

# An Naidheachd Againne

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Sgrìobh ar caraaid Anna aiste tharraingeach air ar son mu dheidhinn nàdar na h-Alba agus ceangalan làidir eadar seo is an dualchas Gàidhealach.

Our friend Anne has written an appealing article for us about nature in Scotland and its strong connection with Gaelic heritage.

## Bliadhna Sheonaidh a' Mhonaidh

leis an t-Oll. Anna Latharna NicGilliosa

Nuair a bha mise nam nighinn òig anns an Òban bha e na chleachdadh againn uinneag a' chidsin fhosgladh nuair a bhuail an dà uair dheug air oidhche na Callainn, gus “an t-seann bhliadhna a leigeil a-mach agus an tè ùr a leigeil a-steach”. Agus cha dìochuimhnich mi chaoidh fuaim nan dùdach shìos aig a' chidhe: na bàtaichean uile 's iad a' cur dùrachdan na Bliadhn' Ùire chun a h-uile creutair beò aig muir no air tìr, mar lìonra fuaim sna speuran a bha gam cheangal rim charaidean-sgoile air feadh Earra-Ghàidheal, agus fiù 's rim chàirdean ann an Sasainn, Sealainn Nuadh agus

## The Year of Johnnie of the Moor

by Dr. Anne Lorne Gillies

When I was a young girl in Oban it was our custom to open the kitchen window on the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, in order to let “the old year out and the new one in”. And I'll never forget the sound of the hooters down at the pier – all the boats sending New Year greetings to every living creature at sea or on land – like a sound-web in the sky connecting me to my school-friends across Ar-

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



Anne Lorne Gillies

Kevin Bree

Siona. Mar a thuirt an t-eòlaiche-nàdair Iain Muir, 's e a' mìneachadh na dhòigh shoilleir fhèin an rud ris an canamaid 'ciad phrionnsabal eag-eòlais': "Tha a h-uile nì ann an Nàdar co-cheangailte, le mìle bann do-fhaicsinneach, do-bhriste, ris a' chòrr den chruinne-cè."

Chaidh 2013 ainmeachadh mar "Bliadhna an Nàdair ann an Alba", mar chomharrachadh air Muir, a rugadh bho chionn ochd fichead bliadhna 's a còig-deug, agus air a' bhuidheann-ghlèidhteachais a chuireadh air bhonn na ainm bho chionn deich bliadhna fichead: Ur-ras Iain Muir, a bhios a' dìon cuid de na h-àitichean as prìseile agus as so-leònte ann an Alba, nam measg monaidhean suaicheanta mar Beinn Nibheis, Sìdh Chailleann agus pàirt den Chuilitheann.

Tha Muir ainmeil air feadh an t-saoghail mar "Athair nam Pàircean Nàiseanta", "Naomh-taice nam Fàsach Aimeireaganach", "Càraingean Yosemite"... Ach 's fheàrr leam fhìn "Seonaidh a' Mhonaidh", an t-ainm bàidheil a bhuilicheadh air le *Meanbh-chuileag*, buidheann dràma-ann-am-foghlam a chaidh mu chuairt nan sgoiltean na bu tràithe sa bhliadhna le dealbh-chluich Ghàidhlig mu dhèidhinn Muir 's a chuid obrach. Mar sin bidh mi fhìn a' cuimhneachadh air 2013 mar "Bliadhna Sheonaidh a' Mhonaidh".

'S ann an Dùn Barra, air costa Ear-dheas na h-Alba, a rugadh Seonaidh agus a thog e ùidh ann am mòralachd Nàdair, "...a' coiseachd sna pàircean a dh'èisteachd ris na h-eòin a' ceilearadh, agus air a' chladach a choimhead le iongantais air na sligean agus an fheamainn, na h-easgannan agus na crùbagan a bh' anns na linneachan ri muir-tràigh ... agus air na tuinn ri sìde nan seachd siantan, 's iad a' bualadh mar tàirneanach air rubhachan dubha agus baidealan trèigte creagach seann Chaisteal Dhùn Barra." Gu mì-fhortanach chan eil a' mhòr-chuid de dh'òigridh an là an-diugh cho math dheth ri Seonaidh a' Mhonaidh, 's iad ro thrì sa chrùbain fa chomhair sgrìn an àite a bhith a-muigh air an dùthaich a' sgaoileadh an sgiathan agus a' bleed-

gyll, and even to my relations in England, New Zealand and China. As the naturalist John Muir said, explaining in his own lucid way what we might call 'the first principle of ecology': "Everything in Nature is attached, by a thousand invisible cords that cannot be broken, to the rest of the world."

2013 was designated "The Year of Natural Scotland" in recognition of Muir, who was born 175 years ago, and of the conservation organisation that was established in his name 30 years ago: the John Muir Trust, which guards some of the most precious and vulnerable places in Scotland, including iconic mountains like Ben Nevis, Schiehallion and part of the Cuillin range.



John Muir

Professor Francis M. Fritz in 1907  
UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library

Muir is renowned throughout the world as "Father of the National Parks", "Patron Saint of the American Wildernesses", "Guardian Angel of Yosemite"... But I prefer "Johnnie of the Moor", the affectionate Gaelic name bestowed upon him by *Meanbh-chuileag (Midge)* a drama-in-education company that toured the Gaelic schools earlier this year with a play about Muir and his work. And so I shall remember 2013 as "The Year of Johnnie of the Moor".

It was in Dunbar, on the South-east coast of Scotland, that Muir was born and became hooked on the magnificence of Nature "...wandering in the fields to hear the birds sing, and along

the shore to gaze in wonder at the shells and the seaweeds, eels and crabs in the pools when the tide was low... and to watch the waves in awful storms, thundering on the black headlands and craggy ruins of old Dunbar Castle." Unfortunately most of today's young people are not so lucky as Johnnie of the Moor, all-too-often crouching in front of a screen instead of being out in the countryside spreading their wings and blethering to bugs. But this year all of us, young and old, were inspired to follow Johnnie's footsteps out into

raich ri bògasan. Ach am-bliadhna bha sinn uile, sean is òg, air ar brosnachadh gus ceumannan Sheonaidh a leantainn a-mach gu blàr sgoinneil saidhbhreach na h-Alba, seallaidhean-tìre àlainn a mhealtainn anns a h-uile ceàrn den dùthaich neo-choimeasaich seo againn, agus eòlas mionaideach a chur air fiadh-bheatha agus lusan ar Tèarmainn Nàdair Nàiseanta.

Dhuinne nach eil a cheart cho comasach a bhith a' sreap nam monadh no a' grunnachadh thar nan aibhnichean, chraol am BBC caochladh prògraman beò-ghlacmhor air rèidio agus telebhisean, nam measg *Hebrides - Islands on the Edge*, sreath de cheithir prògraman TBh le actair Coille a' Chuilinn Eòghann MacGriogair mar neach-aithris: dealbh mionaideach de bheathaichean nan Eilean Siar 's iad air am filmeadh gu foighidneach thar ràithean na bliadhna – ròin, dòbhrain, fèidh is taghain; iolairean-mara ainneamh glòrmhor agus nead gobhlain-gaoithe a fhuaras am broinn taigh-stàil Ìleach, às an tàinig sgioba beag de iseanan meanbha, mothnach, agus - a-rèir a' choltais a bh' orra co-dhiù – caran misgeach! Nuair sin nochd *Innsean an Iar* – an “gearradh Gàidhlig” mar gum b' e – le òrain am measg nan dealbh, airson an dlùth-cheangal a dhearbhadh eadar sluagh, creutairean agus ceòl ann am beul-aithris nan Gàidheal: Julie Fowlis ga aithris agus mi fhìn nam chomhairliche ciùil. Obair laghach, mar a chanas iad!

Mar eisimpleir eile den ‘obair laghaich’ a thàinig thugam ann an 2013, dh'iarra muinntir Sgoil Bhàrdachd na Comraich orm òraid a thoirt seachad air cuspair gu math iomchaidh – am bàrd Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir.

Rugadh Donnchadh Bàn (1724 - 1812) ann an Gleann Urchaidh, ann an Earra-Ghàidheal, far nach robh foghlamsgoile furasta ri fhaighinn sna làithean sin, 's cha do thog e riamh comas leughaidh no sgrìobhaidh. Ach fhad 's a bha e ag obair mar fhorsair do Mhorair Bhràghad Albann, a' siubhal nam beanntan agus nan coireachan gus cùram a ghabhail do na fèidh, thog e an comas, an tuigse agus am mion-fhiosrachadh a choisinn dha cliù mar fhior shàr bhàrd Nàdair. Mar a thuirt bàrd cliùiteach eile, Iain Crichton Mac a' Ghobhainn: “Rinn an dùthaich bàrd mòr de

Scotland's magnificent verdant spaces, to enjoy beautiful scenery in every corner of this peerless country of ours, and to get to know intimately the flora and fauna of our own National Nature Reserves.

For those of us who aren't quite so able to climb the mountains or wade across the rivers, the BBC broadcast a slew of fascinating programmes on radio and television, among them *Hebrides – Islands on the Edge*, a series of four TV programmes narrated by the Hollywood actor Ewan MacGregor: close-up pictures of the animals of the Western Isles painstakingly filmed across the seasons – seals, otters, deer and pine-martens; rare, glorious sea-eagles and a swallows' nest discovered in an Islay distillery, from which emerged a little team of chicks, tiny, fluffy, and – at least judging by their appearance – slightly inebriated! And after that came *Innsean an Iar (Hebrides)* – the “Gaelic cut”, as it were – which demonstrated, through a mix of songs and film footage, the close connection between human beings, wild creatures and music in Gaelic tradition: with Julie Fowlis narrating and myself as Music Consultant. Nice work, as they say!

As another example of the ‘nice work’ that came my way in 2013, the organisers of the Bardic School in Aplecross invited me to deliver a lecture on a subject that was very relevant – the Gaelic poet Duncan Bàn MacIntyre.

“Fair-haired Duncan” (1724 – 1812) was born in Glenorchy, in Argyll, where in those days formal education was not readily available and he never learned to read or write. But while he was working as forester/gamekeeper to the Earl of Breadalbane, traversing the hills and corries to look after the deer, he acquired the skills, understanding and detailed knowledge that were to win him renown as a Nature poet of true genius. As another renowned poet, Iain Crichton Smith, put it: “The countryside made a great poet of



Kevin Bree





fhear aig an robh gibhtean cainnte ach a dh'fheumadh an gaol ionnsachadh bho Nàdar fhèin."

Ach chuir atharrachaidhean poiliteigeach agus sòisealta na 18mh linn saoghal Dhonnchaidh bun-os-cionn. Chuireadh treudan mòra de chaoraich sgriosail air àrainn phriseil nam fiadh, agus b' fheudar dhan fhorsair bhàn Gleann Urchaidh fhàgail gus teachd-an-tìr a lorg ann an Dùn Èideann. Chaith e an còrr de bheatha, cha mhòr, a' siubhal sràidean cruaidhe a' bhaile-mhòir, fhad 's a bha dùthaich òige a' dol a dholaidh agus a' bhàrdachd lùthmhor, bhrioghmhor aige fhèin a' dol an laigead mar bhradan air a thoirt a-mach à uisge fallain na h-aibhne.

