

An Naidheachd Againne

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

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Dh'iarr sinn air Micheal Bauer a dh'innse dhuinn ciamar a dh'ionnsaich e Gàidhlig cho math — agus ciamar a chaidh e an sàs ris na pròiseactan Gàidhlig aige — is esan às a' Ghearmailt.

We asked Michael Bauer how he came by such good Gaelic — and how he got involved in his Gaelic projects — when he's from Germany.

Dèan e no Fàg e, Chan Fhiach “Feuchainn”

le Micheal Bauer

Aidh, 's toigh leam sin, ged is ann à Star Wars a tha e, tha ciall ann. Gliocas a dh'ionnsaich mo mhàthair dhomh cuideachd, ged nach cleachdadh i faclan Yoda. Bha ùidh agam ann an Gàidhlig na h-Èireann 'nam òige agus nuair a nochd clas-oidhche ann am München sa Ghearmailt (far an rugadh 's thogadh mi), thug ise brosnachadh dhomh a dhol ann seach a bhith a' beachdachadh air. Chuir mi làimh ri iomadh pròiseact on àm sin a-rèir na feallsanachd seo, a' gabhail a-steach digiteachadh Dwelly agus an obair leasachaidh a nì mi ann an saoghal teicneolais.

Thàinig mi a dh'Alba air co-thuiteamas ge-tà, ged a bha ùidh agam ann an Gàidhlig, bha mi an sàs na Basgaise 's na Gaeilge gu mòr aig an àm sin. Ach turas a bha mi

Do or Do Not, There Is No “Try”

by Michael Bauer

Aye, even if it's from Star Wars I like it and it makes sense to me. It's also the kind of wisdom my mother taught me even though she'd never use Master Yoda's words. I had an interest in Irish in my



youth and when evening classes were offered in Munich, back in Germany where I was born and raised, she encouraged me to go rather than just think about going. That philosophy has made me get stuck into many a project since, including the digitisation of Dwelly's and other kinds of technological development work.

Me coming to Scotland was a coincidence though; even though I had had an interest in Gaelic, I was much more involved in Basque and Irish at the time.

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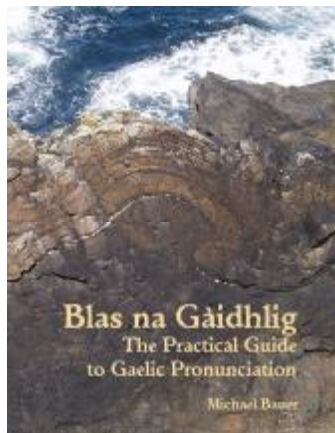
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Go to <http://www.acgamerica.org> for more information on upcoming ACGA events and other Gaelic-related activities.

an-seo 's cothrom air mo bheulaibh cànan Ceilteach ionnsachadh gu ceart, ghabh mi e. Bha e inntinneach cànan ionnsachadh ann an suidheachadh far nach robh e aig a' mhòrchuid no fiù aig cuid mhath dhen t-sluagh. Bha mi fortanach a thaobh iomadh rud ach bha dà dhiubh air leth cudromach dhomh-sa - bha oide anabarrach math agam aig an oilthigh aig an d' fhuair mi deagh-eòlas air fuaimneachadh is gràmar a' chànan agus cha robh eagal orm ro chànan. Tha an dàrna rud sin nas cudromaiche na shaoileadh tu. Ach co-dhiù, b' e sin toiseach tòiseachaidh iomadh rud, fiù 's an leabhar agam air fuaimneachadh na Gàidhlig air a bheil "Blas na Gàidhlig". Tha sin stèidhichte air na nòtaichean a bh' agam on oilthigh agus tionndaidh iad 'nan làrach-lìn an toiseach agus an uairsin 'nan leabhar. Tha coltas gu bheil mi ag obair ann an deicheadan, a' coimhead air ais - thug mi cha mhòr deich bliadhna air Dwelly agus cha mhòr deich bliadhna eile air an leabhar! Cha dèan bean luath maorach, mar a chanas iad.



An-dà, chan e an sgrìobhadh fhèin a thug cho fad ach dèanamh cinnteach gun obraich e mar leabhar is mar ghoireas. Tha sàr-leabhraichean ann mun chuspair sin a sgrìobh luchd-cànanachais ach cha tuigeadh càch iad agus cha robh mi airson fear eile dhiubh fhoillseachadh. B' fheudar dhomh an structar ceart a lorg, eacarsaichean, iomadh gleus agus fuaimean a chlàradh agus dèanamh cinnteach gun obraich e mar ghoireas dhan mhòr-shluaigh, ge be luchd-ionnsachaidh no luchd-teagaisg a th' annta. Cha robh e furasta, chan eil muinntir nan dùthchannan Beurla cleachdte ri ionnsachadh chànan air an dàrna làimh agus air an làimh eile, cha robh freagairt dheis ann air gach ceist agus cha robh mi airson daoine a chur tro chèile tuilleadh a thaobh nan dual-chainnt 's mar sin, bha agam ri slighe sa mheadhan a lorg eatarra. Saoilidh mi gun do rinn mi a' chùis air, tha e loma-làn fiosrachadh ach cha chuala mi gearan fhathast nach gabh a thuigsinn no gu bheil beàrnan ann.



B' fheudar dhomh teachd an tìr a chosnadh fhad 's a bha mi ris agus dè thachair ach co-thuiteamas eile. Bha

But once I was here [in Scotland] and was presented with the opportunity to learn a Celtic language properly, I took it. It was interesting learning a language in an environment where it wasn't spoken by the majority or even widely. I was fortunate about a great many things but two were key to my

So, what's an Akerbeltz (Michael's on-line handle, or nickname)?

It's a Basque word, the name for an old Basque deity. It means "black billy-goat." No, I'm not a deity, I just started using the name on the web when I was younger because there were too many people who were already called Michael and the nickname stuck.

mind - I had an excellent tutor at university who gave me a really good understanding of the grammar and pronunciation; and I wasn't afraid of languages. The second point is more important than you might think. But anyway, that was the beginning of a great many things, even my book on Gaelic pronunciation which goes by the title of Blas na Gàidhlig. It's based on my notes from university which first turned into a website and then a book. Looking back, it seems that I work in decades - it more or less took me 10 years to do Dwelly's and almost another 10 to finish my book! The hasty wife does not make shellfish as the Gaels say.

