

# CUAIRTLITIR

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

AN GIBLEAN 1979

**FACAL BHON CHEANN-SUIDHE:** Seo agaibh Cuairtlitir an Earraich ag innseadh dhuibh, buill, Meuran, Comunn Dhaimheil cruinn comhla, ciamar a tha sinn a' dol a sas ann an cleasan a' Chomuinn. Tha sinn an dochas gu'n cord na thatar a' deanamh ruibh, ach mur cord, leigibh fhaicinn dhuinn ur beachdan fhein. Ma chordas, nach cuidich sibh fhein leis na h-oidhirpean a tha ann? Mar eisimpleir, nach fhaodadh sibh a' Chuairtlitir seo a chur tiomchall a measg feadhainn eile aig a bheil uidh ann an aobhar na Gaidhlig? Mar is oige iad 's ann is fhearr. Cuiridh sinn feum air buill ura agus air oigridh a neartaicheadh an Comunn. Feuchaibh de 's urrainn dhuibh a dheanamh agus bidh sinn fada nur comain.

**NEW DICTIONARY:** Gairm associates announce a new Gaelic/English-English/Gaelic Dictionary, to be in print by Spring 1979. Contact our Sales Assistant if you are interested in reserving a copy. Probable price £3.80.

**GAELIC IN EPPING FOREST:** Two courses for learners in the London area: 2-4 November 1979 for all grades and 22-24 February 1980 for Higher grade standard only. For details contact Dr. K. MacKinnon, Tel: 0702 525402

**TOURIST ATTRACTION:** Welsh place names are a definite tourist attraction, according to the Chairman of the Wales Tourist Board.

**CRUISGEAN:** Are you subscribing to Cruisgean, the only all Gaelic newspaper? Contact the Rev. Ruairidh MacLeod, The Manse, Berneray, North Uist.

**CAIRTEAN NOLLAIGE, ETC.:** Reic Roinn nan Eilean Siar suas ri mìle mìosachan agus da mhìle cairt-Nollaig an uiridh. Bidh an aireamh nas mo am bliadhna.

**WELSH LANGUAGE TV:** The Welsh Secretary of State has announced that he will introduce a measure in Parliament to permit preparations for the fourth channel in Wales to go ahead. The new channel will be the vehicle for vastly increased output in Welsh.

**CENTRAL REGION:** George Reid MP has questioned the Central Region Education Authority's record on the provision for Gaelic in the Region's schools. It appears that parents' wishes there have gone unanswered. You can help to put that right. Contact Abertarff.

**SRUTH:** Do you read Sruth, An Comunn's bilingual monthly of features and news, published in the Stornoway Gazette?

**LEARNERS CORRESPONDENT:** Many learners write us seeking a Gaelic-speaking (and writing!) correspondent to help them. Contact us if you are interested in helping out.

**INTERNATIONAL CLAN GATHERING:** The 1979 I.C.G. will be held in Nova Scotia from June 28 to August 12 and will include Gaelic events. Information from Information Office, P.O. Box 130, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M7, or from the Scottish Tourist Board, Edinburgh.

**EISTEDDFOD GRANTS:** Local Authorities in Wales gave £115,000 to last year's National Eisteddfod - Cardiff the host town giving £60,000.

**CUAIRT OIGRIDH:** Bidh an Comunn a' cur air adhart cuairt oigridh do Dhun Eideann son sgoilearan bho na h-Eileanan Siar as t-samhradh.

**BROADCASTING:** In response to a Comunn circular Glasgow Skye Association is to support the protest on the overlong absence of Gaelic on BBC tv.

**GAEL: THE STORY OF THE FIRST SCOTS:** The permanent exhibition of this title, housed at Abertarff House, is the only one of its kind. Have you seen it yet?

**PIPING SCHOOL:** The Gaelic College in Skye will hold a Piping School 9 - 14 April, 1979. Those interested contact, Sabhal Mor Ostaig, Teanga, Sleat, Isle of Skye.

