

Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week 2009

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Come to the beautiful mountains of North Carolina, a state rich in Gaelic heritage. Enjoy Scottish Gaelic language classes for beginner, intermediate, and advanced speakers and singing classes covering a range of traditional Gaelic song forms, including waulking, or milling, songs and mouth music.

This year's Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week will run from July 5th through the 10th. The course will consist of language and song classes at graduated levels. Other activities include special interest sessions in the afternoon, an evening cèilidh, Gaelic videos, a silent auction, hikes in the beautiful surrounding mountains and the North Carolina Gaelic Mòd which is held during the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games the weekend following.

The workshop is housed at Lees-MacRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina. Information about the cost of tuition, room, and board is available on the Registration Form.

We are pleased to announce the following instructors for 2009:



Dr. Jamie MacDonald is a native of North Carolina and has spent many years studying Gaelic language and song. He earned his Ph.D. in Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh and has taught Gaelic and Gaelic song in Scotland, Canada, and the U.S.

Jamie was the first American to compete and win a prize in the Gold Medal competition at the National Mòd in Scotland for solo Gaelic singing. In addition, he has won medals at the Vancouver Mòd and at the U.S. Mòd, where he has won the men's Gold Medal four times. Dr. MacDonald was instrumental in the founding of the Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Language and Song Week and the NC Provincial Mòd.

Margaret Callan



Margaret Callan is a talented Gaelic singer and scholar from North Uist. She won the gold medal for traditional singing at the National Mod in 1994 and she has released two albums - *Faileasan Uibhist* (Reflections of Uist) and *An Lorg nam Bàrd* (In the footsteps of the bards).

Margaret has contributed to a wide range of Gaelic radio programmes both as a performer and as a presenter and has appeared at Celtic Connections and at the Edinburgh Fringe. A member of the waulking song group "Bannal" (led by Kenna Campbell) she has a particular interest in women's work songs.

In 2008 Margaret graduated M.Phil from the University of Edinburgh Department of Celtic & Scottish Studies. Her thesis focused on the transmission of Gaelic oral tradition in North Uist and it is to be published later this year by Belfast University Press. Margaret is currently an Artist in Residence at the Department of Celtic & Scottish Studies where she lectures on Gaelic song and is compiling and editing a CD and accompanying booklet of Gaelic songs from the archives of The School.



Anne Lorne Gillies is one of Scotland's most venerable artists. A fluent Gaelic speaker, she combines a passionate love of Gaelic song with a deep understanding of Scottish history and literature. She won the Gold Medal for Gaelic Singing at the National Mòd at 17, before leaving home for Edinburgh

University, where she studied Celtic under the Rev. William Matheson, academic guru and renowned Gaelic tradition-bearer. After a period of formal vocal training in London, she embarked upon a solo singing career which has lasted for almost forty years. For ten years she was Gaelic song tutor at Stirling University's Heritage of Scotland Summer Schools, where her students included Karen Matheson, Màiri MacInnes and Talitha MacKenzie.

At the height of her singing career, Anne became deeply embroiled in the campaign to revitalize the Gaelic language, playing a pivotal role in the establishment of Gaelic-medium education in schools across Scotland. After gaining a Ph.D. in Gaelic education from the University of Glasgow, she became Gaelic lecturer at the University of Strathclyde. She now runs Brìgh, an independent multi-media publishing company specializing in educational resources for Gaelic-medium schools.

Her published works include Gaelic children's novels, film and television scripts, autobiography, and the major award-winning collection *Songs of Gaelic Scotland* (Birlinn, 2005) a treasure-trove of Gaelic song from the 15th century to the present day.

Cìsean [Fees]

All instruction, lodging for 5 nights and 3 meals a day from Sunday evening dinner to Friday lunch are included. There are options for tuition only for those not staying at the college and family members not attending classes as well.

Both single and double rooms are available and anyone wishing one can have a single room at the same price as a double. Cafeteria meals are quite good and provide a good selection to cater to most diets. A salad bar is offered at almost every meal and an ice cream bar is always available as well. Further meals and additional dorm room nights are available for a reasonable charge from the college for those staying for the Highland Games.

Clàr-Ùine [Schedule]

Check in will take place from 2:00 to 5:00 on Sunday afternoon. Dinner will be available for those who arrive before 6 pm. Classes will begin Monday and run through noon on Friday. There are a variety of special interest sessions being planned for the afternoon and opportunities for fellowship with other Gaelic learners in the evening.

Fiosrachadh Tèicneolach [IT]

Those wishing to bring laptops, the wireless network at Lees-MacRae College will be available; however, in order to connect to it, one must have already downloaded or be willing to download from Lees-MacRae the current version of Microsoft Live Update and an active anti-virus program. We are told that if you do not have either of these that you may download them from Lees-MacRae College. They provide a free download of AVG Anti-virus, by Grisoft.

For people using Macintosh computers, you will no longer have to go to LMC's Tech Services; you will be prompted to download them as well, if you don't have the required software and updates. Vista will also work, we are told.

Siubhal [Travel]

If you will be flying the nearest airports are Tri-Cities, Tennessee, and Charlotte, North Carolina. Take a look at the Town of Banner Elk Web site.

