

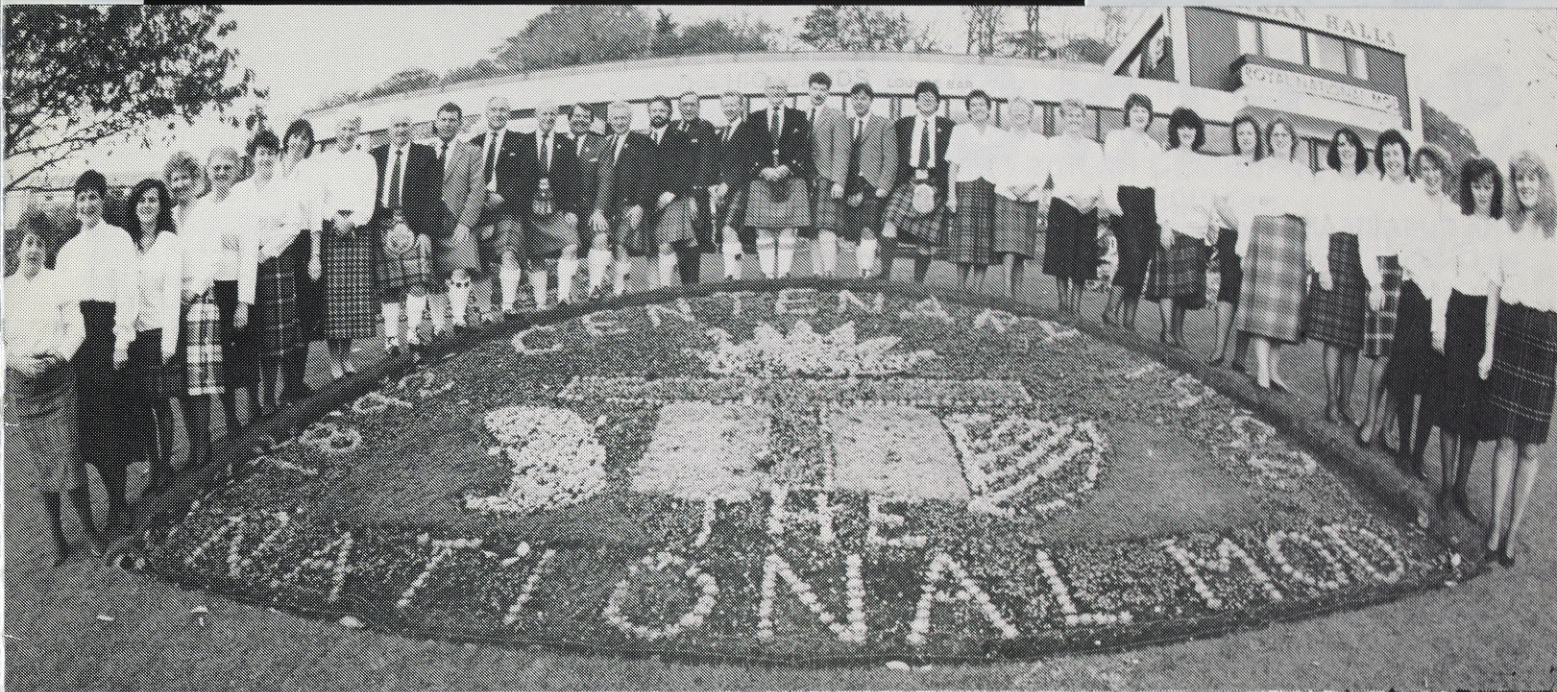
# Aithris

NAIDHEACHDAN BHO BHUILL, MHEURAN AGUS ROINNEAN  
AIREAMH 8 SAMHRADH 1993

DJ.M. 2979(13)



An  
Comunn  
Gaidhealach



## Fios bhon Cheann-suidhe

Mar as fhaise a thig sinn air ar Coinneamh Bhliadhnail, tha sinn a' meòmhrachadh air ar n-oidhirpean air a' bhuidheann a leasachadh agus air adhbhar a' bhuidhinn a cheangal ri feuman agus ri dòchasan nam ball. Ghabh sinn os làimh sgrùdadh mòr air na structaran agus air na dòighean-obrach a tha againn ach an sònraicheadh sinn càite a bheil duilgheadasan, gu h-àraidh a-thaobh a bhith a' cumail fiosrachaidh ri chèile. Ghabhadh ri tomhais de mholaidhean; cuirear feadhainn eile, a tha nas cudthromaiche, ri na buill airson deasbaid agus bheachdan. Bidh am moladh a tha a' cur às do Chomataidhean nan Roinnean a' ciallachadh gum feumar dreach de bhonn-stèidh ùr. Cuairtichear seo gu na Meuran ro Choinneamh Bhliadhnail 1994. Seach gum buin ar buidheann don bhallrachd, feumar am beachdan a chluinntinn le bhith a' toirt nam Meuran nas fhaise air dèanamh cho-dhùnidhean.

Am bliadhna rinn na buill oidhirpean mòra gu saor-thoileach, gu sònraichte san Oban far an robh am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail cho soirbheachail. Tha an Ard Chomhairle agus an luchd-obrach cuideachd air a bhith trang le nithean nàiseanta, a leithid thagraidhean mu chairt-cbire a' BhBC agus Aithisg Foghlaim Howie.

Tha ar Sgrìobhadair trang a' coimhead ri leasachaidhean air dràma coimhearsnachd an dèidh cuairt-fiosrachaidh nàiseanta. Foillsichear na molaidhean aig a' Chomataidh Leasachaidh a tha a' sealltainn ri cruth a' Mhòid Rìoghail Nàiseanta nas fhaide sa' bhliadhna.

Tha feum aig a' chànan air gach taic a gheibh e agus tha leasachaidhean telebhisein a' dèanamh co-rèiteachaidh a-thaobh fìor chànan. Tha iomadh gnè ball sa' Chomunn agus tha àite cudthromach aige ann an leasachadh cànan, a dh'aindeoin nam beachdan neònach a tha aig cuid de bhuidhnean mu dheidhinn. Tha co-obrachadh a' cur feum air còmhraidhean cothromach anns am bi inbhe aig a' chànan thairis air inbhe bhuidhnean. Le co-obrachadh, feumaidh am buidheann a dhol an sàs ann an gnothaichean laghail foghlaim a dh'fhaodadh maille a chur air leasachadh.

A' coimhead air thoiseach tha mi a' creidsinn gur iomadh dùbhshlan a bhios ann san dara linn den Chomunn, ach tha mi a' creidsinn cuideachd gum mair e le neo-eisimeileachd shònraichte a-chum na coimhearsnachd a tha e a' frithealadh a riochdachadh gu cunbhalach.

Tapadh leibh airson ur taice. Chì mi an Ard Ruigh sibh.

*Còisir an Obain aig a' Mhòd Rìoghail.*



*Mairi Sine Chaimbeul agus Seumas  
Caimbeul a choisinn Buinn Or an t-Seann  
Nos aig Mod Nàiseanta Rìoghail an Obain.*



*Clann a' seinn do Bh.B.C  
Mhanchester.*

# Pubaidean air SREING



Na Pubaidean.

THA PUBAIDEAN Gàidhlig a' Chomuinn, stèidhichte ann an Leòdhas, fhathast a' dol gu làidir an dèidh toileachas mòr a thoirt do chlann sgoile airson còrr air deich bliadhna.

Tha iad ag obair le airgead bho Roinn nan Eilean Siar le taic airgid bho Chomhairle nan Eilean, agus tha iad dìreach air crìoch a chur air cuairt Càisge air feadh sgoiltean Leòdhais an dèidh follaiseadh gle shoirbheachail aig an Nollaig a chaidh.

Le sgrìobhaidhean ùra, bha luchd nam pubaid, Carina NicLeòid agus Artair Donald, ag obair thar cheithir làithean, a' tadhal air seachd sgoiltean. Cha b' e a-mhàin gun chòrd am follaiseadh ris a' chloinn, ach chòrd na tiodhlacan riutha cuideachd, suiteis a fhuair iad rè an fhollaisidh. Thatar an dùil follaisidhean eile a chur air nas anmoich sa' bhliadhna.

Tha e neònach nach deach beachd nam pubaidean a thogail ann an àitean eile, agus iad a' toirt na Gàidhlig chun na cloinne ann an riochd cur-seachad. Tha na pubaidean fhèin furasda gu leòr an dèanamh. Tha sgrìobhaidhean ri làimh, agus tha e furasda do dhithis no trìuir dealbhcholtas so-ghiùlan a chur ri chèile. An uair sin chan eil agad ach suidhe air ais agus tlachd a ghabhail anns a' ghàire a chì thu air gnùisean na cloinne. Dè mu dheidhinn?

## AM BBC agus AN COMUNN

Ann an 1923, bho stiudio a' BhBC an Obar Dheadhain, chuala luchd-èisdeachd na Gàidhlig airson a' chiad uair briathran agus ceòl an cànan fhèin a' tighinn tron adhar. Bhon uair sin tha am BBC air a bhith a' toirt làthaireachd chudthromach don Ghàidhlig nan goireasan craobh-sgaoilidh, chan ann a-mhàin air reidio ach air telebhisean. Is dòcha gum bidh cuimhne aig an luchd-leughaidh gur ann aig Mòd nan Eilean ann an 1979 a thòisich Rèidio nan Eilean ann an Steòrnabhagh a-chum craobh-sgaoileadh bhon Mhòd.

