Gaelic singing and storytelling. Also recently uploaded is a video recording of ACGA's Annual General Meeting, which took place last February. James Graham, president of An Comunn Gàidhealach in Scotland, and Iseabail Mactaggart of MGAlba, a multimedia content developer for BBC Alba, each made presentations at the meeting.

You can find our YouTube channel by clicking on: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ACGAmerica>, by putting "acgamerica" into the search box on YouTube, or by clicking on the link in the "ACGA Online Faces" box on the last page of this issue of ANA.



Dè Tha Catrìona Ris?

Have you been thinking about a summer vacation this year? I don't know what Catrìona NicilleDhuibh and her family are planning this year, but in 2019 they went "glamping" in Geversduin near their home in Holland. Abair saor-làithean! You can hear all about it in this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwi1rZF11_o

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 three very different examples: Àdhamh Dahmer (Fisherville, KY), Ted Neveln (Seattle, WA), and Jone MacCulloch (Happy Valley, OR).

A' Fàgail Dhùn Èideann

le Àdhamh Dahmer

Soraidh mhòr le lios is sgòrr
Am bail' an òir, Dùn Èideann
Far am bi na companaich
A bhios nam chridh' 's gam chreidsinn

Cho math 's a bha, air feasgar tràth,
'S a' ghrian bhlàth sna speuran
Air Àrd na Sàighd', ri taobh mo ghràidh
Bhith 'g èisteachd ris an fheuran

Bu mhath leam bhith
A' siùbhal-sìth
Mar phrionns, no Rìgh, gun moille
Fo sgàil nan craobh, àite naomh
San oidhch' rim thaobh sa choille

Air Cnoc Atha Dhuibh,
Cho ruadh an fhraoich,
Mun cuairt ri lag an teine
Gun aodach air a' chuirp seach speur
'S mo ghuth mun ear a' bheinne

Nam biodh ann tagh, dh'fhaicinn an cladh
Air magh nam manach liath
Ri gaisgich làn, mar Dhonnchadh Bàn
'S a' phìob, a ràn, nis fiath

Bu toil leam lag taobh Ach an t-Sagairt;
Bhithinn far an iarrainn
A' ruith cho saor ri damh air ladhar
Air druim a' sheann-rathad-iarainn

Soraidh slàn, a bhrudair bhàin
Cho beart an dàn is òran
Far 'n tug mi làr gu tric sa bhàr
Air ceòl ghiotair no bhodhrain

Le ghaoth nam aghaidh, air bharr a' bhràigh,
Os cionn tràigh Port Àlainn
Choisichinn, 'g òl fion binn,
A' bruidhinn ri mo chàirdean

Bidh fir is mnathan sna Miodaran
Oir tha iad làn ri maise
Is bhitheamaid ann, a' gabhail rann
'S ag ithe tiops is càise

Nach robh e math, latha Dòmhnach tràth
Bhith g'èist ri tàth 'n Guth Chaluim
Ga leantainn, teann; 's cha b' e rud gann
A thug mi fhìn na sailm.



Fèitheil

le Ted Brian Neveln

Durragan-fheòla 'g ithe dòchas
plàigh a-muigh 's mi a-staigh;
éist ris na faoileagan fialaidh faireachail
air sgèith gràsmhor;
bi faoileach fonnmhor,
bi gléidhteach caomhantach –
thig damh-fèidh brìghmhor.

Rè àm ceilge
cùm an cùmhnant,
feith furachail cridheil ceòlmhor,
fuirich dalma dàimheil blasmhor,
thig fèath-nan-eun nar cridheachan
gléidhteach dòchasach dùrachdach.