Chì mise beatha Dhonnchaidh mar shamhla de dhroch-dhiol na linn ud, an dà chuid den àrainneachd fhiosaigich agus den choimhearsnachd a bha na heisimeil. Tha na Fuadai-chean a-nis nam pàirt de eachdraidh na Gàidhealtachd, agus tha daoine air tòrr ionnsachadh bhon uair sin air cùisean bunasach mar àiteachas, glèidhteachas agus sealbh-fearainn, gun luaidh air còraichean a' chinne-daonna. Thuirt Seonaidh a' Mhonaidh: "Tha an cron a rinneadh air craobhan, agus den a h-uile seòrsa, air a dhèanamh ann an dorchadas aineolais agus mì-chreideimh. Nuair a thig an solas tha cridhe an t-sluaigh an-còmhnaidh ceart." Tha mi 'n dòchas gur e 'n fhìrinn a bh' aige.

Tha sinn fhathast a' dèanamh cron air a' phlanaid mhìorbhailich seo againn; agus cò chanas gu bheil sinn a' dèanamh oidhirp gu leòr airson ar dualchas mìorbhaileach a dhìon bho aineolas agus dearmad. Ach tha sanasan dòchasach a' nochdadh gu bheil muinntir a' ghlèidhteachais a-nis ag aithneachadh luach bunasach na Gàidhlig do eag-eòlas cultarach na h-Alba agus an t-saoghail. Mar eisimpleir tha Duais Iain Muir a' toirt cothrom do dh'òigridh pàirt a ghabhail ann an cur-seachadan a-muigh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, agus cànan co-cheangailte ris an àrainneachd ionnsachadh – beachdan is briathran, dualchas is dualchainnt – ann an suidheachaidhean a tha nàdarrach, iomchaidh agus fallain. Agus tha Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba air stòr data ùr fhoillseachadh: ainmean chraobhan, lusan, ainmhidhean is

someone who was linguistically gifted but who needed Nature to teach him love."

But the social and political changes of the 18<sup>th</sup> century turned Duncan's world upside down. Great flocks of destructive sheep usurped the precious habitat of the deer, and the fair-haired gamekeeper had to leave Glenorchy to find employment in Edinburgh. He spent most of the rest of his life traversing the hard city streets, while the countryside of his youth went to rack and ruin and his own powerful, pithy poetry grew weak like a salmon taken out of the wholesome waters of the river.



Kevin Bree

I see Duncan's life as a metaphor for the abuse, during that period, both of the physical environment and of the community which depended upon it. The Clearances are now part of Highland history, and people have learned much since then about fundamental things like agriculture, conservation and

land-ownership, not to mention human rights. Johnnie of the Moor said: "The wrongs done to trees, and wrongs of every sort, are done in the darkness of ignorance and unbelief. When the light comes, the heart of the people is always right." I only hope he was right.

We're still harming our wonderful planet; and who can say whether or not we're making enough effort to protect our wonderful heritage from ignorance and negligence. But positive signs are emerging that today's conservationists recognise the crucial importance of Gaelic to the cultural ecology of Scotland and the world. For example the John Muir Award provides opportunities for young people to take part in outdoor activities through the medium of Gaelic, and to acquire language – words and concepts, customs and local dialect – in a context that is natural, relevant and healthy. And Scottish Natural Heritage has published a new data-base: the names of trees, plants, animals etc. – vocabulary which is every bit as endangered as the Red Squirrel,

eile – briathrachas a tha cho mòr an cunnart a bheatha ri creutairean ainneamh mar an Fheòrag Ruadh, an Capall-coille, agus an Seillean Mòr Buidhe – gun luaidh air a’ Ghobhlan-gaoithe Mhisgeach!

Tha e coltach gu bheil bliadhna bhrosnachail eile gu bhith againn ann an 2014. Bliadhna an Tillidh Dhachaigh (tha sinn an dòchas gum faic sinn a h-uile duin’ agaibh uaireigin tron bhliadhna: feuch gun tadhail sibh a-steach airson strùpag!) “Allt a’ Bhonnaich Beò” – ath-riochdachadh den bhlàr ainmeil a chuireadh bho chionn seachd ceud bliadhna – agus Slighe Iain Muir gu bhith air a fosgladh gu foirmeil ceud bliadhna às dèidh bàs Sheonaidh ann an Los Angeles.

Gun luaidh air Geamaisichean a’

Cho-fhlaitheis ann an Glaschu, fèill-chluich Cuach Mhic an Ridire ann an Gleann na h-Eaglais, agus Reifreann a bhios a’ cur na ceist oirnn, “Am bu chòir Alba a bhith na dùthaich neo-eisimeileach?”



Kevin Dtg

the Capercaillie and the Great Yellow Bee – not to mention the Drunken Swallow!

It looks as if we’re going to have another exciting year in 2014. The Year of Homecoming (we’re hoping to see every one of you sometime during the year: stop by for tea!), “Bannockburn Live” – a re-enactment of the famous battle that was fought 700 years ago, and the official opening of the John Muir Way, 100 years after Johnnie’s death in Los Angeles. Not to mention the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the Ryder Cup competition in Gleneagles, and a Referendum which will pose the important question, “Should Scotland be an independent country?”

Uill, chan eil fhios dè ur beachd-se air seo, ach mar a thuir Seonaidh a’ Mhonaidh: “Tha mise a’ dol a’ leantainn mo dhùthchais agus a bhith mar ‘mi fhìn’ – math no dona.” Agus tha ‘mi fhìn’ a’ dol a fhreagairt “Bu chòir!”

Chan ann airson seann bhannan eadar Alba agus an còrr de Bhreatainn a bhriseadh, ach airson bannan ùra a thoinneamh eadar Alba agus an còrr den chruinne-cè.

Co-dhiù no co-dheth, guidheam dhuibh sìth, sonas agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr nuair a thig i!

Well I don’t know what your opinions are on this subject, but as Johnnie of the Moor put it: “I will follow my instincts, and be myself for good or ill.” And ‘myself’ is going to answer “Yes!”

Not in order to break old cords between Scotland and the rest of Britain, but in order to spin new cords between Scotland and the rest of the universe.

But come what may, I wish you peace, happiness, and a Guid New Year when it comes!

# Sgoil nan Eun neo Sgeulachd Iain Fhearchair Òig

## Le Liam Ó Caiside

### Caibideil a Còig: Coinneachadh Coimheach

“CHUNNA mis’ thusa, a Bhrian Brugh, is tu marcachd air seann each dubh,  
leannan na mnà seanga sidh, is tu ’ga sìor-ruith o bhrugh gu brugh.”

~ *Cù Dubh Mhic-a-Phì* (“*The Gaelic Otherworld*”),  
John Gregorson Campbell, ed. Ronald Black)

**Mu dheireadh thall**, bha Iain na bhalach a-rithist. Bha e uamhasach toilichte gun robh a ghàirdeanan fhèin agus a mheòirean aige an àite sgiathan, gun itean air a chom. Ach bha e na sheasamh an làr an t-sithein, fada bho charaid, agus rìgh mòr nan sìtheach a’ coimhead air gu geur bho a chathair-rìgh. Agus dh’fhairich Iain sùil gach sìtheach, beag agus mòr, air cùl a chinn.

“A-nise,” thuirt an rìgh, “cò tha romham agus cò dha a bhuineas tu? Bruidhinn a-mach!”

Cha robh fhios aig Iain dè bu chòir dha ràdh. Bha fhios aige gum biodh e cunnartach ainm ceart a thoirt do shìtheach sam bith. Bheireadh sin ceannsachadh ort do na sìthichean. Ach cha robh Iain eun-chridheach, co-dhiù. “Nuair a tha mi còmhla ri mo charaidean,” thuirt e ris an rìgh, “anns an àite far a bheil mise a’ fuireach, ’s e ’am Fitheach’ an t-ainm orm.” “Gu dearbh,” thuirt an rìgh. “Creididh mi sin. Ach chan e sin d’ ainm ceart. A bheil fhios agad Aoife, cò esan agus cò às a thàinig e?”

“Chan eil fhios agam air ainm, ach tha e soilleir cò às a tha e,” thuirt a’ bhan-shìth. “’S e draoidh òg à Sgoil nan Eun a th’ ann.” “Ceart, draoidh òg. Glè òg. Bu bheag an fheum a nì sgoranach mar seo dhuinne. Saoil an seasadh esan an aghaidh Mac na h-Oidhche nuair a thigeadh e?”

“Cha sheasadh, ach dè mu dheidhinn a mhaighstir fhèin?” fhreagair a’ bhan-shìth. “Esan?” thuirt an rìgh le clisg. “Bha e nar caraid uair dhen aimsir, mar a bha iomadh draoidh, ach cha b’ ann an dè a bha sin. Cha chreid mi gu bheil e cho cumhachdach agus comasach mar a tha thu a’ smaoinichadh.”

Las na thuirt rìgh nan sìtheach mun mhaighstir sradag ann an cridhe Iain. “’S e mo mhaighstir, an Draoidh Mòr, an draoidh as cumhachdaiche agus as fheàrr ann an Albainn,” thuirt e ris an rìgh.

Thionndaidh an rìgh bhon bhan-shìth gu Iain. “An Draoidh Mòr!” thuirt e le fanaid. “An Draoidh Sanntach! Esan na shuidhe anns a’ chaisteal, le a she-untan agus a gheasaibh agus na h-ulaidhean a chruinnich e bho gach rann ruadh an t-saoghail, cho pròiseil ri coileach air a shitig fhèin. Ach càite ’n robh e an uair a bha feum aig a phoball? Nuair a loisg saighdearan Gallda an taighean?”

Cheannsaich Iain a theanga. Cha robh e ach dà bhliadhna dh’aois ann am Bliadhna Theàrlaich, an uair a chaill iad athair, ach chuala e naidheachdan gu leòr mu na thachair às dèidh a’ bhlàir.

“Èist, a bhalaich, bha uair ann nuair a chunnaic mi draoidhean a’ cur stad air còmhrag nuair a thigeadh armailt an coinneamh armailt. B’ iad na seann-draoidhean. Bha iad an còmhnaidh a’ cuideachadh agus a’ cur taic ris na daoine aca. ’S tric a chuir mi fàilte orra sa bhrugh agam anns na làithean a dh’aom.”

Mhothaich Iain gun robh an rìgh a’ cuimhneachadh air daoine air an robh e eòlach linntean air ais — agus cò aig a tha fios dè an aois a bha rìgh nan sìtheach? An robh an talamh fhèin nas sìne?

