

An Naidheachd Againne

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Rugadh 's thogadh Mairead Pheaton ann an Eilean Eirisgeidh. 'S e cuimhne chùbhraidh a th' aice air na làithean sin. Seo againn aithris thlachdmhor air àm sònraichte ann an Gàidhealtachd na h-òige. Tha Mairead air a bhith a' fuireach ann an Ceap Breatainn agus a' teagasg na Gàidhlig o chionn trithead bliadhna.

Margie Beaton was born and raised on Eriskay and she has fond memories of that time. Here we have a delightful account of a special time in the Highlands when she was young. Margie has been living in Cape Breton and teaching Gaelic for 30 years.

For those readers using the English version as a guide to the Gaelic, please note that the English does not match the Gaelic version exactly.

Oidhche Chullaig – Sgeulachd bheag bho m' òige

le Mairead (NicDhòmhnaill) Pheaton
à Eilean Eirisgeidh agus
Ceap Breatuinn

“B’ fheàrr leam gur e gille a bh’ annam.” Sin mo mhiann-sa aig aois deich bliadhna 's mi nam shuidhe feasgar na Bliadhn' Ùire a' coimhead gu tùrsach a-mach air uinneag a' chidsin air ciaradh na h-oidhche. Cha robh ann ach seachdain bhon a thionndaidh mi deich agus a-nis bha mi aig aois far am faodainn fuireach air mo chois Oidhche Chullaig gus fàilte chur air a' Bhliadhn' Ùir.

'S e latha mòr bha seo dham bhràithrean, Niall agus Ailean. 'S e Oidhche Chullaig a bh' ann agus bha iad trang a' deisealachadh pocannan air son an toirt leotha a-mach nuair thigeadh an oidhche. Bha m' athair e fhèin trang a' cur caisean ri chèile. Shìn e a-mach seann chraicinn caora cho dìreach air an làr agus shuath e geur air fheadh, rol e suas e, agus cheangal e e gu teann le pìos sìoman ruadh. Le moit, thionndaidh e agus thuir e rium, “Seall sin, a Mhairead, cha bhi caisean air an eilean a-nochd cho math ris an fhear seo!” Gu dearbh 's ann a bha mise 'n dòchas gum biodh iad uile math (ach innsidh mi mun sin a-rithist!).

Gum chlaisneachd, dh'èirich guth binn mo mhàthar, 's i trang a' seinn aig àird a claignon 's i a' sgùradh an ùrlair. Bha i air an latha chur seachad a' sùteadh

New Year – A story based on experiences from my youth

by Margaret (MacDonald) Beaton
from the Isle of Eriskay, Scotland, and
Cape Breton Island, NS Canada

“I wish I were a boy.” That was my greatest desire as I sat sadly looking out the kitchen window at dusk falling on New Year's Eve. It was only a week since I had turned ten and I was now at an age when I could stay up to welcome in the New Year.

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



Margie Beaton

's a' dèanamh cinnteach gun robh gleans às an taigh bho bhun gu bàrr. Bhatar a' creidsinn, ge bith dè an dòigh a bhiodh an dachaidh agad nuair nochdadh a' bhliadhn' ùr, gur ann mar sin a bhiodh i fad na bliadhna. Bha na preasaichean againne làn, bhan taigh is gleans às, bha gach straoit aodaich air a nighe, agus bha clùdaidh mhòr a' goil 's a' phoit air an stòbh – agus fàileadh eireachdail aiste. Nach mi bha miannachadh gun robh e meadhon oidhche agus gum faighinn caob mòr dhith!

Nis, bha i dubh a-muigh 's bha mo bhràithrean agus balaich a' Rudha Bhàin deiseil gus falbh le 'n cuid pocannan agus le aon chaisean eatorra. Chuir mo mhàthair callaig anns gach poca, agus còmhla ris an sin, punnd siùcar, punnd tì, ìm, mulachag bheag chàise, agus briosaidean.

“An uair a bha mise òg,” thuirt m' athair, “chan fhaodadh tu dhol a-mach còmhla ris na gillean mòra gus an sealladh tu cho làidir 's a bha thu. Dh'fheumadh tu creag mhòr shuas aig Coilleag a' Phrionnsa, faisg air taigh nam bòcan, a ghluasad. Seumas bochd, mo bhràthair nach maireann, bha e cho beag meanbh 's gun robh e sia bliadhn' deug mun d'fhuair e cothrom a dhol a-mach còmhla ris na gillean mòra. O ach am magadh a bh' againn air! “Siuthadaibh a-nis, mach as an seo sibh, agus bithibh dhachaidh ro mheadhon oidhche.”

Bha iad air seo uile a chluinntinn iomadach turus 's thug iad an casan leotha a-mach an doras a' seinn “Chall O! Chall O!” 'S ann a bha e coltach ri *Hallo!* Tarsuing a' bhaile, chluinntear balaich eile ag èigheachd air ais an aon duan, “Chall O! Chall O!”

Seadh, bha spòrs gu leòr aig na gillean ach bha mise suidhe 'n seo nam aonar 's gu dearbh bha an t-eudach ag obair gu cruaidh orm!

This was a big day for my two brothers Neil and Allan. It was New Year's Eve and they were busy preparing the bags that they would take with them later that evening. My father was also busy assembling a “*caisean*”. He took an old sheepskin and spread it out on the ground and slathered it with grease. He rolled it up, tied it up tightly with hemp rope and proudly turned to me and said: “Look at that, Margaret. Nobody on the island will have a *caisean* as good as this one tonight. Indeed, I was hoping that they would all be good (but I'll tell you about that later).

Into my range of hearing came the sweet sound of my mother singing as she scrubbed the floor. She had spent the day cleaning and making sure that there was a shine in the house from top to bottom. It was believed that whatever way your house was at New Year, that's how it would be all year. Our cupboards were full; the house was shining; there wasn't a stitch of clothing that hadn't been washed; and there was a big clottie dumpling bubbling on the stove – and what a delicious smell emanated from it. How I wished that it were midnight and that I would be allowed a big slice of it.

It was now dark outside and my brothers and the other boys from Haun were ready to leave with their bags and one *caisean* between them. My mother put a *callaig* (bonnach) in each bag and along with that a pound of sugar, a pound of tea, butter, a cake of cheese and some biscuits.

“When I was young,” my father reminisced, “you weren't allowed to go out with the big boys until you could prove how strong you were. You had to be able to move a huge boulder which is up by Prince Charlie's Bay near the ghost's house.” Poor James, my departed brother, was so feeble and small that he was sixteen before he was allowed to go out with the big boys. Oh my but we teased him! “Be off with you now and make sure you are home before midnight.”

They had heard this many times and they departed out the door singing “Chall O! Chall O!” To me it sounded like “Hallo!” From across the village resounded the voices of other groups of boys with the same chorus, “Chall O! Chall O!”

Yes, the boys had lots of fun but here I was sitting alone with jealousy eating away at me.

“Eisd!” thuirt mo mhàthair ’s i dèanamh cabhaig gus an dorus a ghlasadh. “Tha iad an seo. Na cullaigearan. Cluinn iad.” Gun teagamh, bha an duan “Chall O” a’ tighinn nas fhaisge air an taigh againne. “Siud iad a-nis a’ coiseachd timchioll an taighe... a h-aon... a dhà... a trì.” Trì turuis deiseil, ris a’ ghrèin, air son mòran piseach is deagh fhortan a thoirt dhuinne a bha am broinn an taighe.

“Thàinig sinne nochd don dùthaich a dh’ùrachadh dhuibh na Calluinn
Cha ruig sinn leas a bhi ga innse oir bha i ann o linn ar seanair.....”

Nuairsin, gnogadh air an doras agus, “A bhean an taighe, leigibh a-staigh sin. Friceam, fraiceam leigibh a-staigh sinn.”

“Mise teachdaireachd Mhic Dhè, leigibh a-staigh mi.”

