



Àrdsgoil Gheàrrlaich a' Togail Cuach Deasbad BT Alba 2011



A rèir luchd-leantainn Deasbad BT Alba, b' e farpais 2011 an tè a b' fheàrr gu ruige seo. Gu sònraichte b' e seo beachd nam brithemhan cuideachd. Tha an deasbad, a th' air a' maoineachadh le BT Alba, air a bhith ruith fad 13 bliadhna agus tha e a-nise na phàirt bhunaiteach den bhliadhna sgoile.

Ghabh naoi sgoiltean deug pàirt am farpais na bliadhna sa, dhà dhiubh sin airson a' chiad turas a-riamh. Chaidh a' chiad dà chuairt a chumail ann an Steòrnabhagh leis an iar-chuairt dheireannach ga chumail aig Ionad Sgeulachd na h-Alba ann an Dùn Èideann agus a' chuairt dheireannach a' gabhail àite am Pàrlamaid na h-Alba. B' iad na ceithir sgoiltean a fhuair troimhe dhan iar-chuairtean dheireannach Sgoil MhicNeacail, Àrdsgoil Gheàrrlaich, Àrdsgoil Sheumais Ghillespie agus Acadamaidh Allt a' Mhuilinn le Geàrrloch is Allt a' Mhuilinn a' coinneachadh sa chuairt dheireannach. Chaidh a' chuairt dheireannach, a ghabh àite air latha Naomh Anndrais, fhosgladh sa Phàrlamaid leis an Iar Oifigear Riaghlaidh, John Scott MSP, agus chaidh an deasbad a chraoladh beò air Rèidio nan Gàidheal. Cuspair na deasbaid, "Tha thide aig Alba iomhaigh ùr a shireadh an àite seann eachdraidh, piobaireachd agus tartain". An dèidh deasbad chruaidh, b' e Àrdsgoil Gheàrrlaich, air a riochdachadh le peathraichean Ceitidh Alice agus Anna Hulme, a bhuannaich aig a' cheann thall agus a ghlèidh duais chliùiteach BT Alba. A thuilleadh air a sin ghlèidh Anna Hulme duais BBC Alba airson an Neach-labhairt a b' Fheàrr an Deasbad 2011 air fad.



Murchadh MacRath, a' toirt Cuach Deasbad BT Alba 2011 do sgioba Àrdsgoil Gheàrrlaich Murdo Macrae presents the 2011 BT Scotland Debate Trophy to the Gairloch High School team

Thuirt Anna, a tha san 6mh bliadhna, "Chòrd gach pàirt den deasbad rium gu mòr, bho bhith a' rannsachadh nan cuspairean a bh' againn, bruidhinn shuas air an àrd-ùrlar, is èisteachd ri nan sgiobannan eile a deasbaireachd. 'S e a' bhith an sàs sa Chuairt Dheireannach a chòrd rium a bu mhotha ge-tà, is e a' gabhail àite ann an togalach iongantach, Pàrlamaid na h-Alba. A bharrachd air an Deasbad fhèin, 's e cothrom sgoinneil caraidean ùra bho air feadh na dùthcha a dhèanamh a bh' ann."



Acadamaidh Grange, Cill Mhearnaig, a bha a' gabhail pàirt san fharpais airson a' chiad uair Grange Academy, Kilmarnock participating in the competition for the first time

Thuirt Ceitidh Alice, a tha san 3mh bliadhna, "Chòrd an deasbad rium gu mòr. Bha e gu math eagalach a' seasamh suas airson m' òraid a thoirt seachad a' chiad turas, ach bha e nas fhasa an dàrna, an treas is an ceathramh turas, oir bha fios agam cò ris a bha e coltach. Tha mi ag iarraidh a thilleadh an ath-bhliadhna oir bha e spòrs, is tha mi air mo sgilean Ghàidhlig a leasachadh."

Thuirt Stiùiriche BT Alba, Brendan Dick, "Tha BT Alba air taic a chur ri Deasbad nan Sgoiltean fad 13 bliadhna a-nise gus barrachd òigridh a bhrosnachadh Gàidhlig ionnsachadh. Tha sinn toilichte gu bheil am farpais a' dol bho neart gu neart agus bha e fìor mhath fàilte a chur air Àrdsgoil an Òbain agus Acadamaidh Grange, Cill Mhearnaig dhan fharpais, airson a' chiad uair. Tha mi cuideachd airson meala naidheachd a chur air an sgoil a bhuannaich farpais na bliadhna sa, Àrdsgoil Gheàrrlaich, air an soirbheas agus deagh dhùrachdan dha gach sgoil a ghabh pàirt am bliadhna."

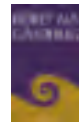
Chaidh Deasbad BT 2011 a mhaoineachadh le BT Alba, le taic eile a' tighinn bhon BhBC, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, MG Alba, Buidheann Stiùiridh Foghlam Gàidhlig agus Comunn na Gàidhlig.

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Àrdsgoil an Òbain, a bha a' gabhail pàirt san fharpais airson a' chiad uair

Oban High School, participating in the competition for the first time



www.gaidhlig.org.uk



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So far we have published over 30 books about the islands, and there are many more in the pipeline! New books include *Rewriting St Kilda*, *The Island Lighthouses of Scotland* and *Island Conversion* by Maoilios Caimbeul.

Visit our website at www.theislandsbooktrust.com to become a member, view our new 2012 events programme, browse our online bookshop, or simply to catch up on the latest news.

Please contact us at The Islands Book Trust, Ravenspoint Centre, Kershader, South Lochs, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9QA. Tel: 01851 880737; Email: sales@theislandsbooktrust.com



A' Comharrachadh Cànan agus Cultar na Gàidhlig

www.gaidhealtachd.gov.uk

gaelic@highland.gov.uk

Glory For Gairloch High School As They Emerge Winners of the BT Scotland 2011 Trophy

This year's BT Scotland National Schools Gaelic Debate competition, according to most seasoned debate followers, was the best yet. Significantly, this was also the opinion of the judges. The debate, which is sponsored by BT Scotland, has been running for 13 years and is now an integral and much welcomed part of the school calendar.

Nineteen schools from across Scotland, two of which were competing for the first time, participated in this year's competition. The opening rounds were held over two days in Stornoway with the semi-finals being held in the Storytelling Centre Edinburgh and the final in the Scottish Parliament. The four teams which went through to this year's semi-finals were The Nicolson Institute, Gairloch High School, James Gillespie High School and Millburn Academy with Gairloch and Millburn meeting in the Final. The Final, which was held on St Andrews Day, was opened in the Parliament, by Deputy Presiding Officer, John Scott MSP and was broadcast live on Radio nan Gaidheal. This year's debate topic, appropriately enough, was, "It is time Scotland created a new image away from ancient history, bagpipes and tartan". In a closely fought debate, Gairloch High School, which was represented by two sisters Ceitidh Alice and Anna Hulme, came out on top to win the coveted BT Alba trophy. Anna Hulme also won the BBC Scotland Trophy for the Best Speaker of the entire competition.

Anna, who is on 6th year, said, "I enjoyed all aspects of taking part in this year's debate - researching the various debate topics, participating in the debate on stage and also listening to the other teams' debates. However, the highlight for me was taking part in the Final, in the wonderful and awesome setting of The Scottish Parliament. As well as the more obvious benefits of participating in the debate itself, the competition is also a wonderful opportunity to make new friends right across Scotland."

Ceitidh Alice, who is on third year said, "I thoroughly enjoyed the entire debating competition. It was quite frightening standing up in front of everyone, making my opening speech, for the first time, but it got easier the second, third and fourth times as I became used to it. I want to compete again next year because it was great fun and I also feel that it has helped improve my Gaelic fluency."

BT Scotland Director, Brendan Dick added, "BT Scotland has supported the schools Gaelic debate for the past 13 years as an incentive to encourage more youngsters to speak the language. We are delighted that the competition continues to go from strength to strength and it was particularly pleasing to welcome Oban High School and Grange Academy, Kilmarnock to this year's competition, for the first time. I would like to congratulate this year's winners, Gairloch High School, on their success and also send my best wishes to all participating schools."