“Bu chòir dhuinn fàilte a chur ort a-nise,” thuirt an rìgh ri Iain. “’S dòcha gum biodh do mhaighstir deònach bruidhinn rinn, co-dhiù, cho fad ’s a tha thu nad aoigh anns an t-sithean. Agus bidh thu nad aoigh gus am faigh sinn cuideachadh neo comhairle bhuaithe — no gus an tig Mac na h-Oidhche.”

Thàinig an lobarcan air ais agus threòraich e Iain gu bòrd ìseal far an robh feadhainn de na sìthichean nan suidhe. Ghabh e suidheachan. Bhuail an rìgh a bhasan agus leum a h-uile sion na b’ fheàrr na chèile air gach bòrd, gach nì a bhiodh bhua airson ithe agus òl — im agus càise, glasraich agus feòil, fion agus fìor-uisge.



Ach cha robh Iain cinnteach gum bu chòir dha biadh a ghabhail anns an t-sithean. Bha sìtheach beagan nas lugha na Iain na shuidhe ri a thaobh. “Ith do leòr, ’ille!” thuirt e. “Cha dèan am biadh seo cron sam bith dhut.” Thug Iain taing dha agus rinn e sin. Bha an t-acras ga tholladh.

Nuair a ghabh e gu leòr, choimhead e mu thimcheall an talla, agus chunnaic e a’ bhan-shìth, Aoife, na suidhe air taobh thall an teine, aig bòrd nas àirde, am measg uaislean an t-sithein. Bha duine na shuidhe ri a taobh air an robh coltas gu math gaisgeil, saighdear neo tighearna, gun teagamh. Bha falt dubh fada air, agus dh’fhairich Iain gun do rinn e seòrsa de dh’aithneachadh air an duine. Ach thionndaidh Iain a cheann gu tapaidh an uair a sgeann an duine air ais air. Bha an sìtheach ri a thaobh a’ coimhead air Iain cuideachd.

“Is fada bhon a thachair mi ri do leithid anns an t-sithean neo fo na speuran,” thuirt e ri Iain. “Is mise Mac Glùmag na Mias ’ic Liath-Dhurraig o Dhurrag-Shithe.” “Dh’abradh iad ’Fitheach’ rium,” thuirt Iain. “Bheir mi ainm ùr dhut, ainm a b’ urrainn dhut a chleachdadh gu sàbhailte an seo — Gille Dubh nan Eun,” arsa Mac Glùmag. Bha cromag de chaillich na suidhe air an taobh eile dhe, sròn aice cho fada ’s nach robh fhios aig Iain ciamar a thogadh i a ceann. Chuir a’ chailleach a spòg air a ghàirdean, agus thuirt i, “Chunna mi thusa, a Mhog Ruith, is tu ’g itealaich thar chuantan nad roth ràmhach, is tu leannan na mnà d uibh agus caraid nan sìth. Nach dìon thu sinne bho Mhac na h-Oidhche?”

Dè fon ghrèin a bha sin a’ ciallachadh, shaoil Iain? “Gabhaibh mo leisgeul, ach cha mhise ’Mog Ruith,’ agus chan eil fhios agam idir cò th’ ann,” thuirt e ris a’ chaillich. “Tha Liathag seo cho sean ri sìtheag eile anns an t-sithean,” thuirt Mac Glùmag ris. “Is dòcha gun robh i eòlach ort mus do rugadh tu.”

Chuir Iain an cuspair ri aon taobh. Bha rud eile a’ cur dragh air. “Nach innis sibh dhomh cò a th’ ann am Mac na h-Oidhche?”

“Cha mhòr an fhios a th’ agam,” arsa an sìtheach. “Ach ’s e sgriosadair, spùinneadair uamhasach a th’ annsan, duine neo uilebheist, chan eil mi cinnteach. ’S ann à Èirinn a thàinig e. Rinn e creach air iomadh brugh thall an siud, mus tàinig e gar n-ionnsaigh a dh’Albainn. Tha draoidheachd cho làidir aige gun tog e an toradh às gach sìthean, ghoid e am brigh as na brughan, ’eil thu tuigsinn?”

“Ach nach b’ urrainn dhuibh ur dachaidhean a dhìon bhuaithe idir?” “Cha b’ urrainn, ’Ille Dhuibh nan Eun,” thuirt Mac Glùmag. “Iad a sheasadh na aghaidh, thuiteadh iad. Mheath iad gus an do ghabh iad a’ gha-oth dhaibh fhèin! Dh’fheumadh sinn teicheadh bho bhrugh gu brugh. Ach ’s mòr m’ eagal gun tig e oirnn mu dheireadh ’s mu dheòidh. Mura faigh sinn dòigh airson cur às dha, fàgaidh sinn an saoghal seo gu lèir, agus bidh dorsan an t-sithein dùinte gu Latha Luain.”

An uair sin, chuala Iain an ceòl a bu bhinne a chuala e riamh. Dh’èirich na sìtheanaich agus chaidh na bùird agus seathraichean a chlioradh bhon ùrlar. Bha an dannsa a’ tòiseachadh.

Dhìochuimhnich Iain a’ chuid a bu mhotha de na thachair às dèidh sin. Bha pìoban mòra gan spreigeadh ann agus na sìtheanaich a’ dol mun cuairt, a’ gàireachdainn agus a’ glaothaich, a’ dannsadh nas luaithe na dh’fhaodadh duine sam bith gluasad. “Rachainn romhad air mo leth-chois, ’Ille Dhuibh!” thuirt Mac Glùmag, a’ dol seachad air Iain am measg an t-sluaigh. Ghlac cuideigin làmh Iain agus gur e Aoife a bha ga luasgadh mun cuairt gus an robh e ann an tuaineal. “Nach agad a tha a’ chas luath!” dh’èigh i, agus bha i air falbh anns a’ bhad le neach eile.

Ghlac cuideigin eile guaillean Iain le grèim làidir agus tharraing e am balach a-mach às a’ chearcall. Cò bh’ ann ach an duine aig a’ bhan-shìth, laoch àrd, cruaidh a’ coimhead gu geur air Iain.

“Bi ciùin agus thig còmh’ rium,” chogair e. “Tha iad cho fada air a’ chaothach an-dràsta ’s nach toir iad feart neo fainear dhuinn.” Choisich iad gu taobh eile an talla agus a-steach gu seòmair beag far an robh doras beag. “Seo an t-slighe a-mach dhut,” thuirt an duine. “’S fheàrr deagh theicheadh na droch fhuireach, mar a theirtheadh.” “Ach cò sibhse, agus carson a tha sibh gam chuideachadh?” arsa Iain.

“Nach eil fhios agad, a bhalaich? Is mise d’ athair a tha bruidhinn riut.”

Stad an sgeulaiche. Bha e uair sa mhadainn an uair sin, agus bha an oidhche air soilleireachadh, na reultan a’ deàrsadh anns na speuran. “Nach eil sibh a’ fàs sgith?” thuirt am bodach rinn, a shùilean a’ gàireachdainn. “Chan eil,” thuirt a’ cheathrar againn ri chèile. “Ceart, ma-tà. Seo an naidheachd a bha aig athair Iain ...”

# President's Letter

by Scott Morrison

Halò mo chàirdean! We at ACGA would like to extend our warmest wishes for the holiday season to you, your friends, and your loved ones. Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhuibh uile!

This time of year is pretty slow for the board. However, we are gearing up for the election of board members this spring. Four seats will be open, and we need YOU to fill them! Being a member of the ACGA Board of Directors is cool, AND it is a good resume padder! Hey, you get your name on the website and credit for helping to direct and lead a long-standing 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Many employers look for this type of work when they are scouting for new hires. So come on! Send in your name to Janice Chan ([ruadh@idirect.com](mailto:ruadh@idirect.com)) and help us with a' cumail na Gàidhlig beò. It really isn't

a lot of work and some even think it's a little geeky. We need fresh views and ideas to push our organization forward into the 21st century.

Don't forget to go to the online forum (<http://forum.acgamerica.org>) and participate in/start some discussions about anything related to Gaelic or Scotland and check out our YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ACGAmerica>) for some fun videos.

Take care everyone, and we'll be speaking again when the weather begins to turn a bit warmer.

Is mise le meas,

*Scott MacIlMhoire (Scott Morrison)*

## An tuiséal ginideach “àlainn”!

le *Catriona NicÌomhair Parsons*

Chaidh a chur 'nam chuimhne bho chionn ghoirid le oileanach a bh' agam ann a' clas aig Colaisde na Gàidhlig, Ceap Breatainn, gun d' thuirt mi gu robh an tuiséal ginideach “àlainn”. Leis an fhìrinn innse, nuair a bha mi a' rannsachadh cànanachais aig an oilthigh bho chionn fhada a-nis, agus a bha agam ri tuairisgeul a dhèanamh air structairean mo chànain fhìn, thug mi an aire airson a' chiad turais cho brèagh 's a bha iad.

Bidh am facal ‘gràmar’ a' cur eagail air feadhainn, no a' cur gràin orra; aig an aon àm, 's toil le clainn-daoine pàtarain, agus nan smaoinicheadh iad air gràmar mar na pàtarain a bheireadh dhaibh cothrom na smuaintean ac' a dhèanamh soilleir, agus nan rachadh iad ris an ionnsachadh beag air bheag gu riaghailteach, chitheadh iad a' choille agus na craobhan gun mhóran trioblaid.

Bidh cànaichean a tha beò ag atharrachadh rè ùine. Bho chionn fhada a-nis ann an Albainn, cha mhór gu faic thu an tuiséal ginideach air a chur gu feum ann an ainmean gun alt ás déidh ainmeir ghnìomhairich: m.e.

## The “lovely” genitive case!

by *Catriona NicÌomhair Parsons*

I was recently reminded by a student who had attended a class of mine at the Gaelic College that I had referred to the Gaelic genitive case as the “lovely” genitive. Actually, when I was studying Linguistics at university, long ago now, and had to write a description of my own language, it was then I discovered for the very first time how beautiful the structures of Gaelic really were.

The word ‘grammar’ strikes fear into the hearts of many, or fills them with distaste. At the same time, it's in the nature of human beings to respond to patterns; if learners could think of grammar as possessing patterns that allow them to express clear thoughts, and if they would go after them systematically, little by little, they would have fewer difficulties seeing both the forest and the trees.

As we know, living languages change over time. You will hardly ever see the genitive case used in Scotland these days in an indefinite noun following a verbal noun: e.g. most people would write “a' cur



sgrìobhadh a' mhòrchuid 's an t-seann dùthaich "a' cur eagal" (ged 's e "at putting of fear" a tha seo a' ciallachadh gu traidiseanta) far a bheil "a' cur eagail" agamsa gu h-àrd. Mar sin, tha an 'l' caol an àite leathann. Bidh Gàidheil na h-Albann a' cur oirnn gu bheil sinn seann-fhasanta; ach 's e a th' ann gu bheil Gàidhlig na h-Albann Nuaidhe nas caomhnaiche. Aig an aon àm, ann an abairt anns a bheil dà ainmear le ceangal sealbhach, feumar an tuiseal ginideach a chleachdadh ann an ainmear gun alt: m.e. "duan bàird", a bard's poem. Ach chithear an tuiseal ginideach fhathast ann an ainmear le alt—co-dhiùbh, ann a' deagh Ghàidhlig-- às déidh an ainmeir ghnìomhairich agus far a bheil ceangal sealbhach.

