

An Naidheachd Againne

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

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Rugadh is thogadh Catriona ann am Bràdhagair, Leòdhas, agus tha i air a bhith ag obair ann an dàimh phoblach, ann an naidheachdas, agus Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Rinn Catriona mòran dhen obair gus £1.5m a thogail airson Grinneabhat ath-leasachadh. Tha i a' cumail oirre a bhith an lùib a' bhuidhinn mar Rùnaire agus mar shaor-thoileach.

Catriona was born and brought up in Bragar and has worked in public relations, in journalism and in Gaelic medium education. Catriona undertook much of the fundraising work for the £1.5m redevelopment of Grinneabhat and continues to be closely involved in the running of the organisation, as Secretary and as a volunteer.

Ath-leasachadh Sgoil Bhràdhagair, mar a thàinig am beachd, agus mar a thàinig e gu bith

le Catriona Choinnich Isaac

Tha àite cruinneachaidh coimhearsnachd agus cultarail gu math soirbheachail ann am Bràdhagair, air taobh siar Leòdhais. Bidh fàilte bhlàth romhaibh aig Grinneabhat agus slugh a' dol ann gu tric son cèilidh. Gheibh sibh cofaidh agus grèim bìdh ann, faodaidh sibh a dhol gu tachartas ann, obair ealain a rannsachadh, no tàmh na h-oidhche a ghabhail ann an aon de ceithir seòmraichean cadail. Tha an t-àite cho soirbheachail 's gu bheil daoine a' faighneachd ciamar a thàinig e gu bith?



Grinneabhat Community Centre

Hilary NicPhàidein

The redevelopment of Bragar school, where the idea came from, and how it came into being

by Catriona Mairi Campbell

The village of Bragar on the west side of the Isle of Lewis has a flourishing community and cultural centre named Grinneabhat. It is an open and welcoming place, a place where people can meet and have a *cèilidh*, a place which draws people in. People visit to go to a social occasion, an art event or a class, for lunch in the café or to stay in one of the four guest bedrooms. Such is its success that visitors often ask how the centre came about, and why in Bragar?

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Go to www.acgamerica.org for more on upcoming ACGA events and other Gaelic related activities.

Chan ann le turchartas a thachair ionad Ghrinneabhat idir. Smaoinich muinntir sgìre Bhràdhagair agus Àrnoil mu dè bha dhìth orra, agus chaidh comataidh beag a stèidheachadh airson na beachdan aca a thoirt gu buil. Chaidh coimhead gu mionaideach air dè na seirbheisean a b' urrainnear a libhrigeadh à togalach na seann sgoile, an togalach a dh' aithnicheas sinn mar Ghrinneabhat an-diugh. Dh'obraich sinn air an seòrsa ath-uidheamachadh a dh'fheumadh tachairt air an àite agus dè an coltas a bhiodh air nuair a bha e deiseil.

B' e buille chruaidh a bh' ann an dùnadh na sgoile dha Bràdhagair agus Àrnoil ann an 2012. Bha an sgìre mu thràth air fulang le dùnadh Oifis a' Phuist, dùnadh ionad nan seann daoine agus cròileagan na cloinne. Chaidh seirbheisean a thoirt air falbh air sgàth 's sàbhaladh airgid le ùghdarrasan ionadail agus nàiseanta, ach gun ghuth air an droch bhuaidh a bh' aig an seo air a' choimhearsnachd.

A bharrachd air an sin, bha muinntir cheann a tuath Leòdhais air bliadhnachan a chosg a' sabaid an aghaidh biast mhòr de thuath gaoith a bha dol a sgrios na mòintich aca – glinn, cnuic, fraoch, srùthain is uillt, is àirighean ar sinnsearan – àrainneachd a tha air leth prìseil dha na Gàidheil agus dha na h-eoin is ainmhidhean eile a tha a' fuireach ann.

Às dèidh na h-uile, bha daoine airson a thighinn còmhla agus rudeigin a chuidicheadh an sgìre a dhealbh airson Grinneabhat.



Garden

Hilary NicPhàidein

The Grinneabhat centre, how it looks and the services and activities it offers, came about because of very deliberate planning within the community. A committee of locals looked at what was needed to sustain and nurture the people of Bragar and Arnol, the two villages served by the building when it was a Primary School. They knew that good, interesting events, activities and services would also interest people further afield, the local reaching out to the national and international.

When the school closed in the summer of 2012, it was the culmination of a series of blows suffered by the area in the previous decade. The Bragar Post Office, the Day Care Centre for the elderly and the children's Nursery all closed. These closures were driven by cost saving priorities decided from afar which had a severe impact on the quality of life in the community, particularly for its youngest and oldest members.

In addition, the community had just spent years fighting off a multinational company backed by local and national governments, who wanted to build a huge industrial windfarm over the North Lewis peatlands – land with great cultural meaning to the indigenous Gaels as well as being of huge environmental significance.

The withdrawal of services, and the threat to our environment, spurred people to get together to imagine what a positive development would look like, and the idea of Grinneabhat was born.



Garden and Loch Grinneabhat

Hilary NicPhàidein



Kitchen

Hilary NicPhàidein

Chaidh Urras Coimhearsnachd Bhràdhagair agus Àrnoil a stèidheachadh airson cothroman sunnd sòisealta agus cinneas eaconamach a leudachadh san sgìre, leis an t-sluagh-ghairm, ‘Dòchas, dùthchas agus dualchas’. B’ e agus ’s e ar n-amas daoine a bhith moiteil às an àite agus às a’ chultar aca fhèin.

Às dèidh conaltradh a dhèanamh le muinntir Bhràdhagair agus Àrnoil, bha e follaiseach gun robh feum air àite far am b’ urrainn ar seann daoine coinneachadh le chèile agus le daoine eile, gu h-àraidh an òigrìdh; àite taisbeanaidh a bhith againn airson luchd-ealain às na h-eileanan agus bho air feadh an t-saoghail, le ùidh ann an cànan is cultar nan Gàidheal, a tharraing; seirbheisean a fhrithéaladh airson luchd-turais a bheireadh maoin dhan Urras; agus dreuchdan obrach agus obair shaor-thoileach a thabhann do mhuinntir an àite.

B’ e a’ chiad dùbhlán a bha mu choinneamh an Urrais, seann Sgoil Bhràdhagair a cheannach às leth na coimhearsnachd. B’ fheudar planaichean gnìomh a sgrìobhadh, coinneamhan a chumail agus taic airgid a shireadh, ach às dèidh dà bhliadhna shoirbhich leinn, fhuair sinn an togalach agus thug na daoine Grinneabhat air mar ainm, as dèidh loch a tha faisg air làimh.

Cha robh seo ach a’ chiad cheum. Chum sinn oirnn a’ sireadh ghrantaichean agus fhuair sinn air gu leòr airgid a thogail bhon Chrannchur Nàiseanta airson ailtire agus sgioba-dealbhadh fhastadh airson ath-leasachadh an togalaich a dhealbhadh dhuinn. Chuidich buidheann ionadail, Tighean Innse Gall, le comhairle agus taic proifeiseanta air an t-slighe seo.

Chan ann beag a bha an ath dhùbhlán a bha romhainn. Dh’fheumadh sinn £1.5m a thogail airson an obair leasachaidh a dhèanamh, airgead mòr airson

A community trust, Urras Coimhearsnachd Bhràdhagair agus Àrnoil (UCBA), was set up with a vision of enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of the area, with the Gaelic slogan – *dòchas* (hope, looking to the future), *dùthchas* (which takes in place of birth and also hereditary rights and responsibilities) and *dualchas* (the culture derived from your ancestry). Promoting pride in place was our aim.

After a number of community consultations, five main themes emerged which continue to be the basis of Grinneabhat’s work. These themes are reducing social isolation amongst our elderly people by providing a comfortable, welcoming place where they can meet, talk, and share their knowledge and skills with others; providing activities for children and encouraging intergenerational interaction; developing a multi-disciplinary exhibition space and providing facilities for local and visiting artists, writers, musicians and scholars to explore their own practice within a dynamic environment where people, language and land all connect in a way which has been lost in much of modern Britain; opening up the area for visitors while at the same time giving the Urras an income stream; and providing opportunities for paid and voluntary work.

The first challenge for the Urras in 2012 was to gain possession of the now vacant Bragar School building. Meetings were held with national and local development agencies and funding bodies, business plans were written and funding applications made. In 2014 UCBA, on behalf of the community, became the owners of Bragar School. The community chose the name ‘Grinneabhat’ for the building, calling it after the nearby Loch Grinneabhat.



Kitchen nook

Hilary NicPhàidein

coimhearsnachd bheag. Ach bha sinn dicheallach agus deònach obair a dhèanamh agus mu dheireadh thall fhuair sinn an t-airgead, le taing gu h-àraidh dhan Chrannchur Nàiseanta, Urras Robertson, agus diofar mhaoin bhon riaghaltas gu h-ionadail agus gu nàiseanta. Feumaidh iomradh a thoirt air £25,000 a thàinig bho mhuinntir na sgìre. Thàinig iad gu iomadh tachartas is thug iad seachad tiodhlacan airgid gu fialaidh son a' phròiseact, agus phàigh ceud aca ceud not an duine airson dealbh teaghlaich agus an sloinneadh aca a chur air taidhle. Dh'obraich neach-ealain ionadail gu saor-thoileach air an obair seo. Tha an ceud taidhle seo a-nis ri fhaicinn aig prìomh dhoras Ghrinneabhat ag innse eachdraidh an àite nan dòigh fhèin tro dhealbhan agus ainmean dhaoine le buntanas don àite.

Thòisich an obair airson Grinneabhat ùrachadh ann an 2019 agus chaidh a chrìochnachadh aig àm glasaidh agus bacaidhean a' ghalair Covid-19. Thug seo droch bhuaidh oirnn cuideachd nuair a dh'fhosgail an togalach agus feum aig daoine fhàthast 'fad an sgadain' a chumail bho chèile.

A dh'aindeoin seo rinn sinn a' chùis agus tha na leanas a-nis ri fhaighinn aig Grinneabhat – rùm coimhearsnachd, rùm taisbeanaidh, cafaidh, àite-fuirich agus nigheachan, le gàrradh brèagha a-muigh far am faod daoine lusan agus glasraich fhàs. Bidh luchd-tadhail ag innse dhuinn cho àlainn 's a tha an togalach, oir rinn sinn cinnteach feartan na seann sgoilear a chumail. Aithnichidh duine sam bith a bha na sgoilear an seo na rumannan clas far na shuidh iad nuair a bha iad òg.

Tha taobh ealain Ghrinneabhat glè chudromach dhuinn le rùm soilleir airson obair ealain a shealltainn, agus fàrdach far am faod ealanaichean fuireach son greis. Tha e inntinneach airson muinntir an àite cothrom conaltraidh fhaighinn le daoine cruthachail, agus tha

This was only step one of a long journey of many years of fund raising. Step two involved getting building project management advice from Tighean Innse Gall (TIG). TIG is Isle of Lewis based and provides project management services to the Local Housing Association and community bodies. With funding from the Big Lottery, architects White & McGinn and a Design Team were recruited and plans for the refurbishment of the old school drawn up.

This led to step three which involved raising the approximately £1.5 million required for the refurbishment work. A lot of money for a small community to raise. Our vision and determination were huge and thanks to bodies such as the National Lottery and the Robertson Trust, as well as public funding from various grant schemes run by national and local government, the target was eventually achieved. £25,000 was raised locally, much of it with the help of Bragar resident and artist Anne Campbell, who designed and made 100 tiles depicting people and families with Bragar connections, most showing their Gaelic patronomics, which are a huge talking point at the main entrance to Grinneabhat.

