

An Naidheachd Againne

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

Am Foghar 2013, Leabhar XXIX Àireamh 3
Fall 2013, Volume XXIX, No. 3

Tha Micheal Newton na eòlaiche, na thidsear, agus na sgrìobhadair Gàidhlig. Anns an artaigil seo, sgrìobhaidh e air Clann Mhurich, teaghlach a bhuineas do Cheap Bhreatainn, do dh'Alba, agus do dh'Èirinn. Tha Newton ag innse dhuinn an seo gun do "lean buill na fine seo, fear mu seach, ri litreachas ann an sreath na b' fhaide na sliochd sam bith eile anns an Roinn Eòrpa."

Michael Newton is a Gaelic scholar, teacher, and writer. In this article he traces the Cape Breton, Scottish, and Irish connections of the Curries, a kin-group whose members, he argues, "form the longest-lived literary dynasty in European history."

Clann Mhurich an Èirinn, an Albainn is an Aimearaga Tuath

le Micheal Newton

Chuir Comann Chloinn Mhurich co-labhairt bhliadhna air bhonn anns a' bhliadhna 2011 gus eachdraidh agus dìleab na fine seo a chur air shùilean dhuinn, fine a tha airidh air cliù aig na tha gabhail suim ann an litreachas. Lean buill na fine seo, fear mu seach, ri litreachas ann an sreath na b' fhaide na sliochd sam bith eile anns an Roinn Eòrpa.

The Curries in Ireland, Scotland and North America

by Michael Newton

In 2011 the Clan Currie Society began an annual symposium to explore the history and cultural legacy of this kin-group, one which deserves the special notice of those who have an interest in literature. Members of this kin-group form the longest-lived literary dynasty in European history.



Commemorative Cairn at Baile nam Bàrd, South Uist

Michael Newton

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

A-réir an sgeòil, theich Muireadhach Albannach Éire agus chaidh e fo'n choille ann an Albainn as déidh dha maor 'fhir-chomaraidh a mharbhadh le tuaigh anns a' bhliadhna 1213. Fhuair Muireadhach dreuchd file aig Morair Leamhnachd (mu thimcheall Loch Laomainn) agus bha 'shliochd 'nam filidhean aig Rìghrean nan Eilean. Mu thimcheall deireadh a' 15mh ceud, mar a dh'aom ceannas nan Rìghrean, chaidh filidhean MacMhuirich a shireadh cosnadh aig a' mheur a bu treasa de Chloinn Domhnaill, Clann Raghnaill. Ghléidh iad an dleastanasan litreachais is sgoilearachd aig Cloinn Raghnaill, aig an robh ionad oideis ann an Uibhist a Deas, gu ruige ceud cheathramh an 18mh ceud. Siud corr is còig ceud bliadhna de sgoilearachd fhoirmeil ann an Albainn, gun ghuth air ginealaichean eile ann an Éirinn.

Aig impidh connspaid *Ossian* (a sgrìobh Seumas Mac a' Phearsain), chaidh buidheann-sgrùdaidh dha'n Ghàidhealtachd mu'n bhliadhna 1800 a cheasnachadh dhaoine a bha eòlach air litreachas Gàidhlig. B'e Lachlann MacMhuirich a bhuineadh do dh'Uibhist a Deas air fear de'n fheadhainn a cheasnaich iad; b'e mac do'n fhlidh mu dheireadh (Niall) e agus siud a' cheud ghinealach fad iomadh ceud aig nach robh leughadh no sgrìobhadh anns a' Ghàidhlig. Dh'fhàg a' mhór-chuid de sgoilearan an eachdraidh seo mu Chloinn Mhuirich anns a' chùil bhrònaich seo, ach sann a mhair dileab an cuid bhàrdachd ann an Aimearaga Tuath, ged a bha iad 'nam bàird-bhaile seach 'nam filidhean.

Chumadh co-labhairt Comann Chloinn Mhuirich an-uiridh (2012) ann an Uibhist a Deas, agus thug sinn sgrìob gu tobhta far an robh àros Chloinn Mhuirich aig Baile nam Bàrd. Bha luchd-àrs-eòlais dìreach as déidh an talamh 'fheannadh aig an làraich agus iad an dòchas gun ionnsaich iad tuilleadh mu àirneis filidhean MhicMhuirich, agus mu'n aos-dhàna anns an fharsaingeachd.

Chaidh iarraidh orm beachdachadh aig a' cho-labhairt mu dhìleab an teaghlaich ann an Aimearaga Tuath, far an robh an sliochd pailt mu thùs an 19mh ceud. Ged a bha saogh-

Muireadhach Albannach seems to have left Ireland and taken refuge in Scotland after he murdered his patron's tax collector with an axe in the year 1213. Muireadhach became the professional poet of the Earl of the Lennox (around the Loch Lomond area) and his descendants later became the professional poets of the Lords of the Isles. Sometime around the end of the 15th century, as the power of the Lords of the Isles declined, they sought employment with the most powerful branch of the MacDonalds, the Clanranald. They maintained their literary and scholarly responsibilities for the Clanranald, with a center of learning in South Uist, into the first quarter of the 18th century. This makes for more than five centuries of professional scholarship in Scotland, not even taking into account previous generations in Ireland.

Spurred on by James MacPherson's Ossianic controversy, a team of investigators went into the Highlands around the year 1800 interviewing knowledgeable people about Gaelic literature. One of those whom they interviewed was Lachlann MacMhuirich of South Uist, the son of the last professional poet (Niall) and the first generation of his family for many, many centuries to be illiterate in Gaelic. Most Gaelic scholars have left the history of the MacMhuirich family at this sad cul-de-sac, but their poetic legacy actually continues in North America, albeit as community poets rather than professional literati.

Last year (2012), the Clan Currie symposium was held in South Uist, and we went on a field-trip to the remains of the grand hall of the MacMhuirichs at Baile nam Bàrd. Archaeologists had just broken

ground on a new excavation of the site there and they hope to learn more about the material culture of the MacMhuirich poets and the Gaelic literati in general.

I was asked to speak at the symposium about the family's legacy in North America, where numerous descendants ended up by the early 19th century. While



Remains of Grand Hall at Baile nam Bàrd, South Uist

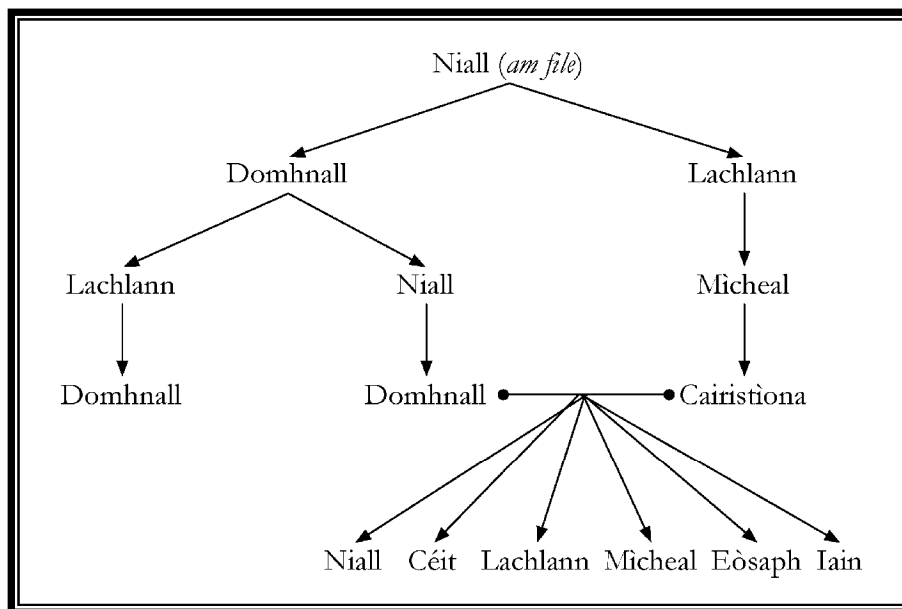
Michael Newton

al nan Gaidheal a' sìor-dhol sìos anns a' bhitheantas aig deireadh an 18mh ceud agus tràth anns an 19mh ceud, gu h-àraid aig ìre nan uaislean, bha corra rud a' dol an aghaidh an t-sruth, agus tha seasmhachd bàrdachd Chloinn Mhuirich 'na ball-sampaill àraidh de sin.

A-réir na fianaise a lorg mi, is coltach gun do phòs Dòmhnall MacMhuirich agus Cairistiona NicMhuirich – iad le chéile 'nan n-iar-oghadhan Néill, am file – agus dh'imrich iad gu Mira Mhór Uachdrach, Eilean Cheap Breatann, mu'n bhliadhna 1833. Ghin iad sianar cloinne. Seo a' chraobh-ghinealaiche dhaibh, mar a chaidh agam air a dhealbhachadh:

the general picture of Gaeldom in the late 18th and early 19th century is that of a society under siege and a culture in decline, especially at the upper levels of society, there are some interesting counter-currents to this, and the resilience of MacMhuirich poetry in Cape Breton provides an interesting case study.

From the information I've been able to collect, it seems that Donald and Christina Currie – second cousins, both descended from Niall the poet – married and moved to Upper Grand Mira, Cape Breton, in about 1833. They produced six children. This is their family tree, as I've been able to construct it.



Bha buill an teaghlaich seo uasal às an sinnsirean agus á cliù an litreachais, agus bha triùir dhiubh aig a' char a bu lugha – Lachlann, Iain agus Micheal – 'nam bàird. Se “Am Bàrd Ruadh” am far-ainm a bha air Lachlann, duine a bha tarbhach mar bhàrd: rinn e 13 duain a tha againn fhathast. Bha leughadh is sgrìobhadh Gàidhlig aig triùir bhràithrean co-dhiùbh – Iain, Micheal, is Eòsaph. Chan eil fios agam ciamar a dh'ionnsaich iad siud, neo an robh leughadh is sgrìobhadh aig am pàrantan, ach tha seo fhéin a' nochdadh mar a fhuair cuid de luchd-imrich leughadh as ùr. Bha Micheal 'na mhaighstir-sgoile agus sgrìobh e mòran aistidhean is cholbhan mu each-draidh nan Gàidheal.

The family was of course very proud of their illustrious literary pedigree, and at least three of them – Lachlann, Iain and Michael – were active poets themselves. Lachlann, also known as “the Red-haired Poet,” was particularly prolific, with 13 surviving song-poems. At least three brothers – Iain, Michael and Joseph – were literate in Gaelic. I am not sure how they became literate in Gaelic, or if their parents were, but it shows that Gaelic literacy was sometimes regained by immigrants. Michael was a school-master and wrote many articles and columns about Gaelic history.

Tha a' mhór-chuid de bhàrdachd nam bràithrean MacMhuirich a' buntainn ris a' choimhearsnachd agus tha i làn àbhachdais, ach rinn Lachlann marbhrann do Mhaighstir Niall V. G. MacLeòid (†1891) anns am faighear nòs agus susbaint dàin-mholaidh nam Meadhan-Aoisean, oir tha e stéidhichte air marbhrann a sgrìobh Iain Dubh mac Iain do cheann-cinnidh Chloinn Raghnaill a dh'eug anns a' bhliadhna 1716. Seo a' cheud rann agus rann eile às na 20 rannan uile gu léir.

Gur e naidheachd Di-Ciadaoin
Rinn mo ghluasad gu liathadh –
Dhrùidh e trom air na crìochan
Gun thréig Maighstir Niall sinn –
Is iomadh aon leis an deuchainn is tùrs' e.
[...]
Bha thu d' fhine nan uaislean
Rinn na batail a bhuannachd
Fo na brataichean buadhach
'S iomadh eachdraidh 's an cualas
Gun do sgap 's gun do ruaig iad na Dubh-
Ghoill.