The 2011 Debate was sponsored by BT Scotland with additional assistance coming from the BBC, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, MG ALBA, the Management Review Group for Gaelic and Comunn na Gàidhlig

'Se eilean air leth brèagha is beòthail a th' anns an Eilean Sgitheanach agus tha Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Colaiste Ghàidhlig na h-Alba, a cheart cho trang thairis air a' bhliadhna le cùrsaichean is tachartasan. Bidh daoine bho air feadh an t-saoghail a' tighinn don Cholaiste gach bliadhna, a' gabhail a' chothruim coinneachadh ri daoine ùra agus beagan mu chultar na Gàidhlig ionnsachadh ann an sgìre shònraichte àlainn. Thòisich cùrsaichean goirid aig a' Cholaiste ann an ionnsachadh Gàidhlig agus ceòl traidiseanta ann an 1973 agus a-nis, bidh còrr is 700 duine a' tadhal oirnn thairis air a' bhliadhna airson cùrsa goirid a ghabhail.

Ann an 2012, bidh sinn a' leudachadh prògram nan cùrsaichean goirid againn le bhith a' tabhann barrachd dhiubh tron bhliadhna air fad. Am measg na th' againn, faodaidh sibh cùrsaichean cànan, eachdraidheil, dràma, dannsa, ealain agus ciùil a thaghadh aig a' Cholaiste agus ann an sgìrean Gàidhealach eile. Faodaidh sibh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh fhaighinn air na cùrsaichean againn tro làrach-lìn na Colaiste:

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk air neo faodaidh sibh post-d a chur gu: sm00cg@groupwise.uhi.ac.uk



Skye is a vibrant island and Scotland's Gaelic college, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is a busy place all year round with its courses and events. The Short Courses

offered by the College attract people of all ages and nationalities every year. They are a fantastic way to meet new people, learn the Gaelic language and enjoy a good music session or two on a picturesque campus which is at the heart of a warm and friendly community. The College's short courses began teaching Gaelic and traditional music in 1973 and have since greatly expanded with over 700 people visiting the College every year in order to take part in course.

In 2012, we will be expanding our course range with courses being available throughout the year at the College. Courses will be available for all levels in learning Gaelic and improving Gaelic language skills. We will also be offering music, art, drama and historical courses with new courses to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig being added throughout 2012.

For more information on these courses found at the College's unique Gaelic campus or indeed the courses we have in other Gaelic communities, please visit the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig website:

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

Or email us @ sm00cg@groupwise.uhi.ac.uk

You can also find info on the College's facebook page;

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/sabhalmorostaig>

Sgoil Chiùil na Gàidhealtachd

Tha 2011 air a bhi na bliadhna shoirbheachail eile aig Sgoil Chiùil na Gàidhealtachd. Ged a bha teagamhan ann tron bhliadhna mu shuidheachadh maoinachaidh, tha sin a-nis air a rèiteach, 's tha an obair againn dol a leudachadh troimh chom-pàirteachais le Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar, a leanas aig an aon àm ri ar n-obair àbhaisteach agus a leudaicheas cothroman dhan Ionad. Nochdaidh fiosrachadh mun seo sna pàipearan-naidheachd, a dh'aithghearr. Thèid prògram na h-àrd-sgoile a chumail mar a tha e, ged tà, 's tha sinn a-nis a' coimhead a-mach airson oileanaich às ùra. Thig Làithean Fosgailte a chumail air Dihaoine 3mh agus Disathairne 4mh den Ghearrain, 2012, le iarrtasan ri bhith a-staigh ro Dihaoine 2mh dhen Mhàrt. Thèid na deuchainnean-cluiche a chumail air an t-seachdain a tòiseachadh 19mh dhen Mhàrt. Gheibh sibh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh air an Làrach-lìn againn – www.musicplockton.org agus faodaidh sibh seisean-comhairleachaidh neo coinneamh air na Làithean Fosgailte a chuir air dòigh le bhith a' cur fòn gu 01599 544706 neo post-d gu dougie.pincock@highland.gov.uk neo rhona.sharp@highland.gov.uk



Plockton National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music

2011 has been another successful year at the Plockton National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music. Although there was some doubt about our funding during the year, that situation has now been resolved and our activities are about to expand through a new partnership with West Highland College UHI, which will run in parallel with our existing work and broaden access to the Centre. Look out for press announcements soon. Our secondary school programme remains unchanged, however, and it's now time to start the search for prospective students. This session's Open Days will be held on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th February 2012, with applications closing on Friday 2nd March. Auditions will be held in the week beginning Monday 19th March. You can visit our web site at www.musicplockton.org for further information, and you can make an appointment for an Advisory Audition or the Open Days by calling 01599 544706 or e-mailing dougie.pincock@highland.gov.uk or rhona.sharp@highland.gov.uk.

Sgoil Chiùil na Gàidhealtachd

The National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music

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Passionate about Traditional Music?**

Open Days: Feb 3rd & 4th 2012

If you already play to a high standard, or show genuine potential to do so, why not audition for Sgoil Chiùil na Gàidhealtachd?

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Based in Wester Ross, we cater for students from S1 to S6, who become residential students of Plockton High School. We are the only Centre of Excellence in Scotland exclusively devoted to Traditional Music, and provide tuition in accordion, bagpipes, clàrsach, guitar, fiddle, flute, whistle, piano, mandolin, bouzouki and Scots, Gaelic and contemporary song.

The National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music is fully funded by the Highland Council in partnership with the Scottish Government's Department of Education and Lifelong Learning

For further information please visit www.musicplockton.org or contact Dougie Pincock (Director) or Rhona Sharp (Admin) NCETM Pupil Residence Plockton High School Plockton IV52 8TU dougie.pincock@highland.gov.uk rhona.sharp@highland.gov.uk 01599 544706

'A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre' bho Dhualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

Tha an dlùth-cheangal eadar a' Ghàidhlig agus dealbhan-tìre aig cridhe an leabhran ùr dà-chànanach 'A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre: Ainmean-àite ann an Ìle agus Diùra' bho Dhualchas Nàdair na h-Alba agus Ainmean-àite na h-Alba. Seo an leabhran as ùire anns an t-sreath 'A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre' a leanas air 'Ainmean-àite ann an Iar-thuath na Gàidhealtachd' agus 'Ainmean-àite ann an Gallaibh, Cataibh is Dùthaich MhicAoidh' air an sgrìobhadh le Ruairidh MacIlleathain. Airson leth-bhreac fhaighinn saor an asgaidh no airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh, cuiribh fios gu gaelic@snh.gov.uk no 01463 725 148

'Gaelic in the Landscape' from Scottish Natural Heritage



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

The close connection between the Gaelic language and landscape is the focus of this exciting new bilingual booklet 'Gaelic in the Landscape: Place-names in Islay and Jura' published by Scottish Natural Heritage and Gaelic Place-names of Scotland. The booklet is the latest in the Gaelic in the Landscape series following on from 'Place names in the North West Highlands' and 'Place names in Caithness and Sutherland' written by Roddy Maclean. For your free copy or for further information please contact gaelic@snh.gov.uk or 01463 725 148.

A' Ghàidhlig air Aghaidh na Tìre ~ Gaelic in the Landscape

www.snh.gov.uk
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Clasaichean Gàidhlig airson Inbheach

Bidh Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' tòiseachadh dà chlas Ulpan do luchd ionnsachaidh às ùr sa Ghearastan, a' tòiseachadh air 20 Gearran 2012. Bidh iad cuideachd a' cumail clasaichean Ulpan do luchd ionnsachaidh às ùr an taobh an iar Loch Abair, a' tòiseachadh san Fhaoilleach. Tha fhathast rum sna clasaichean a thathas a' cumail airson luchd ionnsachaidh aig ìre Ionad 50+, a bhios a' tòiseachadh a-rithist san Fhaoilleach. Tòisichidh naoi clasaichean Ulpan agus clasaichean còmhraidh an Inbhir Nis bho 30 Faoilleach 2012. Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh cuiribh fòn gu Margaret Mulholland aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd, Fon, 01463 724278.

New Gaelic Adult Learning Classes

Highland Council will be starting two new Beginners Ulpan classes in Fort William as from the 20th February 2012, as well as a Beginners course in West Lochaber starting in January. Spaces presently exist in the Unit 50 + classes which are due to start up again in January. A new group of 9 classes plus conversation classes will start in Inverness as from the 30th January. For further information contact Margaret Mulholland at Highland Council, Tel 01463 724278.

NEW GAELIC ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
including Ulpan, at a range of levels in Inverness, Drumnadrochit and Lochaber.