The refurbishment started in 2019 and was completed during the COVID-19 pandemic period. It was difficult to manage the work during a period of severe restrictions on people meeting together and this also affected our first year of opening.

Despite this Grinneabhat has now become an established venue providing a range of spaces – a community room, an exhibition room, a café, accommodation and a launderette, as well as gardens and growing plots. The refurbishment carefully preserved many of the features of the original 19th century Bragar School with visitors wowed by how beautiful the building is.



Grinneabhat Community Centre

Hilary NicPhàidein

e inntinneach airson an luchd-ealain ùine a chur seachad agus obair ùr a chruthachadh ann an àite cho sònraichte ri Bràdhagair. Tha fios aig bailtean mòra cho riatanach 's a tha ealain-lann airson piseach eaconomaigeach a thoirt air sgìre: tha an aon rud fìor ann an sgìrean dùthchail.

'S iomadh cèilidh air leth a th' air a bhith againn anns an rùm coimhearsnachd aig Grinneabhat. Tha sinn a' cèilidh le chèile ann gach seachdain, agus a' caithris na h-oidhche ann le seinneadairean Gàidhlig air leth, cluinnidh sinn clann bheaga a' cluich an seo, bidh clasaichean agus luchd-ciùird ann agus gu leòr de rudan eile.

'S e prìomh àite cèilidh son daoine bho air feadh an eilein a th' anns a' chafaidh is cànan nan Gàidheal ga cluinntinn ann fad an t-siubhail. Bidh luchd-tadhail bho gach ceàrnaidh a' tighinn chun àite fuirich againn, nam mìosg luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig agus sgoilearan bho thìr-mòr na h-Alba a tha a' dèanamh Gàidhlig san sgoil agus a tha ag iarraidh bogadh ann an coimhearsnachd far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig fhathast làidir.

Tha Grinneabhat air togail mhòr a thoirt do thaobh siar Leòdhais. Tha daoine toilichte tadhal anns an togalach son iomadh adhbhar agus co-chomunn a bhith aca le chèile. Ged a tha e comasach an-diugh coinneachadh agus bruidhinn ri daoine bho taobh eile an t-saoghail ann am prìobadh na sùla air an eadar-linn, agus beatha sòisealta a' leanntainn air na meadhanan sòisealta, tha e cudromach dhuinne gum bi sinn a' coinneachadh còmhla ann am fochair a chèile, mar a bha ar sinnsearan.

Tha mu dheichnear luchd-obrach aig Grinneabhat a bheir fàilte bhlàth dha cèilichean, agus tha diofar dhaoine gu saor-thoileach a' cuideachadh le tachartasan agus clasaichean. Tha gach sgillinn a chosgas daoine aig Grinneabhat ga chosg leis an Urras air seirbheisean coimhearsnachd.

Airson barrachd fiosrachaidh nach tadhail sibh air ar làrach-linn www.grinneabhat.com no leanaibh sinn air Instagram @grinneabhat no Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BragarArnol/>

The exhibition space and accommodation for visiting artists is important for us. A programme of artists residencies instantly gives access to an international network of creative people. Being a place that creative people visit, work in, exhibit in and make work about, changes perceptions of place, both among local residents and the wider world. This is well recognised in urban areas where investment in the arts is known to make good economic sense, with people and businesses attracted to areas which are culturally vibrant. It is equally true of rural areas.

The community room has lived up to its name with all sorts of community events taking place there, from weekly coffee mornings to big Gaelic stars appearing to sing old and new Gaelic songs and entertain us in our own language.

The café is a key meeting point for people from all over Lewis, a place where Gaelic is spoken and encouraged. The accommodation is integral to many of the events and exhibitions we hold. As well as being available for all visitors, it allows Grinneabhat to be a resource for mainland Scotland based Gaelic medium schools, and Gaelic learners in general, to come to what is still a strong Gaelic community and hear the language spoken as a community language.

The Grinneabhat centre has resurrected the regular 'cèilidh', providing a place for people to meet and exchange news, as well as to socialise together. Face-to-face communication has always been highly valued in our culture, and although social media and the internet provide 24/7 communication, Grinneabhat provides the richness of human diversity which was enjoyed by previous generations.

Grinneabhat provides employment for ten local people and volunteers help out with events and activities. All money raised is reinvested in the community facilities.

For more information please visit our website www.grinneabhat.com or follow us on Instagram @grinneabhat or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BragarArnol/>



US National Mòd – Results

Mòd held on Zoom, November 11, 2023

Adjudicators:

Kerrie Kennedy (Oban, Scotland)

Lyle Kennedy (Oban, Scotland)

For the past few years, we have asked our mod adjudicators not to rank competitors first, second, and third according to numerical scores, but to award one of three individual marks to each competitor: *Ri moladh* (to be commended): *Air le math* (highly commended); or *Sònraichte* (exceptional).

Kerrie and Lyle expressed several times how pleased they were with the high level of accomplishment of the competitors, who are listed below in the order in which they appeared.

Ag Aithris Bàrdachd / Poetry Recitation

Cathleen MacKay (VA) / *Maraiche nan Cuantan, le*

Flòraidh NicPhàil / *Air leth math*

Liam Ó Caiside (VA) / *Buidheachas, le Catriona*

Parsons / *Sònraichte*

Barbara Lynn Rice (NY) / *Tramaichean Glaschu, le*

Dòmhnall Meek / *Air leth math*

Bàrdachd Ùr / New Poetry

Micheal Mac an t-Saoir (CA) / *Luideag chleachdte / Ri*

moladh

Sgeulachdan / Storytelling

Róisín Newton (NC) / “*O Adhaimh!*” / *Sònraichte*

Liam Ó Caiside (VA) / *Am fear a dh’fhalbh ’s nach do*

thill / Air leth math

Leughadh air a’ Chiad Sealladh / Sight Reading

Liam Ó Caiside (VA) / *Sònraichte*

Òran Luchd-tòisichidh / Beginner Song

Sheena Anderson Geiger (NC) / *Teannaibh Dlùth is*

Togaibh Fonn / Air leth math

Michelle Hughes (OH) / *Bidh Seumas Leam A-nochd /*

Sònraichte

Jennifer LeCompte (TX) / *Sheatadh Cailleach / Ri*

moladh

Róisín Newton (NC) / *Dh’èirich mi moch madainn*

Chéitein / Ri moladh

Farpais nan Òran / General Song

Will Collings (OH) / *Taladh na Mnathan Sithe / Air*

leth math

Will Collings (OH) / *Piobaireachd Dhòmhnuille*

Dhuibh / Ri moladh

Adam Dahmer (AB) / *Tioram air Tìr / Air leth math*

Adam Dahmer (AB) / *Iomaraibh Eutrom hò-rò /*

Sònraichte

Penny DeGraff (WA) / *A Fhleasgaich Òig is*

Ceanalta / Air leth math

Penny DeGraff (WA) / *Gaol am Fear Dubh /*

Sònraichte

Iain Grimaldi (NY) / *Fàgail Bharraigh / Air leth*

math

Iain Grimaldi (NY) / *O Luaidh / Sònraichte*

Òran Fhèin-taic / Accompanied Song

Penny DeGraff / *O Thoir A-nall am Botal /*

Sònraichte

Seinn Còmhla / Singing Together

Sheena Anderson Geiger / *Ciùin an Oidhch’ / Air*

leth math

Penny DeGraff agus Seirm / *Puirt à Beul /*

Sònraichte

Liam Ó Caiside agus Cathleen MacKay / *Mac Iarla*

nam Bratach Bàna / Air leth math

After the competition, Kerrie and Lyle introduced several visitors from Scotland, including Mia Duff (Oban) and Uisdean Craig (Oban), Junior Gold Medalists 2023; Finlay Morse (Aberdeen), competing in the Gold Medal 2024 and Depute Conductor of Aberdeen Gaelic Choir; and Julie Anne MacFadyen (Oban / Edinburgh), 2023 Oban Times Gold Medalist and An Comunn Gold Medal Finalist. All of the guests came to the after-mod ceilidh and sang for us there.

Nach cuidich thu An Naidheachd Againne? / Won't you help An Naidheachd Againne?



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We'll help you with our formatting guidelines.

Interested? Email naidheachd@acgamerica.org

US National Mòd – Special Awards

Duais MhicNèill / Herbert P. MacNeal
Award for best overall male singer
Adam Dahmer (AB)

Cuach Mharietta Nic Leòid / Marietta MacLeod
Award for best overall female singer
Penny DeGraff (WA)

Donald F. MacDonald
Award for best poetry recitation
Barbara Lynn Rice (NY)

Duais Iain Mhic Mhurchaidh / John MacRae
Award for best original poem
Micheal Mac an t-Saoir (CA)

Duais Dhaibhidh Mhic Risnidh / David MacRitchie
Award for best traditional story
Róisín Newton (NC)

Duais Leòdhais agus na Hearadh / Lewis & Harris
Award for best song from Lewis and Harris tradition
Jennifer LeCompte (TX) - *Sheatadh Cailleach*

Duais Alba Nuaidh / Nova Scotia Award for best song from the Nova Scotia Gaelic tradition
Sheena Anderson Geiger (NC) - *O Teannaibh Dlùth*

Joan McWilliams Weiss
Award for best song from a beginner
Michelle Hughes (OH)



Leabhraichean ùra á Albainn Nuaidh New & best-selling Gaelic books from Nova Scotia



L: Historical fiction with a foreword by *Outlander* author Diana Gabaldon.
R: *Mo chreach*, it's a Highland dance disaster...now in both Eng. & Gaelic editions! Sequel coming in Oct. 2023: *Catastrophe at the Christmas Ceilidh!*

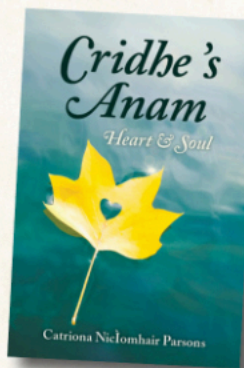


Top L: *Wild Rose*, a graphic novel tale of betrayal, action & revenge set in 18th-century Ireland & London—coming soon as *Gaeilge* (in Irish)!
Top R: The second graphic novel of eldritch horror & fantasy short stories by Cape Breton author-artist Angus MacLeod is now available in both English & Gaelic editions. See our online shop for Book Box deals!



Below: Goldilocks & the Three Bears in Gaelic: a translation with charming vintage illustrations. Sequel coming in Oct 2023: *The Little Red Hen, A' Chearc Bheag Ruadh.*

R: New Gaelic poetry from Catriona Parsons of Lewis and Nova Scotia



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Litir bhon Cheann-suidhe *le Liam Ó Caiside*



A chàirdean còire,

Tha sinn a' tarraing dlùth ris an Nollaig a-rithist. Tha e dìreach às dèidh Latha na Taingealachd neo Fèill a' Bhuidheachais anns na Stàitean Aonaichte. Tha dòchas mòr agam gu bheil sibh uile slàn, sàbhailte, agus sona, saibhir no daibhir gun robh ur cor. Cha bu chòir dhomhsa gearan. Co-dhiù – cò dh'èisteadh rium? Tha mi an-dràsta aig taigh m' athar ann am Florida.

An robh sibh aig a' Mhòd againn aig toiseach na Samhna? Mar as àbhaist, bha e math dha-rìreabh, ged nach tàinig sinn còmhla beò. 'S e mòd bhiortail a bh' ann, an ceathramh mòd bhiortail againn bho 2020. Feumaidh mi ràdh gun robh na mòdan bhiortail nas fheàrr ann an dòigh na iomadh mòd a bh' againn anns an t-seann aimsir. Thig barrachd thuca!