(Nochdaidh eagan coimhlionta de'n mharbhrann seo anns a' cho-chruinneachadh de litreachas Gàidhlig Chanada a tha mi a' deasachadh an-dràsda; cuiridh Foillseachadh Oilthigh Cheap Breatann an clò e ann an 2014.)

Bha daoine eile aig an robh làmh ann an cùisean Gàidhlig a bhuineadh do Chloinn Mhuirich ann an Aimearaga anns an 19mh ceud is dh'fhaoidte gun do shìolaich iad bho na filidhean ceudna seo, ged nach do lorg mi an dàimh aca riutha fhathast. Seo an-dràsda, có leis a bha Dòmhnall MacMhuirich, a bha 'na sheanchaidh is 'na cheannard air Comann Gàidhlig New York aig deireadh an 19mh ceud? Bha ainm aige a bhith eòlach air eachdraidh Chloinn Fhionghain agus chlò-bhuaileadh seann òran a fhuair aige anns a' *Mac-Talla* (9mh an Lughnasdal 1901).

Dh'fheuch mi ri blasad de na th' ann de dh'fhiosrachadh is de chùisean air an d' rinneadh dearmad gu ìre mhór ged a tha iad bunaiteach an eachdraidh dùthchas is ionannachd nan Gàidheal a dh'imrich gu Aimearaga, a chur air shùilean dhuibh. Tha mi an dòchas gun gabh sgoilearan suim anns na ceistean seo anns an àm ri teachd agus gum bi comas aca air am fuasgladh.

Most of the surviving song-poems composed by the MacMhuirich brothers were humorous in tone and local in scope, but an elegy by Lachlann for Monseigneur Neil V. G. MacLeod (†1891) recalls the style and substance of medieval panegyrics. This is because it is based on the elegy written by Iain Dubh mac Iain for the chieftain of Clanranald who died in 1716. Here is the opening stanza and one of the other 19 stanzas:

It is Wednesday's news
That has initiated my going grey;
It has left a heavy impression on the territory,
That Father Niall has abandoned us –
It is the most sorrowful trial for many.
[...]
You were of the aristocratic kin-group
Who won the battles
Under the magical banners;
It is heard in many historical narratives
That they scattered and routed the utter non-
Gael.

(A full edition of the poem will appear in an anthology of Canadian Gaelic literature, *Seanchaidh na Coille*, that I am currently preparing; it is scheduled to appear in 2014 from Cape Breton University Press.)

There were other Curries active in Gaelic cultural matters in 19th-century North America who may also be descended from the same poetic lineage, though I have yet to find their full biographical details. For example, what was the origin of Donald Currie, tradition-bearer and president of the New York Gaelic Society in the late 19th century? He was said to be very familiar with the history of the MacKinnons, and a traditional Gaelic song was collected from him and printed in *Mac-Talla* (9 August 1901).

I have tried to give just a small taste of the kinds of interesting Gaelic materials and issues that have been largely neglected but are central to the history of Scottish Gaelic immigrant culture and identity in North America. I hope that scholars will yet appear who are interested in these questions and equipped to answer them.



President's Letter

by Scott Morrison

Hello my fellow members and friends of the ACGA! I am pleased to announce that I have been re-elected by the Board of Directors to the President's chair for one more term. In this brief letter I plan on outlining the goals I have set for my final term as the president of the ACGA. But first, I would like to extend fáilte chridheil to the three new board members who have stepped up to help us out in time of need (see the last issue for details on this). They are long time ACGA members (and former board members and officers of the ACGA) Michael Mackay of Catlett, VA and Janice Chan of Ontario, Canada, and Dr. Jamie MacDonald of Nova Scotia. Ceud míle taing dhuibh airson ur cuideachaidh! ☺

As I mentioned above, this will be my final term not only as president, but also as a member of the Board of Directors for the ACGA. We will have proper elections commence early this Spring for both my board seat and the three interim seats that Michael, Jamie and Janice are occupying (though it is our sincerest hope that they will officially run for those seats ☺). After that, I will be bowing out of the ACGA spotlight for a while for I will start working towards a BA in Gaelic Language and Culture from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig beginning this fall and those studies will be, no doubt, eating-up most of my free time. However, I do not plan on leaving without completing my original and new presidential goals!

In the couple of years prior, I made a specific objective to try and increase the number of ACGA led IW workshops across the states and Canada to three or four per year. It has become apparent that this would be fiscally and organizationally very difficult to pull off. After some (still on-going) discussions with the board, I would like to alter the face of this goal and combine it with the primary ACGA objectives. Here is what I am proposing: There are many small study group and/or classes of the Gàidhlig being held all over the States and Canada that are operating independently of the ACGA (or under the umbrella of another like organization). These "pocket groups" operate in a near vacuum. We should be reaching out to these

groups and offering our support so that they do not feel so isolated. Some may want fiscal support, others resources, still others instructional advice, and maybe others would not like help at all. Regardless, contacting these groups disseminates the presence of our organization, helps these isolated learners to realize that they are not so alone as they feel, and could potentially increase our membership numbers and/or attendance at our events!

Beginning soon, I would like to lead a committee that will first, gather the name and contact info of the leaders of as many of these groups or individuals as possible. Second, proactively reach out to them via email or phone. Third, assign ACGA representatives to be the "liaison" between their group and ours (this last one would be a good job for the currently jobless regional reps!). Fourth, I will update everyone on the progress of this committee within the next issue of the ANA and any subsequent issues as we progress.

Our by-laws state the following:

"An Comunn Gàidhealach America, Inc. is organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes which include:

- Study and use of the Scottish Gaelic language
- Study and cultivation of Gaelic literature, history, music, art and crafts
- Encouragement of social groups interested in Gaelic culture
- Cooperation with other Celtic heritage organizations to achieve the foregoing objectives"

I believe that by embarking on an endeavour such as this, that we can actively fulfill all four of these organizational objectives. I hope that the board and that the membership body of the ACGA will back me in these goals and together we can strengthen our organization while disseminating the Gàidhlig culture that we all so love and enjoy.

Lastly, I would like to remind our members to keep in mind the ACGA Mòd that is coming up in Septem-

ber. It is not too late to put in your name, nor would it be a bad idea to spread the word of this event to any friends and/or family that might be interested. Please recall that active competition is not a necessary prerequisite for attendance! Even if you don't sing or write or recite a lick, the program is an excellent learning opportunity, for it is not in very many places in the US where so many native Gaelic

speakers gather at any one time!

Mòran taing dhuibh for your time and we'll be speaking again soon!

Is mise le gach dùrachd,

Scott MacIlleMhoire (Scott Morrison)

Aisling Eòghainn O'Mhaoilreididh

le Mìcheal Mac Aoidh



Micheal Mac Aoidh

'S urrainn dhuibh èisteachd ris an sgeulachd èibhinn [seo](#) a dh'aithris sgeulaiche Micheal Mac Aoidh air ar son. Faigh a-mach carson a tha corr anns an dealbh! Ma bhios beagan cuideachaidh a dhith oirbh, tha na faclan a' leantainn.

Bho chionn fhada bha fear air an robh Eòghann O'Maoilreididh a' fuireach faisg air Baile Ghaideirin, agus bha e ag obair do dhuin'-usal an àite, agus b' e duine dòigheil, sona, math-dheth a bha ann. Cha robh ann ach e fhèin agus a bhean Mairead, agus bha taigh beag grinn aca le buntàta gu leòr airson na bliadhna, a thuilleadh air an cuibhreann de thuarastal, bhom maighstir. Cha robh dìth no iomagain air Eòghann, ach aon rud a-mhàin, agus b' e sin gum biodh aisling aige - oir cha robh fear aige a-riamh.

Aon là agus e a' togail bhuntàta, thàinig a mhaighstir, Seumas Tàf, a-mach, agus thòisich iad a' bruidhinn, mar bha na chleachdadh aca. Thàinig an còmhradh gu aislingean, agus thuir Eòghann gur e aisling a bhith aige an rud bu mhiann leis thar nì sam bith eile.

"Bidh aisling agad an-nochd," ars a mhaighstir, "ma nì thu mar a dh'iarras mise ort."

"Gu dearbha nì, agus sin gu toilichte," arsa Eòghann.

"A-nise," ars a mhaighstir, "nuair thèid thu dhachaigh an-nochd, thoir an teine bhon chagailt, cuir às e, dèan do leabaidh na àite agus caidil an sin an-nochd, agus gheibh thu do leòr aislinge ron mhadainn."

Gheall Eòghann gun dèanadh e sin. Ach nuair thòisich e a' tarraing an teine às a' chagailt, bha dùil aig Mairead gun robh e air a chiall a chall, agus mhìnich e dhi gach nì a thuir Seumas Tàf ris, agus laigh iad còmhla air a chagailt.

Cha robh Eòghann fada na chadal nuair thàinig gnogadh chun an dorais.

"Èirich, Eòghainn O'Maoilreididh, agus falbh gu Amaireagaidh le litir bhon mhaighstir."

Dh'èirich Eòghann, agus chuir e a chasan na bhrògan, ag ràdh ris fhèin, "'S anmoch do theachd, a theachdaire."

Thug e leis an litir, agus chum e roimhe 's cha do stad e gus na ràinig e cas Sliabh Chàm, far na thachair e ri gille-bà, agus e a' buachailleachd bhò.

"Gum biodh beannachd Dhè maille riut, Eòghainn O'Maoilreididh," ars an gille.

"Gum biodh beannachd Dhè agus Moire maille riut fhèin, mo ghille mhath," arsa Eòghann. "'S aithne do gach neach mi, 's chan aithnich mise neach idir."

"Cait' a bheil thu a' dol mun àm seo den oidhche?" dh'fhaighnich an gille.

"Tha mi a' dol gu Amaireagaidh, le litir bhon mhaighstir; an e seo an rathad ceart?" arsa Eòghann.

"'S e. Cùm ort gun iar; ach ciamar a gheibh thu thairis air an uisge?" ars an gille.

"Tide gu leòr airson sin nuair ruigeas mi e," fhreagair Eòghann.

Lean e air, gus an tàinig e gu oir na mara; an sin chunnaic e corr na seasamh air aon chois air a' chladach.

“Gum biodh beannachd Dhè maille riut, Eòghainn O'Maoilreididh,” ars a' chorr.

“Gum biodh beannachd Dhè agus Moire maille riut fhèin, a chorr,” arsa Eòghann. “’S aithne do gach neach mi, ’s chan aithnich mise neach idir.”

“Dè tha thu a' dèanamh an seo?”

Dh'innis Eòghann dhi mu a ghnothach, agus nach robh fios aige ciamar a gheibheadh e tarsainn air an uisge.

“Cuir do dhà chois air mo sgiathan, agus suidh air mo dhruim, ’s bheir mise chun an taoibh eile thu,” ars a' chorr.

“Dè a nì mi ma thig sgìths ort mus ruig sinn?” arsa Eòghann.

“Na biodh eagal ort, oir cha bhi mi sgìth no claidhte gus an ruig mi.”

An uair sin chaidh Eòghann air druim na corra, agus dh'èirich i os cionn na mara agus lean i oirre, ach cha robh i letheach slighe nuair ghlaodh i:

“Eòghainn O'Maoilreididh crom dhìom; tha mi sgìth.”

“Gur tu a bhios a sheachd mhiosad bliadhna bho ’n-diugh, a shlaoighteir de chorr,” arsa Eòghann; “chan urrainn dhomh cromadh a-nise, agus na iarr orm.”

“’S beag mo dhiù,” ars a' chorr, “ma dh'èireas tu tacan ’s gun gabh mi anail.”