Ann an 1996 bidh Cart-chòirichean a' BhBC ga sgrùdadh fa chomhair ath-nuadhachaidh. Chuir An Comunn, mothachail air na rinn am BBC don Ghaidhlig rè nam bliadhnaichean, asteach tagradh a-chum 's gun gleidhear am BBC mar mheadhan air prògraman matha a dheasachadh, agus a' gleidheadh cise mar a tha ann an-dràsda mar ion-mhas don BhBC.

Cuideachd, mhol An Comunn gu leudaicheadh am BBC an goireasan carobh-sgaoilidh ann an Alba gus an tugadh iad a-steach uile choimhearsnachdan san dùthaich far a bheil Gàidhlig air a bruidhinn. Tha seo a' ciallachadh Seirbheis Reidio Ghàidhlig Nàiseanta agus a' moladh gur iad am BBC a bu chòir a bhith nam prìomh bhuidheann airson phrògraman matha Gàidhlig air telebhisean.

Tha mòran de mholaidhean a' Chomuinn an co-chòrdadh ri molaidhean a rinneadh aig co-labairt ann an Obar Dheadhain bho chionn ghoirid aig an robh aonta san fharsaingeachd gum biodh craobh-sgaoileadh air prògraman Gàidhlig, an dà chuid air reidio agus air telebhisean, na b' fheàrr a' tighinn bho bhuidheann saor bho theannachadh malairteach, buidheann aig am biodh aithne air gne shònraichte chultaran na h-Alba agus air na cànanan a tha a slugh a' labhairt.

Mar sin, mhol An Comunn gun leanadh am BBC mar buidheann-taice cultarach, a' brosnachadh tro eisimpleir, agus a' cleachdadh thàlant an fhollaiseach agus fhalaichte coimhearsnachd ealain na h-Alba, na comasan dearbhte a tha aig buidhnean cultarach agus cananach ann an Alba, agus air bho co-obrachaidh agus co-mheas.

## CUIMHNEACHAIN ri Iaimh!

**T**ha àireamh bheag de Phrògraman Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail an Obain 1992 fhathast rim faotainn. Tha sgrìobhaidhean agus deilbh annta an ceangal ri Mòd Ard-Fhèill an Obain 1953, agus mar sin tha iad a' tairgse cunntas air leth air eachdraidh a' Chomuinn.

Chaidh am Prògram a dheasachadh mar shubhachas air ceud bli-

adhna bho chaidh am Mod a stèidheachadh san Obain ann an 1892. Air sgàth meud na h-obrach a bha an lùib ullachadh a' Phrògram bha mòran de na Prògraman a dhith gu mu sheachdain ro Mhòd 1992. Mar thoradh air sin bha àireamh dhaoine ann nach d' fhuair cothrom air Prògram cuimhneachain fhaighinn. A-nise tha cothrom ann air cunntas fhaighinn, chan ann a-mhàin air Mòd an

Obain, ach air deagh eachdraidh dhealbhadh de na Mòdan Nàiseanta uile bho na seann làithean. Gheibhear lethbhreacan le iarrtas a chur gu Oifis Steòrnabhagh (91 Sràid Chrombail, Steòrnabhagh) aig lùghdachadh prìse £1.50 a tha a' gabhail a-steach postachd is eile. Iadsan a bhios air thoiseach 's iad a gheibh am Prògram! Sgrìobhaibh a dh'iarraidh fir sa' mhionaid. Far am bi dàil bidh dearmad!



# GAN GLACADH OG



Niall MacEachairn, Ionmhasair, a toirt seachad tiodhlaic do Anndra Camshron am ball is oige aig a' Chomunn.

**S**a' Mhàrt a chaidh chaidh am ball as òige a chlàradh. Agus cha robh e ach dà mhìos a dh'aois! Fhuair Anndra beag Camshron Ballrachd Beatha, tiodhlaic bho Chòisir Ghàidhlig Mheilbhich ann an Cataibh agus bho an Stiuiriche Myrtle NicIll'losa.

'S iad pàrantan Anndra, Greum agus Anna Chamshron, Ceann-suidhe agus Rùnaire na Còisire. Tha iad an dòchas gum fàs Anndra tro thìde gu bhith fileanta ann an Gàidhlig agus gum bi e fhathast na bhall den Chòisir.

Thuir Myrtle: "Bha coltas tiodhlaic fhreagarrach air seo don chiad leanabh aig ar Ceannsuidhe agus aig ar Rùnaire, am ball as òige sa' chòisir. Tha mi an dòchas gun dèan feadhainn eile an nì ceudna agus gum broснаich e feadhainn eile buill beatha a dhèanamh de chloinn. Tha mi an dòchas cuideachd gun toir e mothachadh do chloinn air brìgh ballrachd. Leanaidh e iad gu air bith càite san t-saoghal an tèid iad."

## COMUNN NA GAIDHLIG AN LUNNAINN

Ged tha an Aithris san fhar-saingeachd a' dèiligeadh ri naidheachdan bho bhuill agus bho Mheuran a' Chomuinn, 's e deagh rud a tha ann a dhol "a-mach" às a' chearcall a dh'fhaicinn ciod a tha buidhnean eile co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhlig a' dèanamh. Chaidh Comunn Gàidhlig Lunnainn a stèidheachadh ann an 1777, agus chan e a-mhàin gu bheil e a' cur taice ris a' Ghàidhlig ach cuideachd ri nithean eile co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhealtachd agus ri na h-Eileanan. Thatar a' cur fàilte air gach Gàidheal nuair tha iad ann an Lunnainn. Sa' Ghiblein chum an Comunn Oidhche Ceannaird aig an robh riochdairean bho Chomann na Còim an Lunnainn, agus bha cur-seachad ann le bàrdachd agus le òrain sa' chànan Cheilteis aca.

Am bliadhna bidh an "Là Fosgailte" ga chumail ann an Ionad Cho-labhairt Chlerkenwell air 5 Og-mhìos aig 1.45f. Bidh Cairistiona Primrose a' seinn, le taic bho Chòisir Ghàidhlig Lunnainn. Bidh cèilidh ann feasgar an dèidh a' bhìdh. Gheibhear fiosrachadh bho Mhgr C. Castle (14 Slighe Phoulton, Sutton, Surrey). Tha uair na Cheann-suidhe agus na ball ùine mhòr, a-nise air a dreuchd a leigeil dhith, agus thug an Comunn dhi telebhisean le dath agus fòn a ghabhas giùlan. Chaill sinn Meg Chaimbeul, bantrach J. C. M. Caimbeul nach maireann, a bha uair na Cheann-suidhe agus na Cheannard air a' Chomunn. B' esan aon den fheadhainn a b' fheàrr a ghabhadh òran mòr. Tha cuimhne air Meg agus air Seumas le mòr mheas.

## DEALBH-CHLUICHEAN GAIDHLIG

Thatar a' clàradh ann an leabhran falsg air 300 sgrìobhadh de dhealb-chluichean. Seo aon de na proiseactan anns a bheil An Comunn agus Roinn nan Eilean Siar an sàs. 'S e adhbhar an ainm-chlàir gum bi cunntas ann air an ìre mhath gach dealbh-chluiche a chaidh a riaghailteachadh ann an Gàidhlig, no a chaidh eadar-theangachadh bho Bheurla gu Gàidhlig.

'S e àireamh chudthromach a tha ann an 300 sgrìobhadh, airson àrd-ùrlair agus rèidio, agus tha iad ann bho 1921 nuair chaidh duais £100 (smaoinich air luach sin ann an airgead an là 'n-diugh!) a thairgse don sgrìobhadh dealbh-chluiche a b' fheàrr aig Mòd Nàiseanta an Obain anns a' bhliadhna sin. B' e Gilleasbaig MacCullach à Goraig a bhuannaich an duais le *Mairead* a chaidh a chur air àrd-ùrlar san t-Sultain. De na naol a chuireadh a-steach, bha na breitheamhan a' meas gun robh còig dhiubh "sònraichte math".

Thatar fhathast a' sgrìobhadh dhealb-chluichean ùra Gàidhlig do bhuidhnean dràma neo-dhreuchdail, fo ùghdarras Chomunn na Dràma. Le beachdan a' dol an ceartair mu Thaigh-Chluiche Gàidhlig Nàiseanta a stèidheachadh, cha bhí duilgheadas aig a' leithid de Thaigh-Chluiche sgrìobhadairean a thàladh a-chum dhealb-chluichean thrì-earrann a chur air na clàr.

Tha Proiseact an Ainm-chlàir mu letheach slighe agus thatar an dòchas nach fhada gus am bi e ullamh. Is còir do bhuill a' Chomuinn leis am bu mhiann dealbh-chluichean a leughadh agus gearr-chunntas a dhèanamh air cuspair agus gnìomhachas nan dealbh-chluiche, sgrìobhadh gu An Comunn, 91 Sràid Chrombail, Steòrnabhagh.