Gnogadh eile ’s mar bu dual, chaidh mo mhàthair na cabhaig chun an dorais a chur fàilte air balaich Na Haun. Chaidh am fear bu shine dìreach chun an teine agus las e caisean an sin. Thug mi droch shùil air, oir cha robh e leth cho math ris an fhear a rinn m’ athair. Bha eagal agus uallach orm a-nis. Co-dhiubh, shìn am balach an caisean laiste dom athair an toiseach.

Bheannaich easan e fhèin a’ dèanamh comharra na

croise air fhèin agus an uairsin trì chuairtean cearcail timchioll aghaidh cuideachd. Agus bha e fhathasd laiste! Mo mhàthair a-nis. An aon rud. Catriona, mo phiuthar an uairsin. Bhon is mi a b’ òige, ràinig e mise mu dheireadh thall. Rinn mi mar bu chòir – agus dh’fhuirich e laiste – bhithinn beò bliadhna eile! Sin a bha sinn a’ creidsinn! Dh’fhuirich na balaich

greiseag a’ seinn ’s a’ seachas. Dh’innse iad gun deach an caisean às air Mòr Mhòr air Rathad na h-Eaglaise. Dh’fhàg iad i a’ donalaich ’s a’ bùireinich san t-seathar mhòr. Chan fhaiceadh ise bliadhn’ ùr tuilleadh. Chluich na balaich port air a’ phìob ’s rinn m’ athair ceum no dhà dannsa fhad ’s a bha mo mhàthair a’ cur bonnach, im, càise agus briosaidean nan cuid pocanan.

A’ dol a-mach air an doras, thionndaidh an gille a bha air deireadh ’s thuirt e, “Ma ’s e math a-nochd, gum bu seachd fheàrr bliadhna nochd!” Uill, siud a’ chiad caisean seachad, co-dhiubh!

“Listen!” said my mother hurrying to lock the door. “They are here. The *cullaigearan*. Hear them.” Sure enough, the song “Chall O” was coming closer to our house. “There they are now going around the house...one...two...three.” Three times they went round the house sunwise to bring much luck and good fortune to all of us inside the house.

“Tonight we have come to this land to renew the Calluinn
There is no need for us to be telling about it, as it’s been here since our grandfather’s day.....”

This was their *Duan Challuinn* – New Year’s Eve poem, without which they would not be granted entry into the house.

Then, a knock on the door and “Woman of the house, let us in. Friceam, fraiceam, let us in.”

“I am God’s messenger, let me in.”

Another knock, and then as was expected, my mother hurriedly went to the door, unlocked it and welcomed the boys inside. The oldest made a bee line for the open fireplace and lit the *caisean*. I gave it a surly look as it did not look even half as

good as my father’s. I was quite scared and worried by now! Anyway, the boy handed the lit *caisean* to my father who proceeded to bless himself three times with it and then made three circles with it in front of his face and chest. It was still lit. Whew! Now my mother. Then my sister, Catriona. Since I was the youngest, it came to me last. I did as was expected – and it stayed lit – I would live another year! This is what the people believed. The

boys stayed another while telling stories and singing songs. They told us that the *caisean* had gone out on Big Sarah on Chapel Road. They left her sobbing and howling in the big chair. She would not see another New Year! The boys played a tune or two on the pipes, my father did a few steps while my mother put a *callaig*, butter, cheese and biscuits in their bags.

Going out the door, the last boy to leave turned around and left a wish: “If tonight is good for you, may a year tonight be seven times better.” Well, that’s the first *caisean* over with.



Margie Beaton

Sin mar chaidh an oidhche, daoine tighinn 's a' falbh, òrain, ceòl is seachas a-measg dhùrachdan. Agus dh'fhuirich gach caisean laiste!

Mu dheich uairean, nochd Niall agus Ailean agus na balaich eile a-staigh an doras le pocannan loma làn de gach seòrsa. Dhòirt iad a-mach a h-uile sian air a' bhòrd agus thòisich m' athair air a roinn.

“Greasaibh oirbh dhachaidh a-nis, 'illean, mus beirear oirbh a-muigh aig meadhon oidhche,” ars mo mhàthair ris na balaich eile nuair bha h-uile sian air a roinn. Bha e cudthromach gum biodh tu nad dhachaidh fhèin aig meadhon oidhche! Dh'fhalbh na gillean dhan chuid dachaidhean far am biodh an teaghlaichean gam feitheamh.

Thàinig sàmhchair air an taigh 's air an eilean mar a bha meadhon oidhche tighinn dlùth. Bha sinn uile air sinn fhèin a ghlanadh 's a' sgrìobadh, aodach spaideil oirnn 's bha an taigh cho glan ri spòg cait. Bha mo mhàthair a' gabhail “an cupa tè mu dheireadh den bhliadhna” agus ag ithe “a' bhonnaich mu dheireadh.”

Shuidh sinn uile mar theaghlach timchioll an teine a' meòrachadh air a' bhliadhna dh'fhalbh 's orrasan nach biodh còmhla ruinn tuilleadh, mo sheanair nan lùib. Mun d'fhuair na deòir cothrom tuiteam, stad an ceòl air an rèidio 's chuala sinn am fuaim làidir aig *Big Ben* – a h-aon, a dhà, a trì, a ceithir, a còig.....dhà dheug. **BLIADHN' ÙR MHATH!**

Mach gun deach sinn uile a chur fàilte air a' bhliadhn' ùr, Ailean 's a' phìob aige 's m' athair is gunna na làimhe. Abair fuaim is ùpraid is oileas an sin le gunnaichean a' bragadaich, pìoban gan spreigeadh, coin a' comhurtaich is daoine ag èigheachd. “A Nèill, faigh na soluis” dh'èigh m' athair 's e cur peilear eile 's a' ghunna.

Bha sinn eòlach air na soluis oir b' ann air eilean a bha sinn, 's chan e a-mhàin iasgairean a bh' againn ach seòladairean saoghalta cuideachd. B' aithne do dh'òg agus sean *Morse Code*, fiù 's na sgoilearan a bha ga ionnsachadh san sgoil. Bho bhaile gu baile bha dùrachdan Bliadhn' Ùire gan cur gu chèile air an dòigh-sa.

Nuair shocraich an t-àite sìos, chaidh sinn uile air ais a-steach 's thugar dram uisge-beatha dhuinn uile. Cha do thuig mi riamh carson a bha daoine cho miadhail air an stuth làidir sin oir cha do bhlas mi riamh dad cho oillteil 's cho mi-chàileil ris! Chan eil iongnadh ged a bhiodh iad a' dèanamh drèin nuair dh'òladh iad e – ach, cha do chuir sin stad orra!

That is how the night progressed with people coming and going, songs, music and stories amid good wishes. And the *caisean* stayed lit!

Around ten o'clock, Neil and Allan and the boys landed home with their bags full to overflowing with all kinds of goods. They poured them all out on the table and my father shared the spoils evenly.

“Hurry home now boys in case the New Year catches you outside,” said my mother to the boys when everything had been shared. The boys left for home where their families would be awaiting them. It was important to be home for midnight.

A silence came over the house and over the island as midnight approached. We had all scrubbed and cleaned ourselves, we had smart clothes on and the house was as clean as a cat's paw. My mother was going through the ritual of having her “last cup of tea,” her last piece of bonnach etc. We all sat as one around the fire thinking back over the year and remembering those who were no longer with us, my grandfather being one of them. Before the tears got a chance to fall, the music on the radio stopped and we heard Big Ben heralding in the New Year...one, two, three, four, five.....twelve. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Outside we all went to welcome in the New Year, Allan carrying the pipes and my father with his gun. Talk about a noise and uproar with guns firing, pipes skirling, dogs barking and people shouting. “Neil, get the lights,” my father shouted while putting another bullet in his gun.