An uair sin chunnaic iad luchd-bualaidh os an cionn, agus dh'èigh Eòghann;

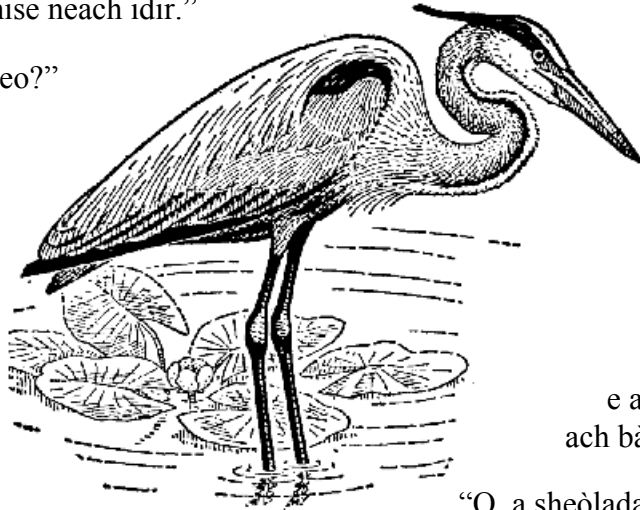
“O, fhir-bualaidh, fhir-bualaidh, fàg do shùist agam, ’s gum faigh a' chorr anail.”

Dh'fhàg am fear-bualaidh a shùist, ach nuair ghabh

Eòghann grèim air le dhà làimh, dh'fhalbh a' chorr bhuaidhe a' gàireachdainn 's a' fanaid.

“Mo chuid de mhì-shealbh nad chois!” arsa Eòghann. “’S tu dh'fhàg mi nam èiginn crochte eadar na nèamhan agus an uisge am meadhan a' chuain mhòir.”

Cha b' fhada gus na dh'iarr am fear-bualaidh air an t-sùist a leigeil às.



“Cha leig mi às i,” arsa Eòghann. “Nach bi mi air mo bhàthadh?”

“Mur leig thu às i, gearraidh mi an làmh dhith.”

“’S beag mo dhiù,” arsa Eòghann. “Tha an t-sùist agamsa.” Agus an uair sin sheall e air falbh, agus ciod a chunnaic e ach bàta astar fada air falbh.

“O, a sheòladair, a sheòladair chòir, trobhad, trobhad. ’S dòcha gun toir thusa leat mo chnàmhan,” arsa Eòghann.

“A bheil sinn fodhad a-nise?” ars an seòladair.

“Chan eil fhathast, chan eil fhathast,” arsa Eòghann.

“Tilg sìos aon ded bhrògan, ach am faic sinn ciamar a thuiteas i,” ars an sgiobair.

Chrath Eòghann aon chas, agus sìos leis a' bhròig.

“Uill, uill, puio, uil liù - cò tha gam mharbhadh?” dh'èigh Mairead san leabaidh. “Càit' a bheil thu Eòghainn?”

“Cha robh fios agam an tu bha innte, A Mhairead.”

“Gu dearbha ’s mi,” ars ise. “Cò eile bhiodh innte?”

Dh'èirich i agus las i coinneal. Fhuair i Eòghann letheach suas an similear, a' dìreadh le a làmhan, agus e dubh leis an t-sùith. Bha aon bhròg air, ach b' e gob na bròige eile a bhuail Mairead agus a dhùisg i.

Thàinig Eòghann a-nuas agus nigh e e fhèin, agus bhon uair sin cha robh iarraidh sam bith aige a bhith ag aisling gu bràth tuilleadh.

2013 ACGA University Scholarship Awarded

ACGA is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2013 ACGA University Scholarship is Melissa Nicholson. Melissa will use her award at Cape Breton University, where she begins her final year of study this fall in preparation to work as a teacher in Gaelic medium education. When we asked Melissa for a short biographical statement, we were delighted with the enthusiasm and passion she shows for the path she has chosen.

I'm from Baddeck, a small village in Cape Breton and am currently a student at Cape Breton University. I began learning Gaelic six years ago, but my love of the language came long before, when I would sing old Gaelic songs around the campfire with my family. The songs I sang with my grandfather and my aunts seemed so old to me, that even as a child, I felt as if generations before me were singing along.



Melissa Nicholson with Skye in the background

Melissa Nicholson

I didn't have a chance to really learn until I started studying Gaelic in 2006 with Angus MacLeod as a high school student, and when my path led me to university in Halifax for a BSc, I continued studying Gaelic by attending classes with the Halifax Gaelic-Language Society. Unfortunately, my degree didn't allow too much time for Gaelic at that time, but when my path began to turn to a different direction, I found an opportunity to study the language more closely. I enrolled at CBU and began my degree in Celtic Studies and couldn't be happi-

er with my choice. I love every moment of studying for this degree, and with teachers like Heather Sparling and Hector MacNeil, I can't imagine a better program. When the opportunity came to study in Scotland, I jumped at the chance and just returned home from two semesters at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. My year in Scotland was amazing; to stand and think that my ancestors who left this area six generations before might also have sat in a hall with stone walls, drinking tea and *uisge beatha*, telling stories and singing songs, and I found myself connecting to the past like never before, but also looking to the future.

This fall, I will be returning to CBU for one last year. My goal is to continue reaching high levels of fluency in Gaelic and become a teacher. After work placement in a Gaelic medium school in North Uist, I am excited to help foster another generation in Gaelic culture, and with this scholarship from ACGA, I will be one step closer to reaching my goal.

A Bharrachd

Michael Newton, scholar of Gaelic, Gaelic culture and the Gaelic world, with another foot in the Digital Humanities world, has launched a blog that will weave together some of the various strands of his work and thought. Visit *The Virtual Gael* at <http://virtualgael.wordpress.com/2013/08/09/launching-the-blog/>

Tim Armstrong, whose book *Air Cuan Dubh Drilseach* is reviewed in this issue, also has a blog where he discusses science fiction, outer space, writing, language, and punk rock. There's something for everyone at <http://drilseach.net>.

Where Are They Now?

ACGA University Scholarship Winners Update

by Caroline Root

Since 2006, ACGA has been awarding an annual scholarship to a full-time university student who is either majoring in Gaelic or planning on taking the majority of her or his classes as Gaelic medium classes. We asked Caroline Root, one of two winners in 2006 if she would try to track down the rest of our university scholarship winners and report back on how they're doing.

Megan Breece MacKenzie was one of the first two ACGA scholarship winners in 2006. After qualifying to teach Gaelic in the Scottish schools system, she taught Gaelic at a primary school in the Hebrides in 2008 and 2009.

Emily MacKinnon who won the ACGA scholarship in 2007 is now **Emily MacDonald**. Emily writes that in 2007, when she traveled to Barra, the homeland of her MacNeil ancestors, she “met a lady there, Mary Ceit MacKinnon, who was so kind and took me around the island showing me different sights and speaking Gaelic to me.” What a great experience. She then returned to St.F.X. and got a degree in Elementary Education with a focus on Gaelic education. She taught Core Gaelic for two years and spent one year working on the online An Drochaid project for the Highland Village while living in a Gaelic immersion house in Gillisdale N.S. Emily worked as the Gaelic Director at Colaisde na Gàidhlig in St. Anns from May 2012 through May 2013. “It [was],” she says “a great position - lots of Gaelic instruction, educational planning, program development, etc.” Emily is planning on speaking only Gaelic to her first child, who was born in June.

Kelly Krawchuk, a student at Cape Breton University, used her 2008 scholarship to study at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in the Cùrsa Comais program.

After **Beth Frieden** won an ACGA university scholarship in 2009, she went on to complete her Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary) for Gaelic speakers at the University of Strathclyde. The following year she taught a Gaelic medium class at Rockfield Primary School in Oban. Since then, however, Beth has taken a different career path, working as an actor and voice artist. Last year she won the Dr Lynn Wells Hagman Memorial Cup for Best Actress for her performance in “Daolag” at the Royal National Mòd. This year at the FilmG awards she was shortlisted for best performance in “A’ Coiseachd

nam Bhrògan,” the video which won the competition’s award for best short drama. Meal do naidheachd, Beth! You can see Beth’s award-winning performance here:

<http://www.filmg.co.uk/en/films/643/>

Kyle Carey won the ACGA scholarship in 2010 and used it to help her spend a year studying Gaelic at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. After that year she traveled to Ireland to record her debut album “Gaelic Americana,” which “fuses Appalachian American music originals with songs in Scottish Gaelic.” She is looking forward to recording her next album, which should be ready for 2014 and will be produced by Seamus Egan, founder of Sòlas. In the meantime she tours the world performing original and traditional songs and teaches Gaelic on Skype. “Receiving the scholarship and having the opportunity to go to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig put me on the path to a wonderful career, and I am very thankful.” Kyle wrote an article about her Gaelic journey for the summer / fall 2010 issue (Vols. XXVI and XXVII, No. 4) of *An Naidheachd Againne*. Check out Kyle's website at: www.kyleannecarey.com

In 2011, extra generous donations to the scholarship program allowed us to give awards to four students.

Jason Bond won his ACGA university scholarship while he was a student at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. From there, he went on to get his teaching certification and did his student teaching at Glasgow Gaelic School, teaching classes in Gaelic and history. Jason wrote an interesting article for the Fall 2012 issue (Vol XXVIII, No. 3) of *An Naidheachd Againne*, which talked about his path to becoming a Gaelic teacher and his teaching philosophy. This past year Jason has been teaching Gaelic at Islay High School in Bowmore. Sadly, we were not able to get in touch with Jason to learn what his plans for next year are.

Cassie Smith-Christmas who was awarded a scholarship in 2011 got her PhD from Glasgow University in December 2012. Her thesis was titled “I’ve lost it here dè a bh’ agam: Language Shift, Maintenance, and Code-Switching in a Bilingual Family.” Cassie wrote an article for the fall 2011 (Vol. XXVII, No. 3) issue of *An Naidheachd Againne*. Now at Lews Castle College University of the Highlands and Islands, working for Soillse, the Gaelic research network, she says she’d like to say, “a huge ‘Mòran taing’ to the Society and also to say that if any of the members find themselves in Lewis, I would be happy to show them around!”

Liam Crouse was also a recipient of the bursary in 2011. While in the UK studying, he received a final mark of First (summa cum laude) in Celtic and Archaeology. Liam then returned home to Wakefield, RI, where he worked, played the pipes, and began getting articles published. We published his two-part article discussing the origins of the late 16th century epic poem “Òran na Comhachaig” by Dòmhnall mac Fhionnlaigh nan Dàn in the winter 2011 (Vol XXVII, No. 4) and spring 2012 (Vol XXVIII, No. 1) issues of *An Naidheachd Againne*. For the latest news from Liam, see “Criomagan” in this issue for the announcement of the prestigious new scholarship he has won to continue his studies at the University of Sterling.

Another recipient of an award in 2011 was **Rachel Redshaw**, from North Dumfries, ON. In 2012, Rachel completed her degree in Anthropology and Celtic Studies at St. FX, and was able to spend an exchange year at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Rachel’s honour’s thesis, “‘Chan eil sin ann tuilleadh’: An Nòs-Ùr aig Gàidheil Cheap Breatainn,” was written entirely in Gaelic.

Since then, Rachel has continued her involvement in the Canadian Gaelic community, volunteering at the

University of Guelph teaching half day Gaelic workshops as well as presenting a lecture for their Spring Colloquium about Gàidhlig Oral History Databases Online. She also taught a workshop for the Toronto Gaelic Society for their Cànan agus Òran workshop day. Rachel won the scholarship again in 2012. Earlier this summer she traveled to South Uist to take part in an immersion put on by Stòras Uibhist. You can read about Rachel’s experiences in Uist and see some of her photos from the workshop elsewhere in this issue.

In 2013 ACGA awarded the University Scholarship to **Melissa Nicholson**, from Baddeck, Cape Breton, a student at Cape Breton University. You can read about how Melissa plans to use her award while pursuing her educational goals elsewhere in this issue.

Last of all, let me catch you up on what I (**Caroline Root**) have been doing. I used the ACGA scholarship that I won in 2006 to study Gaelic medium teaching at the University of Strathclyde. Then I taught in a Gaelic medium program for two years on the island of Tiree. Since returning to the States I have been working with special education students at the local school.