Well, it actually wasn't the writing which took me that long but making sure that it would work as a book and a resource. There are really good books out there already on the topic but they were written by linguists and most folk wouldn't understand them and I didn't want to publish another one like that. I had to find the right format, exercises and tricks and record audio to make sure it would work as a resource for most people, be they learners or teachers. It wasn't easy, as people in Anglophone countries aren't used to learning languages on the one hand and on the other hand, there wasn't a ready-made answer for every question and I didn't want to confuse people with lots of dialect issues so I had to find a middle way. I think I succeeded, it's full of information and I haven't heard complaints yet that it's too hard to understand or that there are gaps.

While I was doing that, I had to earn a living and here's where something else happened that wasn't

mi air ceumnachadh 's a' dèanamh beagan a bharrachd Gàidhlig aig Colaiste Stow ann an Glaschu (bha barrachd cainnt a dhìth orm, rud nach robh cho pailt ann an Dùn Èideann aig an oilthigh) agus thairg cuideigin obair eadar-theangachaidh dhomh. Deich bliadhna na dhèidh, seo mise le companaidh beag a chumas beò mi tro obair eadar-theangachaidh, rannsachaidh is teagaisg.

planned. I had just graduated and was doing some more Gaelic at Stow College in Glasgow (I wanted to do more spoken Gaelic, something I didn't get that much of at Edinburgh University) and someone offered me a bit of translation work. Ten years on, here we are and me with a small company keeping me going with translation, research and teaching.



'S dòcha gur e rud math a th' ann dhomh-sa a bhith gun chlann, chan eil tide gu leòr agam mu thràth, gu h-àraid on a chaidh mo thàladh a-steach dha na pròiseactan teicneolais Gàidhlig. Tha cha mhòr gach aon dhiubh gun tuarastal ach a dh'aindeoin sin, 's e saothair chudromach a th' ann, gu sònraichte leis cho cudromach 's a tha teicneolas 'nar beatha an-diugh. 'S e am Faclair Beag mo mhac-sa agus Blas na Gàidhlig mo nighean-sa. Agus cò aig a tha fios cò mhead duine cloinne eile a bhios agam sna bliadhnaichean seo romhainn fhathast? Cumaibh cluas ri claisneachd, glacaidh foighidinn iasg! ❖

Maybe it's a good thing I don't have kids, I'm already short of time, especially since I started getting involved with Gaelic technology projects. Most of them are unpaid but nonetheless, they're important, especially given how important technology is in our lives today. You could call the Faclair Beag my son and Blas na Gàidhlig my daughter. And who knows who else might join the family in the coming years. Keep your ears peeled, good things come to those who wait! ❖

Announcements

Congratulations to ACGA member Gillebride Mac'Illemaoil and his wife Maite on the birth of their first child, Niall Anton Mac'Illemaoil, born June 7 in Glasgow. At 8 pounds, 12 ounces, he's already a handful. ☺

We're pleased to announce that Suzanne McDougal will be taking over as editor of *An Naidheachd Againne* effective with the next issue. She's following along as we develop this one, so she'll already know all the available mistakes. ☺

AN NAIDHEACHD AGAINNE

An Naidheachd Againne is the quarterly newsletter of *An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach*. 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 editor for more information.

Although Gaelic is not unique in having many ways to express the same thoughts, we think it's useful to learners at all levels of proficiency to learn ways to vary the usual patterns. Jeanne Pendergast and Cam MacRae are introducing a new column on this very subject.

Tha Dòigh Eile Ann

by *Jeanne Pendergast and Cam MacRae*

One of the intriguing things a beginning student learns is that Gaelic does not have a word for “yes” (or “no”). To give an affirmative answer to a question you have to use the independent form of the verb that was used in the question, and that means paying attention to exactly how a question was phrased.

Am bi thu ann? Will you be there?
Bidh (Bithidh) Yes.

An robh iad ann? Were they there?
Bha. Yes.

An cuir thu an seòladh agad thugam? Will you send me your address?
Cuiridh. Yes.

An do chuir thu an seòladh agad thuice? Did you send her your address?
Chuir. Yes.

But what if you haven't been asked a question? What if you just want to agree with the speaker and are tired of nodding your head?

The other day we started to make a list of all the ways we could find to say this kind of “yes.” We started with just a few words and phrases and then with the help of our dictionaries, the Internet, Rèidio nan Gàidheal, and our friends our list exploded!

The ones at the top of the list are somewhat more common. Google can be useful for checking frequency of use, but since these occur more in conversation than in writing, it's best to just be aware of them and listen to how native speakers use such expressions.

seadh – it's so
seadh, seadh – just so, truly, really
seadh, seadh, seadh – really, really
seadh dìreach – yes indeed
seadh gu dearbh – yes indeed
aidh (aye) – seadh (not Gaelic, of course, but often heard in Gaelic conversation)
ceart – right
ceart ma thà – OK, okey-doke, all right then
ceart mar a thuir thu – exactly as you said

dìreach – exactly
dìreach glan – exactly so
sin e dìreach – that's it exactly
sin agad e – that's it
gu cinnteach – certainly
gu deimhinn – indeed, truly
gu dearbh – indeed
gu dearbh fhèin – a more emphatic “indeed”
tha mi a' dol leat – I'm with you
tha mi ag aontachadh – I agree
tha sinn air an aon ràmh – we are (pulling) on the same oar
's e an fhìrinn a th' agad – that's the truth

The following expressions are ones we've only found in dictionaries or obscure sources:

gu dearbh fhèin seadh – a very emphatic affirmative (Dwelly)
seadh fhèin – just so (Colin Mark)
as seadh – it is so, yes (Dwelly)
an-dà thuirt thu e – precisely, you've hit the nail on the head (Am Faclair Beag)
dìreach air a shùil – exactly, just like that, precisely (Am Faclair Beag)
'S math a thuirt thu e (from an old on-line document)
'S barail leam gu'n do lathair thu 'n fhìrinn (from an old on-line document)
Moire seadh – yes, indeed, by Mary it is so (Dwelly)
Nàile – indeed, truly (Dwelly) ❖

Litir a' Chinn-Suidhe

le Rudy Ramsey

Is e seo an litir mu dheireadh agam mar Cheann-Suidhe ACGA. Tha mi air a bhith san oifis sin fad trì bliadhna. 'S toigh leam an obair sin, agus tha mi toilichte gun d' rinn mi e, ach tha trì bliadhna fada gu leòr. ☺

Bidh dà bhliadhna de bhallrachd air fhàgail agam air a' Bhòrd-Stiùiridh, agus tha cuid de phròiseactan agam ri chrìochnachadh fhathast. Mar sin, bidh mi mun cuairt fhathast. An uair a bhios mi air obair a' Chinn-Suidhe a leigeil dhìom, ma tha, bidh e freagarrach dhomh innse dhuibh mu cor na buidhne bhon t-sealladh agam fhìn. Tha deagh naidheachd ann, ach tha droch naidheachd ann cuideachd.