**WELSH IN SCHOOLS:** The Welsh Secretary of State is asking Parliament to vote special extra funds for the teaching and use of Welsh in education. We are seeking equal treatment for Gaelic.

**CAR STICKER:** We shall shortly be retailing a car sticker, 4" circle, CUM GAIDHLIG BEO, white lettering on blue background. Contact our Sales Assistant at Abertarff for details.

**JUNIOR LEARNERS' SCHOLARSHIPS:** Three scholarships enabling bona fide young learners to stay with Gaelic-speaking families for part of the summer holiday were taken up last year. It is planned to make the same offer this year. Anyone wishing to donate towards the fund for this purpose and increase the number of young learners taking part should contact Abertarff.

**NORMAN BUCHAN MP:** Norman Buchan MP was a welcome visitor to Oban Mod, where, among other things, he took a lively part in the authors' conference of the Iomall.



**BUTH:** An Comunn sales can supply your Gaelic book requirements and also records and cassettes. In addition we stock or can obtain many English titles of Gaelic interest and also on other Celtic countries. Contact Abertarff or the Stornoway office.

**CAN SEO:** B.B.C. T.V. Gaelic learners' series starting in October 1979. For details write B.B.C. Further Education Officer at Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow.

**WORKING PARTIES:** Gaelic Working Parties to campaign for Gaelic in schools are needed in many parts. Gaelic must flourish in schools if it is to survive. Contact Abertarff for advice.

**SUMMER COURSE:** Applications invited for the 1979 Summer Course for learners to be held Stornoway 2-14 July. Contact Abertarff.

**BROADCASTING:** The recognition of Gaelic's claim to a fair share of the broadcasting services is vital to the future of the language. What is An Comunn doing about it? We continue to monitor BBC radio programmes and note recent improved performance of Radio Highland and Radio Scotland. We continue to press for extended local radio with a strong Gaelic base. We look hopefully to the new BBC Highland regime, under Alastair Hetherington, who has publicly declared his awareness of Gaelic needs. We have commissioned an intensive study of Gaelic in radio and television services. It aims to provide a widely acceptable campaign blue-print to persuade Government to improve on the dismal prospect for Gaelic broadcasting held out in last year's White Paper. Better Gaelic radio must not be allowed to mask the serious damage to the language occasioned by improving television reception of English programmes in the Highlands and Islands without a compensating input of Gaelic programmes. We drew public attention to the complete collapse of BBC Gaelic television over a lengthy period without satisfactory explanation. We have appealed to people to register their protest. Have you registered yours?

**DRAMA:** Tha Roinn nan Eilean Siar air taghadh ceithir sgrìobhadairean a gheibh cuirleadh dealbh-chluichean a sgrìobhadh airson sgiobaidhean air feadh na Gaidhealtachd. Theid na deilbh seo fhoillseachadh aig an ath Fheis Drama.

**BILINGUAL VILLAGE SIGNS:** Teachd ar Tir, a subsidiary of Acharacle & Moidart Community Council, reports success with its attempts to persuade Lochaber District Council to help fund bilingual village name signs in the area.

**PAN-CELTIC 1979:** The Pan-Celtic festival will be held in Killarney, 11-20 May. Contact Abertarff for details.

**THIRD EYE CENTRE:** The Southern Region Council is sponsoring a Gaelic exhibition at the Third Eye Centre gallery, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow on 26-28 April 1979. Please circulate this information to boost attendance.

**ANGUS MACKAY:** Angus first became known to the members of An Comunn when, at an Annual General Meeting, he made the case for holding the National Mod at East Kilbride. The success of that Mod must have been largely due to his energy and organising ability, supported by a fine committee. From then on Angus was an office bearer. As Chairman of the Southern Region he was a Vice-President of An Comunn, a member of the General Council and the Management Committee. He was also a member of the Finance Committee. Angus had a strong and energetic personality and was forthright and plain spoken. Whilst always keen to promote what he believed in, he readily accepted a majority decision. He was a loyal warmhearted and friendly colleague and we shall miss him very much.