Bha seachd neach air fhichead againn am-bliadhna, agus dà fharpaiseach dheug. Agus b' e rud eile a bh' againn am-bliadhna ach dà chòisir a' seinn sa Ghàidhlig. Ciamar a rinn sinn sin air-loidhne? Bha dà fharpais – Òran Fhèin-Taic agus Seinn Còmhla – clàraichte ro làimh. Tha sinn gu math taingeil airson a' chuideachaidh a fhuair sinn bho ar briteamhan, Lyle agus Kerrie Cheanadach.

Agus abair gun robh deagh chèilidh againn an Disathairne ud. Thàinig aoighean sònraichte à Alba, pàistean agus inbhich, mar a leughadh sibh ann an àite eile san iris seo. 'S e fìor "Trans-Atlantic Session" a bh' againn. Agus bha na bùthan-obrach glè inntinneach cuideachd, fear dhiubh mu dheidhinn òrain à Earra-Ghàidheal agus fear eile mu chòisirean Gàidhlig.

Ged a tha ionndrainn orm airson nan làithean nuair a chruinnich sinn ri chèile airson a' Mhòid, tha mi uamhasach sàsaichte leis na mòdan bhiortail againn, a tha fàs nas motha agus a' toirt buaidh air na h-òrain Ghàidhlig fad is farsaing ann an Aimearaga a Tuath. Bidh mòdan beò ann an Kentucky, Maryland, New York, Tennessee agus Carolina a Tuath a-rithist ann an 2024 cuideachd.

Tha sinn a' cur ri chèile smuaintean agus planaichean airson Oidhche nam Bàrd air an 27mh dhen Fhaoileach. 'S dòcha gum bi bùth-obrach againn air-loidhne (tro mheadhan Zoom) mu dheidhinn bàrdachd, le aoigh neo aoighean sònraichte. Cuiridh sinn fios thugaibh. Agus mas

Letter from the President *by Liam Cassidy*

Dear friends,

We're drawing closer to Christmas again. It's just after Thanksgiving Day here in the United States. I greatly hope that you are all healthy, safe, and happy – whether rich or poor your lot. I shouldn't complain. Anyway, who would listen to me? I'm now at my father's house in Florida.

Were you at our Mòd this year at the beginning of November? As usual, it was exceptionally good, although we didn't gather together "live." It was a virtual mod, our fourth virtual mod since 2020. I must say that the virtual mods are better in a way than many mods we held in the "old days." More people come!

We had 27 attendees this year, and 12 competitors. Something else we had this year – two choirs singing in Gaelic. How did we accomplish that online? Two competitions – Accompanied Song and Singing Together – were pre-recorded. We're really grateful for the help we received from our adjudicators, Lyle and Kerrie Kennedy.

And what a great ceilidh we had that Saturday. Special guests joined us from Scotland, children and adults, as you'll read elsewhere in this issue. It was a true "Trans-Atlantic Session." And the workshops were very interesting too, one about the songs of Argyll and the other about Gaelic choirs and choral singing.

Although I miss the days when we would gather together for the Mòd, I'm extremely satisfied with our virtual mods which are growing and spreading Gaelic song far and wide throughout North America. There will be "live" mods in Kentucky, New York City, North Carolina, Maryland and Tennessee next year, too.

We're thinking about and putting together plans for Oidhche nam Bàrd (the Night of the Gaelic Poets) on Jan. 27. It's likely we'll have an online workshop (through Zoom) about poetry, with a special guest or guests. We'll let you know. And

math leibh dàn a leughadh neo a roinneadh cuide rinn,
leigibh fios thugam!

Bidh Coinneamh Choitcheann Bhliadhnaile againn a-rithist mu dheireadh thall cuideachd, anns a' Ghearran. Gheibh sibh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh anns an iris seo – seallaibh air a' mhiosachan. Bidh sin na chothrom fìor chudromach dhan a h-uile duine a bhios an sàs ann an ACGA am beachdan a thoirt dhan a' bhòrd. Tha mi an dòchas gum faic sinn sibh uile ann!

Tha mi taingeil airson iomadh rud am-bliadhna – mo shlàinte, mo theaghlach, mo charaidean ... agus tha mi taingeil airson na taic a thug sibhse do dh'ACGA tron bhliadhna gu lèir. Cha b' urrainn dhuinn dad a dhèanamh mura biodh sibh an sàs ann an ACGA, ge b' e bheil sibh nur buill neo nur n-oifigearan. Ceud mìle taing dhuibh uile. Nollaig Chrìdheil agus Bliadhna' Ùr Mhath nuair a thig i!

Le dùrachdan

Liam Ó Caiside
Ceann-suidhe, ACGA

if you'd like to read or share a poem, let us know!

We will have an Annual General Meeting again at long last too, in February. You'll get further information in this issue – check the calendar. That's an important opportunity for everyone involved in ACGA to give their opinions to the board. I hope we'll see you there!

I'm thankful for many things this year – my health, my family, my friends ... and I'm thankful for all the support you've given ACGA throughout the year. We couldn't do anything if you weren't part of ACGA, whether you're a member or an officer. A hundred thousand thanks to you all. Merry Christmas and a Good New Year!

With best wishes,

Liam Cassidy
President, ACGA

Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Do you know what familiar Gaelic proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 24 to see if you're right.



Image by beauty_of_nature, [Pixabay.com](https://www.pixabay.com)

Nach cuidich thu An Naidheachd Againne? / Won't you help An Naidheachd Againne?

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Tha “Sgoil nan Eun” air tighinn gu crìoch ach tha Liam air sgeulachd ghoirid a thoirt dhuinn suidhichte air traidiseanan Ceap Breatainn.

Dh’innis caraid Albannach dhomh naidheachd gu math coltach ris an sgeul seo iomadh bliadhna air ais. Ghluais mi suidheachadh na sgeoil bho Alba gu Ceap Breatainn agus dh’atharraich mi an naidheachd, gu h-àraidh aig an deireadh. Ach bha na creideamhan ris an tachair sibh anns an naidheachd seo beò ann an Ceap Breatainn cho math ri Alba, agus tha iad ann fhathast. – Liam Ó Caiside

A Scottish friend told me a story much like this tale many years ago. I moved the setting of the story from Scotland to Cape Breton, and changed the story, especially at the end. But, the beliefs you will encounter in this story were alive in Cape Breton as well as Scotland, and they are there yet.

– Liam Ó Caiside

Neòil-Shùla *le Liam Ó Caiside*

Gheibh sibh sìthichean ann an gàrradh mo mhàthar. No anns an tom air a chùlaibh. Chuala sibh gu ceart mi, sìthichean. Na daoine beaga.

Dh’ionnsaich mi sin nuair a bha mi air ais aig taigh mo mhàthar aon mhadainn Chèitein, mi fhìn nam shuidhe aig bòrd a’ chidsin ag òl cupa ti agus ise na seasamh a’ sgoil nan soithichean anns a’ mhèis. ’S ann a’ coimhead a-mach tro uinneag a’ chidsin a bha i, coltas crosta oirre.

“Na gàrlaoich! Thàinig iad air ais a-rithist!” thuirt i gu h-obann is an guth aice làn dèineis. “Cò?” dh’fhaighnich mi dhi. Chuir mi mo chupan sìos.

Tuigidh sibh nach robh nàbaidhean a’ fuireach faisg air a’ bhaile againn. Agus bha a’ chuid bu mhotha dhiubh sean, coltach ri mo mhàthair. Cha robh clann anns an nàbaidheachd nas motha mar a bh’ ann nuair a bha mise òg. Thug an ginealach òg “a’ West” orra, mar a thug mise trithead bliadhna air ais.

“Na daoine ud, na daoine beaga!” ars ise. “Nochdaidh iad a h-uile latha, a’ coimhead thairis air an fheansa, neo a’ tighinn a-steach dhan ghàrradh. Bidh iad an còmhnaidh a’ goid rudeigin neo ri caochladh chleasan, na meabain!”

“Càit a bheil iad?” dh’fhaighnich mi, a’ coiseachd thar a’ chidsin agus a’ dol a sheasamh ri a taobh.

“A-mach a’ sin, ri taobh na feansa,” thuirt mo mhàthair. “Ach tha iad a’ falbh. ’S dòcha gum faca iad sinn anns an uinneig.”

Cha ruig mi a leas a bhith ’g innse dhuibh nach robh gin ann rim faicinn, beag neo mòr.

B’ e sin a’ chiad uair a chuala mi dad bho mo mhàthair mu na daoine beaga, ach cha b’ e sin an uair mu dheireadh. Bhruidhinn i mun dèidhinn gu tric.

Uair a bh’ ann, bha iad a’ cruinneachadh anns an t-seann t-sabhal, a rèir mo mhàthar. Cha robh sprèidh neo each againn bhon a chaochail m’ athair fichead bliadhna air ais.

“Dè ’n coltas a th’ orra?” dh’fhaighnich mi dhi. “An coltas àbhaisteach,” fhreagair mo mhàthair. “Còtaichean gorma agus adaichean dearga air feadhainn dhiubh. Feusagan fada liath. Tha aodach gorma agus brèidean tartain air na mnathan, ge-tà. Tha iad bòidheach.”

Aon fheasgar, bha sinn a-muigh ri cùl an taighe, agus thuirt i rium gun robh na daoine beaga nan suidhe aig bun craoibhe air taobh eile a’ ghàrraidh. Choisich mi dhan chraoibh agus dh’fhaighnich mi dhi, “Càit’ a bheil iad a-nise? A bheil iad fhathast ann a’ seo?”

“Chan eil, chan eil,” thuirt mo mhàthair. “Theich iad uile nuair a theannaich thu ach tha duine a-mhàin na sheasamh fhathast. Chan eil eagal air romhad!”

Chaidh mise air ais a-staigh.

Uair eile, bha na daoine beaga a’ buaireadh a’ chait a dhol dhachaigh còmhla riuthasan fon tom, ars ise. “Tha iad làn dhen donas, ged bha iad aosta,” thuirt mo mhàthair.

'S e mo mhàthair a bha a' fàs aosta, agus chuir sin dragh agus iomagain orm. Bha i gu bhith ochdad bliadhna dh'aois, a' fuireach leatha fhèin ann an seann taigh ann an Ceap Breatainn.

Bha mi fhìn – an aon nighean aice – ann an Toronto bhon a chaidh mi gu oilthigh. Phòs mi ann a' sin agus tha dithist nighean againn, is iad air cinntinn suas a-nise agus ag obair anns a' bhaile-mhòr.

Gu fortanach, bha mo bhràthair Aonghas a' fuireach ann am Baile nan Loch, àite air an tug iad *Dartmouth* sa Bheurla. Bha na bràithrean eile agam ann an Dùn 'ic Mhurchaidh agus Bhancùbhair. Cha bhitheamaid a' cluinntinn bhuapa gu tric, ach thigeadh Aonghas dhachaigh bho àm gu àm agus chùm e sùil air ar màthair. 'S e dotair a th' ann.

Bha mi caran màirnealach facal a ràdh ri duine sam bith mu dhèidhinn na bha mo mhàthair ag ràdh. Dè shaoileadh iad? An cuireadh iad an t-seann bhoireannach a-mach às a dachaigh gu taigh-cùraim?