'S e pàirt dhen trioblaid a th' aig luchd-ionnsachaidh cho ioma-fillteach 's a tha an t-alt anns a' Ghàidhlig. Cuiridh sinn sùil air grunnan beag de dh' ainmearan singilte a bhuineas dhan teaghlach---clàr-ainmearan goirid:

#### An tuiseal ainmeach le alt:

<u>Fireannta:</u>	<u>Boireannta:</u>
An t-athair : the father	A' mhàthair: the mother
Am bràthair: the brother	A' phiuthar: the sister
An seanair: the grandfather	An t-seanmhair: the grandmother

Dèan coimeas air mar a tha an t-alt ag obrachadh anns an tuiseal ainmeach:

- Còmhla ri **ainmearan fireannta** a' tòiseachadh
- le fuaimreig, **an t-**
  - le b, f, m, p (connragan bileil), **am**
  - leis gach connraig eile, **an**

- Còmhla ri **ainmearan boireannta** a' tòiseachadh
- le fuaimreig, f + fuaimreig, d, t, l, n, r, **an**
  - le s, sl, sn, sr, **an t-**
  - le b, c, d, g, m, p, **a' + sèimheachadh**

**Sin pàtaran an uilt anns an tuiseal ainmeach, le ainmearan singilte, ge bith an clàr-ainmear dha'm buin iad!**

A-nis, an d'thug thu an aire gu bheil a h-uile gin dhe na faclan teaghlaich sin a' crìochnachadh le **-air**—ach **piuthar**? Tha am facal sin mì-riaghailteach. Seo iad anns an tuiseal ghinideach le alt, far a bheil an 'r' caol a' dol gu 'r' leathann:

eagal" (traditionally understood as "at putting of fear" and therefore requiring the genitive case in the word 'fear') where I have "a' cur eagail" above, thus rendering the 'l' slender instead of broad. Gaels in Scotland often consider us here in Nova Scotia 'old-fashioned'; but we see ourselves as more conservative of traditional Gaelic structures. However, in a true possessive noun phrase, the genitive case must be used even when the noun in question is indefinite; e.g. "duan bàird", a bard's poem. But expect to see the genitive case in play after verbal nouns—at least in good Gaelic—and when the connection is possessive, when the noun in question is definite—i.e. preceded by the (definite) article.

Part of the difficulty for learners is the complex nature of the article in Gaelic. Let's look at a little group of nouns pertaining to the family—a short declension, in the singular. (A declension is a group of nouns sharing the same patterns).

#### The nominative (subject) case with article:

<u>Masculine:</u>	<u>Feminine:</u>
An t-athair: the father	A' mhàthair: the mother
Am bràthair: the brother	A' phiuthar: the sister
An seanair: the grandfather	An t-seanmhair: the grandmother

Compare the ways in which the article behaves in the subject case:

- Along with **masculine nouns** beginning
- with a vowel, **an t-**
  - with b, f, m, p (labial consonants), **am**
  - with every other consonant, **an**

- Along with **feminine nouns** beginning
- with a vowel, f+vowel, d, t, l, n, r, **an**
  - with s, sl, sn, sr, **an t-**
  - with b, c, d, g, m, p, **a' + lenition**

**That's the pattern of the article with singular nouns in subject case, no matter what declension they belong to!**

Now, did you notice that every one of these family words ends in **-air**—except **piuthar**? That noun is irregular. Here they are in the genitive case with article, where the slender 'r' morphs into a broad 'r':

**Taigh an athar:** the father's house  
**Taigh a' bhràthar:** the brother's house  
**Taigh an t-seanar:** the grandfather's house

**Taigh na màthar:** the mother's house  
**Taigh na peathar:** the sister's house  
**Taigh na seanmhar:** the grandmother's house

**Thoir an aire gu bheil na h-ainmearan fireannta anns an tuiseal ghinideach a' leantainn a' phàtarain a bh' aig an alt còmhla ris na h-ainmearan bhoireannta anns an tuiseal ainmeach!** Tha na h-ainmearan boireannta—mar gum bitheadh—air thoiseach air na h-ainmearan fireannta anns an dòigh seo! Agus anns an tuiseal ghinideach, ainmearan singilte, chan eil an t-alt ag atharrachadh: 's e **na h-** a th' ann gach turas. (Aon rud beag: thèid **na h-** a chleachdadh ma bhios an t-ainmear a' tòiseachadh le fuaimreig, m.e. bun na h-aibhne).

An darna puing mu dheireadh: thoir an aire mar a tha gach fhacal anns an robh **-air** a' dol gu **-ar**. A thaobh an fhacail 'piuthar', tha an tuiseal ghinideach a' dol, no air dol, a-mach á sealladh—co dhiùbh, ann a' cainnt' Gàidheil na h-Albann. Mar is tric an diugh, 's e **taigh mo phiuthar** a chluinneas duine an àite **taigh mo pheathar**.

Sin agaibh, ma tha, na pàtarain a gheobhar anns an tuiseal ghinideach agus an tuiseal ainmeach, le alt, anns a' chlàr bheag, bhìodach seo!

**Taigh an athar:** the father's house  
**Taigh a' bhràthar:** the brother's house  
**Taigh an t-seanar:** the grandfather's house

**Taigh na màthar:** the mother's house  
**Taigh na peathar:** the sister's house  
**Taigh na seanmhar:** the grandmother's house

**Notice that the masculine nouns in the genitive case follow the pattern of the article found in the feminine nouns, subject case!** The feminine nouns are—as it were—ahead of the masculine nouns in this respect! And in the singular forms of the feminine nouns, genitive case, the article remains the same: **na**. (One small point: **na h-** is used if the noun begins with a vowel, e.g. bun na h-aibhne).

Second last point: Notice that each word ending in **-air** goes to **-ar** in the genitive singular. In the word for sister, 'piuthar', the genitive form is disappearing, at least in speech. Usually today, it's **taigh mo phiuthar** that one hears instead of **taigh mo pheathar**.

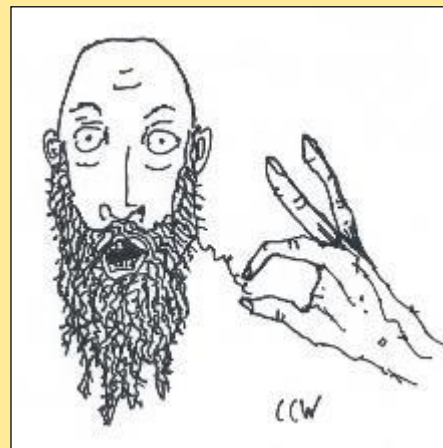
Plural forms of these nouns are, in the subject case: **na h-aithrichean, na bràithrean, na seanairean; na màthraichean, na peathraichean, na seanmhairean**; and in the genitive case: **nan aithrichean, nam bràithrean, nan seanair-ean; nam màthraichean, nam peathraichean, nan seanmhairean**.

There you have the patterns, then, of genitive and subject case, with article, in this tiny declension!

## Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Do you know what familiar Gaelic proverb is illustrated here?

Check page **21** to see if you're right.



On September 18, 2013, Michael Bleakney, a member of the Ottawa Scottish Gaelic choir Ar n-Òran, and a friend of ACGA and the U.S. National Mòd, lost his life in a tragic accident. *Sith dha anam*. This memorial poem was written by Michael Mackay of Catlett, Virginia.



Greg O'Leary-Hartwick

## *Do Mhicheal*

*Tha mo chridhe trom, is fuachd an Fhoghair  
A' teannadh dlùth, 's a' cur gu ceann  
An t-Samhraidh bhàilidh, is e làn dòchais  
Gum maireadh ar sòlas mar bha 'san àm  
Ach cha b'e 'n tràth, no soirbheas reòidht'  
A chuir oirm bròn, 's a dh'fhàg mì fuar  
Ach an tuaireisgeul cràiteach, oillteil, dòlasach  
Gun deachaidh d'fhògradh bho'd chàirdean truagh.*

*A Mhicheil ghràdhaich, gun d' chaill sinn thu  
'S e a dh'fhàg sinn dubhach lapach fann  
Gun d'thugadh às an t-saoghal duin'  
A bha cho dlùth dhuinn uile na fhonn  
'S gur e a' chòir, am feum, 's an dùil  
Gum maireadh thu rè fad ar n-àm  
Is tuilleadh nach fhaicear no cluinnear thu  
'S nach faod thu bhith dhuinn nad do shonn.*

*Tha suinn gu leòr air feadh an t-saoghail  
Is iad na daoine 'tha fearail, treun  
A chuireas ceart na th'ann de bhàghal  
'S a sheasas ris gach olc le beus;  
Ach daoine mar ar caraid caomh  
Nach deanadh gleadhraich air na rinn e fhèin  
Nar sùilean deurach, 's nar cridhean gaolach  
Tha esan laochmhor 's gu mòr ar spèis dha.*

*Oir chan ann le gnìomhan còire cliùteach  
A gheibh sinn iùl às an dèan sinn ciall  
Chan ann le dèanadas mòr so-dhrùidhteach  
'Bheireadh air gach tùirs' a thriall  
Ach mar a rinn ar caraid ciùin  
Gach latha, le sunnd, 's le nàdar blàth  
Le àbhachd, dòchas, gràdh, is suairceas  
Sheall a mhùirn gur anns a' bheath' tha stàth.*

*Sinn a tha ag ionndrainn Mhicheil  
'S nach fhaic an tìm nach bi sinn caoidh  
Gabhamaid ris gun robh e dìleas  
'San tìm a bh'aige anns an t-saoghal;  
Is anns an àm a cheadaicheas Dia  
Sinn' a bhith a' sealltainn ar gaoil  
Do chàch-a-chèile, gur e Micheal a chithear  
Mar shamhla grinn de charaid maoth.*

*Gun dèan d' anam tàmh ann an làmh Dhè  
S gum faic sinn thu aig ceann ar rè.  
Soraidh-slàn leat, a Mhicheil*

## *To Michael*

*My heart is heavy, and the cold of the Autumn  
Is drawing near, and putting to an end  
The warm summer, with it full of hope  
That our happiness would remain as it was;  
But it's not the season, nor the cold wind  
That made me sad, nor left me cold  
But the terrible, shocking, sad news  
That you were taken from your friends.*

*Loving Michael, we have lost you  
And what leaves us melancholy, benumbed and lost  
Is that a man has been taken from the world  
Who was so near and dear to us in his ways  
And that is was right, needful, and our wish  
That you would have stayed with us our whole lives  
And that you will no longer be seen, nor heard  
And you can no longer be a hero to us.*

*There are plenty of heroes all over the world  
Those who are manly and brave  
Who right the wrongs that they see  
And who stand up against evil with poise  
But people like our gentle friend  
Who would never make a fuss about what he did  
In our tearful eyes, and our loving hearts.  
He is truly heroic, and we have much love for him.*

*It's not just with kind, showy acts  
That we are shown the way to make sense out of life  
It's not with big deeds that are impressive  
That make every sorrow take flight  
But like our peaceful friend did,  
Each day, with happiness, and with a warm humour,  
With fun, hope, love, and civility  
His joy showed us that life has worth.*

*We who are missing Michael  
And who cannot see a time we will not grieve,  
Let us see that he was faithful  
In the time he had in the world;  
And in the time that God permits us  
To be showing our love  
To each other, let Michael be seen  
As a beautiful example of a gentle friend.*



# An t-Ionnsachadh Bòidheach

Our thanks go to Caroline Root of Crestone CO for volunteering to be our Youth Page editor. Caroline has previously taught elementary school in Scotland through the medium of Gaelic.

