Càirdean  
le Pàdraig Bennett


Did you see the short 2011 Cape Breton movie “The Fiddler’s Reel”? Here's the fiddler himself, Patrick Bennett, to tell us about someone very significant in his personal life. He is using written forms in current use in Cape Breton.

Friends
by Patrick Bennett

Recently a very close friend of mine passed on. Marie MacLean was her name. When I met her she was on in years. We weren’t the same age at all as I'm only 32 now, but we got along great. To me she was a companion somewhere between a grandmother and a friend. Ever since I started learning Gaelic I was very keen to sing Gaelic songs, and as such, not many milling frolics went on where I wasn’t in attendance. Marie was at this one milling frolic in Washabuck, a small community in Cape Breton. She used to live in Lower Washabuck. Perhaps someone introduced us to each other then,
Duilleag 2

mòran idir. Aig an àm ’ud, bha i fuireach còmhla r’ a nighean agus an duine aice ann a’ Haileafags. ’S ann a bha mise a’ fuireach ann a’ Haileafags cuideachd.

Latha bha seo, thuirt duine a nighean ri Màiri, “Bha mi ’feitheamh ris a’ bhus ’s a’ mhadainn an-diugh agus chunna mi a’ fear a bha seinn aig a’ luadhadh ann an Uaiseabuc, fear air a bheil feusag ’s falt donn, dualach.”

“Feumaidh ’s gu bheil e ’fuireach teann oirnn,” fhreagair Màiri.

Sin mar a bha e fad mìos na dhà. Bhiodh iad ’gam fhaicinn a’ siod ’s a’ seo bho am gu am, ach latha bha seo, thuirt gun tèinig banaltram a dh’ionnsaigh taigh Màiri. Dh’athach a’ bhanaltram blàs Gàidhlig air a’ Bheurla aig Màiri ’s dh’fhoighneachd dhi, “Are you from Cape Breton?”

“I am!” ars’ ise.

“Uill, a bheil Gàidhlig agaibh?”

“Gàidhlig bho’n ghlùin,” ars’ Màiri.

Bha a’ bhanaltram a’ togail na Gàidhlig. An ceann tacain, dh’fhoighneachd Màiri dhi, “Bhon a tha thu eòlach air poide do luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig ann a’ Haileafags, dh’fhaoidte gu bheil thu eòlach air fear òg, car mòr, air a bheil falt donn, dualach agus fiasag air.”

“Tha! Tha mi gu math eòlach air. ’S e Pàdraig Bennett a th’ ann agus tha e ’fuireach ’s an togalach mòr condo ma dh’fhaoidte block na dhà bho’n àite seo.”

Cha robh e fada mun d’ fhuair mi àireamh fòn aig Màiri bho’n a’ bhanaltram. ’Na dheaghaidh sin, chuir mi fhinn ’s té eile cèilidh oirre. Bha sinn ’nàr caraidean gu luath. Dh’ionnsaich mi poideal bhuaipe: Gàidhlig, sgeulachdan, fuine, agus bha sinn gu math trom air na cairtean, cribbage mar bu trice. Tha an teaghlach aice a nisd mar theaghlach dhomh fhin cuideachd. Bith sinn còmhla airson co-laithean breith, suipearan, lathaichean sònraichte ’s bidh ’ad uile aig a’ bhanais agam dar a phòsas mi ’s a’ Chéitean.

Ged nach robh sinn càrdeach dha chèile idir, b’ i mo sheamhain. Bha mi uile gu léir fortanach gu roibh triúr sheamhnairean agam, agus a bharrachd air a’ sin, ’s e fior dheagh charaid a bh’ innte cuideachd. ’S e rud uamhasach a th’ ann nuair a bhios daoine ’gar fàgail, agus ged nach but we didn’t speak much at all. At that time she was living with her daughter and son-in-law in Halifax, and I was living in Halifax as well.

On this particular day her son-in-law said to Marie, “I was waiting this morning for the bus, and I saw that guy that was singing at the milling frolic in Washabuck, the guy with the beard and the brown curly hair.”

“Surely he lives close to us,” answered Marie.