Fàilte air a' ghrèin

le Jone MacCulloch

fàilte air a' ghrèin
cho dearg ri crom-lus
fàilte air a' ghealaich
cho geal ri trì-bhileach
fàilte air na reultan
uiread ri gràinean gainmich
fàilte air a' mhuir
cho farsaing ri Sgrìob Chlann Uisnich
fàilte air an talamh
marabal a' flodraich anns a' chruinne-cè
fàilte a shìochaint

Welcome the sun
as red as a poppy
Welcome the moon
as white as bogbean
Welcome the stars
as many as grains of sand
Welcome the sea
as wide as the Milky Way
Welcome the earth
a floating marble in the universe
Welcome peacefulness



Oisean a' Ghràmair / The Grammar Nook

by Wayne Harbert

Scary Things About Gaelic (STAG): Much Ado About Nothing

Some say that languages tend to have large vocabularies for describing things that are culturally important to them. Small wonder, for example, that Gaelic boasts so many different words for 'heroes': *gaisgich*, *laoich*, *curaidhean*, *diùlannaich*, *suinn*, *milidhean*, *seòid*, to which Dwelly's venerable dictionary would add *àrmainn*, *siantaidhean*, *connspuinn*.

But here's another, more curious case: Gaelic also has an abundance of words for talking about nothing at all. Yet surprisingly, it doesn't seem to have a word that actually means 'nothing'. To make the point a bit clearer, consider English. English does have 'nothing'. It's a word that carries its own negative meaning, and it can make the whole sentence negative without any help, so we don't need to add the sentence negator 'not n't': 'I saw nothing', 'Nothing is wrong,' and so on. (In fact, 'I didn't see nothing' is considered grammatical bad manners.) But English gives us a choice here in some cases: we can express the same thing by using another word, 'anything'. 'Anything' is not negative by itself, and depends for its negative meaning on a 'not' or an 'n't' or a 'hardly' or some other negative word in its sentence: 'I didn't see anything' means the same thing as 'I saw nothing'. Most other languages don't allow both constructions. Gaelic doesn't have the 'I saw nothing' construction. It only has 'I didn't see anything'. But it offers an abundance of choices for expressing 'anything' in such sentences. You can say *Chan eil càil ceàrr* or *Chan eil dad ceàrr* 'There isn't anything wrong'. You can say *Chan eil càil / dad / sgath / sìon a' dol* 'There isn't anything happening'. You can say *Chan eil càil air fhàgail* or *Chan eil rud sam bith air fhàgail* or *Chan eil sgath air fhàgail*. 'There isn't anything left'. To this list, Dwelly adds *stuth*: *Cha bhi stuth ort* 'Nothing will be wrong with you'. And Richard A.V. Cox, in his *Geàrr-Ghràmair na Gàidhlig*, lists still other such words that are used in some areas. Like 'anything', these words depend on another element (*cha(n) / nach*) for their negative meaning.

Besides negative sentences, the kinds of sentences that words like 'anything' can appear in include questions and 'if' sentences. So, in addition to 'I don't have anything', you can say 'Do you have anything?', or 'If you have anything...', but there's something very weird about 'I have anything'. The Gaelic words for 'anything' share these restrictions, for the most part, so you can also use them in questions *A bheil dad / càil / sìon ceàrr?* and in conditional statements *Ma tha dad / càil / rud sam bith ceàrr...* as well as negative sentences, but not in an ordinary affirmative statement. *Tha dad ceàrr* just doesn't work.

A few other words of this type seem to be still more restricted: *guth* and *smid* mean '(not) anything' in reference to things that are said or heard: *Cha chuala mi smid* 'I didn't hear anything'. *Chan eil guth ri ràdh* 'There isn't anything to say'.

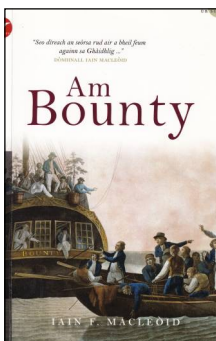
So, that's it for 'anything'. But what about 'anybody'? For that it seems that there is only one word: *duine*. *Duine* appears as an ordinary noun in Gaelic, meaning 'man', but when it appears in a negative statement or a question, for example, it loses its linkage to masculine beings, and comes to mean 'anyone / anybody': *A bheil duine ann?* doesn't mean 'Is there a man here?', but 'Is there anyone here?'