Cuimhnichibh gun robh mo mhàthair 's a teaghlach air a bhith a' fuireach sa bhaile againn cha mhòr dà cheud bliadhna. Nuair a dh'eug a h-athair anns an Dàrna Chogadh Mhòr, agus a chaochail a màthair, chaidh mo mhàthair a thogail le a sean-phàrantan agus a h-uncailean. 'S e sin an t-adhbhar gu robh i làn-Ghàidhlig. Bhruidhinn mo shin-sheana phàrantan agus an teaghlach uile gu lèir Gàidhlig an uair sin. 'S truagh nach eil mòran agam fhìn.

Bha bailtean-fearainn aig a h-uncailean faisg air a' bhaile againn fhìn. Nuair a phòs mo mhàthair, thàinig m' athair air ais dhan bhaile còmhla rithe agus shuidhich iad anns an t-seann taigh còmhla ri a seann-phàrantan. Nuair a chaochail iad, 's ann aca a bha an seann bhaile-fearainn.

Bha deasbad eadar mi fhìn agus Aonghas air an fhòn. Dè bu chòir dhuinn a dhèanamh air a son? Dh'innis mi dha dè bha i ag ràdh mu na sìthichean.

“A bheil i air rudan eile fhaicinn, rudan nach robh ann?” dh'fhaighnich e dhomh. Cha robh idir. Bha a h-inntinn cho geur 's a bha i riamh – a-mach o na sìthichean.

Thuir e rium, “A bheil cuimhne agad air nuair a bha sinn òg ...”

O, tha cuimhne agam air. Ged nach tuirt mo mhàthair no m' athair mòran mu na sìthichean nuair a bha sinn nar pàistean, bha a h-uncailean beò fhathast, agus is ann aca a bha na naidheachdan.

“Dè a' Ghàidhlig a thug iad air a' chnoc bheag air cùl an taighe?” dh'fhaighnich Aonghas. “Tom an t-sithein.” Abair fhèin e! Dh'ochuimhnich mi sin. 'S ann an sin a tha na daoine beaga a' fuireach, a rèir mo mhàthar.

“Agus a bheil cuimhne agad air dè bha Aonghas Ruairidh (bràthair-athar mo mhàthar) ag ràdh nuair a dhòirt e rudeigin mar uisge air an talamh nuair a bha sinn a-muigh? ‘Uisge gan ionnsaigh’ tha mi creidsinn. 'S e seòrsa de rabhadh a bh' ann gu bheil uisge a' tighinn. Agus cò iad a bha a-muigh far an do dhòirt e an t-uisge ach na sìthichean?”

Cha robh fhios agam air a' sin. Ach chuimhnich mi air rud eile.

“An do dh'innis Dòmhnall Ruairidh (seann-uncaile eile) an rud seo dhut mu dhèidhinn nan each? Mar a chuir na sìthianaich am muingean ann am figeachain bheaga, nuair a bha iad san stàball rè na h-oidhche?”

“Dh'innis,” thuir e. “Agus bha Dòmhnall gu math crosta nuair a rinn mi gàire. Bha e ann an dà-rìreabh. Agus thuir Iain Ruadh” – ar seann-uncaile as òige – “thuir e rium uair, ‘chan eil mi a' creidsinn anns na sìthichean, ach tha iad ann, ge-tà!”

Mhòthaich mi an uair sin gu robh creideamh anns na sìthichean gu math làidir aig an t-seann ghinealach sin, agus mhair an creideamh sin cho fada 's a bha iad a' fuireach anns na bailtean-fearainn aca agus a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig ri chèile gu bitheanta.

Nuair a fhuair Beurla làmh an uachdair, dh'fhalbh na sgeulachdan agus na sìthichean. Nuair a dh'fhalbh na daoine òga, dh'fhalbh na daoine beaga cuideachd. Rinn sinn dearmad orra.

Ach ann an inntinn mo mhàthar-sa, bha iad air ais.

“Cuimhnich, nuair a bha ar màthair na nìghneig, bha ’n cànan agus na naidheachdan seo na cluasan fad an t-siubhail,” thuirt Aonghas rium. “Cha mhòr an t-iongnadh gun tigeadh iad air ais thuice nuair a tha i air fàs sean.”

Ach an e seargadh-inntinn neo *Alzheimer’s* as coireach? B’ e sin an t-eagal a bu mhiosa.

“Thèid co-obraiche agam san ospadal suas gu Mabù an t-seachdain sa tighinn,” thuirt Aonghas. “Dh’iarr mi oirre stad aig an taigh nuair a bhios i air an t-slighe agus bruidhnidh i riut agus ri ar màthair. Tha fhios agam nach bu thoil leatha a dhol dhan dotair.”

Bha sin math. Eadar an dà àm, chaidh mise agus mo mhàthair air tursan beaga mun cuairt an eilein. Latha a bha seo nuair a bha sinn a’ dràibheadh dhachaigh bho Inverness, dh’fhaighnich mi dhi an robh i a’ faicinn shithichean ann an Inverness agus ann an àiteachan eile, a-mach on bhaile againn?

“O tha,” thuirt i le iongnadh. “Gheibh thu iad ann an iomadh àite. Nach eil fhios agad gur e ‘an Sìthean’ a th’ aca air Inverness anns a’ Ghàidhlig?”

O mo chreach. Bha cùisean na bu mhiosa na bha mi an dùil.

“Ach carson a tha thu faicinn shithichean agus daoine beaga a-niste?” dh’fhaighnich mi dhi. “Cha tuirt thu rud sam bith mun dèidhinn nuair a bha thu na b’ òige.”

“Uill, chan eil fhios agam le cinnt,” fhreagair ise. “Ach nuair a bha mi nam chaileig, thàinig seann-bhoireannach dhan doras, cailleach bheag chrùbach, ag iarraidh rudeigin – pait ime neo càise ’s dòcha. Cha do dh’aithnich mi i, ach thug mi an t-ìm dhi mar bu chòir.”

“Chuir i a meuran an comhair mo shùilean agus thuirt i, ‘Gaol a bhith nad aodann, lèirs’ a bhith nad shùilean,’ agus dh’fhalbh i. Dhiochuimhnich mi sin fad iomadh bliadhna, ach tha mi creidsinn gur e ban-shith a bh’ innte, agus gun tug i dhomh an deagh-lèirsinn a tha agam fhathast.”

Chuir seo iongnadh mòr orm. Cha chuala mi a leithid riamh. Deagh-lèirsinn?

Ach thàinig an latha agus thàinig an dotair, boireannach òg. Bha i aoibheil agus modhail, agus thòisich ise agus mo mhàthair a’ cabadaich mar charaidean ann an ùine nach robh fada. Chaidh mise a-mach.

Às dèidh uair, thàinig an dotair thugam. “Chan eil sìon ceàrr air inntinn ur màthar, ach tha neòil-shùla aice,” thuirt i rium. “Dè?” thuirt mi.

“*Cataracts*,” ars ise. “S e sin an t-adhbhar gu bheil i faicinn rudan nach eil ann. Bheir na cataracts buaidh air a lèirsinn. Agus bheir a h-eanchainn eadar-mhìneachadh air na tha i faicinn. Agus cuiridh a h-eanchainn na tha i faicinn ann an cruth a bhiodh i a’ tuigsinn – na daoine beaga, bho na stòraidhean a chuala i nuair a bha i òg.”

A shìorraidh mhathasaich, chuir sin mòr-iongnadh agus faochadh orm! “Dè bu chòir dhuinn a dhèanamh?” dh’fhaighnich mi dhan dotair.

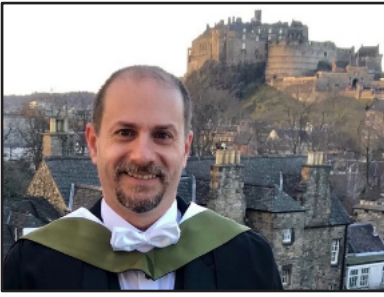
“S e mo bharrail gum bu chòir dhi a dhol fon lannsa anns an ospadal. B’ urrainn dhaibh na neòil-shùla a thogail àiste. Bhiodh i ceart gu leòr às dèidh sin, agus a lèirsinn fada na b’ fheàrr.”

Taing dhan t-Sealbh! Thug mi mìle taing dhi agus dh’fhalbh i air a turas. Thuirt mo mhàthair gun tèid i dha na dotairean ann am Baile Shidni, agus thèid mise còmhla rithe nuair a bhios iad deiseil air a son. Agus tha mi cinnteach, cha chluinn sinn an còrr mu na daoine beaga às dèidh sin!

Air taobh eile na feansa, bha na daoine beaga a’ coimhead air an dotair òg agus ise a’ dràibheadh air falbh. “Saoilibh an dèan i aon mhath dhi?” arsa duine dhiubh.

“Tha eagal orm nach dèan,” thuirt a charaid, fear le feusag bhachlagach fhada. “Cha chuirinn mòran earbs’ anns na dotairean.”

Taing do Lodaidh MacFhionghain airson a chuideachaidh.



Litir à Dùn Èideann

by Jeff W. Justice

A chàirdean,

“Guys, sometimes, life just is not fair.”

I played *ball-coise* when I was younger. I wasn't very good at it, but I did play on a city championship team one season. We had but one loss in the regular season, and that quote was the first thing Coach said to us as we gathered, dejected, after the final whistle blew. We had just been beaten by a team that, in reality, was really just one player. That player was Mia Hamm, and she went on to win Olympic gold medals and the Women's World Cup with the US Women's National Team.

I've been reminded of that in the past month. I've been sitting at home, as COVID finally caught up with me. I've had every vaccine on offer. I wear masks, despite my state's governor opposing them in public facilities. I keep hand sanitizer in my backpack, and I use it. None of those precautions were guarantees, so here I sit and write between waves of fogginess.

I got an email last week from another Celtic studies organization informing me that the University of Toronto is considering replacing its Celtic Studies program with an “Irish and British Studies” program that will not have a mandatory Celtic language requirement. I had hoped that, during moments of clarity, that email was something that I'd imagined.

No, it was not. I've received multiple messages and emails since, asking me to submit my own comments opposing this effort.

Those messages were demoralizing enough. Then I received multiple messages alerting me to a proposal on the other side of the Atlantic that the University of Aberdeen is considering, which will see it eliminate research in several languages. This proposal includes Gaelic. The Scotland-based Royal Celtic Society sent out an emergency petition to its membership, asking it to register its objections to this move. A member of the RCS Council pointed to the fact that Aberdeen's university library contains a wealth of Gaelic material, which should make such a move unthinkable.

Ironically, these universities' actions are taking place as the Scottish Parliament is now moving forward with legislation to give official status to Gaelic (and Scots) in law, and the UK Parliament is simultaneously moving forward with a bill that will improve Gaelic and Welsh broadcasting and make both easier to access worldwide.

OK, not everything went wrong in November. However, let there be no mistake that education is a significantly important component in perpetuating any language. Lack of teaching support and usage of a language in public education institutions is a serious threat in and of itself, but our institutions of higher education abandoning them, treating them as afterthoughts, should raise very significant alarm bells. If these bastions of human knowledge, of truth, are going to abandon these languages – whatever the reason might be – then who *will* step up to fill the void? Who could?

By the time this “Litir” goes to press, decisions might already have been made. If not, make your voice heard. If so, make your voice heard, as decisions can be reversed. Either way, An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach and our fellow Celtic organizations about the globe are now on warning. We need to be vigilant and proactive in preventing any academic ambivalence toward our languages, toward who we are and who we choose to be. I invite us to have this conversation urgently.

Now, back to convalescence and some *cofaidh teth*.

