

Gearr-lomradh air
Obair agus
Riaghailtean-earalachaidh



COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH



A brief preliminary note on the new
Youth Movement in the
Gaidhealtachd

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COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH.

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Tha e a nis mar fhiachaibh air Rùnaire a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich, cho math ri Fear-Deilbhe an Taoibh Tuath, 'nuair a tha iad air chuairt feadh na Gaidhealtachd, aire nam Meur ionadail a tharruing a dh'ionnsuidh COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH: a bhi cuideachadh leo san a tha toigheach air gabhail ris an ionairt ùir sin gu buidheann de Chomuinn na h-Oigridh a chur air bonn anns na sgoilean a tha, mar gu'm b'eadh, fo aoghaireachd a' Mhedir ionadail, agus, far am bi buidheann air a cois cheana, a bhi toirt faineas gu'm bheil an luchd-dreuchd a'faotainn gach brosnachaidh agus treòrachaidh a tha dhith orra.

2. Tha e 'san radharc aig Comhairle Clann an Fhraoich, mar bhuidheann-riaghlaidh Comuinn na h-Oigridh, Leabhar-ùil a dheasachadh agus a chur an clòdh, anns am faigh na "Cinn-Feachd" agus na Comhairlean dùthchail eòlas mionaideach air gach gnìomhachas a bhuineas do Chomuinn na h-Oigridh. Ach bithidh greis mu'm bi sin ullamh, agus a chum 's nach bi an fheadhainn a tha dol an greim 'san obair, gun eòlas air na tha 'san t-sealladh againn, tha sinn ag cur an duilleagain so a mach mar cheud fhacal-eòrachaidh. Feumar a thuigsinn nach eil an so Comuinn a tha gu bhi air a theanmachadh air gach taobh le riaghailtean teann nach gabh atharrachadh. Tha caochladh bheachdan aig daoine an caochladh àitean mu àrach Cloinne, agus cha'n ionann cleachdaidhean agus nòsan-beatha gach cinn-dùthcha. Tha cuid de na riaghailtean, gun teagamh, is còir an leantainn gu dlùth, ach is ann mar sheòladh-slighe a tha a' chuid eile.

3. Air eagal 's gu'm bi cuid nach leugh a' Ghaidhlig gu furasda, tha eadar-theangachadh Beurla fa chomhair gach cùise tha'n so. Ach tha dòchas nach bitear ag cur feum air a' Bheurla far an gabhar seachnadh, agus nach bi ach Gaidhlig, air aon chor, 'ga cleachdadh ris a' Chloinne.

4. Bithidh a h-uile duine-cloinne a tha faotainn dad sam bith de leasain Ghaidhlig, agus a labhras agus a thuigeas a' Ghaidhlig air dòigh a ni e comasach dhaibh an obair a leantainn ann an Gaidhlig, air am meas mar "Ghaidheal" agus mar bhuill de Chomuinn na h-Oigridh, gun deuchainn sam bith a bhi air a cur orra. Bithidh cothrom 'ga thoirt do sgoilearan aig am bheil Gaidhlig, ach nach eil 'ga faotainn anns an sgoil, air tighinn a stigh mar bhuill de'n Chomuinn.



COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH.

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It is now part of the duties of the Secretary of An Comunn Gaidhealach, as well as the Northern Organiser, when on tour in the Gaidhealtachd, to draw the attention of Local Branches to Comunn na h-Oigridh ; to assist those who are keen to take up this new movement to form a Branch of Comunn na h-Oigridh in the schools within the sphere of the local branch, and where there is already one in existence, to see that the office-bearers are getting every assistance and encouragement they may require.

2. As the governing body of Comunn na h-Oigridh, the committee of Clann an Fhraoich intend to publish a hand-book, in which the "Cinn Feachd" and the local committee will find exact information on all the activities connected with the Movement. But this will take time to prepare, and in order that those engaged in the work may not be ignorant of what is intended, this pamphlet is issued for first guidance. It should be understood that Comunn na h-Oigridh is not a thing to be hemmed in by immutable rules. There are different views in different places about the upbringing of Children, and each region has its own customs and mode of life. Some of the rules, certainly, must be followed closely, others are intended more for guidance.

3. Lest there be any who cannot read Gaelic easily, this English translation is added. But it is hoped no one will use the English who can avoid it, and that no English will be used, on any account, to the Children as Members of the Movement.