We can include *gin* in this list of words, though it seems to be a bit different from the rest. Unlike the others, which are nouns, *gin* is actually more like a pronoun. It corresponds not to ‘anything’, but to ‘any’. Like ‘any’, it requires a context that tells us what class of objects it refers to. You can’t just ask ‘Do you have any?’ out of the blue, and the same is true of *gin*. Sometimes the context is supplied by what has been said before: *A bheil uighean agaibh? Chan eil gin.* ‘Do you have eggs? There aren’t any [eggs]’. Sometimes the thing referred to is explicitly stated in the form of a prepositional phrase or a genitive noun following *gin*: *Chan eil ciall laghail sam bith aig gin de na faclan sin.* ‘None of those words have a legal meaning’. *Chan eil gin dhiubh a chunnaic an trèilear.* ‘There aren’t any of them who watched the trailer’. *Cha robh gin obrach* ‘There wasn’t any work’. As these examples show, *gin* (unlike the examples discussed above) can refer to either people or things, just as English ‘any’ can.

Finally, it is possible to dress some of these words up a bit, pairing them with others that have ‘all’ in their meanings rather than ‘not’, and change them from ‘(not) anyone / anything’ to ‘everyone / everything’. *A h-uile càil*, for example, means ‘every bit’: *Bha aige ris a h-uile càil obrach a dhèanamh.* ‘He had to do every bit of work.’ *Gin sam bith* means ‘any at all’: *’S e lioncs a theirear ri gin sam bith de na ceithir seòrsaichean dhen ghné lynx.* ‘Any of the four types of lynx genus is called lynx.’ *Gach càil* means ‘everything’: *Bhiodh caochladh air gach càil* ‘Everything would change’, and similarly, according to Dwelly, *gach stuth a th’agam* means ‘everything I possess’.

Well, I’ve gone on about nothing for long enough, so that’s all for now.

REVIEWS



Book Review:

Am Bounty by Iain F. MacLeòid

Clàr, 2008. 204 pages.

ISBN: 9781900901338

Reviewed by Ted Neveln

“Give it back! I’m supposed to be reviewing it!” A good page-turner can definitely disturb domestic harmony. Seek no harmony in a recounting of the mutiny on the *HMAV Bounty*. Don’t launch into this tale hoping for languorous palm trees or quaint Tahitian customs, or even Scottish ones.

Don’t expect a tale of the *Bounty* to have a happy ending, or much in the way of a happy middle or beginning either. Actually, it is one ghastly thing after another and much of it is factual. Iain MacLeòid based it on the true history of a Gael who was on the *Bounty*, Seumas Moireasdan (James Morrison in the history books). Moireasdan wrote a journal that is a major historical source for the *Bounty* mutiny and its aftermath. It’s easy to research him online if you want to know his surprising fate.

Seumas Moireasdan is the son of a wealthy Stornaway merchant (who has no use for Bonnie Prince Charlie) but his father dies and leaves the family in penury. Then Seumas is press-ganged! Then he takes the King’s Shilling and begins a career in the Royal Navy! That is not an obvious move, but it makes sense to him because he wants promotions and maybe even plunder from a lucrative campaign.

In between catastrophes he sometimes reflects on his choices, although it is never obvious that he has reflected nearly enough or that further reflection would help anyway. He is a Scotsman on the make who has yet to make it; he can’t even afford a lawyer when he is on trial for his life. When the mutiny breaks out, he peers

over the gunwale and sees Captain Bligh being put out onto a small boat that is dangerously overloaded. Bligh promises to do him justice if he stays on board the *Bounty* and so the decision almost makes itself. It leads to disaster.

It's not clear why his efforts turn out badly. Is it mere bad luck? Something supernatural? (He wonders if he is a Jonah though it is not clear what God would want with him.) Or does he have a character flaw that blights his judgment? Certainly he has character flaws. He is materialistic, ambitious, and not a warm person. He falls in love with a Tahitian woman but after they part forever, he doesn't waste much thought on her. To him it is standard procedure to lash a thief with a cat-o-nine-tails. Moireasdan mostly examines his life when he is in chains. He seems to be a symbol of Scotland, helping to build someone else's empire in hope of gaining something from it. Never mind Scotland – haven't we all taken calculated risks that did not work out? Come to think of it, I have sometimes worked for rapacious companies.