That’s how it went for a month or two. They were seeing me here and there from time to time but on this one day a homecare nurse came to Marie’s residence. The nurse detected a Gaelic accent on Marie’s English and asked her, “Are you from Cape Breton?”

“I AM!” she replied.

“Do you have Gaelic?” (in Gaelic)

“Gaelic from the knee,” replied Marie.

This nurse was a Gaelic learner. After a little while Marie asked the nurse, “Since you know lots of Gaelic learners in Halifax, maybe you know a young man, kinda big, kinda funny, that has brown curly hair and a beard.”

“I DO! I know him well. His name is Patrick Bennett and he is living in a big condo building just about a block from here.”

It wasn’t long before I received Marie’s phone number from the nurse. After that another lady and I had a visit with her. We quickly became friends. I learned a pile from her: Gaelic, stories, baking, and we were very heavy on playing cards, cribbage usually. Her family, they now are like my own. We gather for birthdays, suppers and holidays and they will be there on the big day when I am wed in May.

Though we were not related at all, she was my grandmother. I was extremely fortunate to have had three grandmothers, and moreover she was a true and dear friend to me. It is a terrible thing when people leave us, and though I’ve never
d’ rinn mi rann riamh roimhe, thòisich mi air òran molaidh air a son. Chan eil i deiseil, dh’fhaoaidh nach bì i deiseil gu bràth, ach bha i gu math cuideachail nuair a bha ’m pian ùr.

Hó mo Mhàiri bhòidheach, ’s tu mo Mhàiri ghrinn; Hó mo Mhàiri bhòidheach, ’s tu mo Mhàiri ghrinn; Hó mo Mhàiri bhòidheach, ’s tu mo Mhàiri grinn; Mhàiri bhòidheach bhòidheach bhòidheach, rugadh anns na glinn.

On a dh’halbh Màiri tha mo chridhe briste, Brùite truagh brònach ’s doirbh dhomh ‘ga innse Tha mise ga h-ionndrain, muladach gu cinnt’ Té laghach ghasda bhòidheach éireachdail a bh’ innt’.

P.S. As deoghaidh dha Mhàiri caochladh, fhuaire an nighean aice bhoidheach gheoidh dhe ’n luadhadh far na thachair sinn ri chèile. Bha mi fhìn ’nam shuidhe aig a’ chleith-luaidhe agus bha Màiri ’na suidhe air mo chùlaibh. Nuair a bhios mi seinn, bidh mi car guthmhor àrd, ’s mar sin bha mi a ghabhail Ged a sheòl mi air m’ aineol, cha laigh smalan air m’ inntinn. Bha dealbh a’ bhideo a’ siubhal an t-seòmbair. . . . sin mise a’ seinn! Agus, o seall siud, shin agad Mairi! Agus rinn i seòrsa do choltas car mi-thoilichte oirre. Car de dhréin oirre. Cha roibh e doirbh a thuiginn nach roibh an obair a rinn mi a’ còrdadh rithe. . . . agus nuair a bha sinn a’ coinhead air sin, mi fhìn agus a nighean… bha sinn a’ roladh air an ürlar a’ gabhail gaire mòr. Cha do ghabh mi ’s an t-sròin e idir. Cha roibh teagamh sam bith ann gu roibh i gu math measail orm, ged a bha dréin oirre dar a bha mi seinn.

P.S. After Marie passed away, her daughters received a short video of the milling frolic where we met. I was sitting at the milling table and Marie was sitting behind me. When I am singing I am kind of loud and high, and that's how I was singing Ged a sheòl mi air m’ aineol, cha laigh smalan air m’ inntinn. The video was panning around the room… “There’s me singing! Oh and look at that, there’s Marie!” and just then as I was singing, she made a face that betrayed my take on that song wasn’t exactly her cup of tea. When we were watching this, her daughters and I, we took to laughing so hard we were near rolling on the floor. I didn’t take that on the nose at all; there was no doubt she was very fond of me, though she may have winced when I sang.
Dear friends,

What shall we talk about this time? Perhaps it will be polite enough and proper to stick to the same sort of thing that Eliza Dolittle was asked to do in “My Fair Lady” - not to talk about anything but the weather and everyone's health. I've had many pleasant conversations on those subjects, especially when there's nothing major going on in my life.

