

An Naidheachd Againne

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

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'S e tidsear na Gàidhlig a th' ann an Seumas Ruairidh MacDhòmhnaill. Thogadh e ann an Carolina a Tuath ged a tha e a' fuireach ann an Alba Nuadh sna làithean seo. Tha e air a bhith na bhall de ACGA fad iomadh bliadhna, mar bhall dhen Bhòrd agus cuideachd mar iar-cheann-suidhe. Anns an artaigil seo, tha e ag innse dhuinn carson a thòisich e air sgeulachdan eadar-theangachadh gu Gàidhlig agus beagan mun phròiseas aige.

Jamie MacDonald, originally from North Carolina and now living in Nova Scotia, is a Gaelic teacher and long-time member of An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach who has served on the Board of Directors and as vice-president of the Board over the years. Here he tells us why he began translating traditional tales into Gaelic and a little about his process.

A bheil Gàidhlig aig Peadar Rabaid?

le Seumas Ruairidh MacDhòmhnaill

'S e dualchas aithris sgeulachdan fada a tha aig na Gàidheil. Bha na sgeulachdan seo airson dibhearsain is teagaisg. 'S ann gu tric a dh'innis iad mith-sgeulan aig an taigh-cèilidh. Seach gu bheil mòran mhith-sgeulan deagh-aithnichte air feadh an t-saoghail agus tha mòran dhiubh air an innse ann an cànan shìmplidh iomchaidh do chloinn, tha iad freagarrach airson teagaisg. Nuair a bha mi fhìn ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig, fhuair mi a-mach gun robh sgeulachdan sìmplidh cho math ri òrain chloinne glè chuideachail airson ionnsachaidh. Mar sin, nuair a thòisich mi air Gàidhlig a theagasg, chleachd mise na h-innealan feumail seo.

Does Peter Rabbit Speak Gaelic?

by Jamie MacDonald

The Gaels have a long story-telling tradition. These stories were meant to entertain as well as instruct. Folktales were often told at the *taigh-cèilidh*. Because many folktales are known world-wide and often consist of simple language appropriate for children, they present an appropriate medium for instruction. When I was learning Gaelic myself, I found that simple stories as well as children's songs were very helpful for learning. Therefore, when I started teaching Gaelic, I employed these useful tools for Gaelic beginners.



Eadar-theangachaidhean dhe leabhraichean Peadar Rabaid le Seumas Ruairidh MacDhòmhnaill

In This Issue

Litir bhon Cheann-suidhe	4
I can laugh at AI but can I laugh with it?	6
Litir à Dùn Èideann	8
Elementary Crossword: An Samhradh (Summer)	9
Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir	10
An t-àite agam fhìn	11
Facal à Aonghas / A Word From Angus	12
Mòdan Gu Leòr	13
Tòimhseachan-tarsainn Adhartach: Tide	14
Book Review: An Cat Coigreach	15
Book Reviews: Geansaidh Snàth	
& Blàr Mòr na Fighe	16
Book Review: The Girl Who Rode the Unihorn	17
Website to Watch	19
Bilingual Recipe	21
Dè Tha Dol?	24

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

Chan eil mi cinnteach cuin a thòisich mi air sgeulachdan eadar-theangachadh, ach nuair a chuir mi crìoch air na clasaichean agam aig Oilthigh Naomh Fransaidh Xavier 'san t-samhradh 2007, rinn mi suas m' inntinn eadar-theangachadh dhe *Pheadair Rabaid* le Beitiris Chriadhaidair a dhèanamh. Bha mòran leabhraichean le Beitiris Chriadhaidair aig mo bhean a leugh i ri a clann nuair a bha iad òg. Thug *Peadar Rabaid* tlachd is toil-inntinn dhomh agus rinn mi suas m' inntinn gun dhèanainn eadar-theangachaidhean dhe leabhraichean eile a sgrìobh Chriadhaidair. Anns a' chiad dol a-mach, rinn mi *Sgeulachd Bheniàmin Coineanach*, an uairsin *Sgeulachd Simeig Tunnag-Lòin*, agus mu dheireadh thall *Sgeulachd Jeremiah Iasgair*. Chòrd e rium glan eadar-theangachaidhean a dhèanamh air na leabhraichean seo - b' e deagh spòrs a bh' ann! Bha na dreachan Beurla agus Gàidhlig cho coltach ri dà sgadan.

Nuair a thug mi iomradh air na h-eadar-theangachaidhean ri mo charaid Mairead Bennett, ged-tà, chuir Mairead fo mo chomhair gum bu chòir dhomh am foillseachadh. Bha taigh-foillseachaidh aig Mairead agus Gonzalo, an duine aice, air a bheil Grace Note Publishing agus thuirt iad gum bu toil leatha na leabhraichean agam fhoillseachadh. Chuir Leabhraichean Penguin na leth-bhreacan ann an clò agus bha feill mhòr air na leabhraichean.

Às dèidh sin, ged-tà, chaidh mi air ais dha na Stàitean airson obrach. Bha mi cho trang 's a ghabhas agus cha robh tìde agam airson eadar-theangachaidhean a dhèanamh. Ach nuair a leig mi mo dhreuchd dhìom, thill mi a dh'Alba Nuaidh agus thòisich mi air Gàidhlig a theagasg air-loidhne tro Chomunn Gàidhlig Toronto. An uairsin, thòisich mi air eadar-theangachaidhean eile a dhèanamh airson nan oileanach agam. Às dèidh greis, smaoinich mi gun gabhadh cuid dhe na sgeulachdan agam a chur ann an clò.

Stèidhich mo charaid Eamag Nic Eòghainn taigh-foillseachaidh Gàidhlig air a bheil Bradan Press ann an Alba Nuaidh agus bha i a' sireadh ùghdaran Gàidhlig. Fhuair mi leabhar no dhà le dealbhan brèagha eadar-theangachadh. Dh'aontaich Eamag an leabhar agam *Na Trì Mathain* fhoillseachadh. An uairsin, dh'fhoillsich i leabhar eile, *A' Chearc Bheag Ruadh*. Tha dà leabhar eile ri thighinn aig Bradan an dràsta agus tha mi an dùil gum biodh iad ann an clò a dh'aithghearr.

'S ann a tha a bhith a' dèanamh eadar-theangachaidhean coltach ri fuasgladh thòimhseachain. 'S e dùbhlán a th' ann agus tha e tlachdmhor a bhith a' dèanamh a' chùis air an dùbhlán. Is toil leam tòimhseachan a dhèanamh agus gheibh mi an dearbh thoil-inntinn nuair a bhios mi a' dèanamh eadar-theangachaidhean.

I am not sure when I began to translate Gaelic stories, but in the summer of 2007, after I had finished my classes at Saint Francis Xavier University, I decided to translate *Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter. My wife had many Beatrix Potter books that she read to her children when they were young. I found this a quite enjoyable pursuit, so after I had finished *Peter Rabbit*, I decided to translate some of the other Potter books. Next came *Benjamin Bunny*, then *Jemima Puddle-Duck*, and finally *Jeremy Fisher*. I did not translate them with publication in mind – I just enjoyed doing it – it was great fun! My Gaelic translations followed the English closely.

When I mentioned the translations to my friend Margaret Bennett, however, Margaret suggested that I ought to publish them. Margaret and her husband Gonzalo had a publishing business called Grace Note Publishing and they said that they would be pleased to publish my books. Penguin Books printed the copies and the books were well-received.

After this, however, I went back to the States for work. I was way too busy with work and I had little time for working on translations. But when I retired, I returned to Nova Scotia and began teaching online for the Gaelic Society of Toronto. I then began translating other folktales for my students. After a time, I realized that I might be able to publish some of these.

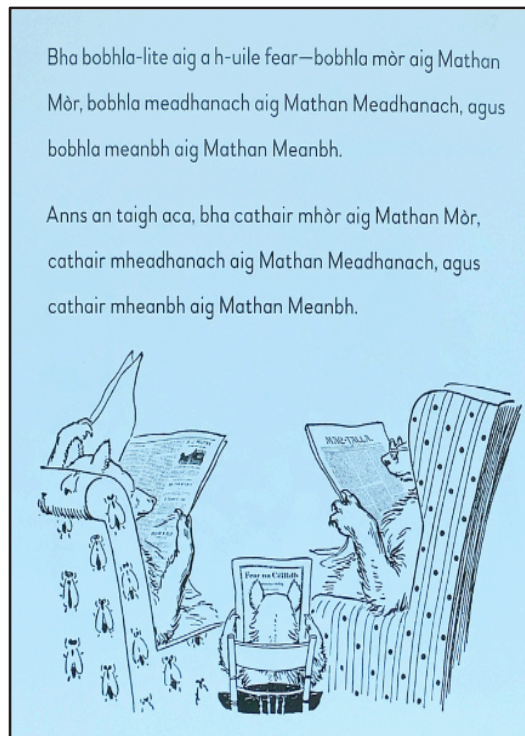
My friend Emily McEwen started a Gaelic publishing company in Nova Scotia called Bradan Press and she was looking for Gaelic authors. I found a few books with lovely pictures to translate. Emily agreed to publish *The Three Bears*. Next came *The Little Red Hen*. I have two more books with Bradan Press that are pending which I hope will be published soon.

