

SEANACHAIDH

A Newsletter for members of Clann Gàidhlig



Iris 53

An Lùnasdal 2019

FÀILTE

Fàilte chridheil oirbh a-rithist, a' chàirdean.

Tha an sàmhradh againn fhathast, ged a tha na làithean a' fàs fuar is fluich ! Ach, anns an iris chi sibh cuimhneachan bho dithis a rinn cùrsaichean sgoinneil anns na h-eileanan o chionn ghoirid. Biodh sinn air leth toilichte piosan sgriobhaidh bho duine sam bith eile fhaicinn.

Is e seo àm na bliadhna nuair a bhios sinn a' coimhead air adhart dhan seasan ùr agus tachartasan ùra - tha sinn an dòchas gum bidh rud no dhà a bhios tarraingeach dhuibh anns an iris seo.

COINNEAMH BHLIADHNAIL

There was a smallish turnout for our AGM on 10th June, where we heard about another successful year, with membership numbers holding up well and finances in good shape. Thanks are due to all those who helped ensure everything ran smoothly. We were delighted to welcome Rhoda Nicolson as a new member of the Committee, new blood is always welcome. Coinneach Combe's Quiz proved to be tightly contested and a great deal of fun. *Taing mhòr, a' Choinnich.*

AR TACHARTASAN SÒISEALTA

Our special concert in collaboration with Fèis Phàislig in the Wynd Centre Auditorium, Paisley on 23rd March was a great success. The young folk who performed on accordion, fiddle and guitar and sang a variety of Gaelic songs were terrific. They were complemented by our guest artistes, singer Alison O'Neill, clàrsach player Neil Wood and the Largs Gaelic Choir Ladies. We are already planning a similar event in 2020.

Next year's programme follows a familiar pattern, as follows.

Làithean Gàidhlig. We have planned two Learners' Days in Paisley for 26th October 2019 and 21st March 2020. There will be classes at 4 levels, subject to demand. Proposed increased charges by the University of the West of Scotland mean we have decided to move these events to the halls of the Wallneuk North Church in Abercorn Street, which is just a short distance away from public transport links. There is plenty of parking space in the church grounds.

Singing Workshops. Two workshops will again be held in the halls of Holy Trinity & St. Barnabas Church in Back Sneddon Street, Paisley.

On 9th November 2019, the workshop will be aimed at learners and those with little or no Gaelic. The workshop on 18th January 2020 will be suitable for more experienced speakers.

Bardic Supper. This ever-popular annual event (our 15th) will see the return of Gillebrìde MacMillan, to talk about "The Village Bàrds". Gillebrìde's last visit in 2012, on the subject of *Dòmhnall Ruadh Phàislig*, was very well received and we look forward to hearing him talk and sing once more. This event will be held in our usual venue, Westburn Church Halls in Greenock on 22nd February 2020.

A Cèilidh with Fèis Phàislig. As mentioned previously, we plan to host another event on similar lines to that earlier this year. This will again take place in the Wynd Centre, Paisley, on 28th March 2020.

Literary Event. We were unable to finalise details for an event in 2019, but hope to organise another for 2020 in conjunction with the Gaelic Books Council/Comhairle nan Leabhraichean (CnanL).

CnanL have a new Sales and Marketing Officer to replace Shelagh Campbell, with whom we had an excellent relationship and who achieved so much during her time in the role. Taking on this post is Joe Sanders, who will be known to some of our members, as he acted as tutor for the SONAS Gaelic Group during 2018. We look forward to working with Joe in the coming months.

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Am Faoilleach 2019

CUIMHNEACHAN AIR AN SÀMHRADH 2019

Seachdain aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

Some of you who have never been to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig may not realise that, as well as Gaelic, there are other short courses available. For some years I have attended the Alasdair Fraser Fiddle week as well as doing a Gaelic course. In addition to Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, there are other teachers who are well known in the world of traditional music. Christine Primrose offers lunchtime singing workshops during this week too. In common with all the short courses it tends to be quite an intensive week but great fun. This one, however, culminates in a concert where about a hundred fiddles and thirty cellos perform as part of the Skye Festival.

There are also other music courses offered during the summer. My Gaelic week this year happened to coincide with two of these which made for great entertainment in the evenings. There was a fiddle course with Charlie McKerron from Capercaillie who is a regular at SMO and a new course for ukuleles taught by Finlay Allison. Both of these groups were very lively and talented and their performances in the evenings added to our enjoyment.

Agnes Gray

Am Fèis “Ceòlas”

Students who have gone to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig for one of the Short Courses will be used to choosing a class and spending the whole week studying that one topic. So the first time you go to Ceòlas in South Uist, the organisation of classes there can come as a bit of a surprise.

There are courses in a variety of subjects at all levels - piping, fiddle, dancing, including step dancing, quadrilles and reels, poetry, drama and singing as well as Gaelic itself. You choose to do two of these each day, plus a third session of ‘Gaelic for All’, and in the afternoon there is an opportunity to hear lectures from various speakers or to take part in ‘Am Figheil’ (the interweaving), where you can collaborate with people from other classes to produce a piece to be performed at the Friday afternoon concert.

This year, I chose to go to Cathy Ann MacPhee’s singing class, followed by a Gaelic conversation class. In the afternoon, five of us singers worked with five step dancers, four fiddlers and three pipers and performed ‘An Tailleir Mòr’ on the Friday.

The week was great fun, and very busy. The classes are held in Daliburgh Primary School. There is, as yet, no student accommodation and it adds to the charm of the week to be living in a Gaelic-speaking B & B. Most evenings, there were concerts or cèilidhs and on the Tuesday we were invited to a house cèilidh, where we met up with local residents. On the Friday evening, there was the final Cèilidh Mòr, where our class got to provide backing vocals for Cathy Ann’s final song, ‘Uibhist nan Sguaban Eòrna’ (Uist of the Barley Sheaves).

Totally different from SMO and very rewarding!

Margaret Donnelly

NAIDHEACHD EILE

The National Mòd will be held in Glasgow from 11th to 19th October. The Royal Concert Hall will be the major venue for competitions, but there is sure to be plenty happening cross the city.

See <https://modghlaschu2019.com/> for updates about competitions and fringe events.

As always, the editor would appreciate contributions, including any relevant photographs, which might be of interest to other members.