

# An Naidheachd Againne

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

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Tha Màrtainn na Mhanaidsear Ionnsachaidh Inbheach aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig agus cò-ùghdar nan cùrsaichean Gàidhlig air Duolingo agus SpeakGaelic. Bidh e cuideachd ag iomairt le Misneachd, buidheann coiteachaidh gus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh sa choimhearsnachd ann an Alba.

Màrtainn is the Adult Learning Manager at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and co-author of the Gaelic courses on both Duolingo and SpeakGaelic. He also campaigns with Misneachd, the lobby group to promote the use of Gaelic in the community in Scotland.

## Ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig leis a' chomhachag

*le Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh*

Nuair a thòisich mi fhèin air Gàidhlig ionnsachadh, ann am Berlin air ais ann an 2012, bha na goireasan gu math gann an taca ris na th' againn an-diugh. Chuir mise feum an toiseach air na seann bhideothan *Can Seo*, a bha rim faotainn fhathast air YouTube. Tha atharrachadh mòr air tighinn air an t-suidheachadh bhon uair sin ge-tà, is Duolingo air cothrom a thoirt do na milleanan air feadh an t-saoghail an ciad ceumannan a ghabhail sa chànan an-asgaidh air na fònaichean-làimhe aca fhèin. 'S e rud mòr mòr a tha sin don a' Ghàidhlig!

Tha mise nam Mhanaidsear Ionnsachaidh Inbheach aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, agus bha mi mar-thà ag obair air a' chùrsa Duolingo nuair a thòisich mi san dreuchd ann an 2019. Bha sinn ag iomairt fad beagan bhliadhnaichean ron a sin airson an cùrsa fhaighinn. Cha robh ach sgioba glè bheag ag obair air a' chùrsa, trìuir againn airson na cuid as motha dheth, le diofar dhaoine gar cuideachadh le clàradh fuaim nuair a bha iad sin a dhith. B' e cùrsa car goirid a dh'fhoillsich sinn ann an 2019, le 34 sgilean, ach thug sinn leasachadh mòr air a' chùrsa ann an 2020 suas gu 105 sgilean. Bidh ath-leasachadh mòr eile ann am-bliadhna, 120 sgilean uile gu lèir ach le tòrr ùrachaidhean air an t-seann chùrsa cuideachd.

Gun teagamh, 's i an àireamh mhòr mhillteach de dhaoine a tha e air tarraing chun a' chànan an rud as

## Learning Gaelic with the Owl

*by Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh*



*Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh*

When I started to learn Gaelic, in Berlin back in 2012, the resources were very limited compared to what we have today. I first used the old *Can Seo* videos, which were still available on YouTube. The situation has changed a lot since then, however, and Duolingo has given millions around the world the opportunity to take their first steps in the language for free on their own mobile phones. That's a big thing for Gaelic!

I am the Adult Learning Manager at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, and I was already working on the

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

buadhmhoire mu Duolingo. Tha còrr is 1.5 millean air tòiseachadh air Duolingo, le timcheall air 500k ga chleachdadh gu cunbhalach – agus còrr is an treasamh cuid dhiubh anns na Stàitean Aonaichte! Ma chuidicheas Duolingo eadhan ceudad beag dhiubh gus fileantas a ruighinn bheir sin buaidh mhòr air a’ chànan. Ach a bharrachd air a bhith na dhòras don a’ Ghàidhlig, no math dh’fhaodte na “dhruga-starsnaich” do dhaoine, tha an cùrsa Duolingo na chuideachadh cuideachd do dhaoine a bha, no a bhiodh, ag ionnsachadh co-dhiù.

Ma tha aon rud riatanach do luchd-ionnsachaidh inbheach, ’s e cunbhalachd: a’ dèanamh rudeigin gach latha, is a’ dèanamh adhartas beag air bheag. Tha Duolingo na dheagh inneal ionnsachaidh a chumas taic riut gus beagan a dhèanamh gach latha, air eagal ’s gun caill thu an sreath-là agad! Chan eil dùil aig duine gun tèid aig luchd-ionnsachaidh air fileantas a ruighinn tro Duolingo a-mhàin, ach chan eil aon inneal no goireas ann a bheir gu fileantas thu.

Làmh ri Duolingo, tha SpeakGaelic air cruth-atharrachadh a thoirt air àrainneachd ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig, a’ cruthachadh slighe shoilleir a dh’ionnsaigh fileantas tro chùrsa farsaing ioma-mheadhanach. Tha grunn diofar phàirtean den chùrsa SpeakGaelic, prògraman telebhisean air BBC ALBA agus YouTube, prògraman rèidio air BBC Radio nan Gàidheal agus BBC Sounds, pod-chraolaidhean air Spotify is eile, agus làrach-lìn le cùrsa air-loidhne. Ach tha cuideachd, airson na ciad uair a-riamh, goireasan teagaisg, rim faotainn an-asgaidh, is air an sgrìobhadh a dh’aona-ghnothach do chlasaichean Gàidhlig inbheach.

Tha SpeakGaelic, mar a tha Duolingo, stèidhichte air sgèile cànan eadar-nàiseanta CEFR, no FICE sa Ghàidhlig; Frèam Iomraidh Cumanta Eòrpach. Tha na goireasan air an sgrìobhadh aig ceithir diofar ìrean: A1 Inntrigeadh, A2 Bunaiteach, B1 Eadar-mheadhanach, agus B2 Adhartach. A rèir an sgèile CEFR, bu chòir do chuideigin a tha air B2 a choileanadh a bhith comasach air còmhradh a chumail ri fileantach ‘gun strì air taobh seach taobh’, gu ìre mhòr fileanta an dèidh dhaibh an cùrsa SpeakGaelic a chrìochnachadh.

’S e “Bruidhinn Gàidhlig” ainm a’ chùrsa, agus mar sin, tha prìomhachas ga chur air sgilean labhairt. Ach tha sinn cuideachd ag aithneachadh gur dòcha gur e èisteachd an dòigh as fheàrr gus briathrachas agus gràmar a dhaingneachadh, agus nach tèid agad air cànan a chleachdadh airson conaltradh mura h-eil thu a’ tuigsinn na chanas daoine eile! Mar sin, tha an cùrsa a’ cur clàraidhean Tobar an Dualchais gu feum

Duolingo course when I started in the role in 2019. We campaigned for a few years before that to get the course. There was only a very small team working on the course, three of us for most of it, with different people helping us with sound recordings when needed. It was a relatively short course that we published in 2019, with 34 skills, but we greatly improved the course in 2020 up to 105 skills. There will be another major reform this year, 120 skills in total but with many updates to the old course as well.

Undoubtedly, the most impressive thing about Duolingo is the huge number of people it has attracted to the language. More than 1.5 million have started Duolingo, with around 500k using it regularly – and more than a third of them in the United States! If Duolingo helps even a small percentage of them reach fluency it will have a big impact on the language. But in addition to being a doorway to Gaelic, or perhaps a “gateway-drug” for people, the Duolingo course is also helpful for people who were, or would be, learning anyway.

If there’s one thing adult learners need, it’s consistency: doing something every day, and making progress little by little. Duolingo is a great learning tool that supports you to do a little each day, for fear of losing your streak! No one expects learners to achieve fluency through Duolingo alone, but there is no single tool or resource that will get you to fluency.

Together with Duolingo, SpeakGaelic has transformed the Gaelic learning environment, creating a clear path towards fluency through a comprehensive multimedia course. There are several different parts of the SpeakGaelic course, television programs on BBC ALBA and YouTube, radio programs on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal and BBC Sounds, podcasts on Spotify, and other providers, and a website with an online course. But there are also, for the first time ever, teaching resources, available for free, specially written for adult Gaelic classes.

SpeakGaelic, like Duolingo, is based on the CEFR international language scale: Common European Framework of Reference, or FICE in Gaelic. The resources are written at four different levels: A1 Entry, A2 Basic, B1 Intermediate, and B2 Advanced. According to the CEFR scale, someone who has achieved B2 should be able to hold a conversation with fluency “without struggle on either side”, more or less fluent after completing the SpeakGaelic course.

The name of the course is “SpeakGaelic”, and therefore, priority is placed on speaking skills. But we also recognize that listening is probably the best way to

mar ghoireasan ionnsachaidh. Mura faigh thu bogadh ceart nàdarra, sa choimhearsnachd, no tro chùrsaichean aghaidh-ri-aghaidh aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, no Ceòlas, no eile, feumaidh tu bogadh a chruthachadh dhut fhèin le goireasan èisteachd gus do chluas a thrèanadh.

Ma tha a' Ghàidhlig agad mar-thà is tu a' beachdachadh air clas a theagasg, tha na goireasan teagaisg SpeakGaelic ga dhèanamh cho soirbh 's a bha e a-riamh. Tha gach pàirt den chùrsa stèidhichte air na h-aona chuspairean, agus an cois gach cuspair tha am plana leasain, Duilleag Mineachaidh, Duilleag Obrach, Duilleag Geama, agus Iùl Oide. Bha sinn gu mòr airson 's gum freagradh an cùrsa air diofar stoidhlean teagaisg agus ionnsachaidh agus gum biodh sùbailteachd aig oidean na goireasan a chleachdadh mar a fhreagradh orra fhèin. Ma tha mìneachaidhean gràmair a' còrdadh riut, tha iad sin ann. Ach mura toil leat cus gràmair, tha na geamannan is duilleagan obrach a' toirt pailteas de chothroman dhut na tha thu ag ionnsachadh sna leasan a chur gu feum.

Mar sin, mas e neach-ionnsachaidh a th' annad, ma tha thu nad oide, no a' beachdachadh air clas a theagasg, cha robh e a-riamh cho soirbh is goireasach is a tha e an-diugh, leis an dà chuid Duolingo agus SpeakGaelic a' cur gu mòr ris an t-slighe ionnsachaidh!

reinforce vocabulary and grammar, and that you won't be able to use a language to communicate if you don't understand what other people say! Therefore, the course uses Tobar an Dualchais recordings as learning resources. If you can't get a proper natural immersion, in the community, or through face-to-face courses at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, or Ceòlas, or others, you must create an immersion for yourself with listening resources to train your ear.

If you already have Gaelic and are considering teaching a class, the SpeakGaelic teaching resources make it easier than ever. Each part of the course is based on the same topics, and each topic is accompanied by a lesson plan, an Explanation Sheet, a Work Sheet, Game Sheet, and a Tutor Guide. We really wanted the course to suit different teaching and learning styles and for instructors to have the flexibility to use the resources to suit themselves. If you like grammar explanations, they are there. But if you don't like too much grammar, the games and worksheets give you plenty of opportunities to apply what you learn in the lessons.

So, if you are a learner, or if you are a teacher, or considering teaching a class, it has never been so easy and convenient as it is today, with both Duolingo and SpeakGaelic greatly enhance the learning journey!



Fiosrachadh air an eadar-lìon / Internet references:

Duolingo <https://www.duolingo.com>

SpeakGaelic <https://speakgaelic.scot/>

YouTube SpeakGaelic <https://www.youtube.com/SpeakGaelic>

Spotify SpeakGaelic <https://open.spotify.com/episode/2FgvyFXYZDn282FyrJD3z>

Tobar an Dualchais <https://www.tobarandualchais.co.uk/>

## Photo Quiz

The modern two-masted ship in the photo evokes images of a much older three-masted vessel that sailed from this loch with 200 Gaels in July 1773 bound for Pictou, NS.

What was the name of the three-masted ship and the loch from which it sailed?

Check page 17 to see if you're right.



*Hilary NicPhàidein*

## Litir bhon Cheann-suidhe le Liam Ó Caiside



## Letter from the President by Liam Cassidy

A chàirdean còire,

Dear friends,

An toiseach, feumaidh mi “meal do naidheachd” a ràdh ri Barabal Lynn Rice, a bhuannaich suidhe air a’ Bhòrd againn bho chionn ghoirid, agus tha mi airson “tapadh leat gu mòr” a ràdh ri Andi Damewood, a sheas cuideachd anns an taghadh. ’S math gun do sheas an dithist seo airson a’ Bhùird am-bliadhna, agus is truagh nach robh dà àite ri fhaotainn! Bidh cothrom eile aig Andi an ath-bhliadhna, agus bhiomaid a’ cur fàilte oirre a bhith an sàs ann an ACGA ged a bhiodh no nach biodh i air a’ Bhòrd.

