

An Comunn Gàidhealach



ORGANISERS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL MOD

Dùbhlachd 2015 / December 2015

Teachdaireachd bhon Àrd Oifigear

Mar is àbhaist mun àm seo den bhliadhna bidh sinn a' coimhead air ais air a' bhliadhna a-chaidh seachad agus a' coimhead air adhart ris an ath bhliadhna. Gu mì-fhortannach thug gearraidhean buaidh air feadhainn de na buidhnean Gàidhlig thairis air a' bhliadhna a chaidh seachad.

Bha a' ghrian a' deàrrsadh aig Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail an Òbain san Dàmhair. Bha seachdain air leth againn, le cuirmean agus farpaisean a bha loma-làn agus bha a h-uile duine cho dòigheil leis cho math 's a bha an aimsir.

Thòisich a' mhì-chinnt an toiseach ro àm a' Mhòid, le duilgheadasan a' nochdadh aig àrd-ìre aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Thàinig an uairsin an naidheachd dhuilich gun robh Pròiseact Nan Ealan a' dùnadh sìos as dèidh 25 bliadhna de dh' obair sònraichte airson na h-ealain Gàidhlig.

'B ann timcheall air an àm seo cuideachd a chuala sinn mu dheidhinn gearraidhean air maoinachadh MG Alba. Tha mì-chinnt ann fhathast airson foghlam dha luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig, gu h-àraidh dha inbhich.

Feumaidh na h-atharrachaidhean seo a bhith air an deasbad air taobh a-staigh coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig. Tha athchuing feumail le bhith a' sealltainn mar a tha daoine a' faireachdainn mu dheidhinn cuspair sònraichte ach chan eil iad idir cho èifeachdach ri bhith dèanamh rudeigin mu dheidhinn a' chùis. Cha tèid càil a dhèanamh mu dheidhinn suidheachadh sam bith gun deasbad ceart. Mar sin, tha e ceart gu leòr a bhith deasbad air na cuspairean a leanas – gur dòcha gu bheil cus Beurla aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail agus air BBC Alba; gu bheil BBC Alba a' cur a-mach na h-aon phrògraman a-rithist agus a-rithist agus nach eil gu leòr tuigse aig buidhnean maoinachaidh nàiseanta air cultar na Gàidhlig. 'S e cuspair eile a th' ann a bheileas ag aontachadh leis na gearanan a tha seo.

Tha sinn an dòchas gun tig piseach air na nithean seo ann an 2016 agus gun tig guth Bòrd na Gàidhlig a-mach as leth coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig agus gun èist an Riaghaltas riutha. Tha sinn cuideachd an dòchas gun tig leasachaidhean anns na h-ealain Gàidhlig agus ann am foghlam.

Mu dheireadh, tha sinn a' moladh gun toir luchd-leughaidh na cuairt-litir seo taic dha BBC Alba agus dha Rèidio nan Gàidheal, le bhith a' gabhail pàirt anns a' cho-chomhairleachaidh aig Urras a' BhBC. Gheibhear tuilleadh fiosrachadh air an seo nas fhaide air adhart anns a' chuairt-litir.

As leth Stiùirichean agus luchd-obrach a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich, bu mhath leam taing mhòr a thoirt dhuibh airson bh' ur taic thairis air a' bhliadhna a-chaidh seachad agus tha sinn a' guidhe Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhuibh uile.

Iain Moireasdan, Àrd Oifigear

A Message from the Chief Executive

As always at this time of year we reflect upon the year past and look forward to the year ahead. Without any doubt 2015 was a year of mixed fortunes for our language; music and culture.

We basked in sunshine and glorious weather at the Royal National Mòd in Oban, in October. The occasion was simply wonderful with healthy attendances and the weather reflected the overall mood at the event.

The journey to the Mòd in October foreshadowed dramas and uncertainty. Bòrd na Gàidhlig provided the first hint of troubled waters ahead. Leadership issues at Bòrd na Gàidhlig preceded the news that Pròiseact nan Ealan were to pull the curtain down on a quarter of a century of sterling work in the Gaelic Arts at the end of 2015. Around the same time we learned of cuts to funding at MG Alba. Further uncertainty continues with the future strategy for Gaelic education for learners – particularly adults.

These developments need to be discussed within the Gaelic community without fear of retribution. Petitions are helpful in illustrating the depth of feeling about certain issues but they will never replace concerted action as a means of delivering change. Concerted action is only achieved after a consensus has been established and establishing a consensus is reliant on healthy debate. For that reason criticisms of too much English at the Royal National Mòd, or on BBC Alba; or too many repeats on BBC Alba or too little understanding of our culture within national funding agencies are legitimate and should be heard. Whether you agree with these criticisms is an entirely different matter.

We hope that 2016 will see progress on all fronts and that Bòrd na Gàidhlig will establish itself as the voice of the Gaelic Community, listened to by Government. The opposite role will feature too. Similarly we hope to see progress in the Gaelic Arts and in Education.

Finally, BBC Alba and Radio nan Gàidheal are both success stories that must be protected and for that reason it is important that readers participate in the BBC Trust review which can be found further down in this issue of our Newsletter.

On behalf of the Directors and Staff of An Comunn Gàidhealach we would like to thank you all for your support in 2015 and wish you a joyful Christmas followed by a healthy and prosperous New Year.

John Morrison
Chief Executive



An Comunn Gàidhealach

Caraid ga Chall

Chaill mòran feadh na dùthcha sàr charaid Diardaoin seo chaidh nuair a chaochail Teàrlach MacColla, agus tha a bhàs a' fàgail beàrn mhòr cuideachd ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig.

Rugadh Teàrlach anns An Dòrlinn faisg air Àth Tharracail air 30 Giblean 1946, an dàrna fear a b' òige ann an teaghlach de chòignear bhalach. An dèidh dha crìochnachadh san sgoil thug Teàrlach greis a' ruith na bùtha agus bhan bìdh ann an Àth Tharracail.

Phòs e Màiri, a bhuineadh dha Àrd Ruighe, nuair a bha i a' teagasg ann am Bun-sgoil Uachdrach Achadh an Todhair, agus tha dithis theaghlach aca. Tha Fiona na h-eòlaiche-inntinn foghlaim agus tha Calum na eòlaiche-sìde, cho math ri bhith na shàr neach-ciùil.

Ghluais Teàrlach agus Màiri dhan Ghearastan far an robh Teàrlach agus a bhràithrean Ailean agus Eòghainn ri reic gual agus cuideachd a' ruith Buidheann Còmhhdail Ghleann Seile a bha sa mhòr-chuid an sàs a' giùlan iasg à Malaig. Anns na beagan bhliadhnaichean mu dheireadh bha Teàrlach agus Eòghainn an sàs a' libhrigeadh sheirbheisean còmhhdail san fharsaingeachd. Bha na bràithrean uile sgileil air losgadh gunna agus bha Teàrlach a' riochdachadh Alba ann am farpaisean eadar-nàiseanta ann an naoi deug 's na h-ochdadan.

Bha Teàrlach taiceil dhan Ghàidhlig agus dha a dualchas fad a bheatha agus bha ùidh shònraichte aige ann a bhith a' brosnachadh òigridh a dh'ionnsaigh a' chàin. Dhearbh an teaghlach MacColla an dàimh is an taic dhan Ghàidhlig beagan bhliadhnaichean air ais nuair a dh'fhoillsich iad CD thaitneach fon ainm *Dà Thaobh Loch Seile*, le taghadh den t-seinn ghrinn aig Teàrlach fhèin agus ealantas ciùil pìoba, fìdhle agus bogsa bho bhuill eile den teaghlach.