4. Every Child who gets any instruction in Gaelic, and who speaks and understands Gaelic well enough to be able to follow the work of the Movement in Gaelic, will be deemed "Gaidheal" and a member of Comunn na h-Oigridh, without undergoing any test. The opportunity will be given to Children who know Gaelic, but who do not get it in school, to become members.

SANAS:—Gus am bi Comunn na h-Oigridh air a stéidheachadh gu daingeann feadh na Gaidhealtachd, bhiodh cunnart mór ann gu'n tigeadh a' Bheurla an uachdar anns gach àite na'n gabh teadh mar bhuill Clann nach labhair agus nach tuig a' Ghaidhlig. Ach ri ùine, math dh'fhaoidte gu'm biodh e iomchuidh smuaineachadh air "Luchd ionnsuchaidh" a leigeil a steach le bhì 'gan cumail 'nam fo-bhuidhnean air leth gus am bi de Ghaidhlig aca a chosnadh dhaibh an àite mar làn-bhuill de Chomunn na h-Oigridh.

5. Cho luath agus a ghabhas Clann sam bith ri Comunn na h-Oigridh, gheibh iad Braiste a' Chomuinn airson inbhe "GAIDHEAL" (braiste niotailt, lom.) Bithidh deuchainnean air an sonrachadh mar mheadhon troimh am faigh iad urran no inbhe a bharrachd a réir nan comharran a chosnas iad ;

LAN-GHAIDHEAL Braiste fìor-ghorm
SAR-GHAIDHEAL Braiste purpur (dath an FHRAOICH)
Bheirear na Braistean sin seachad a nasgaidh, agus feumaidh a' h-uile sgoilear a ghealltainn an sin gu'm bi iad dìleas do'n Ghaidhlig agus do an dualchas mar Ghaidheil.

6. Bithidh "CEANN-FEACHD" air ceann Comunn na h-Oigridh anns gach àite, agus Comhairle de "Mhaighstirean" agus de "Bhana-mhaighstirean" a chum gach cùis a bhuineas do'n Chomunn a réiteachadh.

7. Bithidh feum aig a' Mheur air airgid mu'n teid iad fada 'san iomairt. Ma's e gu'm bheil ùidh sam bith aca anns a' Ghluasad so, cha'n 'eil cuspair is fearr is fhiach airgid a thogail air a shon na uidh na Cloinne a chosnadh air taobh an dualchais fhein.

8. Is e an rud as mo feum, fear no té fhaotainn a bhios freagarrach airson dreuchd a' Chinn-Feachd, 's e sin am fear a bhios an ceann na h oibre anns gach àite.

DILEASDANAIS A' CHINN-FEACHD AGUS COMHAIRLE NAM MAIGHSTIREAN

9. Clar ainm Comunn na h-Oigridh a chumail suas a reir nan ceann so ;—

Ainm	Aite fuireach	Iubhe	Comharra sam bith.
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NOTE:—Until Comunn na h-Oigridh is established on a wide and firm base, the admission of Children who can neither speak nor understand Gaelic would entail the grave risk of English permeating the whole Movement. Later on it may be possible to consider the admission of "Learners" who could be kept in separate sub-branches until they had acquired enough Gaelic to entitle them to full membership.

5. As soon as any Children join Comunn na h-Oigridh they will receive the Badge of the order as "Gaidheal" (plain metal badge).

Tests will be arranged as a means by which they may attain higher rank and honour according to the marks they make:—

LAN-GHAIDHEAL True-blue badge

SAR-GHAIDHEAL Purple (Heather-coloured) badge

These Badges will be given free, and each Member will then promise to be faithful to the Gaelic and to the inheritance of his ancestry.

6. There will be a "Ceann-Feachd" at the head of the Order in each place, and a Committee of "Maighstirean" and "Bana-Mhaighstirean" for regulating all the business of the Order.

7. The local branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach will require money before they can make much progress in this venture. But if they have any interest at all in the movement there is no object more worthy raising money than to win the interest of the Children on the side of their ancestral inheritance.

8. The most important thing of all is to secure a man or woman suitable for the post of Ceann-Feachd, who will be the moving spirit in each centre.

DUTIES OF THE CEANN-FEACHD, AND COMMITTEE OF MAIGHSTIREAN.