To start, I must congratulate Barbara Lynn Rice, who won a seat on the ACGA Board recently, and a big thank you to Andi Damewood, who also stood for a seat in the election. It’s good that Barbara and Andi stood for the Board this year, and it’s a pity that we didn’t have two seats available! Andi will have another chance to run for the Board next year, and we welcome her involvement in ACGA whether she’s on the Board or not.

Chan eil e soirbh a bhith nad neach-stiùiridh ACGA. Chan eil annainn ach saor-thoilich, ag obair gun phàigheadh agus uaireannan gun mholadh, feumaidh mi aideachadh. Agus bu chòir dhomh taing a thoirt dhan a h-uile duine a bha air a’ bhòrd sa bliadhna seo chaidh (o Lunasdal gus an t-Iuchar).

It’s not easy being an ACGA Director. We’re only volunteers, working without pay and sometimes without praise, I must admit. And I should thank everyone who served on the Board the past year (from August through July).

Tha aon neach deug air a’ Bhòrd againn a-nise, mar a bh’ againn an-uiridh. Bidh gu leòr againn ri dhèanamh, mar as àbhaist! An toiseach, feumaidh sinn coinneamh bliadhnail a chur air dòigh, anns an Fhaoilteach, tha mi creidsinn. Bidh Mòd Naiseanta Aimeireagaidh a’ tighinn air an 11mh-12mh dhen t-Samhain. Agus bidh sinn ag ullachadh airson Seachdain na Gàidhlig agus nan Òran ann an Carolina a Tuath anns an Iuchar sa tighinn, ged tha e fhathast fad às.

There are eleven members on our Board now, as there were last year. We have enough to do, as always! To start, we must organize an annual general meeting, in January, I believe. The U.S. National Mòd is coming on the 11th-12th of November. And we will be preparing for the Gaelic Song and Language Week in North Carolina next July, though it’s still far off.

Bidh tuilleadh phròiseactan agus prògramman againn air-loidhne am-bliadhna cuideachd, agus tha sinn ag iarraidh ur beachdan orra. Dè bu thoil leibh fhaicinn, a chàirdean?

We’ll have other projects and programs online in the coming year, too, and we’d like to get your opinions on them. What would you like to see, friends?

Tòisichidh mòdan ionadail a-rithist san ath-bhliadhna le Mòd Seachdain Thartain NYC air an 3mh agus 4mh den Ghiblean. Bheir ACGA taic dhan tachartas sin a-rithist. Tha sinn an dòchas gum bi mòd ann an Kentucky san Ògmhios, ann an Carolina a Tuath san Iuchar, agus gum bi Mòd Chesapeake eile ann am Maryland cuideachd. B’ fheàrr toil leinn tuilleadh mhòdan beaga fhaicinn air feadh na dùthcha.

Regional or local mods will begin again in the new year with the NYC Tartan Week Mòd on the 3rd and 4th of April. ACGA will support that event again. We hope there will be a Kentucky Commonwealth Mòd in June, a North Carolina Mòd in July and another Mòd Chesapeake in Maryland as well. We would love to see more small mods throughout the country.

Bidh mi fhathast nam cheann-suidhe am-bliadhna, ach feumaidh mi fàgail às dèidh na bliadhna seo, aig deireadh na teirm agam. Bacaidhean-teirm, nach eil fhios agaibh! Ach ged nach b' urrainn dhomh fuireach air a' Bhòrd, chan fhàg mi ACGA. Tha mòran againn ri dhèanamh le chèile fhathast.

Le dùrachdan

*Liam Ó Caiside*  
Ceann-suidhe, ACGA

I am returning this year as ACGA President, however, I will have to leave after this year, at the end of my term. Term limits, you know! But while I won't be able to stay on the Board, I won't be leaving ACGA. There is much for us to do together yet.

With best wishes,

*Liam Cassidy*  
President, ACGA

## 2023 ACGA OFFICER ELECTIONS

On August 13, 2023, the following officers on the ACGA Board of Directors were elected or confirmed.

### Leadership

Liam Cassidy, President  
Jeff Justice, Co-vice President  
Jamie MacDonald, Co-vice President

### Non-Voting Officers

Michael Mackay, Treasurer  
Nickie Polson, Bookkeeper  
Janice Chan, Membership Secretary  
Joyce Campbell, Recording Secretary  
Jeff Justice, Website Administrator  
Valeria Campbell, Fundraising Director

### Board Members

Taylor Ashlock  
Valeria Campbell  
Liam Cassidy  
Adam Dahmer  
Richard Gwynallen  
Jeff Justice  
Megan Kohtz  
Jamie MacDonald  
Barbara Lynn Rice  
Nicole Rodriguez  
Mallie Steele

## Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Do you know what familiar Gaelic proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 20 to see if you're right.



Image by Mirosław i Joanna Bucholc, <https://pixabay.com/>



## Lyle & Kerrie Kennedy to adjudicate US National Mòd November 11-12

Two former Royal National Mòd Gold Medal winners - Lyle and Kerrie Kennedy of Oban, Scotland - will adjudicate this year's US National Mòd, Mòd Naiseanta Aimeireagaidh, on Saturday, November 11. For the fourth consecutive year, the event will be held entirely online, allowing Scottish Gaelic enthusiasts from across North America and beyond to participate.

Both competitors and any interested in Gaelic language and culture are welcome at the online event. There is a basic fee of \$25 for all registrants and an additional \$20 fee for competitors. The \$25 fee includes online admission to the competitions, ceilidh and workshops. All proceeds go to support the Mòd, one of two major annual events organized by ACGA.

Lyle and Kerrie have been active in the Royal National Mòd, regional mods, and Gaelic choirs in Scotland for many years. Kerrie and Lyle won their Gold Medals at the Royal National Mòd in Falkirk in 2008, and both attended the US National Mòd in 2009. We're delighted to have them join us for our 34th annual celebration of Gaelic song and culture.

"At ACGA, we see the Mòd as a celebration of Scottish Gaelic 'language arts', arts developed through the spoken language such as song, storytelling and poetry," said ACGA president Liam Ó Caiside. "We're looking forward to welcoming Lyle and Kerrie to our online event along with many past attendees and competitors, and to meeting new friends as well."

"Our Mòd has a long history, and although COVID prevented us from holding a live, in-person event the past few years, our online event has brought more Gaelic learners, speakers, and enthusiasts together than we could have hoped for," said Ó Caiside.

The past year has seen the rise of regional US mods as

well, with events in New York, Baltimore-Washington, DC, North Carolina, and Kentucky. ACGA has sponsored several of these events and encourages the growth of local live song competitions and gatherings.

Two new virtual competitions will be added to the US National Mòd this year: an accompanied song competition and a group singing competition. Competitors in those events will pre-record their performances and send video recordings (mp4s) to ACGA ahead of the Mòd for adjudication. The videos may be shared with attendees during the US National Mòd.

The accompanied song competition is open to any who wish to accompany themselves while performing a Scottish Gaelic song of their choice. A variety of instruments may be chosen: guitar, harp, piano, small pipes, ukulele – check with the registrar. The group singing competition includes everything from duets to choirs. Again, check with the registrar.

### Videos must be submitted by November 1.

On the morning of November 11, the Mòd will feature competitions in poetry recitation, original poetry, storytelling, and sight reading (reading a piece of Gaelic prose on first sight). In the afternoon, we will have beginner and general song competitions. The competitions will be followed by an online ceilidh, a song-sharing event, late Saturday afternoon. The event concludes at 6 pm.

Lyle and Kerrie will offer workshops on Sunday morning, November 12. The topics of those workshops will be announced.

Registration is open through the ACGA website: <https://acga.wufoo.com/forms/z644n9218ycaee/>

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



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We'll help you with our formatting guidelines.  
Interested? Email [naidheachd@acgamerica.org](mailto:naidheachd@acgamerica.org)

## Regional Mòd Results

### Kentucky Commonwealth Mòd

Glasgow, Kentucky

June 18, 2023

Adjudicators: Dàine Nic a' Bhàird and Àdhamh Dàmaireach  
Nicole Greenwood - An Duais as Àirde (for best performance overall)  
Kat Laoghaire Chouinard - Duais nan Òran (for best singing)  
Mallie Moss Steele - Duais na Gàidhlig (best Gaelic speaking ability)  
Katie McDannald - Duais nan Sgeulachd (best storytelling)

### North Carolina Provincial Mòd

MacRae Meadows at Grandfather Mountain, NC

July 8, 2023

Adjudicators: Catriona Parsons and Colin Watson  
First Place: Cynthian Knight  
Second Place: Coinneach MacLeòid  
Third Place: Cathleen MacKay

### Cheasapeake Mòd

Laurel, Maryland

August 12, 2023

Adjudicators: Scott MacIlleMhoire and Liam Ó Caiside  
Overall winner: Cynthian Knight



Coinneach MacLeòid & Cynthian Knight  
North Carolina Provincial Mòd



Cheasapeake Mòd

bradan  
press

## Leabhraichean ùra á Albainn Nuaidh New & best-selling Gaelic books from Nova Scotia



**Below:** Goldilocks & the Three Bears in Gaelic: a translation with charming vintage illustrations. Sequel coming in



Oct 2023: The Little Red Hen, A' Chearc Bheag Ruadh.

**R:** New Gaelic poetry from Catriona Parsons of Lewis and Nova Scotia



**L:** Historical fiction with a foreword by *Outlander* author Diana Gabaldon.  
**R:** *Mo chreach*, it's a Highland dance disaster...now in both Eng. & Gaelic editions! Sequel coming in Oct. 2023: *Catastrophe at the Christmas Ceilidh!*



**Top L:** *Wild Rose*, a graphic novel tale of betrayal, action & revenge set in 18th-century Ireland & London—coming soon as *Gaeilge* (in Irish)!  
**Top R:** The second graphic novel of eldritch horror & fantasy short stories by Cape Breton author-artist Angus MacLeod is now available in both English & Gaelic editions. See our online shop for Book Box deals!

Order at:  
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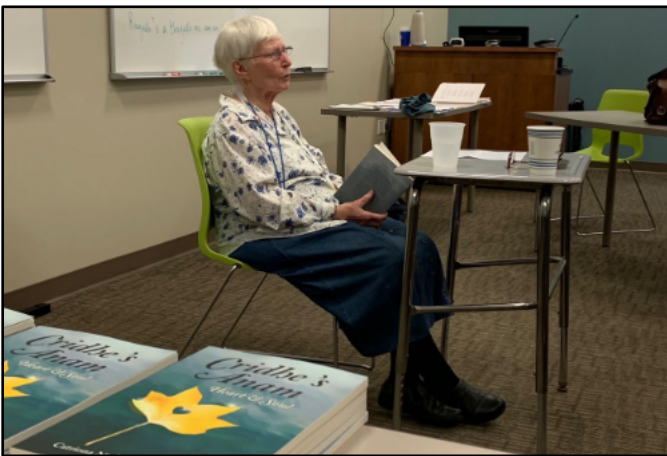


# Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week

Photo Credit: John Grimaldi



Left to right: John Grimaldi with Catriona Parsons, Amy & HD Stewart, who hosted the GFM class party. The Stewarts invite the GFM attendees annually for a cookout at their house. HD (initials for “High Definition”) is both the Executive Director of Campus Operations and Director of Security at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC.



Catriona Parsons reading from her new poetry collection, *Cridhe 's Anam / Heart & Soul*.



ACGA hosted the book launch for Catriona Parsons' new book of bilingual poetry, *Cridhe 's Anam / Heart & Soul*, published this year by Bradan Press.



Class of 2023, Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song & Language Week.



At the Games, John Grimaldi taught a wee bit of Gaelic to the delighted audience at the Gaelic Tent, where the North Carolina Mòd also took place on Saturday, July 8.



Seo i a chàirdean - deireadh na sgeulachd, agus abair deireadh a th' ann!