Fad còrr air trithead bliadhna bha Teàrlach ag obair gu dìcheallach a' togail airgead dhan Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail agus dha Mòdan Ionadail agus ged nach robh cunntas mionaideach ann, bha e fhèin cinnteach gun do chruinnich e mòran mhiltean not gu lèir, a bharrachd air a bhith a' foillseachadh agus a' brosnachadh na Gàidhlig is a' toirt toileachas dha luchd-èisteachd feadh na dùthcha. Dh'obraich Teàrlach air leth cruaidh mar Neach-Gairm Ionadail Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Loch Abair ann an 2007, agus cuide ri Còmhlan Cèilidh Loch Abair thog e suim mhòr airgid airson an tachartais. Fhuair spàirn Theàrlach aithne aig Cuirm Dhuaisean Chiùil-Dhùthchail Alba ann an 2008 nuair a chaidh Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Loch Abair ainmeachadh mar an tachartas a b' fheàrr ann an 2007! Tha cuimhne bhlàth aig buill na Comataidh Ionadail, a bh 'air Mòd Loch Abair 2007, air a' "bhus-cèilidh" iongantach aig Teàrlach! Fad ochd mìosan deug agus cha mhòr gach deireadh seachdaine rachadh buill a' Chomataidh, luchd-ciùil, agus luchd-taice air bòrd bus anns a' Ghearastan agus thogadh iad orra gu ceann-uidhe dìomhair. Bha fhios aig Teàrlach càite robh iad a' dol, agus bha fios aig a' choimhearsnachd air an robh iad gu bhith tadhal gun robh iad a' tighinn, ach glè thrì cha robh sian a dh'fhios aig mòran de na bh' air a' bhus càite robh iad a' dol! B' ann aig a' Mhòd sin ann an Loch Abair a chaidh cèilidh a chur air dòigh gu sònraichte dhan òigridh airson a' chiad turas, ach am faigheadh iad beagan spòrs an dèidh nam farpaisean.

Gach bliadhna airson còrr air deich bliadhna chuir Teàrlach air adhart cèilidhean sgìreil sònraichte anns a' Ghearastan, agus dh'fhàs na cèilidhean Sgitheanach, Hearach, Uibhisteach is Leòdhasach sin soirbheachail agus tarraingeach dha luchd-èisteachd.

Dh'obraich Teàrlach cuideachd fad bhliadhnaichean le Colmcille, far am bheil Foras na Gaeilge ann an Èirinn agus Bòrd na Gàidhlig ann an Alba a' foillseachadh cànan a chèile eadar Èirinn is Alba, agus thug e aoigheachd ann an Loch Abar dha grunn bhuidhnean à Dùn nan Gall agus thug e buidhnean a-null gu ruige Èirinn à Loch Abar. Stèidhich Teàrlach ceangal làidir cuideachd eadar Loch Abair agus Ionad Coimhearsnachd nam Bàgh anns Na Hearadh agus thug e buidhnean a thadhal an sin.

Bha Teàrlach a' togail airgead dha carthannais fiù 's an dèidh dha fàs tinn agus bho chionn beagan mhìosan chaidh còrr air dà mhìle not eile a roinn eadar bhuidhnean carthannais, le Banaltraman Mhic a' Mhaoilein agus Ionad Coimhearsnachd nam Bàgh anns Na Hearadh nam measg sin.

Thug An Comann Gàidhealach aithne dha na rinn Teàrlach dhan Ghàidhlig thar nam bliadhnaichean, agus aig Cuirm Fosglaidh Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2015 anns an Òban chaidh an duais shònraichte *Caraid a' Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail* a bhuileachadh air.

Tha ar co-fhaireachadh a' dol gu banntrach Theàrlach, Màiri agus gu Fiona agus Calum, agus cuideachd chun a' chuid eile den teaghlach a bhios ga ionndrainn cho mòr.

Bidh seirbheis an tiodhlacaidh aig Teàrlach a' gabhail àite Diciadain seo tighinn (23 Dùbhlachd) ann an Eaglais na h-Alba anns a' Ghearastan (ri taobh Taigh-òsta Alexandra) aig meadhan-latha.



An Comunn Gàidhealach

A Friend is Lost

Many people countrywide lost a special friend when Charlie MacColl passed away last Thursday (17th December), and his death also leaves a huge void in the world of Gaelic.

Born in Dorlin by Acharacle on 30th April 1946, Charlie was the second youngest in a family of five boys. After completing his education at Acharacle School Charlie and his brother Allan ran the community shop including a mobile service.

Charlie and his wife Mairi, who is originally from Airdrie, met when she was teaching at Upper Achintore Primary School and they have a family of two. Fiona is an educational psychologist and Calum is a meteorologist, as well as being an accomplished musician.

Charlie & Mairi moved to Fort William where Charlie and his brothers Allan and Ewan ran a coal merchants business along with Shiel Valley Transport which mainly was involved in transporting fish from Mallaig. More recently Charlie and brother Ewan were involved in providing general transport services.

The MacColl brothers were fine marksmen and Charlie represented Scotland in international shooting competitions in the 1980s.

Charlie was a lifelong supporter of Gaelic language and culture particularly encouraging the young, and some years ago the MacColl family's commitment to their culture was demonstrated in a fine CD which they produced under the title Dà Thaobh Loch Seile, featuring a selection of Charlie's fine Gaelic singing and piping, fiddle and accordion music from other members of the family.

Charlie spent over 30 years fundraising for Local and Royal National Mods and although he had no accurate total he believed that he raised many thousands of pounds over that period, as well as promoting Gaelic language and music to the continuing enjoyment of communities over the length and breadth of the Gaidhealtachd. Charlie was a very hard working Local Convenor for the 2007 Mòd in Lochaber and with the Lochaber Cèilidh Band he raised substantial funds for that event. Charlie's effort was recognised at the 2008 Trad. Awards when the Lochaber Royal National Mod was voted the best event in 2007. Members of that 2007 Local Organising Committee have fond memories of Charlie's famous "ceilidh-bus" where virtually every week end for the best part of eighteen months the committee, musicians, singers and supporters would board a bus in Fort William and take off to mystery destinations to perform. The host community knew they were coming and Charlie knew where they were going - but frequently the rest of the bus passengers had no idea where they were headed! It was at the 2007 Lochaber Royal National Mod that a special ceilidh was first organised for the young competitors to relax and enjoy themselves after competing.

For over 10 years Charlie organised annual location themed ceilidhs in Fort William focussed on Skye, Harris, Uist, and Lewis nights, which were well supported and became extremely popular events.

Charlie worked closely with Colmcille, a partnership programme between Foras na Gaeilge and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, promoting the use of Irish Gaelic and Scottish Gaelic in Ireland and Scotland and between the two countries, and he hosted several groups from Donegal in Lochaber and took groups from Scotland across to Gweedore in Donegal.

Charlie also took groups from Lochaber to the Bays Community Centre in Harris and there is a particularly strong link between the two communities.

Charlie's more recent fund raising efforts raised over two thousand pounds for several charities which included MacMillan Nurses and the Bays Community Centre in Harris.

An Comunn Gàidhealach recognised Charlie's contribution to Gaelic over the years and at the opening ceremony of the 2015 Royal National Mod in Oban he was presented with the special award of Caraid a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail (Friend of the Royal National Mod).

Our sympathies go to Charlie's widow Mairi, and to Fiona and Calum, and also to the wider family who will miss him so greatly.

Charlie's funeral service will take place at the Church of Scotland in Fort William (next to The Alexandra Hotel) on Wednesday 23 December, at 12.00 midday.