## Gaelic math part one, getting started

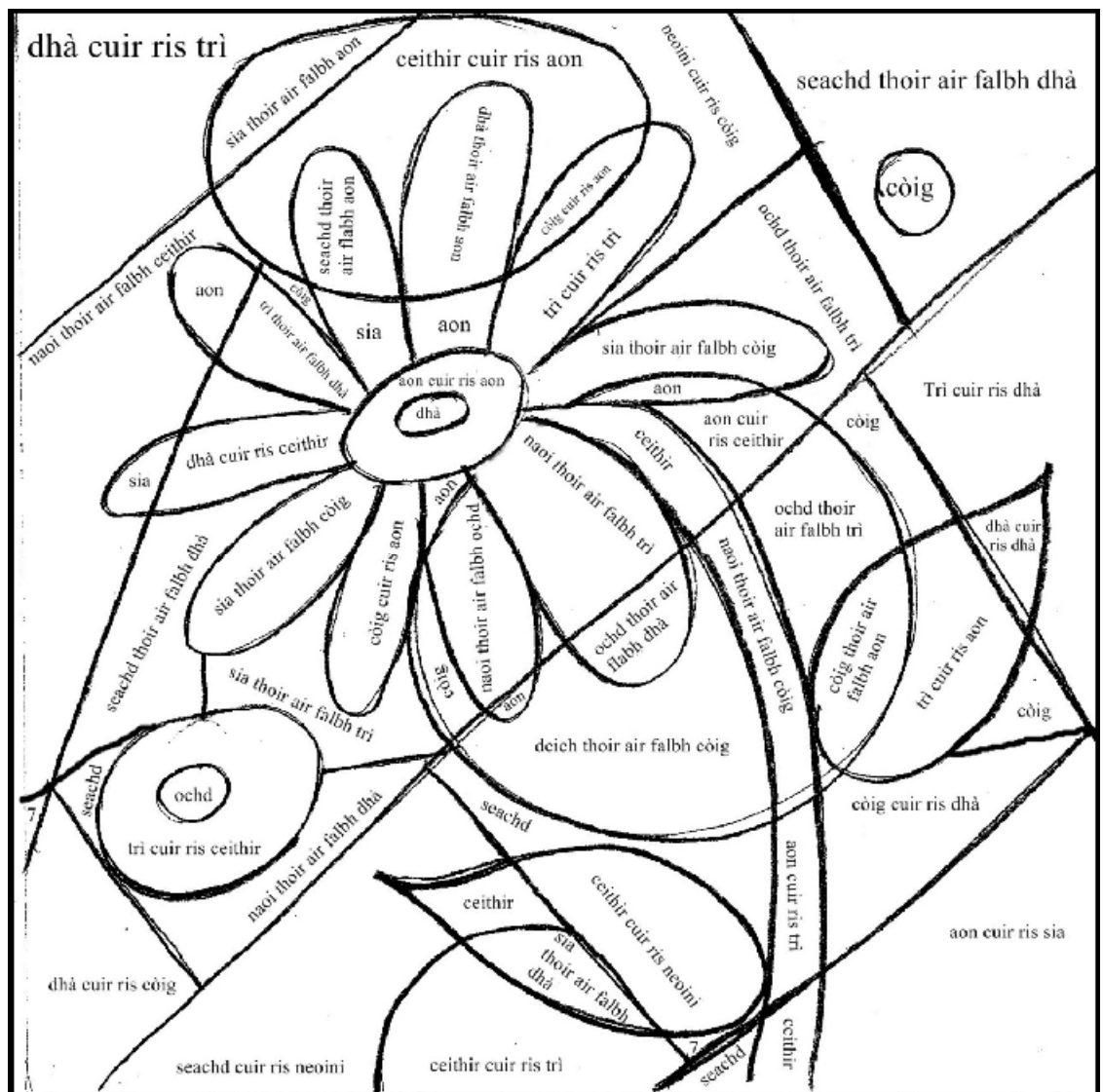
Are you looking for a way to learn or practice your Gaelic numbers? Go fish is always a fun choice but it is not as much fun by yourself. So why not try some Gaelic math, it might also be a way to make your math homework a bit more fun. Here are some words you'll need to know to begin:

Gaelic	English
Cuir ris	addition/ add/plus
Thoir air falbh	subtraction/ take away/ subtract
A' dèanamh	makes/ equals

The number sentence  $2 + 3 = 5$  is read like this in Gaelic *dà cuir ris trì a' dèanamh còig*.

Try out your new Gaelic math skills with this color by number:

- aon= dearg
- dhà = orains
- trì= buidhe
- ceithir = uaine
- còig = gorm
- sia = purpaidh
- seachd = donn
- ochd= dubh
- naoi = geal





# 26th U.S. National Mòd

*By Michael Mackay*

Contestants and fans once again flocked to Ligonier, Pennsylvania for the 26th annual U.S. National Mòd, held at the Antiochian Village and the Ligonier Highland Games. This year's event brought people from New York, Ohio, Virginia, and nearby Pittsburgh to compete in song, story, and poetry, and to receive encouragement and advice from native and fluent speakers.



Catriona Parsons *Jessica MacKay*

The Mòd began Friday with dinner followed by competitions in Gaelic literature. Song competitions, from prescribed songs to own choice, work songs, *puirt-à-beul* and a choir competition followed Saturday. Our adjudicator this year was Catriona Parsons of Lewis and Antigonish,

who returned to the U.S. Mòd after being a long-time supporter and adjudicator in years past. We also welcomed the Gold Medal winners from the 2012 Royal National Mòd in Scotland, Calum MacLeòid and Eilidh Davies, and we continued the fine Mòd tradition of “fun is more important than sleep” over the course of the weekend.

If you're new to learning Gaelic or to Gaelic song, you may wonder what the U.S. National Mòd is about, or what it's like to attend. The Mòd has come a long way from when it was a small, one-day event in northern Virginia. Now it's a three-day event with multiple competitions, a dinner and *cèilidh* and a workshop. But it's still small enough that you're never lost in a crowd and have plenty of time to meet and talk with everyone, including the adjudicator and our Scottish guests.

At the Ligonier Highland Games, the Mòd has its own stage, an ACGA bookstore and lunch area on Saturday. But the events start Friday afternoon at the Antiochian Village Conference and Retreat Center a few miles north of the village of Ligonier.

For the weekend, the Antiochian Village becomes our own Clachan Gàidhealach, or Highland Village. For 17 years we've stayed at the Village, which offers rooms for one to four people, dinner on Friday night, breakfast Saturday and Sunday and lunch Sunday as well. The Village also provides conference rooms that we use for competitions and workshops.

The Village provides a clean, friendly and convenient base for all of our activities. We open registration there at 3 pm on Friday — with plenty of time to settle in before dinner in the Village's dining hall. In the evening, we launch the Mòd with an orientation, a few songs from our Scottish guests, the poetry and storytelling competitions, and a relatively new competition, sight reading a passage of Gaelic prose.

The storytelling or *sgeulachd* competition has become very popular over the past few years, with upwards of five storytellers of all ages contributing and competing for the *Duais Dhaibhidh MhicRisnidh*, the David MacRitchie Award for the best-told traditional tale.



Calum MacLeòid and Eilidh Davies

*Jessica MacKay*

Saturday's activities begin early in the morning, with the singing of a prescribed song, one that mirrors the Silver Medal competition at Scotland's Royal Mòd. We also have an open song category for those brave souls trying out a song for the first time on the stage, or those who want to get an adjudication on a song they have been working on. Those vying for the top prizes of the Mòd, the Herbert P. MacNeal Memorial

Quaich for the men, and the Marietta MacLeod Memorial Quaich for the women, will sing two more songs besides the prescribed piece before the day is over.

This year, our winners are Iain Grimaldi of New York, and Anne Alexander of Ohio. They worked diligently on their songs all year, and the high marks they received in the end showed it.

They got a chance to continue the demonstration of their hard work Saturday night at the Mòd banquet, where they, our distin-



John Grimaldi Jessica MacKay

guished guests, and the other attendees sang in an informal cèilidh after dinner.

Sunday, those who were able to get enough sleep after the long night of fun gathered together in the conference room of the Antiochian Village for an excellent set of workshops provided by our adjudicator, Catriona Parsons. We learned about Gaelic Psalm presenting, and then worked on a set of puirt-a-beul that is sure to appear next year in our ACGA events and cèilidhs!

In the end, we had to say good-bye to our friends, new and old, and begin the journey home. We look forward to next year's Mòd, and to the chance to once again meet and celebrate the bounty of Gaelic culture that is still alive, and still can move hearts and inspire minds.



## U.S. National Mòd Competition Results

September 20 and 21, 2013

Ligonier Highland Games, Idlewild Park, Ligonier, Pa

Adjudicator: Catriona Parsons

### Poetry recitation

Iain Grimaldi

### Storytelling

Iain Grimaldi

### Sight-reading

1st place, Calum MacLeòid

2nd place, Cathleen MacKay

3rd place, Nick Freer

### Prescribed Song Men

Iain Grimaldi

### Prescribed Song Women

Anne Alexander

### Open Singing Competition

1st place, Cathleen MacKay

2nd place, Anne Alexander

### Work Song

Debra Biro

### Unison Singing

1st place, Cathleen and Jessica MacKay

2nd place, Iain Grimaldi and Barbara Rice

### Choir

Còisir Ghàidhlig nan Stàitean

### Waulking

Buidheann Luathaidh nan Stàitean

### Puirt-à-Beul

1st place, Anne Alexander

2nd place, Iain Grimaldi

### Highest marks in a Lewis or Harris Song

Cathleen MacKay

### Men's Gold Medal

Iain Grimaldi

### Women's Gold Medal

Anne Alexander



Gold Medal Winners  
John Grimaldi and Anne Alexander  
Jessica MacKay

## Royal National Mòd Winner

Michael McIntyre, ACGA member from California, won the Ailsa Quaich and Lewis and Harris Gold Medal for three poems at this year's Royal National Mòd held in Paisley. Meal do naidheachd, a Mhicheil!