Seumas reflects on the cannibalism he has seen in the South Seas and decides that the British Empire is just as barbaric if not worse. The point of the *Bounty* expedition was to transport breadfruit trees to Jamaica for feeding slaves. *Anna Ruadh* is a novel of civilized people basking in a beneficent Empire; *Bounty* is a peek into the sausage factory from whence it came.

A briny tale like this could easily be awash in gruesome details but MacLeòid goes easy on them, mostly. The bit about the cannibal eating eyeballs is described with discretion and tastefulness. Gàidhlig is rich in nautical terminology but he keeps it minimal.

This is no story to tackle unless at least one person in a reading group has a grasp of advanced intermediate grammar and a moderately large vocabulary. The word *mar* is always written *man* and *thurchair* is mostly used instead of *thachair*. Someone at the table is going to need both Colin Mark's and Dwelly's dictionaries but even with those plus the online tools *Faclair* and *LearnGaelic* I still have not found *strabhèicarachd*, *nogan*, *turbadan*, and *turralaich*. Most words that I don't know I just skipped without much loss. A few sentences flummoxed me, but after I walked around the room and took a breath I could understand them. Much of the directly quoted dialogue is in eighteenth-century English which gives the effect of English being the language of barked orders and harsh threats, and Gàidhlig the language of reflection. Seumas is no bàrd but he does show flashes of wit:

Fiù 's nuair a smaoinicheas mi air Bligh an-dràsta fhèin tha mo stamag ga cheangal fhèin ann an snaidhmeannan. 'S e mìorbhail a th' ann nach eil e na laighe air grunn na mara no ann am poit mhòr le aon dhe na treubhan ud, salainn agus lusan gan cur dhan bhùrn agus seann bhoireannach liormach ga chur timcheall le spàin.

Even now when I think of Bligh my stomach ties itself in knots. It's a wonder that he is not lying on the floor of the sea or in a big pot of one of those tribes, salt and herbs put into the stew and a naked old woman stirring him with a spoon. d. 38. [translation mine]

Moireasdan has no use for Fletcher Christian. He would never cast Clark Gable or Marlon Brando as Christian for a movie.

As usual the first several pages are the most challenging although I am also still puzzling with the last page.

One reason why my wife keeps grabbing the book from me is to peruse the three lovely maps in front. The typography is sublime. The book has no table of contents and is the worse for that. I wish the layout designers had put the chapter titles at the top of alternate pages. The text is 191 pages, and the chapters are highly uneven in length. I did not spot a single typo.





Litir à Dùn Èideann bhon Taigh Agam

by Jeff W. Justice

A chàirdean,

The light would seem to be at the end the tunnel. Many places are slowly reopening for business. Governments are moving to drop restrictions. Those of us who are fully vaccinated are being told (in some places) that we can remove our masks (again, in some places) if we wish to do so. Things look far better now than they did a year ago. We can see the light getting bigger and bigger at the end of the tunnel, but lest anyone forget, we are still in the tunnel.

It did not take long after our Gaelic world went virtual for us to discuss out loud how to keep these conversations going after the vaccines were distributed and the masks went back into the drawer. We were meeting people in our virtual spaces, many of whom had longed for a Gaelic community of any kind, a chance to learn, to use our beautiful language. We quickly *and correctly* saw an opportunity to grow Gaelic during the pandemic.

When we were told to go home and stay home, it took very little time for our Gaelic conversation circles, classes, and other gatherings to move to Zoom. Some of those circles started well-attended, then saw their participation gradually decline, and this virtual decline over a few short weeks, maybe months, reminds me somewhat of the decline that Gaelic has experienced over the course of the last several centuries. I will not presume to speak for anyone else, but I am sick and tired of being at home. I am tired of meeting online, only online. And to be sure, some of us actually found ourselves *busier* in this new virtual world than we did in the real world we used to know.

We were indeed correct to recognize the opportunities afforded us by the pandemic to grow Gaelic, and we are correct to recognize that these efforts will be in vain if we do not take action to move the virtual language back into the real world as it reopens to us. However, and no matter how tired we might be of Zoom, people like myself will look about ourselves as we step outside for the first time in a good while and recognize that not all of us who experienced this growth of Gaelic online will be able hear, see, and feel it about us when we do. If we give up this online growth and abandon those virtual connections we made, we will also give up on a real-world post-pandemic growth.