# Cursa- BOGAIDH Gaidhlig

Dh'fhaodadh gum bi cuimhne aig an fheadhainn a bha aig Mod Nàiseanta Inbhir Pheofharain ann an 1991 air iarrtas lasanta le Fionnlagh MacLeòid,

Stiùiriche Comhairle nan Sgoiltean Araich, airson sgoil-ionnsachaidh Ghàidhlig de sheòrsa ùr a stèidheachadh. Bha e a' cumail a-mach gun robh feum air dòigh air choreigin a dheilbh gu h-aithghearr a-chum dèanamh suas airson nan 3,000 no mar sin de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a bhatar a' call gach bliadhna, gus dèanamh cinnteach gun robhar a' cumail suas àireamh luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig, no eadhan ga leudachadh.

Chaidh an cuspair a thogail bho chionn ghoirid le Roinn nan Eilean Siar den Chomunn. Dh'iarr an Roinn air Ruairidh MacIll'Eathain, a bhuineas don Eilean Sgitheanach, agus a tha anise ag obair do Thaigh-Tasgaidh nan Eilean ann an Steòrnabhagh, pàipear-bruidhne ullachadh.

Tha an aithisg a' sealltainn ri na dòighean anns a bheil cànanan gan teagasg le oileanaich a bhogadh ann am meadhan cànan, far nach eil canan ga chleachdadh ach an cànan a thatar ag ionnsachadh. 'S e fìor dhòigh mhionaideach a tha ann agus chaidh dearbhadh ann an iomadh ceàrnaidh den t-saoghal gu bheil e soirbheachail. Thàinig eisimpleirean Ruairidh bho Israel, bho dhùthaich nam Bascach, bho Eirinn agus bho Cholombia.

Tha oileanach air a ghluasad gu cùrsa ionnsachadh-bogaidh a ghabhail os làimh ann an trì dòighean:

- **Gluasad colleanta:** ag ionnsachadh a' chanain a-chum compàirteachadh ann an coimhearsnachd shònraichte.
- **Gluasad mar mheadhan:** ag ionnsachadh fa chomhair adhbhar feumachail, a leithid obair fhaighinn.
- **Gluasad bhuidheann shòisealta:** a-chum a bhith an co-bhonn ri buidheann sòisealta sònraichte.

A-thaobh nam feadhnach a tha ag ionnsachadh Eabhra, 's fheudar don fheum a tha aca da-chànanas a chruthachadh. Feumaidh inn-imrichean Israeleach Eabhra ionnsachadh ma tha iad gu bhith nam pàirt den choimhearsnachd lùdhaich. Ann an Alba 's e "dà-chànanas tro mhiann" a tha ann an ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig mar dhara cànan.

Thatar an dòchas gum bi an aithisg a rinn Roinn nan Eilean Siar na meadhan air cuid de na freagairtean a shònrachadh an ceangal ri goireasan ionnsachadh-bogaidh fhaotainn. Mar tha, tha Colaisde Caisteal Leòdhais ann an Steòrnabhagh air an aithisg a fhreagair, agus tha i anise a' sealltainn ri dòighean anns an gabhadh cùrsaichean-bogaidh a thairgse dhaibhsan a dh'fheumas a' Ghàidhlig ionnsachadh gu cunbhalach ann an ùine ghoirid agus brath a ghabhail air na dreuchdan Gàidhlig a tha mun cuairt an-diugh. Mu dheireadh thall tha brìgh agus cudthrom ionmhais an luib na Gàidhlig.

# COIRICHEAN DO NA h-EALAIN

Bho chionn ghoirid dh'fhoillsich Comhairle nan Ealain an Alba 'Còirichean do na h-Ealain an Alba'. Nochd an aithisg an dèidh mòran mhìosan de chòmhradh ri buidhnean ealain ann an Alba, agus tha i a' gabhail a-steach dannsa, ciùil, dràma, nan ealain faicsinneach agus litreachais. B' e adhbhar na h-aithisge feuman muinntir Alba a shònrachadh ann an saoghal thàlant an ealain anns gach gnè.

Tha deagh àite aig a' Ghàidhlig san aithisg, air sgàth a h-inbhe fhad-ùineach ann an ealain na h-Alba, a-thaobh 's gur i a' Ghàidhlig aon de na cànanan dùthchail a thatar fhathast a' bruidhinn ann am Breatainn. Ann an dòigh sheaghach, mar eisimpleir, tha a' Ghàidhlig air a shònrachadh leis gu bheil An Comann Leabhraichean a' faighinn £95,000 gach bliadhna a-chum taic a chur ri sgrìobhadh Gàidhlig fhoillseachadh, rud a bhiodh doirbh do fhoillsichearan a sheasamh leotha fhèin.

Tha an aithisg mothachail air an fhem airson Taigh-Cluiche Naiseanta Gàidhlig a bheireadh air adhart gnè sgrìobhaidh a bhatar a' fàigail ro fhada aig dealbh-chluichean aon earrann agus aig buidhnean dràma neo-dhreuchdail; dearbhadh dealbh-chluichean trì earrannan gu seas Gàidhlig ri iarrtasan lan-riochdachaidh air àrd-ular.

Tha cuideachd gealladh ann bho bhuidhnean ionmhais an Alba a-thaobh na Gàidhlig agus a-thaobh a leasachadh agus a h-aonachadh anns na raointean sin de obair ealain ris nach robh ceangal aig a' chànan gu bho chionn ghoirid.

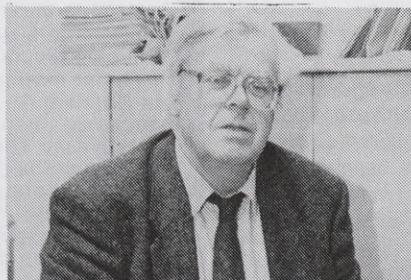
Bidh buaidh shònraichte aig a' mhothachadh seo air mar a leasaicheas a' Ghàidhlig san àm ri teachd. Nuair smaoinicheas neach air cho coma co-dhiù 's a bha buidhnean ionmhais eadhan bho chionn ghoirid a-thaobh a' chanain, faodar a radh gu dearbha gu bheil mu dheireadh thall a' toirt cothrom don Ghàidhlig tighinn a-steach às an fhuachd agus a bhith a-staigh air gnothaichean ealain ann an Alba.

Tha seo a' shònrachadh moran chothroman do Mheuran agus do Ronnean a' Chomuinn an tàlant a chleachdadh agus cur-seachadan a bharrachd air cèilidhean a thairgse do an luchd-tagaidh. Carson nach toirear cuireadh do bhuidhean dràma neo-dhreuchdail Gàidhlig dealbhchluiche a chur air taobh a-staigh cumadh cèilidh? Thugaibh cuireadh do sgrìobhadairean Gàidhlig an obair a leughadh. Feasgar ciùil aig am bruidhinn seinneadairean agus aig am foillsich iad nithean co-cheangailte ri ceòl Gàidhlig. Gheibhear taic dhaibh sin, agus do thuilleadh, m.e. bho Phroiseact Nàiseanta nan Ealain. Agus bidh iad uile mar chuibhreann de àrdachadh èifeachdach na Gàidhlig air feadh Alba. Tha e an urra riubhse!

## AN COMUNN GÀIDHEALACH CISEAN BALLRACHD

Bho 1 Giblein 1992

Ballrachd Bliadhna	£6.00
Ballrachd Beatha	£40.00
Còisirean	£30.00
Seann Daoine	£3.00
Comainn Dhàimheil	£12.00
Buill Oga	£1.00



Am Prifeseair Ruairidh MacThomais a' fhuair Duais Sgrìobhaiche a' Chomuinn aig Mod Naiseanta Rìoghail an Obain 1992.

# Bruidhinn ar canan

CHAN FHEUMAR a chur an cuimhne mhòrain mun fhollaiseadh a tha a' Ghàidhlig air a bhith a' faighinn air an telebhisean bhon Fhaoilleach, agus 's e aon de na prògraman sin *Speaking our Language*. Tha e seo air a bhith air leth soirbheachail, chun na h-ìre 's gu bheil an companaidh "Cànan" san Eilean Sgitheanach air am mùchadh le iarrtasan airson stuthan ionnsachaidh agus tha iad a' fasdadh tuilleadh luchd-obrach airson an t-iarrtas a shàsachadh.

'S e tha cudthromach gu bheil èifeachdas an t-sreath phrògraman gu bhith air a dhaingneachadh le tuilleadh phrògraman agus stuthan. Chan ann mar prògraman *Can Seo*, air an robh iarraidh mhòr cuideachd, a dh'fhàg luchd-ionnsachaidh letheach-slighe, tha "Cànan" airson a bhith cinnteach gum brosnachear dìoghras nan oileanach a tha a' leantainn a' phrògram chun na h-ìre 's gum tig iad gu bith nan "leth-labhraichean" comasach, no is dòcha fileanta.

Mur a dèanar dimeas air air a' bhuidheann seo de luchd-ionnsachaidh, feumaidh fileantaich ann an Gàidhlig an cuideachadh, bruidhinn riutha, gnàthasan-cainnte agus modhan còmhraidh a thoirt dhaibh ach an tuigear iad, agus, san fhar-saingeachd, fàilte a chur orra gu saoghal na Gàidhlig. Ma shoirbhicheas leis an luchd-ionnsachaidh, bidh e a' ciallachadh gun casgar lùghdachadh nan àireamh de fhileantaich bho chunntas-sluaigh 1981, agus gu dearbha gur ann a dh'fhàsas e ro 2001. 'S e àrdachadh mar sin a-mhàin a dhearbhas do ar maighistirean poiliticeach gur fhiach a' Ghàidhlig taic a chur ri the le airgead as fhiach. Siuthadaibh, sibhse a tha fileanta!