We were all familiar with the lights because we were on an island and it was not only fishermen that we had but world-travelled sailors also. Old and young knew Morse Code, even the youngsters who learned it at school. From village to village the lights flashed New Year greetings to each other.

When the place quietened down, we all went indoors and we were all given a drink of whiskey. I never did understand why people were so fond of the hard stuff because I never in my life tasted anything so horrible and unpleasant. No wonder people made the strangest faces when drinking it – but that didn't stop them!

Bha 'n dorus mòr straoindte fosgailte a-nis – agus 's ann mar sin a bhitheadh e fad na h-oidhche a' feitheamh a' chiad chois tarsuing leac an dorais. Duine dorcha, sgairteal, àrd a bha bhuainn agus 's e sin a fhuair sinn nuair choisich Eachann, bhon ath dhoras, a-staigh le botul na phòca. Dùrachdan Bliadhn' Ùire dhuinn uile, dram bhuidhe 's dram dhà 's beagan seanchais agus a-mach an dorus e fhèin is m' athair agus Catriona. Mar is àbhaist, bha mise ro òg! Dh'fheumainn-sa fuireach a-staigh còmhla ri mo mhàthair a' cur fàilt' orrasan a thigeadh a-staigh. Ach aig Dia tha fhios dè na gibhtean a bheireadh iad ugainn. Cha robh a dh'anam aig duine tighinn gun rudeigin a bhith aige ged nach biodh ann ach cnap guail (comharra gum biodh connadh gu leòr againn fad na bliadhna). 'S cinnteach gur e sin a gheobhainn-sa.

Ach seall, bha an clùdaidh deiseil agus mu dheireadh thall, fhuair mi caob mòr agus glainne mhòr de bhainne. 'S mi rinn an sogan rithe! Mmm bha i math.....

Còig uairean 's a' mhaduinn, dhùisg mi às mo shuain, nam leabaidh, ri fuaim seinn is dannsa is oileas, straidhlich is spaidsearachd 's gach eile. Bha cèilidh na Bliadhn' Ùire anns an taigh againne am bliadhna. 'S mi bha coma. Sios gun deach mi fon chuibhrige, agus mi mu dheireadh thall gu math toilichte nach robh mi ach deich bliadhna.

Sin agaibh e!

Sin cleachdaidhean bhom dhachaidh-sa aig àm na Bliadhn' Ùire air an cur ri chèile mar sgeulachd bheag. Bidh iad fhathast ris a' chuid as motha dhiubh san lath' an-diugh.

Ma bhitheas ceistean agaibh, cuiribh fios ugam aig mberiskay@gmail.com



Celtic wreath © 1994-2016, Cari Buziak. <http://www.aon-celtic.com>

The big door was wide open now, and that's how it would be all night waiting for first-footers to cross the threshold. A tall dark and handsome man is what we wanted and that is what we got when Hector from next door landed in with a bottle of whiskey in his pocket. New Years' greetings back and forth, a dram from him, a dram for him, a little news sharing and out the door with my father and sister in tow. As usual, I was too young. I would have to stay home with my mother to greet those who came in. And God knows what kind of gift they would bring us. Nobody dared come in at New Year without having a gift, even if all it was was a lump of coal. That would mean that we would have fuel all year. As sure as can be, coal is what I would get.

But wait, the clotie was ready and at long last I got a big chunk with a big glass of milk. It's me that welcomed it. Mmm it was good.....

Five o'clock in the morning, I woke from my sleep, in my bed, to the sound of dancing and a stir, great noises and marching and everything else. The New Year's ceilidh had ended up in our house this year. It's I that couldn't care less. Down I went under the blanket, and at long last quite content that I was only ten years of age!

Notes:

These are some customs from my home at New Year, a very exciting time of year indeed! Many of these customs are still carried out in various formats e.g., the boys still go out from house to house; the *caisean* is still a part of the ritual as is the *duan* before entering the houses; midnight is still very lively with some still using Morse Code to send greetings, sometimes using car headlights between islands. You may not be familiar with some of the words used e.g. *Oidhche Chullaig* is used instead of *Oidhche Chaluinn*. The word *callaig* was also used especially for the *bonnach* that was distributed to the young boys – the *cullaigearan*.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at mberiskay@gmail.com

Litir bho'n Cheann-Suidhe

le Micheal MacAoidh

a Chàirdean chòire,

Tha sinn a-nist an teis-meadhan na “holidays” a-bhos an seo anns na Stàitean, eadar Latha na Taingealachd agus Latha na Nollaig, agus seo àm nuair a bhios daoine nan deann-ruith, a’ feuchainn ri dèanamh deiseil airson partaidhean, làithean-saora, agus, gu dearbh, an dà latha mhòr, an Nollaig agus a’ Bhliadhna Ùr. Làithean trang dha-rìreabh, agus tha e doirbh aig amannan a bhith a’ cumail ris na rudan a chòrdas ruinn. Agus gu dearbh, tha e doirbh prìomhachas a thoirt dha na rudan a tha cudromach dhuinn tro’n a’ chòrr dhe’n bhliadhna, gu ìre ’s gum faod sinn a bhith taingeil, ’s dòcha, nuair a bhios an t-àm dripeil seo seachad, tlachdmhor ’s ged a bhiodh e fhad ’s a bhios sinn a’ dol troimhe.

Innsidh mi dhuibh gu bheil seo fìor mu’n Chomunn againn cuideachd. Tha sinn air Bòrd-Stiùiridh a’ Chomuinn, air a bhith a’ feuchainn air ùrachadh a thoirt air na h-iomairtean agus na prògramman a bheirear dhuibh, agus uaireanan tha e doirbh sin a chumail a’ dol leis a h-uile rud a bhios gar draghadh gu aon taobh no gu taobh eile. Ach tha sinn an seo, fhathast a’ cumail oirnn, agus chì sinn ann an ùine ghoirid toradh ar saothrachd a’ tighinn am bàrr.

Sa chiad dol a-mach, bidh sinn a’ cur barrachd taic ri buidhnean-sgrùdaidh air feadh Ameireagaidh, gan cuideachadh ann an dòigh sam bith a dh’fheumas iad airson barrachd cothroman, agus cothroman nas fheàrr, a thoirt do dhaoine a tha ag ionnsachadh. Tha goireasan againn cuideachd a dh’fhaodamaid cur air bhonn los gu bheil ceanglaichean againn ri buidhnean Gàidhealach ann an Alba, agus nì sinn sin cuideachd san àm ri teachd.

Tha planaichean caran mòr againn, agus, mar a tha a’ bhliadhna a’ dol air adhart, innsidh sinn dhuibh dè a tha fa-near dhuinn. Agus seo an t-àm dhuibhse ur guthan a thogail! Chuir sinn tomhas-beachd a-mach thugaibh, agus thàinig tòrr fhreagairtean air ais thugainn. Ceud taing dhuibh, agus tha sinn ag èisteachd. Agus ma tha smuain sam bith a bharrachd agaibh, sgrìobhaibh thugainn. ’S ann leinn uile a tha an Comunn a tha seo, agus tha sinne a tha air a’ Bhòrd airson ’s gum faigh sibh luach às.

Le meas,

Micheal MacAoidh

Ceann-suidhe, ACGA



Letter from the President

by Mike Mackay

Dear friends,

We are now at the very middle of the holidays here in the States, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and now is a time when folks are running around, trying to prepare for parties, vacations, and indeed, the two big days, Christmas and New Year’s. Truly busy days, and it’s tough sometimes keeping up with the things we enjoy. Indeed, it’s hard to prioritize doing those things we find important to do throughout the year, to the point where we may find ourselves thankful when this time is over, even though it may be enjoyable while we are immersed in it.

I can tell you that this is also true about our society. On the Board, we’ve been trying to revamp the initiatives and programs we provide you, and at times it’s hard to keep that up, with everything that pulls us to one side or the other. But we are still plugging away, and we will see the results of our work in a short while.