It should be very obvious by now that the old normal was killing Gaelic. A return to that normal is unacceptable, and growing Gaelic means that this virtual migration cannot be and must not be temporary. Its place is in both cyberspace and real space. I will say this much for myself: Gaelic made this dark pandemic more than a bit brighter. I really do not care to go through another one, but I refuse to see the darkness. Gaelic makes the heart lighter, and we have seen that these past difficult months. It has made the light at the end of the tunnel that much brighter. Let us not be blinded by it.

Le meas,

Gairidh | Jeff



An Taois Gheur aig Griogair / Gregor's Sourdough (BBC Alba)

Are you one of the many bakers, like me, who turned to or returned to baking with sourdough during last year's COVID pandemic yeast shortage? I for one watched any number of YouTube videos looking for reminders on working with sourdough and new tricks to improve my baking.

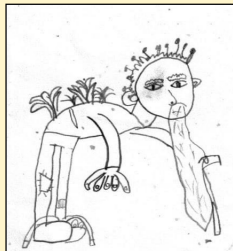


One video I missed, however, was BBC Alba's "An Taois Gheur aig Griogair." In this Gaelic-language video with English subtitles, Gregor makes baking sourdough bread seem so easy and worthwhile, and as Gregor says at the end of the video, "S e lof ceart a tha seo / That's proper bread!"

Ready, set, bake! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5T8iUnn200>



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!



Róisín Newton

Answer to Photo Quiz, p. 8

Fear a bhios fada gun phòsadh

Fear a bhios fada gun phòsadh
Fàsaidh feur is fraoch is fireach air
Fear a bhios fada gun phòsadh
Fàsaidh feusag mhòr air
Fear a bhios fada gun phòsadh
Fàsaidh feur is fraoch is fireach air
Fear a bhios fada gun phòsadh
Fàsaidh feusag mhòr air

Fàsaidh feur air, fàsaidh fraoch air
Fàsaidh feur is fraoch is fireach air
Fàsaidh feur air, fàsaidh fraoch air
Fàsaidh feusag mhòr air
Fàsaidh feur air, fàsaidh fraoch air
Fàsaidh feur is fraoch is fireach air
Fear a bhios fada gun phòsadh
Fàsaidh feusag mhòr air

On a man who is late in marrying
Grass and heather and moorland plants will grow
On a man who is late in marrying
A great beard will grow
On a man who is late in marrying
Grass and heather and moorland plants will grow
On a man who is late in marrying
A great beard will grow

Grass will grow, heather will grow
Grass and heather and moorland plants will grow
Grass will grow, heather will grow
A great beard will grow
Grass will grow, heather will grow
Grass and heather and moorland plants will grow
On a man who is late in marrying
A great beard will grow

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, poet Nathaniel Harrington, a member of Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, has chosen one of Donald Meek’s poems in honour of Màiri Mhòr.

MÀIRI MHÒR @ 200

le Dòmhnall Meek

A Mhàiri Mhòir, nam biodh sibh ann,
is dà cheud samhradh taisgt’ fo ’r bann,
cha stadadh sibh a’ snìomh nan rann,
's cha bhiodh sibh gann de chuspairean.

Bho dheas gu tuath, bho sear gu siar,
bho eileanan gu gleann is sliabh,
tha Ghàidhealtachd mar a bha i riamh -
am feum a dìon bho chunnartan.

Chluinneamaid ur guth 's ur gleus
a' brosnachadh luchd-labhairt threun
na Gàidhlig uasail bh' agaibh fhèin,
's ag agairt spèis is urram dhi.

Chuireadh sibh air coigrich fàilt',
ach dh'iarraidh sibh nach dèante tàir
air a' chànan a bha uair san àit'
aig luchd ur gràidh bha fuireach ann.