AC *Dealbh de Theàrlach agus Ailean Caimbeul a chaidh a thogail aig ceilidh Sgiathanach anns a Ghearran.*



An Comunn Gàidhealach

Saor Làithean Nollaig

Bidh an dà oifis a' dùnadh air Diciadain 23mh Dùbhlachd airson Saor-làithean na Nollaig. Bidh sinn dùinte gu Dimàirt an 5mh den Fhaoilleach 2016.

Tha Stiùirichean agus Luchd-obrach a' Chomuinn airson taing a thoirt dhuibh airson bh' ur taic thairis air a' bhliadhna a-chaidh seachad. Tha sinn an dòchas gum bidh Nollaig Chridheil agaibh agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhuibh uile nuair a thig i.

Tha sinn an dòchas gun còrd na saor-làithean ribh uile agus chì sinn sibh ann an 2016.

Christmas Holidays

Both our offices will close on Wednesday 23rd December for the Christmas Holidays. We will re-open again on Tuesday 5th January 2016.

The Directors and Staff at An Comunn Gàidhealach would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last year. We wish you a peaceful and Happy Christmas and a prosperous an Happy New Year.

Have a great holiday and we will see you in 2016.

Mòdan ri thighinn

Mòd nan Eilean Siar - 14-22 Dàmhair 2016
Mòd Loch Abair - 13-21 Dàmhair 2017
Mòd Dhùn Omhain - 12-20 Dàmhair 2018
Mòd Ghlaschu - 11-19 Dàmhair 2019

Future Royal National Mod Dates

*Western Isles - 14-22 October 2016
Lochaber - 13-21 October 2017
Dunoon - 12-20 October 2018
Glasgow - 11-19 October 2019*

Ullachaidhean Mòd 2016

Bidh an Comataidh Ionadail a' cuir air dòigh measgachadh de thachartasan thairis air a' bhliadhna suas gu àm a' Mhòid. Foillsichidh sinn fiosrachadh mu na tachartasan seo nuair a gheibh sinn iad.

Tha sinn an dòchas gun tèid gu math dhan Chomataidh Ionadail anns a' bhliadhna tha romhainn.

Bidh làrach-lìn aig a' Chomataidh Ionadail a-ruith bho toiseach na bliadhn' ùr. Cuiridh sinn tuilleadh fiosrachadh mu dheidhinn seo air làrach-lìn a' Chomuinn agus dhan ath iris den chuairt-litir.

Preparations for Mod 2016

The Local Organising Committee will be hosting a range of events in the run-up to next year's Mod and we will publish details of these in the newsletter as we receive them.

We would like to wish the Committee all the very best with their preparations over the coming year.

The Committee will have a dedicated website up and running in the New Year. We will post details on the An Comunn website and in our next newsletter.

Earrannan Ainmichte Mòd nan Eilean Siar

Bidh mòran agaibh air earrannan ainmichte Mòd na h-ath bhliadhna a cheannachd mu thràth.

Ma tha duine agaibh fhathast airson an ceannachd, tadhlaidh air an làrach-lìn againn [an seo](#) agus gheibhear iad an sin.

Prescribed Pieces for Mòd nan Eilean Siar

Many of you will already have purchased prescribed pieces for next year's Mod competitions.

For those of you who still wish to purchase copies, you can do so via our online store [here](#).



An Comunn Gàidhealach

Mòdan Ionadail 2016

Thèid a' chiad Mòd Ionadail a chumail sa' Mhàrt an ath bhliadhna. Sgaoilidh sinn na cinn-latha air an làrach-lìn againn agus anns a' chuairt litir nuair a gheibh sinn fios bho na Comataidhean.

Tha sinn a' guidhe gach soirbheachas dha na Mòdan Ionadail anns a' bhliadhna ùr agus taing mhòr dhuibh uile airson an obair a tha sibh a' dèanamh.

Provincial Mods 2016

The first Provincial Mods will take place in March next year.

We will publish the dates for each Mod on our website and in future issues of the Newsletter once we are notified by the Mod Committees.

We wish all the Provincial Mods every success in the coming year and thank you all for your continued hard work.



Seo na cinn-latha a tha againn gu seo / Here are the dates we have received so far:

Mòd Ionadail Leòdhais / Lewis

15-18 Màrt / March

Airson tuilleadh fiosrachadh cuiribh post-d gu:
peigi@ancomunn.co.uk

Mòd Ionadail Dhùn Èideann / Edinburgh

22 - 23 Giblean / April

Airson tuilleadh fiosrachadh cuiribh post-d gu:
j.macdonald@weascotland.org.uk

Mòd Ionadail Lochabair / Lochaber

10 - 11 Ògmhios / June

Airson tuilleadh fiosrachadh cuiribh post-d gu:
linda@bosslochaber.co.uk

www.ancomunn.co.uk/localmods

(Address)

BBC Trust Nations Review Consultation
ICM Unlimited,
Creston House,
10 Great Pulteney St. London W1F 9NB

(Date)

A'charaid/bhana-charaid,

BBC Trust Nations Review Consultation

In connection with the above consultation, I would like you to take account of the following views which relate to the BBC broadcast services **BBC ALBA** and **Radio nan Gàidheal**. I understand that under the Royal Charter and Agreement, the purposes of the BBC include *"representing the UK, its nations, regions and communities"* and that the Agreement calls on the BBC Trust when setting remits for the BBC *"to have regard, amongst other things, to the importance of appropriate provision in minority languages."*

I regularly make use of various BBC services including **BBC ALBA** and **Radio nan Gàidheal**. I greatly value the service given by **BBC ALBA** in providing accurate, impartial and independent news, with balanced coverage of national and local politics, and extensive coverage of a number of popular sports. It provides our communities with a range of Gaelic music and arts programmes, and reflects the various faiths, cultures and communities throughout Scotland. **BBC ALBA** has a number of excellent educational and entertainment programmes particularly for younger viewers. It manages to do this with considerable success in viewing figures, with very limited resources. What the service now needs and merits is appropriate investment to enable new programming of at least **10 hours a week** to reduce the current over-reliance on repeats. Although the daily news coverage is adequate, there is an urgent need for weekend news coverage. There is also a need to further invest in comedy, entertainment and adult learning programmes.

In relation to **Radio nan Gàidheal**, this is an essential service for the Gaelic community – a service that has developed into a lifeline service for home-based listeners, and a great source of contact with their language for those who travel or access Gaelic services online. Any loss or diminution of this service by the BBC would be a significant setback to the progress made in revitalising Scottish Gaelic. **Radio nan Gàidheal**, with its extended daily coverage, is a source of accurate, impartial and independent news (local, national and international), with balanced coverage of national and local politics, and good daily coverage of local and national sports. The variety of Gaelic songs and music (traditional and non-traditional) heard at various times of the day, together with linking dialogue to encourage the use of Gaelic amongst its listeners, is a source of enjoyment to the Gaelic community locally, nationally and internationally. Their programmes fully reflect diverse faiths, cultures and communities throughout Scotland, and contributors to news and discussion programmes reflect the spread of Gaelic speakers throughout Scotland and throughout the world. This is a service that merits the retention of its BBC investment, which has been productively spent, and there is every reason to believe that further investment would further extend its cultural value to an already appreciative minority language community.

My understanding is that the level of BBC Licence Fee income allocated to **BBC ALBA** and **Radio nan Gàidheal** is considerably less than that currently allocated by the BBC to other UK minority language services such as that in Wales, and I call on the BBC Trust to ensure that this anomaly is rectified without delay.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd,



BBC nations' radio, BBC Alba and news and current affairs on TV and online in the devolved nations

Why are we doing this consultation?