Cor Ionmhasail -- Nuair a thòisich mi mar Cheann-Suidhe, bha trioblaid ionmhasail aig ACGA. Bha am Bòrd-Stiùiridh air a bhith a' caitheamh airgead nas luaithe na bha e a' tighinn a-staigh. Rinn iad sin a' dh'aona gnothaich, air sgath's gu robh dragh orra air na bha de dh'airgead againn, is sinne nar buidhean neo-phrothaideach. Bha iad a' cleachdadh an airgid airson rudan matha mar taic na Gaidhealtachd agus sgoilearachdan. Ach thòisich mi mar Cheann-Suidhe dìreach aig an àm a bha e air fàs cunnartach. Nam biodh sinn air cumail air an aon phoileasaidh aon bhliadhna eile, is tachartas againn a' dol gu dona airson adhbharan eaconomach no gnìomh ceannairc no a leithid, bhitheadh ACGA briste.

Bha againn ri dèiligeadh ris an t-suidheachadh, agus chuir sinn romhainn ar cunntasan a roinn ann an dà thaobh: taobh-ballrachd is taobh a-muigh. Is e seo an smaoin: Bidh na seirbheisean-ballrachd uile air an taobh-ballrachd is na cìsean-ballrachd a' pàigheadh airson a h-uile gin dhiubh. Bidh rudan mar sgoilearachdan-oilthigh agus taic na Gaidhealtachd air an taobh a-muigh is iad uile air am pàigheadh tro thabhartasan. Thathar an dùil gum bi gach taobh fèin-taiceil.

Chuir sinn cuireadh a-mach airson tabhartasan saor-

President's Letter

by Rudy Ramsey

This is my final letter as President of ACGA. I've been in that office for three years. I enjoy the work, and I'm happy that I did it, but three years is long enough. ☺

I'll have two years of membership left on the Board of Directors, and I have several projects left to complete, so I'll still be around. As I step down as President, though, it seems appropriate for me to provide my view of the state of the organization. There's good news and bad news.

Financial Condition -- When I started as president, ACGA had a financial problem. Previous boards of directors had been spending money faster than it was coming in. They did it deliberately, because they were worried about our keeping our non-profit status while holding so much money. They were also using the money for good works, such as Gaidhealtachd support and scholarships. But I took over as president at just the time that this had started to become dangerous. If we had continued the same policy for another year, and one of our events had gone very badly because of economic conditions, terrorism, or whatever, ACGA would have been bankrupt.

We had to deal with the situation, and we decided to divide our financial accounting into two sides: the membership side and the external side. Here's the idea: All membership services will be on the membership side, and fully paid for through membership dues. Things like university scholarships and Gaidhealtachd support grants will be on the external side and paid for through donations. Each side is expected to be self-sustaining.

We put out a request for donations, and received, I



cìsean, agus fhuair sinn, mas math mo chuimhne, mu \$14K anns na trì bliadhna. Leudaich sinn na cìsean-ballrachd cuideachd (dìreach \$10 gach bliadhna). Agus mun aon àm, ghluais sinn gu sgaoileadh dealanach airson na litir-naidheachd. Tha na rudan sin gar cur air ais ann an cor-ionmhasail math, air gach taobh den leabhar-chunntais.

Litir-Naidheachd – ‘S e an litir-naidheachd againn an t-seirbheis-ballrachd as cudromaiche, a rèir an t-surbhaidh a rinn sinn. Mar sin, tha sinn a' cur barrachd tìde is airgid ann an cruinneachadh nan aistean agus deasachadh na Gàidhlig. Tha sgioba math an àite airson sin aig an àm seo, agus bidh sinn a' cur chuiridhean a-mach gu daoine air taobh a-muigh ACGA airson aistean inntinneach a sgrìobhadh. Tha sinn a' cur barrachd cudrom air stuth dà-chànanach cuideachd.

Sgoilearachdan Oilthigh -- Tha prògram sgoilearachdan oilthigh làidir cuideachd, le ceathrar thagraichean làidir ann am-bliadhna -- cho làidir 's gun do chodhùn a' chomataidh a bhith a' toirt sgoilearachd gu gach dhiubh. 'S e an duilgheadas as motha gu bheil feum againn air daoine ùra airson na comataidh fhèin.

Sgoilearachdan na Ballrachd -- Chan eil am prògram airson sgoilearachdan do na buill ann an cor cho math. 'S ann fada a tha farpais bhliadhnail air a bhith ann airson trì sgoilearachdan aig ìrean eadar-dhealaichte. Cha bhi buill gu leòr a' gabhail pàirt airson a chumail air adhart, san aon chumadh co-dhiù. 'S truagh sin, air sgàth's gum bi na farpaisich a' ràdh gum bitheadh e math gu leòr eadhan gun duaisean. Bidh iad ag ionnsachadh mòran. Tha sinn a' sealltainn air dòighean ùra a bhith a' ruith a' phrògram. Ach tha an aon trioblaid ann -- tha feum againn air daoine le ùidh sa chuspair sin airson na comataidh fhèin.

Taic dhan Gaidhealtachd -- Tha prògram againn airson Taic na Gaidhealtachd cuideachd, le tabhartasan airson phròiseactan freagarrach ann an Ameireaga a Tuath, Alba, no eadhon àiteachan eile. Tha sinn an tòir air molaidhean matha agus, aon turas eile, tha feum againn air daoine airson na comataidh a tha a' ruith a' phrògram.

think, \$14K in three years. We also raised the membership dues (just \$10/year). And at about the same time, we switched to electronic distribution of our newsletter. These measures have together put us back in very sound financial condition on both sides of the ledger.