First, we are providing more support to study groups all over America, helping them in any way they might need it to provide more and better resources to learners. We also have new resources we can establish, since we have connections to Gaelic Scotland, and we will be setting those up in the future.

We have somewhat big plans, and, as the year comes along, we will be telling you more about them. And now is the time to provide us input! We sent a survey out a little while ago, and we got lots of response. Thank you, and we are listening. And if you have any other ideas or thoughts, write them in to us. It’s Our Society, and we on the Board intend that you get value from it.

Respectfully,

Michael Mackay

President, ACGA

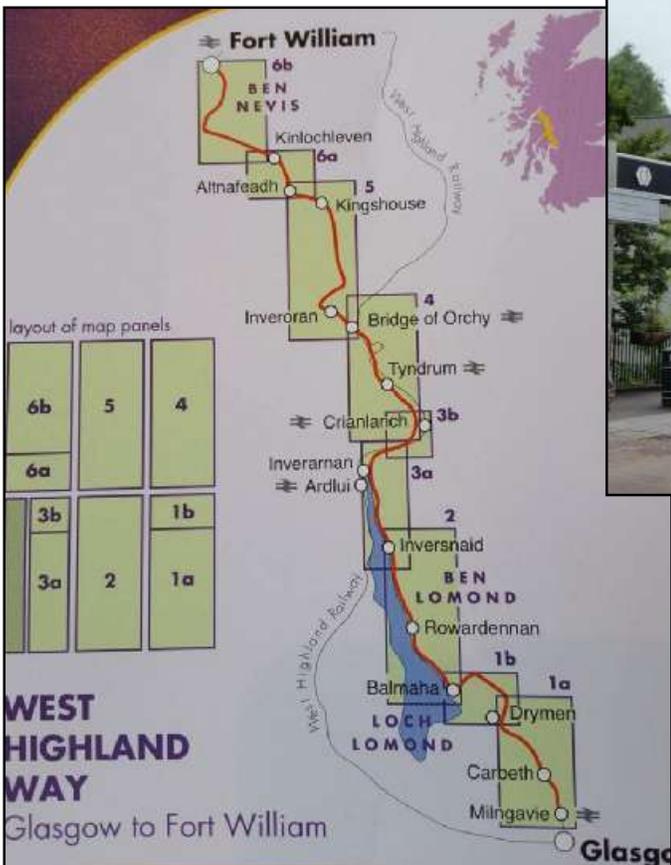


A' Coiseachd air Slighe Na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

Walking on the West Highland Way

by *Connie Smith*

ACGA member Connie Smith and her brother Douglas Austin hiked the West Highland Way last summer. Averaging nine to fifteen miles a day, they covered 96 miles in eight days. They didn't hear much Gaelic, but Connie says that history was all around, and "by walking you could get a sense of the struggle, the hardship and absolute love of the land."



An tòiseachadh – Muileann Dhaibhidh / Milngavie

Bha i fliuch agus glè eabarach uaireannan. Bha mi a' leumadh 's a' bocadaich gu tric. It was wet and very muddy at times. I was hopping and skipping frequently.



Mapa ar slighe.

Sgòthach ach àlainn! Although it was often drizzling, the clouds had so many colorful textures, it added to the beauty of the countryside.





Bha sinn a' streap thairis air feansaichean agus a' dol tro gheataichean. We had to climb over fences and pass through gates quite a bit.

Pailteas eachdraidh a-mach air an t-slighe. Lots of history along the Way, including this cairn and historical marker commemorating the Battle of Inverlochy in 1645.



Àlainn! Àlainn! Àlainn!

An Gearasdan – Rinn sinn a' chùis! At the end of the trail, Connie and her brother rested on a welcoming bench beside an anonymous hiker, and then off to the pub, where Connie joined a session, singing Gaelic songs and playing a mandolin the pub owner found for her. Connie, who was the Women's Gold Medal Winner at the U.S. National Mòd in 2015, sang and played in several Scottish pubs during her visit.



Oisean a' Ghràmair

by Wayne Harbert



Scary Things About Gaelic (STAG): Mysteries of UFOs unveiled

Yes, the Scary Things About Gaelic include UFOs – unexpectedly floating objects. In present tense sentences, Gaelic uses the verb “be” together with the particle *a' (ag)* followed by the verbal noun to convey the idea of continuous action in the present time. (When it does this, we now call the verbal noun a participle, by the way). If the participle takes a noun object, the object comes after the participle. Here's an example:

Tha mi a' glanadh na h-uinneige. 'I clean (am cleaning) the window.'

This order is in a way a special case, though; there are lots of other constructions in which the verbal noun is not dependent on *a' (ag)*, but on something else – a preposition, or a noun, or an adjective, for example – and in all of these other cases, if the verbal noun takes an object, the object mysteriously floats to the position *in front* of the verbal noun. This flitting of objects hither and yon takes some getting used to.

Tha mi air an uinneag a ghlanadh. 'I have cleaned the window.'

Note that another particle, *a*, comes between the object and the verbal noun in this order. This particle is different from the *a'* in the first example. It lacks an apostrophe for one thing, and for another, it lenites the following verbal noun.

The places where this object-first order is used are too numerous to list, and perhaps it is easiest to think of this order as the rule, not the exception. Here are some more examples.

<i>Is urrainn dhomh</i>	<i>an uinneag a ghlanadh</i>	'I can...'
<i>Cha toil leam</i>	<i>an uinneag a ghlanadh</i>	'I don't like to...'
<i>Tha iad ag iarraidh orm</i>	<i>an uinneag a ghlanadh</i>	'They ask me to...'
<i>Feumaidh tu</i>	<i>an uinneag a ghlanadh</i>	'You must...'
<i>gus</i>	<i>an uinneag a ghlanadh</i>	'in order to...'
<i>an dèidh dhomh</i>	<i>an uinneag a ghlanadh</i>	'after I...'

One other thing: it's hard not to notice that in the first example, 'the window' shows up as *na h-uinneige*, but in all of the others, it shows up as *an uinneag*. Why this change in form? It is because the objects in the position after the participle are in the genitive case, but those placed in front of the verb are in the so-called 'nominative case'. But more about that later. I'm sure you've had enough excitement for one day. Tune in next time for another thrilling episode of Scary Things About Gaelic.



Duaisean Gàidhlig na h-Alba 2016

Scottish Gaelic Awards 2016

November 16, 2016

Ar beannachd air Seumas! / Well done, Seumas!

Congratulations to Seumas Watson of Cape Breton, who took home the Best Contribution Award, in addition to being nominated in the International category. Seumas, who is the Manager of Interpretation for Nova Scotia Highland Village in Iona, NS, has also spent hundreds of hours in the communities and homes of Gaelic speakers in Nova Scotia, helping to preserve their language and customs.

Learner Award - recognising outstanding effort by individuals or organisations to involve themselves in the language.

Beag air Bheag

Arts & Culture Award - for the most outstanding contribution to Gaelic culture 2015/16.

Theatre gu Leòr

Best Contribution Award - as well as recognising those who have been promoting Gaelic for years, it also celebrates those who have broken new ground in the language.

Seumas Watson

International Award - for the individual, event or organisation that best places Gaelic in an international, non-English speaking, context.

Àdhamh Ó Broin

Innovation in Education Award - for the service providers or students showing the best ideas and commitment to delivering Gaelic education at any level.

Ruairidh MacIlleathain (Roddy Maclean)

Gaelic as an Economic Asset Award - to recognise progress made by a business or social enterprise in realising the economic value of Gaelic.

Museum nan Eilean

Lifetime Achievement Award

Anna NicSuain

For a full list of award winners see <http://www.scottishgaelicawards.co.uk/2016-winners.html>

Seanfhacal na Ràithe – Pictured Proverb

Do you know what familiar Gaelic
proverb is illustrated here?

Check page 15 to see if you're right.