Translating is much like solving a puzzle. It is a challenge and the enjoyment is in meeting the challenge and solving the puzzle. I enjoy doing puzzles and I get the same satisfaction working on these puzzles as I do with translations.

Tha beagan dhùbhlain àraid ann a bhith a’ dèanamh eadar-theangachaidhean, ged-tà. Nuair a bhios gnàthas-cainnte Beurla agad neo nuair nach bi facal co-ionnan agad anns a’ Ghàidhlig, ’s e dùbhlain a th’ ann. Seach gur e seann chànan a th’ ann an Gàidhlig, chan eil cus fhacail nuadh ann. Bho àm gu àm, feumaidh tu facal Beurla a chleachdadh ach ann am modh Gàidhlig. Mar eisimpleir, ann an Leòdhas, bidh daoine a’ cleachdadh ‘igeadh’ le gnìomhair Beurla. Chì sinn seo anns an fhacal “draibhigeadh” airson *driving* anns a’ Bheurla. ’S e an dubhlan as dorra, ge-tà, ’s ann nuair a bhios tu a’ dèanamh eadar-theangachaidhean air mith-sgeulan Beurla aig a bheil co-fhuaim mar ann an rainn chloinne.

Tha am modh agam airson eadar-theangachaidh gu math simplidh. Leughaidh mi seantans Beurla agus an uairsin smaoinichidh mi air dòigh airson sin a ràdh anns a’ Ghàidhlig. Bidh mi a’ cleachdadh gnathasan-cainnte Gàidhlig cho tric ’s as urrainn dhomh. Chan eil e math a bhith a’ dèanamh eadar-theangachaidhean facal air an fhacal, gu sònraichte ma bhios feum agad air faclair airson sin a dhèanamh. Bheir mi brosnachadh dha na h-oileanaich agam gun a bhith a chleachdadh faclair gu tric, an àite a bhith cleachdadh nam facal a th’ aca mu thràth. Faodaidh tu faclair a chleachdadh airson litreachaidh, agus mar eisimpleir, mar a chuirear facail anns an tuiséal ghinideach. Ma chleachdas tu faclair cus, cha bhi an t-eadar-theangachadh a’ coimhead nàdarrach.

’S e mo bheachd sa gu bheil luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig nas deònaiche leabhar Gàidhlig a leughadh ma bhios an sgeulachd goirid agus ro-aithnichte dhan leughadair. Nì dealbhan ciall airson an leughadair cuideachd. Dh’eadar-theangaich mi grunnan mhith-sgeulan eile, ach chan eil dealbhan agam ri a chur riutha. A bharrachd air sin, cha d’ fhuair mi dealbhaidh math a bhiodh deònach dealbhan a chur air na mith-sgeulan agam. Mar sin, ma bhios beachd-smuain aig duine sam bith, leigibh fios thugam!



Na Trì Mathain, eadar-theangachadh le Seumas Ruairidh MacDhòmhnaill

There are particular challenges in translation, however. When you have an English idiom or when you don’t have an equivalent word in Gaelic, it is a challenge. Because Gaelic is an ancient language, it doesn’t have words for modern concepts. Occasionally you will need to use an English word but put it in Gaelic form. For example, in Lewis people use ‘igeadh’ with an English verb. This can be seen in the Lewis word *draibhigeadh* for the English word driving. The most difficult challenge, however, is when you are translating English tales with rhyming lines as in nursery rhymes.

My process of translation is simple. I read the English and then I think of a way to say what is written in Gaelic, including any Gaelic idioms that I can utilize. It is not good to translate a story word for word, especially if you need a dictionary to do so. I always encourage my students to use the words they actually know when writing a piece. Use the dictionary for spelling and, for example, how to make the genitive of a noun, but if you use a dictionary too much, it does not appear natural.

In my opinion, Gaelic learners are much more willing to read a book in Gaelic if the story is short and familiar to the reader. Pictures also help the learner understand the text. I have translated other folktales, but I have not found illustrations for them. In addition, I have not found a good illustrator that would be willing to illustrate my own tales. Therefore, if anyone has any ideas, please let me know!

Litir bhon Cheann-suidhe le Liam Ó Caiside



A chàirdean còire,

'S e seo an litir mu dheireadh a sgrìobhas mi thugaibh mar cheann-suidhe ACGA. Tha mi gu math taingeil dhuibh agus dhan a h-uile neach a thug cuideachadh agus comhairle dhomh anns na ceithir bliadhna a chaidh seachad. Abair gun deach na bliadhnaichean ud seachad le fruis! Bu mhòr mo bhuidheachas do bhòrd ACGA agus dha na h-oifigearan againn.

Tha mi toilichte ann an iomadh dòigh leis an obair a rinn sinn le chèile. An toiseach, threòraich sinn ACGA tro stoirm mhòr – galar lèir-sgaoilte COVID. Bha bliadhnaichean ann nuair nach b' urrainn dhuinn coinneachadh ach air-loidhne, tro mheadhanan mar Zoom. Ged a bha sin duilich, thug sin dhuinn cothrom dòighean cruinneachaidh agus conaltraidh ùra a chleachdadh.

Chùm sinn ar comann agus ar coimhearsnachd ionnsachaidh beò a dh'aindeòin an tinneis agus gach duilgheadas a thuit oirnn. 'S e sibhse a tha airidh air moladh. Dh'fhàs am ballrachd againn. Thàinig sinn ri chèile air-loidhne iomadh uair agus an deach againn air coinneachadh aghaidh ri aghaidh a-rithist ann an 2022. Agus tha sinn a' dol air adhart fhathast a' coinneachadh an dà chuid air-loidhne agus aghaidh ri aghaidh.

Tha Seachdain nan Òran agus Cànan na Gàidhlig beò a-rithist ann am Banner Elk, Carolina a Tuath, agus tha am Mòd againn, Mòd Nàiseanta Aimeireagaidh, a' fàs air-loidhne. Agus tha planaichean againn airson tachartasan ùra cuideachd a bhios a' tarraing buill ACGA agus luchd na Gàidhlig nas dlùithe ri chèile. Coimheadaibh a-mach airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh.

Feumaidh mi aideachadh gu bheil mi a' gabhail aithreachas nach d' rinn sinn rud neo dhà a thòisich sinn anns na bliadhnaichean a chaidh seachad. Ach chan eil annainn ach saor-thoilich, agus cha b' urrainn dhuinn gach nì a dhèanamh mar bu mhiann leinn. Ach, a charaidean tapaidh, na diobraibh. Ruigidh sinn, agus ACGA, an caladh as dèidh na stoirm.

Letter from the President by Liam Cassidy

Dear Friends,

This is the last letter I'll write to you as president of ACGA. I am really thankful to you and to everyone who gave me help and advice over the past four years. Those years really went by in a flash! I'm very grateful to the ACGA board and our officers.

I'm delighted in many ways by the work we've done together. First, we guided ACGA through a big storm – the COVID-19 pandemic. There were years where we couldn't meet except online, through means such as Zoom. Although that was difficult, we took the opportunity to use ways to meet and to communicate.

We kept our society and learning community alive despite the illness and every difficulty that befell us. You're the ones to be praised. Our membership grew. We came together online many times until we were able to meet again live in 2022. And we're still going forward, meeting online and in person together.

The ACGA Scottish Gaelic Song & Language Week is alive again in Banner Elk, North Carolina, and our Mòd, the US National Mòd, is growing online. And we have plans for other new events as well that will bring ACGA members and Gaelic supporters closer together. Keep watch for more information.

I must admit I do regret we didn't finish a few things we started in years past. But we're only volunteers, and we can't always do everything as we'd like to. But brave friends, don't surrender. We and ACGA will reach the harbor after the storm.

Dè bu thoil leam fhaicinn anns na bliadhnaichean ri teachd? Barrachd bhuill. Dh'fhàs ar ballrachd am-bliadhna, ach tha feum againn air targaid. Molaidh mise 200 ball, neo còrr. Tuilleadh shaor-thoilich. Tha luchd-cuideachaidh ùra a dhìth oirnn nam bu toil leinn cumail air an t-slighe air adhart. 'S mòr an obair a bhios aig a' bhòrd ùr nuair a chruinnicheas iad anns an Lùnasdal.

Agus ged nach bi mi nam cheann-suidhe tuilleadh, agus nach b' urrainn dhomh a bhith air a' bhòrd, cha teich mi dha na beanntan! Bidh mi an sàs ann an iomadh oidhirp, gu h-àraidh Mòd Nàiseanta Aimeireagaidh, agus bidh mi toilichte taic a thoirt dhan bhòrd ùr. Taing mhòr dhuibh uile. Faodaidh mi tighinn, ach feumaidh mi falbh. Beannachd leibh!

Le dùrachdan

Liam Ó Caiside
Ceann-suidhe, ACGA

What would I like to see in the years to come? More members. Our membership grew this year, but we need a new target. I suggest 200 members or more. More volunteers. We need helpers if we're going to keep on the road forward. The new Board will have plenty of work when it meets in August.