Newsletter -- According to our membership survey, the newsletter is our most important member service, so we're putting more time and money into the collection of material and Gàidhlig editing. We have a good team in place for this at present, and we're sending invitations to folks outside ACGA to write interesting articles. We're also putting greater emphasis on bilingual material.

University Scholarships -- The university scholarship program is strong, as well, with four strong candidates this year -- so strong that the Scholarship Committee chose to award a scholarship to every one of them. The greatest difficulty is that we badly need new people to staff the committee itself.

Member Scholarships -- Our *member* scholarship program is not in such good shape. We have long had an annual competition for three scholarships at three different levels. Not enough members are entering to allow us to keep this going in its current form. That's a shame, because the competitors say that the event would be worthwhile even if there were no prizes. They learn a lot! We're looking at new ways of running this program. And the same problem exists here -- we need people with an interest in this subject to serve on the committee itself.

Gaidhealtachd Support -- We have a program for Gaidhealtachd Support as well, with grants for suitable projects in North America, Nova Scotia, Scotland itself, or even other places. We're in search of good proposals and, once again, we need people for the committee that runs this program. We've been trying to put a committee together each time we receive a grant request, because we haven't had enough folks to maintain a permanent committee, but that's unworkable.

For-Ruigheachd -- Tha mi a' smaoinichadh gu bheil am prògram For-Ruigheachd againn ann an deagh chòr. Leis an dithis luchd-stiùiridh Reese McKay agus Caroline Root, tha duilleag bheòthail Facebook againn. Tha a' chuid as motha de na Rìochdairean Roinneil againn ag obair le chèile tro Skype. Ghabh 257 daoine pàirt ann an Mios na Gàidhlig a rinn iad airson nan Stàitean. Tha a' chomataidh a' sealltain cuideachd air dòighean gus ùidh sa Ghàidhlig a thogail ann an luchd-ionnsachaidh òg.

Làrach-Lin -- Chan eil an làrach-lin againn cho math 's a bu mhiann leinn, ach tha mi air barrachd aire a chur air rudan eile. Chan eil mòran dhaoine anns an ACGA leis a' chomas teicnigeach a bhith na webmaster. Tha e nar n-inntinn rannsachadh a dhèanamh air gluasad den làrach-lin gu platform nas fhasa (is dòcha Wordpress) agus seirbheis fhaighinn bhon taobh a-muigh airson a chumail air-loidhne agus sàbhailte. Bidh an dleastanas airson susbaint againne fhathast, ach chan eil deasachadh na susbaint na obair cho teicnigeach, gu sònraichte air a leithid de phlatform. Chì sinn. Bidh sin na phròiseact agam fhìn sa gheamhradh.

Tachartasan -- Tha trì tachartasan bliadhna againn -- an Deireadh-Seachdain Bogaidh (IW), Seachdain Ciùil is Gàidhlig (GFM), agus am Mòd ACGA. Bha againn ris an IW a chur dheth am-bliadhna, agus bidh sinn air airgead a chall aig GFM, air sgàth's nach eil an suidheachadh eaconomach cho làidir am-bliadhna. Ach tha sin ceart gu leòr -- fad' aon bhliadhna co-dhiù. Agus tha na tachartasan fhèin làidir fhathast, le daoine dicheallach gan ruith bliadhna às dèidh bliadhna. Feuchaidh sinn air a h-uile gin dhiubh a chumail air.

Duilgheadas: Luchd-Tòiseachaidh Òg -- Tha dà dhuilgheadas ann dham bu chòir dhuinn aire a thoirt. Tha a' chiad dhiubh aig saoghal na Gàidhlig sa chumantas. Tha sinn uile a' fàs nas sine. 'S dòcha gun do mhothaich sibh. ☺ Ma bhios an cànan a' dol a' chumail beò, feumaidh sinn ùidh a thogail ann an luchd-ionnsachaidh nas òige fad na tìde. Ged a tharraingeas sinn buill nas òige, bu chòir dhuinn barrachd dhe sin a dhèanamh. Chan eil fuasgladh cinnteach agamsa, ach 's e amas airidh a th' ann. Tha a' chomataidh For-Ruigheachd a' tòiseachadh oidhirp sa roinn sin. Ma bhios smaointean agus/no togradh sa chuspair seo, na cumaibh iad agaibh fhèin. ☺

Outreach -- I think our Outreach program is in good shape. With co-chairmen Reese McKay and Caroline Root, we now have an active Facebook page, and a very worthwhile interchange is taking place among our Regional Representatives through Skype. Some 257 people took part in the National Gaelic Month this committee initiated for the States in May. The committee is also looking into programs to interest young people in Gaelic.

Website -- Our website isn't everything we would like it to be, but I've been attending to other things. There aren't many people in ACGA with the technical capability to be webmaster. It's our intention to investigate the possibility of moving the website to a simpler platform (perhaps Wordpress) and obtaining an outside service for keeping it running and safe. We would still have the responsibility for maintaining the content, but editing the content is not such a technical task, especially on such a platform. We'll see. This will be a winter project for me personally.

Events -- We have three annual events -- the Immersion Weekend (IW), the Gaelic Song and Language Week (GFM), and the ACGA Mòd. Because economic conditions aren't very strong this year, we had to cancel the IW, and we'll take a loss at GFM. But that's affordable -- for one year, anyway. And the events themselves are still strong, with dedicated folks running them year after year. We'll try to keep them all going.