Photo by Photoboel, Pixabay.com,
CCO Public Domain, photo number 918722_960_720



Litir à Dùn Èideann, Am Foghar 2016

by Jeff W. Justice

Mo chàirdean ann an Ameireaga a Tuath,

As I write this, I am two months into my year-long adventure attending the University of Edinburgh on a master's course on Environment, Culture and Society. That's the official reason for my being here, but I also came to deepen my knowledge of Gaelic and experience the culture up close on a long-term basis.

For those who have never been here before, this city is unquestionably Scottish in nature, despite the high number of foreign tourists who happen to be here at any given moment. However, it is not a city where Gaelic has a robust presence. Many tourist shops play up Celtic culture, but not necessarily Gaelic. The language still has an active place here in the Scottish capital; one just needs to know where to look to find it.

I usually attend Sunday services at St. Giles Cathedral, but I also found a small Gaelic service at the Greyfriars Kirk. The Gaelic congregation gathers while the larger English service has their after-service tea and coffee with the clergy. Everyone is very warm and welcoming. They encourage Gaelic speakers of all levels of fluency to attend. Bilingual copies of the New Testament are available, and the full Gaelic Bible rests in each pew. I've found that my ability to understand the sermon grows by leaps and bounds each week I attend. I'm a horrible singer, but I've been particularly delighted to participate in the traditional *a capella* singing of Gaelic psalms that feature each week. After that, we stay for more tea, coffee, and speaking Gaelic with one another.

Looking for Gaelic led me to monthly Bothan Dùn Èideann at Canon's Gait pub in the Royal Mile. The building is several hundred years old and relatively spacious, and it is often packed to standing room only as acts of traditional Scottish music mingle their harmonies with more contemporary Gaelic acts. WHYTE played the Bothan recently, featuring several tracks from their newly-released album *Fairich*, which is an incredibly beautiful and ethereal blending of modern synthesizers with ancient Gaelic folk songs. Whoever's playing at the Bothan, the audience lovingly joins in the singing at various points.

As I write this, the annual Seachdain na Gàidhlig is in progress. Every day features several events designed to showcase Gaelic and give it greater exposure in the community. A wide number of Gaelic-promoting agencies sponsor the week's events, including – I am very pleased to say – the Scottish Government, which is finally giving greater financial support to the Gaelic language. The TV series *Outlander* is extremely popular here, and not just with the tourists. Use of Gaelic in the series has led to some of the largest crowds ever to attend Seachdain na Gàidhlig events; many who come are using this as a chance to connect with tutors and conversation groups in the Edinburgh area.

Tonight, I attended one of the highlights of the entire week, Fuaim is Solas at the High Kirk of St. Giles. The electric lights were very low, candles flickering along the floor, and in a dark corner, a young voice broke into a traditional Gaelic hymn, her angelic voice reverberating off the cathedral's ancient stone walls. It was billed as a night of song, soft light, and meditation. I left with my heart alight, my thoughts now in Gaelic instead of English. For a learner like myself, tonight's performance gave me a reminder – as if I needed one – why I really am in Edinburgh.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd,

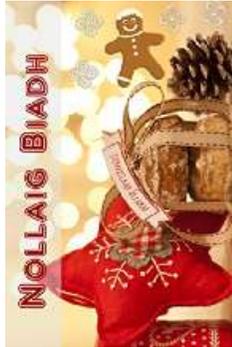
Jeff



Gaelic Book Scams and Other Misdemeanors

by Rudy Ramsey

A few months ago, one of our editors was doing research related to the bilingual recipes we try to present in each issue of this newsletter. In the process, she came across the book, “Nollaig Biadh” (see photo), then available for sale at amazon.com (and still available from some other sources). It was immediately clear that this was not a legitimate book – it’s likely a Google Translate translation of a legitimate book into something remotely resembling Scots Gaelic, possibly without the permission of the original author. We’ll discuss some of the clues for this sort of thing below. But this finding made us aware of the wide world of book scams in general, and machine translation schemes in particular.



Book scams typically involve the sale of bogus books through online sources. These may be electronic or hardcopy books. The books may be stolen and repackaged, or thrown together at very low cost in order to give an initial appearance of real books. And one way of stealing and repackaging books is to use automated translation to produce a work in another language without permission of the original author. (Even with the original author’s permission, such translations are uniformly pretty bad.) Once a bogus book is offered for sale, the sellers often use “click farms” to produce large numbers of positive reviews, driving the books up in popularity lists, and lending an air of authenticity that is entirely illusory. Though the details vary, the generic name for such schemes is “catfishing”.

One particularly nasty scheme involves Amazon’s Kindle Unlimited program, in which Kindle users pay a monthly fee for unlimited access to a large book collection. Amazon has a well-intentioned revenue-sharing program intended to help self-published authors in marketing their books this way, but the program has a flaw that book scammers have used to great advantage. Amazon gives a percentage of revenues back to authors. In an effort to reward authors for generating material that people actually read, Amazon bases the returned revenues on how many pages into the book folks actually read. So

scammers create bogus books with links from an early page that take readers to the back of the book (“Click here for a special offer”). This scheme is nasty because Amazon is distributing a fixed amount of money, and has no direct financial incentive to prevent this practice, while the readers are paying a fixed monthly fee, and lose no actual money when they download and inspect a bogus book. So no one with the power to stop this practice has any clear financial incentive to do so. But the scammers wind up with large amounts of money that should have gone to the authors of the legitimate books in the pool. In the references below is an article about one Russian book scammer who made nearly \$2.5M this way. The existence of this scheme means that anyone buying Kindle books needs to be cautious about their purchases. And some of these books are also offered via other channels, including hardcopy, so even non-Kindle-users need to beware.

But let’s get back to Gaelic. The fairly recent addition of several minority languages to Google Translate has made translations to and from those languages available to all internet users at no cost. That provides book scammers an opportunity to dump lots of bogus books right in the path of our members, who may be looking at amazon.com or other online sources for books in, or about, Gaelic.

Consider the second photo. This is by Gilad Soffer, an “author” who publishes electronic books via one of several feeder sources from which books are made available for electronic sale via online booksellers like Amazon. (Critics have complained that these



feeder sources have very little in the way of quality control or fraud prevention mechanisms.) Soffer is a very prolific “author”, having published 4104 books in September, 2016 alone. Those all seem to follow the same pattern, and hundreds of them are based on just a few bilingual patterns – 1001+ Phrases, 1001+ Exercises, and the like. These books include lots of language combinations (Hindi - Scots Gaelic, for example, if that doesn’t stretch credibility beyond your tolerance), and 63 of his books dealing with Scots Gaelic are listed on

amazon.com as this is being written. That's just a small percentage of the 7601 books he has listed on Goodreads, though.

One thing I haven't said is that Google translations involving minority languages, while useful for certain purposes, are of pretty low quality, and certainly should not be relied on for language instruction. So we all need to avoid these books. How? Well, the first rule is, in Gaelic, "Bi air d' fhaicill ro bhreug-riochdan!" – or as we would say in English, "Caveat emptor!" ☺

More specifically, though, here are some suggestions:

- Look carefully at the title. In our first photo, "Nollaig Biadh" is exactly how an automated translation program might translate "Christmas Food" if the program has no deep awareness of differences in word order, or case differences, in various languages. But "Nollaig Biadh" reads in Gaelic the way "Recipes Christmas" reads in English. Ugly. The correct Gaelic is "Biadh na Nollaige".
- Look at the cover art for clues. In our second photo, for example, the U.S. flag is used to represent English – flattering, perhaps, but a bit strange – while the flag used for Scots Gaelic is a variant of the flag of the Isle of Man.
- Look inside the book, if possible. This is a capability generally provided at amazon.com and other major online book vendors, for example, and it allows you to see several pages of the book. Does it seem sensible? Is there a standard title page, showing title, author, publisher, publication date, copyright, and ISBN number? Is there a clickable link in the first pages, trying to entice you go look elsewhere?
- Take a look at the reviews. Are they sufficiently detailed and appropriate that they likely reflect actual readers? Anything suspicious here?
- Check out the author on the vendor's site. If you search amazon.com for Gilad Soffer, for example, you'll discover that he has over 1000 books for sale there. A handful of these – children's books – appear to be legitimate, but those aren't the ones dealing with Gaelic and dozens of other languages. (I'm not absolutely sure that there is

only one Gilad Soffer involved here, but the online vendors treat all these books as having the same author.)