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

**Caibideil Fichead 's a Ceithir: Crìoch gach Comann**

**Pàirt a Trì: Mac na Maidne**

*... Dunescarat eùin énlaithe admai ibdach ...*

*(“Sabhailibh sinn, a eòin seòlta, ealtainn buidseacha”)*

– Incantationes Sangallenses / Orthannan Naoimh Ghaill, 8mh-9mh linn

“Dhùisg iad uile tràth sa mhadainn, mus do bhris an latha,”  
thuirt an sgeulaiche rinn. Ged bha i dubh-dhorch a-muigh  
fhathast, cha robh briseadh an latha fad às.

Nuair a dh'èirich Iain, bha Nighean an Sgàthain air a cois  
mu thràth, a' bruidhinn ri màthair. “Thig Mac na h-Oidhche  
a dh'aithghearr,” ars a' bhana-shith. “Dh'fheumamaide a  
bhith air an tràigh roimhe.”

Chuir Iain e fhèin ann an òrdugh. Nuair a bhris an latha,  
chaidh an triùir dhiubh a-mach agus sìos dhan tràigh.

Bha Cailleach nan Cearc air an tràigh romhpa, a'  
coimhead a-mach gu long a bha air acair  
far-thìreach. Bha i a' drannadh fuinn fo a  
h-anail. Cha do ghlac Iain na faclan a  
sheinn i.

Bha bàta na luinge a' tighinn gu tìr, agus  
bha sianar ann – ceathrar aig na ràimh agus  
dithist nan suidhe anns a' chùlaibh. Ged bha  
iad fad às, bha Iain cinnteach gur e an draoidh agus  
an spùinneadair a bh' ann.

Thàinig am bàta air an tràigh. Leum na maraichean a-mach  
agus tharraing iad am bàta suas air a' ghainmhich. An uair  
sin, ghabh an dithist a bha ann an cùl a' bhàta ceum air tìr.  
Chaidh na maraichean ceum air ais agus choisich an dithist  
air adhart. Stad iad nuair a bha iad mu fhichead troigh bho  
Iain, Nighean an Sgàthain, a màthair agus a' chailleach.

Dh'aithnich Iain Cnàmhan Dubha, an spùinneadair, an  
toiseach. Seana-chòta mòr a bha air, ceann de dh'fhuilte  
fhiadhaich gun chìreadh le feusag fhada dhubh a thuit nam  
figheachan gu crios mu a mheadhan. Rinn e fiamh-gàire agus  
chunnaic Iain na fiaclan briste, biorach, dathte aige.

“Nach deas an teaghlach a tha feitheamh ribh, a  
mhaighstir?” thuirt e ris an duine ri thaobh. “Seanmhair,

bean, nighean, agus cuilean!”

“Cùm do theangaidh,” thuirt am fear eile. Thug an  
spùinneadair ceum air ais mar a bhuail an draoidh buille dha.

Theab nach do dh'aithnich Iain a nàmhaid. Bu mhòr an  
t-atharrachadh a thàinig air Mac na h-Oidhche. An àite fear  
beag cruinn le feusag fhada bhàn, sheas neach neònach mì-  
nadarra, le leòn-lorg air aodann bho bhathais gu smig. Bha e  
direach mar choinneal-chèir a chaidh a leaghadh agus a bha  
ath-leasaichte ann an cruth cuagach. Thachair sin dha nuair a  
chaidh a gheas agus a chlarsach a bhriseadh fa chomhair  
Sgoil nan Eun.



Bha feusag fhada bhàn aige fhathast agus bha  
meuran fada ro fhada air a làmhnan loisgte.  
Shaoil Iain gun robh coltas acrasach air a  
ghnùis. Bha cleòca ioma-dhathte air, agus  
speuclairean cruinn dathte cuideachd. Cha  
b' urrainnear a shùilean fhaicinn tro na  
speuclairean. Cha robh slat neo slacan  
draoidheachd aice. Cha robh feum aige orra nas  
motha.

“Mu dheireadh thall, a ghaoil, coinnichidh sinn a-rithist,”  
thuirt an draoidh ris a' bhana-shith, “agus mo nighean a'  
ruith air falbh bhuam. Tha eagal orm nach robh thu gam  
thuigsinn gu ceart an uair mu dheireadh a choinnich sinn, a  
nighinn.”

“Cha mhise do ghaoil, a mhic an uile! Chaochail an duine  
sin fada air ais,” ars a' bhana-shith gu dalma.

“Nuair a choinnich sinn aig Sgoil nan Eun, theab gun do  
mharbh sibh mise!” dh'èigh Nighean an Sgàthain dha.

“Ach cha b'e sin a bha mi ag iarraidh, m' fhaileasag bhig 's  
mo mhùirneig,” ars an draoidh rithe gu soineanta. “Bha mi  
direach ag iarraidh na bu chòir a bhith agam, mo nighean

agus an sgoil ud.”

Thog an draoidh a làmhnan suas agus ghluais e a mheuran mu thimcheall bhon a bha iad nan slatagan fada. Chuir e damhan-allaidh an cuimhne Iain.

“Agus tha do charaid chòir còmhla riut,” ars an draoidh.  
“Am balach a lorg mi fad bhliadhnaichean. Bidh thu nam fhoghlainteach a-nise, a mhic! Nach e sin an t-adhbhar a bha mi gad iarraidh?”

“Chan ann mar fhoghlainteach a bha sibh gam iarraidh,” thuirt Iain. “Is math mo chuimhne ciamar a thachair mi ribh.”

Chuir am balach a làmh ri a cheann, mar a chuimhnich e an snag a fhuair e bhon spùinneadair air sràidean Ghlaschu.

“Mar a chuimhnich mise, ’s e cù a bh’ annad nuair a choinnich sin, ach ’s coma!” thuirt an draoidh. “Chan e fealladh a bh’ ann ach fealla-dhà.” Dh’èirich a ghuth gu h-obann.

“Cho fad ’s a tha sinn a’ bruidhinn mu dheidhinn feallaidhean, tha mi creidsinn gu bheil rud beag agaibh a ghoid mo bhean ghràdhach bhuamsa iomadh bliadhna air ais,” ars an draoidh. “Rud beag gun mòran luach dhuibhse. Nach toir sibh air ais dhomh e?”

Chuir Nighean an Sgàthain a làmh a-mach. Dè bha anns a làimh aice ach ugh beag ballach gorm. Chùm i grèim làidir air an ugh.

“An e seo an rud beag gun mòran luach a tha bhuaibh, athair?” thuirt i.

Shùgh an draoidh a-steach anail gu domhain agus shìn e a mheuran fada a-mach gan ionnsaigh, a’ dùrdail ubag fo anail.

“Chan fhaigh thu an t-ugh anns an dòigh sin,” ars a’ bhana-shith gu h-obann. Stad an draoidh. Tharraing e a làmh air ais gu a thaobh.

“Tha deagh fhios agad gur e sin na tha bhuan,” thuirt e.  
“Nach toir thu dhomh e, mo nighinn? Na èist ris a’ bhana-shith a dh’fhàg thu leat fhèin. Nach seas thu rim thaobh a-rithist mar a b’ àbhaist dhut?”

“Dè nach b’ urrainn dhuinn a dhèanamh ri chèile?” lean a h-athair. “An àite Rìgh Deòrsa, bidh ban-impire againn, mas toil leat. Seadh, thusa. Carson nach bi? Ban-impire

dhraoidheil. Seasaidh mise ri do thaobh, gad chuideachadh. Cha bhi na draoidhean am falach nas motha.”

“Chan iarrainn rud mar sin idir!” arsa Nighean an Sgàthain le di-chreideamh. “Chan eil sibh gam thuigsinn idir idir, athair.”

“Mar sin, nach innis thu dhomh dè tha thu ag iarraidh, a ghaoil?” thuirt an draoidh le an-fhuras na ghuth. Thug e sùil air Iain.

“An toil leat am balach seo ri d’ thaobh? Bhithinn toilichte sin fhaicinn, agus sibhse air cheann ginealach ùr de dhraoidhean. Faodaidh sibh cumadh ùr a chur air a’ chruinne ri chèile.

“Agus thusa, ’ille, bu toil leat mo nighean a bhith agad, tha fhios agam,” thuirt Mac na h-Oidhche ri Iain. “Agus carson nach pòsadh sibh? Bhithinn deònach sin fhaicinn. Pòsaidh sibh, agus thèid sibh air ais gu Sgoil nan Eun le chèile, far am bi thusa maighstir na sgoile.”

Cha do chreid Iain na bha e cluinntinn. Ach cha b’ urrainn dha ràdh nach bu toil leis Nighean an Sgàthain a phòsadh. Ach maighstir na sgoile? ’S dòcha gun tàinig coltas beag-chreideamhach neo breisleach air a aodann.

“Seadh, ’s e sin a tha an dàn dhut, nach eil fhios agad?” thuirt an draoidh ris le iongantas. “Is tusa ‘Seabhag Sgoil nan Eun’ a bhalaich! Nach tuirt do mhaighstir gun robh d’ ainm sgrìobhte anns an leabhar dhubh aige dà cheud bliadhna mus do rugadh tu? Sàbhailidh tusa an sgoil bhon deamhan ud agus bidh thu nad mhaighstir, Draoidh Mòr Ùr. Tha sin sgrìobhte, tha mi ag innse dhut, agus bidh sin fìor uile gu lèir cho luath ’s a tha an t-ugh beag ballach gorm ud air ais nam làimh.”

Chuir sin conas air Iain. “Na cuir facal mar deamhan air mo mhaighstir fhèin!” thuirt e. “Tha fhios agam cò e an deamhan an seo!”

“Leig leis!” thuirt Nighean an Sgàthain. “Posaidh mi an Gille Dubh mas toil leis, m’ athair ann no às, le beannachd mo mhàthair ’s mo mhuime, tha mi cinnteach. Agus chan fhaigh sibhse an t-ugh seo gu bràth siorraidh.”

“Dè nì sibh ris an ùgh, ma-tà?” arsa a h-athair. “Cha tèid agaibh air an t-ugh a chumail am falach gu bràth. Gheibh mi e.”

Chaidh iad uile nan tost.



“Brisidh mi e,” thuirt Nighean an Sgàthain ann an guth cruaidh nach cuala Iain roimhe bhuaipe. “Tha fhios agam gur e ur beatha a th’ ann. Mur tèid sibh air ais dhan bhàta dìreach an-dràsta, brisidh mi an t-ugh, agus gheibh sibh bàs.”

Rinn an draoidh lachan mòr gàire. “Brisidh tu e! *Mar dheal!* Mas fhìor! Marbhaidh tu d’ athair fhèin! Cò chreideas sin? Cha b’ urrainn dhut.”

“Sin a nì mi, ma ’s èiginn dhomh,” thuirt an nighean. “Ach tha mi creidsinn gun do mharbh sibh m’ athair fad air ais. B’ e m’ athair Feardorcha Ó Croileagáin. Ach cha sibhse ach Mac na h-Oidhche.”

“Tha mallachd air an ugh, nach eil fhios agad?” thuirt an draoidh. “Nach tuirt do mhàthair neo do mhuime sin riut? An tè a bhriseas an t-ugh, caillidh i a h-uile rud a th’ aice. Thèid a fàgail ann an àite iomallach, gun rùn a cridhe, gun charaid, gun chuideachadh, gus an iarradh coigreach sgeul bhuaipe, sgeul mu mo dheidhinn-sa. Sgeul nach do dh’innis thu riamh rid bheatha. ’S dòcha gum biodh tu ceudan de bhliadhnaichean a’ gabhail aithreachais leat fhèin. ’S dòcha nach tig duine ag iarraidh sgeul bhut idir.”

“Chan eil mi gur creidsinn,” thuirt Nighean an Sgàthain.

“Cha robh fhios agam,” thuirt a mhathair. “Thoir dhomh an t-ugh, a ghaoil. Brisidh mi e, ged a mharbhadh e mi.”

“Thoir dhomh an t-ugh, a ghràidh, agus bheir mi leam e gu saoghal eile,” arsa Cailleach nan Cearc. “Thig mi nad dheaghaidh, a chaillich mhallaichte!” arsa Mac na h-Oidhche. “Cha bhi na dorsan agad dùinte romham nas motha!” Thionndaidh e air ais ri a nighean.

