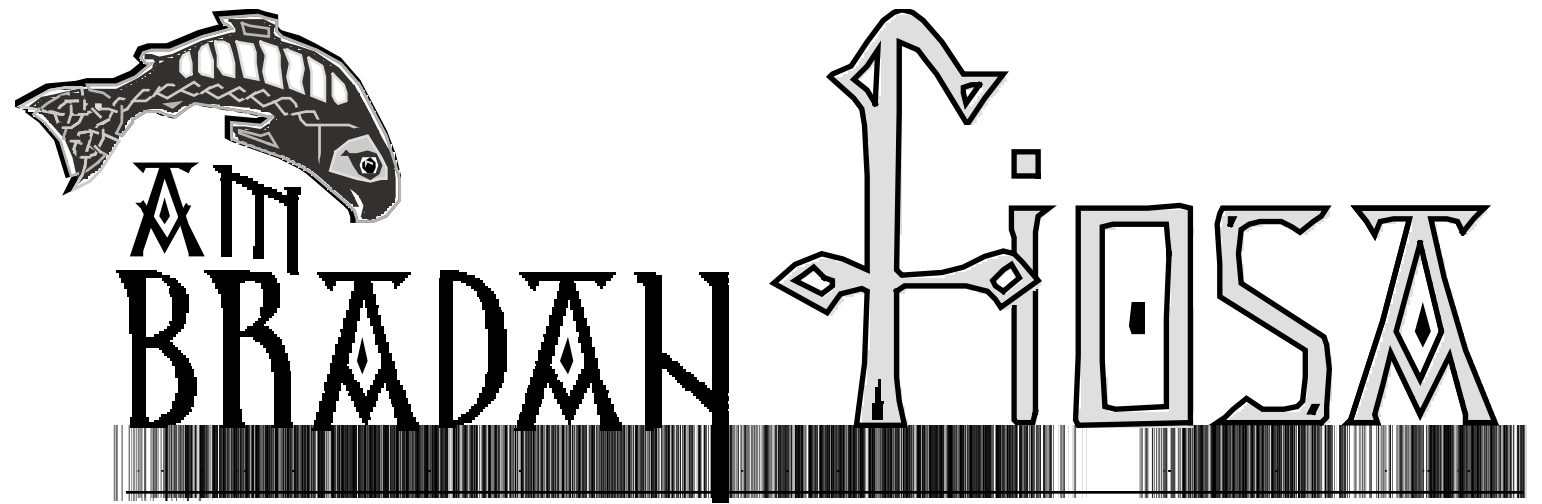
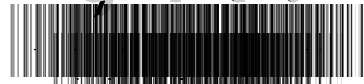
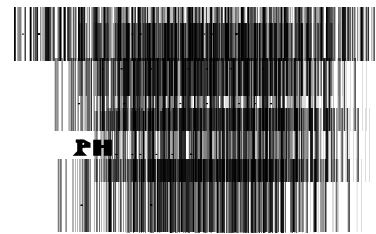


Chí sinn aig an Fhéis sibh!
We'll see you at the Féisi!



Tilleadh Thormoid! – Norman's Return!

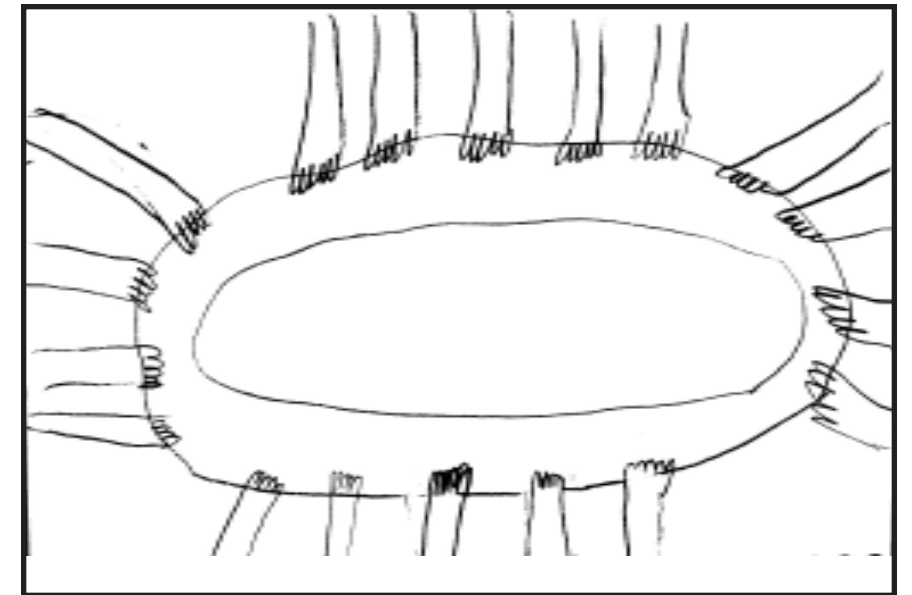
by Sìle Nic an t-Sealgair

The Weaving Works, Seattle Storyteller's Guild, and Slighe nan Gaidheal present Scottish storyteller and weaver Norman Kennedy in a limited engagement this April. Kennedy will be facilitating a Scottish hand-spinning workshop on April 21 and 22 and Tartan weaving on April 28 and 29. Please contact the Weaving Works for more information at (206) 524-1221.