- Check out the author on the internet at large. Here you'll note Gilad Soffer's 7601 books at Goodreads, for example. You may find direct evidence that the author is a book scammer, or at least an automated-translation shotgunner.
- Check out the book's publisher. Legitimate publishers will almost always have websites where you can search for information about their titles. If there's no publisher listed, be cautious.
- Look for the book at Comhairle nan Leabhraichean (<http://www.gaelicbooks.org/>), the world's main Scots Gaelic bookseller. Most legitimate Gaelic books that are currently in print can be found there, and finding it there is an almost certain sign that the book is legitimate. Of course, books available only in electronic form won't be found here.

I'm not trying to make us all paranoid, but I think just being fully aware of this issue will help minimize your chance of being victimized.

See also:

- Jeff Justice's article in this newsletter about Google Translate quality, and our recent contest to find the worst Google translation involving Scots Gaelic, which were published in An Naidheachd Againne, 2016-1 p. 12 and 2016-2, page 13.
- Michael Bauer's January rant (<http://tinyurl.com/mbjanrant>) about the use of Google Translate to create not only Gaelic books, but also websites.
- Caroline Root's blog entry (<http://tinyurl.com/crbloggt>) on Google Translate books. Includes a good example that's very bad, if you get my drift.
- More information about catfishing at <http://tinyurl.com/anacatfish1>, <http://tinyurl.com/anacatfish2>, <http://tinyurl.com/anacatfish3>, and <http://tinyurl.com/anacatfish4>, with some examples. None of these are about Gaelic or Google Translate in particular, but together they provide a good overview of online book scams. For book-lovers, as are most of us here, they're interesting.

Mòd Results

Mòd Nàiseanta Aimeireagaidh / The 29th U.S. National Mòd

Ligonier PA, September 23 – 25, 2016

Adjudicator: Dr. Anne Lorne Gillies

Friday, September 23

Storytelling

1. Cathleen MacKay
(Audit) Liam Cassidy

Poetry

1. Barbara Lynn Rice
2. Mary Swope

Sight Reading

1. Liam Cassidy
2. Anne Alexander
3. (Tie) Barbara Lynn Rice and Mary Swope

Saturday, September 24

Open song category

1. Sharon McWhorter
2. Carol Kappus
3. Anne Alexander

Prescribed song (Men)

1. James Ruff

Prescribed song (Women)

1. Anne Alexander
2. (Tie) Cathleen MacKay and Carol Kappus
3. Mary Swope

Work song

1. Carol Kappus
2. Anne Alexander
3. Cathleen MacKay

Puirt

1. James Ruff
2. Carol Kappus

Choir

1. Còisir Ghàidhlig Ohio

Unison/harmonized singing:

1. Barbara Lynn Rice & John Grimaldi

Final Song Results

Men

1. James Ruff

Women

1. Anne Alexander
2. Cathleen MacKay
3. Carol Kappus

Overall Mòd Gold Medal results

Men

1. James Ruff

Women

1. Anne Alexander
2. Cathleen MacKay
3. Carol Kappus

Awards

Searrag Ghlainne nam Bàrd - Presented for poetry recitation

- Barbara Lynn Rice

Duais Dhaibhidh Mhic Risnidh - Presented for best traditional story in Gaelic.

- Cathleen MacKay

Duais Iain Mhic Mhurchaidh - Presented for best original poem submitted to the Mòd.

- Barbara Lynn Rice

Duais Leòdhais agus na Hearadh - Presented for best performance of a Lewis or Harris song (in memory of Donnie MacLean).

- James Ruff

MacComb Shield for the Men's prescribed highest score

- James Ruff

SCOTS Shield for Women's prescribed song highest score

- Anne Alexander

Herbert P. MacNeal Memorial Quaich - Presented by Clan MacNeil Society to highest scoring male solo singer (Gold Medal).

- James Ruff

Marietta MacLeod Memorial Quaich - Presented by Donald F. MacDonald to the highest scoring woman solo singer (Gold Medal).

- Anne Alexander

See the following page for a picture and more results.



U.S. Mòd Gold medalists Anne Alexander and James Ruff with adjudicator Anne Lorne Gillies (centre)
Liam Cassidy

Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Royal National Mòd Mòd nan Eilean Siar 2016

The winners of the Men's and Women's Bonn Òr a' Chomuinn will attend the 2017 U.S. National Mòd.

Bonn Òr a' Chomuinn – Fir Gold Medal Final – Men

1. Eachann MacEachairn, Samhairidh

Bonn Òr a' Chomuinn – Boireannaich Gold Medal Final – Women

1. Carol MacLean, Tobar Mhoire

Meal ur naidheachd, Eachainn agus a Thrùmain!

The House of Assembly of the Parliament of Nova Scotia recently recognised the efforts of two advocates of Scottish Gaelic in that province, who will be very familiar to ANA readers.



Hector MacNeil (left) & Randy Delorey
*Dept. of Gaelic Affairs,
Government of NS*

Hector MacNeil has served as Gaelic director at Colaisde na Gàidhlig in St. Ann's, Cape Breton, as well as instructing there and at Cape Breton University. He has been a long-time community advocate and Gaelic cultural tradition-bearer, and a supporter of Gaelic language learners throughout North America. He was also instrumental in the establishment of Comhairle na Gàidhlig and Comann Féis an Eilein.

Trueman Matheson founded Sìol Cultural Enterprises in 1998 as a Gaelic language and cultural materials publishing business that, until its closing in 2016, provided the only Gaelic resource materials easily available to learners in North America. He also republished many out-of-print Gaelic language books that would otherwise not be readily accessible. He has worked tirelessly to support Gaelic language, culture, and identity in Nova Scotia for more than two decades, supporting Gaelic-related events and gatherings and promoting the use of Gaelic in the Antigonish area.



Randy Delorey & Trueman Matheson (right)
*Dept. of Gaelic Affairs,
Government of NS*



Photo by Photoboel,
*Pixabay.com, CCO Public Domain,
photo number 918722_960_720*

Answer to Seanfhacal na Ràithe, p. 10

Am fear nach dèan cur sa Mhàrt, cha bhuaib e san Fhoghar.
He who will not sow in March, will not reap in autumn.

A Uicipeid is a Wicipedia is a Wikipedia

Do you use Wikipedia? Most of us find it an indispensable resource. But how about Uicipeid? If you've used Google, Chrome or another search engine to look up a person, place or topic with Gaelic spelling, you've likely come across it.

For instance, about Gàidhlig itself:

<https://gd.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gàidhlig>

Here's the home page:

<https://gd.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priomh-Dhuilleag>

Uicipeid is about to become even more extensive and useful. The link below takes you to a recent newspaper article (in English) describing a search for a fluent speaker to work for a year coordinating and training volunteers to contribute articles and connecting existing resources with Uicipeid. The search opened at the Stornoway Mòd in October, and the person hired will be supported for at least a year in a joint program between Wikipedia and the National Library of Scotland, with additional funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Besides new articles, digitized resources from the National Library will be added to material already available in Uicipeid.

<http://tinyurl.com/Gaelic-Wikipedia-Development>

Some Uicipeid pages are very limited so far, but the article about midges mentioned at the end of this news story is one of the longer ones with all sorts of detail: a half-dozen Gaelic names for the beasties, range, life-cycle, effects of a very cold winter on their numbers (the reverse of what you might think), along with their appearance in place-names, expressions, and poetry.