And while I won't be president anymore, and I won't be able to be on the Board, I won't flee to the mountains! I'll be involved in many efforts, especially the U.S. National Mòd, and I'll be delighted to support the new Board. Many thanks to you all. "I could be coming, but I must be going," as they say. Good-bye!

With best wishes,

Liam Cassidy
President, ACGA

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



... What is it that you love about learning Gaelic? Do you have anything that you'd like everyone to know about ACGA? Why not let us (and the world) know by sending a photo or a short video of 60 seconds or less of Gaelic "in the wild" – signs, place names, Gaelic graffiti, Gaelic books spotted in a shop or wee free library – to Taylor at taylor.ashlock@acgamerica.org and it will be posted to ACGA's Instagram account.

Michael Bauer wears many hats in the Gaelic world. He is the creator of Am Faclair Beag, the online searchable Gaelic dictionary; the author of *Blas na Gàidhlig*, the Practical Guide to Scottish Pronunciation; a professional translator; and micro-publisher of Gaelic-related books (see A Website to Watch, page 19). He has kindly given *An Naidheachd Againne* permission to reprint this lightly-edited blog post from August, 2023. The original can be found here: <https://akerbeltzalba.wordpress.com/2023/08/19/i-can-laugh-at-ai-but-can-i-laugh-with-it/>

I can laugh at AI but can I laugh with it?

by Michael Bauer



Tim Park

So a friend and colleague posed a question on Twitter – do you think there is a place for interactive AI to help teach adults?

So my first reaction was “Please, no...” but, a) while my gut is often right, I like to ponder why my gut is saying something and b) this is a question that deserves a fuller answer, certainly one that goes beyond character limits.

Having pondered this over making this year’s batch of glacé cherries, I think my gut said no because of laughter. Bear with me...

Those of you who know me are probably wondering where the quality control freak in me has gone. Rest assured, he hasn’t gone away. In the short term, I don’t think AI can be trusted to produce quality output in under-resourced languages. But assuming that a small language survives long enough and that someone is willing to feed enough data into an AI and the principle (I forget who came out with this, let me know if you remember) that ultimately there is nothing a machine won’t eventually be better at than a human, let’s just take it for granted for a moment that there will come a day when an AI can reliably talk to a human as if it was a granny from Harris.

As an aside, before too long, linguists will probably be writing papers on “AI-induced language change in English” because, as with the cursed machine translation junk on the web and the fact we now need AI to spot AI-created deep fakes because humans no longer can keep up, certainly not en masse, before too long the amount of linguistic input we (inadvertently) get from AI will affect how we will speak English and other big languages supported by AI. With all the pressures faced by small languages anyway, I don’t think we need another self-created rod to beat ourselves with, but let’s set that one aside for now.

So let's imagine the latest version of C3PO speaks flawless Harris Gaelic. So flawless, it gives Harris people inferiority complexes about how they speak it. So I've spoken to it enough to satisfy my curiosity about it as a thing and concluded that yes, it's like talking to a Harris granny. Now what?

Well, first of all I have to get over the fact that in spite of having spent almost half my life learning this language, C3PO is by far better than I will ever be. Ouch, that will do wonders to my self-esteem. Could I get better by talking to C3PO? Maybe. As good as C3PO? At that stage, no...

So I've called a very friendly AI at a mental support hotline who assured me my efforts are valid and that my limitations as a non-AI are not my fault but are a result of evolution never producing perfect species since the main aim is merely to perpetuate one's own species, not to achieve perfection. Ok, so my brain is flawed because evolution had looked at this hairless monkey and muttered 'It'll do' under its breath.

But now that eternal human question pops into my head – why? All my life I have had to make an effort to find opportunities to speak Gaelic. Most of them occurred outside my own four walls. But now I have this AI in my house which I can have 24/7, talks about anything from smoking lingerie to smoked ling, knows everything about everything (provided it's on the net)... Setting aside the bigger question about what that means about human existence, what does that mean to my language learning journeys?

To me – and I suspect to most people – language has always had deep connections with the social dimension of language. I am (re-)learning Cantonese, not because I want to do business with Hong Kong, but because I realised how meaningful and precious that complex web of memories and associations is to me and that I merely wanted to shed the angst that comes with being a lapsed/semi-fluent speaker.

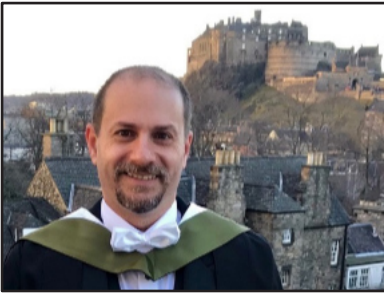
One of my most vivid recent experiences of how personal those associations are to me was when my mum and I visited a family where the mother and the children speak Cantonese. So my mum launches herself into the role of Canto Auntie with gusto and before too long is tickling the kids and goes 跌跌跌 (jīt jīt jīt – tickle tickle tickle) and in my head I'm suddenly 5 and tickling my little brother with my mum. The day after, out on a walk, one of the kiddies fell and my mum was there immediately, picking him up going 哦, 冇事冇事 (òh, móuh sih móuh sih – there, there, no harm done) and I'm tearing up walking behind her because I must have heard those exact words from those lips a thousand times growing up.

The connections I have with the languages I'm learning are somewhat different but just as precious. The successes – like the first time a *bodach* from Uist asked me if I had Skye connections, the failures – like the time I had spent an hour crafting a complex Basque verb for a piece of homework (I had to translate 'let's see' so I crafted *ikus dezagun* – see, followed a first person plural ergative marker, an absolute 3rd person singular direct object and the markings for something approaching the subjunctive. The teacher saw it, pulled a funny face and said that while grammatically I was right, people just said *ea ba* – a simple interjection with no literal meaning), the feeling of sand on tiles under my feet in a little shop on a beach somewhere in Calabria, proudly saying the only Italian word I know at the time: *gelati* (yes I know it's plural) and ... the laughter.

Everywhere I went and everywhere I go, the things that perhaps best encapsulate what my languages mean to me is laughter. With other humans. At funny situations. At badly constructed sentences. At mispronunciations so bad they mean something else. At the sheer joy of being able to buy mushrooms without resorting to a majority language. At funny stories about their parents. Or the ultimate test of fluency – jokes.

At the moment I can still laugh at AI. Before too long, AI will be laughing at me. But I don't think I will ever be able to laugh with AI the same way I can laugh with another – however imperfectly evolved – member of my own species. So to me, the later the day comes when AI has crept into ALL my little niches, the better, because I suspect when that happens, I will sell up, escape to a hut in a forest somewhere and hope I pass away before too long.

So please, no AI for learning languages, especially not for small languages like Gaelic.



Litir à Dùn Èideann

by Jeff W. Justice

A chàirdean,

This is not the *litir* I wanted to write. Last I wrote, I cautioned us to be vigilant against those in authority and what they would do for – or to – Gaelic. Literally as the last edition of *An Naidheachd Againne* went into your email inbox, the Scottish Government announced that it had funded Gaelic at the same level that it had the previous fiscal year. “But we’re not cutting it!” ministers cried in Parliament and to the press. Bòrd na Gàidhlig took a very different view. True, the actual figures were not lower than what they were in last year’s budget. In fact, those actual figures were pretty much copied and pasted from that budget. And those were copied from the previous year’s budget. And *those* were copied from the budget from the year before that.

In other words, Bòrd na Gàidhlig’s allocated budget has not kept up with inflation. What this means is that the Scottish Government did indeed cut Bòrd na Gàidhlig’s budget, and the Board sounded the alarm that it would have to let go over two dozen local Gaelic resource officers. After taking withering criticism in both the Gaelic and the English-language press, somehow the then-first minister Humza Yousaf found a one-time stash of money allowing the Board to stave off the layoffs for another twelve months.

Those Gaelic resource officers are living on borrowed time.

Those reading this who follow Scottish news will likely know by now that Yousaf committed one of the more incredible unforced errors ever committed by a Scottish first minister, ripping up the agreement between his Scottish National Party and the Scottish Green Party. I will not recount all the events here, but the result of this “own goal,” as it were, was his resignation from office and a new first minister in the form of John Swinney, who then honored a deal with intra-party rival Kate Forbes and made her deputy first minister.

The good part about her appointment is that she speaks fluent Gaelic. We can hope that she will continue to champion the official languages bill still working its way through the Scottish Parliament that will grant official legal status to both Gaelic and Scots. However, her views on other issues cost the SNP whatever good will their former partners in the Greens might have given. Add to this all the other negative press the SNP has had to endure in the last fifteen months or so, and Scotland has a less-than-stable minority government.

What can this mean? I can only offer conjecture, but I would expect John Swinney’s government will prioritize legislation that will appeal to a broader swath of voters in order to shore up the government’s weakened position. What is more, polls show that his SNP is now positioned to lose a significant portion of their Westminster seats. I expect most of those will go to Labour, and that will be as much a vote against the SNP as it will be a vote for Labour to replace a UK government led by a Tory party that Scotland has rejected at the polls for decades. Regardless as to why the voters cast their ballots as they probably will, the loss of seats will look bad for the SNP, and it could further weaken the SNP-led Scottish government. I hate to say it, but do not expect the language bill to be a priority. I will gladly be wrong about this, and time will tell.