**SLIDE TAPE:** Dh'iarr Roinn nan Eilean Siar air Aonghas M. Domhnallach, toiseachadh air da chruinneachadh slide tape: te air Steornabhagh anns na seann laithean agus te eile a' sealltuinn seann aithean ann an Leodhas agus na Hearadh agus maille ri cruinneachadh a rinn Uilleam Domhnallach a Uibhist a Tuath, tha's an dochas gum bith seo air fhoillseachadh aig am a' Mhoid.

**ARGYLL DRAMA FESTIVAL:** To be held at Taynuilt, 11 May, perhaps also 10th. There may be a learners' as well as a fluent speakers' section.

**BADENOCH AND STRATHSPEY:** The Northern Regional Council convened a meeting of Badenoch & Strathspey Branches to discuss Gaelic promotion in the area. Further meetings are to take place, possibly resulting in the formation of a Gaelic Working Party.

**SKYE WORKING PARTY:** The Gaelic Working Party on Skye has been in business for over a year and has taken every opportunity to promote Gaelic in the Island, including pressing the education authority to step up Gaelic in schools and the District Council to increase its commitment to the use of Gaelic. The Working Party has produced a number of posters and leaflets, a colourful lapel badge and a car sticker.

**ARGYLL PROVINCIAL MODS:** to be held in Oban, Islay, Lochgilphead and Mull.

**LOCHALSH:** It is hoped to form a Lochalsh Gaelic Working Party in the near future.

**HIGHLAND REGION SCHOOLS:** The Northern Regional Council continues to exert pressure on the local authority to introduce Gaelic into schools and encourages parents to make their demands for Gaelic known.

**GAELIC WORKING PARTIES:** It is hoped in the near future to convene a meeting of delegates of Gaelic Working Parties to come together and plan joint action.

**ARGYLL REGION ANNUAL SALE OF WORK:** To be held in Bowmore, Islay, in July.



**MOD NAN EILEAN:** Tha an t-airgid a tighinn a steach (corr agus £6000) agus an deidh an co-fharpais snaimhe tha's an dochas gun streap an suim seo seachad air £7000. 'Se an Roinn a tha ag ullachadh Iomall a' Mhoid agus a bharrachd air nithean ann an Steornabhagh, tha's an dochas ceilidhean, bardachd, aithris etc. a bhith air feadh nan Eilean Siar aig am Mod nan Eilean.

**WEEKEND COURSES:** Those wishing details of the 1979 Gaelic Learners Weekend Courses contact Abertarff House. Next course 8-10 June in Dingwall. Book early to avoid disappointment.

**CATALONIA:** The new democratic government in Spain has decreed the teaching of the Catalan language in schools in Catalonia and arrangements are to be made for teaching through the medium of the regional language for those wishing it.

**GAELIC COLUMN:** We are pleased to hear that the Oban Times will soon be publishing a fortnightly Gaelic column.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Annual subscriptions (£3.00) for 1979/80 are due April 1st, 1979.

**ALAN STIVELL:** Gwynfor Evans MP has protested to the French Embassy in London concerning French justice and Breton prisoners. It is reported that Alan Stivell, the internationally famous Celtic folk singer, was arrested to prevent his appearance at a concert in aid of prisoners' families.

**GAELIC IN SCHOOLS:** We welcome the success of the Mull Working Party campaigning for Gaelic in Mull schools. Their efforts are in line with other Working Parties in Skye and Sutherland.

**RESOURCE CENTRE:** Tha's an geall ullachadh airson "resource centre" an oifis Steornabhagh far am bith deilbh, leabhraichean etc. ann maille ri innealan airson "language lab".