<https://gd.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meabh-chuileag>

In Wales, Jason Evans has been funded for a second year doing the same work for the Welsh Wicipedia in conjunction with the National Library of Wales and their digital resources. In a recent interview he makes a point that's important for our readers, too. He notes that when companies such as Google and Microsoft are deciding how to allot their resources, a key factor is how much use the Wiki in a particular language is getting---how many pages have been posted and how many users does the service attract. Since this is more important to them than the stated number of speakers, we can all help just by using Uicipeid – and it's fun.

The Online Faces of ACGA

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

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

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

Our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ACGAGaelic>, is a public face of ACGA. Because this page is in a social network, it has a very different feel from our website, and likely attracts a different crowd.

We don't have very much video content on our ACGAmerica YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/user/ACGamerica, yet (we're looking for more), but what we do have is interesting and ACGA-relevant.

Our Twitter account, <https://twitter.com/ACGAGaelic>, is used for ACGA announcements.

Some of our events have their own web presence, too. The ACGA Mòd website, <http://usmod.wordpress.com/>, 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, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1463155417230179/>.

ACGA has an ongoing relationship with the *Guth nan Gàidheal* webradio channel, which has its own website, at <http://guthnangaidheal.com/>. There you can learn all about GnG's Gaelic and Gaelic-related radio content, and find out how to listen. Although GnG has stopped its "live" streaming, much of its content is still available online and via podcast. GnG also has its own Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/GuthNanGaidheal>, and Twitter feed, <https://twitter.com/guthnangaidheal>. ACGA helped create this channel, and ACGA folks continue to provide a significant amount of the content.

Tha am mìlsean blasta, furasta seo air a bhith air bùird latha-fèille nan Crathach bho chionn còrr is leth-cheud bliadhna.

This tasty and easy recipe has been a staple on MacRae family holiday dessert tables for over fifty years.



Cam MacRae

Aran Mhuileagan

Criathraich ri chèile:

- 2 chupa min-fhlùir
- 1 chupa siùcair
- 1 1/2 spàin-tì pùdar-fuine
- 1/2 spàin-tì sòda-fuine
- 1 spàin-tì salainn

Cuir ris:

- 1/2 chupa chnòthan air an gearradh
- 2 chupa mhuileagan ùra
(air an gearradh ann an dà leth)
- 1/2 chupa dhearcán-Frangach

Cuir ris:

- sùgh agus rùsg liomaide
- 2 spàin-bùird blonaig

Buail ugh agus cuir uisge ris gus am bi 3/4 chupa agad.

Measgaich gus am bi a h-uile nì tais.

Bruich ann am pana air a ghriseadh aig 350 fad 1 uair a thìde.

Cranberry Bread

Sift together:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt

Add:

- 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- 2 cups fresh cranberries
(cut in half)
- 1/2 cup currants

Add:

- juice and rind of 1 lemon
- 2 T shortening

Add water to one beaten egg to make 3/4 cup

Mix till all is damp.

Bake in greased loaf pan at 350 degrees for 1 hour.



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!



Criomagan

Recognition for Gaelic Writers

With autumn comes a number of much-anticipated Gaelic writing awards.

The 2016 Donald Meek Award went to

An Leabhar Liath by Pàdraig MacAoidh & Iain S. Mac a' Phearsain. Coming from Luath Press in the spring, *An Leabhar Liath / The Light-Blue Book* is an anthology of “erotic, bawdy, transgressive, pornographic, seditious and downright bad Scottish Gaelic verse” from the last 500 years.

For a podcast of Pàdraig MacAoidh / Peter Mackay discussing bawdy Gaelic poetry and his research for this anthology, click on the link below. Look for the November 13, 2016, program, New Generation Thinkers: 1. Euphemism and Eroticism in Scottish Gaelic Songs.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nrscw/episodes/downloads>

Other books on the short list for the Donald Meek award were

An Làmh a Bheir le Seonaidh Charity

Breab, Breab, Breab le Iain Urchardan

Crotal Ruadh le Sandaidh NicDhòmhnaill Jones

Granaidh Afraga le Mòrag Anna NicNèill

Mil san Tì le Seonag Monk

The 2016 Scottish Book Trust New Gaelic Writers are

Sìne NicLeòid / Jane MacLeod

Eòghan Stiùbhart / Eoghan Stewart

And the 2016 MacDonald of Sleat Poetry Prize went to

Deborah Moffat for her poem *An Seudar 's an Giuthas*

Moffat, originally from Vermont, also writes poetry in English.

Am Faclair Beag Needs our Help

Have you read any good dictionaries lately? No, really? Any writer knows that you need a good dictionary to make your writing the best it can be. And the editors of *An Naidheachd Againne* and all other Gaelic students need good dictionaries too.

At the top of our list is Am Faclair Beag, the free online searchable Gaelic to English and English to Gaelic dictionary incorporating Dwelly. Michael Bauer is the guy behind AFB, and he recently made an appeal to AFB's users for help raising money for the site's hosting fees. Did you notice I said that AFB is free? Well, it's free to us who use it, but there are still costs associated with maintaining this valuable resource.

If you'd like to help support Am Faclair Beag, click on the DONATE button on right-hand side of the page the next time you use it. Or, why not do it now? <http://www.faclair.com>

Dè Do Naidheachd?

le Rìos MacAoidh

Naidheachd ghoirid èibhinn bho Rìos MacAoidh, agus bòidichidh gur e an fhìrinn a tha e a' labhairt!

A' Bhò Thana Annasach

Nuair a bha mi òg, bha mi a' fuireach air tuathanas. Rugadh 's thogadh mi air an tuathanas seo. 'S ann an ceann a tuath Louisiana a bha e. Bha crodh-feòla againn. Ach anns an sgeulachd seo, bidh mi ag innse dhuibh gu h-àraidh mu bhò a bha caran neònach. Bha a' bhò seo caol no tana, àrd, le casan fada. Thug m' athair "the Skinny Cow" oirre mar ainm.

B' àbhaist dhi a bhith leatha fhèin fada air falbh bho na bà eile a bh' againne. Bhiodh coltas beagan mì-mhodhail oirre. B' e sin an smaoin a bh' agamsa co-dhiù. Chunnaic sinn gu tric "the Skinny Cow" anns a' ghàrradh againn. 'S e rud rùn-dìomhair a bha seo. Cha robh càil a dh'fhios againn ciamar a gheibheadh ise tron fheansa. Cha robh sgeul sam bith air toll san fheansa. Ciamar a bha ise faighinn dhan ghàrradh?

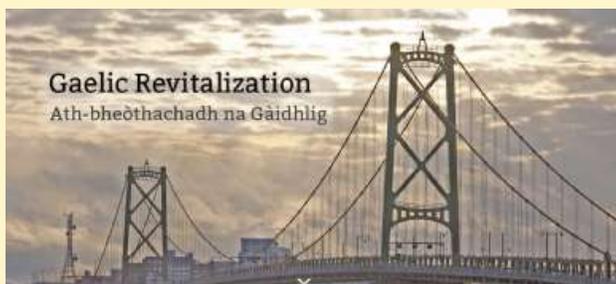


Aon latha chuir mi romham gum faighinn àite-falaich agus gum falaichinn fhìn airson faire a chumail air a' Bhò Thana. Rinn mi seo agus rinn mi feitheamh. As dèidh ùine ghoirid shiubhail a' bhò suas is sìos agus a' siud 's a' seo. Thòisich i gu slaodach, ceum air cheum, a dh'ionnsaigh na feansa. Bhiodh i a' stad agus a' coimhead uimpe bho àm gu àm.