But that's not how it is right now, and there are good things and not so good things about that. First, the good things, and indeed the weather is connected to them – spring has finally arrived! That means that we have warm sunny days, and, in some places, by the time An Naidheachd Againne arrives, it will be quite warm! But that also means that we can start looking forward to Gaelic events all over the States and Canada. The primary one, for us anyway, is Grandfather Mountain, which will be coming in just a little while. In the coming weeks, you'll be hearing more and more about the event, and if you've never visited Banner Elk, North Carolina, and Grandfather Mountain’s week of song and language, why not make up your mind to go? You'll get a great education from exceptional teachers.

Who are the teachers? Well, you can find out by going to our website, but I'll tell you here – Gillebride MacMillan, Joy Dunlop, and Kathleen Reddy. We couldn't ask for better!

Now, we might speak of things that are not so good or pleasant – anyone who followed the sad news about the unfair cuts to the Office of Gaelic Affairs in Nova Scotia will know that two people were let go, and Catriona Parsons was one of them. We are awfully fond of Catriona, who has given our society marvelous help in the past, and these cuts did not happen without a great outcry and protest from people here and from all over the world. It was a
2015 Board of Directors Election Results

A sincere and huge thank you to all candidates who ran in the recent Board of Directors election. ACGA is a volunteer-run organization, and couldn’t operate without member contribution of time and talent.

Two newly-elected members will serve their first term on the Board and one is returning for another three years.

Wayne Harbert is a professor of linguistics at Cornell University whose research focuses on theoretical and Germanic historical linguistics, but he also has an interest in Celtic languages, having taught Welsh, Middle Welsh and Scottish Gaelic at Cornell.

Jeff Justice is assistant professor of political science at Tarleton State University in Texas. He has served as director of the Scottish Studies Program there since 2010. He is working to bring Scottish Gaelic classes to the university.

Megan Moffitt has been elected to her second term on the Board. She has served as ACGA Bookkeeper during that time, and is an enthusiastic learner and supporter of Scottish Gaelic.

Janice Chan
An Phillips
2015 ACGA Election Committee
Our Trip to Nova Scotia
by the students of Laura Howitt,
Dunoon Grammar School, Argyll,
Scotland

On Friday 27th March, senior Gaelic pupils from Dunoon Grammar School, accompanied by their Gaelic teacher, Miss Howitt, and their music teacher, Mrs. Ross, made their way to Glasgow for the first leg of their trip to Nova Scotia, leaving Glasgow on Saturday morning.

Our arrival on Saturday night, at 9pm in the middle of a bad snow storm, was the start to a trip that was going to be very cold but very fun and interesting at the same time.

On Sunday, pupils explored Halifax, the first town we visited on our trip. On Monday, we all went to the high school, Citadel High, where we had the opportunity to meet with pupils who were learning Gaelic and where we also got the opportunity to visit a local primary school where we taught them some Gaelic. Our pupils produced a short presentation about Scottish schools and about our way of life, talking about Scottish politics, food and health.

The next day, we got ready to head to Antigonish to visit the next secondary school and to see the students and staff at the University. On the first day in Antigonish, we went to the library to see the Celtic collection where we got a tour from the librarians. It was interesting to see the old books, some of which are exclusive to Canada and we were gifted with a Gaelic Flag for our classroom in Dunoon. We also had the opportunity to learn about the history of the library, the university, and the town.

Turas a dh’Alba Nuadh
leis na h-oileanaich aig Laura Howitt,
Sgoil-ghràmair Dùn Obhainn,
Earra-Ghàidheal

Air Dìhioine 27mh den Mhàrt, chaidh na sgoilearan Gàidhlig as sine bho Sgoil Gràmair Dùn Omhain agus an tidsear Gàidhlig, a’ Mh. Howitt, agus an tidsear ciùil, a’ Bh. Ross, a Ghlaschu air a’ chiad phàirt den turas aca a dh’Alba Nuadh, a’ fàgail Ghlaschu madainn Disathairne.

Ràinig iad aodhche Shathairne aig 9f agus bha an sneachd cho dona - abair cathadhr a bh’ ann gun teagamh! B’ e seo toiseach turais a bha a’ dol a bhith gu math fuar ach gu math spòrsail agus inntinneach.