I have also taught ceilidh dancing to several classes at the school and last year had great fun mentoring one of the high school students in Gaelic. Inspired by my parents I have been working to put together an on-line e-mail based learning program for Gaelic, aimed at people who are too busy to take lessons or classes or who want just a little Gaelic every day. Check it out here: www.gaidhliggachlatha.com. One of my main aims is to support families in using Gaelic, so I started another website www.gaelicfamilies.com. I also teach lessons and classes on Skype and specialize in teaching homeschool students and families that want to learn Gaelic together.



Seo caibideil a ceithir de sgeulachd air aithris le ar caraid Liam Ó Caiside. Tha coltas ann gur e seann sgeulachd a th' innte ach an e? Chan eil fhios againne, ach nochdaidh caibideil a còig san Dùbhlachd.

Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig

Le Liam Ó Caiside

Caibidil a Ceithir: Ann am Broinn a' Bhrugh.

“THESE *Siths*, or FAIRIES, they call *Sleagh Maith*,
or the Good People, it would *feem*, to prevent the Dint of their ill Attempts.”

~ Robert Kirk, “*The Secret Commonwealth*”

Chaidh iad sìos air slighe chlachach gu cridhe an t-Sithein. Chan fhaca Iain mòran gus an d' ràinig iad àite còmhnaid far an do las na daoine beaga lòchrain agus a thàinig na daoine-uaisle dheth na h-eich aca. Bha dorsan mòra romhpa. Bhrùth na daoine beaga air na dorsan agus dh'fhosgail iad.

Cha b' urrainn do dh'Iain, mar a bha e fo gheasaibh, mòran fhaicinn gu ceart – dìreach na bha air a bheulaibh. Ach cha b' e uaimh dhorcha a bha air chùl nan dorsan mòra, mar a bha dùil aige, ach seòmar làn sholais cho geal ri solas feasgar samhraidh. Seòmar mòr cearsalach neo leth-chruinn a bh' ann le toll-teinidh na mheadhan cho mòr 's gun deidheadh craobh ann.

Bha an t-àite loma-làn le sithichean — bha beag agus mòr ann, tana agus reamhar, is bha iad uile a' ruith agus a' leum mar gun robh iad air bhoil. Daoine beaga le currachdan dearga agus gorma, bodaich le feusagan fada liatha, cailleachan cromha sròineach, gaisgich le claidheamhan agus mnathan àlainn agus mòran eile nach robh Iain a' faicinn le cinnt — agus cha robh e cinnteach gum bu thoigh leis am faicinn idir. Bha iad uile a' bruidhinn agus a' glaothaich agus bha na daoine beaga a' giùlan bhùird agus shuidheachain.

Cha do stad a' bhan-sith ach choisich i gu doras air taobh eile an t-seòmair agus a-steach leatha, Iain fhathast air a gairdean. Bha iad a-nise ann an seòmar beag cruinn cloiche far an robh solas uaine agus gorm a' deàrsadh bho iomadh lampa-gloinne. Thàinig duine beag a-steach agus cèidse-mhaide aige. Chuir e air bòrd i. “Eunadan do gach eun,” ars am boireannach, agus chuir i Iain a-steach dhan chèidse. “Fuirichidh tusa an seo, m' isean, gu àm suidhe gu fèist,” thuirt i agus dh'fhalbh iad.

Gun teagamh, b' e sin an uair a bu mhiosa do dh'Iain na bheatha riamh. Ged a b' urrainn dha gluasad a-rithist, bha e fhathast na fhitheach, agus cha b' urrainn dha a chruth ceart fhaighinn air ais. Bha e glacte ann an eunadan — abair masladh — far nach fhaigheadh e cobhair sam bith. Bha e fuar agus bha e ann an àite cuingealach gun fhios aige ciamar a thigeadh e às.

Mu dheireadh, thàinig an duine beag air ais agus thug e Iain a-mach às a' chèidse. “Na feuch ri dèanamh às,” ars an lobarcan.

Chaidh iad air ais dhan t-seòmar mhòr. Bu mhòr an caochladh a thàinig air an àite. Cha robh soillse na grèine ann, ach teine mòr. Bha sithichean dhen a h-uile seòrsa nan suidhe air feadh an àite, feadhainn dhiubh aig bùird agus feadhainn dhiubh air an ùrlar. Rinn iad cearcall mu thimcheall an teine. Bha a h-uile sìon a dh'iarra ri ithe 's ri òl ann.

Air taobh thall an teine, chunnaic Iain an duine as motha a chunnaic e riamh. Cha mhòr nach robh e na fhuamhair, cho mòr 's a bha e. Ceann mòr air, feusag agus falt fhada fhionn air, gairdeanan mòra làidir agus com aige mar stoc craoibhe. Bha e na shuidhe ann an cathair-rìghe. 'S e rìgh a bh' ann, gun teagamh, òr mu mhuineal agus air a ghairdeanan, a chleòc fada dearg, agus nighean òg na suidhe aig a chasan, agus a chasan na h-uchd.

Chuir an rìgh seo a làmh suas, agus thuit na sithichean uile nan tost. “Thàinig an t-àm,” thuirt an rìgh, “ach an tàinig an duine?”

“Cha tàinig!” dh'èigh saighdear a bha na sheasamh aig na dorsan ud thall. “Cha tàinig Mac na h-Oidhche fhathast!” “Esan nach tàinig, nar thigeadh e!”



fhreagair an rìgh. Thionndaidh e ris na daoine agus dh'èigh e, “Ged bu mhath an cala a dh'fhàg sinn an-dè, gum b' fheàrr an cala fhuair sinn an-diugh.”
“Seachd feàrr! Seachd feàrr!” thug na sìtheachan uile air ais dha.

“Thàinig sinn bho iomadh ceàrn,” lean an rìgh.
“Shiubhail sinn thar bheann agus thar ghleann, fo sgèith na grèine agus air druim na gaoithe. Cò tha cruinneachadh a-nochd, agus dè bhrugh dham buin sibh?”

“Sìth Chailleann!” dh'èigh sìtheach air choreigin.
“Cnoc Meadha!” fhreagair neach eile. “Sìthean Dubh! Càrn na Sleabhach! Beinn Feall! Dùn Cuaich! Sìth Aodha Ruaidh! Mullach Sìth!” agus iomadh àite eile ann an Albainn agus Èirinn mu nach cuala Iain riamh.

“Dè mu dheidhinn Beinn Shìth?” dh'fharraich an rìgh. “Dè mu dheidhinn Sliabh nam Ban agus Beinn a' Ghlotha?” Sheas sìtheach a bh' ann agus thuir e ann an guth brònach, “Tha Beinn a' Ghlotha dùinte. Thàinig Mac na h-Oidhche agus chreach e Beinn a' Ghlotha. Dh'fhalbh a' chailleach am falach, agus tha dorsan an t-sithein dùinte. 'S mi fhìn a chunnaic 's a dh'fhairich e.”

Thuit ciùneas air na sìthichean. “Cha tàinig olc nas miosa oirnn à tir nam marbh na Mac na h-Oidhche,” thuir an rìgh mu dheireadh, “ged thàinig mi dhan t-saoghal seo nuair nach robh ann ach deigh agus fuachd, mus do theasaich an talamh 's a dh'èirich na h-uisgeachan. Thàinig na fuamhairean, thàinig na Fiantaichean, thàinig na draoidhean. Thàinig agus dh'fhalbh iad. Ach cha tàinig riamh dhuinn cunnart cho bagarrach mar Mac na h-Oidhche ud. Rinn e creach air iomadh brugh agus sìthean. Ghoid e ionmhas agus eòlas gu math priseil bhuaninn. Tha e air fàs cho cumhachdach 's nach b' urrainn dhuinn làmh a thogail ris neo ar dachaighean a dhìon.

“Sin an t-adhbhar a tha sinn air cruinneachadh an seo,” ars an rìgh. “Càite am faigh sinn cobhair no comraich bho Mhac na h-Oidhche? Ciamar a sheasadh sinn an aghaidh an diabhail ud? Mura faigh sinn dòigh air choreigin crìoch a dhèanamh dheth, feumaidh sinn falbh às an t-saoghal seo, agus thèid dorsan nan sìtheanan uile a dhùnadh gu Latha Luain.”

“'S dòcha gu bheil cobhair nas teinne na tha amharas oirbh,” thuir guth eutrom. Cò bh' ann ach a' bhan-sìth a ghlac Iain. Sheas i agus thug i òrdugh dhan duine bheag, 's chaidh esan còmhla ri Iain air beulaibh an rìgh. Dh'fhàg an duine beag Iain, na fhitheach, mu choinneamh an rìgh.

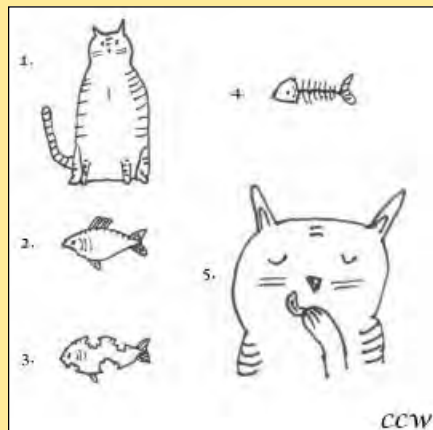
“Cò th' agam an seo, no cò às a thàinig e?” thuir an rìgh. “An ann air chreachadh neadan an eilein a bha thu an-diugh, Aoife?”

“Thàinig an t-isean seo à nead a tha duilich ri ruigsinn, a rìgh, àite far am faighear an iolair a' teagas nan eòin bheaga,” thuir ise. “Dh'fhalbh na draoidhean, mar a thuir sibh, ach cha do dh'fhalbh iad uile. Agus cuimhnichibh air an t-seanfhalac aosmhor, ‘Ge fagus clach don làr, 's faisge na sin cobhair Choibhidh.’”

“Chuala mi sin, ach 's fhada bhon uair a chunnaic mi Coibhidh, neo a shamhail, agus cha mhòr an earbsa a chuirinn ann an draoidh sam bith an-diugh. Ach chì sinn cò th' againn an seo, agus dè a th' aige ri ràdh.”
Le sin, thomh e meur air Iain, thuir e “mac duine,” agus bha Iain na bhalach a-rithist anns a' bhad, a' seasamh na aonar mu choinneamh rìgh mòr nan sìtheach.

Thionndaidh an sgeulaiche dhan teine agus thug e tarraing air a' phìob aige. Cha robh an t-uisge ri chluinntinn air a' mhullach tuilleadh. “Bha e dìreach mar gun robh sinn ann, còmhla ri Iain,” thuir Eoghann, às dèidh greiseag. “Nach buidhe dhutsa nach robh,” thuir an sgeulaiche.

Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb



Do you know what familiar Gaelic proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 26 to see if you're right.

On a fhuair i ceum ann an Corp-eòlas agus Ceiltis bho Oilthigh Naomh Fransaidh Xavier ann an 2012, tha Rachel Redshaw air a bhith an sàs anns a' choimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig Chanèideanach, a' teagasg agus ag obair saor-thoileach. Anns a' phìos seo, tha i ag innse dhuinn mu chùrsa-bogaidh, pàirt de Stòras Uibhist, anns an do ghabh i pàirt na bu tràithe am bliadhna.

Since receiving a degree in Anthropology and Celtic Studies from St. FX in 2012, Rachel Redshaw has continued her involvement in the Canadian Gaelic community, teaching and volunteering. Here she writes about an immersion program, part of Stòras Uibhist, that she took part in earlier this summer.