Nuair a ràinig i an fheansa stad i agus choimhead i uimpe aon turas eile. Ach dè rinn ise an uair sin? Tha mi cinnteach nach creid sibh e! Gu h-obann leum a' bhò, le a ceithir casan prabhach, tarsainn air an fheansa dìreach mar gum b' e fiadh a bh' innte. Ach cha b' e fiadh a bh' innte idir idir. 'S e bò a bh' innte le broinn a bha gu math cruinn 's trom. Chan fhaca mise no m' athair a leithid seo riamh. B' e seo an rud a b' annasaiche a chunnaic mi fad mo bheatha.

B' e sin an dòigh a gheibheadh a' Bhò Thana a-staigh dhan ghàrradh nuair nach robh duine sam bith faisg gu leòr oirre airson a faicinn. Agus b' e sin an dòigh neònach anns an d'fhuair a' Bhò Thana buaidh oirne.

A Website to Watch



Ath-Bheòthachadh na Gàidhlig/Gaelic Revitalization Project, a blog maintained by Dr. Emily McEwan, contains a number of posts with information useful for Gaelic learners and those interested in the status of the language. Recent posts discuss some of the great Gaelic singers active today and a brief interview on Gaelic Crowdfunding as a means of financing study and research. To follow this blog, go to:

<http://gaelic.co>

Dè Tha Dol? Gaelic Events

Am Faoilteach / January 2017

Bùth-obrach seinn le Christine Primrose / Gaelic song workshop with Christine Primrose, Studio 353, 353 W. 48th St., 2nd Fl., NYC, January 3, 2017

The New York Caledonian Club presents Christine Primrose, one of the best known Gaelic singers in Scotland, who will be teaching a song workshop from 7 pm – 9 pm. Admission is \$40 for NYCC and ACGA members and \$45 for non-members. For more information and payment see:

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

An Giblean 2017 / April 2017

Cùrsa na Càisge / Easter Short Course, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye, April 10 - 14, 2017

Gaelic 1, Gaelic 3, Gaelic 5, Gaelic 7, Gaelic 9, Gaelic Song with Christine Primrose, Advanced Gaelic Conversation with Iain & Muriel Urquhart. For course descriptions, costs, and further information see:

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/caisg-2017>

Cùrsa na Càisge / Easter Short Course, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye, April 17 - 21, 2017

Gaelic 2, Gaelic 4, Gaelic 6, Gaelic 8, Gaelic 10, Gaelic in the Landscape with Roddy MacLean, Aspects of Highland Material Culture with Margaret Stewart. For course descriptions, costs, and further information see:

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/caisg-2017>

An t-Òg-mhios / June 2017

Gàidhlig do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh san Loids' na Cuith-Raing / Gaelic for Beginners in the Quiraing Lodge, Skye, June 19 - 23, 2017

Learning through living culture with Skye native speaker Muriel Fisher. For further information:

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/gaidhlig_ann_an_loids_na_cuith_raing_2017

Gàidhlig san Eilean Còmhla ri Muriel Fisher / Gaelic on the Island with Muriel Fisher, Skye, June 26 - 30, 2017

For intermediate learners, this session combines classroom and community activities. For a full description see: <http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/gaidhlig-san-eilean-2017>

An t-Iuchar / July 2017

Beinn Seanair / ACGA's Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, Banner Elk, NC, July 2 - 7, 2017

Further information will be available in early 2017.

Cùrsa Samhraidh / Summer Short Course, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye, July 17 - 21, 2017

Gaelic 1, Gaelic 2, Gaelic 3, Gaelic Conversation Course (Lower Intermediate) with Muriel Fisher, Beartais Cainnt with Iain & Muriel Urquhart, Òrain Ghàidhlig with Christine Primrose. For course descriptions, costs, and further information see:

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/cursaichean-samhraidh-2017/>

Eòlas mun Eilean sa Ghàidhlig le Muriel Fisher / Exploring Skye with Muriel Fisher, July 24 - 28, 2017

The course is tailored to those with little or no Gaelic, is partly College-based, with the rest of the time spent exploring Skye. For further information see:

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/exploring-skye-270717>

An Lùnasdal 2017 / August 2017

Cùrsa Samhraidh / Summer Short Course, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye, July 31 - August 4, 2017

Gaelic 1, Gaelic 3, Gaelic 5, Gaelic 7, Gaelic Pronunciation with Iain & Muriel Urquhart (Advanced Learners), Gaelic Conversation for Upper Intermediate Learners with Joy Dunlop. For course descriptions, costs, and further information see:

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/cursaichean-samhraidh-2017/>

Cùrsa Samhraidh / Summer Short Course, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye, August 7 - August 11, 2017

Gaelic 2, Gaelic 4, Gaelic 6, Gaelic 8, 'A Seascape of Gaelic Song' with Margaret Stewart. For course descriptions, costs, and further information see:

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/cursaichean-samhraidh-2017/>

Cùrsa Samhraidh / Summer Short Course, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye, August 14 - August 18, 2017

Gaelic 1, Gaelic 3, Gaelic 5, Gaelic 7, Gaelic 9, Gaelic Creative Writing with Alison Lang. For course descriptions, costs, and further information see:

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/cursaichean-samhraidh-2017/>

Cùrsa Samhraidh / Summer Short Course, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye, August 21 - August 25, 2017

Gaelic 2, Gaelic 4, Gaelic 6, Gaelic 8, Gaelic 10, Learning through Living Culture in Flodigarry. For course descriptions, costs, and further information see:

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/cursaichean/cursaichean-goirid/cursaichean-samhraidh-2017/>

An t-Sultain 2017 / September 2017

Mòd Nàiseanta nan Stàitean / U.S. National Mòd, Ligonier, PA, September 22 - 24, 2017

Further information will be available in mid-2017.



Directory of Gaelic Classes & Study Groups

Arizona

Flagstaff

Study Group
Richard Ferguson
fergusdubh@yahoo.com

Phoenix

Classes
Richard Smith
coindubh@yahoo.com

Tucson

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

California

Sacramento Area

Classes
Donnie MacDonald
minchmusic@comcast.net

Colorado

Boulder

Study Group
Sue Hendrix
susan.hendrix@colorado.edu

Denver

Study Group
Reese McKay
reese-mckay25@gmail.com

San Luis Valley

Phone and Online lessons
Caroline Root
www.gaidhliggachlatha.com

Connecticut

Hartford area

Classes
Thomas Leigh
tleigh.piper@gmail.com

Gaelic Song Classes
Maggie Carchrie
860-748-7549

Florida

Jensen Beach

Treasure Coast Scots-Gaelic
Study Group
sryan1812@mylincoln.edu

Illinois

Springfield

Study Group
Bill McClain
217-854-7918
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SpringfieldILScottishGaelic/>

Maryland

Baltimore

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

Chevy Chase

Song Group
Joan Weiss
sweiss@american.edu

Missouri

St. Louis

Missouri Scottish Gaelic Learning
Group
Virtual meet-up group for those in the
Bi-State area:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/STLMOScottishGaelic/>

New York

New York

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

Newfield / Ithaca

Conversation groups
Wayne Harbert
weh2@cornell.edu

North Carolina

Guilford

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

Triangle / Raleigh area

Classes (beginner)
An Phillips
fiongeal@yahoo.com

Chapel Hill

Classes
Michael Newton
gaelicmichael@gmail.com

Ohio

Cincinnati

Study Group
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens
macaoidh@eos.net

Oklahoma

Midwest City

Study Group
Barry Acker
bearachanseo@yahoo.com

Texas

Hurst

Classes
David Gressett
jdgressett@hotmail.com

Fort Worth

Study Group
Jonquele Jones
jonquele@flash.net

Virginia

Catlett

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

Tidewater
Classes
Jason Wilson
wilsonsoxford@gmail.com

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

Canada
Ontario
Ottawa
Classes
Randaigh Waugh
comunnghaidhligottawa@rogers.com

Toronto
Classes
CLUINN
www.torontogaelic.ca

Québec
Montréal
Study Group
Linda Morrison
linda@lindamorrison.com

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

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AN NAIDHEACHD AGAINNE

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