“Thoir dhomhsa an t-ugh!” dh’èigh e. “Chan eil an còrr agad!”

Shin Nighean an Sgàthain a-mach a làmh, an t-ugh fhathast na dòrn. Chunnaic Iain cruaidh-bharail na h-aodann agus bha cinnt aige dìreach gu dè a dhèanadh a ghaoil.

Shin e a làmh a-mach na comhair agus thuirt e facal. Leum an t-ugh às a meuran, thig e tron adhar dha cho luath ris a bheithir, agus ghlac e e. Dar a bha e na dhòrn, bhris Iain an t-ugh.

Dhùisg e anns an taigh-tughaidh, agus leum e suas. An e bruadar a bh’ ann? Ach bha Nighean an Sgàthain agus a màthair nan suidhe ri a thaobh. “Dè thachair? Càite a’ bheil Mac na h-Oidhche?” arsa esan.

“Anns an uaigh,” thuirt a’ bhana-shithe. “Na bha air fhàgail dheth, co-dhiù. Leagh e mar shneachda nuair a bhris thu an t-ugh.”

“Agus Cnàmhan Dubha? Na maraichean?”

“Theab gun do rinn an spùinneadair ionnsaigh ort nuair a dh’fhannaich thu, ach chuir mise stad air,” arsa Nighean an Sgàthain le braoisg air a h-aodann. “Dè rinn thu?” dh’fhaighnich Iain dhi.

“Chuir mi cruth albatrais air,” thuirt i. “Na ghabh dragh, bidh e na dhuine a-rithist cho luath ’s a ruigeas e eaglais. Agus dh’innis mi sin dha.”

“Side mhath na dheaghaidh,” arsa Iain. “Ach dè nì sinn an-dràsta?”

“Pòsaidh sinn,” thuirt an nighean ris gu deimhinnte. “Pòsaidh sinn, agus mar dhraoidhean, chan eil feum againn air eaglais. Nì mo mhuime, Cailleach nan Cearc, a’ chùis ... mas toil leat sin? Tha eagal orm nach do dh’iarr mi ort dè b’ fheàrr leat a dhèanamh.”

“Uill, chan eil an còrr agam,” thuirt e rithe, ach bha fiamh a’ ghàire air.

Chaidh Cailleach nan Cearc gu Eilean an Eòin tro dhoras draoidheil anns an t-seòmar air mullach a’ chnuic agus thug i na càirdean uile air ais dhan Eilean Uaigneach còmhla rithe – eadhan Fear-Fasa Cam, am famhair, le Gugtrabhad na shuidhe air a ghualainn.

Phòs Cailleach nan Cearc Iain agus Dearbhal – an Gille Dubh agus Nighean an Sgàthain – agus rinn iad banais a bha sunndach, ged nach robh mòran dhaoine ann. Bu toil leam a ràdh gun robh iad sona, sàsaichte le chèile iomadh bliadhna, ach cha robh. Nuair a bha iad a’ deasachadh a bhith falbh, bhruidhinn a’ bhana-shith ri Iain agus Dearbhal.

“Ged bha Mac na h-Oidhche breugach, dh’innis e an fhìrinn aig an deireadh. Bha mallachd air an ugh, agus thuit am mallachd air fear neo tè a bhriseadh e,” arsa ise. “Agus is mise am fear sin,” thuirt Iain.

“Nuair a dh’fhalbhas sinne, feumaidh tusa a dhol gu àite iomallach nad aonar, mar a thuirt Mac na h-Oidhche,” thuirt màthair a mhnà. “Feumaidh tu fuireach ann gus an tig coigreach ag iarraidh an sgeul bhut, agus brisidh sin a’ mhallachd. Tha mi duilich, ach tha e mar gheas nach b’ urrainnear a sheachnadh.” Chrom Iain a cheann. “Tha mi tuigsinn,” thuirt e.

Ghlac Dearbhal a làmh. “Chan eil mise a’ tuigsinn!” thuirt i. “Tha mo chridhe briste. Ach shàbhail thu mise. Tha mi tuigsinn sin. Shàbhail thu Sgoil nan Eun. Shàbhail thu sinn uile, a ghràidh. Na dèan dearmad air sin!”

“Ach dè nì thu?” ars Iain. “Tha sinn a’ dol air ais gu Sgoil nan Eun,” thuirt i, “agus an dèidh sin fàgaidh sinn Tìr nam Marbh airson àite far nach fhaightear mulad neo pian mar seo gu bràth.” Bha deòir air a h-aodann.

“Duthaich do mhàthar? Anns an t-Sìthein?” ars Iain.

“Air taobh eile an t-Sìthein,” thuirt a’ bhana-shìth. “Agus is dòcha gun tig an Draoidh Mòr agus na foghlaintich còmhla rinn. Tha an saoghal seo a’ fàs nas cunnartaich do dhraoidhean agus sìthichean.”

“Cha bhi mi sona, a ghràidh, gus an tig an latha nuair a bhris a’ mhallachd,” arsa Dearbhal ris. “Thig mi dhut an uair sin. Ged a dh’eug na draoidhean uile, ged a dh’fhalbhadh na Gàidheil gu lèir, ged a dh’atharraicheadh an saoghal againn cho mòr nach aithnichinn rud sam bith, thig mi, geallaidh mi sin dhut. Chì thu mi aig briseadh an latha sin, a Mhic na Maidne, mo ghaoil.”

Caidreabh gaolach eile, agus dhealaich iad.

“Dhealaich iad!” thuirt Eilidh, gar dùsgadh ann an tiotan. “Dhealaich iad! An innis sibh dhuinn gur e sin an deireadh?”

Rinn an sgeulaiche fiamh a’ ghàire. “Chan e sin an deireadh. ’S e seo an deireadh,” thuirt e.

Ged nach robh a’ ghrian air èirigh fhathast, thàinig soillse tro na h-uinneagan a bha nas treasa na soillsearachd na grèine. Dh’èirich am bodach gu tapaidh agus chaidh e a-mach tron doras, sinne na dhèidh.

Phrìob sinn ar sùilean anns an t-solas gheal ghlan. Cha robh fhios againn dè bha tachairt air chor air bith. Taobh siar an taighe, air cliathach na beinne far nach robh ach fraoch agus clachan agus caoirich ri fhaicinn gu h-àbhaisteach, chunnaic sinn coille-bheithe gheugach, dhuilleach, bhòidheach. Craobhan àrda nach fhaca daoine bho linn nan Cailleanach.

Thug Calum ceum air thoiseach bhuainn, agus sheas e ri gualaibh nam bodach.

Thàinig sluagh neònach a-mach às a’ choille, boireannach òg, àrd, tana, le falt dubh a’ tighinn an toiseach. Bha fallaing ghorm fhada oirre, agus lannair an òir air a bathais agus a crios. Duine òg air a cùl, agus bha a cheann làn-iteagan.

Thàinig boireannaich agus daoine eile às a’ choille, sluagh mòr, shaoil mise, agus cha robh mi cinnteach nach robh mi eòlach orra. Leig Eilidh osna rim thaobh. Bha ar casan freumhaichte anns an talamh, agus cha b’urrainn dhuinn gluasad idir.

Thog am boireannach tana, àrd a làmhan suas, agus thòisich am bodach a’ ruith thuice, Calum na dhèidh. Ach chan e bodach a bh’ ann nas motha, ach duine àrd, dìreach le falt dubh. Thionndaidh e aodann thugainn agus bha aoibhneas na shùilean agus ceòl-ghàire air a bhilean. Mu dheireadh thall, bha fhios agam cò a bh’ ann ann an dà-rìreabh.

Thàinig an duine agus am boireannach ri chèile ann an caidreamh gaolach aig iomall na coille. Às dèidh priobadh na sùla dh’fhalbh iad uile – na boireannaich, na daoine, agus Calum. Cha robh gin dhiubh air fhàgail ach cailleadh bheag, cham a’ coimhead oirnn bho mhullach an t-slèibhe.

Thionndaidh i a h-aodann rinn, agus bha a fiamh-ghàire cho geal ris a’ ghrèin. Chunnaic mi fèidh, tha mi cinnteach gus an latha an-diugh, a’ feitheamh oirre anns a’ choille. Thog i a làmh, agus thàinig an dorchadas air ais, mar a smàlaich i solas an latha le crathadh a làimh.

Chan eil fhios agam dè cho fada a sheas sinn an sin, mi fhìn, Eilidh, agus Eòghann. Nuair a bhuail gath na grèine an t-sliabh, cha robh coille ann, neo sluagh, neo Calum. Cha robh ann ach fraoch, agus clachan, mar a b’ àbhaist. Chaidh sinn air ais dhan taigh fhalamh agus às dèidh greis, dh’fhalbh sinn.

’S iomadh bliadhna a chaidh seachad bhon uair sin. Tha Eòghann na neach-saidheans ainmichte a-nise, a’ siubhal air feadh an domhain, ag obair an aghaidh atharrachadh na gnàth-shìde. Tha sinn ga fhaicinn uaireanan nuair a thig e dhachaigh a dh’Alba.

Phòs mi fhìn agus Eilidh nuair a ghabh sinn ar ceumannan. Cha robh fhios agam nuair a bha sinn aig gealbhan a’ bhodaich gu robh an gaol a’ fàs eadarainn, ach b’ e sin an fhirinn, gu dearbh. Is mise a tha fortanach.

’S e sgriobhadair agus actair a th’innse, agus tidsear na Gàidhlig a th’annam, agus tha sinn a’ fuireach ann an Glaschu. Abair gu bheil sinn sona. Ach tha sinn an còmhnaidh a’ feitheamh ri gnog air an doras, agus an latha a thilleas Calum thugainn, na dhraoidh.



## Toiseach-tòiseachaidh

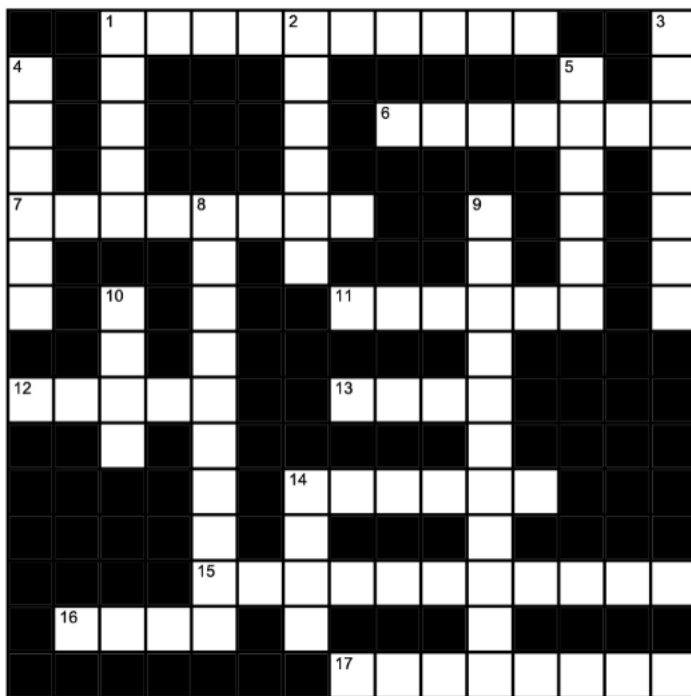
Teachers often encourage their beginning students to write: journal entries, poetry, stories, grocery lists, whatever gets them using Gaelic.

Here's a story from Jill Hazelbauer who lives in Virginia, plays the hammered dulcimer, and studies Gaelic with DuoLingo and a private tutor. Her story may or may not be true.

'S e Oidhche Shamhna a th' ann. Tha mi a' cluintinn rudeigin anns a' chidsin. Dè tha ann? Chan eil fhios agam. Obh, obh! Tha mi a' faicinn taibhse. Tha taibhse anns a' chidsin a-rithist. Bidh taibhse anns a' chidsin a h-uile Oidhche Shamhna. Tha sguab anns an oisean. Leum air an sguab! Bidh mi a' fàgail an taibhse anns a' chidsin. Cha toil leam an taibhse. 'S e droch thaibhse a th' ann. Tha mi an dòchas nach ith an taibhse na briosaidean.

We'd like to publish more stories from Gaelic learners. Do you have an interesting pet? Did you see something strange while you were out walking? Tell us about it, and don't worry about mistakes. We can help you with corrections.