Air Chuairt ann an Uibhist a Deas: An Triop Agam airson Prògram Stòras Ghàidhlig nan Canèideanach

Le Raonaid ni'n Raghnaill 'ic Iain 'ic Iain

'S e turchartas a bh' ann gun robh teans' agam a dhol gu Alba airson Prògram Stòras Ghàidhlig nan Canèideanach a tha mar phàirt dhen obair aig Stòras Uibhist. Chaidh iarraidh orm teagasg aig bùth-obrach *Cànan agus Òran* aig Colaiste Naomh Mhicheil ann an Toronto an àite Oighrig Keogh air sgàth 's nach robh e comasach dhi a dhol ann. Ghabh mi ris an iarrtas ann an làrach nam bonn! Chuir mi eòlas air Oighrig air fòn agus dh'innis i sgeulachdan dhomh mu a beatha agus a clas aig a' Cholaiste. Theagaisg mi an clas sa Ghiblean agus chòrd e rium glan!

Às deaghaidh sin, chaidh fàilte a chur orm a tighinn gu clas na Gàidhlig ann am Baile an Rìgh, faisg air Toronto. 'S ann san àite sin a thachair mi ri Oighrig, boireannach coibhneil is beòthail a tha an sàs ann a bhith a' ruith nan clasaichean an sin. Bidh clas ann cha mhòr a h-uile Disathairne. Tha sluagh laghach is càirdeil a' dol thuca, a' bruidhinn is a' cabadaich sa Ghàidhlig. Is cinnteach gum bi lachain-gàire is fealla-dhà gu leòr ann!

'S ann air a' là sin a thug Oighrig iomradh air triop gu Uibhist a Deas. Chuir Stòras Uibhist air dòigh seachdain na Gàidhlig ann an Gròigearraidh, feuch am faigheadh iad am bogadh sa Ghàidhlig. Bha ùidh mhòr agam sa triop ach cha robh min dùil gum biodh àite dhòmhs' a dhol ann. Às deaghaidh là no dhà, fhuair mi fòn bho Oighrig - bha àite agam! Ach bha aon rud ann a chuir dùbhlann mòr romham - cha robh airgead agam a dhol ann.

Nach robh iongantais orm gun tug Gàidheil chaoimhneil taic-airgid dhomh airson Prògram Stòras Ghàidhlig nan Canèideanach, agus a bharrachd air sin, thug Comunn Gàidhlig Thorontò taic-airgid airson nan ticeadan-plèana. Cha robh ach trì seachdainean a bhith a' cur a h-uile rud

A Journey of a Lifetime: My Trip to South Uist for the Canadian Scottish Gaelic Program

By Rachel Morgan Redshaw

It is a coincidence that I had a chance to go to Scotland for the Canadian Scottish Gaelic Immersion Program that was part of Stòras Uibhist. I was asked to teach a workshop called *Cànan agus Òran* at Saint Michael's College in Toronto in place of Oighrig Keogh because she was unable to come. I took the opportunity without a second thought! I got to know Oighrig on the phone and she told me stories about her life and the class at the College. I taught the class in April and I really enjoyed it!

After that, I was invited to come to a Scottish Gaelic class in King City, outside Toronto. It was here that I met Oighrig, a kind and lively woman who is involved in running the classes there, where every Saturday friendly people go to speak and chat in Scottish Gaelic. There is sure to be a hearty laugh or joke or two to go around!

It was on that day that Oighrig mentioned the trip to South Uist. They had put together a Gaelic immersion week that was to be part of Stòras Uibhist in Grogarry. I was really interested in the trip but I did not expect that there would be a spot for me. After a day or two, I got a call from Oighrig who told me I had a spot! But there was one thing that challenged me: I didn't have the money to go.

To my surprise friends of Gaelic kindly provided money for the program, and furthermore, the Toronto Gaelic Society gave me funding for the plane tickets. What a surprise! There was only

air dòigh mus rachadh am buidheann a-null thairis gu Alba!

Nuair a ràinig mi Loidse Ghròigearraidh ann an Uibhist a Deas còmhla ri feadhainn dhen bhuidheann, chaidh mi a-steach a dh'àite brèagha, bòidheach. Bha an luchd-obrach aig an loidse gasta is ghabh iad rinn. Fhuair sinn fàilt' is furan! Bha am biadh fìor bhlasta agus cha robh acras oirnn co-dhiù.

Theagaisg mi fhìn aon chlas airson nan luchd-tòiseachaidh agus bha Eairdsidh Caimbeul na thidsear airson a' chlas eile. Dh'ionnsaich mi abairtean cumanta don chlas is cuideachd leugh sinn a-mach naidheachdan is chaidh sinn thairis air duain bho Eilean Cheap Bhreatainn. 'S ann sa mhadainn a thòisich na clasaichean is rinn sinn sgrìoban san fheasgar dha iomadh àite àlainn is inntinneach timcheall an eilein.

Air a' chiad là, chaidh sinn gu Caisteal Ormacleit, croit ann am Bòrnais agus taigh-tasgaidh Chill Donnain far an do dh'ionnsaich sinn mu dheidhinn dualchais na sgìre. Air an dàrna là, fhuair sinn cothrom sònraichte a bhith a' coinneachadh ri Flòraidh Fhearghais a sgrìobh *Còco is Crùbagan*. Chaidh sinn air cas-cheum gu Mianais fad dà uair a thìde agus chùm sinn oirnn gus an do ràinig sinn taigh a breith is a h-àraich. Bha sinn nar seasamh a' coimhead air an t-sealladh air ar beulaibh fhad 's a bha i a' gabhail turas air eathar na cuimhne. 'S ann san àite sin a ghabh sinn biadh is a dh'èist sinn ri Flòraidh a' leughadh bàrdachd.

San fheasgar, chaidh cuid den bhuidheann gus srùbain a thogail ann an Gleann Dail is chaidh mi fhìn is càch gu òraid aig Sgoil Lionacleit. Bha an òraid air fad sa Ghàidhlig is bha e gam fhàgail toilichte a bhith ag èisteachd ri Gàidhlig ann an dòigh nàdarra. Thachair mi ri daoine air leth math aig an robh Gàidhlig, ag obair tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig mar Chatriona Lexy Chaimbeul, sgrìobhadair Gàidhlig. Abair craic!



Flora MacDonald, author of *Còco is Crùbagan*, reading poetry at her childhood home

three weeks to organize everything before the week the group would go abroad to Scotland.

When I reached Grogarry Lodge, South Uist, with a few others from the group, I stepped into a beautiful, lovely place. The staff at the lodge were terrific and they treated us kindly, and we were well entertained! The food was truly delicious and we would never go to bed with an empty stomach.

I taught one class for the beginners, and Archie Campbell was the teacher for the other class. I taught common phrases to the class and we also read out stories and we went over rhymes from Cape Breton Island. It was in the morning when the classes began and we would make mini-excursions in the afternoon to many beautiful and interesting places around the island.

On the first day, we went to Ormacleat Castle, a croft in Bornish and the Kildonan Museum, where we learned about the heritage of the area. On the second day, we had a special chance to meet Flora MacDonald who wrote *Cocoa and Crabs*. We went on a path to Meanish for two hours and we kept going until we reached the house where she was born and brought up. We were standing, looking at the view before us, while she took a trip down memory lane. It was at the house where we had our lunch and listened to Flora read poetry.

In the afternoon, some of the group went to pick cockles in Glendale and myself and the others

went to a lecture at Sgoil Lionacleit. The lecture was entirely in Gàidhlig and it made me happy to listen to it in a natural way. I met amazing people who spoke and worked through the medium of Gàidhlig, like Catriona Lexy Campbell, a Scottish Gaelic writer. What fun!

Bha iomadh àite a chunna sinn; chaidh sinn gu Loch Baghasdail gus bothan-àirigh fhaicinn, gu Loch Sgioport agus gu Tràigh a' Phrionnsa air Eilean Èirisgeigh. Cuideachd, ghabh sinn sgrìob dhan choille ann an Loch Àineort.



Rachel Morgan Redshaw
Sheiling in Loch Boisdale

Bha teans' againn cèilidh a chur air piuthar Oighrig na taigh snog, blàth le breacagan, bonnach, sgonaichean, im is càise gu leòr ann. B' e cèilidh tlachdmhor a bh' ann ri taobh teine mònachd. Bha an teine gar cumail

blàth, fhad 's a bha naidheachdan is fiamhan-ghàire a' toirt togail dhuinn is gar cumail sunndach.

'S math gun robh daoine gleusta anns a' Ghàidhlig ann an Uibhist a Deas. Cha robh e na annas Gàidhlig a chluinntinn timcheall an eilein; b' e rudeigin fìor shònraichte a bh' ann. Bha sinnsearachd Albannach aig cha mhòr a h-uile duine sa chlas, is ged nach eil mo shinnsearan fhìn à Alba, bha mi a' faireachdainn gun robh mi nam phàirt de rudeigin a chaidh air chall, a' cuimhneachadh gu sàmhach fhad 's a bha cuid againn a' gabhail an tàmh ri taobh an teine.

Tha Prògram Stòras Ghàidhlig gabhaidh math, is tha mi ga mholadh airson dhaoine aig a bheil ùidh sa Ghàidhlig <http://www.storasuibhist.com/>. Bha spòrs is mireadh againn fhad 's a bha sinn ann, ann an deagh chuideachd an sàs ann an cultar is cànan nan Gàidheal.

Tha mi *fada* an comainn nan daoine a thug taic-airgid dhomh. B' e an triop a b' fheàrr nam bheatha is tha mi cinnteach gu bheil mi airson Gàidhlig a theagasg. Tha mi a' dèanamh fiughar ris na tha ri thighinn is tha mi misneachail mun àm ri teachd. Bha muinntir an eilein, biadh is ceòl a' toirt deòin is misneachd dhomh airson nan làithean a tha a' tighinn.

On other days we saw many places; we went to Loch Boisdale to see a sheiling, to Loch Skipport and to Bonnie Prince Charlie's beach on Eriskay. We also had a trip to the forest in Locheynort.

We had a chance to visit Oighrig's sister in her cute, warm home where there was plenty of pancakes, bonnachs, scones, butter and cheese to go around. It was a wonderful visit by the peat fire. The light of the fire kept us warm while the stories and smiles lifted our spirits and kept us cheerful.

It was good that people who were 'tuned in the Gaelic' were around us in South Uist. It was not uncommon to hear a Scottish Gaelic word around the island; it was something truly special. Almost everyone in the class had Scottish heritage, and even though my heritage is not Scottish, I felt that I was part of something that was lost,

remembering silently as some of us rested by the fire.



Elaine Robertson
Rachel and friends at Loch Skipport
(Rachel is on far left)

The Canadian Gaelic Program that was part of Stòras Uibhist is an amazing program. I would recommend Stòras Uibhist <http://www.storasuibhist.com/> to anyone who has an interest in Scottish Gaelic. We had a lot of fun while we were in good company taking part in the language and culture of the Gaels.

I am greatly in debt to the people who provided me with funding. It was the best trip I have had in my life, and I am sure that I want to teach Scottish Gaelic. I look forward to what is to come and I am optimistic about the future. The folk, food and music have given me willingness and determination for the days to come.



Rachel Morgan Redshaw
Bonnie Prince Charlie's Beach, Eriskay



An t-Ionnsachadh Bòidheach

This is the second column in a continuing series for our young readers.

The title comes from the Gaelic proverb, *An t-ionnsachadh òg an t-ionnsachadh bòidheach* (Early learning is beautiful learning). [There's an implied " 's e" at the beginning that is usually omitted.]

Our appreciation goes to Michael Newton who kindly gave permission to use this page from his children's book, *Calum and Catriona's Welcome to the Highlands*.

Highland Landscapes

Search and Find #1

Many of the words used in English to describe the Highland landscape originally come from Gaelic. Search for the words in **bold** in the puzzle:

A **croft** is a small farm, which was worked in a system called **runrig**. A **strath** is a long valley cut out over centuries by water. A lake is called a **loch** in Scotland, and a stream a **burn**. During the summer people cut **peat**, which they burn for warmth during the winter. The small **birch** tree is common but the native **pine** tree is rare. **Heather** covers the high rough ground called the **moor**. **Bracken** is a fern that grows in the summer, and the **thistle** is a thorny flower. The sandy grassland of the coast is called the **machair**.