Le meas,

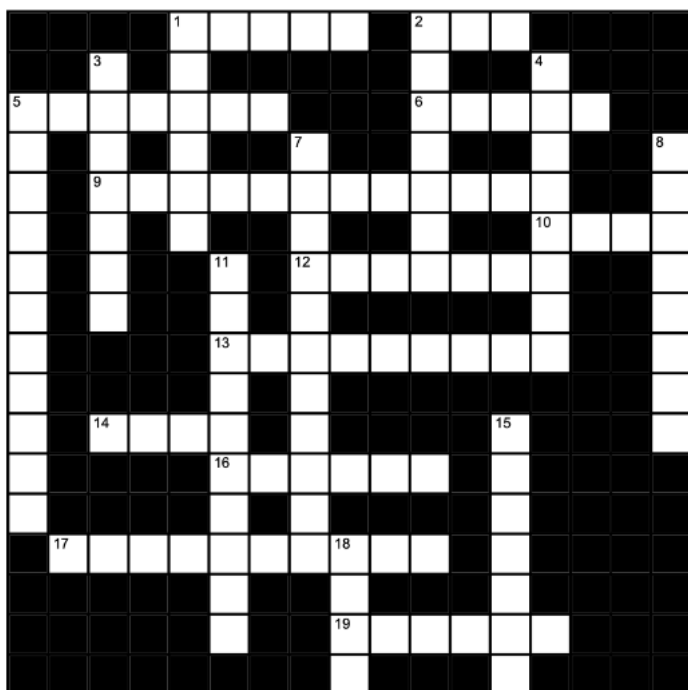
Goiridh | Jeff

Nach cuidich thu An Naidheachd Againne? / Won't you help An Naidheachd Againne?



..... by telling us what’s happening in your Gaelic community by writing short articles about local events, in English or Gaelic.
Interested? Email naidheachd@acgamerica.org

Elementary Crossword: Siubhal (travel)



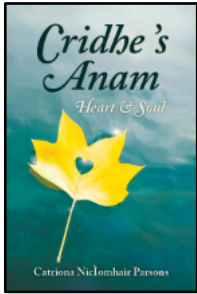
Across

- 1 Street (5)
- 2 Trail (3)
- 5 Walk (7)
- 6 Train (5)
- 9 Sailboat (4-8)
- 10 Ship (4)
- 12 Schedule (4-3)
- 13 Highway (6-3)
- 14 Boat (4)
- 16 Drive (6)
- 17 Ferry (4-6)
- 19 Vehicle (6)

Down

- 1 Fly (6)
- 2 Bicycle (7)
- 3 Travel (7)
- 4 Wanderer (8)
- 5 Map (4-7)
- 7 Passenger (5-6)
- 8 Taxi (8)
- 11 Airport (4-6)
- 15 Airplane (7)
- 18 Horse (4)

See page 25 for solution



Book Review:
Cridhe 's Anam / Heart & Soul
 le Catriona Parsons
 Bradan Press, 2023, 110 pages
 ISBN: 978-1-77861-021-9

Lèirmheas le Àdhamh Dàmaireach

Tha mi dìreach às dèidh crìoch a chur air *Cridhe 's Anam*, duanaire a sgrìobh Catriona NicIomhair Parsons – sgrìobhadair, òraidiche agus tidsear gu math ainmeil ann an Saoghal na Gàidhlig, aig a bheil luchd-leughaidh, luchd-èisteachd, agus oileanaich air trì mòr-thìrean. Tha ìomhaigh eachdraidh an ùghdair ri fhaicinn gu soilleir ann am bàrdachd an leabhair seo, leis na pìosan air an òrdachadh a rèir an àite mu bheil iad air an sgrìobhadh, air neo far an robh am bàrd a' fuireach nuair a sgrìobh i iad.

Tòisichidh Parsons an co-chruinneachadh le dàin do dh'Eilean Leòdhais, far an do rugadh i. Chòrd na pìosan sin gu mòr rium, air iomadh adhbhar. 'S a' phrìomh àite, tha iad stèidhichte ann an òige an ùghdair, agus, ged as ann an Leòdhas a tha na freumhan aca, tha iad làn fhaireachdainnean a nochdadh ann an òige sam bith: an toileachas a dh'fhairicheas pàiste beag nuair a thèid e mun cuairt sgìre a choimhearsnachd le a phàrantan; am blàths a thig oirnn nuair a chuimhnicheas sinn gaol fhathast maireannach a thòisich nuair a bha sinn òg; an cianalas a th' aig gach uile clann, airson nan dùthchannan san do thogadh iad, ach nach mothaich iad a-chaoidh ann an da-rìribh gus am falbh iad airson tìrean fada thall.

Agus sin a rinn Parsons fhèin, gu dearbh: thug i a casan leatha, mar gum biodh, agus rinn i cùrsa air àiteachan gu math eadar-dhealaichte on eilean aice fhèin. Ach, mar a sheallas a cuid bàrdachd, ged a dh'fhàg i an dùthaich aice, cha do chuir i a cùl ri a dùthchas. Fiù 's am feadh 's a tha i a' toirt an leughadair tron iomadh siubhal aice mun cuairt an t-saoghail, o Alba Nuadh gu Sealann Nuadh, bidh dualchainnt Leòdhais a' sradachadh am measg nam faclan mar bhleideagan òir am measg bhraoileagan aig ìochdair uillt, agus tha a fèin-aithne – mar Leòdhasach, mar neach-labhairt na Gàidhlig, is mar Ghàidheal – follaiseach gu moiteil air feadh an leabhair. 'S dòcha gun robh dileasachd a' bhàird do mhuinntir nan Gàidheal as soilleire ri fhaicinn anns an duan as fheàrr leam sa cho-chruinneachadh, pìos air an robh an tìotal 'Urram':

Seasaidh Leòdhas – agus na Leòdhasaich
 Seasaidh na Hearadh – agus na Hearaich
 Seasaidh Sgitheanaich, Eigich, Abraich –
 Seasaidh na Gàidheil – ge bi far am bi iad

[...]

Òir thug iad leotha an cànan is ceòl; thug iad leotha
 An creideamh; agus an aghaidh saoghal chruaidh, chunnartaich,
 Sheas iad; tha iad 'nan seasamh fhathast; agus far am bi iad
 Seasaidh i gu stolda, slàn an aghaidh na Siorraidheachd

Is faclan math fhèin iad, a Chatriona! Tha mi an dòchas gun leugh an saoghal iad, is gum bi an sluagh gan cuimhneachadh 's gan creidsinn. Tha mi cinnteach gun nochd am mac-talla nam chuimhne sna bliadhnaichean ri teachd nuair a smaoinicheas mi air maireannachd nam muinntir tìsanach – is na Gàidheil nam measg – an aghaidh colonachd.

In this article originally published in *An Naidhachd Againne*, March, 2012, Catriona Parsons, whose poetry collection, *Cridhe 's Anam / Heart and Soul*, is reviewed on page 15, tells us a little about growing up on Lewis, and how the people of Point saved the rest of the island from drifting off into the sea!

Dh'iarr sinn air Catriona Parsons sgrìobhadh a bheireadh dhuinn iomradh is beagan tuigse air àite a breith. Tha i air aiste gu math tarraingeach is pearsanta a dhealbhadh, a tha a' toirt dhuinn sealladh air an Rudha agus a togail an siud. Tha Catriona aithnichte mar-thà do dh'iomadh ball ACGA mar thidsear, charaid agus shàr neach-taice don Ghàidhlig.

We asked Catriona Parsons to tell us about the place she was born. She has given us an appealing and personal picture of Point (Lewis) and her early years there. Catriona is already known to many ACGA members as teacher, friend, and supporter of Gaelic.

Mo Chuimhne air Leódhas

le Catriona NicÌomhair Parsons

Rugadh mi ann a' baile beag air taobh an ear Leódhais. 'S e Aignis ainm a' bhaile bhig seo, "Aignis air a' mhachair" mar a chanas an t-òran. Tha Aignis 'na laighe ann a' sgìre an Rudha, agus chan eil eadar an Rudha agus an còrr dhen eilean ach aoidh chumhang ris an canar Am Bràighe. Air aon taobh rathad na h-Aoidhe, tha cladach is gainmheach is machair; air an taobh eile, cladach. Agus air taobh na machrach, tha seann chladh far a bheil mo shinnsirean air an tiodhlaiceadh. Ri taobh a' chladh seo, tha seann eaglais – no làrach de dh' eaglais – a tha air a h-ainmeachadh do Cholum Cille. 'S coltach gun deach an eaglais a thogail anns na meadhon aoisean, ach b' ann air làrach cill an Naoimh Chatain a chaidh a togail. Bha Catan beò aig àm Choluim Chille 's an t-siathamh linn. Co dhiùbh, tha naoidh deug de chinn- chinnidh Clann MhicLeòid adhlaithe anns an eaglais seo. 'S e NicLeòid a bha 'nam mhàthair 's mar sin, tha ùidh agam anns a' chinneadh aice.



Taobh eile a' Bhràighe / The far side of the Bràighe

Catriona Parsons

A-nis bho chionn fhad an t-saoghail, cha robh an Rudha idir ceangailte ri Leódhas. Aon oidhche dhorcha geamhraidh, thàinig stoirm a bha gàbhaidh le tuinn mhór uamhasach a bhrùth 's a phronn taobh an iar na h-Alba. Fhad 's a bha na tuinn eagalach seo a' cnacadh 's a' bualadh, thachair gun do thòisich Eilean Leódhais falbh leis a' ghaoith anns a' chuan shiar. Thug muinntir a' Rudha aire dhan a' seo agus chaidh iad an aghaidh na stoirm agus



Sealladh air pàirt de dh'Aignis / Aignish, Lewis

Catriona Parsons

Remembering Lewis

by Catriona NicÌomhair Parsons

I was born in a village on the east side of the Isle of Lewis, by the name of Aignish – “Aignish on the machair”, as the song goes. Aignish lies in the district of Point which is tied to the rest of the island by a narrow isthmus called the “Bràighe”. On one side of the isthmus road are shore and sand and machair; on the other side, shore. On the machair side is an old graveyard where my ancestors are buried and beside it, an old church – or church ruin – named for St. Columba. It seems the church was built in the middle ages on the foundation of a chapel dedicated to St. Catan who was alive in the time of St. Columba in the 6th century. In any case, 19 chiefs of Clan MacLeod are buried in this church; my mother was a MacLeod and naturally I'm interested in her lineage.

Now long, long ago Point wasn't attached to Lewis at all. One dark winter's night, a fearful storm came with tremendous waves that pounded and battered the west of Scotland. While these fearful waves were crashing and threshing, the Isle of Lewis began to go off with the wind into the Atlantic Ocean. The

thilg iad ròp tarsainn dhan eilean gus nach flodadh e air falbh. Rè ùine, thuinich feamainn, barraig-uaine (no algae) agus gainmheach air a' ròp; chnapaich seo beag air bheag gus a' robh aoidh mu dheireadh eadar an Rudha agus Eilean Leódhais. Mar sin, tha muinntir Leódhais fada an comain muinntir a' Rudha airson an sàbhaladh. Sin an sgeul co dhiùbh's ma 's e breug bhuam i, b' e breug thugam i!