## Elementary Crossword: Ceòl (music)



### Across

- 1 Bagpipe(s) (4-6)
- 6 Flute (7)
- 7 Trumpet (8)
- 11 Singing (1,5)
- 12 Drum (5)
- 13 Song (4)
- 14 Tin whistle (6)
- 15 Instrument (11)
- 16 Music (4)
- 17 Harp (8)

### Down

- 1 Piano (5)
- 2 Choir (6)
- 3 Playing (1,6)
- 4 Guitar (6)
- 5 Chanter (of bagpipes) (6)
- 8 Accordion (5-5)
- 9 Singer (11)
- 10 Key (music) (4)
- 14 Tune (4)

See page 26 for solution

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



..... By telling us what's happening in your Gaelic community by writing short articles about local events, in English or Gaelic.

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



# Litir à Dùn Èideann Gaillimhe, Tórshavn, agus Reykjavík

by Jeff W. Justice

A chàirdean,

I have been all over the Gaelic-speaking world – read that as the three languages calling themselves “Gaelic” – plus a good part of the Nordic (especially Viking) world in 2023, and it’s been quite the adventure. After a week in Scotland, I went to Wales in January for the first time in a couple of decades. That was way too long between visits, by the way. This summer, I spent a marvellous month in Connemara, in the Irish Gaeltacht, taking a three-week advanced course in Irish, followed by a few days in Galway. Then I spent half a week each in the Faroe Islands (which lie halfway between Scotland and Iceland) and in Iceland.

Irish, like Scottish Gaelic, has been in a state of decline and for many of the same reasons. Unlike Gaelic, Irish has official status including the right to use it in the Republic of Ireland, and it was the intention of the founders of the State that Irish become the primary language of the people with English serving as a language of international communication and commerce. Unfortunately, that has not happened, and the number of Irish speakers has continued to dwindle. However, it remains the first language of some communities in the Gaeltacht, including An Cheathrú Rua, where my immersion course took place. Quite a few of the signs on buildings and in hallways were only in Irish. I heard it being used regularly in the pubs, and I even heard young people walking down the street using it.



I also heard a few long-time residents lamenting the fact that – in their view – few economic incentives exist to use Irish as an everyday language. One local even complained to me that America still has its own money (Ireland adopted the euro when it first became legal tender), lamenting that many of the symbols that people use to connect with their national identity have withered or outright disappeared in Ireland, not just its language. However, once I left An Cheathrú Rua for Galway, just an hour’s drive away, Irish was not as common. To be sure, a hearty “*Fáilte*” greeted visitors in many a store, both spoken and in writing, but I did not hear or see much more than that other than road signs, which are always bilingual in the Republic of Ireland.



Icelandic and Faroese look quite similar in writing, and someone who can read one of them can generally read the other with a smidgeon of help. However, they are not mutually intelligible in speech. Iceland was once part of the Kingdom of Denmark, and the Faroe Islands remain so. Iceland gained its independence during World War II during Germany’s occupation of Denmark. The Faroe Islands narrowly voted in 1946 for independence, but Denmark undercut the vote by dissolving the *Løgting* / Parliament for early elections and kept the archipelago within its rule but with greater autonomy.

The Danes never really tried to impose Danish on the Icelanders, but they did do so to the Faroese. Danish was the language of church, school, and business, and it was a language of prestige; Faroese was the language of the lower classes. However, the Faroese people identified strongly with it and still do, and they began pushing it back to a language of daily use in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early



20<sup>th</sup> centuries, including in official societal institutions. Today, practically all Faroese are bilingual, but the older generations use Danish as their second language. Younger generations speak English, to the point where schoolchildren will use English instead of Faroese on the playground. Some older Faroese worry that English, as an international language of commerce and tourism, might overshadow their own language as Danish once did. However, this is not an opinion that they share universally.

Icelandic has barely changed in 1,000 years, and the Icelanders strongly resist adopting terms from other languages when new concepts come about. Instead, they coin their own, as they value greatly the purity of their language. Practically all Icelanders are bilingual, with English serving as their second language. Danish is still part of their compulsory education system, mainly because of their desire to maintain links with Scandinavia and Iceland's own identity as part of the Nordic communities. As in the Faroe Islands, schoolchildren in Iceland have a habit of using English over Icelandic on the playground, but this is not (yet) an issue that raises generally a heightened level of concern.



Road signage throughout the Faroe Islands was only in Faroese. Signage on buildings in Tórshavn, the Faroese capital, and labels inside them featured a mixture of Faroese-only, Faroese and English, or Faroese paired with both English and Danish. I expected to see at least some Danish, given that the islands are still part of Denmark. On the other hand, everything in Iceland was in Icelandic only or Icelandic and English. As in the Faroe Islands, all road signage was in Icelandic, but one very often saw English with Icelandic on and inside buildings and stores. In fact, it was not unusual to see English *only* on some store signs. This was, obviously, aimed at tourists. That said, the majority of Icelandic restaurants I visited featured menus only in Icelandic, but waitstaff were very helpful with translations where needed.

Speaking with local residents in all three countries, their views toward protecting their local native languages had one thing in common: They will survive if the will to keep them alive is there. Herein lies a very important lesson for Scottish Gaelic. It will have a future, but only if the will is there. It came as no surprise that Irish speakers look toward the Welsh for inspiration. Because they have the will for Welsh to be a daily, normal part of their lives, Welsh again has a respectable heartbeat. Irish in the Republic seems to be at a fork in the road. Which way it goes will depend on where the public will lies. Meanwhile, the Faroese look warily at English. They recognize the need for it, but they do so with some measure of caution. The Icelanders are beginning to sense some need for caution of their own. Will English do to Faroese and Icelandic what it has done to Gaelic and Irish? Will the Irish and the Scots find the will to push back and assert their languages like the Faroese and Welsh did?

Time will tell.

Le meas,

*Gairidh / Jeff*

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## Bàrdachd airson ar linn

*Pangur Bán* is a poem written in Old Irish around the 9th century. It has survived unattributed, but is similar in style to poetry written by the Irish monk, Sedulius Scotus (840–860).

Pangur Bán (White Pangur) is the name of the poet's cat, and the poem compares the way the cat spends its day hunting with the monk's quest for knowledge, both solitary pursuits.

Dàibhidh Dauvit / David Livingston-Lowe has translated the original poem into Scottish Gaelic and English. David is a Gaelic instructor in the Celtic Studies Program, University of Toronto, and has been teaching Gaelic for over 25 years. He studied Gaelic in Scotland and Cape Breton in addition to Irish in Connemara and Donegal.



*iStock.com/Seregraff*

### Mise agus Pangur Bàn

Dàibhidh Dauvit (eadar-theangaichte o shean-Ghaeilge)

Mise agus Pangur Bàn,  
An dithis againn ri ghnòthach sònraichte;  
bidh a mhac-mheanmhainn-san ri sealg,  
mo mhac-mheanmhainn fhìn nam cheàird shònraichte.  
Is caomh leam fois a ghabhail, thar gach cliù,  
aig mo leabhran a' cur eòlas an gnìomh;  
chan eil farmad aig Pangur Bàn rium,  
is caomh leis-san a cheàird mhacanta.

Nuair a bhios sinn – sgeul gun sgìths –  
nar taigh nar n-aonar,  
bidh cleas dì-chrìochnach againn –  
nì dhan toir sinn ar dèine.  
A ghnàth, air uairibh, an dèidh ghreisean galach  
thèid luch an sàs na lìon-sa;  
is tuitidh nam lìon fhìn  
deachd doirbh le cèill dhuilich.

Stiùirichidh e ri fraigh fàil  
a rosg glè gheal gu h-iomlan;  
stiùirichidh mi fhìn ri geurad fiosa  
mo shùil shoilleir, lag 's gu bheil e,  
Is caomh leis-san dol gu dian  
nuair a leanas luch ri gheur-spòg;  
nuair a thuigeas mi ceist dhoirbh dhileas,  
's mi cheana ga mealtainn.

Ged as ann mar seo a bhios sinn ré an latha,  
cha chuir sinn dragh air a chèile.  
Is math le gach aon a cheàird,  
na aonar a chòrdas i ris.  
Is e fhèin a tha comasach air  
an obair a nì e gach latha;  
gus doirbh soirbh fhàgail  
air mo shon fhìn, tha agus mise.

### Pangur Bàn and I

David Livingston-Lowe

Pangur Bàn and I,  
each of us at his particular occupation;  
his mind is on hunting,  
my own mind is on my particular trade.  
I like to rest, above all fame,  
at my booklet putting knowledge into practice;  
Pangur Bàn is not envious of me,  
he likes his meek craft.

When we are – a story that never tires –  
in our house alone,  
we have unending sport –  
something on which we bestow our ardor.  
Usually, at times, after periods of valor  
a mouse gets caught in his net;  
and a difficult dictum with a hard meaning  
falls into my own net.

He directs entirely toward an enclosing wall  
his very bright eyelid;  
I myself guide toward the sharpness of knowledge  
my clear eye, weak though it be,  
He likes to go with intensity  
when a mouse sticks to his sharp paw;  
when I understand a really difficult question,  
I enjoy it immensely.

Although we are thus throughout the day,  
we don't bother each other.  
Each one likes his craft,  
alone he enjoys it.  
He is capable  
of the work he does each day;  
for my part, rendering the difficult easy,  
so am I.

## Facal à Aonghas / A Word From Angus

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

Angus MacLeod, Gaelic teacher and author from Cape Breton, often answers these kinds of questions in his classes, sometimes with a Cape Breton *blas*. His graphic novels<sup>1</sup> also provide many useful phrases in idiomatic Gaelic.

These are a few ways to express “They are excited”.

*Tha iad air bhioran.*

*bioran* – anything small and pointed

*air bhioran* – excited; on tenterhooks; fidgety

*Tha iad air a’ bhiod.*

*biod* – horse’s bit

*Tha iad air an togail.*

*togail* – excitement; lifting of spirits

Here are some other useful phrases that use these constructions:

*Tha Màiri air bhioran gu dannsa.*

Mary is excited / dying to dance.

*Bha a’ chlann air a’ bhiod gu faighinn air ais dhan sgoil.*

The children were excited to get back to school.

*Bidh Seumas air a thogail.*

James will be excited.

<sup>1</sup> *Às a’ Chamhanaich*, written and illustrated by Angus MacLeod, Bradan Press, 2022;

*Dorsan*, written and illustrated by Angus MacLeod, Bradan Press, 2022.



*Hilary NicPhàidein*

### Answer to Photo Quiz, p. 3

The *Hector* carried the first significant migration of Gaelic-speaking settlers to Nova Scotia from Loch Broom in 1773. A replica of the *Hector* is moored at the Hector Heritage Quay in Pictou, NS.



## 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, Caroline Bennett, to pick a poem from “Meek Lines” and tell us what it means to her.

Singer and poet Caroline Bennett lives in upstate New York. She was recently published in Bradan Press’ collection of Scottish Gaelic poems, *Òr a Mhaireas: Bàrdachd Ùr á Albainn Nuadh / Lasting Gold: New Nova Scotia Gaelic Poetry*.



### A’ Ghrian air Beinn Shianta

le Donald E. Meek

Deàrrsaidh a’ ghrian air Beinn Shianta fhathast,\*  
ged bhitheadh na siantan dian a’ sadadh,  
’s gach eilean is tìr fo bhinn a’ ghalair,  
is smalan a’ prannadh ar dòchais.

Teichidh an ceò chuireas bròn nar n-anam,  
is togaidh an sgòth tha seòladh thairis,  
is bithidh gach mòr-thìr glòrmhor maiseach  
an gathan na maidne gu bòidheach.

Tillidh na h-eòin le ceòl is caithreim  
ged chaillte an òrain òirn car tamaill,  
is bithidh na h-ògain spòrsail fallain,  
air srathan is machair is mòinteach.

Bidh solas nan speur le leus a’ lasadh  
uachdar nan rèidhlean feurach fallain,  
gach lochan is allt’ a’ danns’ le faileas,  
is faram na mara mar cheòl dhaibh.