The BBC Trust works on behalf of licence fee payers to ensure that the BBC provides high-quality services and good value for everyone in the UK. One of the ways we do this is by reviewing each of the BBC's services every 5 years.

The purpose of this consultation is to hear your views of any of the following BBC services: BBC Radio Scotland; BBC Radio nan Gàidheal; BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle; BBC Radio Wales; BBC Radio Cymru; BBC Alba; BBC news and current affairs in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland on TV and online.

We are keen to hear what you like, what you dislike and what the BBC should do to make these services better.

You can read the [terms of reference](#) for the review.

How to take part

You will be asked a series of questions about BBC Radio Scotland; BBC Radio nan Gàidheal; BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle; BBC Radio Wales; BBC Radio Cymru; BBC Alba; BBC news and current affairs made for the devolved nations on TV; and BBC news online for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

You may answer as many or as few of the questions as you wish.

If you cannot complete the questionnaire online, please complete and return by post a hard copy of the questionnaire to:

BBC Trust Nations Review Consultation
ICM Unlimited
Creston House
10 Great Pulteney Street
London
W1F 9NB

The consultation is open until 17 January 2016 and we cannot accept returns after this date.

To request a questionnaire in audio or braille please call 0800 0680 116 or 0370 350 0700 (for those who would like the questionnaire in Welsh) or Textphone 03700 100 212.

What we do with your answers

We will look at your responses, alongside a range of other information that we are collecting as part of this review. We will publish a report setting out our findings and recommendations on the BBC Trust website in summer 2016.

If you are responding as a member of the public, we will not publish your response and will treat your identity in confidence if you disclose it to us. We may refer to the contents in general terms, but any specific quotes used in the report will be anonymous.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please note that in the interests of transparency, the BBC Trust publishes the names of organisations that have responded, and usually publishes their responses in full when we reach our conclusions. If you would prefer that all or part of your response is treated as confidential, please complete the "Confidentiality" section at the end of this document. We may still publish a summary of your response in general terms, without disclosing specific information that is confidential or linking it to your organisation.

To complete the questionnaire and for further information, please click [here](#)

An Comunn Gàidhealach

Balaich Runrig a' faighinn Duaisean Chlùiteach

Chaidh dìnnear a chumail le Sabhal Mòr Ostaig OGE o chionn ghoirid airson duais nan Sàr Ghàidheal a thoirt do na bràithrean Ruairidh agus Calum Dòmhnallach bhon chòmhlan ainmeil Runrig.

B' ann aig Ceumnachd na bliadhna-sa san Dàmhair a chaidh an t-urram a bhuileachadh orra. Leis nach b' urrainn dhaibh a bhith an làthair, chaidh bhideo a chlàradh leotha 's a shealltainn don fheadhainn a bha ann.

Tha mòran cheanglaichean air a bhith eadar na bràithrean agus an t-Sabhal thar nam bliadhnaichean. B' e Ruairidh Dòmhnallach a dhealbhaich a' chiad shuaicheantas aig a' Cholaiste, chluich an còmhlan san Talla Mhòr sna tràth làithean, bha Donnie Rothach a tha na Stiùiriche Leasachaidh is Ealain aig an t-Sabhal na chompanach aca sa chòmhlan agus bha iad fhèin is Prionnsapal an t-Sabhail, an t-Oll Boyd Robasdan, sa bhun-sgoil còmhla.

Thuirt an t-Oll Robasdan: "Bha e iomchaidh gun deach inbhe Sàr Ghàidheil a bhuileachadh air na bràithrean Dòmhnallach airson mar a dh'ùraich agus a' leudaich iad stòras òrain nan Gàidheal agus na rinn iad gus ceòl na Gàidhlig a thoirt gu aire an t-saoghail is òrain Ghàidhlig a chur air bilean an t-sluaigh tron chòmhlan Runrig. Bha e freagarrach dhà-rìribh gur e duais nan Sàr Ghàidheal a thoirt do Ruairidh is Calum Dòmhnallach an gnìomh oifigeil mu dheireadh a bh' aig Ruairidh Iain MacLeòid mar Chathraiche an t-Sabhail. Bha e fhèin is na bràithrean nan sgoilearan còmhla ann an Àrd-sgoil Phort Rìgh agus bha e na neach-comhairleachaidh lagha aca nuair a stèidhich iad an còmhlan."

Runrig Boys Receive Sàr Ghàidheal Award

A celebratory dinner was held by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI recently to present brothers Rory and Calum MacDonald, from the successful band Runrig, with their Sàr Ghàidheal awards.

It was at this year's Graduation ceremony that the title of Sàr Ghàidheal was bestowed upon them and although unable to attend, they filmed a video thanking the College for the award which was shown to all those present.

There have been many links, both historical and personal, between the brothers and the College through the years. Rory MacDonald designed the first ever SMO logo, their band Runrig played in the Talla Mhòr back in the early days, Donnie Munro the Director of Development and the Arts at SMO was a fellow member of the band and both Calum and Rory were in primary school with College Principal, Prof Boyd Robertson.

Prof Robertson said: "It was entirely appropriate that the title of Sàr Ghàidheal was bestowed on the MacDonald brothers given how they revitalised and extended the corpus of Gaelic song. and how, through their repertoire with Runrig, they brought Gaelic music and song to the world stage and got people unfamiliar with the language to sing Gaelic songs. It was also very fitting that the award of Sàr Ghàidheal was conferred on Rory and Calum by Roddy John MacLeod in his last official engagement as Chairman of the Board of Directors at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. He and the brothers had attended Portree High School together and he went on to become their legal advisor when they established the band."



Ann an dealbh / Pictured are Prof. Boyd Robertson, Ruairidh MacDonald, Calum MacDonald and Roddy John MacLeod.



A' Charaid Chòir

Mod nan Eilean Siar 400 Club

Would you consider supporting the Western Isles Mod in the sum of a little over a pound a week by subscribing to a 400 Club, the 400 referring to the prize money awarded each month? This is how it works:

- ❖ Each participant pays £5 per entry per month by standing order to join, which entitles entry to each month's draw. One can have one or more entries - each entry costs £5 per month.
- ❖ A draw will be held at the end of each month and all eligible participants (i.e. all those who have paid) will be entered into the draw.
- ❖ Prizes each month will comprise of a first prize of £250, a second prize of £100 and a third prize of £50 (a total of £400).
- ❖ A list of monthly prize winners will be published at <http://www.acgmod.org/news> and the prizes will be credited to your bank account.

If you wish to take part, please fill in the Standing Order mandate overleaf, made out for £5, or a multiple thereof, and return the form to: An Iommhasair, Mòd nan Eilean Siar, at the address below. It is proposed that the draw continues indefinitely to help with fundraising for future Mods, so please leave the Payment date fields blank unless you wish to specify an End Date. It would be useful if you could invite others to participate as well – the Standing Order form may be photocopied.

Rules

Your Standing Order is payable in advance on the 1st of each month, starting with the month following receipt.

Failure to pay the Standing Order will automatically stop your numbers for that month's draw.

All draws will be done in a public establishment or live on Isles FM with at least 2 committee members and a member of the public; details of time and venue can be obtained from committee members.

In any matters of doubt, the committee's decision is final.