## FASGNAG II

Chaidh an Co-labhairt seo a chumail san Eilean Sgitheanach faisg air deireadh na

Màirte. B' iad na prìomh luchd-labhairt feadhainn a bha rè nam bliadhnaichean mu dheireadh a' dèanamh rannsachaidh air staid na Gàidhlig, air a cultar agus air coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig cho fada bho chèile ri Taobh Siar Rois agus Albainn Nuadh. 'S dòcha gu bheil rannsachadh ann fhèin a' faireachdainn tioram, mì-thaitneach agus trom. Ach b' e bun a bha ann gun tug an obair a tha raon farsaing de luchd-rannsachaidh air a bhith a' dèanamh gu buil trì làithean de èisdeachd, de chonaltradh agus de chòmhradh inntinneach, le co-dhùnaidhean gan dèanamh air an t-slighe mu dè a bu chòir a bhith ga rannsachadh san àm ri teachd.

Stèidhichte air obair rannsachaidh dèante às leth na Gàidhlig agus a cultair, gabhadh poileasaidhean do bhuidhnean a leithid a' Chomuinn an deilbh. Sònraichidh rannsachadh raointean iomagaine agus obair ri teachd. Foillsichidh e feuman choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig, chan ann a-mhàin a-chum crìonadh cànan a stad ach a-chum feuman sòisealta agus airgid a shàsachadh agus iad ceangailte ri gleidheadh cànan làitheil na Gàidhlig. Thatar a' cumail Cho-labhairtean FASGNAG a h-uile dà bhliadhna. Am bliadhna chaidh aontachadh gun tugaist a-steach duilgheadasan agus freagairtean co-cheangailte ri mionchannan na h-Eòrpa, ach an gabhadh iad an cleachdadh an lùib na Gàidhlig. Is seasmhach am beachd gu sàbhailear ùine agus obair ma ghabhas ceistean am fuasgladh an àitean eile. Aig a' Cho-labhairt, rinneadh sgaradh inntinneach eadar feadhainn a bha fileanta ann an labhairt na Gàidhlig agus feadhainn aig an robh freumhan fileantachd ach aig an robh Gàidhlig a bha air a lagachadh seach gum fèmach iad Beurla a chleachdadh. B' e "leth-labhraichean" a bha sna daoine seo. 'S e facal inntinneach a tha seo, ach 's e facal a tha ann a tha a' toirt cunntais air luchd-ionnsachaidh (agus tha iad lionmhor an-diugh) nach eil nam fileantaich ach aig a bheil cur-a-steach ri bruidhinn na Gàidhlig a ghlèidheadh. Chan fheum e a-chum gluasad bho "lethlabhrachas" gu fileantachd ach cuideachadh bho fhileantaich gu an tàladh a-steach do choimhearsnachd labhairt na Gàidhlig.

### ROINN A TUATH

'S e adhbhar taingeachd a tha ann gu bheil uibhir de ghluasad ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig san Roinn, nar cànan agus nar dualchas. Tha Mòdan Ionadail gu bhith an Ros an Ear, an Ullapul, an Loch Aillse, sa' Ghearasdan, an Cataibh agus an Inbhir Nis, agus thatar ag innse gu bheil àireamh mhath fharpaisich air tighinn air adhart airson gach aoin dhiubh. Tha e math cuideachd gu bheil riochdairean bho gach ceàrnaidh gu cunbhalach a' tighinn gu coinneamhan na Roinne agus tha iad rim moladh airson an dilseachd. Tha sinn taingeil cuideachd airson na tha a' tachairt. Tha Meur ùr air tòiseachadh an Euroboll,

agus bha Neach-cathrach na Roinne aig a' chiad chruinneachadh air 14 den Chèitein. Chan eil an seo ach sùil bheag air na tha de dhaoine ann aig a bheil ùidh nar dualchas agus a tha deònach obair a dhèanamh gu saor-thoilich.

Air a' chòigeamh là deug den Chèitein chuireadh fàilte air a' bhall-beatha as òige sa' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach, agus 's esan Anndra Seumas Camshron a bha an uairsin sia seachdainean a dh'aois. Tha sinn a' cur

fàilte da rìribh air a' bhalach. 'S ann à Mealbhaich a tha e.

### ROINN A DEAS

Tha coinneamhan na Roinne air a bhith a' daingneachadh air measadh na choilean an Roinn rè nam bliadhnaichean. Chan e sùil chianail air ais a tha seo idir, ach oidhirp air sgrùdadh air dè ghabhas dèanamh san àm ri teachd. Tha faireachdainn ann gu bheil feum air atharrachadh ma sheasar ris an àm ri teachd le cinnt a-chum na dubhshlain a tha air thoiseach a choileanadh. Tha buill na comataidhe glè riarachta le mar a tha cùsean a' dol fa chomhair Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Ardruigh. Fhuair eadh tabhartas £12,000 bho Chomhairle Sgìre Mhonklands, agus tha sin na chomharr eile air taic nan Ughdarras Ionadail don chànan. A thuilleadh air seo, thug iad dhuinn na tallachan an asgaidh agus taic le obair agus le seirbheisean.

An-dràsda, tha Subhachas Luchd-ionnsachaidh Gàidhlig gu bhith air a chumail ann an Colaisde Choatbridge (15 Cèitein) mar phàirt de Sheachdain Ionnsachaidh nan Inbheach. Gheibh suas ri 200 luchd-ionnsachaidh Teisteanas SCOTVEC Modal 1. Nach iad a rinn math! Thatar a' cur fàilte mhòr air an dìoghras seo le luchd-ionnsachaidh, agus 's e deagh chomharr a tha ann don Ghàidhlig ann an ionad na Roinne.

## Roinn . . .

### AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH PRISEAN

#### Leabhraichean

BARAGAB Bàrdachd agus rosg an Gàidhlig 's am Beurla le sean is òg)	£5.00
CARRAGH NA CUIMHNE (Bàrdachd le Coinneach MacDhòmhnaill)	£4.00
CAIDIL GU SEIMH (Tàlaidhean le A. NicShimidh agus A. Barr)	£4.00
GEARRA NA CRAOBH 'S AN CLADACH (Sgeulachdan agus Teip)	£5.95
I DAL U DAL (Orain obrach)	£5.00
MUIR IS TIR (Orain air an seinn le cloinn - leabhar agus teip)	£5.99
DAIN MHURCHaidh (Dàin le Murchadh MacPhàrlain)	£4.99
THE FIRST HUNDRED (Eachdraidh a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach) (cruaidh)	£12.00

#### Teipean

Mòd Inbhirpheofharain (Fidhlearn, Clann, Còisirean, Bonn Or, Cèilidh)	£3.85
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#### Cuimhneachain

Taidh a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealach	£5.00
Taidh: Srath Chluaidh/An Comunn	£5.00
Taidh Bliadhna na Gàidhlig	£3.00
Bràisdean Bliadhna na Gàidhlig	£0.25

#### Teipean

Mòd and Obain 1992 (Fidhlearn, Clann, Còisirean, Bonn Or, Cèilidh)	£4.50
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## MEUR OBAR DHEADHAIN

Tha an Rùnaire, Noreen McDhòmhnaill, a' dèanamh iomraidh air bliadhna thrang eile ann am Meur Obar Dheadhain. B' e am prìomh ni Dannta is Dinnear Cuimhneachan 60 Bliadhna san t-Samhainn 1992 a bha air a fhrithealadh cha b' ann a-mhàin le buill agus le càirdean, ach le feadhainn eile a shiubhail fad' is farsaing a-chum compàirteachadh san tsubhachas. Leig an Neach-cathrach, a' Bh.Ph. Murgag NicDhòmhnaill, dhith a dreuchd an dèidh mu ochd bliadhna deug a' frithealadh na Meòire gu dileas. Bidh i fhèin agus a cèile Dòmhnall anise air falbh bho ghnòthaichean, ach bidh iad fhathast maille ruinn a rèir 's mar is urrainn dhaibh. Mòran taing, a Mhurgag, airson a bhith nad reul-iùil, gar treòrachadh tro uisgeachan a bha an dà chuid socair agus fiadhaich.

'S e Dòmhnall Moireach às an Eilean Sgitheanach, a bha gu seo na lar Neach-cathrach, an Neach-cathrach ur againn. Tha Dòmhnall ainmeil mar fhear a choisinn am Bonn Or agus chan eil e tric na thàmh. Tha sinn a' sùileachadh gum bi e a' stiùireadh "B.S. Meur Obar Dheadhain" gu tuilleadh soirbheachaidh san àm ri teachd. Tha a' Mheur a-nis aig port airson anail a ghabhail mus tòisichar ag ullachadh chèilidhean agus nithean eile fa chomhair an ath sheusain.

## MEUR DHUM-FREIS IS NA SGIRE

Chumadh a' Choinneamh Bhliadhna sa' Mhàrt a chaidh le cunntas gun robh a' bhallrachd air leudachadh agus gun robh na Cèilidhean tron bhliadhna air an deagh fhrithealadh. Ghabh Mr Tòmas MacCalum a' chathair bhon BhPh Mairead NicAnnraids a chaidh a mholadh airson mar a choilean i a dleasdanas gu mionaideach agus mar a stiùir i a' Mheur re na bliadhna a chaidh seachad.