Thig dùsgadh às ùr le sùnn is aighear,  
ged bhiomaid gun sùgradh, dùinte, glaiste,  
teichidh an geamhradh meallt’ seo dhachaigh,  
is lasaidh grian earraich na lòintean.

Deàrrsaidh a’ ghrian air Beinn Shianta fhathast,  
is chì sinn gu brèagh’ a binnean snasail,  
nochdaidh gach sliabh le sgiamh is lainnir,  
is fadaidh sinn sradaig ar dòchais.

\* *Seanfhacal à Earra Ghàidheal.*

### The Sun on Ben Hiant

by Donald Meek, Translation by Caroline Bennett

The sun will yet shine on Ben Hiant \*  
Even though the intense elements are beating,  
And each island and land under doom of illness  
And grief is crushing our hopes.

The fog that puts sorrow in our soul will flee  
And the shadow that sails over (us) will lift  
And each glorious, beautiful mainland will be  
Beautiful in the rays of the morning.

The birds will return with music and triumph  
Although their songs were lost to us for a while,  
The seedlings will be merry, healthy  
On valleys and machair and moors.

The light of the sky with glimmering light igniting  
the surface of the healthy grassy plain,  
Every loch and stream dancing with reflection  
And the noise of the sea is like music to them.

A new awakening will come with happiness and joy  
Although we would be without merry making, closed off, locked  
This deceiving winter will flee  
And spring sun will light up the meadows.

The sun will yet shine on Ben Hiant,  
And we will see beautifully her elegant peaks,  
Each slope will appear with elegance and radiance,  
And we will kindle/ignite the small spark of our hope.

\* *Proverb from Argyll*

Dé tha am bàrd ag ràdh? Seo a' chiad cheist a dh'fhaighnich mi dhiom fhìn . . . ach bha an dàrna ceist ceart cho cudromach, nam bheachd. “Dé an ciall dhomhsa?”

Nuair a leugh mi an dàn seo a' chiad turas thàinig e thugam cho brèagha 's a bha na faclan nuair a bha am bàrd a' toirt dealbh ùr-bhreith an t-saoghail . . . eadar-dhealaichte gu tur bho “an geamhradh meallt”. Chuir gu feum ìomhaighean an earraich . . . ath-thilleadh nan eun, solas na gréine, faileas an uisge dhannsaidh, 's fuaime na mara . . . gus na seallaidhean, fuaimean, agus blàths an earraich a thoirt dhuinn. Anns an dòigh seo tha ceangal eadar an t-earrach agus dòchas, tlachd, agus solas. Seo faireachdainnean ris a bheil a' chuid mhòr againn eòlach nuair a thig ràith àllaigh an fhàis seo.

Ach dè mu dhèidhinn na faclan “fo bhinn a' ghalair”, “smalan a' prannadh ar dòchas”, “bròn nar anam”, “an sgòth tha seòladh thairis”, agus “an geamhradh meallt”? An e seo na faclan mu dhèidhinn geamhradh àbhaisteach no rud eile? Saoil an e COVID an galar seo? Thug COVID smalan is bròn leis gu dearbh agus bha e mar gu robh sgòth thairis oirnn aig an àm sin.

Chaochail an saoghal gu dearbh agus chanadh cuid gun robh e mar “dùsgadh ùr” nuair a dh'fhalbh na bacaidhean sluaigh de na làithean sin. Mhothaich mi a-rithist an dòigh anns an do chuir am bàrd ùrachadh Nàdair gu feum gus aoibhneas agus cianalas a bharrachd innse dhuinn.

Tha an ceangal eadar Nàdar, crùth-tìre agus ciall beatha air a bhith gu math dlùth ann an cultar nan Gàidheal fad linntean agus 's e seo a gheibh sinn anns a' bhàrdachd gu tric. Tha ìomhaigh na beinne cho làidir agus stéidheil anns an dàn seo agus nuair a lorg mi fios mu Bheinn Shianta fhuair mi a-mach mu dheidhinn tobhtaichean baile air ear-dheas na beinne. 'S e Bourblaige an t-ainm a bh' air agus creidear gun do dh'fhuirich seachd teaghlaichean ann gu ruige àm nam fuadaichean ann an 1828. Bha fichead togalach 's a sia deug ann agus dh'fhaodadh gun robh tuineachadh ann bho 800 AD.

An e seo an smalan agus bròn air an robh am bàrd a' bruidhinn? Daoine agus an cultar 's an cànan aca fuadaichte 's caillte bho thìr? An iad sanntas agus an-ìochd an galar agus an sgòth? An iad na h-òrain a bha guthan caillte nan sluaghan a dh'fhàg an dùthaich, agus a bheil tilleadh nan eun agus solas na gréine a' riochdachadh tilleadh na Gàidhlig?

Bu chòir do dhaoine a bhith ceangailte ris an dùthaich agus an dùthchas, nam bheachd, agus ma thèid an ceangal a bhriseadh, caillidh sinn ciall ar beatha. Bu chòir dhuinn ar n-àire a thoirt do chudromachd àrainneachd, Nàdair agus Dùthchais nar beatha . . . mar gun robh ann an cridhe nan Gàidheal agus nan tùsanach air feadh an t-saoghail fad linntean.

Seo cuid de na beachdan-smuaineachaidh a th' agam. Dh'fhaodainn cumail a' dol (mar a bhios fios aig mo chairdean!) ach 's e seo an turas agaibhse gus faighinn a-mach càite an tòir an dàn seo sibh.



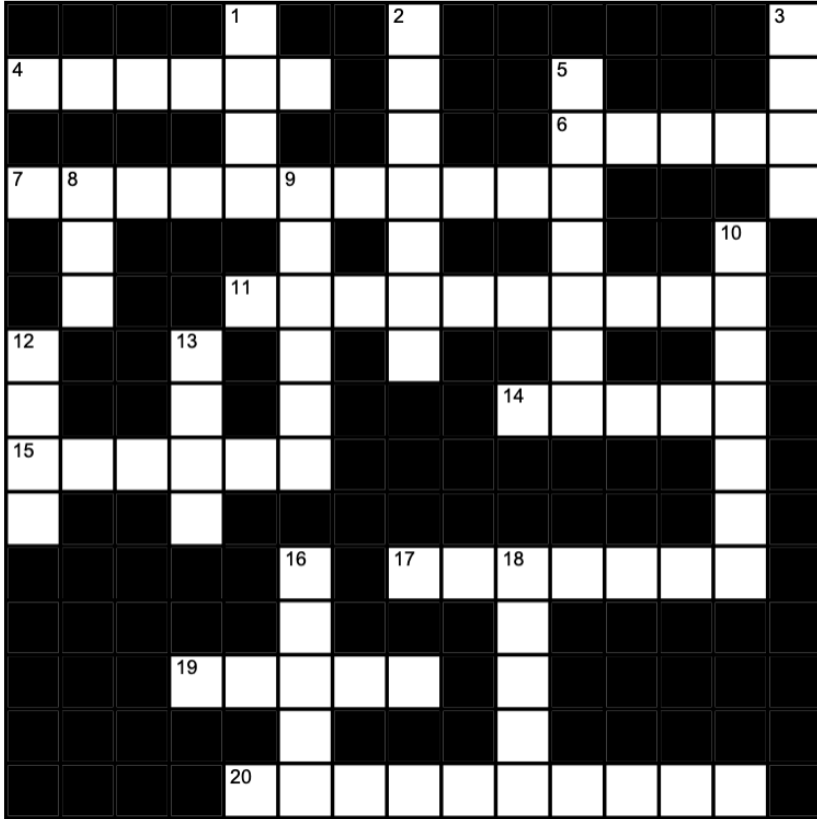
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## Tòimhseachan-tarsainn: Cumaidhean-tìre



See page 26 for solution

### Tarsainn

- 4 Earrann mara le tìr air an dà thaobh (6)
- 6 Àite far a bheil a' mhuir eu-domhainn (5)
- 7 Eilean beag (5-6)
- 11 Doras nàdarra (5-5)
- 14 Balla aig crìoch na mara (5)
- 15 Strìop tìre nas ìsle nan dà thaobh, gu tric le abhainn eadarra (6)
- 17 Bràigh na dùthcha (3-4)
- 19 Strìop tìre le muir air an dà thaobh (5)
- 20 Coimhearsnachd de dh'eileanan 🤔 (5-5)

### Sìos

- 1 A bheil mathan na chadal a-staigh? (4)
- 2 Amas sreapadair beinne (7)
- 3 Seall air a' mhuir gu h-ìseal bho seo (4)
- 5 Bìdh e saillte cuid den ùine (7)
- 8 Tìr le uisge cha mhòr ga chuairteachadh (3)
- 9 Tìr air a chuairteachadh le uisge (6)
- 10 Coltach ri slais, ach anns an tìr (7)
- 12 Uisge car dìonta bhon a' mhuir (4)
- 13 Rìof cruinn (4)
- 16 Cnoc mòr, cas (5)
- 18 Cumadh-tìr àrd, fada, caol leis an dà thaobh cas (5)



Image by Mirosław i Joanna Bucholc, <https://pixabay.com/>

## Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 5

**Taigh gun chù, gun chat, gun leanabh beag,  
taigh gun ghean, gun ghàire.**

A house without a dog, a cat or a little child  
is a house without joy or laughter.





## Book Review:

*Na Tri Mathain* air eadar-theangachadh le Seumas R. MacDhòmhnaill  
Dealbhan le Leonard Leslie Brooke agus William Morris

Bradán Press, 2023, 30 pages

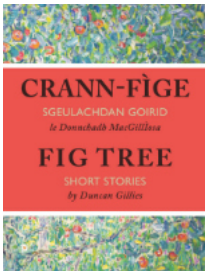
ISBN: 978-1-77861-024-0 (softcover)

Reviewed by Hilary NicPhàidein

The oft-told story of “The Three Bears” (or “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”), translated here into Scottish Gaelic and full of classic illustrations, is perfect for reading to young children. It is also a useful resource for the adult learner. Familiarity with a story in English allows the learner to focus on the language itself with its unique idioms and grammatical patterns. The learner will find plenty of examples of the past tense, genitive plurals, and feminine nouns and adjectives in the dative case. With the repetition of certain similar phrases such as “*An uairsin, laigh i sìos air an leabaidh mheadhanaich*” and “*Agus mu dheireadh, laigh i sìos air an leabaidh bhig*,” the learner will see how the adjective agrees with a feminine noun in the dative case. While the word *meanbh* keeps the alliteration going in the repeated phrases involving *Mathan Mòr*, *Mathan Meadhanach* agus *Mathan Meanbh*, the learner will also have learned another word for *beag* - minute or small.

The charm of this book lies in the illustrations. The pen-and-ink line drawings and watercolour paintings by L. L. Brooke, a leading children’s book illustrator in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in England, are detailed and very appealing. The wallpaper designs by William Morris, one of the founders of the British Arts and Crafts Movement in the late 19th century, are beautiful. These designs, based on the plants and flowers William Morris found in his garden, provide the perfect backdrop to the blocks of text and L. L. Brooke’s illustrations.

The translator has added some nice touches in Gaelic to a number of illustrations. We see *Mathan Mòr* reading *Mac-Talla*, a Scottish Gaelic periodical published in Cape Breton between 1892 and 1904. *Mathan Meanbh* is reading *Fear na Cèilidh*, another of Cape Breton’s Scottish Gaelic newspapers, this one published between 1928 and 1930. At the beginning of the story, we have the three bears getting ready for the day. The sign on the wall is fitting – *Itheam, suidheam, caidleam* / Let me eat, let me sit, let me sleep. Little did those bears know that Goldilocks would come along and prevent them from doing just that.



## Book Review:

*Crann-Fìge / Fig Tree*

le Donnchadh MacGillÌosa / Duncan Gillie

Acair, 2022, 160 pages

ISBN: 9781789071252

Reviewed by Ted Neveln

After Beginner-dom come the merry meadows and soggy bogs of the Intermediate Learner. *Crann-Fìge / Fig Tree* is Duncan Gillies’ fourth published collection of short stories. I once started his earlier anthology *Tocasaid ‘Ain Tuirc* but gave up because it was not easy! Even the title was daunting. I will return to it but with trepidation even now. Meanwhile, I am grateful for this flower-like bilingual anthology with an English translation facing the Gaelic.