Problem: Young Learners -- There are two problem areas that I would especially like to call attention to. First, there's a problem we share with much of the Gàidhlig world. We're all getting older. Perhaps you've noticed. ☺ If the language is to live on, we need to interest younger learners all the time. While we do attract some younger members, this is likely something we need to do on a larger scale. I have no sure solutions to offer, but it's a goal worthy of our best efforts. Our Outreach committee is doing some things in this area. If you have ideas and/or motivation in this area, please don't keep it to yourself. ☺

Duilgheadas: Compàirteachadh nam Ball – Sgrìobh mi roimhe seo air an dàrna duilgheadas. Chan eil compàirteachadh gu leòr ann an obair na buidhne. Tha sgioba de chòignear air a bhith a’ ruith gnìomhachd làitheal na buidhne fad a’ chuid as motha de na trì bliadhna mu dheireadh. Tha e nàdarra gum biodh sgioba beag an sàs ri rudan rianachdail is ionmhasail agus a leithid, ach chan eil e nàdarra gum bitheadh dleastanas aig an aon sgioba beag airson obrach de na prògraman sgoilearachd, taic nan Gaidhealtachd, an litir-naidheachd, an làrach-lìn, agus mar sin air adhart. Tha adhbharan ann, agus tha mi cinnteach nach eil e cuideachail gu bheil mise cho dona air obair iarraidh bho dhaoine eile. Ach ‘s e seo cnag na cùise: tha feum againn air barrachd bhall pàirt a ghabhail anns na rudan sin. Chan eil e gu diofar an robh oifis agaibh sna seann làithean, no eadhon a bheil sibh air a’ Bhòrd-Stiùiridh a-nis. Tha feum againn oirbhse a’ gabhail pàirt san obair fhèin ma bhios sibh ag iarraidh ACGA làidir san àm ri teachd.

Taing Shònraichte – Tha mi ag iarraidh taing a chur gu feadhainn a tha air bhith gu sònraichte dìcheallach ann an cumail na buidhne beò sna trì bliadhna mu dheireadh: Heather Sparling, Janice Chan, Cam MacRae agus Jeanne Pendergast. Tha mòran eile air taic a chur dha ’m buidheann, agus tha mi taingeil dhaibh, ach rinn an ceathrar seo oidhirp os cionn an dleastanais, agus tha iad airidh air taing bhuainn uile.

Le gach deagh dhùrachd,

Ruairidh ❖

Problem: Member Participation -- The other area is one about which I’ve written before. Participation in the actual running of ACGA is a problem. A core group of five people have been running the day-to-day operations of ACGA for much of the last three years. It’s natural that a small group would be concerned with the administrative and financial matters, communication, and so on, but it isn’t natural that this same small group should also wind up responsible for running the scholarship programs, our Gaeltachd Support program, the newsletter, the website, etc. There are reasons, and I’m sure it’s not helpful that I’m not a good delegator. But here’s the bottom line. We really need more folks to step up and help with some of these efforts. It doesn’t matter that you’ve held office in the past, or even that you’re on the Board of Directors now. We need you to take part in the actual work if you want a strong ACGA in the future.

Special Thanks -- I would like to thank a few folks who have been especially active in keeping the organization going the last three years: Heather Sparling, Janice Chan, Cam MacRae, and Jeanne Pendergast. While others have certainly made a contribution, and I thank them as well, these four have gone beyond the call of duty, and deserve the gratitude of all.

Best wishes,

Rudy ❖

The meaning of our non-profit status is often misunderstood. Under present regulations, non-profits can hold substantial amounts of money, have substantial income, and even make substantial profits on projects they execute. The thing that makes them non-profit is that those assets cannot be distributed to the members or used to provide them with substantial personal benefits. They must be used in furtherance of the organization’s approved charitable goals, or be transferred to other approved non-profit organizations.

Dè do Bheatha Eile?

Here's the next in our series of articles in which an ACGA member tells us about some aspect his/her life other than Gaelic. We knew that Jamie and Martha MacDonald were off in school, studying for the next phase of their lives, and we've wondered what and how they were doing.

Marta Bean MhicDhòmhnaill, Ban-chòcaire Air Leth le Seumas MhacDhomhnaill

'S ann às An Abhainn Bheag ann an Alba Nuaidh a tha Marta Bean MhicDhòmhnaill. Phòs Marta airson a' chiad turas nuair a bha i òg, dìreach às dèidh a' cheum aice fhaighinn bho àrd-sgoil ann an Siorrachd Antigonis. Ann am beagan bhliadhnaichean, rug i dithis chloinne – nighean agus mac. 'S e bean-taighe a bh'ann am Marta aig an àm sin, agus chòrd an dòigh-beatha sin rithe glan. Ach nuair a dh'fhàs a clann suas agus bha iad a' falbh dhachaigh, rinn i suas a h-inntinn gun deidheadh i dhan oilthigh. Mar sin, thòisich i air ceum sna cuspairean Eòlas Ceilteach agus Eachdraidh ann an Oilthigh Naomh Fransaidh Xavier. Rinn i a h-uile cùrsa sa phrìomh chuspairean aice, agus an uair sin bha aice ri cùrsaichean coitcheann a dhèanamh – cùrsaichean mar Litreachas Beurla, Feallsanachd, agus a leithid sin. Ged a bha ùidh aice ann an Eòlas Ceilteach agus Eachdraidh, cha robh i toilichte idir cùrsaichean a ghabhail anns nach robh ùidh aice. Mar sin, cha deach i air ais dhan Oilthigh às dèidh an treas bliadhna aice. Ach bha ùidh aice ann an ionnsachadh agus sgoilearachd fhathast. Aig deireadh an latha thionndaidh i a h-aghaidh ri oideachas a-rithist, ach an turas seo, an àite dhan oilthigh, chaidh i dhan cholas-dechoimhearsnachd faisg oirre ann an Ceap Breatainn airson cùrsa còcaireachd a dhèanamh.

'S e còcaire fìor mhath a bh' ann am Marta bhon toiseach, ach cha robh barantas aice a' dearbhadh gun robh i na còcaire ealanta. Bha ùidh mhòr air a bhith aice ann am biadh fad bhliadhnaichean, seach gun do dh'fhàs i suas air

Martha MacDonald, Chef Extraordinaire by Jamie MacDonald

Martha MacDonald is from Bayfield, Nova Scotia. She married for the first time when she



was young, just out of high school in Antigonish County, NS. In a few years she gave birth to two children, a daughter and a son. Martha was a housewife back then and she really enjoyed her lifestyle then. But when her children grew up and were leaving home, she made up her mind that she would go to college. Therefore, she enrolled at St. Francis Xavier University, majoring in Celtic Studies and History. She took all the required classes in her majors, but then she had to take general college courses like English Lit and Philosophy. Although she was very interested in Celtic Studies and History, she was not happy taking courses that she had no interest in. There-

fore she dropped out of StFX after completing only three years. She was still interested in education and learning, however. At the end of the day she returned to her education, but this time, instead of the University, she went to her local community college in Cape Breton to do a course in Culinary Arts.