**COMUNN PUBLICATIONS:** "Mairead Og", an illustrated story in verse for young children, will be in print by April 1979. Contact our Sales Assistant at Abertarff to reserve a copy.

**WELSH TV:** The Drama Department of the Aberystwyth College now offers courses for Welsh-speaking students to train in all aspects of tv programme production.

**GAELIC TEACHERS IN LOTHIAN:** Lothian Regional Council would like to hear from Gaelic speakers in the Region who would be willing to help out with the shortage of evening class teachers. Contact Mr. G. Lighthead at the Community Education Centre. Tel: 031 441 1031.

**ARGYLL CONFERENCE:** The University of Glasgow Resident Tutor for Argyll & Bute, Dr. W.S. Fowler, is arranging a conference on the theme 'Gaelic & English in Argyll', to be held at the Glencruitten Hotel, Oban, on Saturday 7 April. Details from Dr. Fowler, Tel: 041 339 8855.

**FINANCE:** Expenditure for the current year has been kept within the budgeted figure, although this has curtailed our activities. Apart from the SED our other main source of revenue is grants from local authorities to whom appeals for 1979/80 have now been made. The SED also approved an extra grant during the current year for special projects.

**SUBMISSION:** The Secretary of State has been asked to considerably increase the annual grant in order to allow Comunn activities to expand and in particular to employ new staff, e.g. administration officer for headquarters, information officer, four regional field officers.

**OBAN MOD:** This was an outstanding success and a great credit to the office bearers and the local committee. The surplus created will meet Mod administration costs for the ensuing year. Fund raising for the Mod is a very heavy burden on local committees. The Management Committee has authorised the Directorate to explore possible new sources of revenue and discussions with other bodies, e.g. the Eisteddfod, are taking place.

**CASHIER:** Mrs. Jane Muir left our service in January and replacing her as Cashier is Mrs. Catherine MacKay, whose family has a long connection with An Comunn.

**STAFF:** Meeting recently, the Management Committee recorded its appreciation to An Comunn staff on all their efforts during 1978/79.

**POLITICAL FRONT:** Access at Parliamentary level is strengthened by adding to the Gaelic Group (to whom we owe much) new members of both Houses with a genuine interest in Gaelic language and culture and a desire to be briefed on Gaelic issues. This Gaelic lobby now numbers 50. Is your MP among them? Our call to political parties to declare on Gaelic policy has met with favourable response. The SNP policy is now in print and other parties are in course of formulating theirs. We plan to give these policies wide circulation. It is for Comunn members to make good use of the opportunity to question candidates on their party's Gaelic policy at the forthcoming General Election. Will you do so?

**LISTENING PANEL:** The Northern Region Listening Panel, Chaired by D.A. MacLean, has reported its findings on Gaelic programmes to the Regional Council. These will be used by the Council in meeting BBC officials.

**GAELHOLS:** Ma tha luchd leughadh airson fuireachd ann an tigh anns na h-Eileanan Siar far am bheil teaghlachan deonach bruidhinn air fad ann an Gaidhlig bu choir sgrìobhadh thugainn mu dheidhinn "Gaelhols". Tha liost againne agus cuideachd aig Buidheann Turuis nan Eilean Siar. Cuiribh fios do Oifis a' Chomuinn an Steornabhagh.

**ALNESS BRANCH:** is to sponsor a meeting in Alness on the question of Gaelic in Alness Academy. A recent survey indicates a significant demand.



RT.HON. WILLIAM WHITELAW MP: Mr. Whitelaw paid a visit to Abertarff House last year where he discussed Comunn activities with members of the Directorate and gave assurances of Conservative support for the aims of the association.

JORDANHILL COLLEGE: Questions have been asked in Parliament about the disappearance of the Celtic Department from Jordanhill College of Education. An Comunn is making efforts to co-ordinate the views of education authorities on this development, which we see as a step backward for Gaelic.