Air Didòmhnaich, chaidh na sgoilearan mun cuairt Halafachs, a’ chaidh bhaile anns an rohb e. Air Dìluain, chaidh sinn uile do dh’Árd-Sgoil an Dùn neo ‘Citadel’ far an robh cothrom againg coinneachadh ri sgoilearan a bha ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig agus far an robh cothrom againg a bhodh dhan bhun-sgoil cuideachd far an robh ean a’ teagasc Gàidhlig. Rinn ar sgoilearan taisbeanadh mu dheidhinn sgoiltean ann na Dùn agus mu dheidhinn ar dòigh-beatha, a’ bruidhinn air poileataigs na h-Alba agus biadh agus slàinte.

An ath latha, rinn sinn deiseil airson a dhol a dh’Antigonis far an robh ean am beachd tadhal air árd-sgoil eile agus air an oilitigh an sin. Air a’ chaidh latha ann an Antigonis, chaidh sinn dhan leabharlann airson na leabhrachan Ceiltis fhaicinn. Fhuair sinn cuairt le stiùireadh bhon leabharlannaiche. Bha e inntinneach a bhith a’ fàcinn nan seann leabhrachan, feadhainn a tha ann an Canada a-mhàn agus fhuair sinn bratach mar thiodhlaic airson ar clas air ais ann an Dùn Omhain. Cuideachd, bha cothrom againn eachdraidh an leabharlainn, an oilitigh agus a’ bhaile a chluinnntinn.
After the library, we worked with students that were learning Gaelic at the university and found out about what it’s like to be a student in Canada. This was important to our pupils who may have the opportunity to study at the university in the future through the exchange run by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (to which one of the pupils has gained entry for university next year).

We also had the opportunity to take part in a traditional house ceilidh where we heard the pipes and saw some step dancing. Everyone was so talented.

In addition to our experiences at the university, we also met with our pen pals at John Hugh Gillis Regional School and heard about their recent trip to Scotland. We had also intended to meet with pupils from Rankin School of the Narrows but that visit was snowed off.

The next day, we left Antigonish and returned to Halifax. Back in Halifax, we had the chance to meet with another group, The Gaelic Language Society of Halifax. We went to another ceilidh with Norma MacLean and the others who speak or are learning Gaelic in Halifax. We had a night full of good food, stories, music and singing. We heard lots about Gaelic in Nova Scotia and ate traditional foods.

The days after this meeting were our last and we spent time going round the shops to buy presents for our families and experiencing some of the tourist attractions in Halifax. We saw ‘Theodore’ the tug boat at the harbour and bought new dresses and t-shirts from the shops in the Mic Mac Mall.

It’s safe to say that we had an amazing time and we got to do some things that we never thought
Dr. Anne Lorne Gillies
Outstanding Woman of Achievement

Warm congratulations to Dr. Anne Lorne Gillies, named by the Saltire Society as one of Scotland’s Outstanding Women of Achievement for 2015. This is the first time the society has awarded the honor, and Anne is one of only ten in this initial group, in company of Nicola Sturgeon (First Minister of Scotland and current leader of the Scottish National Party), Dame Winifred Ewing (influential long-time SNP president), a scientist, several authors, and other exceptional Scottish women.

Anne was recognized for her many contributions to Scottish culture and life, particularly in the areas of education, the arts, and support of the Gaelic language. You will likely know of her as a singer and perhaps as author of many Gaelic children’s books as well as the notable 2005 volume *Songs of Gaelic Scotland*. She has been active in developing resources for Gaelic medium education, and is also a political activist and public speaker.

This past May, twenty individuals with a connection to Nova Scotian Gaelic language and culture gathered for five days at St. Joseph’s Renewal Centre in Mabou, Cape Breton. This gathering was the Nova Scotia Gaels Jam, and this is the third time it has taken place. The Jam was led by four exceptionally capable people: Shilpa Jain from California, executive director of YES!, the body which facilitates Jams around the world; Tad Hargrave from Alberta who began the Jams initiative; as well as two Gaels from Cape Breton: Shay MacMullin and Amber Buchanan.

Participants spent the five days strengthening the connections between them through co-operative activities and exploring the way ahead for Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia.