Nuair a dh'fhàs mi suas ann a' Leódhas aig àm an darna chogaidh agus anns na bliadhnaichean às a dhéidh, cha robh guth aig duine gu robh a' Ghàidhlig ann a' cunnart. Gu deimhinne, b' ann 's a' Bheurla a fhuair sinn oideachd 's an sgoil ach bha a' Ghàidhlig ri 'cluinntinn anns na dachaidhean agus air na sràidean; agus bha cothroman anns na bun-sgoiltean 's na h-àrd-sgoiltean òrain Ghàidhlig 'ionnsachadh is clasaichean Gàidhlig a ghabhail. B' ann am Bun-sgoil Shandabhaig aig aois ochd bliadhna a dh' ionnsaich mi an t-òran a bhuannaich darna duais dhomh aig Mòd Leódhais, a' chiad mhòd 's an robh mi a-riamh! Roimh m' linn, chuir An Comunn Gàidhealach gnàthasan-cainnt is abairtean a chruinnich maighstir-sgoile Shandabhaig, Donnchadh MacDhòmhnaill, an clò. (*Gaelic Idioms and Expressions, with free translations*, 1932). Tha iad fhathast anabarrach feumail. Gu mì-fhortanach, bidh Bun-sgoil Shandabhaig a' dùnadh am bliadhna air sgàth gainnead nan sgoilearan.

Tha mi a' cumail a-mach gur e buaidh mo sheanar 's mo sheanmhar, pàrantan m' athar, ann an Aignis as coireach gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig agam fhin an diugh. Cha robh ach facal no dhà dhen Bheurla aig mo sheanmhair; mar sin, cha do bhruidhinn mi ach a' Ghàidhlig nuair a bha mi còmhla riutha, fad iomadh ceann-seachdain is samhraidh. Bhithinn a' cuideachadh mo sheanar leis an obair a-muigh (ma 's fhior!) Bliadhnaichean às déidh dhaibh caochladh, aon là breagh samhraidh 's mi a' coiseachd na slighe suas gu Dùn Louisbourg ann a' Ceap Breatainn, a' mhuir air aon taobh agus boltrach sheamragan a' tighinn gu mo shròin bho raon air an taobh eile, thàinig mo sheanair a-staigh orm cho soilleir agus rinn mi na loidhnichean a leanas:



*Eaglais na h-Aoidhe / St. Columba's Church (ruin) and graveyard, Aignis
Catriona Parsons*

people of Point noticed this and, going against the wind, threw a rope across to the island so that it wouldn't float away. Through time, seaweed, algae and sand settled on the rope; little by little, this accumulated until finally there was an isthmus between Point and the Isle of Lewis. For that reason, the people of Lewis are much indebted to the people of Point for saving them. That's the story anyway – and if it's not true, that's how I heard it!

At the time I grew up in Lewis after the Second World War, no one spoke of Gaelic's being in danger. True, it was in English we received our school education but Gaelic could be heard in homes and on the streets; and opportunities existed in elementary and high schools to learn Gaelic songs and access Gaelic classes. It was in Sandwickhill School that I learned at age 8 the song that won 2nd prize for me at the Lewis Mòd, the first mod I ever attended! Before my time, the Highland Society published a book by Duncan MacDonald, then Headmaster of Sandwickhill School, entitled *Gaelic Idioms and Expressions, with free translations*, in 1932. These are still extremely useful. Unfortunately, this same school is due for closure this year due to shortage of students.

That I have the Gaelic today is due, I'm sure, to the influence of my father's parents in Aignish. My grandmother had only a couple of words of English and so I spoke only Gaelic with her and my grandfather all the weekends and summers I spent with them. I used to help my grandfather with the outside work (make-believe, on my part!). Years after their death, one lovely summer's day as I was walking on the path up towards Fortress Louisbourg in Cape Breton, the sea on one side and the scent of clover palpable from a field on the other side, my grandfather came strongly to mind and I put the following lines together:



*Taobh a-staigh Eaglais na h-Aoidhe / Church ruin detail, Aignish
Catriona Parsons*

Cuimhne

'Nam shuidh' am bucas cairt mo sheanar
'S mi beag bìodach, air mo bhrùthadh a-null 's a-nall
'S na rothan a' leum air clachan a' rathaid
'S an làir a' toirt céim gu trom's gu mall.

Bha an dithis againn – mi-fhìn 's e-fhéin
(Mise faireachdain cho mór!) – 'dol an tòir air
gainmhich bho'n tràigh.
Os ar cionn adhar breac gorm 's a' cionacrachadh ar
sròintean
Fàileadh cùbhraidh na seamraig bhàin.

Mi coiseachd eadar muir is achadh
Air mór-thìr eile, 's gaoth bhlàth na mara
A' gluasad tarsainn air a' raon, geal le seamragan
'S a' toirt mo sheanar – glan, geur, gràdhachte – gu
m' aire.

(an clò ann a' GAIRM, An Dùdlachd, 1990)

Remembrance

There was I, tiny wee, sitting in my grandfather's cart
Jostled back and forth
As the wheels leapt upon the stones of the road
And the mare plodded, heavy and slow.

The two of us – myself (feeling so big!) and himself –
Going to fetch sand from the sea-shore.
Above us, a speckled blue sky and, caressing our noses,
The sweet fragrance of the white clover.

Walking between sea and plain on another continent
With the warm sea-wind moving across the field
White with clover, bringing my grandfather –
Bright, sharp, beloved – to my attention.

(published in GAIRM, December, 1990)



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computer skills, we will provide training (and software, if necessary)..
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Bilingual Recipe

The first known recipe for tablet was recorded in Scotland in the early 18th century, and this sweet, fudge-like treat has remained popular in Scotland ever since. Sonja and Phil at Scottish Scran (<https://scottishscran.com/>) have generously allowed us to print their recipe here, along with our Gaelic translation. The aim of their website is to explore traditional and modern Scottish recipes that the home cook can recreate. Although there are only a few ingredients, tablet, like any homemade candy, can be a bit challenging to make, but Sonja and Phil provide a step-by-step method with extensive tips to make sure that your tablet is delicious. <https://scottishscran.com/traditional-scottish-tablet-recipe/>



<https://scottishscran.com/>

Sonja and Phil

Clàr-siùcair

Gritheidean*

4.5 cupan siùcair gràinnichte no siùcair castoir

1 chupa bainne làn-gheir

1 tiona (14 unnsachan) bainne mhilis

6 spàintean-bùird ime

* Faic an ceangal os cionn airson tomhasan meatrach

Stiùiridhean

Ann am pana mòr air an stòbha, leagh an siùcar, am bainne làn-gheir agus an t-im gu slaodach fhad 's a tha thu ga chur mun cuairt le spàin fhiodha gus am bi am measgachadh air a leaghadh gu math. Faodaidh tu àmhainn meanbh-thonn a chleachdadh airson a' cheum seo. Teasaich am measgachadh airson 90 diogan air teas iosal. Cuir am measgachadh mun cuairt. Teasaich agus cuir mun cuairt mu seach gus am bi am measgachadh air a leaghadh.

Cuir am bainne milis anns a' mheasgachadh (feumaidh tu an stòbha a chleachdadh airson a' cheum seo) agus goil seo, ga chur mun cuairt gu leantainneach gus nach loisg e.

Eàrr-bhruich gu sgiobalta fad 20 mionaid gus an tionndaidh e gu dath caramail, ga chur mun cuairt gu leantainneach.

Thoir air falbh a' phoit bhon teas agus buail am measgachadh gu luath le làimh no le measgaiche dealain.

Dòirt seo ann am pana-bèicearachd 12 x 9 òirlich. Tòisichidh e a' tiughachadh fhad 's a tha thu a' dòrtadh.

Fuaraidh fad 20 mionaid. Tarraing loidhnichean air a' mhullach gus am bi e nas fhasa a ghearradh.

Leig leis suidhe airson 2 gu 3 uairean no tron oidhche mus ithear e.

Scottish Tablet

Ingredients*

4.5 cups (2 lb) granulated or castor sugar

1 cup of full-fat milk

1 tin (14 oz) of sweetened condensed milk

6 tbsps butter

* for metric measurements see the link above

Method

In a large saucepan on the stovetop, slowly dissolve the sugar, full-fat milk and butter, stirring with a wooden spoon, until the mixture is smooth. You can use a microwave oven for this step, heating 90 seconds at a time on a low or defrost setting.

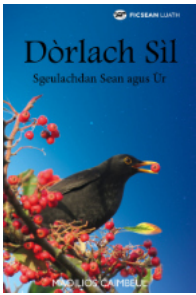
Add the condensed milk and bring the mixture to a boil, stirring continuously to prevent scorching (you must use the stove for this step).

Briskly simmer for about 20 minutes until the mixture darkens to a caramel colour, stirring continuously.

Take the pot off the heat and quickly beat the mixture by hand or with an electric mixer and then pour into a buttered 12 x 9 inch baking tray. It will start to thicken as you pour.

Let sit 20 minutes and then score the top for easier cutting later. Let sit for 2 to 3 hours before serving, or overnight.

Do you have a favorite 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 a future issue 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!



Book Review:
Dòrlach Sil: Sgeulachdan Sean agus Ùr
le Maoilios Caimbeul / Myles Campbell
Luath Press, 2021, 157 pages
ISBN: 9781910022740

Reviewed by Ted Neveln

There are 21 stories in this anthology, too many to cover each one, even briefly. I had read several stories before, and one, “An Claigeann aig Damien Hirst” (The Skull of Damien Hirst*), made such an impact on readers that an entire earlier short-story compilation was named after it. It’s a tale of a haunted skull persecuting a man with too much money and too little taste. For a different satire of wealth I recommend Borisina (Borisina), although you will need some basic knowledge about the British political scene. While I am at it I will spoil several stories and tell you that if a character is driving an expensive car, that foretells difficulties ahead. For more spookiness try “Caol-thèarnadh” (Narrow Escape). It features unearthly creepiness and a Mercedes. If you prefer terrestrial terror try “Ri Aghaidh na Creig” (Against the Precipice, or Cliffhanger) which has a BMW in it – uh-oh. The story “An Clisgeadh” (Shock) is full of omens and portents, but since it has no expensive cars maybe things won’t be so bad.

The worst horrors really happened. “Leig Leatha Losgadh” (Let Her Burn) is a simple and barely fictional narrative of the expulsions of the Gaels in the 19th century featuring the very real, very evil Pàdraig Sellar. “Baile Sgàil a’ Bhàis” (Town of the Shadow of Death) describes the home-front ravages of the First World War culminating in the *Iolair* disaster. Haunted skulls are cotton candy by comparison. “Mar a Bhruidhneas Cuimhne” (As Memory Speaks) describes a Gaelic village dying slowly from monolingual in-comers, but it features a moderately wealthy man who does something constructive, which is not something that rich men do in most of these stories.

The comical “An Tidsair agus na Fiaclan Fuadain” (The Teacher and the False Teeth) shows that it is not easy for a toothless teacher to face a class of rowdy tooth-privileged boys. In “Am Feòil-Sheachnair” (The Vegetarian) it is not easy being parents of a teenager who has been converted to vegetarianism by the Nuts and Greens society. This leads to my personal favorite “Màireag ’s an Coileach-Frangach” (Little Mary and the Turkey) which describes the fate of Calum, a charismatic turkey who has gobs of charm and is pre-destined for a starring role at Christmas dinner.

I did not understand the deeper point of “An Naidheachd bho Mhàrs” (The News from Mars) and I need to read it again. “An Doras Seunmhor” (The Enchanted Door) is a religious story with a Gaelic flavor – the title character is Jesus.

The most challenging story is “Aileas” (Alice? Pleasant country?). It is written in a stream-of-consciousness style but is also disconcerting. I will give you a hint by referring you to the poems “The Blessed Damozel” by Dante Gabriel Rossetti and “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe.

This doesn’t exhaust all the stories in the anthology, but the remainder describe moral challenges, growing up, and self-understanding.

I did not have to resort to the dictionary often and the stories do not have lots of compound sentences. The stories range from about six to ten pages and the typeface is easy to read and without the pixelation of some other books I have reviewed. If there are typos I did not see them. The paper is good quality and the paperback book has a surprisingly strong spine. It is available as an e-book as well.