As I have written before, if Gaelic is to survive, its speakers will have to step up our efforts to protect and promote it. In spite of all the negative political press, I have been very heartened to see on social media that the Culturlann in Inverness, a center for Gaelic speakers to gather and use their language with one another that was featured in its planning stages nearly two years ago in *An Naidheachd Againne*, is now open. Its events calendar is full; photos and videos from its events posted online show everyone thoroughly enjoying the art, poetry, and musicality of Gaelic. Any victory like this, we will take. We do have hope.

On this side of the Atlantic, Celtic language speakers and scholars are acting. I attended the Celtic Studies Association of North America’s annual conference in early April. Most of the papers presented this year focused on Irish, Welsh, and Breton. My own paper did feature Gaelic, and I would rather talk about that. What I need to share with you is that our 2025 meeting was to be held at the University of Toronto. As you might recall, some six months ago, the university announced plans to replace its Celtic Studies degree programs – which had Celtic language requirements attached to their pedagogy – with a more generic “Irish and British Studies” program that would not require any language studies. Those members attending the conference voted unanimously to move our conference away from Toronto, on the motion of our governing council, as we could not possibly reward the university by holding our Celtic studies conference on their campus after the moves they made against the languages and cultures our association champions.

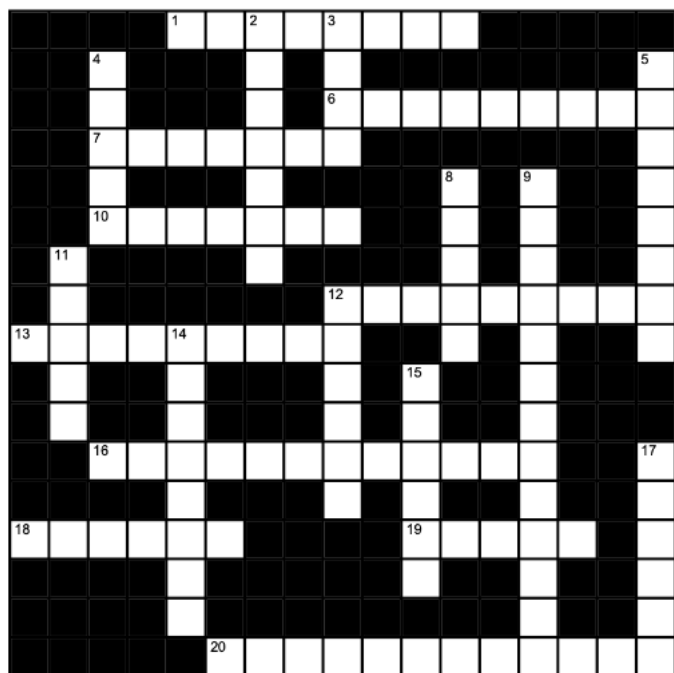
The past six months have not been good overall for Gaelic. The Scottish situation is up in the air and uncertain. I have not (as of this writing) seen anything definitive regarding the program revisions and rebranding at the University of Toronto. However, push-back from Gaelic speakers and language supporters continues to show that the language does have support, and the grassroots will stand its ground. At least I can end this *Litir* on a positive note. I hope I can build on that positivity the next time I write.

Le meas,

Goiridh | Jeff



Elementary Crossword: An Samhradh (Summer)



Across

- 1 Bee (8)
- 6 Sunscreen (2-7)
- 7 Fishing (7)
- 10 Sandals (7)
- 12 Baseball (4-5)
- 13 Sailboat (4-5)
- 16 Swimsuit (5-7)
- 18 T-shirt (5-1)
- 19 Sun (5)
- 20 Holidays (4-8)

Down

- 2 Kite (7)
- 3 Lake (4)
- 4 Park (5)
- 5 Ice cream (8)
- 8 Festival (5)
- 9 Daylight Saving Time (4,9)
- 11 Swim (5)
- 12 Warmth (6)
- 14 Umbrella (8)
- 15 Beach (6)
- 17 Cottage (6)

See page 20 for solution

Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir

Fear de na bàird Ghàidhlig as ainmeile agus as cudromaiche

by Barbara L. Rice

On March 24th, 2024, the 300th birthday of the renowned 18th-century Gaelic poet, Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir, was celebrated in Queen's Park, Glasgow, Scotland. The Friends of Queen's Park held the event in his honor, with Professor Alan Riach (Glasgow University, Department of Scottish Literature) and Gaelic singer and piper, Allan MacDonald. You can watch the ceremony held in the Scottish Poetry Rose Garden here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGaBQguhsH8>

Known in his lifetime as “Donnchadh Bàn nan Òran” or “Fair Duncan of the Songs”, Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir / Duncan Ban MacIntyre was a prolific poet in spite of neither being able to read nor write. Mac an t-Saoir's nature-themed poetry has been described as “the zenith of Gaelic nature poetry”. He was born in Druim Liaghart near Beinn Dorain, which was located on the southern shore of Loch Tulla in Glen Orchy, Scotland. Mac an t-Saoir lived from March 20, 1724 to May 4, 1812.

He memorized his poetry, which was later written down by the minister of Lismore, Donald MacNicol, and published with assistance from his friend, the Reverend John Stewart. At the time, ministers were often the only people fully literate in Scottish Gaelic. His poems were published as *Orain Ghaidhealach* in 1768, 1790, and 1804.

He worked in several occupations, including as a soldier in the Argyll Regiment of Militia, fighting for the Hanoverian forces during the Jacobite rising of 1745–6. From 1746 to 1766 he was a gamekeeper for the Earl of Breadalbane and then the Duke of Argyll, frequenting the hills and woods of the area. This period of his life had the greatest impact on his poetry, giving birth to his greatest work, “Moladh Beinn Dòbhrain”. Mac an t-Saoir moved with his family to Edinburgh in 1767 and remained there for the rest of his life, serving with the Breadalbane Fencibles and the City Guard (Edinburgh police) before retiring in 1806. He died in 1812, and was buried in the old Greyfriars churchyard.

Below is the first part of “Moladh Beinn Dòbhrain”.

Moladh Beinn Dòbhrain

URLAR

An t-urram thar gach beinn
Aig Beinn-dòrain,
De na chunnaic mi fo 'n ghréin,
'S i bu bhòidhche leam;
Monadh fada, réidh,
Cuile 'm faighte féidh,
Soilleireachd an t-sléibh'
Bha mi sònrachadh;
Doireachan nan geug,
Coill' anns am bi feur,
'S foineasach an spréidh,
Bhios a chòmhnuidh ann:
Greighean bu gheal céir,
Faoghaid air an déidh,
'S laghach leam an sreud
A bha sròineiseach.
'S aigeannach fear eutrom,
Gun mhòrchuis,
Théid fasanda 'na éideadh,
Neo-spòrsail:



*Old Greyfriars Kirkyard, Edinburgh
Scotland. Gravesite of the poet,
Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir.*

Jeff Justice

English translation by George Calder

Praise Of Ben Dorain

THEME

Praise o'er mountains every one
To Ben Dorain be,
All I've seen beneath the sun
Methought fairest she;
A long and level mere,
In nooks are found the deer,
The sloping outline clear
I marked lovingly;
Branching are the groves,
Woods that the grass loves.
And watchful are the droves
That there are haunting:
Herds white in the rear,
Their chase in full career,
The ranks to me are dear
With nostrils panting.
'Tis a fellow light and dashing.
Never specious,
In his garb goes in the fashion.
Unostentatious:

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, Cam MacRae weaves her cat into a fun descriptive memory game, and Hilary NicPhàidein tells us what she did in Scotland while participating in an endurance walk with fellow military veterans.

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.

Cateran Yomp

le Hilary NicPhàidein

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu dhèidhinn na cuairte fad-astaraich air a’ Ghàidhealtachd san litir-naidheachd mu dheireadh. Ged a bha an carthannas *The Soldiers’ Charity* os cionn an tachartais seo, ghabh mi a’ chuairt mar bhall dhen *Allied Forces Foundation*, buidheann neo-phrothaide Breatannach-Aimeireaganach. Cumaidh am buidheann seo taic ri buill-sheirbheise leòinte.

Air sgàth ’s gun robh mi ann an Albainn mar-thà, choinnich mi na buill-sgioba eile aig port-adhair Dhùn Èideann air 6mh latha dhen Ògmhios. Bha iad às na Stàitean, às An Rìoghachd Aonaichte, às An Fhraing is à Ugràin. Air an aon latha chaidh sinn do Chaisteal Dhùn Èideann agus choinnich sinn feadhainn dhe na Buill-Phàrlamaid san fheasgar. An dèidh sin chaidh sinn a Dhùn Chailleann far an do dh’fhuirich sinn ann an taigh-feachd rè na farpaise.



Hilary aig toiseach an Yomp / Hilary at the start of the Yomp



Bonn-umhach / Bronze medal

Bha an *Cateran Yomp* air an 8mh is 9mh dhen Ògmhios. Choisich mi fichead mìle ’s a dhà agus fhuair mi bonn-umhach. Bha na seallaidhean cho àlainn. Bha an t-sìde grianach, gaothach ’s fliuch. B’ e aimsir àbhaisteach Albannach a bh’ ann ach bha i math airson coiseachd nam biodh aodach iomchaidh ort. Ged a bha mi cho sgìth agus mo chasan gu math goirt, bha mi glè thoilichte gun do rinn mi a’ chuairt.