9. To keep up the roll of Comunn na h-Oigridh according to these heads:—

Name	Residence	Rank	Remarks
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10. Aire a thoirt gu'm bi "CEANNARD" agus "BANA-CHEANN-ARD" 'gan ainmeachadh leis a' Chloinn fein anns gach Buidheann, uair 'sa 'bhliadhna. Biodh e mar bhòid is mar cheangal orra sin deagh-eisim pleir a thoirt do chàch a thaobh an dualchas mar Ghaidheil, gu h'àraidh ann a bhi labhart na Gaidhlig 'nam measg fhein.

11. IS I A' GHÀIDHLIG A MHAIN IS COIR DO'N CHEANN-
FEACHD AGUS DO GACH AON A THA AIR A' CHOMHAIRLE,
A CHLEACHDADH 'NAM BUNTAINN DO'N CHLOINN MAR
BHUILL DE CHOMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH, eadhon ged nach 'eil iad
uile 'ga tuigsinn gu h-ionnlan an toiseach. BIODH AN RIAGHAILT
SO MAR CHLACH-STEIDH DO'N CHOMUNN BHO THUS GU
DEIREADH. Mur a leanar gu ro-theann ris a' Ghaidhlig cha bhi an
Comunn so chum buannachd.

(Cuimhnicibh dà ni—(i). Is ro-ullamh leinn uile, seudh leo san a tha
snothrachadh gu dìchiollach as leth na Cànan, ri bhi treigsinn na Gaidhlig
'nar comhradh agus a bhi bruidhinn na Beurla ged is ann mu nithean
Gaidhealach a bhitear a' seannachas. Na leigibh leis a' Chloinn strìochdadh
do'n chleachdadh annaideach so. Ma leigeas, caillidh sinn an cath—(ii). Tha
e furusda do Chloinn òig a' Ghaidhlig a thogail, gun spàirn, cha mhòr gun
fhios dhaibh fhein, cho fhada's a chluinneas iad i bitheanta gu leoir.)

12. Is e brìgh agus bun Comunn na h-Oigridh, gu'm fàs a' Chlann
suas 'nan DEAGH GHÀIDHEIL, anns gach seadh 'san gabhar am facal.
'S e sin, gu'm faigh iad seabh anns gach buadh agus deagh bheus, gach
grinneas-chridhe agus comas inntinn a tha fuaighte ris an t-seann Chànan
agus ri an DUALCHAS MAR GHÀIDHEIL: dualchas a bheir e 'nan
comas seirbhis bharrachta a dheanamh, cha'n e nàhain do an Dùthaich fhein,
ach do'n chinne-daonna air feadh an domhain.

13. Tha foghlum na Gaidhlig air aon de na meadhonan as feumail a
chum ruigheachd air làn-thoradh an dualchais sin. Mar sin, biodh a' h-uile
dòigh 'ga cur an cleachdadh a bhrosnuicheas a' Chlann gu bhi gabhail ann
an deuchainn no an co-fharpais sam bith a dh'fhaodas a bhi air an socrach-
adh mar mheadhon troimh an faigh a' Chlann urram no inbhe na's àirde
(Lan-Ghaidheal agus Sar-Ghaidheal). Biodh e mar fhiachiaibh, mar an
ceudna, air luchd-stiùraidh Comunn na h-Oigridh, gach meadhon a tha 'nan
lànna a chur gu feum a chum agus gu'm faigh a' Chlann eòlas air fìor-
eachdraidh na Gaidhealtachd, air beatha agus euchdan nan Sar-laoch a
thriall, agus air tighean-tasgaidh sean-sgeulachdas nan Gaidheal.

10. To see that a "Ceannard" and "Bana-cheannard" are nominated annually by the Children themselves. These are bound on their honour to give a good example to the others in character (as Gaels) and especially in speaking Gaelic among themselves.

11. THE CEANN-FEACHD AND ALL WHO ARE ON THE COMMITTEE, MUST USE GAELIC ONLY IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE CHILDREN AS MEMBERS OF COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH, even if they do not all understand it fully at first. THIS RULE MUST BE THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH FROM FIRST TO LAST. Unless we stick to the Gaelic the movement will be ineffective.

(Remember two things—(i) We are all too prone, even those who work diligently for the Language, to forsake it and use English while talking of Gaelic matters. Do not let the Children fall into this foolish habit, or the battle is lost. (ii) It is easy for young Children to pick up Gaelic without effort, almost unconsciously, so long as they hear enough of it.)

12. It is the aim and object of Comunn na h-Oigridh that the Children should grow up good Gaels, in every sense of the word; i.e. that they should possess all those fine qualities of mind and heart which are knit with the old Tongue and are their inheritance as Gaels—qualities which will enable them to do outstanding service, not only to their own Country, but to their fellow-men throughout the world.