For information contact Margaret Mulholland, Community Learning and Development (Officer) Gaelic, Highland Council, Tel. 01463 724278 margaret.mulholland@highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

SANTA A' TADHAL AIR CRÒILEAGAIN AN TAOBH SIAR

Bha faisg air 60 cloinne bho cròileagain Taobh Siar Leòdhais an làthair aig tachartas Nollaige, a bh'air a chuir air dòigh le Iomairt Ghàidhlig Iar Thuath Leòdhais an com-pàirteachas le Comunn na Gàidhlig agus Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. Bha clann bho cròileagain Nis, Bhuirgh, Bharabhais, Shiabost agus Bhreascleit an làthair Diardaoin a chaidh (an 15mh) an Talla Choimhearsnachd Sgìre Airidhantuin airson an tachartas.

Thug seo cothrom dhaibh coinneachadh ri chèile, a bhith ag obair sa cluich còmhla agus a h-uile dad tron Ghàidhlig. Bha iad an sàs ann an ioma seòrsa spòrs agus cothrom aca còig diofar bùthtean-obrach a fhrithealadh. Sna seachdainean ron tachartas, bha a' chlann air fad air òran ùr ionnsachadh, 'Bidh iad a' tighinn air Oidhche Nollaig' agus abair gu robh spòrs aca, agus iad ga sheinn còmhla airson a' chiad uair. Chruthaich iad mìosachan 2012 agus cairtean Nollaige; chuala iad sgeulachd Nollaig air a leughadh dhaibh, agus ghabh iad pàirt ann am beagan dràma cuideachd! Bha ùine aca air fhàgail airson grèim bidhe an uairsin mus tàinig Santa a cheilidh orra, le tiodhlac beag dhaibh uile!



Chaidh an tachartas a' stiùireadh le Marina Mhoireach agus Iona Nic an t-Sagairt le taic air an là bho Anna Mhoireach, Màiri Mhoireasdan, Marie Nicleòid, Kayanna Mhoireasdan agus Iain M Mac a' Mhaoilein. Chaidh na cosgaisean am pàigheadh le Iomairt Ghàidhlig Iar Thuath Leòdhais, Comunn na Gàidhlig agus Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

WEST SIDE CRÒILEAGAIN ENJOY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Around 60 children from the West Side cròileagain, attended a Christmas party organised by Iomairt Ghàidhlig Iar Thuath Leòdhais in partnership with Comunn na Gàidhlig and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in the Clan Macquarrie Hall, Borve. Children from the Ness, Borve, Barvas, Shawbost and Breascleat cròileagain attended the event last Thursday (15th Dec).

The event gave the groups an opportunity to meet, to work and play together, all in Gaelic. They had the opportunity to try out various types of activity, by participating in five different workshops. In the weeks building up to the event, all the children had learned a new song – 'Bidh iad a' tighinn air Oidhche Nollaig' and they had great fun singing it altogether for the first time; they made 2012 Calendars and Christmas cards; a Christmas story was read out to them and they also took part in some drama! They were then treated to a festive feast before Santa arrived to visit and hand out some special gifts!

The event was organised by Marina Murray and Iona Mactaggart and workshop leaders on the day were Anna Murray, Mairi Morrison, Marie Macleod, Kayanna Morrison and Iain M Macmillan. The event was funded by Iomairt Ghàidhlig Iar Thuath Leòdhais, Comunn na Gàidhlig and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

CEILIDH CULTURE DHÙN ÈIDEANN 2012, 16 MÀRT – 15 GIBLEAN

Tha "Ceilidh Culture 2012" a' gealltainn gur i an tè is fheàrr a bhios air a bhith ann gu ruige seo. A-nis san deichead bliadhna, tha "Ceilidh Culture" a' comharrachadh ealain thraidiseanta na h-Alba le bhith a' foillseachadh tàlant ionadail còmhla ri tàlantan eadar-nàiseanta. Le seachdain a bharrachd de thachartasan am bliadhna sa, faodar toirt a-staigh ceòl, òran, danrsa is sgeulachdan air feadh Prìomh Bhaile na dùthcha. Na caillibh a bharrachd "Ceilidh Culture Street Fair" (6-9 Giblean) far am bithear a' foillseachadh am biadh, deoch, obair-ciùird, fasan is, mar a bhiodh sibh a' sùileachadh, ceòl is fheàrr an Alba!

EDINBURGH'S CEILIDH CULTURE 2012, 16 MARCH - 15 APRIL

"Ceilidh Culture 2012" promises to be the best yet! Now in its tenth year "Ceilidh Culture" celebrates the traditional arts in Scotland showcasing local talent alongside international acts. With an extra week of events this year you can enjoy music, song, dance and storytelling across the Capital city. Don't miss the fantastic Ceilidh Culture Street Fair too (6-9 April) with the very best in Scottish food, drink, crafts, fashion and of course music!

EDINBURGH'S
Ceilidh Culture
16 March – 15 April 2012

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www.ceilidhculture.co.uk

10 years celebrating traditional arts through music, song, dance, and storytelling

Soidhnichean dà-chànanach a' toirt a' Ghàidhlig fa chomhar na ceudan de mhiltean

Tha soidhnichean dà chànanach aig companaidhean is buidhnean air feadh na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean a' toirt a' Ghàidhlig fa chomhar na ceudan de mhiltean de dhaoine gach bliadhna.

Tha seo mar aon de na toraidhean às rannsachadh a rinneadh air Sgeama Soidhnichean Dà Chànanach, a tha ga stiùireadh le Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG), is air a mhaoineachadh le Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean (HIE). Chaidh an rannsachadh ùr a dhèanamh gus sùil thoirt air èifeachdas is soirbheachas na sgeama agus airson an obair a stiùireadh san àm ri teachd. Anns an seachd bliadhna mu dheireadh dhan sgeama thathas air taic a chumail ri faisg air 150 pròiseact, luach còrr is £250,000, le taic airgid de dìreach £94,000.

'S iad amasan na sgeama inbhe na Gàidhlig a thogail; a chànan a chuir mu choinneamh slugh a bharrachd; agus cothrom a thoirt do ghnìomhachasan buannachd a thoirt aiste.

Bhon sgeama gheibh gnìomhachasan neo buidhnean-coimhearsnachd taic airgid de suas gu dà mhìle not airson soidhnichean neo goireasan-margaidheachd eile a chuir an sàs. Pàighidh an sgeama suas ri 60% de na cosgaisean aig an ìre tha seo.

Chaidh an obair-rannsachaidh a dhèanamh le companaidh neo-eisimeil 'Reference Economic Consultants' stèidhichte an Inbhir Nis, agus chaidh a mhaoineachadh le HIE, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, agus CnaG.

Tha Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd a' maoineachadh an sgeama mar phàirt dhan cùmhnant leasachaidh Gàidhlig a th'aca le CnaG. Tha buidsead de £35,000 sa bhliadhna ga chosg mu choinneamh ionmhas na buidhnean fhèin. Thuirt Stiùiriche Leasachaidh Coimhearsnachd aig HIE, John Watt, "Tha sinne deamhainte gum bheil a' Ghàidhlig aig cridhe na coimhearsnachd sa sgìre seo, ach cuideachd gum bu chòir cothroman cosnadh bhith na luib. 'Se tha toirt misneachd dhuinne san naidheachd a tha seo gum bheil gu leòr a bhuidhnean eile dhan an aon bheachd – deònach an airgead aca fhèin a chosg a thaobh na Gàidhlig seach gum bheil iadsan a' faicinn buannachd aiste."

Thuirt Dòmhnall MacNeill, Ceannard ChnaG, "Sann bho chionn dìreach beagan is dà mhìos a dh'fhoillsich an Riaghaltas Albannach rannsachadh aca fhèin a bha a' sealltainn gu robh còrr is 80% de mhuinntir na h-Alba taiceil dhan Gàidhlig, mar phàirt de dhualchas na dùthcha. Le taic airson a' Ghàidhlig cho làidir, chan eil e na iongnadh gum bheil e còrdadh ri daoine soidhnichean dà-chànanach fhaicinn."



Bilingual signs bring Gaelic to hundreds of thousands of people

Bilingual (Gaelic and English) signs for businesses and organisations across the Highlands and Islands raise the profile of Gaelic with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

This is one of the conclusions to be drawn from a review into the bilingual signage scheme, operated by Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) and supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). The review was carried out to examine the impact and success of the scheme, and to guide its implementation in future. In the last 7 years, £94,000 has been invested in nearly 150 projects - worth more than £250,000 in total.

The aims of the scheme are to raise the profile of Gaelic; to let more people see the language in use; and to provide the opportunity for local businesses to take advantage of it.

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The independent review of the scheme was carried out by Inverness-based Reference Economic Consultants, and funded by HIE, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and CnaG.