## Briosgaidean Coirce Tana Brisge

1 chupa min-fhlùir  
3/4 spàin-tì pùdair-fuine  
1/2 spàin-tì sòda-arain  
1/2 spàin-tì salainn  
7/8 chupa ime (1 3/4 biorain ime)  
a tha car bog ach fhathast caran fionnar  
1 chupa siùcair (no beagan nas lugha)  
1/4 chupa siùcair soilleir-dhonn air a bhruthadh  
1 ugh mòr  
1 spàin-tì faoineig  
2 1/2 chupa min-choirce, air an roiligeadh  
(na cleachd min-choirce luath)  
pioc salainn

1. Ann am bobhla meadhanach mòr measgaich min-fhlùir, pùdair-fuine, sòda-arain agus salainn.
2. Ann am bobhla mòr buail im agus an dà sheòrsa siùcair le inneal-measgachaidh - dìreach gu leòr airson an toirt còmhla. Thoir luathachadh air an inneal gu meadhanach agus lean ort mu mhionaid eile airson a dhèanamh aotrom mothtanaich. Cuir ris an t-ugh agus an fhaoineag agus buail aig astar meadhanach -iosal iad airson mu leth-mhionaid. Nuair a bhios e air a dheagh mheasgachadh, cuir a-steach am measgachadh mine agus measgaich 10 gu 20 diog a-mhàin. Chan eil e gu diofar ged a bhiodh deannan àiteachan tioram ann. Cuir ann a' mhin-choirce mean air mhean agus measgaich gus an tig e còmhla gu math. Ma tha e riatanach, cuir mun cuairt e le spàin fhiodh gus am bi a h-uile sion measgaichte gu ceart.
3. Cuir meallan no buill taoise air clàr-fuine a tha air a crèiseadh agus cuir craiteachan salainn air uachdar gach briosgaid. Feuch gum bi beàrn air fhàgail eadar na cnapan taoise oir sgaoilidh iad a-mach fhad 's a tha iad a' bruich.
4. Bruich ann an àmhainn 350° F. fad 13 gu 16 mionaidean. Bidh am pàirt anns a' mheadhan fhathast rudeigin bog.

## Thin and Crispy Oatmeal Cookies

1 cup all-purpose flour  
3/4 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
7/8 cup butter (1 3/4 sticks),  
softened but still slightly cool  
1 cup granulated sugar (or a little less)  
1/4 cup packed light brown sugar  
1 large egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 1/2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats  
(not quick oats)  
salt

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.
2. In a large bowl beat the butter, granulated sugar and brown sugar together with an electric mixer until just combined. Increase the mixer speed to medium and continue to beat until light and fluffy, about 1 minute longer. Add the egg and vanilla and beat on medium-low until well mixed, about 30 seconds. Add the flour mixture and mix until barely incorporated, 10-20 seconds. A few dry spots are all right. Gradually add the oats and mix until well-combined. If needed, give the dough a final stir with a wooden spoon to be sure all is mixed evenly throughout.
3. Place mounds or balls of dough on a greased baking sheet and sprinkle a little salt over each.. Place them about 2 1/2-inches apart as they will spread quite a bit.
4. Bake @ 350° F. 13 to 16 minutes. Centers will be just a bit soft.



Jeanne Pendergast



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 Cam MacRae and Jeanne Pendergast

In these stories we chose some words for pronunciation practice and others because we were interested in their idiomatic uses.

*Cam:*

Bha Tormod is Anndra air a bhith ga leantainn fad na maidne, ga ruagadh suas an gleann agus thar nan leathaidean. Nach robh e furasta dhaibh, gu dearbha – fiù 's ro fhurasta – leis gun robh lorgan-coise an daimh mar **mhapa** san t-sneachd rèidh. Agus aig deireadh an latha, threòraicheadh an aon mhapa dhachaidh iad.

Aig meadhan an latha, co-dhiù, bha iad uile, na bràithrean agus an creach aca, a' fàs sgìth agus stad na seal-gairean fad grèis ann am bothan beag airson grèim fhaighinn. 'S ann nuair a bha iad ag ithe a dh'èirich a' **gha-oth**, aotrom ach cunbhalach. Ghearain Tormod gun **dalladh** a' ghaoth iad le sneachd nan sùilean. Fhreagair Anndra, aig nach robh nàdar cho **gnù**, gun socraicheadh a' ghaoth a dh'aithghearr agus gum biodh feasgar math aca fhathast. Le sin, dh'ith e am pìos mu dheireadh.

Ach, nuair a dh'fhosgail iad an doras, chunnaic iad gun deach am mapa aca, am mapa a bha air a bhith cho soilleir, à fianais, agus thàinig e a-steach orra gum faigheadh iad an **latha dubh** aca.

*Glossary:*

ga leantainn; ga ruagadh – following it; pursuing it  
thar nan leathaidean – across the slopes (genitive plural following *thar*)  
mar **mhapa** – like a map (lenited due to *mar*)  
creach – usually, the result of pillage or plunder, but also, prey or quarry  
**gun dalladh** – would blind  
gun socraicheadh **a' ghaoth** – that the wind would die down (*socraich* means settle)  
à fianais – out of sight

*Jeanne:*

Ged is e an geamhradh a bh' ann, bha an t-adhar blàth mar a b' àbhaist ann am Florida, is sinn nar suidhe anns a' ghrèin. Tha m' athair an còmhnaidh làn sgeulachdan, agus an turas seo, dh'innis e dhomh mu dheidhinn latha (a-mach à iomadh, tha mi cinnteach) a fhuair e a **latha dubh** bho a phàrantan.

B' e latha fìor gheamhrachail a bh' ann an Jersey Nuadh nuair a fhuair a bhràthair, dà bhliadhna na b' òige, **mapa**. Sheall am pàipear, mas fhìor, rudeigin luachmhor air a thiodhlacadh faisg air taigh bodaich **ghnù**. Chaidh iad ann nan dithis gus lorgachadh mun àite a dh'aindeoin fuachd an latha; **dhall iad orra** a dh'aindeoin an eagail a bh' orra. Shreap iad feansa aig cùl an t-sabhail agus gus nach bi am bodachan comasach an leantainn, leig iad a-mach **gaoth** à dà thaidhr a' chàir aige. Chunnaic am fear sin iad mus do lorg iad rud sam bith ge-tà, agus theich iad sìos an rathad. Cha do dh'fheuch e rin leantainn idir ach dh'aithnich e currac clòimhe sònraichte a bha m' athair a' caitheamh. Nuair a chunnaic e na taidhrichean, chuir e fòn sa spot chun am pàrantan. Obh obh.



*Glossary:*

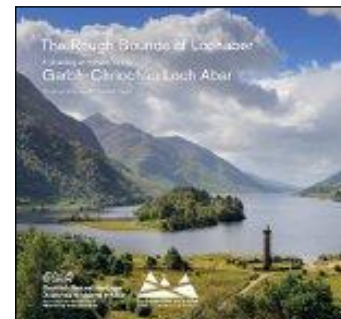
**a latha dubh** – his ruin, misfortune (in this case, comeuppance)  
mas fhior – allegedly, supposedly  
air a thìodhlacadh – buried (one way to form a passive)  
**gnù** – gruff, surly  
nan dithis – as a pair (referring to people only)  
lorgaich – ferret out, pry  
**dhall iad orra** – they forged ahead

## Ubs!

The sign in the photo below was on display in Inverness in the summer of 2007. There are two grammar mistakes in it. Can you spot them?



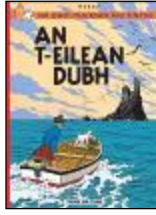
Email the correct version of the two sentences to [jeannep99@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannep99@yahoo.com), and if more than four are correct, winners will be drawn at random. The four winners will each receive a copy of *Gaelic in the Landscape - The Rough Bounds of Lochaber / A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre - Garbh-Chrìochan Loch Abar* courtesy of Scottish Natural Heritage / Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba. The attractive 47-page booklet is dual-language throughout, with full colour photos of a very scenic part of Scotland. This brand-new publication, part of a series, discusses the origin of Gaelic place-names of the area, often with little stories. A place-name gazetteer is at the back.



## An t-Eilean Dubh

le Hergé

Eadar-Theangachadh gu Gàidhlig  
le Gillebrìde Mac'Illemaoil



*Lèirmheas le Rudy Ramsey*

Abair spòrs! 'S e *An t-Eilean Dubh* an seachdamh iris (agus an iris as Albannaiche) ann an *Sgeulachdan-Siubhail Tintin*. Sin sreath fhada de nobhailean ghrafai-geach a chaidh a chruthachadh le Hergé, fear-chartùnaichean Beilgeach (Georges Prosper Remi). Bheir na nobhailean seo cunntas air na rinn am fear-naidheachd òg, Tintin, agus a chù “Snowy” (“Dileas” anns an tionndadh Ghàidhlig seo). Chaidh an sreath a sgrìobhadh anns na bliadhnaichean 1929-1983 agus tha mòran chruthan dhiubh ann a-nis, fiolmaichean beò is fiolmaichean ann am beò-dhealbhachd nam measg. Tha min dùil gum faca sinn uile Tintin, ach feumaidh mi aideachadh gur e seo a’ chiad turas a leugh mi fear de na nobhailean.

Tha an sgeul a’ tòiseachadh an uair a bhios Tintin a’ faicinn plèana (gun chomharrachadh, gu h-annasach) a tha ann an trioblaid agus b’ fheudar dhi laighe. Tha e a’ dol airson faicinn am b’ fheàrrde iad cuideachadh, agus tha iad a’ cur gunna ris. Gu fortanach, tha Tintin math gu slànachadh (mu thrì chairteil duilleig, tha mi a’ smaointinn ☺), agus cho luath ’s a tha e air chomas, tha e a’ dol a-mach air thòir nan droch dhaoine. Ri linn sin, thèid Tintin agus Dileas gu mòran àiteachan, agus aig a’ cheann thall tha iad a’ faighinn buaidh (Och. Duilich. Rabhadh gu bheil ear ag innse dè thachras.☺) air an Eilean Dubh. Eadar coltas an fhearainn agus an fhèilidh a fhuair e air an t-slighe, tha e soilleir dhuinn gu bheil sinn ann an sgìre fhiadhaich de dh’Alba.