Thog Fèill na Nollaige ann an Talla Loreburn airgead cudthromach. Shoirbhich leis an Fhèill seach gun tug feadhainn a-steach stuth airson a reic agus seach gun fhritheil feadhainn na stàilean. Bha seo na mheadhan air cosgaisean nan cèilidh a chumail sìos aig ìre chothromach. Thàinig teachd-a-steach math bho na crannchair-gill aig Anna NicDhòmhnaill agus thugadh taing dhi airson a dian obrach às leth na Meòire.

Chaidh Pìobaire Uilleam Geadais a mholadh, agus b' airidh e air, airson a thàice aig na cèilidhean, mar a chaidh Iain MacRath agus cairdean aige ann an saoghal nan cur-seachad a bha a' ciallachadh gun robh deagh sheinn is cluiche ann don luchd-èisdeachd.

Thaghadh a' BhPh Shearer, a tha air a bhith na taic don Chomunn agus don Mheur thar nam bliadhnaichean, mar lar Neach-Cathrach, gun neach seasamh na h-aghaidh. Tha 58 ball sa' Mheur an-dràsda, nas àirde na bha innte a-riamh. Chumadh seachd cèilidhean rè na bliadhna, a' cumail bratach na Gàidhlig ann an àite nach eile aithnichte gu ìre cho mòr mar choimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig.

## MEUR DHUN OMHAIN

Chumadh Coinneamh Bhliadhna na Meòire sa' Ghiblein a chaidh. Cha robh mòran an làthair, agus gu dearbha cha robh sin an co-chòrdadh ri bliadhna thrang agus shoirbheachail de choinneamhan agus de thachartasan sa' Mheur. 'S e Iain Saidler ar Neach-cathrach a-rithist, air a dheagh chuideachadh le luchd-dreuchd eile agus le buill na Comataidhe.

Bha meas mòr air na cèilidhean agus air na dannsan, le deagh luchd-cluiche, seinneadairean, fìdhlearan agus pìobairean agus iad uile a' còrdadh ris an luchd-èisdeachd.

Bha an trì fichead neach a fhritheil Suipear na Bàrdachd sa' Ghearran mothachail air an oidhirp a rinneadh ann a bhith ag ullachadh an tachartais seo. B' e an t-Urr Ruaraidh MacLeòid am prìomh neach-labhairt, le òraid mu mhinistearan a bhiodh ri bàrdachd. Ghabh Mòrag Law à Houston òrain a dheasaich na bàird sin. Tha dùil againn Ruaraidh a

thoirt air ais uair eile a-chum tuilleadh sheallaidhean a thoirt dhuinn air saoghal a' Ghàidheil.

Lorg a' Mheur còrr air leth-cheud neach fileanta sa' choimhearsnachd agus is dòcha gum faighear taic bhuapa le ar Bùth-oibre Gàidhlig. Tha a' cheart uibhir de ùidh sa' chlas seo fhathast, mar thoradh air dèiseachd ar triùir luchd-teagaisg, an t-Urr Dòmhnall Stiùbhart, Barbara Satchell agus Elma NicArtair. Ged tha an clas a' ruith sa' chumantas bhon Dàmhair chun na Màirte gach seachdain, tha sinn an dùil a chumail a' dol uair sa' mhios gum am mair daoine cleachdte ris.

Tha leudachadh air na prògraman telebhisein Speaking our Language ga dhèanamh ann an clasaichean a tha Elma a' gabhail ann an Sgoil Dhun Omhain. Tha Elma cuideachd a' teagasg Gàidhlig do chloinn fo aois sgoile gu neo-fhoirmeil na



dachaigh fhèin. Tha sinn fortanach gu bheil i ann.

'S fhada mus diochuimhnich sinn Aonghas MacTàbhais nach maireann, a chaochail san Ogmhios an uiridh. Ann an 1947 chaidh e na Fhear-cathrach, dh'ath-nuadhaich e Meur Dhun Omhain agus bha e na dheagh sheirbheiseach. Rè nam bliànaichean rinn Aonghas obair mhòr don Chomunn, agus mu dheireadh bha e na Ionmhasair fad trì bliadhna. Bha meas mòr air marthoradh air an obair chruaidh a rinn e don Ghàidhlig; air sgàth sin agus air sgàth a chàirdeis phearsanta bi Aonghas air ionndrainn gu mòr.

## MEUR MHANCHESTEIR

Chaochail ar Neach-Cathrach, Mgr U. J. Brigham, air 8 Samhainn 1992 an dèidh opairèisean mòr agus an dèidh dha a dhòl am mìosad. Bhuadaich a bhàs air uile bhuill na Meòire agus air feadhainn nach eil sa' Mheur.

Bha e na bhall dileas den Mheur, a' cur failte air feadhainn a thigeadh às ùr, a' dèanamh cinnteach gum bu toigh leotha a bhith am measg nam ball. Bha e air leth dioghrasach às leth a' Chomuinn, cànan na Gàidhlig agus a cultair. B' ann dha-riribh a bha Mgr Brigham. Bha Gàidhlig aig a sheanmhair, agus bhuaipse ghabh e ris a' Ghàidhlig gu nàdarach, a' leudachadh na Gàidhlig a dh'ionnsaich e bhuaipse le bhith a' frithealadh chlasaichean agus chùrsaichean deireadh-seachdaine. Tro thìde dh'fhàs e fileanta, cha b' ann a-mhàin ann an labhairt ach ann an sgrìobhadh na Gàidhlig. Bha stòr farsaing de ràdhan, de sheanfcaoil, de ghnàthasan-cainnte agus de sgeulachdan aige a bhiodh e aig innsè dhaibhsan a bha a' gabhail os làimh an cànan ionnsachadh.

Bha ùidh mhòr aige sa' bhreacan agus bha e na bhall de Chomann Bhreacain Alba. An dèidh na dhreuchd a leigil seachad, bha iarraidh mhòr air airson chomhraidhean agus òraidean. B' iomadh buidheann a fhuair maitheas bho na duaisean a fhuair e, sin cho fialaidh 's a bha e.

Bha e na Rùnaire air a' Mheur fad naoi bliadhna, agus choilean e a dhleasdanas gu dileas agus le fìor chomas. B' fheudar a bhruithadh gu a' chathair a ghabhail, agus san dreuchd sin cuideachd, choilean e a dhleasdanas mar teach-

daire don Ghàidhlig ann an coimhearsnachd Mhanchesteir. Ionndrainn e gu mòr leis a' Mheur uile mar charaid, mar chompanach càirdeil agus mar fhear-taice eudmhor don Ghàidhlig. Tha sinn a' Gur ar co-fhaireachdainn gu a bhantraich, Anna agus gu am mac, an t-Urr Cè Brigham. Cha dhiochuimhnich e.

## MEUR MHOIREIBH

Na h-oifigich:

Neach-cathrach	Harry Morgan
lar Neach-cathrach	Iain Keanadach
Neach-cathrach	Coinneach Sutharlach
Urramach	Alasdair MacAmhlaigh
Ionmhasair	Raonaid Hall
Rùnaire	Rhoda Nic na Ceàrdach

Tha cròileagan ann am Forrais agus an Eilginn, maille ri clasaichean Gàidhlig do inbhich. Tha cèilidhean air a bhith againn, agus bha cèilidh san t-seann nòs againn mar is àbhaist.

Chuir sinn air adhart cuirm-chiùil bhliadhna airson òigridh ann an Talla a' Bhaile ann am Forrais le òganaich à mòran sgoiltean agus buidheann òigridh a' gabhail pàirt, nam measg dà sheinneadair Gàidhlig. Bha an talla loma làn agus thogadh £308.29 do ionad anns a bheil clann chiorramach.

Air 12 Cèitean chuireadh air adhart, comhla ri Còisir Ghàidhlig Mhoireibh, cuirm-chiùil mhòr airson Tagradh Scanair Mhoireibh ann an Talla a' Bhaile an Eilginn. Tha sinne den bheachd gu bheil sin math airson Gàidhlig san fharsaingeachd.

Chaidh Fòram Gàidhlig a chumail ann an Acadamaidh Fhorrais bho chionn ghoirid, le Ailean MacLeòid bhon Roinn a Tuath agus Peadar Morgan bho, ChLl an làthair. Gu mìhortanach cha robh mòran sgoilearan ann, ach tha sinn an dòchas gum bi Fòram eile ann aig uair nas freagarraiche.

Co-dhiù 's e ar barail gum bu chòir sgrìobhadh gu bun-sgoiltean san sgìre, agus tha sinn den bheachd gum biodh e gu math freagarach neach-teagaisg a lorg a-chum dol mun cuairt nan sgoiltean airson 's dòcha dà uair san t-seachdain, mar tha a' tachairt ann an Dùthaich MhicAoidh.

## MEUR SHRUIGHLEA

An dèidh bliadhna shoirbheachail ann an 1992-1993, tha a' Mheur mar tha a' coimhead air thoiseach gu cèilidhean agus nithean eile ann an 1993-1994. Tha cinn-latha air an suidheachadh do bhuill agus do chàirdean mu thimcheall Shruighlea agus is iad (airson 1993): 18 Sultain, 9 Dàmhair, 20 Samhainn, (airson 1994): 15 Faoilleach, 12 Gearran, agus 12 Màrt.