Thistle

N E V H Y G H G K R Y N V
 U M L M J E C E V I O A D
 E T Z T A D L N W J R G C
 X R A T S O P D U L B G I
 X C H E C I P V A D I E R
 N E I H P B H Q G G R N I
 R S T R A T H T I I C I A
 R O T K Z B Y R C Z H P H
 Y K P D R H N Z E R U L C
 M C B O C U N C V M O I A
 C W O O R U Z T R R X F M
 G M I H N E K C A R B T T
 F I Z N R U B T D B L M O

Word List

Birch	Moor
Bracken	Peat
Burn	Pine
Croft	Runrig
Heather	Strath
Loch	Thistle
Machair	

Sgrìob tron fhànas sa Ghàidhlig

Air Cuan Dubh Drilseach
le Tim Armstrong, Clàr 2013

le Janice Chan



Chan eil an cuan dubh drilseach anns a' chiad nobhail aig Tim Armstrong mar mhuir làn sàile 's èisg, ach nan robh sibh a' smaoinichadh gun robh an rud mar seo, bhiodh an ro-bheachd sin reusanta gu leòr. Tha an leabhar sgrìobhte anns a' Ghàidhlig ge-tà, agus tha an cuan seo anns an fhànas, làn rionnagan agus fada air falbh bhon Talamh.

Dh'fhaodte gum biodh feadhainn a' beachdachadh air carson a sgrìobhadh duine sam bith leabhar ficsean saidheansail anns a' Ghàidhlig, ach 's e ceist na b' fheàrr a bhiodh ann faighneachd carson nach sgrìobhadh. Chaidh mòran leabhraichean ùra barrail fhoillseachadh sa Ghàidhlig o chionn ghoirid, agus chan fhada a mhaireas an cànan beò mura gabhar ri nuadh litreachas agus cultar a' phobail.

Bidh dùbhlain ann gun teagamh airson ùghdar sam bith a sgrìobhas ficsean saidheansail sa Ghàidhlig. Chan eil fa-cail ann airson "escape velocity" no "anti-matter thrusters" anns na faclairan aig Dwelly no Colin Mark. Ach às dèidh beagan cnuasachaidh (no 's dòcha cus ùine air beulaibh an Tbh a' coimhead air "Star Trek"), tha e soilleir gu leòr don leughadair gur e "einnsean-lùbaidh" am briathar air "warp drive". Tha an t-ùghdar air dà làrach-lìn a chruthachadh gus ar cuideachadh ged nach eil iad deiseil fhathast. Tha faclair ann le mìneachadh anns a' Ghàidhlig <http://drilseach.net/briathrachas/>, agus làrach-lìn eile aig "Memrise" le mìneachadh anns a' Bheurla <http://tinyurl.com/Memrise-AirCuanDubh>. Ach cha bhi an nobhail seo furasta a leughadh ged a bhiodh faclair math no dhà aig an luchd-ionnsachaidh. Tha an gràmar agus am modh-sgrìobhaidh aig ìre adhartach.

Tha dithis òigridh aig cridhe na stòiridh. Thogadh Sàl agus Riosa air colnaidh mèinne bochd air gealach iomallach a bhuineas don Chaidreachas Eadar-Reultach. Tha an dithis aca gu mòr an sàs ann an ceòl agus na clubaichean-dannsa ionadail - tha Sàl ag obair mar DJ agus tha Riosa a' reic dhrugaichean. Gu dearbh, tha ceòl

A Gaelic Odyssey Through Space

Air Cuan Dubh Drilseach
by Tim Armstrong, Clàr, 2013

by Janice Chan

The glittering black ocean in Tim Armstrong's first novel isn't a sea full of salt water and fish, but if you were thinking that it was, that would be a reasonable enough assumption. However, the book is written in Gaelic, and this ocean is in space, full of stars and far away from Earth.

Perhaps some think, why would anyone write a science fiction book in Gaelic, but the better question is, why not? Many new, excellent books have been published in Gaelic lately, and the language won't survive long if it doesn't embrace modern literature and popular culture.

There are challenges, undoubtedly, for any author who writes science fiction in Gaelic. Neither Dwelly or Colin Mark has a word for escape velocity or anti-matter thrusters in their dictionaries. But after a bit of consideration (or maybe too much time in front of the TV watching Star Trek), it is clear enough to the reader that "einnsean-lùbaidh" is the term for warp drive. The author has created two websites to help us, although they aren't finished yet. There is a dictionary, with explanations in Gaelic, <http://drilseach.net/briathrachas/> and another another site, "Memrise" with definitions in English: <http://tinyurl.com/Memrise-AirCuanDubh>. But this novel won't be easy for the learner to read even with a good dictionary or two. The grammar and writing style is at an advanced level.

Two young people are at the centre of the story. Sàl and Riosa were raised on a poor mining colony on a remote moon in the Interstellar Alliance. The two of them are heavily involved in music and the local dance clubs - Sàl

bunaiteach anns an stòiridh. Feumaidh an dithis aca dòigh fhaighinn gus dèanamh às bhon ghealaich mus bàsaich an colonaidh, agus nas cudromaiche, mus cuir an leth-chrocall Sàirdseant Raithdead Rìosa an grèim. Tha rùintean-diomhar ann fiù 's air nach eil Sàl agus Rìosa eòlach.

Tha na planaichean aca a' tighinn o chèile sa bhad agus tha feum aca na rianan-grèine a shiubhal gus teicheadh air an nàimhdean, ged nach eil iad làn chinnteach dìreach cò iad. Coinnichidh iad ri bithean eile, feadhainn dhiubh càirdeil mar an duine saibeirneatach, A-Hiom, agus feadhainn eile a tha anabarrach gàbhaidh. 'S e Sadb an caractar as inntinniche anns an leabhar. Tha i 373 bliadhna a dh'aois, cruaidh, cumhachdach is eireachdail - agus tha coltas oirre fhathast nach eil i ach beagan bhliadhnaichean seachad air an fhichead.

Bhiodh an nobhail na tharraing do dheugairean na b' òige, ach fiù 's ged a bhiodh iad comasach air a' Ghàidhlig a leughadh, tha droch-chainnt gu math cumanta a thuilleadh air cuid de na caractaran a bhith a' cleachdadh dhrugaichean gun adhbhar. Fhathast, 's e leabhar tlachdmhor a tha seo, gu h-àraidh an tionndadh iongantach aig crìoch na stòiridh.

Thathar an dòchas gum bi tuilleadh leabhraichean ficsean saidheansail a' tighinn bho Tim agus gum bi ùghdaran Gàidhlig eile a' gabhail gu togarrach ris a' ghnè sgrìobhaidh seo cuideachd.

An t-Ùghdar

Rugadh Tim Armstrong ann an Siatal ach tha e air a bhith a' fuireach ann an Alba o chionn deich bliadhna. Bha e an sàs ann an ceòl punc Gàidhlig agus bha e na bhall dhen chòmhlán "Mill a h-Uile Rud". Sgrìobh e an tràchdas PhD aige anns a' Ghàidhlig air a' chuspair soiseochànanachais. Tha e a-nis ag obair aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig mar neach-rannsachaidh Soillse.

works as a DJ and Rìosa sells drugs. Indeed, music is fundamental to the story. The two devise a risky scheme to escape from the moon before the colony dies, and more importantly, before the half-crocodile Sergeant Raithdead arrests Rìosa. There are secrets that even Sàl and Rìosa don't know about.



*Jim Chan and
Chris Chan*

Of course, their plans fall apart immediately and they must travel the solar systems fleeing their enemies, even if they aren't completely sure who they are. They encounter many other beings, some friendly, like the cyberman A-Hiom, and some others who are extremely dangerous. Sadb is the most interesting character in the book. She is 373 years old, ruthless, powerful and beautiful - and she looks like a young woman in her 20s.

The novel would appeal to younger teenagers, but even if they were able to read the Gaelic, swearing is frequent, as well as casual drug use. Still, this is an enjoyable book, especially the surprising twist at the end.

Hopefully there will be other science fiction novels from Tim and other Gaelic authors will embrace the genre as well.

The Author

Tim Armstrong was born in Seattle, but has been living in Scotland for ten years. He was involved in the Gaelic punk rock scene as a member of the group "Mill a h-Uile Rud". He wrote his PhD thesis in Gaelic on sociolinguistics. He is now working at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig as a Soillse Research Fellow.



Dorothy Pottie's Brownies

Dorothy MacDonald Pottie was born in River Denys, Cape Breton, but like many of her generation, she spent most of her working life far from home. When her husband Vince retired in 1971, they returned to Cape Breton and bought a house in Glendale, where Dorothy enjoyed gardening (she became an expert on heirloom apples) and participating in local Gaelic events. Vince died several years ago, and Dorothy has moved to a nursing home in Port Hawkesbury. This is Dorothy's recipe for the brownies she brought to a Gaelic conversation group held at the Father John Angus Rankin Cultural Centre in Glendale in 2006.

1 chupa min-fhlùir
¼ cupa ìme
2 ugh, air am bualadh
1 chupa siùcair
½ spàin-tì faoineig
pioc salainn
½ spàin-tì pùdar-fuine
2 cheàrnag (unnsa) teòclaid fuinidh nach eil air a
mhilseachadh
½ chupa sgealban gall-chnòthan (do roghainn)

Leagh an teòclaid agus an t-ìm còmhla.

Buail na h-uighean ann am bobhla agus cuir an siùcar agus an fhaoineag nan luib. Cuir am measgachadh de theòclaid agus de dh'ìm (air fhuarachadh) anns a' bhobhla. Cuir a' mhin-fhlùir, an salann, agus am pùdar-fuine ann. Measgaich na gall-chnòthan ann cuideachd.

Bruich anns an àmhainn aig 350°F fad 25 gu 30 mionaid ann am pana ceàrnagach, 8 x 8 òirleach, a tha air a chrèiseachadh.



Rudy Ramsey

1 cup flour
¼ cup butter
2 eggs, well beaten
1 cup sugar
½ teaspoon vanilla
pinch of salt
½ teaspoon baking powder
2 squares (ounces) unsweetened baking
chocolate
½ cup walnut pieces (optional)

Melt chocolate and butter together.

Beat eggs and add sugar and vanilla. Add cooled chocolate and butter mixture. Add flour, salt, and baking powder. Fold in walnut pieces.

Bake at 350°F for 25 to 30 minutes in greased 8 inch pan.



Dorothy Pottie

Anne Landin



Do you have a favourite recipe that you'd like to share with other ACGA members? Submit it in a bi-lingual format to one of our editors and we'll publish it in future issues 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!

Dè Do Naidheachd?

by Anne Landin, Cam MacRae, and Jeanne Pendergast

This time there were no specific words we all had to use; instead we each wrote something about our trip together to the Mòd Rìoghail Nàiseanta in Stornoway. Anne, a weaver herself, starts us off with a visit to old friends, an elderly weaver and his wife.

Anne:

Tha an t-seann bheairt sàmhach socair a-nis, snàithleanan dlùth oirre fhathast, gun fhighhe, spàl na laighe fhathast air beulaibh na slinne, a' feitheamh a bhith air a togail. “’S urrainn dhomh a breabadh, nan leigeadh i leam,” thuirt am bodach. Ach chan eil an lèirsinn aige mar a bha i – no a dhruim. Tha a bhean ag ràdh gur e a dhòchas crìoch a chur air sa gheamhradh seo.