Van Service:

From **Charlotte Airport** to **Lees-McRae College Banner Elk**

Contact Dan with Air Haven Limo

Dana@airhavenlimo.com

828-265-2504

Directions to Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC, from Johnson City, TN, and the Tri-Cities Airport area:

Take 321 northeast from Johnson City to Elizabethton. From Elizabethton continue east on 19E across the state line to Elk Park, NC. At Elk Park go left on 194 to Banner Elk. As you come to the top of the hill and enter Banner Elk, Lees-McRae College is on your right. Total driving time from Johnson City is about one hour. See *** below for directions to help with finding the dorm.

Directions to Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina, from Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Charlotte Douglas International airport:

NOTE: These directions are not the same as Mapquest or Yahoo! but are better suited to those not

familiar with mountain driving.

Directions to Lees-McRae College from Charlotte airport:

When you come out of the airport, head for Interstate 85 NORTH. Interstate 85 N will soon junction with Interstate 77.

- Take Interstate 77 north. Follow this until the junction with US Highway 421.
- Then take US Highway 421 West until you reach Boone, NC. You are almost there now.
- Simply take Highway 105 south in Boone until you get to the Scottish Shopping Village of Tynecastle where you will see a big sign for Grandfather Mountain.
- There will also be signs there telling you to turn right on Highway 184 to get to Banner Elk. Banner Elk is only a few miles from there and the town is so small you cannot miss the college. When you come to the T-junction at the traffic light (the only one in Banner Elk), turn left. A block up the road you will see a large parking lot on the right. When you are almost past the parking lot, turn left into the college and drive up the road to the stop sign. Turn left at the stop sign and you will see Virginia Hall on your right.

Scenic directions:

From Charlotte Douglas International Airport, take I-485 to I-85 West. Take I-85 to 321 North, at Exit 17. Follow 321 through Hickory and Lenoir to Boone. At Boone, turn left onto Rte 105 at large intersection. Take Rte 105 approximately 15 miles and turn right at the traffic light onto Rte 184 (Tynecastle Hwy). Stay on Rte 184 until it ends at Rte 194 in Banner Elk. Turn left. Lees-McRae College is on the left.

From Rte. 421 in Boone, NC:

Take Rte 105 South approximately 15 miles and turn right at the stoplight onto Rte 184 (Tynecastle Hwy.) Stay on Rte 184 until it ends at Rte 194. Take a left. Lees McRae College is on the left. See *** below for directions to help with finding the dorm.

From Rte. 221 in Linville, NC:

Take Rte 105 North and turn left at the stoplight onto Rte 184 (Tynecastle Hwy.) Stay on Rte 184 until it ends at Rte 194. Take a left. Lees McRae College is on the left. See *** below for directions to help with finding the dorm.

* * *Banner Elk is a small town and you should have no trouble finding the college and the dorm. For those who feel more comfortable with explicit directions, these are step-by-step directions for finding your way. Pass the Student Commons, then Hayes Auditorium, and then a small parking lot--all on the left. (There's a larger parking lot on the right also.) Take the next left and go up a small hill to the stop sign (the Historic Rock House will be on your right.) Take a left. Virginia Hall is on your right. It is an old stone building with a porch between the two arms of the dorm. It is next to the Tufts Chimes Tower and across the street from the campus store. After you unload your belongings, you will need to return to one of the parking lots that you passed on your way in. You may not park either behind the dorm or beside it unless you have a handicapped sticker.

An Aimsir [The Weather]

Temperatures usually range in the low 60's to mid 80's during July. The weather is normally beautiful and cool. However, it can be hot, and it can be cold. It is advisable to bring both a fan for your room and a blanket for your bed. Shorts and lightweight long pants are both appropriate as are short sleeved t-shirts and light weight sweaters. A raincoat or umbrella is also advised just in case the weather doesn't cooperate.

Rudan Feumail [Useful Things]

Dorm Room Items:

- Bed linens and pillow (Those who drive are encouraged to bring their own. \$25.00 will be due upon arrival at college. Do not add to fees.)
- Blanket for your bed
- Towels and washcloths
- Fan for your dorm room
- Desk lamp

Personal Items:

- Laptop computer. The College tells us they expect to have the campus on a completely wireless network by July. Dial-up service won't be available.
- Casual clothing for both cool weather and warm (see the weather section)
- Walking or hiking shoes
- Swimsuit or fishing equipment
- Raincoat
- Camera
- Flash light (needed for the Opening Ceremonies of the Games)
- Phone for your room and a long distance telephone card. You will have your own private line, but you must provide your own phone.
- Lap top computer, if you wish to use one during the week. College provides a modem line in every room. You must provide your own cables/cords/apparati for connection to the Internet.

Classroom items:

- Gaelic reference books
- Tape recorder or pen and paper for taking notes

Other items:

- Props for cèilidh
- Musical instruments
- Items to donate for Silent Auction
- Cash or checkbook for Silent auction—great bargains!
- Dancing shoes if you are a dancer and would like to attend any of the evenings of social dancing at the Thistle School of Scottish Country Dance \$5.00 per night.
- Gaelic Language videos to share with the group at night (examples of videos watched in the past are An Ceasnachadh & The Blood is Strong)

The workshop ends just as the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (July 9 - 12) are getting underway down the road in MacRae Meadow on Grandfather Mountain. As usual there will be a Gaelic tent at the games, and the North Carolina Gaelic Mòd will take place at the games on Saturday, July 11, 2008. If you would like to stay over for the Games and for the Gaelic Mod on Saturday of the Games, contact Kris Stewart with Lees-McRae College at 828-898-3311 to make a reservation for Friday and/or Saturday. If you don't reach him, leave a message and some way for him to get back with you. Be sure to mention that you are attending the Gaelic workshop the week before.