13. Gaelic culture is one of the most important means of attaining the full fruits of that inheritance. Therefore every possible means should be used to encourage the Children to enter for every test or competition which may be devised as a means of attaining higher rank in the Order. Similarly, let those who direct Comunn na h-Oigridh do all they can to ensure that the Children acquire a knowledge of the true history of the Gaidhealtachd, of the life and exploits of the heroes of old, and the store houses of ancient Gaelic tradition.

14. Ach feumaidh foghlum agus fearas chuideachd dol an lamhan a cheile, air neo, cuilidh a' Chlann an ùidh 'san obair. Dh'fhaodadh am Meur "oidheche na Cloinne" a chumail o am gu am, anns am biodh oraidean taitneach, tlachdmhor 'gan toirt seachad mu nithean a bhuineas do'n Ghaidhealtachd, le naigheachdan aighearrach agus cluichean, no ni eile a tha annasach, 'nan cois, agus Tea. Bu chòir a' Chlann a bhrosnachadh gu bhith toirt seachad sgeulachdan, sean-fhacail, toimhsichean, agus mar sin sìos, iad fhein a chum agus gu'n deanar adhartachadh air tùsalachd an inntinnean fein.

15. Bhiodh e chum buannachd mhòir na'n cumadh na h Eaglaisean seirbhis Ghaidhlig an dràs'd 's a rithis airson na Cloinne. Agus biodh e mar fhiachaibh air Clann a' Chomuinn an Sgoil Shàbaid, far am bheil sin ann, a fhrithealadh gu cumbhalach.

16. Tha an Gaidheal a chleachdas a chànan fein comharraichte am measg dhaoine airson modhalachd agus caomhalachd. Biodh Comunn na h-Oigridh a' sìor-leantainn ris an deagh-bhuadh so 'nan dòigh 's 'nan giùlan.

17. Bu chòir cuirm-euic a bhith aig a' Chloinn uair no dha as t-Samhradh, an àite 'sam bi eachdraidh annasach r'a h-innseadh do'n Chloinn, air chor 's gu'm fàs iad suas le eòlas tùrail air an dùthaich fhein. Biodh brìgh agus ciall nan ainmean-aite 'san dùthaich mu'n cuairt air am mineachadh dhaibh agus ceart litreachadh Gaidhealach nan ainmean sin air a theagasg dhaibh.

18. Dh'fhaodadh "Seanachaidh" a bhith air ainmeachadh airson gach Buidhne, air am biodh e mar fhiachaibh eòlas a thoirt do'n Chloinn mu shean-sgeulachdas a' chinn-dùthcha.

19. Ma ghabhas Campa deanamh suas—abair seachdainn an am cead-Samhradh na sgoile—far an cruinnich na balaich bho iomadh sgoile mu'n cuairt, agus far nach cluinnear facal ach Gaidhlig, ni sin barrachd na aon ni eile a chum eud a dhusgadh ann an àitean eile. Gheibhear làn eòlas air iomairt Campa an Leabhar nan "Scouts."

20. Far an comasach e, biodh Sgoil-Phiobaireachd 'ga cur air bonn, far an teagasgar cluich an fheadain do na balaich, agus 'na dheidh sin, a' Phiob Mhór. Cumaidh 'san radharc a buidheann-phiobairean a bhith aig gach Buidheann de Comunn na h-Oigridh.

14. But culture and entertainment must go hand in hand, or the Children will lose their interest. The Branch might hold a "Children's evening" now and then, with interesting lectures about the Gaidhealtachd, amusing stories and games, and tea. The Children should be encouraged to produce stories, proverbs, riddles, games, etc., themselves, to develop originality of mind.

15. It would do much good if the Churches would hold a Gaelic service for the children at times. The children of the Comunn will be expected to attend the Sunday-School regularly, where there is one.

16. The Gael who uses his own Tongue is noted among men for courtesy and kindness. Let the Children of Comunn na h-Oigridh ever follow these virtues in their every-day conduct.

17. The Children should have a Picnic once or twice in Summer, in some place where an interesting historical event can be told them, so that they may grow up with an intelligent knowledge of their own country-side. The meaning of place-names in the district should be explained to them, and they should learn the correct Gaelic spelling of those names.

18. A "Seanachaidh" might be nominated for each locality, whose charge it would be to impart a knowledge of the traditions of the country-side.