Tha beagan bholtaichean air fhàgail aige den Chlò Mhòr àlainn, agus geàrraidh e pìosan dhiubh bho àm gu àm a reiceas e, no a bheir e seachad – cuimhne den ealantas aige o na làithean nach robh cho fad air falbh bhuaithe. Oir, ’s e obraichean ealain a th’ annta gu dearbh.

’S ann brònach a bha mo chèilidh orra, ann an dòigh, ach bha mi toilichte airson a’ chothroim am faicinn aon uair eile. Dheàrrs a’ ghrian gu soilleir air an rathad air ais gu Tairbeart.

Glossary:

snàithlean – thread

spàl – a weaver’s shuttle

slinne – genitive of *slinn* - reed (part of a loom)

Clò Mòr – Harris Tweed

Jeanne:

Bha a dhruim goirt a-rithist, is e na sheasamh airson an ceathramh latha aig cùl an teanta fhosgailte a’ feuchainn ri cumail às an uisge. Smaoinich e air an dùthaich aige fhèin agus làithean blàth grianach. Carson a rinn e an turas a dh’Alba co-dhiù, agus carson air thalamh a chuir e roimhe dhol gu Steòrnabhagh aig àm a’ Mhòid?

Bha gnothach aig a theaghlach thar nan ginealaichean bèicearachd a reic aig tachartasan mòra. Chosg e seachdainean ag ullachadh airson nam mìltean a bhios air na sràidean a’ dol eadar Talla a’ Bhaile agus an t-Ionad Spòrs. ’S e taisbeanadh brèagha a rinn e air a’ bhòrd mhòr--suiteas de gach seòrsa is dath, briosaidean milis, is bèicearachd shònraichte bhon dùthaich aige fhèin, ach thàinig an t-uisge fuar agus cha do stad e. Bha toradh an obrach air fad a-nis air fàs tais agus cò bhios gan iarraidh idir a-nis?

Chaill e a shaothair, chaill e a chuid airgid, chaill e a mhisneachd. Duine brònach am measg nam mìltean a’ dèanamh gàirdeachas is iad còmhla a-rithist, a’ faicinn seann chàirdean, a’ bruidhinn a’ chànain ionmhainn aca-- agus gan cumail fhèin air falbh bho na sràidean fliuch cho math ’s as urrainn dhaibh.

Glossary:

cuir ro(imh) – decide to do something, intend

toradh an obrach – the results of the work (no Gaelic article before *toradh* because of the following genitive)

saothair – labor

dèan gàirdeachas – to celebrate (one of many uses of *dèan* as an auxiliary or helping verb)

cho math ’s as urrainn dhaibh – as best they can

Cam:

Siud e, sgrìobhte ann an litrichean mòra -- MUSEUM nan Eilean. Ach dè an ath fhacal? Dùinte. Bha mi ann an Leòdhas mu dheireadh thall, agus dealasach a bhith a' dol dhan taigh-tasgaidh ainmeil seo an Steòrnabhagh, ach bha e dùinte. Gu fortanach bhiodh tòrr chothroman eile ann eachdraidh an eilein fhaicinn.

Bha mise is mo chàirdean ann am B&B air a' chost an iar Leòdhais. Ged nach robh càr againn, bha sinn fortanach gun robh boireannach eile ann is ise deònach cèilidh a dhèanamh còmhla ruinn air trì de na làraich as ainmeile is drùidhtiche san sgìre sin.

Thòisich sinn aig tursachan Chalanais, còig mìle bliadhna a dh'aois is fhathast nan seasamh tostach agus cumhachdach ann an achadh aonaranach. Gu cinnteach, bha e doirbh dhuinn na clachan fhàgail.

Bho Chalanais, chaidh sinn gu Dùn Chàrlabhaigh, a bha air a thogail leis na Cruithnich mu dhà mhìle bliadhna air ais mar dhaingneach. Chan eil na ballachan cho àrd 's a bha iad, ach tha iad gu h-iongantach fhathast seasmhach.

Aig ceann an latha, ghluais sinn air adhart tro na bliadhnaichean gus an d' ràinig sinn am baile tughaidh air a bheil An Gearrannan. Dh'imrich na daoine mu dheireadh a bhuineadh dhan bhaile mu 1975 ach tha na ballachan, na mullaichean tughaidh, is brìgh na muinntir fhathast ann. Cò aig a tha feum air taighean-tasgaidh.

Glossary:

Steòrnabhagh, Calanais, and Càrlabhaigh – place names derived from Old Norse, reflecting Norse control of Lewis and the rest of the Hebrides from the beginning of the ninth century to the middle of the thirteenth century.

taigh-tasgaidh – museum (*tasgadh* is a hoard or deposit)

tursa, tursachan – standing stone(s)

tostach – silent, quiet

tughaidh – thatched

Current Competitions

Short Film Competition: Rùn (Love, Secret and Intent)

The theme of the 6th FilmG short Gaelic film competition was announced in August. Gaelic speakers and learners as well as non-speakers are encouraged to submit a 3 to 5 minute film on the theme of “Rùn (Love, Secret and Intent)”. There are youth and adult categories, with both being eligible for a number of prizes.

International entries are welcome. The film must be in Scottish Gaelic and be 3-5 minutes in length, including titles. Films must be submitted by 20 December 2013 (Youth 12-17) and 20 January 2014 (Open 18+).

See the FilmG website for complete details, and to view previous films: <http://www.filmg.co.uk/en/>

Writing Competition: Baker Prize 2013

This year's Baker Prize writing competition will include sections for Gaelic poetry and Gaelic prose. The theme of this year's competition is Homecoming. Entries opened August 1 and will be accepted through November 30. Judging Gaelic poetry will be Meg Bateman and Aonghas MacNeacail. Morag Stewart and Catriona Lexy Chaimbeul will judge the Gaelic prose entries. For information on how to submit entries to the Baker Prize writing competition, visit <http://theskyereadingroom.wordpress.com/baker-prize-2013/>. You can also read about the Baker prize competition on the last page of the summer issue of *Northwords Now* at <http://www.northwordsnow.co.uk/issues/2013/NNow24Web.pdf>.

Cha Bu Mhiste Sinn Leabhar Na Tri

le Cam MacRae

25 Rudan ri Dhèanamh le Leabhar Gàidhlig

A bheil thu eòlach air Library Thing? O chionn goirid bha mi a' sireadh fiosrachaidh air *Air Cuan Dubh Drilseach*, leabhar ùr le Tim Armstrong (chithear lèirmheas dheth anns an iris seo), agus laigh mi air Library Thing. Abair làrach-lìn, loma làn leughadairean agus an cuid leabhraichean! Agus dè fhuair mi an sin ach buidheann leughaidh air a bheil “Reading Gàidhlig.”

Chuir Mòrag Traynor, an t-oide Gàidhlig aig City Literary Institute (ann an Lunnainn) an còmhlan air bhonn mu thrì bliadhna air ais, agus tha i a sìor bhrosnachadh leughadh sa Ghàidhlig. Mur eil uine no briathrachas gu leòr agad leabhar slàn sa Ghàidhlig a leughadh, na cuireadh sin dragh ort. Tha freagairt aig Mòrag dhut. Seo agad pàirt dhen liosta aice: 25 Rudan ri dhèanamh le leabhar Gàidhlig - ach nach eil a' gabhail a-steach a leughadh. Carson nach tadhail thu air Library Thing agus “Reading Gàidhlig” aig librarything.com agus nach fhàg thu am moladh agad fhèin?

25 Things To Do With a Gaelic Book

Have you heard of Library Thing? Recently I went to Google to see what I could learn about *Air Cuan Dubh Drilseach*, a new book by Tim Armstrong (see the review in this issue), and I landed on Library Thing. What a website, chock full of readers and their books! And what did I find there but a reading group called “Reading Gàidhlig.”



Morag Traynor, the Gaelic tutor at City Literary Institute, (a large adult education school in London) began the reading group about three years ago, and she puts a lot of energy into encouraging reading of Gaelic books. If you don't have the time or vocabulary to read a whole book, not to worry. Morag's got you covered. Here's part of her list of “25 things to do with a Gaelic book - not including reading it.” Why don't you visit Library Thing and “Reading Gàidhlig” at librarything.com and add your own suggestion.



~~25~~ 11 Things To Do With a Gaelic Book

1. Photocopy a page or paragraph, perhaps a poem, and enlarge it to a size you can read from several feet away. Hang it up in the kitchen and read a bit when you're in there.
2. Leave a Gaelic book lying around where you will see it. Pick it up if you feel like it, put it down when you want, but don't put it away.
3. Use a Gaelic book for divination. When you have a decision to make, or encounter one of life's crossroads, concentrate on your question, let the book fall open at random, stick a pin in the page, and let the words it hits guide you. It doesn't fit? You're a human being with powers of self-deception - make it fit! Or you could always cheat by reading on until you find something more to your liking.
4. Set yourself a target to get through a novel or prose book in a day, by reading the blurb, chapter titles and first and last paragraph of each chapter. It probably won't make much sense, but you'll know more about it than if you just leave it on the shelf.
5. Donate a few Gaelic books to your local library. Say, *Teach Yourself* or *Gaelic in 3 Months*, a small dictionary and one reading book. Buy them for the purpose. Someone will be glad you did.

6. Compile your own commonplace book or anthology of short Gaelic pieces - quotes, proverbs, riddles, short poems etc.
7. Incorporate as many Gaelic book titles as you can into a short poem. They could be your own books, or from the lists of the Gaelic Books Council.
8. Put a small sticker dot on the spines of your Gaelic books. Colour code them to show which books you have read at least some of, and which ones you have actually finished, which have been more than 10 years on the shelf unread, etc. I'm going to do this to help me keep track of my project to have read at least some of every Gaelic book I own by next winter. For me, this is better than marking the inside of the book, as the mute reproach of all those little dots will be visible whenever I look in the direction of my Gaelic shelves.
9. If you come across Gaelic books in a public library - borrow them! No need to read them, just give them a change of scene, and take them back again. A recent date stamp will help to extend their shelf life, so that they are there for the next Gaelic reader. Something I like to do is leave a homemade Gaelic bookmark inside, as a little surprise for the next reader. Of course, if you should happen to glance at a sentence or two, there's no harm done.
10. Take any Gaelic book you have read at least a reasonable chunk of, and write to the author, saying how much you appreciated their work. Gaelic writers don't make any actual money and could do with some encouragement. They won't mind if you have to write in English, but even a bad Gaelic letter would mean so much.
11. Use a small pile of Gaelic books to prop a rickety table leg, or as a doorstop. Well, you might as well, if you aren't doing anything with them.



Criomagan

2013 Donald Meek Award

The Gaelic Books Council announced on August 22nd that this year's award has gone to Màrtainn Mac an t-Saoir / Martin MacIntyre for *A' Challaig seo, Chall Ò*. Aimed at teenagers, MacIntyre's latest novel will be published by Acair later this year.

Shortlisted for this prestigious award were:

Dearc by Peter MacKay

Màiri Dhall agus Sgeulachdan Eile by Duncan Gillies

A' Challaig seo, Chall Ò by Martin MacIntyre

Bàrdachd (gun ainm fhathast) by Angus Peter Campbell

Liam Crouse Wins Publishing Scholarship

Liam Crouse has been named as the recipient of the first Gaelic publishing scholarship established by the Gaelic Books Council and the Stirling Centre for International Publishing and Communications at the University of Stirling. Liam, a recent graduate of the University of Edinburgh, will use this scholarship for the MLitt in Publishing Studies at the University of Stirling beginning in 2013. Liam won an ACGA University Scholarship in 2011. His two-part article on origins of the late 16th century epic poem *Òran na Comhachaig* by Dòmhnall mac Fhionnlaigh nan Dàn appeared in the winter 2011 (Vol XXVII, no. 4) and spring 2012 (Vol XXVIII, no. 1) issues of *An Naidheachd A gainne*.

Tha 'Smathsin air ais!