Bha a h-uile duine duilich na seirbheisean aig Mgr Dòmhnall Moireach a bha na phìobaire oifigeil aig a' Mheur fad iomadh bliadhna a chall. Chluich e iomadh uair, a' toirt tlachd do na h-uile le a dheagh cheòl.

Aig Coinneamh Bhliadhna na Meòire, a chumadh sa' Mhàrt, bha aonta ann gum bu chòir barrachd fiosrachaidh a bhith ga chumail ri meuran mu leasachaidhean a bha a' tachairt sa' Chomunn. Bha an neach-cathrach, Aonghas Mac a' Phi den bheachd gum bu chòir barrachd ceangail a bhith aig meuran ri oifigearan a' Chomuinn.

Nota bhon Neach-deasachaidh: Thatar mothachail air a' phuuing aig Aonghas Mac a' Phi. Gidheadh, a' gabhail a-steach l'ionmhorachd meuran a' Chomuinn agus cho beag de luchd-obrach agus de oifigich 's a tha ann, tha e tric doirbh ceangal cothromach a chumail le làthaireachd. Tha an Aithris, a thatar a' deasachadh dà uair sa' bhliadhna, a' dèanamh na huibhir a-chum fiosrachaidh a chumail ri meuran agus gu bheil mu dè tha a' tachairt an lùib na Gdidhlig. Ach an deidh sin, thatar an duil suil gheur a thoirt air ciamar a bheirear piseach air ceangalaichean ri na meuran. Ma tha beachdan aig meur sam bith, cuiribh iad gu Oifis Steòrnabhaigh (91 Sràid Chrombail).

# Aithris



An  
Comunn  
Gaidhealach

NEWS FROM MEMBERS, BRANCHES AND REGIONS  
ISSUE NO. 8  
SUMMER 1993



*Royal National Mod Oban 1992  
Committee.*

## President's Message

As we approach our Annual General Meeting, we reflect on our efforts to overhaul the organisation and relate the function of the body to the needs and aspirations of the membership. We undertook a major study on our existing structures and procedures so that we could identify where difficulties, particularly in communications, existed. A few recommendations were accepted; others, of greater importance, will be referred to the membership for discussion and comment. The proposed abolition of the Regional Committees will require a new draft constitution. This will be circulated to Branches prior to the 1994 A.G.M. As our organisation belongs to the membership, their views must be heard by bringing the Branches closer to the decision-making process.

This year has seen extensive voluntary effort by the membership, particularly in Oban where the Royal National Mod was such a resounding success. The Management Committee and staff have also been active with national issues, such as submissions on the BBC Charter and on the Howie Educational Report.

Our Gaelic Writer in Residence is actively looking at community drama developments following a national fact-finding tour. The proposals by the Development Committee on the future format of the Royal National Mod will be revealed later this year.

The language needs all the support it can get and television developments require compromises on purism. An Comunn embraces a wide variety of members and it has an important role to play in language and development, despite the peculiar attitudes of some bodies to the organisation. Co-operation requires realistic dialogues where the language takes precedence over organisation status. With co-operation, the organisation must address some of the educational legislative issues which may compromise development.

Looking ahead I believe that there will be many challenges for this second century of An Comunn, but I believe also it will emerge with significant independence and strength to effectively represent the community it serves.

Thank you for your continued support. See you in Airdrie.



*Gold Medal winners at the Royal National  
Mod Oban 1992, George Gunn and  
Katrina MacKellar.*



*Kitty Macleod at the Royal National  
Mod Oban, 1992.*

# PUPPETS on a STRING



*The Hen — Lewis Festival being recorded by Grampian TV.*

AN COMUNN'S Gaelic puppets, based in Lewis, are still going strong after giving bags of pleasure to schoolchildren for over ten years.

Operated through funding made available by Roinn nan Eilean Siar and with financial assistance from Comhairle nan Eilean, the puppets have just completed an Easter tour of Lewis schools following on their eminently successful showing last Christmas.

Armed with new scripts, the puppeteers, Carina MacLeod and Arthur Donald, performed over a gruelling period of four days, visiting seven schools. Not only did the school children enjoy the show, but they enjoyed the 'freebies' in the form of sweets dished out during the performance. Other shows are scheduled for later in the year.

It is strange that the idea of puppets for children, bringing to them Gaelic in an entertaining form, has not been taken up elsewhere. The puppet figures are easy enough to make. Scripts are readily available and all it needs is some two or three enthusiasts to knock up a piece of portable scenery. Then you sit back and take pleasure from watching the big smiles on the faces of the kids. Any takers?

## THE BBC and AN COMUNN

In 1923, from the BBC's Aberdeen studios, Gaelic listeners heard for the first time the words and music of their own language on the air waves. Since then the BBC has provided Gaelic with a significant presence in its broadcasting facilities, not only on radio but on television. Readers may remember that the 1979 Mod nan Eilean coincided with the first time Radio nan Eilean, based in Stornoway, came on air in time to cover the Mod.

In 1996 the BBC's Charter comes up for renewal. An Comunn, recognising the BBC's contribution to Gaelic over the years, has submitted a considered case for the retention of the BBC as a major quality provider of programmes, maintaining the current licensing system which funds the BBC.

In addition, An Comunn has recommended that the BBC should extend its broadcasting facilities in Scotland to

include all Gaelic-speaking communities in the country. This, in effect, means a provision of a National Gaelic Radio Service and suggesting that the BBC should be the core provider of quality Gaelic programmes on television.

Many of An Comunn's recommendations coincide with those made at a recent conference held in Aberdeen at which there was general agreement that the broadcasting of Gaelic programmes, on both radio and television, would be better served by an organisation independent of commercial pressures, one which would recognise the unique character of Scotland's cultures and the languages spoken by its people.

In this context, An Comunn recommended that the BBC should continue its role as a cultural patron, encouraging by example, and using the existing and latent talents of the Scottish artistic community, the proven ability of those within Scotland's diverse cultural and linguistic groupings, and on the basis of a partnership based on mutual respect.

## MEMORIES available

**A** limited quantity of the 1992 Oban Royal National Mod Programmes are still available. They contain articles and pictures of the 1953 Oban Jubilee Mod and thus provide a unique record of An Comunn's past history.

The Programme was in fact designed to celebrate the centenary

anniversary of the founding of the Mod in Oban in 1892. Due to the massive effort which went into the Programme's preparation many Programmes were not available until a week or so before the 1992 Mod. The result was that a number of people were denied the opportunity of obtaining a souvenir Programme. Now there is the chance of getting a record, not only of the Oban Mod,

but of a well illustrated history of all the National Mods mounted since the early days.

Copies are available on application to the Stornoway Office (91 Cromwell Street, Stornoway) at a discount price of £1.50 which will pay for postage and packing. The offer is available on a first come first served basis. So write in for a copy now. Don't delay!

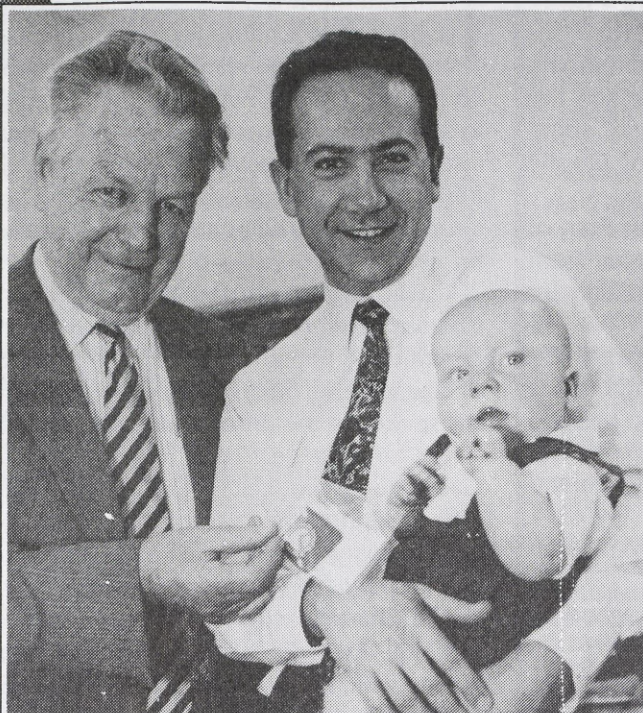


# CATCHING THEM YOUNG

Last March the youngest member of An Comunn was entered into the register records. And he was only two months old! Little Andrew Cameron was the recipient of a Life Membership, the gift of Melvich Gaelic Choir, in Sutherland, and their conductor Myrtle Gillies.

Andrew's parents, Graham and Anne Cameron, are President and Secretary of the Choir. They hope in time Andrew will grow up to be a fluent Gaelic speaker and become a Choir member in due course of time.

Myrtle said: "It seemed an appropriate gift for the first child of our President and Secretary and also our youngest choir member. I hope it catches on and encourages others to take life membership out for children. I also hope it will encourage children to realise the significance of membership. It's something that will follow them wherever they go in the world."



Neil Mackechnie, Treasurer, presenting baby Andrew Cameron with a kilt pin.

## COMUNN NA GAIDHLIG AN LUNNAINN

While the Aithris is generally devoted to news from members and Branches of An Comunn, it is good to go 'outside' the circle to give some indication of what other Gaelic-related bodies are doing. The Gaelic Society of London was founded in 1777 and has a long record of support not just for Gaelic, but concern for matters which affect the Highlands and Islands. All Highlanders are made welcome when they are in London.