HIE supports the scheme as part of their Gaelic development contract with CnaG. The annual scheme budget of £35,000 is used as matched funding for client businesses own investment. Director of Strengthening Communities at HIE, John Watt said, "We are convinced that Gaelic is at the very heart of communities across this area, but also that we should take advantage of the economic opportunities it offers. We're delighted that this report highlights how many others share this view – businesses and organisations happy to invest their own resources in Gaelic because they see the benefits it can bring."

Donald MacNeill, Chief Executive of CnaG said, "It's only a little over two months since the Scottish Government published its own research showing that over 80% of Scottish people were supportive of Gaelic maintaining a profile within the country. With such a strong level of support it is little wonder that people are happy to see bilingual signs."

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CnaG a' Fastadh Oifigear Ùr

Tha Comunn na Gàidhlig air oifigear ùr a chuir an dreuchd airson Iomairt Ghàidhlig Leòdhais. 'S esan Cailean Seòras Moireasdan à Barabhas, agus bidh e ag obair an sgìre Steòrnabhaigh, Am Bac, Tolastadh agus an Rubha. Chaidh na h-Iomairtean Ghàidhlig an staidheachadh, le Bòrd na Gàidhlig, an diofar sgìrean air feadh Alba bho chionn còrr is dà bliadhna air ais gus còrr na Gàidhlig a thoirt air adhart sna diofar choimhearsnachdan. Tha Iomairtean Ghàidhlig air a bhith stèidhte an iar thuath Leòdhais agus an Uibhist a Deas on uairsin ach sann an dràsta fhèin, an co-bhonn le Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, a thathas a' leudachadh obair nan Iomairtean gus na h-Eileanan an Iar air fad. Tha Cailean, a th'air a bhith an sàs an diofar bhuidhnean coimhearsnachd, air a bhith na oileanach aig Colaiste a' Chaisteil airson na ceithir bliadhna mu dheireadh, bho dh' fhàg e Sgoil MhicNeacail ann an 2007. Tha e o chionn

ghoirid air crìoch a thoirt air ceum urram ann an "Gàidhlig agus Leasachadh Choimhearsnachd". Air a' cheathramh bliadhna, bha Cailean fortanach gun d' fhuair e an cothrom a dhol a Chanada airson ceithir mìosan den bliadhna far na dh' ionnsaich e mòran mu bhith mar phàirt de choimhearsnachd Gàidhlig rudeigin eadar-dhealaichte ann an Alba Nuadh. Bho chriochnaich Cailean obair sa cholaiste, tha e air a bhith ag obair aig MG ALBA airson ùine ghoirid agus tha e an dòchas gu bheil an eòlas a tha e air a thogail thairis nam bliadhnachan ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig gu bhith feumail dha na dhreuchd ùr - "Tha mi an dòchas gum bi a h-uile rud a dh' ionnsaich mi air a' chùrsa sa cholaiste agus eòlas bho na h-obraichean eile a tha air a bhith agam còmhla ri buidhnean Gàidhlig, na chuideachadh mhòr dhomh anns an dreuchd seo ann an sgìre Loch a' Tuath. Tha fios gur e obair chruaidh a th'ann ach tha mi a' coimhead air adhart gu mòr ri bhith ag obair anns an sgìre, agus gu h-àraidh a bhith ag obair am measg an oigridh." Tha grunn chur-seachadan aig Cailean, ball-coise nam measg, agus bidh e a' cluich dha sgioba an Taobh Siar. Bidh Cailean a' tòiseachadh na dhreuchd ùr an dèidh na Bliadhn' Ùire. Tha an dreuchd a tha seo air a mhaoinachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.



CnaG Appoints Officer for Greater Broadbay Area

Comunn na Gàidhlig has appointed a new officer for Iomairt Ghàidhlig Leòdhais. He is Colin George Morrison who comes from Barvas, and who will be working the greater Broadbay area, (Stornoway, Back, Tolsta and Point). The Iomairtean Ghàidhlig (Gaelic Initiatives) were established in several areas across Scotland, by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, over 2 years ago, to try and increase the number of Gaelic speakers and also to create more opportunities for Gaelic speakers to use the language. There has been an Iomairt Ghàidhlig in north west Lewis and South Uist since then but only now, working with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, is the remit of the Iomairtean being extended to cover all of the Western Isles. Colin George, who has been involved in a number of community organisations over the years, has been a student at Lews Castle College for the past 4 years having left The Nicolson Institute in 2007. He has recently completed a BA Hons Degree in "Gaelic Language & Community Development". As part of this course, he was fortunate enough to spend four months in Canada where he got a good insight into being part of a completely different Gaelic community in Nova Scotia. Since completing his course Colin George has worked at MG ALBA on a short term basis and he hopes that the experience he has picked up working closely with Gaelic organisations over the past few years will serve him well in his new post - "I hope that everything I learnt on the Gaelic course, and the experience of working with different organisations within the Gaelic community will prove to be a huge help for me in my new post. I know that this job is going to be a challenging one, but I am hugely looking forward to it, and especially working with the young people of the community." Colin has many hobbies, football being the main one in which he plays for the West Side football team. He will take up his new post after New Year. This post is funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.



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BILINGUALISM MATTERS – CUR AIR BHOG MEUR NAN EILEAN SIAR

Bha an caochladh de bhunnachdan an lùib dà-chànanas anns Na h-Eileanan Siar aig cridhe cur aig bhog iomairt agus goireas ùr, Meur nan Eilean Siar 'Bilingualism Matters'.

Ged a tha na buannachdan cultarail le Gàidhlig aithnichte fad is farsaing, tha an tuigse air buannachdan eanchainn an lùib dà chànanas – as bith dè na cànanan – aig ìre tòiseachaidh. Dè an cothrom a th' againn air ar starain fhèin ann am Foghlam Tro Meadhain na Gàidhlig? Cothrom a bheir seachad buannachdan a bharrachd air fileantas ann an Gàidhlig agus Beurla, ged a tha sin fhèin cudromach. Tha obair an t-Ollamh Antonella Sorace air buannachdan dà-chànanas aig cridhe am pròiseact ùr agus adhartach seo. Mar Ollamh Cànan Leasachail aig Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann, tha a rannsachadh a tha i air a dhèanamh air crìoch a chur air a bheachd gum bi dà chànan a' cur pàiste troimhe chèile neo a' cur bacadh air leasachadh. Gu dearbha sann a tha a h-obair a' dearbhadh gu bheil clann dà-chànanach a' faighinn buannachdan a bharrachd air feadhainn aig nach eil ach dìreach aon chànan.

Aig tachartas neo-fhoirmeil anns An Lanntair, Steòrnabhagh, far na chuir Seonag NicFhionghain, Stiùiriche Foghlaim agus Seirbhisean Cloinne aig Comhairle nan Eilean Siar fàilte air na bha an làthair, chualas òraid Ollamh Sorace far an do chur i cuideam mhòr air an cothrom dà-chànanas a th' ann an FTMG sna h-Eileanan Siar. Ann an taisbeanadh a bh' an dà chuid eibhinn agus gleusda, mhìnich Aonghas MacGilleFhinnein, Iar Cheannard Àrd-sgoil MhicNeacail, an suidheachadh dà-chànanach sònraichte a th' anns na h-Eileanan an Iar. Bhruidhinn e air an uallach agus an dleastanas a th' oirnn uile, mar phàrantan, buidhnean agus coimhearsnachdan a bhith nar 'tosgairean dà-chànanais' don òigridh agus a bhith cleachdadh Gàidhlig cho tric 's is urrainn.



An t-Ollamh Antonella Sorace
Professor Antonella Sorace

A' riochdachadh meur ùr na h-Eileanan Siar, thug an co-òrdanaiche ionadail Iona Nic an t-Sagairt taing don òraidichean, is gu h-àraidh Ollamh Sorace a bh' air siubhal bho Dhùn Èideann, agus Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is Comann nam Pàrant a thug taic seachad ann a bhith cruthachadh a' mheur. Le sgioba beag ionadail air a thrèanadh, thuirt i gu bheil fadachd orra tachairt ri pàrantan gus mìneachadh dhaibh na buannachdan an lùib dà-chànanas agus FTMG anns na h-eileanan. A bharrachd air tachartasan neo-fhoirmeil a chur air dòigh air feadh na h-eileanan, tha an sgioba cuideachd airson cluinntinn bho phàrantan no bhuidhnean a tha sireadh barrachd fiosrachaidh.

Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu 'Bilingualism Matters' cuiribh fios gu Iona air iona@cnag.org.uk no 01851 701802 no thoiribh sùil air an làrach-lìn - www.bilingualism-matters.org.uk

BILINGUALISM MATTERS – WESTERN ISLES BRANCH LAUNCH

The many and varied benefits of bilingualism in the Western Isles were at the heart of the recent launch of a new initiative and resource – the Western Isles branch of 'Bilingualism Matters'.

While the cultural benefits of speaking Gaelic are well known, the wider cognitive advantages that bilingualism brings – regardless of which languages - are only beginning to be understood. What opportunity lies on our very doorstep, right under our noses, in the shape of Gaelic Medium Education? An opportunity that gives benefits way beyond fluency in Gaelic – and English – important as that is.

The work of esteemed linguist Professor Antonella Sorace, on the advantages of bilingualism is at the core of this new, innovative project. As Professor of Developmental Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh, her groundbreaking research has truly dispelled the myth that exposure to two languages can confuse a child and hinder their mental development. On the contrary, her work shows how bilingual children gain so much more than monolingual children.

A well attended, informal gathering at An Lanntair, was welcomed by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Director of Education and Childcare Services, Joan MacKinnon, and addressed by Professor Sorace where she emphasised the fantastic 'bilingualism' opportunity that GME offers in the Western Isles. Angus MacLennan, Deputy Rector of the Nicolson Institute, spoke of the unique 'bilingual' situation the Western Isles offered with Gaelic, in a typically humorous, yet serious address. He spoke particularly of the responsibility, we had as parents, organisations, and as communities, to be good "bilingual" ambassadors for our young people, and to use Gaelic in as many situations as possible.

Representing the newly established Western Isles branch, local co-ordinator, Iona Mactaggart, went on to thank the speakers, especially Professor Sorace who had travelled from Edinburgh to be present, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Comann nam Pàrant for their help and support in establishing the branch. With a small local team now trained, she said they were now looking forward to meeting up with parents to explain the many benefits bilingualism offered and the opportunity GME provided in the islands. As well as organising various informal events throughout the islands, she said the team would also love to hear from any groups, or parents out there looking for more information.

For further information on 'Bilingualism Matters', contact Iona on iona@cnag.org.uk / 01851 701802, or check out the dedicated website – www.bilingualism-matters.org.uk

Considering Gaelic Medium Education for your child?

If you are considering Gaelic Medium Education for your child in the Western Isles and have any questions or would just like more information about Gaelic Medium Education and its benefits, please do not hesitate to contact Iona Mactaggart, Gaelic Medium Officer, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Stornoway for more information and advice.
Iona can be contacted on 01851 701802, iona@cnag.org.uk



Uibhist a Deas is Èirisgeigh a' togail duais, "Coimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig na Bliadhna 2011"

Chaidh duais, "Coimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig na Bliadhna 2011" a bhuileachadh air riochdairean à Uibhist a Deas is Èirisgeigh, le Alasdair Allan BPA, Ministear airson Ionnsachadh is Sgilean le uallach cuideachd airson Gàidhlig is Albais aig tachartas air Dihaoine 18 Samhain. A thuilleadh air an tiotal, ghlèidh a' choimhearsnachd cuideachd seic airson £3,000.

Tha tagraidhean chun fharpais, a th'air a ruith le Comunn na Gàidhlig, le taic o Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean, air am measadh air ìre cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig aig ìre ionadail, cho follaiseach 's a tha i san sgìre agus cho tric 's a chluinnear i am measg muinntir na sgìre – le cuideam sònraichte ga chuir air cleachdadh Gàidhlig a measg an òigridh.

Bha na brìtheamhan aontaichte gun robh Uibhist a Deas is Èirisgeigh airidh air a' chiad duais airson am fianais a thugadh seachad air mar a bha a' Ghàidhlig ga fighe a-steach, agus mar phàirt chudromach de bheatha làitheil na sgìre.

Thuir Lena Nic'Ilfhiallainn, a tha an sàs an Iomairt Ghàidhlig Uibhist a Deas is Èirisgeigh, a chuir a' choimhearsnachd air adhart airson na duais, "Bidh fios aig mòran gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig làidir san sgìre a tha seo, ach cha b'ann air an sin a steidhich sinn ar tagradh chun an fharpais seo idir. Thog sinne fianais air a an obair a tha ga dhèanamh an dràsta gus àite na Gàidhlig a neartachadh aig an àm a tha seo, agus gu sònraichte cothroman ùra chruthachadh dha na Gàidheil thighinn còmhla gus a' chànan a cleachdadh."

Thuir an t-Oll. Alasdair Allan, "Tha mi glan air mo dhòigh an cothrom fhaighinn an duais a tha seo a bhuileachadh air coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Deas is Èirisgeigh, a' toirt aithne dhan obair a tha iad a' dèanamh gus a' Ghàidhlig a chumail agus gu dearbha a leasachadh, gu sònraichte am measg an òigridh.

"Tha na brìtheamhan air aithneachadh gur e coimhearsnachd a tha seo a tha mothachail gu feum a' Ghàidhlig a bhith air a fighe a-steach gu h-iomlan a' bheatha làitheil na coimhearsnachd, agus gu feum seo a bhith aig ìre subsainteach, ma tha iad dha-rìreabh, mar a tha a' choimhearsnachd sa, airson gum bith an cànan beò san àm ri thighinn.

"Feumar cuideachd meal a naidheachd a chuir air dà choimhearsnachd eile sna h-Eileanan an Iar, sgìre Oighreachd Ghabhsainn, a ghlèidh an darna àite agus sgìre Bhreasclèit, a ghlèidh an treas àite. 'S math a rinn sibh!"

Thuir Ceannard ChnaG Dòmhnall MacNèill: "Tha fios againn gum bheil gu leòr a dhaoine, air feadh na Gàidhealtachd is Alba air fàd, a' dèanamh an dicheall às leth na Gàidhlig, is tha e a' toirt toileachas mòr dhuinne a bhith ann an comas an saothair seo aithneachadh tron fharpais seo. Mhìnich Uibhist a Deas is Èirisgeigh dha na brìtheamhan mar a tha a' Ghàidhlig ga cleachdadh a measg seann is òg, agus aig a h-uile ìre de bheatha na coimhearsnachd, bhon àit'-obrach, chun sgoil, is clubaichean-òigridh."



Alasdair Allan BPA, Ministear airson Ionnsachadh is Sgilean a' toirt duais, "Coimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig na Bliadhna 2011" do riochdairean bho Iomairt Ghàidhlig Uibhist a Deas is Èirisgeigh. Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning and Skills presents the 2011 Gaelic Community of the Year award to representatives from Iomairt Ghàidhlig Uibhist a Deas is Èirisgeigh, Mary Ann Campbell, Lena MacLellan and Shona Mackay. Also in picture is Calum Iain Macleod, Comunn na Gàidhlig.

South Uist and Eriskay presented with the Gaelic Community of the Year 2011 award

Gaelic Community of the Year 2011, were presented with their award and a cheque for £3,000 by Alasdair Allan MSP, the Scottish Government Minister for Learning and Skills with responsibility for Gaelic and Scots, at a ceremony on Friday 18th November.

Nominations to the competition, which is run by Comunn na Gàidhlig, with support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, are assessed on the use of Gaelic at each local level, the profile of the language within the communities, and how frequently Gaelic can be heard being spoken by local people – with special priority given to use among young people.

The judges this year were unanimous that South Uist and Eriskay be awarded first place on the basis of the evidence provided that Gaelic was an integral and important part of daily life within the community.



HIE wishes a happy and prosperous 2012 to everyone living and working in the Highlands and Islands.

Tha Iomairt
gum bidh
nea

Lena MacLellan, who is a member of Iomairt Ghàidhlig Uibhist a Deas agus Èirisgeigh, which nominated the community for the Award said, “Many will know that Gaelic is strong in this area, but that wasn’t the basis of this application. We focussed on all the things being done at the moment to strengthen Gaelic and particularly to create new opportunities for Gaelic speakers to come together and use the language.”

Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, said, “I was delighted to be able to present this award to the community of South Uist and Eriskay, to recognise the work they are doing to maintain and develop the Gaelic language, particularly amongst young people.

“The judges have recognised that this is a community which understands that Gaelic has to be mainstreamed into every aspect of the community’s daily life, and that this has to go beyond tokenism if they are to be serious, as they clearly are, about the language having a future.