Tha an sgeulachd gu math gluasadach – cumanta ann an nobhail ghrafai-geach agus cumanta gu dearbh ann an sgeulachdan às na 1930an – ach tha e tlachdail. Tha mòran chothroman ann airson an fhir òig seo – ’s dòcha a tha na dheugaire – a bhith a’ sealltainn an smioralais mhìorbhaileach aige agus cuid dhen iomadh sgil sònraichte a th’ aige. Cha bhi Hergé ag innse dhuinn idir ciamar a dh’ionnsaich Tintin plèanaichean no heileacoptairean a stiùireadh, mar eisimpleir. Tha dìomhair-eachd ann mu Thintin ann an dòigh. Bidh an luchd-breithneachaidh ag aontachadh gur e seòrsa de dhuilleag

## An t-Eilean Dubh

by Hergé

Translated to Gaelic  
by Gillebrìde Mac'Illemaoil

*Review by Rudy Ramsey*

What fun! *The Black Island* is the seventh (and most Scottish) volume in *The Adventures of Tintin*, a long series of graphic novels created by Belgian cartoonist Hergé (Georges Prosper Remi). These novels describe the adventures of the young journalist, Tintin, and his dog Snowy (“Dileas” in this Gaelic version). The series was written in the period 1929-1983 and there have been lots of spin-offs, including both live and animated movies. I suspect we’ve all seen Tintin, but I confess that this is the first time I’ve actually read one of the novels.

The story begins with Tintin seeing an aircraft (oddly unmarked) that’s in trouble and forced to land. He goes to see if he can help, and is shot for his trouble. Fortunately, Tintin is a fast healer (about three-fourths of a page, I think ☺), and as soon as he’s able, he goes out in pursuit of the bad guys. The resulting adventure takes him and Dileas to many places, and they eventually triumph (Oh. Sorry. Spoiler alert. ☺) on the Black Island. Both the setting and the kilt he’s acquired along the way remind us that we’re in the wilds of Scotland.





bhàn a th' ann, is gun urrainn dhuinn na taobhan againn fhìn a chur air, fhad 's a bhios sinn a' faighinn tlachd bho euchdan a dhèanadh ar beatha fhìn nas giorra gun teagamh. Chan eil dìth chomasan aig Dileas nas motha. Bidh esan a' fuasgladh pàirt de na duilgheadasan, agus a' sàbhaladh Tintin turas no dhà

an seo. ☺

Tha sgeulachdan Tintin air an eadar-theangachadh gu iomadh cànan, agus tha an leabhar seo ri fhaighinn cuideachd ann an Albais (nach eil sin inntinneach?). Tha a' Ghàidhlig math – chan eil sin na iongnadh oir is e Gillebride Mac'Illemhaoil an t-eadar-theangair. Tha mise buailteach a bhith a' smaoineachadh gu bheil dìth cainnt ann an “comics”, ach tha uiread de bheartas cànan is ghnàthasan-cainnte anns an 62 duilleag seo 's gum bi e feumail airson a' chànan ionnsachadh. Mu dh'fhaodte gum bu mhiann le cuid de luchd-ionnsachaidh na tionndaidhean Gàidhlig is Beurla a cheannach còmhla, airson an rannsachadh taobh ri taobh. Tha mìneachadh gu leòr dhen sgeulachd air an làrach-lìn mu dheidhinn “An t-Eilean Dubh” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Black\\_Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Black_Island) 's gum bi e feumail san aon dòigh. Agus is dòcha gun còrdadh an duilleag-lìn air Tintin riut [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tintin\\_\(character\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tintin_(character)).

Tha an leabhar fhèin ri fhaighinn bho Siol <http://www.gaelicbooks.com> ann an Ameireagaidh a Tuath agus bhon fhoillsichear <http://www.scotlandsmusic.com> ann an Alba. Feumaidh tu dhol dhan dàrna ceangal airson an tionndaidh Albais. Chan eil coltas gu bheil an tionndadh Beurla aig aon seach aon dhiubh seo, ach cha robh còir gum biodh dragh sam bith agaibh a bhith ga fhaighinn.



## Saltire Society Best First Book Award 2013

Tim Armstrong's Gaelic science fiction novel, *Air Cuan Dubh Drilseach* (reviewed in ANA September 2013) has won the Saltire Society's Best First Book of the Year 2013 Award. The awards panel commented on the book, "Tim Armstrong has brought the counter-culture of his native Seattle to shape the first genuine sci-fi novel in Gaelic." *Air Cuan Dubh Drilseach*, published by Clàr as part of their Ùr-Sgeul Gaelic fiction series, is available from Comhairle nan Leabhraichean <http://www.gaelicbooks.org>.

The story is a bit choppy -- not unusual in a graphic novel and certainly not unusual for the 1930's -- but enjoyable. It provides plenty of opportunity for this young man -- probably a teen-ager -- to demonstrate both his amazing hardiness and some of his many special skills. Hergé never tells us how he learned to fly airplanes and helicopters, for example. Tintin is, on the whole, a bit of an enigma. Critics seem to agree that he is kind of a blank slate, on which we get to project aspects of ourselves while enjoying vicarious adventures that would most certainly shorten our own real lives. Snowy is no slouch, either, by the way. He solves some of the problems himself, and saves Tintin's life at least once here. ☺

The Tintin stories have been translated into lots of languages, and this very book is also readily available in Scots (isn't *that* interesting?). The Gaelic is superb -- not a surprise, as the translation was done by Gillebride Mac'Illemhaoil. I tend to think of “comics” as rather language-deficient, but there's enough language and idiom in these 62 pages to make this a useful learning tool. Some learners might wish to buy both the Gaelic and English versions, for side-by-side study. The wiki page for *The Black Island* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Black\\_Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Black_Island)) also has enough plot detail to make it a useful aid. And you might enjoy reading the wiki page on *Tintin* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tintin\\_\(character\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tintin_(character))).

The book itself is available at least from Siol (<http://www.gaelicbooks.com>) in North America and from the publisher (<http://www.scotlandsmusic.com>) in Scotland. You'll probably have to go to the latter if you want the Scots version. Neither of these sources appears to have the English version, but it's widely available.



## Cha Bu Mhiste Sinn Leabhar Na Tri

le Cam MacRae

Ged a leig mi dhìom mo dhreuchd aig an leabharlann san Ògmhios, cha thrèig mi leughadh a-chaoidh. A dh'innse na firinn, tha mi air ais san leabharlann turas no dhà gach seachdainn. Gu tric nuair a bhios mi ann, bidh caraid ag ràdh rium, "O, san dol seachad, leugh mi an leabhar ùr drùidhteach seo; an do leugh thu fhathast e?" 'S toigh leam molaidhean dhen t-seòrsa seo bho chàirdean is bho leabharlannaichean, agus 's toigh leam molaidhean bho ùghdaran cuideachd. Nach eil e inntinneach fios fhaighinn mu dè na leabhraichean a tha a' còrdadh ri daoine a tha an sàs ann an sgrìobhadh leabhraichean?

O chionn ghoirid chunnaic mi liosta aig [booksfromscotland.com](http://booksfromscotland.com) a rinn sgrìobhadair ainmeil, Màrtainn Mac an t-Saoir, liosta dhe na leabhraichean a thug buaidh air. Tha Mac an t-Saoir air a bhith a' dol bho neart gu neart leis an sgrìobhadh aige fhèin, a' cosnadh Duais Dhòmhnail Meek san Lùnastal 2013 airson an leabhair as ùire aige. Thèid *A' Challaig seo*, *Chall Ò* fhoillseachadh le Acair tràth sa bhliadhna ùir.

Seo an liosta aig Màrtainn Mac an t-Saoir, agus chì thu tuilleadh fiosrachaidh air na leabhraichean seo aig <http://www.booksfromscotland.com/Features/Readers-Choices/Martin-MacIntyre>.

*Deireadh an Fhoghair* le Tormod Caimbeul  
*An Aghaidh Choimheach* le Iain Moireach  
*An Oidhche Mus Do Sheòl Sinn*  
le Aonghas Pàdraig Caimbeul  
*Tocasaid 'Ain Tuirc*  
le Donnchadh MacGillIosa  
*Sporan Dhòmhnail*  
le Dòmhnall 'Ruadh' Mac an t-Saoir  
*Eimhir* le Somhairle MacGill-Eain  
*Sgeul gu Latha* le Eòs MacNill  
*Fo Sgàil a' Swastika*  
le Dòmhnall Iain MacDhòmhnail  
*Faclair Gàidhlig* le Eideard Dwelly  
*Am Bioball*



I retired from the library in June but I'll never give up reading. The truth of it is that I'm back in the library a couple of times a week, and often I'll see a friend who says, "Oh I just read this terrific new book; have you read it yet?" I like getting this kind of recommendation from friends and librarians, and I like recommendations from writers too. Isn't it interesting to learn what books please someone involved in the writing of books?

I recently saw a list on [booksfromscotland.com](http://booksfromscotland.com) that acclaimed writer Martin MacIntyre made of the ten Gaelic books that have most influenced him. MacIntyre has been going from strength to strength lately, winning the Donald Meek Award in August 2013, and his newest novel, *A' Challaig seo*, *Chall Ò*, will be published by Acair early in the new year.

Here is Martin MacIntyre's list. You will find more information about the books themselves at <http://www.booksfromscotland.com/Features/Readers-Choices/Martin-MacIntyre>.

*Deireadh an Fhoghair* by Tormod Caimbeul  
*An Aghaidh Choimheach* by Iain Moireach  
*An Oidhche Mus Do Sheòl Sinn*  
by Aonghas Pàdraig Caimbeul  
*Tocasaid 'Ain Tuirc*  
by Donnchadh MacGillIosa  
*Sporan Dhòmhnail*  
by Dòmhnall 'Ruadh' Mac an t-Saoir  
*Eimhir* by Somhairle MacGill-Eain  
*Sgeul gu Latha* by Eòs MacNill  
*Fo Sgàil a' Swastika*  
by Dòmhnall Iain MacDhòmhnail  
*Faclair Gàidhlig* by Eideard Dwelly  
*Am Bioball*



# A Bharrachd

## 2013 Year of Natural Scotland

For more information on Scotland's natural heritage, click on this link to Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba (Scottish Natural Heritage) <http://gaelic.snh.gov.uk>. The website, available in both Gaelic and English, contains links to many resources including their numerous publications, many free books and pamphlets in pdf format.

## Children's Page Glossary

Did you need some vocabulary help with the children's page? Here are some number and color words.

neoini / neoni	zero	dearg	red
aon	one	orains	orange
dà / dhà	two	buidhe	yellow
trì	three	uaine	green
ceithir	four	gorm	blue
còig	five	purpaidh	purple
sia	six	donn	brown
seachd	seven	dubh	black
ochd	eight	geal	white
naoi	nine		



Na spìon fiasag fir nach aithne dhut.  
Do not pluck the beard of a stranger.

## Criomagan

### Singing Against the Silence

Michael Newton's documentary exploring the struggles of Gaelic speakers in Nova Scotia to maintain their culture and language is now available on You Tube. Gaelic with English subtitles. 26 minutes.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbDsfgoLsn8>

### *Asterix ann an Dùthaich nan Cruithneach*

In this latest of the long line of graphic novels about Asterix the Celt, our hero visits Scotland, and the book has been translated into Gaelic! Available in the US and Canada from Siol Cultural Enterprises

[www.gaelicbooks.com](http://www.gaelicbooks.com) and Amazon.