OSCR Charity Number: SC001282

MÒD NAN EILEAN SIAR 2016

Taigh a' Mhorair Leverhulme, Ceàrnag Phearsabhail, Steòrnabhagh, Eilean Leòdhais, HS1 2DD
Fòn: 01851 703487 Facs: 01851 706467

Leverhulme House, Perceval Square, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2DD
Tel: 01851 703487 Fax: 01851 706467

To _____ Bank

Please set up the following Standing Order and debit my/our account accordingly

1. Account Details

Account Name _____ Account Number

Account Holding Branch _____ Sort Code

2. Payee Details

Name of Person or Organisation you are paying

400 Club Number (if known) - this will appear on the bank statement of the person or organisation you wish to pay

Sort Code – the bank code of the person or organisation that you are paying

Account Number – the account number of the person or organisation you wish to pay (eight digits – if less, place zeros at the front)

3. About the Payment

How often are the payments made

Amount Details

Date and amount of first Payment £

Date and amount of final Payment £

4. Confirmation email:

Signature

Date

Address / Post Code / Phone No:



An Comunn Gàidhealach

Club 400 Mòd nan Eilean Siar

Meal an naidheachd air John Y Murray, Ceann Loch Gilp, a bhuannaich £250 ann an Club 400 Mòd 2016 airson **an t-Samhain**. Chaidh £100 gu Elizabeth NicIlleathain, Steòrnabhagh agus £50 gu Dòmhnall Macleòid, Steòrnabhagh.

Meal an naidheachd air Cairistiona NicAoidh, Steòrnabhagh, a bhuannaich duais £250 airson **an Dùbhlachd**. Chaidh an dàrna duais airson £100 gu Lillian Chaimbeul, am Bac agus an treas duais airson £50 gu Elizabeth NicIlleathain, Steòrnabhagh.

Nollaig Chrìdheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhuibh uile bho Comataidh Mòd nan Eilean Siar 2016.



Mòd nan Eilean Siar 400 Club

Congratulations to John Y Murray, of Lochgilphead on winning the £250 prize in the **November** draw. The second prize of £100 was won by Elizabeth Maclean, of Stornoway and the third prize of £50 was won by Donald Macleod of Stornoway.

Congratulations to Christine Mackay, Stornoway, on winning the £250 prize in the **December** draw. The second prize of £100 was won by Lillian Campbell of Back and the third prize of £50 for this month goes to Elizabeth Maclean of Stornoway.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all on the Mòd nan Eilean Siar 2016 Committee.



Nollaig @ Bùth a' Chomuinn!

Ma tha sibh a' lorg tiodhlacan Nollaig, tadhlaidh air a bhùth againn air-loidhne no thigibh a chèilidh oirnn sa' bhùth ann an Steòrnabhagh far am faic sibh measgachadh de CDs agus leabhraichean Gàidhlig, cairtean Nollaig agus measgachadh de thiodhlacan Clò Hearach is mòran eile.

Tadhlaidh air:

<http://www.ancomunn.co.uk/store/>

Thig a chèilidh oirnn aig:

Bùth a' Chomuinn, Taigh a' Mhorair Leverhulme, Ceàrnag Phearsabhail, Steòrnabhagh, HS1 2DD

Fòn: 01851 703 487

Post-d: marina@ancomunn.co.uk

An Comunn Shop @ Christmas!

If you are stuck for ideas for what to buy as Christmas presents, why not visit our online store or call into our shop in Stornoway to look at a selection of Gaelic CDs, books, Christmas and greetings cards, various Harris Tweed gifts and much more.

Visit our online store at:


<http://www.ancomunn.co.uk/store/>

Call in to see us at:

An Comunn Gàidhealach Shop, Leverhulme House, Perceval Square, Stornoway, HS1 2DD.

Telephone: 01851 703 487

Email: marina@ancomunn.co.uk



Bùth a' Chomuinn

Cairtean Nollaig Gàidhlig, CDs, Mìosachain & Leabhraichean Gàidhlig, Teadaidh Gàidhlig!

Babog The Gaelic Speaking Teddy!

Gaelic Christmas Cards, CDs, Gaelic Calendars, Gaelic Books

Gheibh sibh lùghdachadh 10% sa bhùth againn an cois a bhileag seo
We will give you 10% off your purchase if you present this slip at our shop

An Comunn Gàidhealach

Leverhulme House, Perceval Square, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2DD
Tel: 01851 703487 e mail: peigi@ancomunn.co.uk



An Comunn Gàidhealach



Care for a Cèilidh

Chìtear gu h-ìosal measgachadh de dhealbhan bho feadhainn de na cèilidhean mu dheireadh a-chaidh a chumail le Care for a Cèilidh. Meal an naidheachd dhan a h-uile duine a ghabh pàirt ann an Care for a Cèilidh thairis air a' bhliadhna seo. Tha sinn an dòchas gun tèid gu math dhuibh ann an 2016.

Below are a selection of photographs taken at the most recent Care for a Cèilidh events. Congratulations to everyone who took part in Care for a Ceilidh over the past year. Best wishes for 2016!

<https://www.facebook.com/CareForACeilidh>



An Comunn Gàidhealach



An Comunn Gàidhealach - Meur Inbhir Nis

Dannsa Oidhche Chalainn / Hogmanay Dance 2015

Talla Grebe Inbhir Nis / Grebe Hall Inverness

Ceòl bho / Music from
The Marloch Band

Diardaoin / Thursday 31^{mh} Dùbhlachd
9.00f - anmoch / Late

Stovies and Raffle ... Bring your own Bottle

Admission: Inbhich / Adults £12.50
Clann / Children £5.00

Airson ticeadan cuiribh fios gu / For tickets please contact:

Norman Mackay Fòn / Tel 01463 791361 / 07777632585

Post-d / E-Mail norrie.mackay@btinternet.com

An Comunn Gàidhealach



COMUNN GÀIDHLIG INBHIR NIS

Òraid: *'le treudan bhon mhòintich
gu oir na mara'*

Dròbhairean Bhàideanach
le Daibhidh Mac an Tàilleir
Dihaoine 22 am Faoilleach 19.30
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

An-asgaidh. Fàilte air na h-uile



COMUNN GÀIDHLIG INBHIR NIS

Talk: 'with herds from the moor to the sea's edge'

The Badenoch Drovers

by David Taylor
Friday 22 January 19.30
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

NON MEMBERS WELCOME



COMUNN GÀIDHLIG INBHIR NIS

Òraid: *Beachd air Croitearachd*
le Alasdair Maciomhair

Dihaoine 5 An Gearran 19.30
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

An-asgaidh. Fàilte air na h-uile



COMUNN GÀIDHLIG INBHIR NIS

Talk: A view on Crofting

by Alasdair Maciver

Friday 5 February 19.30
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

NON MEMBERS WELCOME



An Comunn Gàidhealach

Clàr Nollaig agus Bliadhn' Ùr BBC ALBA

Pailteas às ùr air BBC ALBA airson àm na Nollaig agus na Bliadhn' Ùire le prògraman do gach aois is ùidh eadar dibhearsain, ceòl, aithrisean sònraichte agus prògraman chloinne a thuilleadh air naidheachdan agus spòrs.

Aig 11.00f air an oidhche ron Nollaig, bidh sinn cruinn còmhla airson **Nollaig Chridheil às a' Ghearasdan**, cuirm shònraichte le laoidhean agus leughaidhean na Nollaig à Eaglais Duncansburgh Mhic an Tòisich.

Airson an teaghlach air fad ach gu sònraichte dhan fheadhainn òga air là na Nollaig, chithear caractar ùr, **Bioran**. Tha Bioran a' leantainn athair teaghlach de bhiorain, 's e a' strì air turas thar mhiltean gus faighinn dhachaigh ann an àm airson na Nollaig. Bidh sinn cuideachd a' dol dhan tasglann gus cuid den t-sreath ainmeil cloinne, **Dòtaman**, a shealltainn fad seachdain na Nollaig agus bidh cothrom am prògram aithriseach **Dòtaman @ 30** fhaicinn Didòmhnaich 20 Dùbhlachd.