Bha an cùrsa-siubhail loma-làn chur-seachadan. Thadhail sinn air Caisteal Shruighlea agus *National Wallace Monument*, taigh-staile uisge-beatha Bhlàr Athaill agus air Baile Chloichridh. Chaidh sinn chun an dinneir rèisimeidich ann am Peairt is ghabh sinn pàirt ann an geamaichean Gàidhealach *Wounded Warrior* a bha cho spreòdach is spòrsail aig Loch Tatha.

Mar a dh’fhaighnich mi dhomh fhìn san alt agam sa Mhàrt - carson a chuir mi romham a bhith a’ coiseachd air cuairt fhad-astarach air a’ Ghàidhealtachd san Ògmhios? Uill, bha mi airson an dùbhlàn a dhèanamh is a bhith cuide ri seannghaisgich eile. Ghabh mi cuairt agus rinn mi càrdeas ri iomadh neach air leth. *Mission accomplished!*

’S e cat [cuir am buadhair as fheàrr leat an seo] a th’ anns a’ chat aig Cam.

le Cam MacRae

’S e cat àbhaisteach a th’ ann an cat a’ mhinisteir. ’S e cat àbhaisteach beag a th’ ann an cat a’ mhinisteir. ’S e cat àbhaisteach beag cadalach a th’ ann an cat a’ mhinisteir.

A bheil sibh eòlach air a’ gheama seo? Thèid sibh (na cluicheadairean) fear mu seach a dhèanamh tuairisgeul de chat a bhuinneas dhan mhinistear agus feumaidh gach cluicheadair an liosta de bhuaidhairean gu tur aithris agus an uair sin buadhair ùr a chur ris.

Uill, bha mi a’ cluich a’ gheama còmhla ri caraid o chionn ghoirid is aig an aon àm a’ coimhead air a’ chat agam fhìn, cat àbhaisteach beag cadalach. Nuair a dh’fhaighnicheas duine dhomh a bheil mi a’ fuireach nam aonar, freagraidh mi, “O, chan eil. Tha cat agam; cat àbhaisteach beag cadalach dileas.”



Cat beag cadalach / Little sleepy cat

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 novels¹ also provide many useful phrases in idiomatic Gaelic.

In English, “like a bolt from the blue” is an idiom that means something sudden and completely unexpected has occurred.

But in Gaelic we would say:

Thàinig an naidheachd mar shaighead sonn gun robh Iain pòsta.

The news came like a bolt from the blue that Iain was married.

- *mar shaighead sonn* – like a hidden / mysterious arrow (literally, an elf-bolt)

Bha co-dhùnadh a' bhritheimh mar chloich às an adhar.

The judge's sudden decision was completely unexpected.

- *mar chloich às an adhar* – like a stone from the air

Bhuail an stoirm-shneachda oirnn gu h-obann gun fhios.

The snowstorm struck suddenly and without warning.

- *gu h-obann gun fhios* – suddenly without knowledge



¹ *Às a' Chamhanaich*, written and illustrated by Aonghas MacLeòid, Bradan Press, 2022
Dorsan, written and illustrated by Aonghas MacLeòid, Bradan Press, 2022

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

Mòdan Gu Leòr!

The second New York City Tartan Week Mòd took place on Thursday, April 4, 2024, in Manhattan. Adjudicated by ACGA president Liam Ó Caiside and Cathy Muriel Carey, a native of Lewis now living in New Jersey, this year's Mòd winner is Seán Heely of Virginia. Pictured left to right are National Tartan Day New York Committee President Kyle Dawson with competitors Catriona Geras (2nd prize winner), Seán Heely, Pamela Jean Agaloos, Cathleen MacKay, John Grimaldi, Lana Tuckman and Patricia Leighton, with host, Joy Dunlop.



Barbara L. Rice



Mike Gage

The first annual Tennessee Gaelic Mòd was held on June 5, 2024, in Johnson City, Tennessee, with adjudicators Eliza Mei Pedersen and Jason Bond. Marks in the singing competition were awarded as follows: Michelle Hughes: Air Leth Math, Cathleen MacKay: Sonraichte, and Will Collings: Air Leth Math. Ten brave Gaelic learners also accepted the sight-reading challenge and were given helpful comments by the adjudicators.

Competitors in the Tennessee Gaelic Mòd singing competition, left to right: Michelle Hughes, Will Collings, Cathleen MacKay. The trophy, held here by Will, is shaped like the state of Tennessee and will be signed by all the competitors in future Tennessee mods.

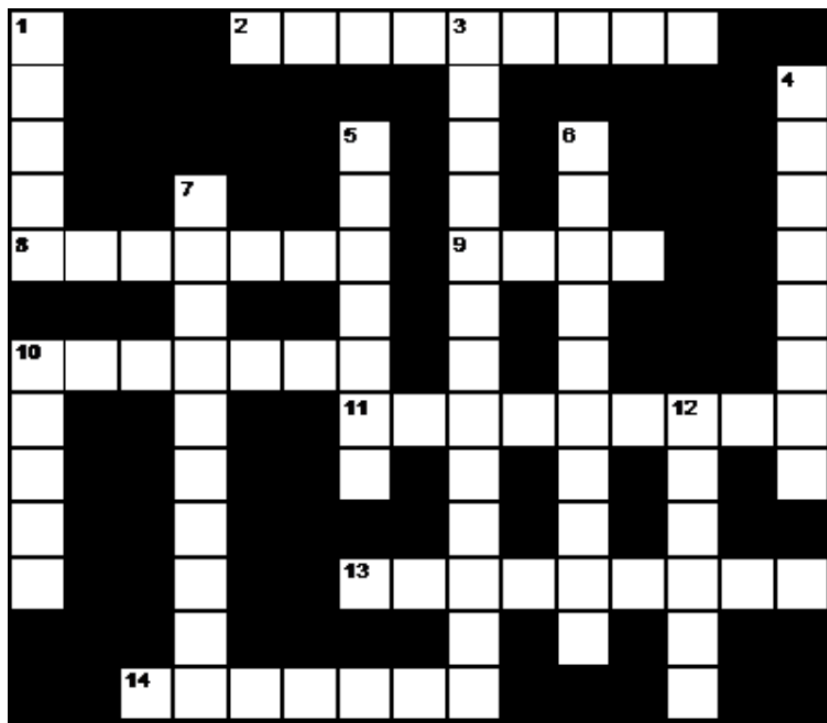
Nach cuidich thu *An Naidheachd Againne?* / Won't you help *An Naidheachd Againne?*



... 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

Tòimhseachan-tarsainn Adhartach: Tìde



See page 20 for solution

Across

- 2 Nuair a bhios na bàtaichean a' cumail sa phort (4-5)
- 8 Nuair a bhios an t-uisge àrd (4-3)
- 9 _____ nan seachd sian (4)
- 10 Ag obair nan uairean gu lèir (3-4)
- 11 An uair an dèidh na tè seo (3-6)
- 13 Far a bheil an aon tìde aig a h-uile duine (5-4)
- 14 Chan fhan muir ri _____ (7)

Down

- 1 Tìde àbhaisteach (3-2)
- 3 Tìde shonraichte airson solas an latha a shàbhaladh (4,9)
- 4 Uair an dèidh uair (1-7)
- 5 Nuair a bhios cothrom ann sligean a chruinneachadh (3,4)
- 6 Fad an t-siubhail (3,2,1-4)
- 7 Seachain e gus nach bi thu a' bàthadh (5-5)
- 10 Bha a thid' agad! (3,2)
- 12 Aig an àm ceart (2,4)

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



... by proofreading articles in either English or Gaelic.
We'll help you with our formatting guidelines.
Interested? Email naidheachd@acgamerica.org



Book Review:

An Cat Coigreach

by June Ghreumach

Bradán Press, 2024. 148 pages, paperback (23 black & white illustrations)

ISBN: 978-1-77861-035-6

Reviewed by Ted Neveln

2022 winner of the award for *Làmh-sgiobhainn Neo-fhoillsichte as Fheàrr do Chloinn/Òigridh / Best Unpublished Manuscript for Children/Young People in the Duaisean Litreachais 2022* Gaelic Literature Awards 2022.

June Ghreumach received the 2019 Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award for Gaelic Children's Fiction.

When my book circle leader considers what to read next, I will recommend this one; although a talking cat might be a tough sell, even if he speaks Gaelic. Pangur Dubh is a Swiss cat in Scotland; he isn't always nice, he prefers Switzerland, and his cuteness gets marred by a skin condition. He's multilingual but only select humans can understand him, and they are not always the ones *he* would select. Along with speaking Gaelic he is a splendid emotional support cat when he wants to be. He does not converse much because his real talent is listening and he marvels at the inability of humans to listen. His calling is the bestowing of *Sìth is Gràdh / Peace and Love* which I think provides a respite from some of the mayhem in my recent readings.