Air an 10mh latha dhen a' Mhàrt seo chaidh,
chomharraicheadh dà cheud bliadhna bho latha-breith
Màiri nighean Iain Bhàin – 's e sin ri ràdh, Màiri Mhòr
nan Òran, sàr-bhàrd an 19mh linn, a rugadh ann an
1821 anns an Eilean Sgitheanach. Fad a beatha bha
Màiri an sàs anns a' ghluasad airson còraichean nan
Gàidheal – còraichean tìre, taigheadais, is cànan. 'S
iad na cuspairean so-aithneachadh seo a thogas
Dòmhnall Meek san dàn aige “Màiri Mhòr @ 200”,
a' beachdachadh air dìleab Màiri, agus air an t-slighe
a tha romhainn fhathast.



Rachadh sibh am measg an t-sluaigh
a neartachadh gach cridhe truagh,
is sibh a' strì gach latha 's uair
an aghaidh cruas is burraidheachd.

Na croitearan tha 'n-dràsd fo bhròn
mu mhalairt chearbach 's gainnead stòir,
gheibheadh iad an taic bu chòir
nuair bhiodh ur ceòl gan cuideachadh.

Thogadh sibh ur sùil thar chuan
gu fògarraich gun taigh, gun luach,
is dhìteadh sibh luchd-uile gun truas
tha fadadh fuadach tubaisteach.

Is bhiodh ur dàin a' dol air sgèith
air meadhanan tha ùr nan gnè,
is sgaoileadh sibh le neart ur sgeul
san t-saoghal gu lèir le duinealas.

This past March 10th marked two hundred years
from the birth of Màiri nighean Iain Bhàin – that is
to say, Màiri Mhòr nan Òran, one of the great poets
of the 19th century, who was born in 1821 on the
Isle of Skye. Throughout her life, Màiri was
involved in the political movement for the rights of
Gael – rights to land, to housing, and to language. It
is these recognizable themes that Donald Meek takes
up in his poem “Màiri Mhòr @ 200”, meditating on
Màiri’s legacy, and on the path that is before us
today.

Tha an dàn a' tòiseachadh le moladh air a dìcheall: "nam biodh sibh ann, / is dà cheud samhradh taisgt' fo 'r bann, / cha stadadh sibh a' snìomh nan rann" – agus, mar a dhearbhas Meek, "cha bhiodh sibh gann de chuspairean". A dh'aindeoin adhartais a thaobh cheartasan cànan is bith-bheò air a' Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, tha na prìomh-thèamaichean aig Màiri na cuid obrach (bàrdail agus poileataigich) cudromach fhathast ann an 2021.

Nan robh Màiri Mhòr againn an-diugh, their Meek, "gheibheadh [na croitearan] an taic bu chòir / uair bhiodh [a] ceòl gan cuideachadh". A bharrachd air moladh air Màiri fhèin, tuigidh mise seo mar shluaghairm airson bhàrd Gàidhlig co-aimsireil, a' dearbhadh gu bheil coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig a cheart cho feumach air ealain phoileataigeach an-diugh 's a bha nuair a bha Màiri beò, ealain a bhios air an dàrna làimh "a' brosnachadh luchd-labhairt threun / na Gàidhlig" agus air an làimh eile a' cur fàilte air "coigrich" – cho fad 's "nach dèante tàir / air a' chànan". Bha Màiri ag amas air saoghal Gàidhealach a bhiodh cothromach do gach neach – saoghal Gàidhealachd am bu chòir dhuinn uile a bhith a' strì, agus a' feuchainn ri thogail, gach latha.

Ciamar a nìthear seo? Aig deireadh an dàin saoilidh Meek air òrain Màiri "a' dol air sgèith / air meadhanan tha ùr nan gnè" – tha seo a' toirt orm smaoineachadh air na cothroman a bheir na meadhanan sòisealta (is eile) do luchd-ealain Gàidhlig. Cò ris a bhiodh obair Màiri coltach air Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, no ge b' e dè eile? Saoil ciamar a thionndaidheamaid na meadhanan seo gu innealan feumail airson na strì gus saoghal cothromach a thogail – an dà chuid do Ghàidheil agus do dh'"[h]ògarraich gun taigh, gun luach" – seach innealan nach dèan ach corporaidean eadar-nàiseanta a bheartachadh agus cumhachd stàitean coirbte a leudachadh?