'*Smathsin* is back and on-line. If you were a fan of Acair's Gaelic comic book '*Smathsin* back in the 90's, you'll love Stòrlann's new on-line version, complete with all your old familiar friends. If you don't know '*Smathsin*, you'll find it here, <http://smathsin.co.uk/smathsin/>, complete with speech bubbles that talk to you!

New Gaelic Books of Interest

Còisir nan Gunna by Anndra Dunn (Acair 2013)

Short-listed for the 2011 Donald Meek Award, *Còisir nan Gunna* was published in August 2013 as the first book in Acair's new adult fiction series, Aiteal. Anndra Dunn, from Lewis, reads from his book here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DijmNmGAHTQ> and here he discusses his book and his writing influences: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBC8ZBFIApg&feature=youtu.be>

Fògradh, Fàisneachd, Filidheachd / Parting, Prophecy, Poetry translated and edited by John Alick MacPherson and Michael Linkletter (Cape Breton University Press, 2013)

Fògradh, Fàisneachd, Filidheachd consists of transcriptions and translations of the Gaelic contributions of the Rev. Duncan Blair, a minister in the Presbytery of Pictou, Nova Scotia (1815-1893), to the Gaelic newspaper Mac-Talla, published in Sydney between 1892 and 1904. Included are Blair's articles on the Clearances, other historical essays, travelogues and a selection of his poetry. Uist-born MacPherson is a Gaelic scholar and translator living in Grand Mira, Cape Breton. Linkletter is Chair of Celtic Studies at St. Francis Xavier University.

<http://cbup.ca/books/blair-macpherson-linkletter-mac-talla/>

Ruidhle an Fhìdhleir

"The Fiddler's Reel," Marc Almon's new all-Gaelic film, is now available in the U.S. and Canada through Trueman Matheson's Siol Cultural Enterprises at www.gaelicbooks.com. In this 17-minute film a folklorist records an elderly Gaelic storyteller's tale of a young girl who falls in love but must escape from her alcoholic father and an undesirable suitor. Winner of the National Screen Institute Drama Prize (Canada), "Ruidhle an Fhìdhleir" stars Cape Breton teacher and actor Angus MacLeod.

Microsoft Office 2013 Does Gàidhlig!

Most of our members will be familiar with Michael Bauer (Akerbeltz), who created Am Faclair Beag, Akerbeltz.org, and more. One of his hobbies is adding Scottish Gaelic to the supported languages of software packages, and he recently led the team that developed Scottish Gaelic support for Microsoft Office 2013. Nach math sin? You'll find detailed installation instructions (not too hard) in the Chat forum of the ACGA forum site (forum.acgamerica.org). We're very grateful that Michael and two others regularly post information about supported software packages in the public area of our forum (34 examples to date).

Summer Mòd Results

North Carolina Mòd 2013

July 13, 2013

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC

Adjudicators: James Graham and Kirsteen MacDonald

Women's song:

1. Anne Alexander
2. Erin Park
3. Margaret Gérardin

Men's song:

1. Tom Terry
2. John Grimaldi

Overall:

1. Anne Alexander
2. Tom Terry
3. Erin Park

Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

September 2013

Acadamaidh Gàidhlig an Atlantaig / Atlantic Gaelic Academy Online Gaelic Classes

Classes for the new school year begin September 2013 and continue until May 2014. A place in class will be reserved for you on pre-registration. No previous experience in Gaelic is required. Information about the AGA program may be found at <http://www.gaelicacademy.ca>

U.S. National Mòd, Friday, September 20 - Sunday, September 22, 2013, Ligonier PA

26th ACGA National Mòd with adjudicator and Mòd co-founder Catriona Parsons. Also in attendance will be 2012 Men's and Women's Gold Medalists from Scotland's Royal National Mòd, Calum MacLeòid and Eilidh Davies. Come for the Gaelic songs, stories and poems as well as cèilidhs! <http://usmod.wordpress.com>

October 2013

Royal National Mòd, October 11 - 18, 2013, Paisley, Scotland

For entry forms see <http://www.acgmod.org/nationalmod/entryform>

Celtic Colours International Festival, Friday, October 11 - Saturday, October 19, 2013, throughout Cape Breton NS Canada

<http://www.celtic-colours.com>

This is the 17th year for the Festival, an event that includes many Gaelic concerts and cultural activities in communities throughout Cape Breton. For a list of Gaelic events, see:

<http://www.celtic-colours.com/tag/gaelic/>

Julie Fowlis - USA Fall Tour, October 17 - November 3, 2013 - various venues

<http://www.juliefowlis.com/tours/>

- October 17, 2013 - Parker Arts, Cultural and Events Center, 7:30 pm, Parker CO.
<http://pacecenteronline.ticketforce.com>
- October 18, 2013 - University of Wyoming, UW Fine Arts Center, 7:30 pm, Laramie WY.
<http://www.uwyo.edu/finearts>
- October 20, 2013 - Delaware Technical Community College, Owens Theater, 2:00 pm, Georgetown DE.
<http://www.freemanfoundation.org/events>
- October 23, 2013 - Pennsylvania State University, Erie, McGarvey Commons, 12 pm, Erie PA.
<http://musicatnoon.wordpress.com>
- October 25, 2013 - Black Rock Center for the Arts, 8:00 pm, Germantown MD.
<http://www.blackrockcenter.org>
- October 26, 2013 - Black Rock Center for the Arts, 8:00 pm, Germantown MD.
<http://www.blackrockcenter.org>
- October 27, 2013 - State Theatre, 7:30 pm, Culpeper VA.
sasha@culpepertheatre.org
- October 29, 2013 - Frostburg State University, Recital Hall, 7:30 pm, Frostburg MD.
<http://ces.frostburg.edu>
- October 30, 2013 - Grove City College, Crawford Auditorium, 7:30 pm, Grove City PA.
No venue information.

- November 1, 2013 - University of Maine, Collins Center for the Arts, 8:00 pm, Orono ME.
<https://tickets.collinscenterforthearts.org>
- November 2, 2013 - Portland Ovations, Hannaford Hall, 8:00 pm, Portland ME.
<http://tickets.porttix.com>
- November 3, 2013 - Caberfeidh Productions, Palladium, 7:00 pm, Saint Petersburg FL.
<http://caberfeidhproductions.com/event/julie-fowlis>

**Oidhche nam Bòcan/Night of the Spooks, October 24 - 26, 2013,
An Clachan Gàidhealach, Iona NS Canada**

Come and celebrate Halloween with a special evening tour of the Highland Village by lamplight, complete with storytelling, skits and special effects. The tour is followed by a storytelling session in “The Tuning Room” with fuarag, oatcakes and more. This is a family activity enjoyed by all. Prepaid reservations are required. No refunds or discounts. Cost \$12 per adult, \$28 per family, or \$5 per student. Call (902) 725-2272 for tickets. (7-9 pm each evening) <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/hv/en/home/default.aspx>

November 2013

**An Nollaig Gàidhealach / Christmas Gaelic Weekend, November 29 - December 2, 2013,
Colaisde na Gàidhlig, St. Ann’s NS Canada**

Colaisde na Gàidhlig offers educational weekends consisting of Gàidhlig aig Baile Immersion Classes for Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Levels. Song workshops will be offered at the Beginner / Advanced Beginner and Intermediate / Advanced Levels. Participants can choose to live in for the weekend or attend as day students. Students traveling from a distance can also arrange to stay over Friday evening. Additional fees will apply. For more information see <http://gaeliccollege.edu> or email anna@gaeliccollege.edu

The On-Line Faces of ACGA

Like most organizations in the modern world, ACGA has several on-line faces, including more than one website, a Facebook page, a conversational forum, a YouTube page, and even a Twitter account.

Our main website, www.acgamerica.org, includes a blog for announcements, tips, articles, etc. It also contains an archive of newsletters, detailed information about our major events, information about ACGA and how to join, learning resources, and more.

Our forum site, <http://forum.acgamerica.org>, is a collection of conversational forums, some public, some for members only, and some for ACGA’s internal organizational functions.

Our Facebook page (click [here](#) or search for “American Scottish Gaelic Society” on Facebook) is a public face of ACGA. Because this page is integrated into a social network, it has a very different feel from our website, and likely attracts a different crowd.

We don’t have very much video content on our ACGAmerica [YouTube channel](#) yet (we’re looking for more), but what we do have is interesting and ACGA-relevant.

Our Twitter account ([ACGAgaelic](#)) is presently used for ACGA announcements only, in Gaelic.

One of our events has its own website, too. The [ACGA Mòd](#) website contains a lot of information about past, present, and future Mòds.

A lion beagan is beagan, mar a dh’ith an cat an sgadan.
Little by little, as the cat ate the herring.



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

Colorado

Boulder
Study Group
Sue Hendrix
susan.hendrix@colorado.edu

Denver

Lessons
Glenn Wrightson
thegaelicguy@hotmail.com

Denver

Study Group
Reese McKay
reese-mckay@q.com

San Luis Valley

Phone and Online lessons
Caroline Root
<http://saoghalgaidhligc.weebly.com>

Connecticut

Hartford area
Classes—Thomas Leigh
tleigh.piper@gmail.com

Song Classes—Maggie Carchrie
860-748-7549

Florida

Jensen Beach
Treasure Coast Scots-Gaelic
Study Group
ryan1812@mylincoln.edu

Illinois

Springfield
Study Group
Bill McClain
fidheall@yahoo.com

Maryland

Baltimore
Study Group
<http://tinyurl.com/Maryland-Baltimore>
Rick Gwynallen
Rgwynallen@yahoo.com
301-928-9026

Chevy Chase

Song Group
Joan Weiss
sweiss@american.edu

New York

New York
Classes
New York Caledonian Club
www.nycaledonian.org/studies.php

Newfield / Ithaca

Conversation groups
Wayne Harbert
weh2@cornell.edu

North Carolina

Asheville
Study Group
Leigh McBride
lmcbride@unca.edu

Guilford

Classes (advanced beginner)
An Phillips
fiongeal@gmail.com

Ohio

Cincinnati
Study Group
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens
macaoidh@eos.net

Kent

Classes
Frances Acar
Classes by Skype
frances.acar@gmail.com

Oklahoma

Midwest City
Study Group
Barry Acker
bearachanseo@yahoo.com

Tulsa

Study Group
Adrian Martin
almarti6527@gmail.com

Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh Area
Study Group
Harry Webb
hwebb@zoominternet.net

Texas

Hurst
Classes
David Gressett
jdgressett@hotmail.com

Fort Worth

Study Group
Jonquele Jones
jonquele@flash.net

Utah

Salt Lake City
Classes by Skype
Rachell Blessing
rachell-blessing@comcast.net

Virginia

Alexandria
Classes
Nick Freer
neacalban1@aol.com

Catlett

Michael Mackay
Local in-person and via Skype
mackay@progeny.net

Washington

Seattle
Classes & Study Groups
Slighe nan Gàidheal
<http://www.slighe.com>

Canada

New Brunswick

Fredericton

Classes

Atlanta Gaelic Academy

www.gaelicacademy.ca

Nova Scotia

Halifax

New Glasgow

Port Hawkesbury

Classes

Atlanta Gaelic Academy

www.gaelicacademy.ca

Port Hawksbury School of Gaelic

Kathleen Burbidge

kathleenburbidge@hotmail.com

Sydney

Classes

Cape Breton Gaelic Society

Heather Sparling

heather_sparling@cbu.ca

Ontario

Ottawa

Classes

Randaigh Waugh

comungaidhligottawa@rogers.com

Toronto

Classes

CLUINN

www.torontogaelic.ca

Québec

Montréal

Study Group

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.acqamerica.org/learn/classes>

For additions and corrections, contact Janice Chan, ruadh@idirect.com



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AN NAIDHEACHD AGAINNE

An Naidheachd Againne is the quarterly newsletter of *An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach (ACGA)*. The newsletter is published in the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. It is produced by the Publications Committee of ACGA.

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