SUTHERLAND WORKING PARTY: The Skye Gaelic Working Party recently sent a delegate to Sutherland Working Party to discuss common aims and co-operation.

ACAIR LTD: The first title to bear the imprint of the bilingual publishing company ACAIR is "Call na h-Iolaire" by Norman MacDonald. The book recounts the events which brought tragic losses among Island servicemen returning to Lewis at the end of World War One when the "Iolaire" foundered on rocks at the mouth of Stornoway harbour. The book has a synopsis in English. Available from Abertarff sales, £3.00 plus 35 p p & p.

KENNETH MACRAE: Kenneth MacRae was born 1890, the year before An Comunn was founded. He won the Junior Gold Medal in 1903 and the Gold Medal in 1920. With his death a national figure has gone.

BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROJECTS: Over the last ten years £800,000 has been allocated for bilingual education projects in Wales.

RADIO NAN EILEAN: Preparations to set up a largely Gaelic radio station based in the Outer Islands are going ahead by the BBC, hoping to open at the time of 1979 Mod nan Eilean.

GAELIC CASSETTE: William MacDonald of North Uist is organising the recording of a new cassette of lessons for junior Gaelic learners. Details in spring from Abertarff.

CCC: The Consultative Committee on the Curriculum, the body which advises the Secretary of State on the content of school subjects, has for the first time set up a sub-committee on Gaelic, after approaches from many, including An Comunn. We are asked to nominate suitable members.

VIDEO: Rinn Roinn nan Eilean Siar toiseachadh air cur dealbh beatha Mairi Nighean Alasdair Ruaidh air video cassette agus duil gum bith seo deiseil aig toiseach an t-samhraidh. 'S e Morag NicLeoid a Scalpaich a tha ag actadh Mairi le cuideachadh bho luchd Bhearnaraidh.

EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY: Efforts are planned by An Comunn to create a European Assembly lobby, combining where appropriate with other language groups in Europe with a view to campaigning for minority cultures in Europe. In a recent debate in the Assembly, Russell Johnston, MP put the case for EEC support for the Gaelic language.

GAELIC IN PUBLIC USE: The British Gas Consumers Council and the Department of Social Security have been approached by An Comunn to include Gaelic among the languages that these bodies use in translated versions of official leaflets. Many immigrant groups receive this service. Gaelic speakers could help by writing these bodies and others also.

THE GAELIC COLLEGE: Sabhal Mor Ostaig in Sleat, Isle of Skye, is appealing for new members to support its work. An industrial concern has promised to match each new subscription with more funds. Here is your chance to double the effort of your support. Write to Peadar MacLennan, The Director, Sabhal Mor Ostaig, Teanga, Isle of Skye.

BRETON TV: Breton speakers, arguably the most underprivileged linguistic group in the European Community, receive only one half hour per week of tv in their own language. Copies of the Radio Times and TV Times might help to cheer them up!

DEVELOPMENT BOARD GRANT: The Development Board for Rural Wales has approved a grant of £6000 to be paid into the funds of the National Eisteddfod to be held in Caernarfon this year.

LABEL BADGE: Three colour metal lapel badge, 2½" circle, AN t-EILEAN SGIATHANACH, on Cuillin background. 25p plus 10p p & p from Abertarff.

WEEKEND COURSE VENUE: We should like to hear from you if you know of Hotels which are prepared to offer low rate terms to accommodate our weekend courses. Contact Abertarff.

GAELIC IDENTITY: Had there been no Gaelic there would have been no country calling itself Scotland today. There might have been a Pictland, a Daneland or more likely an extended England. For centuries Scots and Gaelic were synonymous. If Gaelic is allowed to die, then Scotland's original and historic identity will be lost. If Gaelic is to survive the State must support it. There must be a better place for it in education and there must be adequate radio and television. It is the paramount duty of An Comunn, its committees and members to work for this at all times. 'S e a' Ghaidhlig a bhith saodmhor iuchair saorsa na h-Albanh.

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