Mar a their Meek, "tha Ghàidhealtachd mar a bha i riamh – / am feum a dìon bho chunnartan". Ach, mar a theireadh luchd Dionnasg an Fhearainn, ris an robh Màiri ceangailte: *is treasa tuath na tighearna*.

The poem begins by praising her determination: "if you were here, / with two hundred summers now under your belt, / you wouldn't stop spinning verses" – and, as Meek, says, "you wouldn't lack for subject matter". Despite progress in terms of language rights and the right to make a living in the Highlands and Islands, Màiri's main themes in her work (both poetic and political) are still important in 2021.

If we had Màiri Mhòr today, Meek says, "[the crofters] would get the support they should / when [her] music was helping them". As well as praising Màiri herself, I take this as a kind of call to arms for contemporary Gaelic poets, arguing that the Gaelic community has just as much need for political art as it did when Màiri was alive, art that will on the one hand "give heart to Gaelic's speakers / bold" and on the other hand will welcome "strangers" – as long as "the language is not / slandered". Màiri's goal was a Gaelic world that would be equitable for every person – a Gaelic world that we should all be striving for, and trying to build, every day.

How should we do this? At the end of the poem, Meek imagines Màiri's songs "winging off / on media of a new kind" – this makes me think about the opportunities that social (and other) media can offer to Gaelic artists. What might Màiri's work be like on Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, or whatever else? How, I wonder, might we turn these media into useful tools for the struggle to build an equitable world – both for Gaels and for "homeless, unvalued exiles" – rather than tools that only serve to enrich international corporations and broaden the power of corrupt states?

As Meek says, "the Gàidhealtachd is as it always was – / in need of protection from dangers". But, as the members of the Land League, to which Màiri was connected, would say: *is treasa tuath na tighearna* – *the people are stronger than any lord*.



Image by Stephen Marc, www.pixabay.com

Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 10

Glac thusa foighidinn is glacadh tu iasg.

You catch patience and you will catch a fish.
(Good things come to those who wait.)

Dè Tha Dol?

Gaelic Events

An t-Ògmhios 2021 / June 2021

Bùth-obrach Òrain / Song Workshop sponsored by An Clas Camelon, Sunday, June 27, 2021, 5–7pm BST (12 pm–2 pm Eastern)

Gaelic song with Gillebrìde MacMillan, a fluent, first language Gaelic teacher, composer and singer. Gillebrìde has taught Gaelic language and song all over the world as well as in Scotland.

This workshop with Gillebrìde MacMillan will be suitable for all levels or those with little or no Gaelic, as the songs will be taught phonetically during the workshop. Due to the time lag on Zoom, participants' mics will be off during the workshop. The fee is £12, which includes the lyrics emailed in advance, as well as a recording of the workshop sent out afterwards to allow you to download and keep to refer back to in your own time.

Email anclascamelon@gmail.com for registration and payment details, or to be added to a mailing list for upcoming events.

An t-Iuchair 2021 / July 2021

Beinn Seanair Bhiortail / Virtual Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week & Mòd, July 5–9, 2021

Once again this year, due to travel and other restrictions, the Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week will be held virtually. Instructors are Christine Primrose (song) and Alec (Bhaltos) MacDonald (language). Instruction will be from beginner to advanced. Register at

<https://acgamerica.org/events/2021-grandfather-mountain-gaelic-song-language-week/>

Ceòlas Sgoil-shamhraidh Bhiortail / Ceòlas Virtual Summer School, July 5–9, 2021

For more information see

<https://www.ceolas.co.uk/home/summer-school-2021-booking-now-live/programmes-school-evening/>

An Lùnasdal 2021 / August 2021

Bùth-obrach / Workshop, Gaelic customs and folklore and associated songs, sponsored by An Clas Camelon, Sunday, August 22, 2021, 4 pm BST (11 am Eastern)

With Margaret Stewart. This workshop will be mainly in English, and so is suitable for all levels of learners. The fee for this workshop is £12.

Email anclascamelon@gmail.com for registration and payment details, or to be added to a mailing list for upcoming events.

Ongoing

Highland Threads: the story of Highland fashion through history, virtual exhibit

Fourteen museums from all over the Highlands of Scotland showcase 14 key pieces of clothing through photography, film, stories and supporting archival footage. Free to view, but donations to support the museums are gratefully accepted.