“Congratulations must also go to the two other communities in the Western Isles in Galson and Breasclete, who were awarded second and third prize respectively. Mealaibh ur naidheachd!”

CnaG chief executive Donald MacNeill said: “We know that many people, within the Highlands and Islands, and Scotland as a whole, are working hard for Gaelic, and we are delighted to be able to reward some of these efforts through this competition. South Uist and Eriskay demonstrated to the judges how Gaelic is used amongst young and old, and at every level of daily life, from the workplace to the school and clubs for younger people.”



Leugh Leabhar

Annas a’ bhliadhna ùir, bidh Comhairle nan Leabhraichean a’ ruith iomairt ùr, ‘Leugh Leabhar,’ airson clubaichean leabhraichean a stèidheachadh air feadh Alba. Tha sinn airson cothrom a thoirt do leughadairean Gàidhlig – fileantaich agus luchd-ionnsachaidh - bruidhinn mu dheidhinn leabhraichean anns an sgìre aca fhèin.

Tha Comhairle nan Leabhraichean air pasgan-taic ullachadh airson clubaichean ùra, anns a bheil nòtaichean air mar a thèid club a ruith agus liosta de leabhraichean Gàidhlig a bhiodh freagarrach airson deasbad. Bheir sinn taic do chlubaichean a thaobh sanasachd agus cuiridh sinn fiosrachadh mun deidhinn anns a’ chuart-litir agus air an làrach-lìn againn.

Gheibh clubaichean ùra trì lethbhric den a’ chiad leabhar a thaghas iad saor `s an-asgaidh agus eisimpleirean de cheistean mu dheidhinn an leabhair airson a’ chòmhradh a chumail a’ dol.

Às dèidh a’ chiad choinneamh aca, gheibh clubaichean lasachadh-prìse bho Chomhairle nan Leabhraichean air na tiotalan a bhios iad a’ deasbad gach mìos.

Nam biodh ùidh aig duine no buidheann sam bith ann an club a thòiseachadh agus a ruith anns an sgìre aca, bu chòir dhaibh fios a chur gu shelagh@gaelicbooks.net, no fòn a chur thugainn air 0141 337 6211.



New Book Clubs to be established across Scotland

In the new year, the Gaelic Books Council will be running a new campaign, ‘Leugh Leabhar’ (Read a Book), to establish book clubs throughout Scotland. We aim to give Gaelic readers – both fluent and learners – the opportunity to discuss Gaelic books in their local area.

The Gaelic Books Council has prepared a support pack for new clubs, which contains notes on running a book club and a list of Gaelic books which would be suitable for discussion. We will also provide clubs with marketing support and will advertise them in our newsletter and on our website.

New clubs will receive three free copies of the first book they choose to discuss, as well as sample questions about the book to keep the discussion going.

After their first meeting, clubs will receive a discount on the titles they choose each month from the Gaelic Books Council.

If any individual or group would be interested in establishing and running a book club in their local area, they should get in touch either via email at shelagh@gaelicbooks.net, or by phone on 0141 337 6211.

**Part na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean a' guidhe
n 2012 na bliadhna shoirbheachail do gach
ch a' fuireach 's ag obair air feadh a'
Ghàidhealtachd 's na h-Eileanan**



Ofcom a' Suidheachadh Cathraiche ur air MG ALBA

Chaidh Magaidh Choineagan a suidheachadh le Ofcom mar an Cathraiche ùr air MG ALBA, am buidheann a tha an urra ri bhith a' maoineachadh phrògraman Gàidhlig. Tòisichidh i san dreuchd, a mhaireas ceithir bliadhna, aig toiseach an Iuchair 2012.

Chuir Rùnaire na Stàite airson Alba, le taic bho Rùnaire a' Chaibineit an Alba airson Foghlam agus Ionnsachadh Fad-beatha an taic ris an t-suidheachadh an dèidh pròiseas suidheachaidh agus taghaidh neo-eisimeileich a bhith air a chumail le Ofcom an Alba.



Bidh Magaidh Choineagan a' gabhail a-null bho Alasdair Moireasdan a bha na Cathraiche on Iuchair 2008. Rè an ama seo chuir MG ALBA an seanail BBC ALBA air chois ann an com-pàirteachas leis a' BhBC. Chuireadh an seanail air Freeview san Ògmhios 2011.

Tha Magaidh Choineagan an-dràsta ag obair mar choidse cheannardais an lùib Perform2Succeed. Bha i na ceannard air Radio Scotland eadar 2000 is 2004 agus na Co-Cheannard air Prògraman is Seirbheisean, BBC Scotland eadar 2005 is 2009. Bha i an sàs ann an grunnan dhreuchdan eile an lùib BBC Scotland bho 1979, nam measg sin, na Rùnaire a' toirt taic do Chomhairle Craolaidh na h-Alba. Tha i fileanta sa Ghàidhlig.

Thuirtear Magaidh Choineagan: "Tha mi air leth toilichte a bhith air mo shuidheachadh san dreuchd seo agus tha mi a' coimhead air adhart ri bhith ag obair còmhla ri bòrd MG ALBA a' togail air an obair mhòr a rinn Alasdair thar nan trì bliadhna gu leth a chaidh seachad, àm anns an deach BBC ALBA a chur air chois."

Ann a bhith a' cur fàilte air a suidheachadh san dreuchd ùir, thuirtear Colette Bowe, Cathraiche Ofcom: "Ann am Magaidh Choineagan tha sinn a' faighinn an dà chuid, àrd eòlas ann an obair-craolaidh agus dealas a thaobh na Gàidhlig san àm ri teachd."

"Tha mi fhèin agus na tha còmhla rium air Ofcom a' guidhe gach soirbheachas dhi ann a bhith a' toirt air adhart a h-amasan a thaobh craoladh Gàidhlig."

"Bu math leam cuideachd às leth Ofcom ar taing a chur an cèill airson na h-obrach mhòir a rinn Alasdair Moireasdan ann a bhith a' cur ri soirbheachas craoladh Gàidhlig fhad 's a bha e na Cathraiche, gu sònraichte an lùib a bhith a' suidheachadh BBC ALBA."

Thuirtear Micheal Moore, BP, Rùnaire na Stàite airson Alba: "Bu mhath leam meal an naidheachd a chur air Magaidh Choineagan airson a bhith soirbheachail ann a bhith air a suidheachadh mar Cathraiche air MG ALBA. Tha mi cinnteach gum bi an t-eòlas a fhuair i thar 15 bliadhna fhad 's a bha i na h-àrd-oifigear aig a' BhBC air leth feumail dhi san dreuchd ùir seo."

Thuirtear Micheal Ruiseal, BPA, Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Foghlam agus Ionnsachadh Fad-beatha an Alba: "Tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba dealasach a chùim àm ri teachd a bhios seasmhach agus soirbheachail a bhith aig a' Ghàidhlig ann an Alba agus tha àite air leth riatanach aig MG ALBA, air a stiùireadh le daoine dicheallach, lèirsinneach mar Magaidh Choineagan, ann a bhith a' toirt sin gu buil."

"Tha mi dhan bheachd gu bheil na sgilean iomchaidh aig a' Bhean-ualas Choineagan an dreuchd seo a ghabhail thairis agus leantainn oirre leis an deagh adhartas a tha MG ALBA air a dhèanamh ann an com-pàirteachas le BBC Alba."

Ofcom appoints new chairman for MG ALBA

Maggie Cunningham has been appointed by Ofcom as the new Chairman of MG ALBA, the body responsible for funding Gaelic programming. She will take up the four-year appointment at the beginning of July 2012.

The appointment was approved by the Secretary of State for Scotland, supported by Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning following an independent appointment and selection process undertaken by Ofcom in Scotland.

Maggie Cunningham takes over from Alasdair Morrison who has served as Chairman since July 2008. During this period MG ALBA launched the BBC ALBA channel in partnership with the BBC. The channel became available on Freeview in June, 2011.

Maggie Cunningham is currently an executive and leadership coach with Perform2Succeed. She was Head of Radio Scotland from 2000 to 2004 and Joint Head of Programmes and Services, BBC Scotland from 2005 to 2009. She has carried out a number of other roles with BBC Scotland since 1979 including as Secretary supporting the Broadcasting Council for Scotland. She is a fluent Gaelic speaker.

Maggie Cunningham said: "I am delighted to be appointed and look forward to working with the board of MG ALBA to build upon Alasdair's considerable contribution over the past three and a half years which has seen the launch of BBC ALBA."