* English story title translations by Ted Neveln.

Facal à Aonghas / A Word From Angus

Have you ever wondered how to say a particular word or phrase in good idiomatic Gaelic? Want to expand your vocabulary? Then you might find these examples helpful.

Angus MacLeod, Gaelic teacher and author from Cape Breton, often answers these kinds of questions in his classes, sometimes with a Cape Breton *blas*. His graphic novels¹ also provide many useful phrases in idiomatic Gaelic.

In English, “’til the cows come home”, is an expression that indicates a period of time that is both long and indefinite, as in “You can argue with him ’til the cows come home but he won’t change his mind.”

But in Gaelic we would say:

Faodaidh tu trod ris gu Latha Luain ach cha toir thu às a bheachd.

You can argue with him until Doomsday but you won’t change his opinion.

- *gu Latha Luain / Là Luain* – until Doomsday, until the end of time, forever, ’til Hell freezes over

- *cha toir thu às a bheachd* – you won’t dissuade him from his opinion



Other phrases that indicate a long period of time are:

Chaidh an sgeulachd seo innse cho fada ri freastal.

The story has been told for as long as time itself.

- *cho fada ri freasdal / freastal* – as long as time itself

- *freastal (masc.)* – fate

Cha tig e gu ceann fada.

He will not come for a long while.

- *gu ceann fada* – for a long while / time

Cha chuala mi bhuaithe fad ùine mhòr.

I haven’t heard from her in a long time.

- *fad ùine mhòr* – for a long time

- *fad (masc.)* – duration

¹ *Às a’ Chamhanaich*, written and illustrated by Aonghas MacLeòid, Bradan Press, 2022

Dorsan, written and illustrated by Aonghas MacLeòid, Bradan Press, 2022

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..... by sending us your favourite recipe. We'll help you with the Gaelic translation.



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Bàrdachd airson ar linn

We love it when Gaelic learners turn into Gaelic poets! “Bàrdachd airson ar linn” is an ongoing column to encourage and promote original contemporary Scottish Gaelic poetry. Poets may range from fluent and native speakers to adult learners.

ACGA member Micheal Mac an t-Saoir / Michael McIntyre is the recipient of the *Duais Iain Mhic Mhurchaidh* / John MacRae Award for best original poem at this year’s US National Mòd for his poem, *Luideag chleachdte*. He describes it as a poem from a *sreath de dhuanagan* – a sonnet sequence: *Litreachan na Bana-Bheachlannair* – *Letters of a Bee-keeper* – in which the letter writer composes a series of letters to a man with whom she had an unhappy, passionate affair some years before.

Luideag chleachdte

le Micheal Mac an t-Saoir

Luideag chleachdte air a thilg fon t-since;
stocainn ribeach anns an do chuir thu do chas
shalach; atach bhrògan a chaill
beagan maith a bha aca latha;

sgudal air a chur air cùl anns a’ bhiona;
no piseag bhriste, a cnàmhan brùillte
’s brùite ri taobh an rathaid ann an dìg;
nì gun fhiù, gun fheum, gun luach;

Mar gun loisgeadh às a cruth mo ghnùis,
chan fhulainginn a bhith air m’ fhaicinn.
Cha robh leisgeul agam a mhairsinn ... Thalla ’s tùdan!
Tuilleadh ’s cus! ’S ann orm fhìn a feumaidh mi gaire.

Chuirinn cuiridhean a-mach. Chuireadh an sealladh
mòr-iongnadh air an t-saoghal:
“Thigibh! Faicibh an òinseach! Chreid i gu dearbh gur
ann aige oirre a bha gaoil!”



Michael has also adopted rhymes from Mother Goose.

Seonag ’s Seoc

mar ath-innse le Micheal Mac an t-Saoir

Shreap Seonag ’s Seoc
suas an cnoc
fhaighinn peile uisge.

Thuit Seoc gus am bonn
’s bhris e a cheann
’s Seonag na dhèidh a’ tuisleadh.

Peadar Piobair

mar ath-innse le Micheal Mac an t-Saoir

Bha Peadar Piobair a’ buain baraille de phicilean picilte
Baraille de phicilean picilte a bhuaibh Peadar Piobair
Nam buaineadh Peadar Piobair baraille de phicilean picilte
Càit’ a bheil am baraille de phicilean picilte a bha Peadar
Piobair a’ buain?



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An t-àite agam fhìn

“An t-àite agam fhìn” is where you will find short pieces by ACGA members and friends about their families, their homes, and their world. In this issue, Cam MacRae tells us about the knitting group’s foray into Shetland lace, and she includes a link to a free pattern that you can use to knit small lacy “Holiday Frost Snowflakes.” Also in the issue, we welcome Ted Neveln, who, inspired by a phrase he saw in the LearnGaelic dictionary, explains why he needs to learn Gaelic. We couldn’t find a photo of seagulls swarming, so you’ll just have to imagine that part. And if you think you recognize Ted’s name, it’s because he writes our book reviews.

If you would like to try your hand at a short anecdotal piece in Gaelic about the place where you live or the people in it, we’d love to publish it in “An t-àite agam fhìn.” Don’t worry about making your Gaelic perfect. We’ll help you with the editing process.

A’ fighe aig astar

le Cam MacRae

Mar as trice, nuair a bhios mi a’ fighe, bidh mi a’ dèanamh rudeigin a chumas mi fhìn, no duine eile, blàth: geansaidh, ad, stocainnean, miotagan, no a leithid. Mar eisimpleir, an-uiridh, rinn am buidheann fighe againn beannagan Sealtainneach, neo *haps*, agus nach sinn uile a bha cofhurtail sa gheamhradh.

Aig an àm sin, bha sinn mothachail air seòrsa de bheannag eile a tha ainmeal ann an Sealtainn: beannag air a fighe le pàtrain lèis, beannag le lùban beaga biodach agus pailt, beannag eireachdail ach duilich a dhèanamh. Agus, uill, aig an àm sin, bha ùidh againn ann am beannagan a chumadh sinn seasgair san aimsir fhuar a bha gar dlùthachadh.

Am-bliadhna co-dhiù, ann an teas an t-samhraidh, thòisich sinn a’ smaoinichadh air lèis. Ach leis gur e obair fhada is mhòr beannag Shealtainneach lèis ffighe, cha do rinn sinn ach eisimpleirean beaga. Bha e spòrsail a bhith a’ fighe pìosan lèis cho àlainn, le bioran cho beag is snàth cho tana. Chan eil fhios a’ m am bi càch a’ fighe bheannagan lèis Sealtainneach san àm ri teachd, ach tha mi fhìn toilichte a bhith a’ dèanamh mhiotagan blàth dha mo phiuthar.

Ma bhios ùidh agad ann an rudeigin beag liosach ffighe, seo ceangal gu pàtran snog an-asgaidh aig Blue Sky Fibers.

<https://blueskyfibers.com/product-category/pattern/>

Cànan nan Eun

le Ted Neveln

Tha adhbhar eile agam a bhith ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig. Bha mi air mo chuairt nuair a thòisich na starragan ’s na faoileagan a’ trod rium!

“Sgreamhail! Sgreamhail!” thuirt iad rium. “Ghoid thu ar biadh! biadh! biadh! Ghoid thu ar sgròm, sgròm, sgròm!”

“Nach sibhse a tha dàna!” fhreagar mi iad, anns a’ Bheurla. “Chuireadh sibh casaid orm ’s ur sgròban làn feòil nach leibhse. Cho luath ’s a bhiodh cothrom agaibh bhiodh mo cheapaire a-mach às mo làimh mus b’ urrainn dhomh fiù ’s fhaighinn faisg air mo bheul! Bhiodh ur guib làn mionaich à iseanan beaga neo-chiontach agus sibhse gur mionnachadh dhomh! ’S e spuinneadairean a th’ annaibh! Na cuiribh càs orm le ur casaidean.”

Abair sgrogaineach sgalanta sgrìosail! Ach chan eil iad gam éisteachd. Mar sin, cuiridh mi saothair Gàidhlig ionnsachadh gus mo dhìon oir ’s i cànan nan eun.



eisimpleirean de lios

Janice Chan



Miotagan blàtha

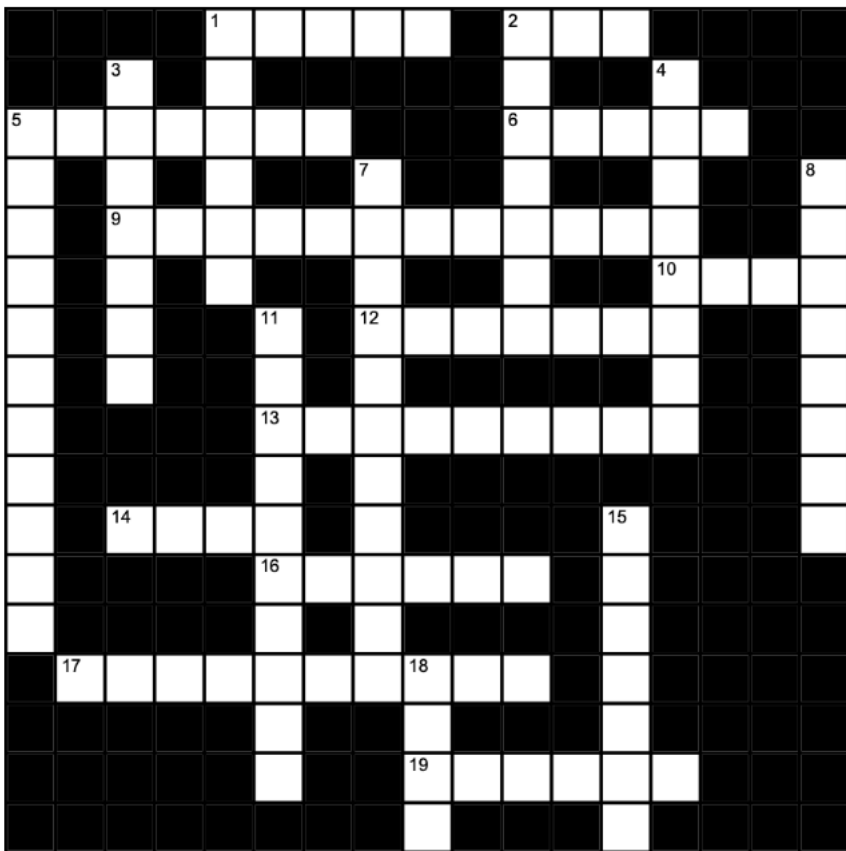
Cam MacRae



Faoileag

Barbara L. Rice

Tòimhseachan-tarsainn Adhartach: Samhlaichean



See page 25 for solution

Across

- 1 Cho _____ ri cloich (6)
- 4 Cho reamhar ris an _____ (3)
- 6 Cho cruinn ri _____ (3)
- 8 Cho luath ri _____ (5)
- 9 Cho _____ ris na h-eòin (6)
- 10 Cho _____ ris an t-salainn (4)
- 13 Cho làn ri _____ (3)
- 14 Cho teth ri _____ seòladair (4)
- 16 Cho _____ ri damh ann an ceò (4)
- 17 Cho trom ri _____ (8)
- 18 Cho leisg ri _____ (5,3)
- 19 Cho _____ 's a tha 'n ladar air a' phoit (6)

Down

- 2 Cho _____ ri cat (6)
- 3 Cho bochd ri _____ (5,7)
- 4 Cho sona ris an _____ (4)
- 5 Cho _____ ri sgadan (5)
- 7 Cho _____ ris a' mhadadh-ruadh (6)
- 11 Cho faoin ris na _____ (10)
- 12 Cho _____ ri ceò nam beann (4)
- 15 Cho fallain ri _____ (5)



Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 9

Cho daor ris an aran mhilis

As expensive as the shortbread

Why not try the delicious shortbread recipe published in the Spring 2013 *An Naidheachd Againne*. You can find it in our newsletter archive under ANA 2013-1:

<https://acgamerica.org/about/acga-newsletter-archive/>

Image by Miroslaw i Joanna Buchole, <https://pixabay.com/>



WATCH & LISTEN

Letter to Gaelic Learners

More advanced, weekly audio letters to Gaelic learners, all fully transcribed with language notes and integrated with our dictionary.