The translation is dynamic rather than literal. Literal (or formal-equivalence) translation stereotypically aims for word-by-word correspondence. But languages are different from each other on many levels. The King James Bible is fairly literal – the translators tried to find an English word for each word of Hebrew. Phrases like “and it came to pass” or “behold!” may sing nicely in Hebrew but can make the English sound odd. Dynamic (or dynamic-equivalence) translation strives to make English sound “normal” but may haze over linguistic fireworks to make a different false parity. If a translator tries to keep the rhyme and meter of a Homeric poem then he may require words, phrases, idioms and allusions that Homer would not have used or understood. But accuracy of meaning turns Greek poetry into English prose. The two philosophies lie along a spectrum, of course, and no translation is just one or the other.

Here is a sample of literal versus dynamic translation: The literal translation is mine, the dynamic translation comes from the book itself.

Gaelic: *leantainneach nan seachd seachdain is nan seachd mìosan*

Book: six weeks, six months in the making

Me: ongoing for seven weeks and seven months (pages 12 / 13)

If I have not left you at sixes and sevens, then consider this:

Gaelic: *Nach ann a thàinig litir eile bhuaithe.*

Book: Another letter came eventually.

Me: Was it not that another letter came from him. (pages 54 / 55)

By delightful accident or intelligent design, the Gaelic typography is more legible than the English and the eyes are enticed by the Gaelic. Even with English text on the facing page I marked words and phrases to look up.

The stories are solidly set in the Isle of Lewis. Most are short but a couple are long enough that a reading group might need two sessions to get through them depending on how finely they want to card their fibers. *Athair* is written in the second person, and, like many stories here, is plotless though not pointless. One of my favorite stories is *An Tritheamh Buille* which features an open-hearted young man named Toca said 'Ain Tuirc, who seems to be the hero of a set of stories that I mentioned earlier. He aids an older couple who are caught in a miasma of age-old Celtic superstition and Calvinism – an unfortunate mix. It ends with the altruism of two worlds.

The best story of all is *Am Facal a Chaidh air Seachran* which refers to the parable of the lost sheep.

*What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? Luke 15:4 (King James Version)*

Except that this protagonist seeks Gaelic words that have gone astray from the folds of the dictionaries. Many of us understand. As a personal example I looked through Dwelly's dictionary to find *faomadh* from page 84 of this anthology. *Faomadh* is a variant of *aomadh* (sloping or bending). It is also on the LearnGaelic website:

<https://learngaelic.scot/dictionary/index.jsp?abairt=faomadh&slang=both&wholeword=false>

Anyway this lexicographer-hero is a more stalwart word-shepherd than me. Here are a few of his waifs: *a' stangalanaich, creubhag, a' pèirceanachd, stiorra, staga* – well, enough for now. Copy these strays into the *LearnGaelic Dictionary* or *Am Faclair Beag* to see if and how they herd these words:

<https://www.faclair.com>

<https://learngaelic.scot/dictionary/>

Read the story if you want more wandering words to wonder about. (Check out this site if you want to examine the possibilities of translation: <https://biblehub.com/luke/15-4.htm>)

Some stories are solidly Christian but in quirky ways. The first story, *Crann-Fìge*, emphasizes the human beingness of Jesus. In *Ainglean* an adult frets over a childhood sin that most of us would laugh at, but it raises questions about how adults and children might be like angels. *A' Chailleach Bheag* is a tragi-comedy of misplaced love and a misguided shepherdess. There are lots of metaphorical lost sheep in these stories. In *Taigh Fhionnlaigh Bhig* even a house can be a lost sheep, a house haunted not by what happened but by what didn't happen. The people of the Isle of Lewis have a reputation for the earnestness of their Christianity and even melancholy secular stories like *Taigh Fhionnlaigh Bhig* resound of angelic chimes tinkling like memories in the breeze. *Ceiteag* is an ordinary woman with an angelic glow. *Lochlannaich* seems to have an unchristian boastfulness of how much more subtle Gaelic is than English at crafting terminology for geographic land forms.

There are about a dozen stories altogether. The publisher's website has a sampler of the first few pages of the book and *Crann-fìge* has just won the Highland Society of London Prize for Best Fiction Book at Na Duaisean Litreachais 2023 / The Gaelic Literature Awards 2023:

<https://acairbooks.com/product/books/crann-fige/>



## An t-àite agam fhìn

“An t-àite agam fhìn” is where you will find short pieces by ACGA members and friends about their families, their homes, and their world. In this issue, Hilary NicPhàidein writes about her Granny’s attempts at baking as well as one of her own favourite recipes that is featured in our Bilingual Recipe. Cam MacRae tells us how she is spinning fleece for yet another project by using an age-old method that employs a small stick as a spindle.

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

### Sgonaichean agus fuineagan eile

le Hilary NicPhàidein

Bha mo mhàthair fìor mhath air fuineadh ach cha robh mo sheanmhair math air idir. Iomadh feasgar Didòmhnaich nuair a bha sinn nar cloinn, chanadh mo sheanmhair rudeigin ruinn leithid, “Feumaidh mi falbh dhan chidsin gus sgona *Be-Ro* a dhèanamh.” Mur eil fios agad, ’s e ainm min-flùir cumanta anns An Rìoghachd Aonaichte a th’ ann am *Be-Ro*. No uaireannan chanadh i, “Feumaidh mi falbh airson *Melting Moments* fhuineadh.” *Melting Moments*? Seòrsa de bhrìosgaid milis maoth le craiteachan de mhin-choirce. Sheallamaid air a chèile. Am biodh na sgonaichean no briosgaidhean loisgte no cho cruaidh ri iarann? Gu fortanach cha bhiodh, ach uaireannan...bhiodh. Ge-tà, dh’fheumamaid a bhith faiceallach nach toireadh sinn oilbheum do Ghranaidh. Chanadh sinn an-còmhnaidh gu modhail, “Tapadh leibh, a Ghranaidh.”

Mar a thuirt mi roimhe bha mo mhàthair fìor mhath air fuineadh. Rinn i reasabaidhean furasta cuideachd agus tha aon dhiubh, Lofa All-Bran, air duilleag 24 sa chuairt-litir seo. Chòrd i ri mo theaghlach is ri mòran eile cuideachd. Tha mi gu math cinnteach gun do dh’ith mi snaois dhith nuair a bha mi ann am Bràdhagar sa Chèitean aig madainn-chofaidh ann an ionad-coimhearsnachd Ghrinneabhat.



All Bran

### A’ fighe aig astar

le Cam MacRae

An turas seo bha sinn anns a’ bhuidheann fhathast a’ fighe aig-astar ach cha robh sinn a’ fighe còmhla, is gach tè againn, mise, Seonag, Hilary, agus Annag ag obair air rudan diofraichte. Rinn mise ad do charaid dhomh is tha mi ag obair air geansaidh, ach a’ mhòr chuid dhen ùine, tha mi air a bhith a’ sniomh agus a’ smaoinichadh air sniomh. A’ sniomh air cuibhlichean mòra, air cuibhlichean beaga agus air bataichean. Seadh, bataichean. A’ sniomh air bataichean beaga biorach.

An-uiridh leugh mi leabhar, *In the Footsteps of Sheep: Tales of a Journey through Scotland, Walking, Spinning, and Knitting Socks* le Debbie Zawinski. Smaoinich: caoraich, Alba, coiseachd, sniomh, agus fighe stocainnean! Rinn Debbie turas tro Alba a’ coiseachd, a’ campachadh an siud ’s an seo, agus a’ sireadh ’s a’ togail rùisg-caorach bho dheich seòrsaichean caorach dùthchasach ann an Alba. Agus le pìos fiodha beag bha i a’ sniomh snàth airson stocainnean. Chan e fearsaid àbhaisteach, fearsaid chrochte no fearsaid le taic, a bha i a’ cleachdadh, ach fearsaid ghlaste: fearsaid a bha na làimh is ise ga tionndadh le a meuran, dòigh sniomh a tha gu math aosta.

Bha mi air mo bheò-ghlacadh leis an fhearsaid aig Debbie, rud cho simplidh eachdraidheil ach feumail. Agus uill, cheannaich mi tè air Etsy (thàinig i bho Bhulgaria), agus feumaidh mi ràdh gu bheil i a’ còrdadh rium gu mòr. An-diugh, an àite a bhith a’ coiseachd tro Alba, tha mi nam shuidhe ann an sèithear-tulgaidh san t-seòmar-shuidhe agam ann an Illinois, a’ sniomh rùisg-caorach bho chaora dhubh-cheannach a thog Hilary bho fheansaichean nuair a bha i ann am Bràdhagar an-uiridh.

fearsaid le taic - supported spindle  
fearsaid chrochte - suspended spindle  
fearsaid ghlaste - clasped spindle  
giomag - bits of fleece on a fence  
caora dhubh-cheannach - Scottish Blackface sheep



giomag - rùisg-chaorach air feansa  
-Hilary NicPhàidein



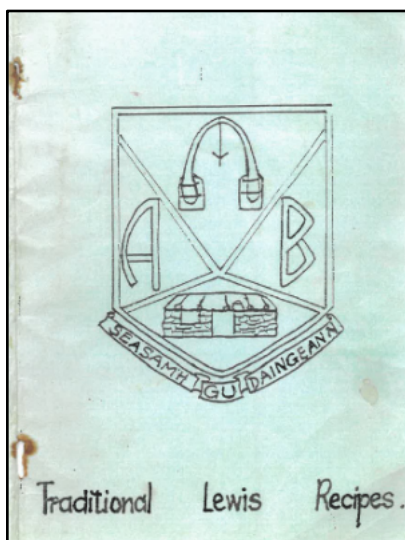
fearsaid ghlaste is rùisg-chaorach  
agus snàth caorach dhubh-  
cheannach oirre

- Cam MacRae



## Bilingual Recipe

Hilary tells us, "All-Bran Fruit Loaf, or All-Bran Bread, as I call it, was a staple in our home growing up. My Mum made it often and the four of us children have continued to use that same recipe. It's very easy to make and is always delicious, plain or with butter." Hilary was delighted to find the recipe for this family favorite in a local cookbook shared with her by Tina MacPhail when she was staying in Bragar, Lewis, earlier this year.



**ALL BRAN FRUIT LOAF**

1 tea cupful All Bran  
1 " soft brown sugar  
1 " sultanas  
1 " milk

Soak the above ingredients overnight.  
Then add 1 tea cupful SR flour and a  
well beaten egg. Pour into a greased  
loaf tin for 1 1/4 hrs 325F



### Lofa All-Bran le Rèasanan

1 chupa All-Bran (an seòrsa bunasach dhen  
ghrànlach bracaist)  
1 chupa siùcair bhuig dhuinn  
1 chupa rèasanan  
1 chupa bainne  
1 chupa flùir-èirigh  
1 ugh air a bhualadh

Fàg an All-Bran, an siùcar, na rèasanan, agus am  
bainne a' bogadh ann am bobhla tron oidhche. An  
uair sin, cuir ann 1 chupa flùir-èirigh agus an t-ugh.  
Dòirt do phana-lofa crèisichte agus fuine fad 1 1/4  
uairean a thide aig 325°F.

### All-Bran Fruit Loaf

1 cup All-Bran Original (breakfast cereal)  
1 cup soft brown sugar  
1 cup raisins  
1 cup milk  
1 cup self-rising flour  
1 well-beaten egg

Soak the All-Bran, sugar, raisins, and milk  
overnight in a bowl. Then add 1 cup of self-rising  
flour and the egg. Pour into a greased loaf tin and  
bake for 1 1/4 hours at 325°F.

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!

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



... by sending us your favourite recipe.

We'll help you with the Gaelic translation.

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

## Website to Watch



Image Credit: Anna NicilleDhuibh

### *Sgeulachdan nan Gaisgeach*

As the days get shorter and cooler and we begin to think of cozy fall and winter evenings at home, what better entertainment than Gaelic stories told in the familiar voice of Ruairidh MacIlleathain / Roddy MacLean (*An Litir Bheag* and *Litir do Luchd Ionnsachaidh*).