The aim of the Jam is to explore connections at the personal, the interpersonal and the systemic level. At the personal level, there were many opportunities for participants to tell their own stories and to talk about what was on their minds. Concerning interpersonal matters, there was an emphasis on listening skills and encouragement for participants to speak in an open and truthful way and to deal with conflict. At the systemic level, participants learned about strategies to effect change in the Gaelic community. Additionally, projects with importance to the Gaelic community were outlined as well as next steps.
As well as this work, there was lots of fun. Where Gaels gather, there is music and songs and laughter and there were many opportunities for participants to use their talents for others’ enjoyment.

At the end of the Jam, a new community had been established amongst the participants and their friendship had grown at a deep level. Seeds of hope had been planted which will bear rich fruit for the Nova Scotian Gaelic community in the challenging times ahead. As the Gaelic proverb states: When crossing a ford, two are stronger together.

For more information on the Nova Scotia Gaels Jam, take a look at
http://novascotiagaelsjam.com/

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, forum.acgamerica.org, is collection of conversational forums, some public, some for members only, and some for ACGA’s internal organizational functions.

Our Facebook page 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.

Our Guth nan Gàidheal radio channel has its own website, at gng.acgamerica.org. There you can learn all about our Gaelic and Gaelic-related radio content, and find out how to listen. GnG also has its own Facebook page and Twitter feed.

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 used for ACGA announcements.

Some of our events have their own web presence, too. The ACGA Mòd website contains a lot of information about past, present, and future Mòds. And our Gaelic Song and Language Week at Grandfather Mountain has its own Facebook page.

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A Cape Breton recipe for tasty, not too sweet oat cakes from our friend Kathleen Reddy. Kathy, who teaches Gaelic at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish and all around Nova Scotia, will be one of our teachers at ACGA’s Gaelic Song and Language Week in July at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC.

**Aran-coirce Cheap Breatainn**

'S mise a tha measail air aran-coirce agus 's e seo an seòrsa as fheàrr leam: an t-aran coirce aig Lòrag Stirling, na caraid dhomh agus na h-oide Gàidhlig ann am Baile Hailefacs. Tha an t-aran-coirce aig Lòrag tana, brisg agus blasta. Tha e math le càise, air no direach mar a tha e. 'S e im a ghabhadh mo sheanmhair air an aran-choirce aicese.

Ni an reasabaidh seo mu ochd dusan briosaidean: gu leòr airson deagh chèilidh!

**Stuthan**

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- Measgaich na stuthan tioram ann am bobhla mór.
- Geàrr a-staigh an t-im agus a’ gheir. (Gus seo a ghiorrhachadh, bidh mise gan sgreadadh mus cuir mi dha na stuthan tioram iad.)
- Cuir an t-usge ann. Bidh an taois sprudhagach agus caran leanailteach.
- Roilig a-mach i air bòrd air an deach min-fhlùir a chur gus

**Cape Breton Oatcakes**

I’m a big fan of oatcakes and these are the ones I like the best: Laura Stirling’s oatcakes. Laura is a friend of mine and a Gaelic instructor in Halifax. Her oatcakes are thin, crisp and tasty. They are good with cheese or on their own. My grandmother always had butter on her oatcakes.

This recipe will make about eight dozen oatcakes: enough for a good cèilidh!

**Ingredients**

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<tr>
<td>Rolled oats</td>
<td>3 cups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scottish oats or pinhead oatmeal</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>2 cups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bran</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
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<td>(oat or wheat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>White sugar</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>½ tsp</td>
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<td>Baking soda</td>
<td>½ tsp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortening</td>
<td>1 cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold water</td>
<td>½ cup</td>
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- Combine dry ingredients in a large bowl.
- Cut in butter and

Kathleen Reddy
Do you have a favourite recipe that you’d like to share with other ACGA members? Submit it in a bilingual format to one of our editors and we’ll publish it in 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!

Críomagan

Meal do Naidheachd!

We’re delighted to learn that long-time ACGA member Dr. Heather Sparling’s recent book, *Reeling Roosters and Dancing Ducks: Celtic Mouth Music*, has been shortlisted for an East Coast Literary award. The Evelyn Richardson Non-fiction award is presented annually by the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia. Heather is Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology and Canada Research Chair in Musical Traditions at Cape Breton University.