The first three chapters glow with sweetness, but life gets difficult and even grim. Pangur Dubh gets lost, and the world does not brim with nice people or cats. He sees enough indifference and random stupidity to make him cynical about love and human beings. He is not exactly pitiful; he is pretty confident and becomes a bit of a bigot against bipeds. He appropriates Lews Castle and styles himself as An Ridire Pangur MacIlleDhuibh. Cat-like, he plays with his food until one of his meals talks back and buys time by relating stories of Lews Castle and Stornoway (picture Scheherazade as a mouse), but meanwhile, the man who is responsible for the death of the last person who cared for him is hunting him in the castle grounds. But *Sìth is Gràdh* return in the end. It makes a good argument for keeping cats indoors or on leash although that may not be the intentional moral of the story.

The pacing is good and the plot twisted in ways I did not expect. There is a fair bit of sly humor and I like the complex interaction between the cat and an elderly woman named Leagsaidh and Iain, her Rottweiler-owning nephew.

As I learn more Gaelic I find it harder to gauge the difficulty of a given passage for other intermediate learners. "Intermediate" spans wide territory in both learners and books. Once, I read two books written for little kids, but one seemed substantially more difficult even though they were in the same series and aimed at identical reading levels. I still run into that at higher levels.

Any word I needed was in Colin Mark's dictionary or in the *LearnGaelic* online dictionary, although I still don't quite know *for-uinneag* – it's some kind of architecture anyway. The syntax is not obscure but well beyond newbie. Consider this:

Nan cuireadh e roimhe tilleadh dhan Eilbheis, lorgadh e dòigh sin a dhèanamh. (p.63)

Which I translate as "If he were to decide to return to Switzerland, he would find a way to do it." That sentence is in the conditional tense which is good because that is where the language gets much of its nuance and art; but many learners have not yet done a deep dip. The sentence also has the idiom *cuir ro* meaning decide. Some

REVIEWS

may not know that idiom yet, others know it but may not spot it hiding in that sentence and (as for me) this is the first time I saw it in the conditional. The word *nan* in that sentence could be confusing. *An Cat Coigreach* is not heavily laden with idioms and conditional tenses but at least one person in the group should be ready to deal with them.

Consider:

Mura b' e gun robh uinneag eatarra, bhiodh Pangur air leum air an eun dìreach gus stad a chur air an òran ghòrach aige. (p.70)

“If it weren’t for the window between them, Pangur would have leaped on the bird just to put a stop to his stupid song.” It’s a great sentence but might startle a learner who is still shaky on word order.

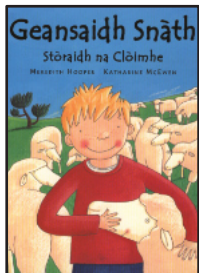
Similarly:

'S fheàrr dhomh mo chasan a thoirt leam. (p.115)

“I’d better take my feet with me”. I hope I can remember to say something that suave the next time I need to slip away like a cat. There are many snappy little phrases that are worth basking in.

Most of the story is written in the present tense and *An Cat Coigreach* is full of cool expressions and phrases that are worth memorizing to drop into a conversation. Take note that the kitten Gaelic in the beginning is easier than the full-grown cat Gaelic later on. Aside from Gaelic the book teaches some history and geography. My guess is that a reading group could read it in three to five sittings.

REVIEWS



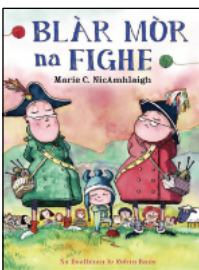
Book Reviews:

Geansaidh Snàth: Stòraidh na Clòimhe

by Meredith Hooper, illustrated by Katharine McEwen,
translated by Norma NicLeòid

Acair, 2003

ISBN: 0-86152-656-2



Blàr Mòr na Fighe

by Marie C. NicAmhlaigh, illustrated by Robin Bans

Acair, 2021

LAGE/ISBN: 978-1-78907-097-2

Reviewed by Cam MacRae

I’m a knitter who is also a Gaelic learner, and for several years I’ve been keeping a list of Gaelic terms related to knitting and other fiber crafts, most of which I have found in dictionaries. You can imagine my delight, therefore, when I recently came across two children’s books with knitting themes. They did not disappoint.

Geansaidh Snàth: Stòraidh na Clòimhe is a translation of *Woolly Jumper: The Story of Wool* by Meredith Hooper. Told in the cumulative style of the folk tale, “The House that Jack Built,” this is the story of the yarn that Iain’s *antaidh* knit his new red sweater with.

Although it isn't clear from the text or the illustrations (no kangaroos), the story is set on a large Merino sheep farm in Australia. The text describes the process of mustering and shearing the sheep and sending the bales of wool to the mill where the yarn is spun and then dyed, before Iain's *antaoidh* buys it in a shop. The sentences are short and uncomplicated, and the cumulative and repetitive nature of the text reinforces much of the vocabulary. For those interested in more detail about the process from sheep farm to yarn store, there is a two-page essay, *Mun Leabhar Seo*, at the end of the book, which does mention kangaroos.

Blàr Mòr na Fighe by Marie C. NicAmhlaigh is narrated by a baby with two grannies in fierce competition with each other to see who can knit the most *geanasaidhean*, *seachaidean*, *adan*, *bonaidean*, *bonnagan beaga*, *agus miotagan* before their grandchild is even born. Along the way, the baby (and the reader) learns Gaelic terms for “stocking stitch,” “cable stitch,” and “moss stitch” among others, in a book consulted by the grannies, *Cànan Dìomhair Luchd-fighe*. Other books on their shelves include *Pàtrain Fighe airson Bèibidh* and *Pàtrain Fighe le Deilbh*. Don't I wish I could find copies!

Blàr Mòr na Fighe is for Gaelic learners at an advanced beginner stage, with knowledge of verb tenses and an introduction at least to the various ways verbal nouns can be used. The colorful and humorous illustrations by Robin Bans often give clues to the meaning of what could be new vocabulary. A bonus for me was that Bans obviously knows how knitting works. *An e granaidh a th' innte?*



Book Review:

The Girl Who Rode the Unihorn: A Post-Apocalyptic Dystopian Climate Fiction Novel

by Micheal Dubh

Seanchaidh, 2024. 433 pages, paperback

ASIN: B0CRB7P1Q7

Lèirmheas le Àdhamh Dàimearach

Reviewed by Adam Dahmer

O chionn ghoirid, fhuair mi cothrom leabhar ùr a leughadh, *The Girl who Rode the Unihorn*, a bha air a sgrìobhadh fon ainm-pinn Micheal Dubh, agus air fhoillseachadh leis a' chlò 'Seanchaidh'.

Chan eil mi airson an sgeul a mhilleadh airson nan daoine nach do leugh e fhathast, is mar sin chan fhaod mi a bhith a' bruidhinn gu mionaideach air a' phlota. Ach, ann an da-rìribh, chan e am plota, nam bheachd-sa, a' phàirt as inntinniche a thaobh an leabhair seo.

Dhòmhsa, 's e an saoghal anns a bheil sgeulachd an leabhair an rud anns a bheil a' chuid as motha de luach aige – saoghal a tha gu math toinnte, gu math dorcha, agus air leth glacmhor, shaoilinn, do leughadair sam bith a tha air a bhith a' smaointinn air èiginn na gnàth-shìde anns a bheil sinn, a tha, latha air latha, a' fàs nas miosa.

Recently, I had the opportunity to read a new book, *The Girl who Rode the Unihorn*, written under the nom de plume Micheal Dubh, and published by the Seanchaidh press.

I don't want to spoil the story for those who haven't read it yet, so I mustn't discuss the plot in any great detail. But, really, it isn't the plot, in my opinion, that constitutes the most interesting aspect of the book.

For me, the world in which the book's story is situated is its worthiest facet – a world that is quite complex, rather dark, and highly captivating, I would think, to any reader who has been contemplating the daily-worsening climate crisis in which we now find ourselves.

Tha a' mhòr chuid dhinn a' dèanamh nas urrainn – co-dhiù gu ìre – suidheachadh na gnàth-shìde a leasachadh: ag òl nan deochan againn gun stràbh, no, co-dhiù, às aonais an t-seòrsa dèanta le plastaig; a' feuchainn ri nas lugha de pheatral a chleachdadh, 's dòcha le bhith a' diùltadh siubhal-adhair; a' cur a h-uile rud as urrainn dhuinn a thilgeil a-mach anns an ath-chuairteachadh, an àite san sgudal. Tha làn-fhios agam nach eil e dèanamh eadar-dhealachadh mòr, ach is fheàrr diofar air choreigin a dhèanamh, nach fheàrr?

Uill, a rèir iomhaigh an ama-ri-teachd a tha ri fhaicinn san leabhar seo, cha do rinn an oidhirp bheag bho chd againn a' chùis, aig a' cheann thall. Leagh na cip-deighe, is chaidh a' mhòr chuid de thir-mhòr fodha – agus sin an trioblaid as lugha a bhios againn. Tha an àrainneachd air a sgrios, le fàsaichean mòra gainmhich far an robh coilltean, agus pluman ronnain phuinnseanach far an do ruith aibhnichean uisgeachan fìor-ghlana. Diùghaidh nan uile cùisean, tha a' chuid bheag mhaireannach den chinneadh-dhaonna a mhair an èiginn gu tur eisimeileach air na companaidhean a bha nam meadhan a' phlanaid a mharbhadh, a tha air tighinn còmhla airson saoghal-riaghaltas làmh-uachdarach a dhèanamh.