In April the Society held a Chief's night at which representatives of the London Cornish Association were present who entertained with poetry and song in our sister Celtic language.

This year's "Open Day" will be

held in Clerkenwell Conference Centre on 5 June at 1.45pm. Christine Primrose has been engaged as the principal singer, supported by the London Gaelic Choir. Later in the day, an evening's concert is being arranged after a main meal. Contact Mr C Castle for details (14 Poulton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey). Long-standing member, Dolina Bristow-Stagg, has now taken a well-deserved retirement, an occasion marked by the Society with a colour TV and portable phone. We lost Meg Campbell, widow of the late J.C.M. Campbell, a Past President and Chief of the Society. He was one of the finest singers of oran mor. Both Meg and John are remembered with great fondness.

## GAELIC PLAYS

In the process of being catalogued in the Stornoway Office of An Comunn are nearly 300 Gaelic play scripts. This is one of the projects being carried out by An Comunn and Roinn nan Eilean Siar. The purpose of the Catalogue will be to have a record of virtually all the plays in Gaelic ever written, or translated from English into Gaelic.

Three hundred scripts, written for the stage and radio, is an impressive number and cover the period from 1921 when a first prize of £100 (think about what that is worth in today's money!) was offered for the best play script submitted to the 1921 Oban National Mod. In the event 'Mairead', by Archibald McCulloch of Gourrock, won the prize and it was staged in Glasgow in September of that year. Of the nine entries, five were considered 'really outstanding' by the adjudicators.

New Gaelic plays are still being written to cater for amateur drama groups, under Comann na Drama. With the current moves to set up a National Gaelic Theatre such a Theatre will have no problem in attracting Gaelic writers to meet the challenge of three-acters on the boards.

The Cataloguing Project is about half-way through in its progress and will hopefully be completed in the near future. Those members of An Comunn who wish to read some plays, to write a summary of the play's theme and action, should write to An Comunn, 91 Cromwell Street,

# CHARTER FOR THE ARTS

In recent months the Scottish Arts Council published its 'Charter for the Arts in Scotland'. This Report is the result of many months of consulting with the numerous arts organisations in Scotland and takes in dance, music, drama, visual arts and literature. The purpose of the Report was to identify the needs of the Scottish people in the world of artistic talent in all its forms.

Gaelic has a well-deserved place in the Charter, being recognised for its long-standing contribution to Scottish artistic life in the context of Gaelic being one of the indigenous languages still spoken in the British Isles. In a practical sense, for instance, Gaelic is recognised in the Gaelic Books Council receiving £95,000 each year to support the costs of the publication of Gaelic writing which would otherwise be difficult for publishers to bear on their own.

The Charter recognises the need for a National Gaelic Theatre to promote a form of writing which has for too long been left to one-act plays and amateur drama groups: the three-act plays which can prove that Gaelic can cope with the demands of full-stage production.

There is also a commitment of the funding bodies in Scotland to Gaelic and its development and integration into those areas of artistic endeavour which have not until recently been associated with the language.

All this recognition will have a significant impact on the way Gaelic is going to develop in the future. When one considers the dismissive attitude taken by funding bodies not so long ago in the past towards the language, it can truly be said that Gaelic is at last being given the chance to come in from the cold and contribute to the Scottish artistic weave.

This highlights many opportunities for An Comunn's Branches and Regions to tap into the bank of talent and offer their constituencies entertainment activities other than ceilidhs. Why not invite an amateur Gaelic drama group to mount a play within the ceilidh format? Get Gaelic writers invited to evenings to read their work. Have a musical evening in which singers give illustrated talks on aspects of Gaelic music. All these, and more, activity events can be subsidised, e.g. from the National Gaelic Arts Project. And they will all add up to the effective promotion of Gaelic throughout Scotland. It's up to you!

# Gaelic IMMERSION Course

Those who were at the 1991 Dingwall National Mod may remember an impassioned plea by Finlay MacLeod, Director of Comhairle nan Sgoiltean Araich, for a new type of Gaelic-learning school to be set up. He maintained that in order to replace the 3,000 or so Gaelic speakers lost each year, due to old age, some means was needed urgently to ensure the number of Gaelic speakers is maintained, if not increased.

This theme was taken up recently by Roinn nan Eilean Siar, of An Comunn. The Roinn commissioned a Discussion Paper from Roddy Maclean, a native of Breakish, Skye, and now working for Museum nan Eilean in Stornoway.

The Report looks at the way languages are taught by immersing students into a linguistic medium, where nothing but the language being learned is used. It is a highly concentrated method and has proved to be successful in many parts of the world. Roddy's examples came from Israel, the Basque country, Ireland and Columbia.

The motivation of a student to enter into a course of immersion learning comes from three sources:

- **Integral motivation:** where the language is learned to participate in a particular community.
- **Instrumental motivation:** this means learning a language for utilitarian reasons, such as gaining employment.
- **Social Group Motivation:** here people learn a language to identify with a particular social group.

In the case of those who learn Hebrew, the need for the second language creates a bilingualism of necessity. Israeli immigrants must learn Hebrew if they are to integrate successfully into the Jewish community. In Scotland the learning of Gaelic as a second language is a 'bilingualism of desire'.

It is the hope that the Report produced by Roinn nan Eilean Siar will have the effect of introducing some of the solutions needed to set up immersion-learning facilities. Already Lews Castle College, in Stornoway, has responded to the Report and is now looking at ways in which immersion courses can be offered to those who need to learn Gaelic efficiently in a short time and take advantage of the many Gaelic jobs now on offer. At long last Gaelic has an economic importance and significance.

## AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH MEMBERSHIP FEES

To take effect as from 1st April, 1993

Annual Membership	£6.00
Life Membership	£40.00
Choirs	£30.00
Senior Citizens	£3.00
Affiliated Societies	£12.00
Junior Members	£1.00



Frank Thompson signing his book —  
"History of An Comunn Gaidhealach  
— The First Hundred".

# Speaking our language

FEW READERS will need to be reminded of the significant exposure of Gaelic on the TV screen since January, including the learners' programme 'Speaking Our Language'. This latter has met with huge success, so much so that the company 'Canan', on Skye, has been deluged with requests for learning materials and are taking on extra staff to cope with the demand.

What is important is that the success of the Programme Series is to be consolidated by follow-up programmes and material. Unlike the 'Can Seo' programmes, which also met with a great demand, and which left learners hanging in mid-air, Canan is determined to ensure that those following the programmes will have their initial enthusiasm encouraged to the extent that they become efficient, if not fluent, 'semi-speakers'.

If this category of Gaelic speakers is not to be neglected, it is essential for fluent native speakers to come to their aid, to converse with them, introduce them to the colloquial and idiomatic Gaelic which they need to make themselves understood, and, in general, to welcome them to the Gaelic fold. The success of the learners will mean that the drop in the number of Gaelic speakers since the 1981 Census will be not only reversed by the next Census in 2001, but dramatically increased. Only such an increase will convince our political masters that it is worthwhile supporting Gaelic in real cash terms. Over to you native speakers!

## FASGNAG II

This conference was held in Skye towards the end of March. The main speakers

were those who in recent years have been conducting research into the state of Gaelic, its culture and Gaelic-speaking communities as wide apart as Wester Ross and Nova Scotia. Research per se might sound very dry, dusty and dull. In fact the combined work done by a wide range of researchers produced an absorbing three days listening, talking and discussion, with decisions made on the way in which research should go in the future.

Based on the research work done on behalf of Gaelic and culture, the policies of Gaelic-promotion bodies such as An Comunn can be formulated. Research can identify areas of concern and future work. It can throw up the needs of Gaelic-speaking communities, not only to reverse language decline but to satisfy social and economic needs which are related to the maintenance of Gaelic speech in everyday life.

The FASGNAG Conferences are held every two years. This year it was decided that the problems and solutions of lesser-used languages in Europe would be brought in, to see if their experiences can be used in a Gaelic context. It is a valid viewpoint that time and effort can be saved if problems have been solved elsewhere.

At the Conference, an interesting distinction was made between those who were fluent speakers and those whose command was of 'native' origin but whose use of Gaelic was diluted by the need to use English. These latter people were called 'semi-speakers'. This is an interesting term, but is one which describes those learners (and they are legion nowadays) who may not be numbered among the fileantaich but make a significant contribution to the maintenance of spoken Gaelic. All it needs to make the change from 'semi-speaker' to fluent speaker is the assistance of native speakers to take them into the fold of the Gaelic speech community.

### NORTHERN

We are thankful that so much is taking place in the Gaelic world in the Region, regarding our language and heritage. There will be Local Mods in Easter Ross, in Ullapool, in Loch Alsh, in Fort William, in Sutherland and in Inverness, and we

believe that a substantial number of competitors have come forward for each one of them. It is good also that representatives from all areas regularly attend Region meetings and they deserve praise for their loyalty. We are also grateful for all that is happening. A new Branch has been established in Euroboll, and the Chairman of the Region

was present at their first meeting on 14 May.

This is only a brief look at how many people take an interest in our heritage and who are willing to do voluntary work.

On 15 May the youngest life member was welcomed to An Comunn Gaidhealach,

and he is Andrew James Cameron who was six weeks old at the time. We extend a warm welcome to the boy. He comes from Melvich.