Level: B2-C2

[VIEW THIS RESOURCE](#)

Website to Watch

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh / Letter to Learners

The introduction to each of these short essays says it all, “A weekly letter to Gaelic learners with audio, transcription, and explanation.” The letter for mid-November, 2023, is numbered 1270 and that tells us that these entertaining and educational letters, written and read by Ruairidh MacIlleathain, originally produced by Cli Gàidhlig and aired by the BBC, have been appearing weekly for more than 24 years! You might have to listen to more than one a week if you want to get through the whole series.

For those who don’t feel up to the vocabulary and grammar level of the original series, there is also *An Litir Bheag / The Little Letter*, also written and read by Ruairidh, each one corresponding to that week’s *Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh*. The entire series of both letters can be found on LearnGaelic at <https://learngaelic.scot> under “Watch and Listen.”

Solutions to Crossword Puzzles

Elementary Crossword (p. 14)



Tòimhseachan-tarsainn (p. 24)



Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

An Dùbhlachd 2023 / December 2023

Cèilidh oidhche Haoine bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidh, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, December 15, 2023

Join us on Friday, December 15 at 7:30pm eastern, for our Friday Night Online Ceilidh. Come prepared with your Gaelic songs, stories and poems. If you are on Facebook, please consider joining our Ceilidh Group for updates on our Ceilidhs and links to lyrics, ideas for future ceilidhs and more at

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/cgtfridaynightceilidh>

Simply fill out the form here <https://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html> and we will send you the Zoom link to join online and the (toll) phone # to call in, if you don't have a computer. If you have any questions, email us at gaelictoronto@gmail.com

Am Faoilteach 2024 / January 2024

Celtic Connections, Glasgow, Scotland, January 18 – February 4, 2024

Glasgow's annual folk, roots and world music festival takes place in venues across the city. Gaelic events include performances by Beolach and Breabach and workshops by Joy Dunlop.

For more information see <https://www.celticconnections.com/>

Oidhche nam Bàrd bhiortail, Saturday, January 27, 2024

Please join ACGA for its annual celebration of Gaelic poetry and poets at 2pm eastern time. Special guests will be announced at a later date here: <https://acgamerica.org/>

Cèilidh oidhche Haoine bhiortail / Friday Night Virtual Ceilidh, Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto, January 19, 2024

Join us on Friday, January 19 at 7:30pm eastern, for our Friday Night Online Ceilidh. Come prepared with your Gaelic songs, stories and poems. If you are on Facebook, please consider joining our Ceilidh Group for updates on our Ceilidhs and links to lyrics, ideas for future ceilidhs and more at

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/cgtfridaynightceilidh>

Simply fill out the form here <https://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html> and we will send you the Zoom link to join online and the (toll) phone # to call in, if you don't have a computer. If you have any questions, email us at gaelictoronto@gmail.com

An Gearran 2024 / February 2024

Coinneamh choitcheann bhliadhna ACGA / ACGA Annual General Meeting, (Zoom), Sunday, February 4, 2024

You are invited to attend ACGA's Annual General Meeting on Zoom from 2-5pm eastern time. This is your chance to hear about what the organisation is doing, to ask questions and to provide feedback to the Board. More information will be available in the new year here: <https://acgamerica.org/>

Seachdain na Gàidhlig / World Gaelic Week, February 19-25, 2024

The theme for the third Seachdain na Gàidhlig is *Do Chànan. Do Chothrom* / Your Language. Your Opportunity, with the aim of raising the profile of Gaelic through community initiatives, projects, events, or just using as much Gaelic as possible in daily life in Scotland and around the world. For more information see

<https://seachdainnagaidhlig.scot/>

Cùrsaichean air astar / Distance Learning

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye

The distance learning courses offered by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig are designed to enable students to become fluent in Scottish Gaelic and to progress to further study through the medium of Gaelic if desired. They range from *An Cùrsa Inntrigidh* for those with little or no Gaelic to BA(HONS) in Gaelic language and Culture.

For a description of all distance learning courses offered through Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, see

<https://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/distance-learning/?lang=en>

Ongoing

Explore Gaelic with Angus MacLeod and Fiona Smith

The Explore Gaelic classes are 10-week sessions held throughout the year, designed to help learners of all levels to move toward fluency in Scottish Gaelic. Angus and Fiona believe that learning works best when it's fun. They are always trying out new ways to teach and learn. They drill tricky subjects and plunge into deeper explorations of the nooks and crannies of Gaelic. For more information about upcoming sessions, contact Nickie Polson at nickiepolson@shaw.ca

Seinn air Loidhne / Bruidhinn air Loidhne with Brian Ó hEadhra

Brian is a well-known musician and singer based in Inverness, Scotland. He holds Gaelic song classes, *Seinn air Loidhne*, on Zoom every so often, sharing great ceilidh and traditional songs. He also hosts a conversation group for beginners, *Bruidhinn air Loidhne*. For more information, check the *Seinn air Loidhne* Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/seinnairloidhne> and the *Bruidhinn air Loidhne* webpage <https://www.brian-oheadhra.com/bruidhinn>

An Clas Camelon

An Clas Camelon is a thriving community of Gaelic learners based in the village of Camelon near Falkirk in Scotland. Throughout the year, the group offers Gaelic song and language workshops on Zoom. The workshops have been taught by the likes of Gillebride MacMillan, Maeve MacKinnon, Joy Dunlop and Robert Robertson, just to name a few. For more information or to register, email anclascamelon@gmail.com or see the group's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1107654493032641>

Gàidhlig Photomac

Gàidhlig Photomac is a Scottish Gaelic Learning Community in the Washington, DC-area, open to all with an interest in the Celtic language of Scotland and its sister languages, Irish and Manx. Meetups are typically social events geared to help learners use Scottish Gaelic outside the classroom. A song sharing session is hosted most months. You can find more information about this informal event at the *Gàidhlig Photomac* page on Meetup at <https://www.meetup.com/Gaidhlig-Photomac/>. Email Cathleen MacKay at amum44@yahoo.com for more information.

Colaisde na Gàidhlig, Leasanan Bhideo / The Gaelic College, Video Lessons

Six different disciplines are taught by six knowledgeable and experienced instructors who will be sharing tips and techniques to get you playing, dancing, singing and speaking Gaelic the Cape Breton way. Each discipline is offered at 3 levels with 10 lessons per level for a total of 30 lessons in each discipline. Each level can be purchased for \$20 CDN for a 6 month subscription. For a list of lessons and more information, see <https://gaeliccollege.edu/learn/online-learning/video-lessons/>

Is your Gaelic class or study group planning an event, or are you aware of an event with substantial Scottish Gaelic content that you'd like your fellow ACGA members to know about? You can make submissions to Dè Tha Dol? by sending the following information to naidheachd@acgamerica.org

- Name of event
- Date
- City
- Address of Venue
- A short description, or web link and / or contact person's email address

Please keep in mind the following deadlines:

- Spring – February 15 (published March 15)
- Summer – May 15 (published June 15)
- Fall – August 15 (published September 15)
- Winter – November 15 (published December 15)

Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

United States

California

San Diego area

Weekly Zoom classes

Grammar, guided conversation, Gaelic story and culture, singing

Absolute beginner, 2nd year, advanced-intermediate classes

Michael McIntyre profmcintyre@yahoo.com

<https://gael-talk.com/>

Colorado

Denver

Conversation Group

Monthly at Stella's Coffee Shop

Rudy Ramsey 303-841-7839

Kentucky

Louisville (summer)

Online and in-person private individual and group Gaelic lessons

Gaelic classes through East Tennessee State University,

Colaisde na Gàidhlig, Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhòir

Adam Dahmer atdahm01@gmail.com

Maryland

Baltimore

Online Classes and Conversation Group

Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhòir

<https://sgoilgaidhlig.org>

email: sgoilgaidhlig@gmail.com

301-928-9026

New York

New York

Classes (via Zoom)

New York Caledonian Club

Contact Barbara L. Rice, Chair, Gaelic Studies

Barbara.Rice@nycaledonian.org

<https://nycaledonian.org/scottish-studies/>

Northern Virginia-Washington, DC-Maryland

Gaelic Learning Community (online)

Gàidhlig Photomac

Regular workshops and social events

Join us on

<https://www.meetup.com/Gaidhlig-Photomac/>

Contact Liam willbcassidy@gmail.com

Cathleen amum44@yahoo.com

Virginia

Roanoke

Daily Gaelic

Online lessons & classes, email courses

<http://www.gaidhliggachlatha.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DailyGaelic/>

<https://daily-gaelic-school.thinkific.com/>

Patreon, support and learning resources for members

<https://www.patreon.com/DailyGaelic>

Washington

Seattle

Slighe nan Gàidheal

Online Classes & Informal Study Groups

<https://www.slighe.org/learn-gaelic>

Canada

Alberta

Calgary (spring, fall, winter)

Online and in-person private individual and group Gaelic lessons

Gaelic classes through East Tennessee State University,

Colaisde na Gàidhlig, and Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhòir

Adam Dahmer atdahm01@gmail.com

British Columbia

Vancouver

Comunn Gàidhlig Bhancoubhair

Classes and Ceilidhs - check Facebook for details

info.vancouvergaelic@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/GaelicVancouver/>

Ontario

Toronto

Comann Luchd-Ionnsachaidh Thoronto

Gaelic classes & private tutoring via Zoom

<http://www.torontogaelic.ca>

Comunn Gàidhlig Thoronto

Gaelic classes via Zoom

<https://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/>

Québec

Montréal

Online Gaelic language and song, mouth music, Celtic choir.

Linda Morrison linda@lindamorrison.com

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

For additions and corrections, contact Janice Chan at naidheachd@acgamerica.org

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A Note on ANA's Gaelic and English Orthography

ANA generally publishes articles in Gaelic using the Gaelic Orthographic Conventions published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45356.html). However, articles employing older spelling are welcome, as are articles written in a particular Gaelic dialect (e.g., Cape Breton, Argyll).

For English articles, both British and American orthography are acceptable, as long as usage is consistent within the article.

ACGA Online Faces

Like most organizations in the modern world, ACGA has several online faces, including:

- www.acgamerica.org, our main website, containing a blog for announcements, tips, articles, etc.; an archive of newsletters; detailed information about our major events; information about ACGA and how to join; learning resources; and more.
- www.facebook.com/ACGAGaelic, our Facebook page.
- www.facebook.com/groups/1463155417230179, a special Facebook page for our Gaelic Song and Language Week at Grandfather Mountain. Click the "Join Group" button in the main menu to send a request to join.
- www.mixcloud.com/gngcom/, an archive for ACGA's Radio Guth nan Gàidheal channel on MixCloud, featuring 46 programs created between 2015 and 2017 for the online streaming Gaelic radio project Guth nan Gàidheal, featuring songs, stories and news.

An Naidheachd Againne

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

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An Naidheachd Againne welcomes submissions. Contact the editors for more information at naidheachd@acgamerica.org