Welcoming the appointment, Colette Bowe, Chairman of Ofcom, said: "Maggie Cunningham combines senior broadcasting experience with a commitment to the future of the Gaelic language."

"My colleagues in Ofcom join me in wishing her every success in taking forward her vision for Gaelic broadcasting."

"I would also like to record the gratitude of Ofcom for the significant role played by Alasdair Morrison in furthering the cause of Gaelic broadcasting during his term as Chairman, particularly in the establishment of BBC ALBA."

Michael Moore, MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, said: "I would like to congratulate Maggie Cunningham on her successful appointment as MG ALBA Chairman. I am sure that her experience gained over 15 years as a senior BBC executive, will no doubt stand her in good stead as she takes up this appointment."

Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, said: "The Scottish Government is committed to a sustainable and vibrant future for Gaelic in Scotland and MG ALBA, driven by committed individuals like Maggie Cunningham, are a key part of making that a reality."

"I believe Ms Cunningham has the right skills to step into the role and build on the good progress that MG ALBA has made in partnership with BBC Scotland."



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Tha Clì, am buidheann nàiseanta a bhios a' coimhead às dèidh feumalachdan inbhich a tha ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig, air leth toilichte innse dhuibh gu bheil an làrach-lìn ùr do luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig www.learnghaelic.net a-nis beò!

Tha sgioba shònraichte le riochdachadh bhon BhBC, MG ALBA, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Bòrd na Ceiltis (Alba) agus Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a' stiùireadh a' phròiseict agus tha Clì moiteil a bhith an sàs ann cuideachd.

Tha LearnGaelic ag amas air a bhith a' toirt ri chèile san aon àite, taghadh de ghòireasan do luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig. Am measg nan nithean a bhios rim faotainn bidh taghadh de phrògraman agus de stuthan eadar-obrachail a' BhBC do chloinn is inbhich, faclair is co-fhaclair ùr, agus comhairle a thaobh a bhith a' labhairt na Gàidhlig.

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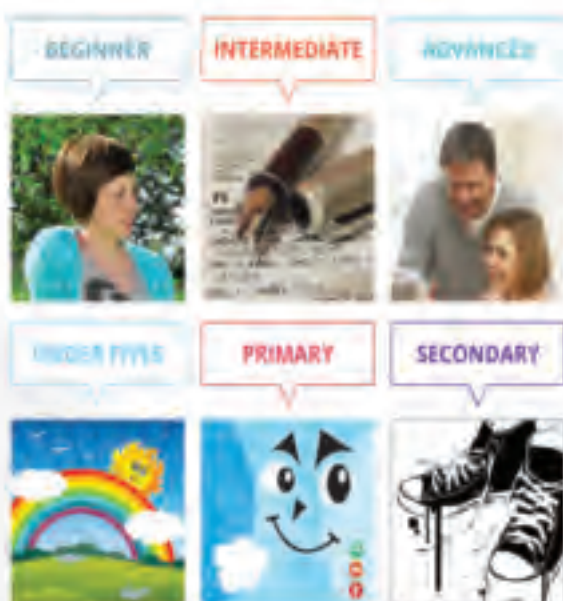
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Clì, the national organisation that looks after the needs of the adult Gaelic learner, is delighted to inform you that the new website for Gaelic learners www.learnghaelic.net is now live! A dedicated team from the BBC, MG ALBA, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Board of Celtic Studies and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig are directing the project and we are proud to play a part too.

LearnGaelic aims to pull a wealth of resources for Gaelic learners together in one place. Among the facilities available are a wide range of BBC programmes and interactive resources for both children and adults, a new dictionary and thesaurus, and advice for speakers. It is Clì's hope that the LearnGaelic will become a key resource for Gaelic learners, encouraging and provide direction for people at all levels of fluency. Mealaibh is caithibh!

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LearnGaelic.net is a one-stop shop for anyone and everyone interested in learning Scottish Gaelic. Whatever stage you are at, and whatever age you are, all the help you need is just a click away at **LearnGaelic.net**



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Na mo Chuid Aodaich



Tha a' phròiseact coimhearsnachd seo gu bhith air a chumail ann an Thròndairnis agus ann am Minginis san Eilean Sgitheanach san Gearran 2012. Airson aodach a thabhann cuir fios gu:

This community arts project is to be performed in Trotternish and Minginish in the Isle of Skye in February 2012. To contribute articles of clothing contact:

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CHaidh NA MO CHUID AODAICH A GHairM NA SHOIRBHEACHADH MHÒR

Tha Pròiseact nan Ealan agus An Lèanag (Ionad Cruthachail na Gàidhlig ann an Glaschu) air leth toilichte innse mu shoirbheachadh Na Mo Chuid Aodaich, a ghabh àite ann an Glaschu air an 10mh Dùbhlachd.

Bha seo mar thoradh air co-obrachadh eadar Pròiseact nan Ealan agus An Lèanag, a thàinig còmhla airson tachartas a chur air chois agus airgead a thogail dha Beatson Oncology Centre a fhuair tabhartas de £2,000 a chaidh a thogail bho cìsean inntigidh an luchd-amhairc. Ghabh Valerie Miller, Àrd Bhanaltram aig Ionad Aillse Beatson Taobh Siar Alba an tabhartas às leth an Ionaid agus thuirt i, “Bidh an t-airgead seo na chuideachadh mhòr dhan fheadhainn a tha a’ faighinn cùram aig an Ionad agus dhan teaghlachan.”

B’ e taisbeanadh Ghlaschu a’ chiad fhear ann an sreath ùr de na tachartasan sònraichte seo a tha air dà dhuais a chosnadh agus a thuilleadh air an taisbeanadh bha dealbh-chluich ann, ‘Aodach na Bainnse’ a sgrìobh Christine Combe/Chrisella Ros agus a stiùir Dòmhnall ‘Ryno’ Moireasdan. Bha an taisbeanadh a’ sealltainn liut shònraichte Gàidheil baile Ghlaschu anns an linn mu dheireadh. Anns an taisbeanadh bha cruinneachadh beothaile aodaich bho linn eile agus buill òga bho coimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu gan sealltainn. Bha Tony Kearney agus Linda NicLeòid a’ toirt cunntas air a’ chùis mar a bha i a’ dol.

Tha soirbheachadh na h-oidhche na theisteanas den fheadhainn a dh’obraich cho cruaidh air cùl chùisean; bho luchd-ullachaidh stèidse gun fheadhainn a bha an urra ri èideachadh is maise-gnùise, is iad uile a’ co-obrachadh gus dèanamh cinnteach gun robh gach nì a’ dol gu rèidh. Tha taing shònraichte ri dhol gu Norma NicSuain, Iseabail NicLeòid is Mòrag NicChoinnich a bha an urra ri eagrachadh agus ri èideachadh nam modailean sna trusganan àlainn a rinn an taisbeanadh air an àrd ùrlar cho taitneach.

Thuirt Calum MacIll Eain, Stiùiriche Cruthachail PNE, “Tha an tachartas seo na eisimpleir de na rudan mìorbhaileach a dh’fhaodas tachairt nuair a bhios buidhnean Gàidhlig ag obair còmhla ri coimhearsnachdan ionadail. Tha sinn air leth toilichte taisbeanadh taitneach eile a chur ris an t-sreath seo, agus tha e soilleir bho na fiosan a fhuaras air ais carson a tha na taisbeanaidhean sin cho soirbheachail ‘s a tha iad. Chòrd an oidhche ri na h-uile agus air sgàth fialaidheachd luchd-amhairc ann an Glaschu tha sùim mhath airgid a’ dol gu deagh adhbhar eile”.

Tha seo na dheagh ro-shealladh air nithean ri thighinn san Eilean Sgitheanach far am bi an ath chuibhreann den phròiseact a’ gabhail àite sa Bhliadhun’ Ùir, agus airson a bheilear ag ullachadh mu thràth.



NA MO CHUID AODAICH HAILED AS A GREAT SUCCESS

Pròiseact nan Ealan and An Lèanag (the Gaelic Creative Centre in Glasgow) are delighted to announce the success of Na Mo Chuid Aodaich, which took place in Glasgow on the 10th of December.

This was the result of a collaboration between Pròiseact nan Ealan and An Lèanag, who came together to produce the event and to raise funds for the Beatson Oncology Centre, who benefited from a donation of £2000 which was raised from the entry fees from the audience and accepted on behalf of the charity by Valerie Miller, Lead Nurse at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre who stated that, “The funds will be of great assistance to those who receive care at the Centre and their families.”