*Sgeulachdan nan Gaisgeach* is a collection of twenty traditional Gaelic hero tales ranging in length from 2 1/2 to 14 minutes. You can listen to the sound files or download them for later, and the text of each story is also available as a PDF. The website, sound files, and story texts are all in Gaelic only, but worth the challenge. It's all at <https://gaisgeach.com>

## Cuiridh sinn clach air an càrn

It was with sadness that we learned of the passing of Muriel and Paul Fisher in June of this year. Muriel was a friend to many of us at ACGA, having taught at ACGA immersion events in Ohio, Texas and Colorado Springs, and even if we had never met him, we all knew Paul as Muriel's "Darling".

Born in Glendale, Isle of Skye, Muriel didn't speak English until she went to school. She spent her adult life promoting and teaching Gaelic, both in North America and in Scotland. Recently retired, Muriel was a senior research scientist in the University of Arizona's Department of Linguistics and Gaelic Language, and won the Excellence in Community Linguistics award in 2014 from the National Science Foundation, recognizing her lifetime commitment to documenting, revitalizing and teaching Scottish Gaelic. She also taught privately through her Tucson Gaelic Institute, and spent summers in her native Skye at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, teaching her very popular Gaelic in the community programme.

Muriel's *joie de vivre* was infectious. She will be dearly missed.



Muriel in Colorado Springs, 2009

-Janice Chan

# Criomagan

ACGA members may be interested in a documentary film that's being produced about the contributions of Scots-Irish immigrants to American democracy. The film is planned as a two-hour PBS documentary, and will also feature a good deal of Celtic music. *America's Other Irish: A Musical Journey* will be partially crowd-funded. More information, including a trailer and donation information, are here: <https://americasotherirish.com/>

## A Bharrachd

### 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the SS *Metagama*

By Hilary NicPhàidein

When I was in Lewis in May, I attended the Darns and Yarns craft group at the Grinneabhat Community Center in Bragar. The ladies showed me the wall hanging they were creating to commemorate the people from Bragar and Arnol who left Lewis on the SS *Metagama* bound for Canada one hundred years ago in April of 1923. They were part of a group of over 200 young men and some 20 young women from Lewis who made the difficult decision to leave their homeland for a new life working on farms on the Canadian prairies. Ultimately, many of the emigrants decided this was not the way of life they could sustain and moved to Detroit where they found employment in the automobile industry. Some returned home.

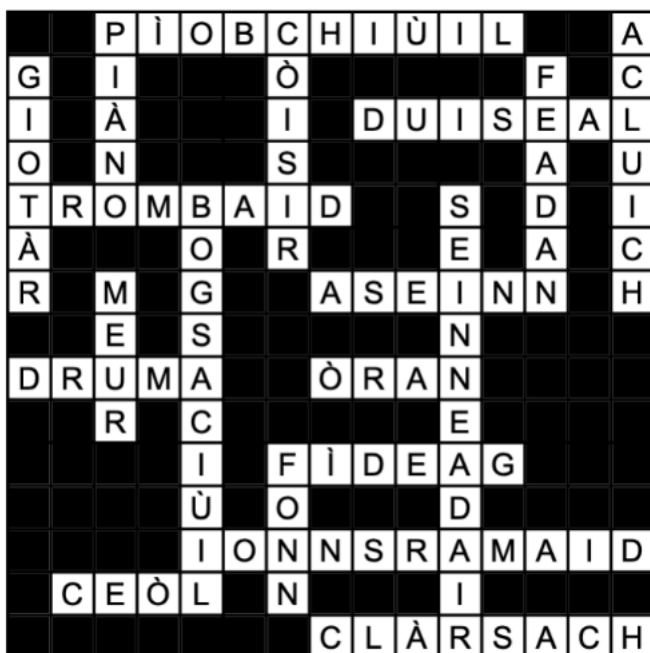
The Whalebone Arch in Bragar is visible in the centre of the wall hanging. The various lochans and beaches are portrayed in appropriate colours of material. My friend and a native of Bragar herself, Christine MacLeod, told me, “Chuir sinn putan clò airson gach duine a dh’fhalbh air a *Mhetagama*.” A small card with each person’s name, address, age, name of the ship they sailed on and whether they returned is pinned beside the buttons. Tina MacPhail, the manager of the Grinneabhat Community Center, and the person who provided us with the cookbook featured in this issue’s Bilingual Recipe on page 24, had a relative who emigrated from Lewis in 1923. Her great uncle from Shawbost sailed on the SS *Marloch* and worked on the Great Lakes.



-Christine MacLeod

## Solutions to Crossword Puzzles

### Elementary Crossword (p. 13)



### Tòimhseachan-tarsainn (p. 20)





# Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

## **An Dàmhair 2023 / October 2023**

### **Celtic Colours International Festival, Cape Breton, NS October 6-14, 2023**

Forty-nine concerts and more than two hundred community events will take place throughout the island. For a full schedule of artists and events see <https://celtic-colours.com/schedule/>

### **Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail / Royal National Mòd 2023, Paisley, Scotland, October 13-21, 2023**

The Royal National Mòd is Gaeldom's premiere musical and cultural event celebrating Gaelic language and culture. In addition to competitions open to the public, events include the Gaelic Showcase (exhibitors, demonstrations, food), *Cogadh nan Còmhlan* / Battle of the Bands, and *Sruth*, an event aimed at encouraging more natural conversation among young people. See <https://www.ancomunn.co.uk/>

### **Cèilidh Oidhche Haoine Bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidh, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, October 20, 2023**

Join us on Friday, October 20 at 7:30pm eastern, for our Friday Night Online Ceilidh. Come prepared with your Gaelic songs, stories and poems. If you are on Facebook, please consider joining our Ceilidh Group for updates on our Ceilidhs and links to lyrics, ideas for future ceilidhs and more at

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/cgtfridaynightceilidh>

Simply fill out the form here <https://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html> and we will send you the Zoom link to join in online and the (toll) phone # to call in. Don't have a computer? Call in and join. If you have any questions, email us at [gaelictoronto@gmail.com](mailto:gaelictoronto@gmail.com)

## **An t-Samhain 2023 / November 2023**

### **An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach US National Mòd, Online via Zoom, November 11-12, 2023**

The 34th annual US National Mòd, a celebration of Scottish Gaelic song, language, and culture, will take place November 11 and 12, 2023. The two-day event features eight competitions, a ceilidh, and workshops. Lyle and Kerrie Kennedy, both Royal National Mòd Gold Medalists and residents of Oban, will adjudicate. Competitions will take place on Saturday. The Kennedys will lead workshops on Sunday.

Two new pre-recorded competitions are featured this year: Accompanied Singing and Group Singing. Competitors in these competitions must record videos of their performance(s) and send them to ACGA by Nov. 1.

There is a \$25 US registration fee for all attendees and an additional \$20 US fee for competitors. For more information see <https://acgamerica.org/events/2023-us-national-mod/>. To register see <https://acga.wufoo.com/forms/z644n9218ycaee/>

## **Cùrsaichean Air Astar / Distance Learning**

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

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

For a description of all distance learning courses offered through Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, see <https://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/distance-learning/?lang=en>

## **Ongoing**

### **Explore Gaelic with Angus MacLeod and Fiona Smith**

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

### **Seinn air Loidhne / Bruidhinn air Loidhne with Brian Ó hEadhra**

Brian is a well-known musician and singer based in Inverness, Scotland. He holds Gaelic song classes (*Seinn air Loidhne*) on Zoom every so often, sharing great ceilidh and traditional songs. He has started a new conversation group for beginners, *Bruidhinn air Loidhne*. For more information, check the *Seinn air Loidhne* Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/seinnairloidhne> and the Bruidhinn air Loidhne webpage <https://www.brian-oheadhra.com/bruidhinn>

### **An Clas Camelon**

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

### **Gàidhlig Photomac**

*Gàidhlig Photomac* is a Scottish Gaelic Learning Community in the Washington, DC area, open to all with an interest in the Celtic language of Scotland and its sister languages, Irish and Manx. Meetups are typically social events geared to help learners use Scottish Gaelic outside the classroom. A song sharing session is hosted most months. You can find more information about this informal event at the *Gàidhlig Photomac* page on Meetup at <https://www.meetup.com/Gaidhlig-Photomac>. Email Cathleen MacKay at [amum44@yahoo.com](mailto:amum44@yahoo.com) for more information.

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

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

Is your Gaelic class or study group planning an event, or are you aware of an event with substantial Scottish Gaelic content that you'd like your fellow ACGA members to know about? You can make submissions to Dè Tha Dol? by sending the following information to [naidheachd@acgamerica.org](mailto:naidheachd@acgamerica.org)

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

Please keep in mind the following deadlines:

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

# Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

## **United States**

### **California**

#### **San Diego area**

Weekly Zoom classes

Grammar, guided conversation, Gaelic story and culture, singing

Absolute beginner, 2nd year, advanced-intermediate classes

Michael McIntyre [profmcintyre@yahoo.com](mailto:profmcintyre@yahoo.com)  
<https://gael-talk.com/>

### **Colorado**

#### **Denver**

Conversation Group

(on hold, will resume when possible)

Monthly at Stella's Coffee Shop

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

### **Kentucky**

#### **Louisville (summer)**

Online and in-person private individual and group

Gaelic lessons

Gaelic classes through East Tennessee State

University,

Colaisde na Gàidhlig, Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhòir

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

### **Maryland**

#### **Baltimore**

Online Classes and Conversation Group

Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhòir

<https://sgoigaidhlig.org>

email: [sgoigaidhlig@gmail.com](mailto:sgoigaidhlig@gmail.com)

301-928-9026

### **New York**

#### **New York**

Classes (via Zoom)

New York Caledonian Club

Contact Barbara L. Rice, Chair, Scottish Studies

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

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

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

Gaelic Learning Community (online)

Gàidhlig Photomac

Regular workshops and social events

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

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

Cathleen [amum44@yahoo.com](mailto:amum44@yahoo.com)

### **Virginia**

#### **Roanoke**

Daily Gaelic

Online lessons & classes, email courses

<http://www.gaidhliggachlatha.com/>

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

<https://daily-gaelic-school.thinkific.com/>

Patreon, support and learning resources for members

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

### **Washington**

#### **Seattle**

Slighe nan Gàidheal

Online Classes & Informal Study Groups

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

## **Canada**

### **Alberta**

#### **Calgary (spring, fall, winter)**

Online and in-person private individual and group

Gaelic lessons

Gaelic classes through East Tennessee State University,

Colaisde na Gàidhlig, and Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an

Taigh Mhòir

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

### **British Columbia**

#### **Vancouver**

Comunn Gàidhlig Bhancoubhair

Classes and Ceilidhs - check Facebook for details

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

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

### **Ontario**

#### **Toronto**

Gaelic classes & private tutoring via Zoom

Comann Luchd-Ionnsachaidh Thoronto

<http://www.torontogaelic.ca>

### **Québec**

#### **Montréal**

Online Gaelic language and song, mouth music, 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 at [naidheachd@acgamerica.org](mailto:naidheachd@acgamerica.org)

## ACGA Officers

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### A Note on ANA's Gaelic and English Orthography

ANA generally publishes articles in Gaelic using the Gaelic Orthographic Conventions published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority ([www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45356.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45356.html)). However, articles employing older spelling are welcome, as are articles written in a particular Gaelic dialect (e.g., Cape Breton, Argyll).

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

## ACGA Online Faces

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

- [www.acgamerica.org](http://www.acgamerica.org), our main website, containing a blog for announcements, tips, articles, etc.; an archive of newsletters; detailed information about our major events; information about ACGA and how to join; learning resources; and more.
- [www.facebook.com/ACGAGaelic](https://www.facebook.com/ACGAGaelic), our Facebook page.
- [www.facebook.com/groups/1463155417230179](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1463155417230179), a special Facebook page for our Gaelic Song and Language Week at Grandfather Mountain. Click the "Join Group" button in the main menu to send a request to join.
- [www.mixcloud.com/gngcom/](http://www.mixcloud.com/gngcom/), an archive for ACGA's Radio Guth nan Gàidheal channel on MixCloud, featuring 46 programs created between 2015 and 2017 for the online streaming Gaelic radio project Guth nan Gàidheal, featuring songs, stories and news.

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