<https://highlandthreads.co.uk/>

Cèilidh Oidhche Haoine Bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidhs, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto

A ceilidh is all about community and coming together. If you have a story, a song, or an instrument you play, you are invited to contribute, wherever you are in the world. Skill level is not the important thing, so simply join and tell, sing or play. Most of all, you are invited to contribute with your presence.

Upcoming ceilidhs: June 18 - Bean an Taighe, Chrissie Drake

To register, simply fill out the form at the link below and you will be sent the Zoom link to join in online, 7:30 pm eastern time.

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

An Clas Camelon

Gaelic song and language workshops are offered on Zoom, from complete beginner to advanced / fluent, taught by Gillebrìde MacMillan, Maeve Mackinnon and Joy Dunlop, amongst others. Most song workshops are great for those with little or no Gaelic as they are taught phonetically, but workshops fully in Gaelic are also offered for those more advanced. Although we are taking a break over July, please see the workshops listed above in June and August.

For more information, email anclascamelon@gmail.com or see our FaceBook page.

Gaelic Song Sharing on Meetup

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

Cùrsaichean Air Astar / Distance Learning

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>

For a description of all distance learning courses offered through Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, see <http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-air-astar/>

* * * *

Colaisde na Gàidhlig, Leasan na 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 CAD 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

- 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

Colorado

Boulder

Study Group

(on pandemic hold, will resume when possible)

Sue Hendrix susan.hendrix@colorado.edu

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

Denver

Conversation Group

(on pandemic hold, will resume when possible)

Monthly at Stella's Coffee Shop

Reese McKay reese.mckay25@gmail.com

San Luis Valley

Daily Gaelic

Online lessons & classes; email courses

<http://www.gaidhliggachlatha.com>

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

Kentucky

Louisville

Online Individual Classes

Adam Dahmer atdahm01@gmail.com

Maryland

Baltimore

Online Classes and Conversation Group

Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhóir

<https://sgoilgaidhlig.org/>

Rick Gwynallen richard.gwynallen@gmail.com

301-928-9026

New York

New York

Classes (online during pandemic)

New York Caledonian Club

Contact Barbara L. Rice, Chair, Scottish Studies

Barbara.Rice@nycaledonian.org

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

North Carolina

Triangle / Raleigh area

Study Group (online during pandemic)

An Phillips fiongeal@gmail.com

Northern Virginia-Washington, DC-Maryland

Gaelic Learning Community (online during pandemic)

Gàidhlig Photomac

Regular workshops and social events

Contact Liam willbcassidy@gmail.com

Washington

Seattle

Slighe nan Gàidheal

Online Classes & Informal Study Groups

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

Canada

British Columbia

Vancouver

Classes (online during pandemic)

Comunn Gàidhlig Bhancoubhair

info.vancouvergaelic@gmail.com

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

Ontario

Toronto

Gaelic classes & private tutoring via Zoom

Comann Luchd-Ionnsachaidh Thoronto

<http://www.torontogaelic.ca>

Québec

Montréal

Study Group & Celtic choir (online during pandemic)

Linda Morrison linda@lindamorrison.com



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

For additions and corrections, contact Janice Chan, 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). However, articles employing older spelling are welcome, as are articles written in a particular Gaelic dialect (e.g., Cape Breton, Argyll).

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

ACGA Online Faces

Like most organizations in the modern world, ACGA has several online faces, including:

- www.acgamerica.org, our main website, containing a blog for announcements, tips, articles, etc.; an archive of newsletters; detailed information about our major events; information about ACGA and how to join; learning resources; and more.
- www.facebook.com/ACGAGaelic, our Facebook page.
- www.youtube.com/user/ACGAmerica, our YouTube channel with video content.
- www.twitter.com/ACGAGaelic, our Twitter account, used for ACGA announcements.
- www.usmod.wordpress.com, the ACGA Mòd website, containing information about past, present, and future Mòds.
- www.facebook.com/groups/1463155417230179, a special Facebook page for our Gaelic Song and Language Week at Grandfather Mountain.

An Naidheachd Againne

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