The Glasgow show was the first in a brand new series of this double award winning unique event and was a combination of the newly commissioned drama, ‘Aodach na Bainnse’ which was written by Christine Combe/Chrisella Ross and directed by Donald ‘Ryno’ Morrison. The fashion show that followed exhibited the distinct flair of the Highland people of the city of Glasgow throughout the previous century. The show was a vibrant collection of vintage clothing modeled on the catwalk by young members of the Gaelic community of Glasgow, introduced to the appreciative audience by Tony Kearney and Linda MacLeod.

The success of the evening is a testament to those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes; from stage setters, wardrobe and make-up artists, who all worked together to ensure that proceedings went smoothly. Special thanks are to go to Norma Macsween, Ishbel Macleod and Marion Mackenzie who were responsible for organizing and fitting the models in the beautiful outfits that stole the show on the catwalk.

PNE’s Creative Director Malcolm Maclean said of the evening “This event is an example of the great things that can happen when Gàidhlig organizations work in partnership with local communities. We are delighted to add another fantastic show to this series, and it is clear from audience feedback why these shows are as successful as they are. The evening was enjoyed by all, and thanks to a fantastic and generous audience in Glasgow, a substantial sum of money will be going to another good cause”.

This is a great forecast of things to come in Skye, where the next installment of the project is to take place in the New Year, and for which preparations are already underway.



If you have any queries or comments regarding this publication please contact Christina Khan

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An Lanntair, Steòrnabhagh

Air ar suidheachadh ann am meadhan baile Steòrnabhagh, se an Lanntair an ionad airson prìomh thachartasan Gàidheil an latha an diugh. Thairis a' bhliadhna chaidh seachad tha sinn air aoigheachd a thoirt do Fhèis nam Meadhanan Cheilteach, Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail, Deasbad Nàiseanta BT Alba, ar fèill litreachais fhèin, Faclan, agus iomadh taisbeanadh, bùth-obrach agus tachartas beag eile leinn fhèin. Eadar iad seo, tha iad a' tarraing ri chèile nan roinnean cruthachail far am bheil a' Ghàidhlig air a bhrosnachadh 's air a leasachadh – film, ceòl, òraid, litreachas agus nan ealain a tha tuiteam eadar iad seo.

Se adhbhar pròis a tha seo do 'n Lanntair, agus tha sinn air leth moiteil leis cho follaiseach agus a tha seo nar eachdraidh thairis an 26 bliadhna bho dh'fhosgail sinn an toiseach. Mar a tha ar n-ainm a' samhlachadh, se ionad a th' annainn airson iùil agus taic a thoirt do chultar na h-Eileanan an Iar – agus le sin, cultar nan Gàidheil agus a' Ghàidhealtachd air fad. Tha sinn a' coimhead air adhart ri togail air an obair a tha seo sna bliadhnachan air thoiseach oirnn, agus tha sinn an dòchas gum bidh sibh còmhla rinn air an t-slighe.



An Lanntair, Stornoway

is incumbent on Bòrd na Gàidhlig, under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, to prepare a National Gaelic Language Plan and this is an ideal opportunity for making recommendations and acquiring the agreement of the public in relation to the future for Gaelic in Scotland.

There ought to be equal respect between Gaelic and English amongst the public in Scotland, and research has proven that 81% of the people of Scotland do not wish Scotland to lose its Gaelic identity. Gaelic belongs to the whole of Scotland and there is public support for it. Therefore, although Bòrd na Gàidhlig is required to prepare a Gaelic Plan, it is a national initiative and organisations throughout Scotland ought to have a duty to implement the Plan.

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Ùlpan - dòigh ùr gus Gàidhlig ionnsachadh no teagasg

Tha Ùlpan rudeigin diofraichte. Bidh e a' lorg fheartan a' cànan bhon taobh a-staigh, gun a bhith a' crochadh air mineachadh no coimeas ri Beurla (no cànan sam bith eile!). The e ag amas air slighe gun bhacaidhean gu siùbhalachd a sholar, tro chleachdadh agus leasachadh bhun-structaran a' chànan, a ghabhas cur gu feum gach latha. Gheibh an t-oileanach comas prataigeach, an àite fear a thigeadh bho theoiric, a chionn 's gum bi na fuaimnean ùra agus dùbhlàn na structaran a' nochdadh mean air mhean tron chùrsa. 'S e eadar-dhealachadh mòr a th' aig Ùlpan agus a leithid de chùrsaichean, stèidhichte air labhairt, gum bi fuaim agus ruitheam a' cànan gan ionnsachadh cuideachd; chan ann a-mhàin eòlas air facail agus mar a chuirear an òrdan iad. Bidh Ùlpan a' leasachadh luathas na h-inntinn cuideachd, gus am bi na h-oileanaich nas cleachdte ri èisteachd gu dlùth agus nas luaithe ann am freagairt. 'S e dòigh bhogaidh a th' innte, agus le sin tha e mar fhiachaibh air a h-uile duine taic a thoirt da chuid ionnsachaidh agus ionnsachadh daoine eile gun a bhith a' bruidhinn ach Gàidhlig fad an t-siubhail. Chan ann ach aig an oide fhèin a tha cead ri beagan Beurla a tha sgrìobhte a chleachdadh aig ìrean sònraichte an leasain.

Duine sam bith a tha miannach air Ùlpan a theagasg, tha aige ri cùrsa-trèanaidh an oide a thoirt gu buil ro-làimh. Gabhaidh dearbhadh le sin gu bheil na sgilean eadar-pearsanta agus practaigeach aige, a cheart cho math ri fileantas gus Ùlpan a libhrigeadh gu h-ìre àird gach turas. Bidh sinn a' tabhann trèanadh a dh'ionnsachadh nan sgilean fad dà latha, mus bi mu 36 uairean a thìde de dh'fhìor theagasg ann ri dhèanamh. Às dèidh a' chùrsa, tha e comasach do dh'oide clàraichte a bhith ga fhadadh: air a cheann fhèin no còmhla ri oidean eile, no airson clasaichean a thoirt seachad do dh'inbhich às leth bhuidhnean san roinn phoblaich, oilthighean 's cholaistean, ùghdarrasan ionadail no aig feadhainn de na buidhnean Gàidhlig.

10 agus 11 Màrt, bidh sinn a' cumail a' chiad Co-labhairt Sgilean Ùlpan a-riamh. 'S ann ann an Glaschu a thachras i agus bidh co-dhiù 48 oidean ùra ag ionnsachadh nan sgilean bunaiteach còmhla. Às dèidh greis, tòisichidh iad air cùrsaichean-trèanaidh air feadh na dùthcha. Ma tha ùidh agad a bhith a' trèanadh aig Co-labhairt Sgilean no le tè eile de na slighean gu teisteanas, ron Mhàrt no às a dhèidh, nach bruidhinn thu ri Caoimhin Rodgers air 0131 541 2126 no aig kevin@ulpan.co.uk

Agus cuimhnich, ma tha thu fhèin, no cuideigin air a bheil thu eòlach, airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh, nach leig thu fios gu Àdhamh (Adam) Ó Broin aig adhamh@ulpan.co.uk Tha tuilleadh fiosrachaidh ri fhaighinn bho: www.ulpan.co.uk



Ùlpan – a fresh way to teach or learn Scottish Gaelic

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Anyone wishing to teach using the Ùlpan system must first undertake a skills-based, practical course to ensure they have sufficient fluency, and the interpersonal and organisational skills to deliver Ùlpan effectively and consistently. Training is offered through two days skills training, followed by around 36 hours of live teaching. Upon completion, successful trainees are registered as Ùlpan tutors and may choose to work: as independents on their own or with other tutors, or on behalf of organisations that offer tuition to adults, such as public sector bodies, universities and colleges, local authorities and some Gaelic organisations.

10-11 March 2012 will see the first ever Ùlpan Skills Conference being held in Glasgow. This two-day event will cater for 48 trainee tutors to undertake the initial part of their training, closely followed by hands-on teaching practice at courses across the country. If you are interested in becoming an Ùlpan tutor through a Skills Conference or by one of the other routes to certification before or after March, please contact Kevin Rodgers on 0131 541 2126 or at kevin@ulpan.co.uk

And don't forget that if you or anybody you know, would like to start learning Gaelic, we help to organise classes too! Contact Àdhamh (Adam) Ó Broin at adhamh@ulpan.co.uk Further information is available from: www.ulpan.co.uk

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