## Regions . . .

### SOUTHERN

Such meetings as have been held by the Region have tended to concentrate on the need for an assessment of what the Region has achieved over the years. This has not been a backward nostalgic look at the past, but rather to provide some analysis on which the future can be based. The general feeling is that there is a need for change if that future is to be faced with confidence to meet the challenges ahead. Committee members are well pleased with the way in which the arrangements for the Airdrie Royal National Mod are progressing. A grant of £12,000 from Monklands District Council for the Mod is yet another expression of the commitment of Local Authorities to the language. On top of this, they have given us free use of halls and are supporting us with work and services. At the time of writing, a Learners' Celebration of Gaelic is to be held in Coatbridge College (15th May) as part of Adult Learners' Week. Up to 200 learners will receive their SCOTVEC Module 1 Certificate. Nach rinn iad math! All this enthusiasm for Gaelic by the learners is more than welcome and augurs well for the future of Gaelic in the Region's area.

### AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

#### PRICE LIST

##### Books

BARAGAB (Poetry & prose in English and Gaelic compiled by young and old)	£5.00
CARRAGH NA CUIMHNE (Poetry by Kenneth Macdonald)	£4.00
CAIDIL GU SEIMH (Lullabies by A. Jamieson and A. Barr)	£4.00
GEARRA NA CRAOBH 'S AN CLADACH (Story book & cassette)	£5.95
IDAL U DAL (Labour/Waulking Songs)	£5.00
MUIR IS TIR (Songs sung by children — book and cassette)	£5.99
DAIN MHURCHAIDH (Songs sung by the Bard Murdo MacPharlan)	£4.99
THE FIRST HUNDRED (History of An Comunn Gaidhealach) (hardback)	£12.00

##### Cassettes

Mod Inbhirpheofharain 1991 — Fiddlers' Rally, Children's Concert, Rural Choirs' Concert, Gold Medal Final, Final Concert	£3.85
Commemorative Items:	
An Comunn Gaidhealach Tie	£5.00
Strathclyde/An Comunn Tie	£5.00
Bliadhna na Gaidhlig Tie	£3.00
Bliadhna na Gaidhlig Badges	£0.25

##### Cassettes

Mod an Obain 1992 — Fiddlers' Rally, Children's Concerts (Monday & Tuesday), Rural Choirs Concert, Gold Medal Final, Final Concert	£4.50
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## ABERDEEN BRANCH

Secretary, Noreen MacDonald, reports yet another busy year for the Aberdeen Branch. The highlight was, of course, the 60th Anniversary Dinner Dance in November 1992 which was not only attended by members and friends, but others who travelled from far and wide to take part in the celebrations.

President, Mrs Murdina MacDonald, retired after some eighteen years' of faithful service to the Branch. She and her husband Donald, though taking a 'back seat', will still be with us as and when they can. Many thanks, Murdina, for being such a guiding light, steering us through waters, both calm and turbulent.

Our new President is Donald Murray from Skye, our recent VicePresident. Donald is a well known Mod Gold Medallist who does not rest on his laurels. We look forward to his steering the 'S.S. Aberdeen Branch' to more success in the future. The Branch is now in port for a rest before getting down to arranging for the next Season's session of ceilidhs and functions.

## DUMFRIES & DISTRICT BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting was held last March with Reports on increased membership and a very good attendance at all the Ceilidhs held during the year. Mr Tom MacCallum took over as President from Mrs Margaret Anderson who was praised for her assiduous attention to her duties and who steered the Branch through the previous twelve months.

The Christmas Fair held in the Loreburn Hall had been an important fund-raiser. Its success was due to those who brought in goods for sale and who manned the stalls, and was instrumental in keeping the costs of the regular ceilidhs down to a reasonable level. Anne MacDonald's raffles brought in a steady income and she was thanked for her tireless work on behalf of the Branch.

Piper Bill Geddes came in for some deserved praise for his support at the ceilidhs as was John MacRae whose contacts in the Gaelic entertainment world ensured high-class performances were given to the audiences, faithfully attended by members and guests.

Mrs Shearer, who has a long-standing record of support for An Comunn and the Branch over the years, was rewarded by being elected Vice-President in a no-contest nomination. The Branch has currently a membership of 58, an all-time high. Seven ceilidhs were held during the year, thus holding the Gaelic flag in an area not so well recognised as a Gaelic community.

## DUNOON BRANCH

The Branch AGM was held last April with a rather poor attendance which certainly did not reflect the very active and successful year of Branch meetings and events. John Saidler is again our President ably assisted by the other office-bearers and Committee members.

The ceilidh dances proved a popular attraction with quality performers, singers, fiddlers and pipers, all contributing to the enjoyment of our audiences.

The sixty people who attended the Bardic Supper in February in the Park Hotel really appreciated the effort which went into organising this event. Star attraction was Rev Roddy MacLeod, Furnace, who gave a talk on ministers who were also bards. Songs composed by these bards were sung by Morag Law, Houston. We intend to have Roddy back again to give us more insights

into the world of the Gael.

The Branch has identified more than fifty native Gaelic speakers in the area who perhaps may form a resource which we can tap into in connection with our Gaelic Workshop. Interest in this class shows no sign of abating, the result of the dedication of our three tutors, Rev Donald Stewart, Barbara Satchell and Elma MacArthur. Though the class usually runs from October to March on a weekly basis, we intend to continue monthly to keep people in practice.

Extension of the 'Speaking our Language' programmes on TV takes the form of classes held in Dunoon Grammar School with Elma as tutor. Elma also teaches Gaelic to pre-



school children in her own home on an informal basis. We are lucky to have her,

It will be a very long time before we forget the late Angus MacTavish who died in June last year. In 1947 he became President of the reformed Dunoon Branch and served the Branch well. Over the years Angus did sterling service for An Comunn, eventually becoming its Treasurer for a period of three years. His hard work for Gaelic in many fields earned him great respect; for that and his personal friendship Angus will be sorely missed.

## MANCHESTER BRANCH

Our President, Mr W J Brigham, died on 8th November 1992 after a major operation and a serious deterioration in his condition. His loss touched all Branch members and those outside the Society.

He was a loyal member of the Branch, making newcomers welcome and ensuring that they enjoyed the company of the members. An avid enthusiast for An Comunn, the Gaelic language and its culture, Mr Brigham was no flag-waver. His grandmother was a Gaelic speaker and from her Bill took to Gaelic like a natural, extending the Gaelic he learned from her to attending classes and week-end courses. In time he was able to become fluent, not only in speaking but in writing Gaelic. He had a vast store of Gaelic expressions, proverbs, sayings and stories which he imparted to those taking the plunge in learning the language.

He was a tartan enthusiast and was a member of the Scottish Tartans Society. After he retired, his expertise was always called upon for lectures and talks. Many charities benefited from the fees he received, such as Bill's open-handed generosity.

Bill was Secretary of the Branch for nine years, during which time he carried out his duties faithfully and with an impressive efficiency. He had to be persuaded to take on the office of President and in that position, too, he carried out his duties as an ambas-

sador for Gaelic in the Manchester area. He will be sorely missed by all the Branch as a friend, amiable companion and a dedicated supporter for the Gaelic language. We extend our sympathies to his widow, Anne and their son, the Rev Keith Brigham. He will not be forgotten.

## MORAY BRANCH

Officials:

Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Honorary Chairman  
Treasurer  
Secretary

Harry Morgan  
John Kennedy  
Ken Sutherland  
Alec MacAulay  
Rachel Hall  
Rhoda Sinclair

There is a playgroup in Forres and Elgin, in addition to Gaelic classes for adults. We have held ceilidhs, and we had a traditional ceilidh as usual.

We organised an annual concert for young people in the Town Hall in Forres with youngsters from many schools and a youth group participating, including two Gaelic singers. The hall was full and the sum of £308.29 was raised for a centre for sick children.

On 12 May a large concert was staged, along with Moray Gaelic Choir, for the Moray Scanner Appeal in Elgin Town Hall. We think that this kind of activity is good for Gaelic generally.

A Gaelic Forum was held in Forres Academy recently, and Allan MacLeod from the Northern Region and Peadar Morgan from CLI were present. Unfortunately there were not many school pupils present, but we hope to have another Forum at a more suitable time.

It is our opinion that primary schools in the district should be contacted, and we think that it would be appropriate to find a teacher to visit the schools perhaps twice a week, as is the position in Sutherland.

## STIRLING BRANCH

With the successful completion of the 1992-1993 session, the Branch is already looking ahead to the 1993-1994 session of ceilidhs and other activities. The dates have been set and for those members and friends around Stirling they are (for 1993): 18 September, 9 October, 20 November, (for 1994): 15 January, 12 February and 12 March.

Everyone was sorry to lose the services of Mr Donald Murray who was the Branch Official piper for many years. He performed on many occasions, delighting all with his consummate musicianship.

At the Branch AGM, held last March, there was general agreement to the suggestion that An Comunn branches be kept more informed on the developments taking place in An Comunn. President Angus MacPhie echoed the feeling that branches should have greater face to face contact with An Comunn officials.

Editor's Note: Angus MacPhie's point is well taken. However, bearing in mind the many branches of An Comunn and the few numbers of staff and officials, it is often difficult to maintain efficient contacts by mere physical presence. The Aithris, which is produced twice a year, goes some way to keep members and branches informed of what is happening on the Gaelic front. Having said that, plans are on the cards for a close look at how relations with branches can be improved. If any branch has suggestions, please make your views known, with ideas, to the Stornoway office (91 Cromwell Street).