Ach, chan eil an suidheachadh gun dòchas air fad: am measg bheanntaichean air falach anns a bheil cuid de choilltean fhathast gorma, tha dùthaich rùn-diomhaireach ann ris an canar an 'Wayp', far a bheil sòisealachd mhàthair-rianail a tha na tèarmann do dhaoine a' feuchainn ris an riaghaltas a theicheadh – agus, 's dòcha, rèabhlaid a chur air dòigh.

Am bi iad soirbheachail?

Nam bu toil leat an fhreagairt fhaighinn, feumaidh tu fhèin an leabhar a leughadh!

Feumaidh mi aideachadh gur dòcha nach còrd an teacsa seo ris a h-uile duine. Tha na h-iomraidhean poileataigeach agus an càineadh beusail ann air an taisbeanadh le làmh throm; o àm gu àm, tha e a' faireachdainn nas coltaiche ri searmon creidmheach eiceo-phàganach na nobhail. Gu pearsanta, chan eil mi an aghaidh searmonan den t-seòrsa sin, gu h-àraidh ma tha aon-adharcaich agus facal no dhà dhen Ghàidhlig an sàs annta, ach 's dualtach nach biodh a h-uile duine dhen aon bheachd.

Ma chòrdas e ribh no mura còrd, 's e lionsa cruthachail a th' ann tro bhith ag amharc air an staing as motha den linn againn.

Most of us are doing what we can – at least to some extent – to improve the climate situation: drinking our beverages without straws, or, at least, without the plastic kind; trying to use less petroleum, perhaps by shunning air travel; putting as much of our waste as we can into recycling, instead of the trash. We know full well it isn't making a big difference, but something is better than nothing, isn't it?

Well, according to the image of the future presented in this book, our sad little efforts didn't cut it in the end. The icecaps melted, and most of the mainland sank – and that's the least of our troubles. The environment is ruined, with vast sandy deserts where there once were trees and trickles of toxic sludge where there once flowed rivers of pristine water. Worst of all, what little remnant of humanity that has survived the crisis is entirely dependent on the companies responsible for the death of the planet, which have united to form a tyrannical world government.

Still, the situation isn't entirely hopeless: among hidden mountains in which some forests are still green lies a mysterious country called the 'Wayp', where a matriarchal society serves as a refuge for people attempting to flee the world government – and, perhaps, to foment a rebellion.

Will they succeed?

If you want to find out, you have to read the book!

I must caution that perhaps not everyone will enjoy this text. The political commentary and moral exhortations within it are presented with a heavy hand; from time to time, it feels more like an eco-pagan religious sermon than a novel. Personally, I'm not opposed to sermons of that sort, especially if they involve unicorns and a word or two of Gaelic, but it's likely that not everyone holds the same opinion.

Whether you like it or not, it's a creative lens through which to consider the greatest crisis of our age.



Website to Watch

Akerbeltz Publishing, supporting Celtic language authors and books

Akerbeltz is not a Gaelic word. It's Basque, actually, and means "the black goat", the name of an old Basque deity and the protector of the land and the beasts. It is also the internet user name of Michael Bauer and the brand name for his micro-publishing company based in Scotland (www.akerbeltz.eu), whose aim is to encourage the publication of Gaelic books, especially those originally written in Gaelic, Irish and Manx.

What makes Akerbeltz Publishing different is that the author keeps a greater proportion of the sale price of the book and has greater involvement in the publishing process. "What is key is to ensure that quality writing gets published. In this way we hope to increase the standard of the literature that is available to readers in these languages," states Akerbeltz.

Publications range on every level from learners to fluent speakers. The current catalogue and pipeline projects include children's stories, some classic literature, non-fiction reference works, and various learning support materials. Titles published include *Blas na Gàidhlig*, *Cat a' Mhinisteir*, *Na Daoine Sìthe is Ùirsgeulan eile*, *Am Biobull Naomh*, and a new reprint of the Dwelly Gaelic dictionary.



Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Do you know what familiar Gaelic proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 22 to see if you're right.

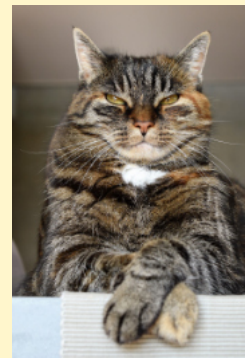


Image by Pitsch on Pixabay.com



Leabhraichean ùra á Albainn Nuaidh

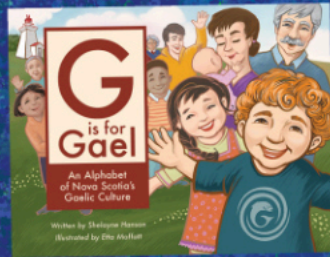
New & favourite Gaelic books from Nova Scotia



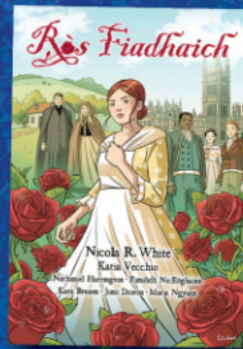
L: 50+ recipes from Pictou County, Gaelic proverbs, and folklore in a new edition of this popular English-Gaelic cookbook.
R: The Three Little Pigs in Gaelic translation, completing the trilogy translated by Dr. Jamie MacDonald.



Top L: New Gaelic fiction for intermediate learners & up. Pangur Dubh's family leaves Switzerland for Eilean Leòdhais, making him a "foreign cat." Can he find home by running away? Winner of the 2022 Gaelic Lit Award for Best Unpublished Manuscript. **Top R:** New historical fiction about a 12-year-old orphan in 1749, from the *Iain of New Scotland* author.



R: A graphic novel tale of betrayal, action & revenge set in 18th c. Ireland & London, *Wild Rose* is now available in both Gaelic & Irish. Ages 15+.



Above: A is for ancestor, B is for blackhouse...a picture book of NS Gaelic culture in available in English, Gaelic & French editions.

Order at bradanpress.com

Sign up for our email list:



Solutions to Crossword Puzzles

Elementary Crossword (p. 9)



Tòimhseachan-tarsainn (p. 14)



Bilingual Recipe

There is nothing particularly Scottish about Scotch eggs except for the name. One explanation is that they were first made by gourmet grocers Fortnum & Mason in 1738 for the gentry to snack on as they travelled to their country estates. Today they are a popular pub food in Britain and Ireland. They can be eaten hot or cold with the condiment of your choice.



Photo by Janice Chan

Uighean Albannach

Gritheidean

6 uighean mòra
1 ugh, air a bhualadh
1 phunnd / 450g muicfheoil pronn*
1/4 chupa min-fhlùir
1 chupa criomagan arain (panko no aran lomnochd)
2 spàin-bhùird luibhean an ceann a chèile - sàiste, lus an rìgh, ròs-Màiri
sradag cnòtha-mheannt
salann agus piobar gu do bhlas fhèin
ola còcaireachd airson praidheadh

* no cleachd an fheòil às na h-isbeanan as fheàrr leat

Stiùiridhean

Bruich 6 uighean fad 4 gu 8 mionaidean a rèir dè cho bog 's as toil leat na buidheagain-uirge. Cuir na h-uighean ann am bobhla le uisge fuar gus na h-uighean fhuarachadh. Nuair a bhios iad fionnar ri an làimhseachadh spiol na h-uighean gu faiceallach. Rolaig na h-uighean ann am flùir. Cuidichidh seo an t-ugh agus an fheòil a bhith cumail ri chèile.

Ma bhios tu a' dèanamh na feòil-isbein thu fhèin, cuir a' mhucfheoil leis na luibhean ann am bobhla. Cuir ann luibhean an cheann a chèile, salann agus piobar, gu do bhlas fhèin, agus a' chnò-mheannt. Cuir seo mun cuairt gu math.

Roinn an fheòil ann an sia pòrsanan. Gabh pòrsan agus leathnaich e ri do làimh gus am bi e eadar 1/4-1/2 òirleach de thighead. Cuir ugh fuar sa mheadhan agus paisg an fheòil gu dlùth-cheangailte mun cuairt an uighe gus am bi còmhdach cothromach de dh'fheòil mun cuairt air. Teannaich an fheòil timcheall an uighe gus nach fhaic thu beàrn.

Scotch Eggs

Ingredients

6 large eggs
1 egg, beaten
1 lb / 450g ground pork *
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup breadcrumbs (panko or plain bread)
2 tbsp mixed dried herbs - sage, thyme, rosemary
pinch of ground nutmeg
salt and pepper to taste
vegetable oil for frying

* or use the meat from your favourite sausages

Method

Boil 6 eggs 4 to 8 minutes according to how firm you want the yolks. Place the eggs in a bowl of cold water to cool. Once cool to the touch, carefully peel the eggs. Roll each egg in flour. This will help the egg and meat to stick together.