Gheibh sinn dealbh eile den t-sreath ùr dràma aig BBC ALBA bho **Bannan: Air Cùl a' Chamara** far an cluinnear bhon fheadhainn a chruthaich agus a th' air a bhith an sàs ann bho thus. Bidh cothrom sònraichte ann clàraidhean nach fhacar cheana fhaicinn. Cuideachd ann an **Peigi Wood - Na Bannan** bidh sinn an cuideachd Pheigi Wood agus gheibh sinn a-mach mu na bannan coimhearsnachd is teaghlach aice-se. Thàinig Peigi gu aire a' mhòr shluaigh aig aois 86 bliadhna is i a' cluich an caractar den aon ainm, Peigi, ann am Bannan. Chì sinn Peigi a' tadhal air na h-àiteachan a tha air dreach a chur air a beatha, agus i a' cuimhneachadh air na daoine a thug neart is misneachd dhi.

Thig **Cèilidh na Bliadhn' Ùire** beò am-bliadhna à Siorrachd Pheairt bhon A' Bhàthach, An Innis Iarach. Tha Cathy NicDhòmhnaill agus Kirsteen NicDhòmhnaill a' gealltainn ceud mìle fàilte agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr. Le aoighean, ceòl agus craic gu leòr! A' seinn agus a' cluich air an oidhche mhòr bidh; Iain 'Costello' MacIomhair, Màiri NicAonghais, Skipinnish, Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band, Robyn Stapleton, Còmhlan Pioba Bhlàr Athaill, Còisir Ghàidhlig Sgìre Obar Pheallaidh agus bidh fear eireachdail agus ainmeil a' cèilidh oirnn às dèidh meadhan oidhche! Am measg nam programan aithriseach tha **Cluinneam**, prògram sònraichte air là na bliadhna' ùire, a' sealltainn obair ionnmholta Ionad Cochla Fuadain na h-Alba aig Ospadal Chrosshouse ann an Cille Mheàrnaig. Seo sgeulachd chuid a th' air slighe air leth mhìorbhuileach agus iad an dòchas an claisneachd fhaighinn air ais.

Air an aon oidhche, chì sinn **Piobairean Beaga Baile a' Ghobhainn**. Le gaire agus spionnadh am pailteas, tha am prògram a' leantainn a' chiad 18 mìosan de Chòmhlan-phioba Sgoiltean Bhaile Ghobhainn. Tha an ginealach ùr seo a' togail air dileab na Gàidheal a bha a' piobaireachd ann an Glaschu. Leanaidh sinn a' chlann a' cur suas a' phìob airson a' chiad uair aig farpais phìobaireachd nàiseanta, a' coinneachadh gaisgeach na pioba Rona Lightfoot, agus na Red Hot Chili Pipers.

Ann an **Rona: Dileab Chlann Eardsaidh Raighnall**, gheibh sinn dealbh air beatha an sàr bhana-phiobaire, Rona Lightfoot à Uibhist a Deas. Tha i air aithne a chosnadh mar sheinneadair, mar phìobaire a rinn mòran gus taisbeanadh beartas a stòras de bheul-aithris, ceòl agus òrain Ghàidhlig.

Dhuibhse aig a bheil ùidh ann an spòrs bidh **rugbaidh PRO12** le Dùn Èideann agus Glaschu a' strì airson **Cupa 1872**. Thèid a' chiad gheama bho Murrayfield a chraoladh beò Didòmhnaich 27 Dùbhlachd. Bidh ball-coise ann, le Morton an aghaidh Raith Rovers agus Alloa an aghaidh Falkirk.

Thuirte Mairead Màiri Mhoireach, Ceannard Seirbheis BBC ALBA: "Tha sinn a' toirt cuireadh bhlàth dhuibh a thighinn nar cuideachd aig an t-am shònraichte seo den bhliadhna - tha beartas de phrògraman ùra againn dhuibh agus tha sinn an dòchas gun toir iad cur seachad, adhbhar smuain agus mòran toileachais dhuibh."

BBC ALBA Brings a Festive Sparkle to our TV

BBC ALBA promises to light up TV screens over the Christmas and New Year season with a sparkling schedule of programmes for all ages.

Among the highlights of the schedule is **The Switch-On**, an emotional and poignant programme on New Year's Day looking at the work of the Scottish Cochlear Implant Unit at Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock. We follow five people on their personal journeys for a procedure that presents significant risks but also unimaginable rewards. On the same evening we also delve into the world of piping to look at the extraordinary work of local charities in creating the Govan Schools Pipe Band. **The Wee Govan Pipers** follows Scottish, Chinese and Nigerian children who are all being given the opportunity to learn the pipes under the expert tutelage of former Police Pipe Band pipers, providing Govan's new multi-cultural generation a chance to master the traditional Scottish instrument renowned across the world.

Continuing on the musical and piping theme BBC ALBA will screen a documentary charting the life of one of Gaeldom's great pipers and personalities - **Rona Lightfoot**. As we see in the hour long programme, the revered singer, piper, storyteller and teacher carries a treasure trove of folklore, music and song with her. We also offer a unique glimpse into the off-stage world of **Skipinnish** and follow the band members at work and play as they balance life on and off the road.

With a new series of BBC ALBA's flagship drama starting in the New Year, we also take a look at **Bannan - Behind-the-Scenes** on Christmas Eve to witness how the production has grown from inception to the new series that will be screened in 2016. Another documentary also reveals the family and island ties of the Skye-born performer who has become a TV star at the grand age of 86. **Peigi Wood - Na Bannan** charts the places and people that have shaped the life of this energetic and charismatic actress, as she revisits the communities that have had special significance in her life.

For young people - and the young at heart - there is a variety of programming that all the family can enjoy. On Christmas Day, the much anticipated children's animation **Stick Man** comes to BBC ALBA with a special Gaelic version following the father of a family of sticks, who crosses great distances to try and get home in time for Christmas. Another festive treat for all the family are the classic archive episodes of the iconic children's programme **Dòtaman**.

Join us to usher in Christmas Day and the New Year. At 11.00pm on Christmas Eve, the channel has a **Christmas Celebration** of carols and readings from the Duncansburgh Macintosh Church in Fort William. And on Hogmanay Cathy MacDonald and Kirsteen MacDonald will be hosting a **Hogmanay Cèilidh**, from The Byre at Inchyra in Perthshire. Joining the celebrations will be a host of music acts including Skipinnish, Mairi MacInnes and the foot stomping Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band.

Sport remains a key strand of festive viewing, with live PRO12 rugby as Edinburgh and Glasgow commence battle for the **1872 Cup**. The first leg from Murrayfield will be live on the channel on 27th December. We'll also have **Scottish Championship football**, with Morton v Raith Rovers on 18th December and Alloa v Falkirk live on 2nd January.

Margaret Mary Murray, Head of Service for BBC ALBA, said: "Our festive programming is always a highlight of the BBC ALBA schedule and we think there is a real warmth to so many of the productions this Christmas and New Year. With documentaries, music, live sport and children's programming, we hope there is something for all the family to enjoy on the channel."

An Comunn Gàidhealach

Deasbad Gàidhlig 2015

Ghabh a' chuairt dheireannach de Dheasbad Nàiseanta nan Àrd-sgoiltean 2015 àite aig Pàrlamaid na h-Alba air Diciadain 25 Samhain. Bha deasbad air leth beòthail ri chluinntinn le Sgoil MhicNeacail A an aghaidh Àrdsgoil Àrd nam Murchan.