A Website to Watch

**Gaelic4Parents.com**

**The Website for Parents and Children Interested and Involved in Gaelic Education**

Although Gaelic4Parents is a “website for parents and children interested in and involved in Gaelic education,” it’s also a great resource for adult learners of Gaelic where songs, games, activities, and sound files of more than 100 children’s books can be downloaded.

Click here to give it a try:
[http://www.gaelic4parents.com](http://www.gaelic4parents.com)

Not heard from us lately?

ACGA now distributes almost all information to members electronically. This includes our quarterly newsletter, *An Naidheachd Againne*, membership renewals, information about our events such as the Grandfather Mountain Song and Language Week, and occasional Bideagan about other Gaelic events and items of interest.

That means that it is very important that we have a current email address for you. You can send any changes to your preferred address to ruadh@idirect.com.

And if you haven’t heard from us in a while, please check your spam folder, or add the above address to your contacts list to ensure that we can keep you informed!
Turas a Bharraigh le Hilary NicPhàidein

Rinn Hilary Rosado, ball ACGA, turas fliuich ach sgoinneil gu Barraigh còmhla ri a bràthair leth-aon o chinne greis. Tha Hilary air a bhith ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig, a’ gàbhail a-steach ann an clasaichean AGA còmhla ri Cam MacRae agus (am bliadhna) Aonghas MacLeòid. Sgriobh ise na tuairisgeulán airson nan dealbhàn.

Hilary Rosado, an ACGA member, recently enjoyed a wet but excellent trip to Barra with her twin brother. Hilary has been learning Gaelic, including participating in AGA classes with Cam MacRae and Angus MacLeod. She provided the photos and wrote the descriptions for us.
An t-Ionnsachadh Bòidheach
*by Caroline Root, Youth Page Editor*

Lorg na Faclan

Spòrs as t-Samhradh

Print the puzzle and then look for the following words, without spaces or hyphens, hidden inside it. Words run in a straight line horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward and backward. Guma math a théid leat!

1. An Lùnastal  
2. An t-Iuchar  
3. An t-Ògmhios  
4. ball  
5. Beinn Seanair  
6. bothan  
7. bucaid  
8. cluich  
9. gealach  
10. grian  
11. liomanaid  
12. reòiteag  
13. samhradh  
14. snàmh  
15. saor-làithean  
16. sonas  
17. teas  
18. traigh

http://www.webweaver.nu/clipart/beach.shtml
I’m sure that you like dictionaries. I do too. Well, I like word lists in general. Are you familiar with *Faclan is Abairtean à Ros an Iar* compiled by Roy Wentworth? *Gaelic Words and Expressions from South Uist and Eriskay* collected by the Rev. Fr. Allan McDonald?

Valuable books for sure, filled with words which should be preserved, and recently I found another fascinating list, although I have to admit that it’s in an English-language book. The book is *Landmarks* by Robert MacFarlane, and he writes about the importance of the words (in any language) relating to our landscape’s natural features.

MacFarlane has written eleven essays about particular features of the British landscape (mountains, coastlands, woodlands, for example) and at the end of each essay are lengthy glossaries, lists of words collected by MacFarlane through the years. But why am I recommending an English book in a Gaelic blog? Well, along with the English, Irish, Welsh, Cornish, and Scots words in *Landmarks*, are hundreds of Gaelic words.

The author began writing *Landmarks* in 2007 after encountering a trove of words related to the Scottish moorlands, a glossary which had been collected by Dr. Finlay MacLeod of Shiabost, Anne Campbell, Catriona Chaimbeul, and Donald Morrison.

On reading their booklet, MacFarlane recognized the wealth of Gaelic words that relate to land features. It occurred to
gun robh an aon bheairteas sna cânain Bhreatannach eile, ged a tha mòran dhe na faclan seo a’ dol à bith leis gu bheil an dàimh eadar daoine agus an tìr a’ lagachadh. Tha na faclan ann am briathrachan MhicPhàrlain fhathast feumail, eadhon luachmhor ge-tà, is an t-ùghdar a’ meannachadh dhuin san ro-radh gun toir faclan de an leithid buaidh air mar a tha sinn a’ faireachdaimn mu àiteachan. Smuain dhòchasach san t-saoghal chugallach a th’ againn an -diugh, nach e?