19. If a Camp can be organised, say a week out of the Summer holidays, where the boys from several schools roundabout can come together, and where they will hear nothing but Gaelic, it will do more than anything to awaken the emulation of other places. Information in full about camping can be had from the Scout Book.

20. Wherever possible a school of Piping should be opened, where the boys can be taught the Chanter, and later the great Pipe. Aim at having a Pipe Band for each branch of the Order.

21. Leis gur h-e bhì cumail cuideachd ri Cloinn Ghaidhlig an dòigh as luaithe dh'ionnsaichear a' Ghaidhlig do Chloinn eile, is math a b'fhiach a chosdas do Bhuidhinn de Chomunn na h-Oigridh an àite nach 'eil a' Ghaidhlig ach lag, dol astar math air falbh a chum Campa a dheanamh còmhla ri buidhinn a tha coimhlionta innte, mar a gheibhear anns na h-eileanan an iar.

22. Ma theid aig duine sam bith, agus Gaidhlig aige, cuideachadh a dheanamh ann an teasgag nan ealdhainean beaga, goireasach do na baiaich 's do na caileagan, is mór a' bhuanachd a nì sin—do'n aobhar ;—

Na balaich—obair-fhiodha, deanamh chamannan agus bhataichean, càradh bhròg, etc.

Na caileagan—càrdadh, calanas, cocaireachd, deanamh bhrat-urlair, dhaithean 's mar sin sìos.

Dh'fhaodadh duaisean a thoirt seachad airson sàr-oibre.

23. Cuirtear gu feum a' h-uile seol air na sean-chluichean Gaidhealach a chur an cleachdadh a rithis, mar a bhiteadh 'gan cluich aig na sgoilean 'san linn a chaidh seachad, gu sonraichte na cluichean 'sam biteadh a' labhairt bloighean de Ghaidhlig—rannan 'san leithid—air am feadh. Tha e air leth feumail gu'n lean Comunn na h-Oigridh ri CAMANACHD, cluich a bha rianh dualach do an Sìnsrean. Far an comasach e biodh buidheann Camanachd aig Meuran a' Chomuinn so.

24. Cumaibh 'san radharc CO-CHRUINNEACHADH (RALLY) a bhì aig Buidhnean Comunn na h-Oigridh anns an t-Siorramachd gu leir, far an innsear dhaibh ann am briathran fiosrachail, brosnachail, cìod a tha ann an Comunn na h-Oigridh agus cìod a tha 'san t-sealladh aca le bhì gabhail ann. 'Na dheidh sin, faigheadh iad sàsadh am mianna de Thea agus de spòrs.

25. Is i obair ùr a tha'n so, agus is dòcha gu'm bheil ionadh nì a ghabhas deanamh ann an Comunn na h-Oigridh air nach do smaoinich duine fathast. Thig an t-èblas mar a theidear air adhart.

BUAIDH IS PISEACH LEIBH.

An ainm Comhairle Clann an Fhraoich,

S. E. MARJORIBANKS.

Am Faoilteach, 1935.

21. Seeing that keeping company with Gaelic Children is the fastest way for others to learn it, it would well repay a Branch, in a part where Gaelic is weak, to go a long way off to hold a Camp with a Branch which is proficient in it.

22. If any local Gaelic speaker can help in teaching the smaller, useful crafts to the boys and girls, they will do an immense service to the cause ;—

Boys—Wood-work, making shinty-sticks and walking-sticks, repairing shoes, etc.

Girls—Carding, wool-work, cooking, making rugs, dyes etc. Prizes could be given for specially good work.

23. Everything should be done to restore to practice the old games of the Highlands, as they used to be played at the schools in the last generation ; especially those games which entail the use of snatches of Gaelic, rhymes, etc., in playing them. It is particularly desirable that Comunn na h-Oigridh should keep up Shinty, the great game of their Fore-fathers. Every Branch should try to have its Shinty Club.

24. Keep in view holding a RALLY of all the Branches in a County, where Comunn na h-Oigridh may meet and be told in stirring words what the Order means and what they stand for. After that, let them have their heart's desire of tea and sports.

25. This Movement is a new thing, and probably there are many things that can be done for and by it which have not been thought of yet. To advance is the way to gain knowledge.

SUCCESS ATTEND YOUR EFFORTS.

In the name of the Committee of Clann an Fhraoich,

G. E. MARJORIBANKS.

January, 1935.