Aig a' cheann thall 's iad caileagan Sgoil MhicNeacail, Catriona Bain agus Ceitidh NicAonghais a bha soirbheachail agus thèid a' chuach air ais a Steòrnabhagh am bliadhna seo.

'S i Rona NicNeacail à Àrdsgoil Àrd nam Murchan a choisinn an sgiath airson an òraidiche as fheàrr agus 's e Iseabail NicIllinnein bho BBC Gàidhlig a thug an duais seachad.

Gaelic Debate 2015

The Finals of the National Gaelic Debate for Secondary Schools took place on Wednesday 25 November in The Scottish Parliament. The finalists from the Nicolson A and Ardnamurchan teams gave an impressive and lively debate.

However it was the Nicolson team, featuring Catriona Bain and Katie MacInnes, who came out on top, meaning the cup will return to Stornoway once more. The girls are pictured below with their prize.

Also pictured below is Rona Nicolson from Ardnamurchan High School, who won the prize for the best speaker at this year's event. Rona was presented with her trophy by Iseabail MacIannan from BBC Gaelic.



An Comunn Gàidhealach

Duais dha Comunn Eachdraidh Nis

Chaidh biadh na Nollaig aig Comunn Eachdraidh Nis a chumail air an 17mh den Dùbhlachd, air a chur air dòigh le Carthannas Nis.

Bha riochdairean bhon Chomunn Gàidhealach an làthair airson 'Duais Mòd 2015 – Leabhar Ùr Inbhich' a thoirt seachad, airson an leabhar 'The Setting of the Sun – Dol Fodha na Grèine'. Bhruidhinn Iain Moireasdan, Àrd Oifigear a' Chomuinn air an obair sònraichte a chaidh a dhèanamh air an leabhar eadar Comunn Eachdraidh Nis agus Acair. Sheinn Seumas Greumach, Manaidsear a' Mhòid, dhan luchd-èisteachd cuideachd.

Bha sgoilearan bho Sgoil Lionail agus an tidsear aca, Mòrag NicIlleathain, an làthair agus sheinn iad measgachadh de dh'òrain cuideachd. Leugh an t-Urr. Ewen MacMhathain earrann bhon Bhìobull agus chrìochnaich cùisean le Salm 69, le Iain Macleòid, Ceann-suidhe a' Chomuinn a' cuir a-mach na loidhne agus ùrnaigh bhon t-Urr. MacMhathain.

Bha na caillean gu math toilichte gun do nochd Santa cuideachd!

Moran taing dhan h-uile duine a bha ag obair air cùl chùisean – air an là, ron àm agus an dèidh chùise cuideachd.

Nollaig chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath ùr dhuibh uile ge bith càite a bheil sibh, bho Chomunn Eachdraidh Nis!

Award for Comunn Eachdraidh Nis

On 17th December Comunn Eachdraidh Nis served Christmas lunch, kindly funded this year again by Carthannas Nis.

An Comunn Gàidhealach representatives were present to hand over 'Duais Mòd 2015 – Leabhar Ùr Inbhich' na bliadhna for the WW1 book, *The Setting of the Sun -Dol Fodha na Grèine*. John Morrison, Chief Executive of An Comunn, spoke about the work the Comunn Eachdraidh and Acair had done in creating such a magnificent piece of work. James Graham, Mod Manager and Mod Gold Medallist, sang to an appreciative audience

Lionel School pupils also entertained those present with a selection of seasonal songs, accompanied by their teacher, Morag Maclean. Rev Ewen Matheson, Free Church Cross, read a scripture passage and John Macleod, President of An Comunn Gàidhealach, led the singing, presenting the last two verses of Psalm 69 in Gaelic. This part of the proceedings was brought to a fitting end with a prayer led by Rev Matheson.

Santa, of course, made a dramatic entrance to the delight of all the caillean present!

Thanks to all who were involved in the organisation of the event, beforehand and afterwards.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all from Comunn Eachdraidh Nis!





TRIBUTE TO FOLK LEGEND FROM GAELIC VOICES IN SWEET CHRISTMAS HARMONY

Laoidh Loch Gàrmain (The Wexford Carol)

Gaelic version of classic carol released as [download](#) charity single

The Highlands' famous Watercolour Music studios in Lochaber release an exquisite reworking of one of the Celtic world's favourite carols this week as a special download single, with proceeds going to the Mercy Corps.

Gaelic singer and broadcaster Mary Ann Kennedy, who directs the music for this year's Christmas carol service on BBC ALBA, is joined on the recording by award-winning Gaelic singer and composer Rachel Walker for a special translation of folk star John Renbourn's version of the Wexford Carol.

Mary Ann and husband Nick Turner, co-director of the Watercolour studios, had commissioned Mary Ann's mother, Gaelic song doyenne Kenna Campbell, to translate John's beautiful alternative words to the carol as a remembrance of him. John - a member of folk-rock legends Pentangle and who sadly died earlier this year - was a regular visitor to the studio and a good friend to Nick's young family.

The song was an obvious choice when Mary Ann and the Gaelic Gospel choir, Soisgeul, were invited to perform the music for the service of lessons and carols, recorded by Demus Productions to be broadcast on Christmas Eve on BBC ALBA and again on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal. And when Mary Ann and Rachel performed the simple but compelling *a cappella* version of 'Laoidh Loch Gàrmain', the reaction to the song was from choir and congregation was instant.

Mary Ann said: "When we saw what an effect it had on folk, we wanted to get into the studio straightaway to record - John's words are so much in tune with the Celtic world that Nick and I had always thought a Gaelic version would work well. We like to think John would have enjoyed Kenna's gentle reworking of his poetry."

Rachel Walker, Gaelic Singer of the Year 2014 and former student of Kenna's, said: "Kenna has always been so generous with her gift for creating beautiful new Gaelic songs of her translations. We wanted the recording to serve a purpose as well, so we've teamed up with the Mercy Corps, who will receive half the proceeds from all sales of 'Laoidh Loch Gàrmain'."

Nick Turner said: "John's beautiful words in his Wexford Carol have always heralded Christmas in our home, but they are also very human, very aware of darkness as well as light in the world. The funds raised for the Mercy Corps will help them in their vital work in the most desperate of situations around the world."

The download-only single goes on release on Monday 7th December. It's available directly from www.watercolourmusic.co.uk on their Shop/ New Releases page and also through [Amazon](#).



Laoidh Loch Gàrmain (The Wexford Carol)
Faclan ùra le/original words by John Renbourn
Eadar-theangachadh gu Gàidhlig na h-Alba le Ceana Chaimbeul
Translated to Scottish Gaelic by Kenna Campbell

Ba bà, ba bà, mo leanabh maoth, ro-aithghearr còmhlaichidh tu an saogh'l,
Ro-aithghearr fàsaidh tu gu aois, 's bidh mis' am aonar an seo gun thu.
Gun gluais thu aotrom thar nan stuadh, do chùrs' bidh ri soills' reul na h-àirde tuath,
Ach tacan beag bidh thu rim thaobh, ba bà, ba bà, mo leanabh maoth.

Gun ruith thu aotrom thar nan cluan, a' cluich le dòbhrain san t-sruthan fhuar,
Gun fhois gun tàmh, thu as an dèidh, a' snàmh le bradain, 's a' sealg an fhèidh;
Far iteig glacadh tu na h-eòin, air earball na gaoith-deas anns na neòil;
Do dhachaidh anns gach beinn is sliabh, fuil thu dem fhuil-sa, m' anam 's mo chiall.