Martha was always a very good cook, but she had to certification or degree proving that she was a skilled chef. For years she had been very interested in food because she grew up on a farm. When she was young, her family had a

tuathanas. Nuair a bha i òg, bha lios mòr, craobhan ubhail agus peura, agus beathaichean aig a teaghlach, agus nuair a dh'fhàs i na h-inbheach, bha an aon rud aice fhèin. 'S ann a bha iad a' togail am biadh fhèin agus ga bhrùich cuideachd bhon toiseach. Bha ùidh aig Marta cuideachd ann an "ag ithe sa choimhearsnachd" no a' bruich agus ag ithe lusan agus beathaichean a chaidh an togail faisg air an àite far an robh i a' fuireach.

Chaith Marta dà bhliadhna sa phrògram-còcaireachd ann an Colaisde Coimhearsnachd na h-Alba Nuaidh. Mhothaich na tidesearan aice bhon toiseach gur e oileanach air leth a bh' innte – gun robh i gu math fiosrach, sgileil, èagsaidh, làn brìgh, agus dìcheallach. Bha iad gu math pròiseil aiste cuideachd seach gun tug i cliù agus moladh dhan phrògram aca. A' chiad bhliadhna aice, ghabh Marta pàirt ann an co-fharpais còcaireachd nan sgoiltean-còcaireachd ann an Alba Nuaidh agus choisinn a sgioba bonn airgid. An darna bliadhna aice, chaidh Marta air ais dhan cho-fharpais a-rithist, ach an turas seo, bha i na ceann-còcaire an sgioba aice agus bhuannaich iad bonn airgid eile.

As t-Earrach sa bhliadhna mu dheireadh aice, chuir Marta a-steach airson co-fharpais nam peuran a chuir Comann Peura USA air bhonn o chionn grunn bhliadhnaichean. Bha aig na h-oileanaich ri dòigh-deasachaidh chruthachail ùr a dhèanamh suas airson pheuran. Chuir Marta *recipe* a-steach a rinn i airson peura ròiste a bha air a dinneadh le feòil-muic agus càise ghuirm. Chòrd an *recipe* aice ris na brithemhan agus choisinn i a' chiad duais airson Canada Atlantaic – Brunsuic Ùr, Alba Nuadh, Eilean a' Phrionnsa, agus Talamh an Eisg. Às dèidh a' chùis a dhèanamh ann an Canada Atlantaic, chaidh Marta a Mhontreal a ghabhail pàirt ann an co-fharpais naiseanta. 'S ann bho gach ceàrn ann an Canada a bha na h-oileanaich a bha a' strì sa cho-fharpais seo.



large garden, apple and pear orchards, and livestock and when she grew up, she continued to make a living on a farm. They raised their own food and cooked almost everything from scratch. Martha was also interested in “eating local” or cooking and eating plants and animals that were raised locally – within 100 miles or so.

Martha spent two years at Nova Scotia Community College in the Culinary Arts program there. From the very beginning her teachers noticed that Martha was an exceptional student – that she was smart, skilled, eager to learn, full of energy, and dedicated. They were very proud of her as well, since she brought much high esteem and praise to their program. In her first year, Martha took part in a cooking competition for the different Culinary Arts programs in Nova Scotia and her team won a silver medal. Her second year, Martha went back to the same competition, but this time she was head chef. Her team won another silver medal.

In the Spring of her final year, Martha entered a pear competition established a few years ago by the USA Pears Association. The culinary students were required to come up with a new creative recipe for pears. Martha sent in a recipe for roasted pears stuffed with pork and blue cheese.

The judges liked her recipe and she won first prize for Atlantic Canada – New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, and Newfoundland. After succeeding in Atlantic Canada, Martha went to Montreal to take part in the national

competition. The students that were competing in Montreal were from every region of the country.

Dh'fheumadh na cò-fharpaisich na *recipes* aca a dheasachadh airson bhritheamhan. Bhlais na bhritheamhan na cruitheachdan aca gus breithneachadh a thoirt seachad orra. Nuair a bha a h-uile duine dèanta, thug na bhritheamhan seachad am beachd – b' e an *recipe* peura aig Marta as fheàrr. Bhuannaich i a' chiad duais agus coig mìle dollar comhla rithe.

Air bharrachd air na co-fharpaisean còcaireachd, bhuannaich Marta urram aig a' Cholaisde fhèin. Fhuair i an duais an uraidh airson an oileanach as dicheallaiche agus am bliadhna bhuannaich i An Duais-Cheannais sa phrògram aice. Bidh Marta a' ceumnachadh air an 17mh latha dhen Ogmhios am bliadhna. Chuir na tidsearan aig Marta a h-ainm a-steach airson dhuaisean eile aig a' cheumnachadh, agus cò aig tha fios – 's dòcha gum bi i a' buannachadh cliù bharrachdail aig an àm sin. 'S e seannfhacal a th'ann a tha a' canntain "Air deireadh an latha, 's fheàrr na Domhnallaich". 'S e an fhìrinn a th'ann! [Deasaiche: Cò sgrìobh an aiste seo, a-rithist? ☺]

Fhuair Marta obair mu thràth ann am Portland, Maine aig taigh-bìdh spaideil aig an laimrig air a bheil Street & Co. 'S e am brúadar aice gum bi taigh-bìdh aice fhèin latha de na làithean. Sin thu fhèin, a Mharta. ❖

The competitors had to prepare their recipes for a panel of judges. The judges tasted their creations in order to determine whose was the best. When everyone was through presenting their dishes, the judges made their decision – Martha's pear recipe was the best! She won first prize and five thousand dollars along with it.

In addition to the cooking competitions, Martha received other honours from her college. She got the award last year for the most dedicated student and this year she won the Student Leadership award. Her teachers also submitted Martha's name for one or two other prizes to be given out at graduation and who knows, perhaps she will receive further recognition then. There is a Gaelic proverb that says "At the end of the day, the MacDonalds are the best. [Editor's note: Who wrote this piece, again? ☺] That is true in Martha's case!