If making your own sausage meat, place the ground pork in a bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add herb mixture and combine thoroughly. Add ground nutmeg. Mix thoroughly.

Divide ground pork mixture or sausage meat into 6 portions. Take a portion of the meat and flatten in your palm to 1/4 to 1/2 inch thickness. Place a cooled egg in the centre and wrap the meat firmly around the egg, shaping so that there is an even layer of meat all around. Pinch the meat closed around the egg so that there are no gaps.

Rolaig an t-ugh ann am min-fhlùir gus am bi an fheòil còmhdaichte gu h-aotrom agus às deidh sin, bog seo anns an ugh air a bhualadh, a' leigeil barrachas an uighe dheth. A-nis, rolaig an t-ugh ann an criomagan arain, a' fàsgadh nan criomagan arain a-steach dhan fheòil. Dèan seo a-rithist leis na h-uighean eile.

Praidhig na h-uighean ann an ola-còcaireachd fad 5-7 mionaidean gus am bi iad òir-dhonn, gan tionndadh nuair a bhios iad leth-ullamh. Cuir iad air tubhailt-phàipeir a leigeil na h-ola dhiubh.

Ith iad teth no fuar leis an annlann as fhèarr leat.

Roll the egg in flour to lightly coat the meat, then dip in the beaten egg, allowing the excess to drain off. Then roll the egg in breadcrumbs until well covered, pressing the breadcrumbs into the meat. Set aside and repeat with all the eggs.

Fry the eggs in vegetable oil for 5-7 minutes until golden brown. Turn halfway through. Drain on paper towel.

Serve hot or cold with your favourite dipping sauce.

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!



Image by Pitsch on pixabay.com

Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 19

Is ann air a shon fhèin a nì 'n cat an crònan

It's for itself the cat croons

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



... by becoming an assistant layout editor. If you have a few Windows computer skills, we will provide training (and software, if necessary)..

Interested? Email naidheachd@acgamerica.org

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Festival of Scottish Gaelic
Language and Culture

AUGUST 13-18

2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia WA

Featured Presenters



Linda NicLeòid



Seonaidh Mac an
t-Saoir



Angela MacDonald



Bernie Camshron



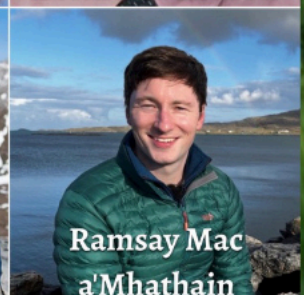
Coinneach
MacCoinnich



Seumas Ruff



Calum Mac 'ill
'Eathain



Ramsay Mac
a'Mhathain

Visit www.slighe.org to register today!

Dè Tha Dol?

Gaelic Events

An t-Iuchar 2024 / July 2024

Beinn Seanair / ACGA Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, Banner Elk, NC, July 7-12, 2024

This year's Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week will once again take place at Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC. Instructors for the week are Fiona Smith (Canada), Michael Klevenhaus (Germany) and Wilma Kennedy (Scotland). For more information see

<https://acgamerica.org/2024-grandfather-mountain-gaelic-song-language-week/>

Sgoil Shamhraidh 2024 / Ceòlas Summer School 2024, South Uist, July 7-12, 2024

Ceòlas Summer School offers classes in language, music and dance, as well as the opportunity to attend concerts and ceilidhs. For more information see <https://www.ceolas.co.uk/>

An Lùnasdal 2024 / August 2024

Grigne Gàidhlig Ghlaschu / Glasgow Gaelic Gathering, Glasgow, Kentucky, August 2-4, 2024

Classes in Gaelic language, culture, and song will be taught by instructors Dr. Adam Dahmer and Dr. Dhanya Baird. Events include a traditional ceilidh, Gaelic language workshop, Gaelic culture workshop, ceilidh dance and the 2nd annual Kentucky Commonwealth Mòd.

The price for full participation, including room, board, all classes and workshops is \$241.94 USD (tax included) per person. Discounted rates that exclude room and / or board are available. Participants will have the option to attend and perform in the second annual Kentucky Commonwealth Mòd if they so choose.

Registration deadline is July 11, 2024 <http://tinyurl.com/GlasgowGaelicGathering> (Eventbrite)

Questions? Email Adam Dahmer at atdahm01@gmail.com

Grigne Gàidhlig Ghlaschu is presented by SPLANG! – Gàidhlig ann an Ceanndachaidh / Scottish Gaelic in Kentucky.

Mòd Chesapeake / Second Annual Chesapeake Mòd, Laurel, MD, Saturday, August 3, 2024

This year's guests are Emma MacLeod and Iain Cormack, the 2023 Royal National Mòd gold medal winners, as well as Eilidh MacKinnon, Deputy Head of the Scottish Government USA office.

Venue: St. Vincent Pallotti High School, 113 St. Mary's Place, Laurel, Maryland 20707

Time: 10am-5pm (doors open at 9am)

See <https://sgoilgaidhlig.org/mod-chesapeake/> for fees, full timetable and competitor information.

Mòd Chesapeake is sponsored by Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhòir (<https://sgoilgaidhlig.org/>), Gàidhlig Photomac (<https://www.meetup.com/gaidhlig-photomac/>), and

An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach (<https://acgamerica.org/>).

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Fergus, ON, August 9-11, 2024

With special guest, Gillebrìde MacMillan. <https://fergusscottishfestival.com/>

Fèis Seattle, Olympia, WA, August 13-18, 2024

This year Fèis Seattle will return to Evergreen State College campus for another week of Gaelic language, song, music, and fun. Language instructors: Bernie Cameron (Cape Breton), Angela MacDonald (Benbecula), Calum MacLean (Inverness) and Ramsay MacMahon (Eriskay). Music and song instructors: Linda MacLeod (North Uist), Seonaidh MacIntyre (South Uist), Kenneth MacKenzie (Cape Breton) and James Ruff (USA).

Registration is now open, with multiple options available. See <https://www.slighe.org/>

Sponsored by Slighe nan Gàidheal

Dè Tha Dol?

Gaelic Events

An Dàmhair 2024 / October 2024

28th Celtic Colours International Festival, Cape Breton, NS, October 11-19, 2024

Fifty concerts and more than two hundred community events will take place in 36 communities throughout the island. The full schedule and line-up of artists will be announced June 24 with tickets going on sale July 9. See <https://celtic-colours.com/>

Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail / Royal National Mòd 2024, Oban, Scotland, October 11-19, 2024

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/>

An t-Samhain 2024 / November 2024

An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach US National Mòd, Online via Zoom, November 9-10, 2024

ACGA's US National Mòd will be held online via Zoom Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10, with adjudicators Lyle and Kerry Kennedy. Residing in Oban, both Lyle and Kerrie are Royal National Mòd Gold Medalists.

The Mòd will be held on the Saturday, with competitions in song (solo singing, accompanied singing and singing together), poetry recitation, original poetry, storytelling and sight reading. There will also be a Youth Competition for those 18 and younger.

Lyle and Kerrie will hold workshops on Sunday morning for all registrants. See <https://acgamerica.org/>

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>

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

..... by proofreading articles in either English or Gaelic.
We'll help you with our formatting guidelines.



Interested? Email naidheachd@acgamerica.org

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.

Seinn air Loidhne / Gaelic Song Class with Brian Ó hEadhra

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

An Clas Camelon

An Clas Camelon is a thriving community of Gaelic learners based in the village of Camelon near Falkirk in Scotland. Throughout the year, the group offers Gaelic song and language workshops on Zoom. The workshops have been taught by the likes of Gillebride MacMillan, Maeve MacKinnon, Joy Dunlop and Robert Robertson, just to name a few. For more information or to register, email anclascamelon@gmail.com 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 for more information.

Colaisde na Gàidhlig, Leasan Bhideo / The Gaelic College, Video Lessons

Six different disciplines are taught by six knowledgeable and experienced instructors who share 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

- 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

<https://www.houseofscotland.org/gaelic-class.html>

Colorado

Denver

Conversation Group

Monthly (Saturday) at Stella's Coffee Shop

9:30am -11:30am

Rudy Ramsey rudy@ramsisle.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

Maryland

Baltimore

Online Classes and Conversation Group

Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhòir

<https://sgoilgaidhlig.org>

email: sgoilgaidhlig@gmail.com

301-928-9026

New York

New York City

Classes (via Zoom)

New York Caledonian Club

Contact Barbara L. Rice, Chair, Scottish Studies

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

Cathleen 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

British Columbia

Vancouver

Comunn Gàidhlig Bhancoubhair

Classes and Ceilidhs - check Facebook for details

info.vancouvergaelic@gmail.com

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

Ontario

Toronto

Comann Luchd-Ionnsachaidh Thoronto

Gaelic classes & private tutoring via Zoom

<http://www.torontogaelic.ca>

Comunn Gàidhlig Thoronto

Gaelic classes via Zoom

<https://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/>

Québec

Montréal

Online Gaelic language and song, mouth music, Celtic choir.

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 at

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.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/, 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.
- <https://www.instagram.com/acgamerica/> (or app), ACGA's Instagram page for announcements, photos and reels.

An Naidheachd Againne

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