A' ghealach cromaidh cùl nan craobh, O, sil do dheòir a mhaighdinn chiùin,
Oir eirigh grian os cionn na crois', a shiabadh sùilean 's a' chaoidh nad chois.
An t-àm as duirche den oidhche chiar, feumaidh e geilleadh don Ear 's don ghrian,
'S don chumhachd shlànaicheas gach nì, anam dem m' anam, cridhe dem chridh'.

Nuair ruigeas tu ceann thall do chuairt, aoibhneas dem aoibhneas, mo mhacan suairc',
Fon iarmailt seasaidh tu leat fhèin, feòil thu dem fheòil-sa, is crè dem chrè.
Oir 's eiginn teàrnadh gu tràigh dhubh chiar, a ghabhail an aisig don àird an iar
Ach, fhathast tha thu ri mo chliabh, ba bà mo leanaban, ba bà mo chiall.

*Lullay, lullay, my tiny child, too soon you'll know the world so wild,
Yes, all too soon you will be grown, and I'll bide here, alone, alone;
The rushing bellows you shall ride, and the light of the North Star will be your guide,
But yet a while I'll have you stay, lullay my tiny child, lullay.*

*For you shall run in meadows green and sport with otters all in the stream,
And you shall chase the dappled deer, and swim with salmon in the waters clear;
To pluck the small birds from the sky, and the tail of the south wind you shall fly,
And take the high hills for your home, blood of my blood, bone of my bone.*

*The moon must sleep beyond the tree, so weep, sweet maid of Galilee,
The sun must rise before the cross to dry your tears and share your loss;
The darkest hour of the starless night must bow to the power of the eastern light
That heals the earth and makes us whole, heart of my heart, soul of my soul.*

*And when at last your course is run, joy of my joy, my little son
Beneath the sky you'll stand alone, flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone.
Yes, you shall stand on the coal-black sands to cross o'er the waters of the Western lands, But now I have you at my breast, lullay my sweet
one, gently rest.*

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An Comunn Gàidhealach



Luchd-buannachaidh 2015 / The full winners list for MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards:

Album of the Year sponsored by Birnam CD – Grind by Treacherous Orchestra

Club of the Year sponsored by Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland- Orkney Accordion and Fiddle Club

Composer of the Year sponsored by PRS for Music – Ross Ainslie

Community Project of the Year sponsored by Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust – Live Music Now Scotland

Event of the Year sponsored by VisitScotland – GRIT: Celtic Connections Opening Concert

Gaelic Singer of the Year sponsored by Macmeanmna – Griogair Labhruidh

Instrumentalist of the Year sponsored by Royal Scottish Country Dance Society – Mairi Campbell

Live Act of the Year sponsored by Greentrax Recordings – Rura

Citty Finlayson Scots Singer of the Year sponsored by Traditional Music and Song Association – Fiona Hunter

Scottish Dance Band of the Year sponsored by National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs – Simon Howie

Scottish Folk Band of the Year sponsored by Threads of Music – Dàimh

Pipe Band of the Year sponsored by The National Piping Centre – Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band

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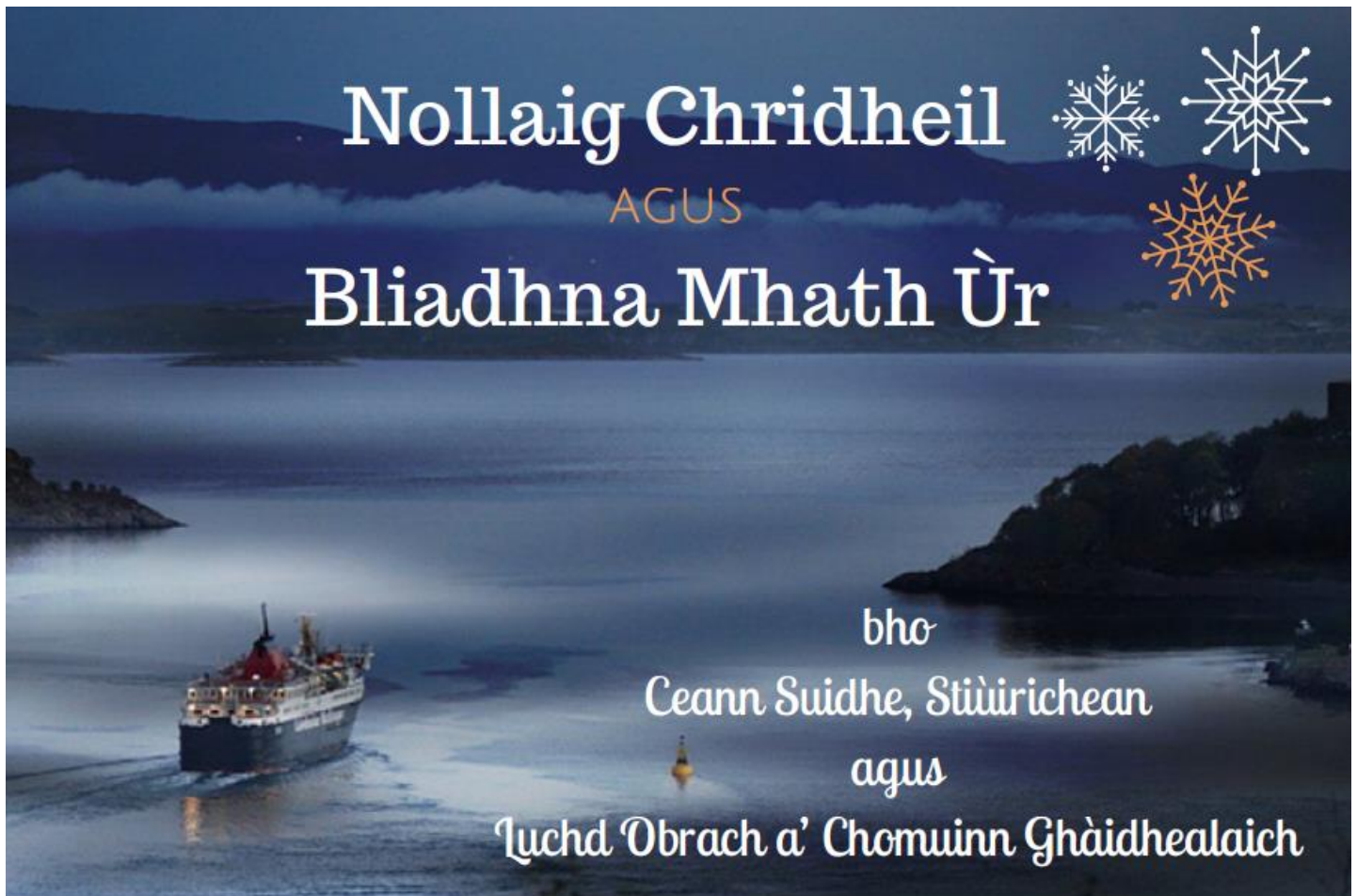
Music Tutor of the Year sponsored by Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative – Jenn Butterworth

Up and Coming Artist of the Year sponsored by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland – League of Highland Gentlemen

Venue of the Year Award – SEALL at Sabhal Mor Ostaig



An Comunn Gàidhealach



Dealbh le Graham Hood Photography - Mòd an Òbain 2015
Photograph by Graham Hood Photography - Oban Mod 2015

Tapadh leibh airson bh' ur taic thairis air a' bhliadhna a chaidh seachad agus chì sinn sibh ann an 2016.

Thank you all for your support over the last year and we look forward to seeing you in 2016.



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Ma tha sibh airson naidheachd no fiosrachadh a chur dhan ath iris den chuairt-litir, cuiribh fios thugainn.

If you would like to contribute anything to one of our future newsletters, please get in touch.

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