### Cànain, Clò, is Cleachdadh

Liam Crouse, pursuing a course in Publishing Studies at the University of Sterling, is blogging in English and Gaelic on language revitalization theory, young adult Gaelic readers, and language usage communities; topics he explored in his dissertation. Liam, originally from Rhode Island, was recently named as the recipient of the first Gaelic publishing scholarship by the Gaelic Books Council and the Sterling Centre for International Publishing and Communications at the University of Sterling. You can link to Liam's blog in either Gaelic or English here. <http://liamaldasair.wordpress.com>

### Tormod Caimbeul a' leughadh an leabhair, *An Gruffalo*

Watch and listen as Tormod Caimbeul reads his translation of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffer's book *The Gruffalo* to a group of children. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saGpX89tu84>

### **Gaelic sound files from Cli Gàidhlig**

After years of offering first cassettes and then EF s with sound files of each issue of their quarterly bilingual magazine “Cothrom,” Cli are now experimenting with on-line sound files. To find the link to eight sound files from the fall 2013 issue (Number 77), click on “Listen to Cothrom” on the right-hand side of Cli’s homepage. <http://www.cli.org.uk>.

### **Faileasan Uibhist / Reflections of Uist**

Margaret Callan, Royal National Mòd gold medal winner and noted researcher and writer on the oral tradition of North and South Uist, has recently released a new CD. Watch for a review in our March issue.

### **Zero to Gaelic Master Index**

If you’ve ever spent time paging through not-so-good tables of contents and indices of various Gaelic textbooks trying to find a particular point of grammar, Slighe nan Gaidheal (headquartered in Seattle WA) has you covered. Slighe’s Ted Neveln has created a chart showing where over 50 topics can be found in ten of the most popular textbooks. Slighe nan Gaidheal’s website is here: [www.slighe.com](http://www.slighe.com). Ted’s chart is available as a pdf here: [http://www.slighe.com/book\\_shelf/7.pdf](http://www.slighe.com/book_shelf/7.pdf).



## **Duaisean Gàidhlig Na h-Alba / Scottish Gaelic Awards 2013**

<http://www.scottishgaelicawards.co.uk/finalists.html>

The inaugural Duaisean Gàidhlig Na h-Alba / Scottish Gaelic Awards 2013, sponsored by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Daily Record newspaper, were presented Wednesday November 20, 2013 in Edinburgh.

The awards, which attracted 180 nominations from Scotland and abroad, celebrate the contribution that Gaelic culture and language makes to Scotland as a whole.

And the winners are . . . . !

#### **Best contribution award**

Beathag Mhoireasdan

#### **Sport award**

Colm O’Rua

#### **Young Gaelic ambassador of the year award**

Alasdair MacPhee

#### **Arts and culture award**

Fonn - The Campbells of Greepe

#### **Workplace initiative award**

Fiona Dunn

#### **International award**

Michael Klevenhaus

#### **Community, heritage and tourism award**

Shawbost Community in association with Iomairt Ghàidhlig Iar-thuath Leòdhais

#### **Learner award**

Gàidhlig Dumgal

#### **Innovation in education award**

Clas 4/5 Bun Sgoil Inbhir Nis Recipe Book

#### **Event award**

Na Mo Chuid Aodaich

**Mealaibh ur naidheachd a h-uile duine!**

# Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

## July 2014

### **Grandfather Mountain Song and Language Week, Banner Elk NC, July 6 -11, 2014**

Annual ACGA Gaelic Song and Language Week at Lees-McRae College, leading up to the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and Mòd North Carolina. Instructors and cost TBA early in the new year.

<http://www.acgamerica.org>

### **Mòd North Carolina, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville NC, Saturday, July 12, 2014**

The Mòd will start at 3:00 pm on Stage Number Three behind Donald's Gaelic Ceilidh Tent. Registration forms may be picked up at the ceilidh tent at any time during the Games until 1:00 pm on Saturday. See

<http://www.gmhg.org/gaelicmod.htm> for more information.

## September 2014

### **U.S. National Mòd, Ligonier PA, September 19 - 21, 2014**

The U.S. National Mòd is an annual celebration of Scottish Gaelic song, poetry and storytelling sponsored by ACGA. The Mòd takes place at the Ligonier Highland Games in Ligonier, PA, not far from Pittsburgh. The three-day event includes competitions, workshops, cèilidhs and a banquet. There is a write-in Mòd for those who are unable to attend in person. For more information see <http://usmod.wordpress.com>



## **Reminder: Spring 2014 ACGA Board Elections**

In the Spring of 2014, four of the seven seats on the ACGA Board will become vacant. We encourage you to consider running for one of these positions.

It is not necessary to be fluent in Gaelic or be at any particular level in your study of the language to sit on the Board. The election is open to any member in good standing, i.e., with dues current, and with a desire to help ACGA in its mission to promote the Gaelic language and culture. We are a society run entirely by volunteers, including those who serve on the Board. No previous Board experience is necessary.

Duties of directors include:

- Participation in quarterly Board meetings via Skype or phone and any (very rare) special Board meetings to discuss specific issues.
- Checking in, at least a few times a week, on the online Board Room in the ACGA Forum to assist with Board actions between meetings; and
- Taking responsibility for some piece of the workload; not necessarily a large piece, but enough to help avoid burning out the two or three who would otherwise have to undertake it all.

This can be accomplished by working with one of the ACGA committees - Publications, Outreach, Membership, Scholarship and Gàidhealtachd Support, Web, and Administration. Members of these committees may be Board members or ACGA members at large, but Board members are expected to participate. Board members can select the areas of interest to them. Both forum and e-mail communication are frequently used on both the committee and Board levels.

Anyone interested in running for the Board should contact Janice Chan at [ruadh@idirect.com](mailto:ruadh@idirect.com)

# Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

## Arizona

### Flagstaff

Study Group  
Richard Ferguson  
[fergusdubh@yahoo.com](mailto:fergusdubh@yahoo.com)

## Phoenix

Classes  
Richard Smith  
[coindubh@yahoo.com](mailto:coindubh@yahoo.com)

## Tucson

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

## California

### Sacramento Area

Classes  
Donnie MacDonald  
[minchmusic@comcast.net](mailto:minchmusic@comcast.net)

### North Hollywood

Study Group  
Eva Gordon  
[celt@celticartscenter.com](mailto:celt@celticartscenter.com)

## Colorado

### Boulder

Study Group  
Sue Hendrix  
[susan.hendrix@colorado.edu](mailto:susan.hendrix@colorado.edu)

## Denver

Lessons  
Glenn Wrightson  
[thegaelicguy@hotmail.com](mailto:thegaelicguy@hotmail.com)

## Denver

Study Group  
Reese McKay  
[reese-mckay@q.com](mailto: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](mailto:tleigh.piper@gmail.com)

Song Classes—Maggie Carchrie  
860-748-7549

## Florida

### Jensen Beach

Treasure Coast Scots-Gaelic  
Study Group  
[sryan1812@mylincoln.edu](mailto:sryan1812@mylincoln.edu)

## Illinois

### Springfield

Study Group  
Bill McClain  
[fidheall@yahoo.com](mailto:fidheall@yahoo.com)

## Maryland

### Baltimore

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

### Chevy Chase

Song Group  
Joan Weiss  
[sweiss@american.edu](mailto:sweiss@american.edu)

## New York

### New York

Classes  
New York Caledonian Club  
[www.nycaledonian.org/studies.php](http://www.nycaledonian.org/studies.php)

### Newfield / Ithaca

Conversation groups  
Wayne Harbert  
[weh2@cornell.edu](mailto:weh2@cornell.edu)

## North Carolina

### Asheville

Study Group  
Leigh McBride  
[lmcbride@unca.edu](mailto:lmcbride@unca.edu)

## Guilford

Classes (advanced beginner)  
An Phillips  
[fiongeal@gmail.com](mailto:fiongeal@gmail.com)

## Ohio

### Cincinnati

Study Group  
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens  
[macaoidh@eos.net](mailto:macaoidh@eos.net)

## Kent

Classes  
Frances Acar  
Classes by Skype  
[frances.acar@gmail.com](mailto:frances.acar@gmail.com)

## Oklahoma

### Midwest City

Study Group  
Barry Acker  
[bearachanse@yahoo.com](mailto:bearachanse@yahoo.com)

## Tulsa

Study Group  
Adrian Martin  
[almarti6527@gmail.com](mailto:almarti6527@gmail.com)

## Pennsylvania

### Pittsburgh Area

Study Group  
Harry Webb  
[hwebb@zoominternet.net](mailto:hwebb@zoominternet.net)

## Texas

### Hurst

Classes  
David Gressett  
[jdgressett@hotmail.com](mailto:jdgressett@hotmail.com)

### Fort Worth

Study Group  
Jonquele Jones  
[jonquele@flash.net](mailto:jonquele@flash.net)

## Utah

### Salt Lake City

Classes by Skype  
Rachell Blessing  
[rachell-blessing@comcast.net](mailto:rachell-blessing@comcast.net)

## Virginia

### Alexandria

Classes  
Nick Freer  
[neacalban1@aol.com](mailto:neacalban1@aol.com)

## Catlett

Local in-person and via Skype  
Michael Mackay  
[mackay@progeny.net](mailto:mackay@progeny.net)

## Tidewater

Classes  
Jason Wilson  
[wilsonsoxford@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonsoxford@gmail.com)

## Washington

### Seattle

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



## Canada

### New Brunswick

#### Fredericton

Classes

Atlanta Gaelic Academy

[www.gaelicacademy.ca](http://www.gaelicacademy.ca)

### Nova Scotia

#### Halifax

#### New Glasgow

#### Port Hawkesbury

Classes

Atlanta Gaelic Academy

[www.gaelicacademy.ca](http://www.gaelicacademy.ca)

Port Hawksbury School of Gaelic

Kathleen Burbidge

[kathleenburbidge@hotmail.com](mailto:kathleenburbidge@hotmail.com)

### Sydney

Classes

Cape Breton Gaelic Society

Heather Sparling

[heather\\_sparling@cbu.ca](mailto:heather_sparling@cbu.ca)

### Ontario

#### Ottawa

Classes

Randaigh Waugh

[comunngaidhligottawa@rogers.com](mailto:comunngaidhligottawa@rogers.com)

#### Toronto

Classes

CLUINN

[www.torontogaelic.ca](http://www.torontogaelic.ca)

### Québec

#### Montréal

Study Group

Linda Morrison

[linda@lindamorrison.com](mailto:linda@lindamorrison.com)

**FOR MORE** information about these resources and for information on long-distance courses, short courses, and private instruction, see our web page at

<http://www.acgamerica.org/learn/classes>

For additions and corrections, contact Janice Chan, [ruadh@idirect.com](mailto:ruadh@idirect.com)



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## AN NAIDHEACHD AGAINNE

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