Agus rud eile – tha duilleagan bàna aig deireadh an leithid dhutsa tuilleadh faclan a chur.

him that the same treasure exists in other British languages, although many of these words are disappearing as the relationship between people and land weakens. The words in MacFarlane’s glossaries are still useful, even valuable however, and the author explains in the forward that words of this kind have the power to shape our sense of place. That’s a hopeful thought in this uncertain world of ours, isn’t it.

And another thing – there are blank pages at the end of the book where you can add your own words.


Dè Do Naidheachd?
by Cam MacRae and Jeanne Pendergast

Two more naidheachdan. We used the same required words, but our stories headed in different directions. Or did they?

Cam:

Chuir i a còta oirre is rinn i fiamh-gàire. ’S e latha anabarrach brèagha a bh’ ann, a’ ghrian a’ deàrrsadh, na h-eòin sna craobhan a’ ceileardh nam fonn sunndach aca. Latha freagarrach airson a bhith ann an sèithe-tulgaidh, leabhar drùidteach na h-uichd, glainne teatha fuar na làimh.

Am mìos seo chaidh, leig i a dreuchd dhith, agus cha bhiodh aice a dhol air ais dhan oifis a-chaoidh. Mu dheireadh thall, bhiodh ùine aice a bhith a’ siubhal, ag ionnsachadh dannsa Salsa, no a’ cluich teanas còmhla ri . . . cuideigin.

Ach seo ise an-diugh, a còta oirre, na h-iuchraichean na làimh, a-mach air an doras, is obair ga feitheamh. Agus carson? A bheil eagal oirre ro bhochdaimn? Am faca i bòcan de bhag-lady le a gnùis fhèin ann am bruadar?

Chan e sin an trioblaid, oir tha airgead gu leòr anns a’ bhanca. Tha i fortanach anns an doigh sin, ach a dh’innse na firinn, chan eil na càirdean aice cho pailt ris na notaichean. An dèidh seachdaimn no dhà de shaorsa, thanig e a-steach oirre gu do leig i a beatha aig an oifis, còmhla ri a dreuchd. Agus an-diugh, tha i a’ dol air ais dhan àite far a bhunieas i, le fiamh-gàire.

Glossary:

fonn – (m) tune - it might look like the nominative singular in the sentence above, but the article nam tells you that it’s the genitive plural

dreuchd – (f) career, profession; leig i a dreuchd dhith, she retired (literally, she gave up her job)

ga feitheamh – waiting for her

bhochdaimn – (f) poverty; ro bhochdaimn, of poverty

thàinig e a-steach oirre – it occurred to her
Bha a dhreuchd mar neach naidheachd air tòiseachadh ri dragh a chur air. Latha an dèidh latha chitheadh e bochdainn sgràthail gun chothrom no comas aige rud sam bith a dhèanamh mu dheidhinn. Sgrìobhadh e cha mhòr gach seachd dàin mu dheidhinn nan daoine a’ fulang le cion a’ bhidhe, le tinneas an dh’iomadh seòrsa, agus fiù ’s le eagal uabhasach orra mar thoradh air an creideamh ann an bòcain. Bha eagal air fhèin gun cante “piobaire an aona phuirt” ris.

A dh’aindeoin sin, lean e air an aon fhonn bhrònach, ach beag air bheag, thòisich e air obair còmhla ri buidheann charthannais gun fhiosta do fhear-deasachaidh a’ phàipeir-naidheachd. Bha e cuideachd a’ coiteachadh nan riaghaltasan, nàiseanta agus ionadail, rud nach robh ceadaichte do fhir-naidheachd. A bharrachd air a sin, cha do sgrìobh e pailt uiread ’s a b’ àbhaist dha: dh’fhàs na colbhan aige na bu ghiorra agus chaidh seachdain no dhà seachad gun aiste bhuaithe idir.

An-diugh thanig an teachdaireachd ris an robh e an dùil: tha e air a chosnadh a chall. An àite a bhith duilich ge-tà, bha e a’ faireachdainn na b’ aotruime, le cogais ghan.