Martha has already been hired by Street & Co., a fancy restaurant on the waterfront in Portland, Maine. It is her dream to own her own restaurant one day. Well done, Martha. ❖

AGA

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Learn Gaelic by attending classes in person, or from home in a "live" Internet class.

The AGA Gaelic language program for the new school year starts in September 2011 and continues to May 2012.

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Dè Do Naidheachd?

by Cam MacRae, Jeanne Pendergast and Anne Landin

Here is a set of three stories by Cam MacRae, Anne Landin and Jeanne Pendergast, written as grammar and pronunciation exercises. The nine required words are shown in bold.

Sine:

Dh'fhàg Ragnall an taigh nuair nach robh e ach sia bliadhna deug a dh'aois air sgàth cion airgid anns an teaghlach mhòr a bha sin. Chaidh e **air allaban** air feadh na **rìoghachd** is e a-muigh ann an **aimsir** mhath is dhona. Bhiodh e a' **togail** dhealbhan agus gan reic gus biadh fhaighinn agus beagan fasnachaidh a lorg air an oidhche.

An dèidh mhìosan bha **tòrr** dhealbhan ealanta aige agus thachair gum faca dithis e a' togail feadhainn eile. Thuir iad ris gun ceannaicheadh iad fichead dealbh bhuaithe. Gu dearbh chumadh £100 a' dol e fad sheachdainean, agus bha e a' cheart cho toilichte a chuid eallaich a **lùghdachadh**.

Cha robh fios aige gus an deach e do bhùth ghrosaireachd gur e airgead meallta a thug an dithis dha. An gille bochd. Chan e a-mhàin gun robh e **aineolach**, bha **ionracas** na ghnè agus bha e an dùil gum biodh a h-uile duine cho onarach 's a bha e fhèin. Bha e mar am **burban** dha nuair a fhuair e a-mach mar a tha cuid eile san t-saoghal mhòr.

Vocabulary:

nuair nach robh e ach – when he was only

air sgàth cion airgid – due to lack of money (genitive of airgead)

air allaban – wandering

gun ceannaicheadh iad – that they would buy (conditional)

a cheart cho – just as

a chuid eallaich – his [share of] burden (genitive)

airgead meallta – counterfeit, fake money

na ghnè – in his nature

bur(a)ban – not common now, at least in writing, but Dwelly's original meaning of "wormwood" (a very bitter herb) seems to have become extended to mean anything bitter or even just annoying

Cam:

An-diugh, tha mi duilich gun robh mi mì-fhoighidneach leotha. Tha e soilleir gun robh, gu bheil fhathast, **ionracas** anns an adhbhar aca.

Aig an àm, cha robh dùil sam bith agam a bhith ann am meadhon an iorghail ud. Cha robh mi air a bhith sa cheàrnaidh seo dhen **rìoghachd** fad bhliadhnaichean, ach air an latha àraidh sin, leis gun robh an **aimsir** sgoinneil, bha mi air **allaban** tro sràidean a' bhaile far an robh mi nam oileanach. **Luchdaichte** le camara 's mapa (agus an aon amas a bh' agam dealbhan a **thogail**), bha mi **aineolach** air na bha a' tachairt ann am Madison. “Uill, nach eil seo **burbanach** agus iadsan anns an rathad orm,” thuir mi rium fhìn gu crosda, nuair a mhothaich mi tòrr dhaoine a' cruinneachadh aig ceann an rathaid.

Vocabulary:

ionracas – honesty, innocence, integrity

iorghail – tumult

fad bhliadhnaichean – for years (fad is followed by the genitive)

leis gun robh an aimsir sgoinneil – since the weather was great/brilliant

far an robh mi nam oileanach – where I was a [in my] student

agus an aon amas a bh' agam dealbhan a thogail – and taking pictures was my only objective
(dealbhan a thogail is an inverted nominal)

burbanach – irritating

tòrr dhaoine – a lot of people (tòrr is followed by the genitive plural)

ceann an rathaid – the end of the street (genitive)

Annag:

San t-seann aimsir ann an **Rìoghachd** nan Eilean, bha cat a' fuireach dom b' ainm Luchag. 'S ann le iasgair dom b' ainm Sgiobair Daibhaidh a bha an cat. Ach bhiodh Luchag ri **buraban** uaireannan agus **gu h-ioranta**, bu lugha air Luchag luchan. Nuair a thàinig Luchag an toiseach dhan taigh aig Sgiobair Daibhaidh, bha an sgiobair **aineolach** dhen fheart seo.

Aon latha, thàinig Sgiobair Daibhaidh dhachaidh an dèidh a bhith air **allaban** air feadh a' chuain agus bha e ag obair a-muigh a' cladhach anns a' ghàrradh, a' **togail** buntàta agus an uair sin, bha e gan **luchdachadh** a-steach dhan bhàta gus an reic anns a' bhaile. Bha tòrr mòr dhiubh ann. Gu h-obann, chunnaic Sgiobair Daibhaidh tòrr luchan am measg nam buntàta. "A Luchaig," ghlaodh e, "Marbh!" Ach air falbh a choimhead Luchag, làn de **ionracas**.

Vocabulary:

san t-seann aimsir – in olden days, days of yore

Rìoghachd nan Eilean – the kingdom of the isles

dom b' ainm Luchag – by the name of Luchag (little mouse)

bhiodh Luchag ri buraban – Luchag could be annoying

gu h-ioranta - ironically

bu lugha air Luchag luchan – Luchag hated mice

aineolach dhen fheart seo – ignorant of this characteristic

air allaban air feadh a' chuain – wandering all over the sea

gan luchdachadh – loading them

gus an reic – in order to sell them

tòrr luchan – lots of mice (genitive plural) ❖

Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

June, 2011

Atlantic Gaelic Academy Scottish Gaelic classes. Autumn 2011

Registration now open. The AGA currently offers a standard four-year program consisting of Beginner, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, and Advanced levels. In person classes or Live Distance Learning (Voice Over Internet). Each level of the course runs from September through May of the following year

See <http://www.gaelicacademy.ca/>

June 29 - July 2, 2011

Celts in the Americas conference, SFX University, Antigonish NS Canada

Hosted by the Celtic Studies Department of St FX and the Centre for Cape Breton Studies at Cape Breton University, confirmed speakers include Rob Dunbar (Univ. of Aberdeen, Sabhal Mór Ostaig, UHI, Soillse), Margaret Bennett (RSAMD), Goiridh MacDhomhnaill (Comunn Gàidhlig is Eachdraidh), Lewis MacKinnon (NS Office of Gaelic Affairs)

See <http://www.mystfx.ca/academic/celtic-studies/AllAboutConference.pdf>

July 3 – 8, 2011

Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC USA

This year's instructors are Donnie Murdo MacLeod (Lewis), Michael MacKay (Virginia) and Nick Freer (Virginia).

See <http://www.acgamerica.org/events-1/grandfather-mountain/grandfather-mountain-gaelic-song-and-language-week-2>

July 7 - 10, 2011

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and North Carolina Gaelic Mòd, Linville, NC

The NC Provincial Gaelic Mòd will take place Saturday July 9 at 3 pm

See <http://www.gmhg.org/gaelicmod.htm>

July 25 - 29, 2011

Gàidhlig aig Baile / Gaelic in the Community immersion course , Gaelic College, St. Ann's, NS Canada

Adult and youth (12 - 18) Gàidhlig aig Baile courses and workshops teach students to speak and understand Gaelic through conducting everyday activities, games and conversation in a total immersion environment.

See <http://www.gaeliccollege.edu>

August 1 - 5, 2011

Gàidhlig aig Baile / Gaelic in the Community immersion course , Gaelic College, St. Ann's, NS Canada

Adult only. Gàidhlig aig Baile courses and workshops teach students to speak and understand Gaelic through conducting everyday activities, games and conversation in a total immersion environment.

See <http://www.gaeliccollege.edu>

August 8 - 12, 2011

Gàidhlig aig Baile / Gaelic in the Community immersion course , Gaelic College, St. Ann's, NS Canada

Adult only. Gàidhlig aig Baile courses and workshops teach students to speak and understand Gaelic through conducting everyday activities, games and conversation in a total immersion environment.

See <http://www.gaeliccollege.edu>

August 15 - 20, 2011

21st Annual Féis an Eilein, Christmas Island Cape Breton, NS Canada

Contact: Allison MacKenzie, Phone: 902-622-2627 Email: feisaneilein@ns.sympatico.ca

See <http://www.feisaneilein.ca>

September 9 - 11, 2011

Adult Gaelic Weekend, Gaelic College, St. Ann's, NS Canada

Note: A minimum number of participants is required to run the workshop. If minimum number is not met by the Friday of the week preceding the session, the workshop will be cancelled.

See <http://www.gaeliccollege.edu/school/gaelic-weekends/general-information.html>

September 9 - 11, 2011

US National Mòd, Ligonier PA USA at the Ligonier Highland Games, Idlewild Park.

Sept. 9 - poetry and stories; Sept. 10 - song; Sept. 11 - workshop.

See <http://usmod.wordpress.com/about/>

September 9 - 17, 2011

Blas 2011, venues throughout the Scottish Highlands

International celebration of Highland music and Gaelic language

See <http://www.blas-festival.com/>

October 14 - 22, 2011

Royal National Mòd, Stornoway, Lewis, Scotland

See <http://www.acgmod.org/>

November 18 - 20, 2011

Mòd Canada, Ottawa ON Canada

Details to be announced. See <http://www.gaidhligottawa.ca/>

November 25 - 27, 2011

Special Adult Gaelic Christmas Weekend, Gaelic College, St. Ann's, NS Canada

Note: A minimum number of participants is required to run the workshop. If minimum number is not met by the Friday of the week preceding the session, the workshop will be cancelled

See <http://www.gaeliccollege.edu/school/gaelic-weekends/general-information.html>

Julie Fowles "Music of the Scottish Isles" USA Tour Dates

October 26, 2011

Sage Center, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan, 8:00 pm
http://www.hillsdale.edu/news/events/fine_arts.asp

October 27, 2011

Quick Center for the Arts, Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut, 8.00 pm
<http://www.quickcenter.com>

October 28, 2011

McPherson Auditorium, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, 8.00 pm
<http://www.brynawr.edu/arts/series.html>

October 29, 2011

Musikfest Café, Artsquest Center, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 7:30 pm
<http://www.artsquest.org/venues/musikfestcafe.php>

October 30, 2011

Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, McLean, Virginia., 4:00 pm - 5.30 pm
<http://www.mcleancenter.org/alden/default.asp>

November 2, 2011

Community Concert Hall, Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado, 7:00pm
<http://www.durangoonline.com/ScheduleFLC.asp?OrganizationNumber=260>

November 4, 2011

Rialto Theater, Loveland, Colorado, 7:30 pm
<http://www.rialtosquare.com/>

November 5, 2011

Lakewood Cultural Center, Lakewood, Colorado, 7:30 pm
<http://www.lakewood.org/comres/page.cfm?ID=46>

November 6, 2011

Concert Hall - University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming, 7:30 pm
<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/culturalprograms/info.asp?p=26331>

November 9, 2011

American Theatre, Hampton, Virginia, 7:30 pm
<http://www.hamptonarts.net/>

November 10, 2011

Colonial Center, South Hill, Virginia, 8:00 pm
<http://www.colonialcentervirginia.org/>

November 11, 2011

Diana Wortham Theatre, Asheville, North Carolina, 8:00 pm
<http://www.dwththeatre.com/>

Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

Arizona

Flagstaff

Study Group
Richard Ferguson
fergusdubh@yahoo.com

Phoenix

Classes
Richard Smith
coindubh@yahoo.com

Tucson

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

California

Sacramento Area

Classes
Donnie MacDonald
minchmusic@comcast.net

North Hollywood

Study Group
Eva Gordon
celt@celticartscenter.com

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Sandwich

Classes - Thomas Leigh
www.mermaid-productions.com

Song Classes - Maggie
Carchrie

www.mermaid-productions.com

New York

New York

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<http://www.nycaledonian.org/studies.php>

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Slighe nan Gàidheal

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Canada

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Fredericton

Classes

Atlanta Gaelic Academy

<http://www.gaelicacademy.ca>

Nova Scotia

Halifax

New Glasgow

Port Hawkesbury

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

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