Glossary:

- sgràthail – (or sgrathail), terrible, destructive; also as an intensifier (sgràthail gaothach)
- bòcain – plural of bòcan (m) ghost, goblin, apparition
- piobaire an aona phuirt – someone who bores by always bringing up the same topic (literally, a piper of one tune)
- coiteachadh nan riaghaltasan – urging, pressing, lobbying the governments
- pailt uiread – as much as, the same amount as

Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 5

Cha tharraing tu bò an comhair a h-earball.
- You cannot pull a cow backwards; there is a natural direction with everything.
Dè Tha Dol?
Gaelic Events

An t-Òg mhios 2015 / June 2015

Held at the Ohio Scottish games in the Lorain County Fairgrounds in Wellington. Please contact Anne Alexander tinwhistle_aa@yahoo.com for further information.

Gaelic Immersion, King City ON, June 29 - July 4, 2015
Scottish Gaelic immersion for Beginners & Intermediate/Advanced sponsored by the Ontario School of Piping and Drumming at the King City campus of Seneca College. Day and boarding students. For more information contact ellen.mole@gmail.com or 905.841.5497 or http://ospd.ca.

An t-Iuchar 2015 / July 2015

Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, Banner Elk NC, July 5 - 10, 2015
ACGA’s 17th annual Gaelic Song and Language Week will be held at Lees-McRae College with instructors Gillebrìde MacMillan from South Uist (“Gwyllyn the Bard” in the TV series Outlander), Joy Dunlop, Gaelic Singer of the Year in 2010 & 2011 and Kathleen Reddy, Gaelic instructor at Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish NS. http://www.acgamerica.org/gfm-2015/

North Carolina Mòd, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville NC, Saturday, July 11, 2015
The Mòd will start at 3:00 pm in Donald's Gaelic Cèilidh Tent. Registration forms may be picked up at Donald's Gaelic Cèilidh Tent at any time during the Games until 1:00 pm on Saturday. See http://www.gmhg.org/gaelicmod.htm

Bu Deònach Leam Tilleadh / I Would Willingly Return, 17th Annual Gaelic Concert Series, Christmas Island, Cape Breton NS, July 14, 21 and 28, 2015
These bilingual Gaelic-English concerts feature some of Cape Breton’s best musicians as well as emerging talent and local tradition bearers. Concerts are held at the Christmas Island Fire Hall. For more information see http://feisaneilein.ca/concerts or email feisaneilein@ns.sympatico.ca.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Summer Courses, Isle of Skye, Scotland, July 20 - 24, 2015
Weeklong Scottish Gaelic language classes will be offered at levels 1, 3, and 5, as well as a Gaelic song class with Christine Primrose.

An Lùnasdal 2015 / August 2015

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Summer Courses, Isle of Skye, Scotland, multiple dates, August 2015
Weeklong Scottish Gaelic language classes will be offered.
August 3 - 7: levels 1 & 2, song class with Christine Primrose
August 10 - 14: levels 2, 4, 6 & 8
August 17 - 21: levels 3, 5, 7 & 9
August 24 - 28: levels 4, 6, 8 & 10

25th Annual Féis an Eilein, Christmas Island, Cape Breton NS, August 18 - 22, 2015
A celebration of the Scottish Gaelic language and culture, Féis an Eilean will feature an opening concert, a milling frolic, a children’s concert, a square dance and day-long classes in Gaelic language and song. Language, song, step dance and square dance workshops will also be held. See www.feisaneilein.ca or email feisaneilein@ns.sympatico.ca for more information.
Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

Arizona
Flagstaff
Study Group
Richard Ferguson
fergusdubh@yahoo.com

Phoenix
Classes
Richard Smith
coindubh@yahoo.com

Tucson
Classes
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http://www.murielofskye.com

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thegaelicguy@hotmail.com

San Luis Valley
Phone and Online lessons
Caroline Root
www.gaidhliggachlatha.com

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tleigh.piper@gmail.com

Gaelic Song Classes
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Treasure Coast Scots-Gaelic
Study Group
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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

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Classes (advanced beginner)
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fiongeal@gmail.com

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