Additionally, as a part of the kick-off events for Slighe nan Gaidheal's biennial festival, Féis Shiàtail 2000, Kennedy will demonstrate waulking and tell stories in a concert Sunday, April 30, at Town Hall, Eighth and Seneca in downtown Seattle. Doors open at 3 PM. The concert will be a family affair and is expected to last no more than 3 hours.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$10 for Slighe nan Gaidheal and Seattle Storyteller's Guild members, \$12 for the general public, and \$10 for children under 12.

To begin, Kennedy will demonstrate the ancient process of waulking. After weaving long lengths of fabric, people from a community would gather at a neighbor's home and shrink the fabric
Continued on Page 2



Seirm Performs on Live by George

Thanks to tireless PR efforts of Dale "Siucair" Cummings, Seirm had the wonderful opportunity to perform on one of the region's premier live performance radio programs, "Live by George," hosted by George Shangrow on King FM, 98.1. On the evening of Monday, April 17th the group took the Seattle airwaves by storm with 40 minutes of Gàidhlig music and promotional spots for Féis Shiàtail 2000. Joining the choir was the newly-

Continued from Front Page

so that it would be warmer and more waterproof. Sitting around a long table or board, each participant would take the fabric as it was passed along and pound the fabric on the board until the desired effect was achieved. To pass the time, everyone sang waulking songs. These songs have become a unique part of Scotland and Cape Breton's rich cultural heritage.

Originally from Aberdeenshire, Kennedy spent his summers on the Hebridean Island of Barra off the west coast of Scotland. It is here that he collected his stories, most of them handed down through generations in the oral tradition of Celtic society. The stories are woven from the rich cultural fabric that is unique to the Scottish Highlands and Islands. Woven into the exotic tales are the culture, mores, and beliefs of a people from ancient times to present.

To find out more about the concert and weaving workshops, view Slighe's Web site at www.Slighe.com or Weaving Works Web site at www.weavingworks.com.

Phone contacts are:



Publication Information

Am Bradan Fiosa is produced on a quarterly basis for the members of Slighe nan Gaidheal by the Publications Committee and additional contributors.

Editor Nan Pardew
Layout Seumas Gagne
Calendar Editor Pandora Fitzpatrick

Contributors to this issue: Gary Ingle, Síle Nic-an-t-Sealgair, Seumas Gagne, and Pandora Fitzpatrick

If you would like to work on the Publications Committee, please contact Seumas at (206) 297-8398 or via e-mail at seumasg@home.com

Next Publication deadline: June 15th, 2000

Translation of Joke from previous edition

There was an old man and he was very sick. His son came to visit him.

He saw his father sitting in his bed, and he was reading "Scottish Gaelic in Three Months."

'Why are you learning Gaelic, and you so old?' asked the son

'Perhaps I will die,' answered the old man, 'and everyone knows that Gaelic is the language of Heaven.'

'Perhaps you will not go to Heaven,' said the son.

Gàidhlig Song in Hermiston, Oregon! by Seumas Gagne

Never underestimate the power of Gàidhlig song. That's the lesson I learned from a recent trip to Hermiston, Oregon. I should start a bit further back, though. Several months ago I received an e-mail from a young choral teacher at Sandstone Middle School in Hermiston. Her name is Sarah Brock, and she has been teaching music in the public schools for just two years, but by all accounts has made wonderful progress in her development of the choral music program at her school.

She had her first encounter with Gàidhlig music on a compilation CD of world lullabies, which included the Rankin Family's recording of "Chí mi na Mórbeanna." When she played the track for her students, they had an immediate and enthusiastic reaction. In fact, they insisted on learning the song. The intrepid Miss Brock ventured out on the Internet and found the Slighe nan Gaidheal Web site. Seeing that the motto of the society was the first line of the song, she e-mailed me (as the director of our choir) for assistance.

Of course, I was happy to oblige and sent her the sheet music for my arrangement of the song, immediately followed by a word tape. She soon phoned and we started talking about her choirs and Gàidhlig music. It quickly became apparent that there was something special happening and I decided to make plans to visit.

Sarah arranged to have all her choirs meet in the afternoon of the first Monday in April for a special presentation given by me. The last thing any choir needs is another conductor coming in and mucking around with their interpretations of an arrangement, so I decided to focus on providing the "wee ones" with as much background and context as possible. I brought my clàrsach, fiddle, bodhrán, some CDs, maps of Scotland, my feilleadh (kilt), and a short language lesson.

The group was large, at least 60 kids, and the hours flew by. The first thing I taught them was to say "Tha ceist agam, a Sheumais" (I have a question, James) and refused to answer any that weren't prefaced with the phrase. They quickly became adept at not only that phrase, but "ciamar a tha thu," "tha gu math" and "ciamar a tha thu fhéin." I was surprised and delighted at how much interest the group showed in purely linguistic matters. There were quite a few students, I learned, who were Spanish speakers in the home, and truly related to the situation of the Highland children who spoke Gàidhlig in the home, but were not permitted to do so in school. Several of the young women in the class inquired after how they might learn the language, and if Miss Brock might be interested in forming an after-school Gàidhlig choir.

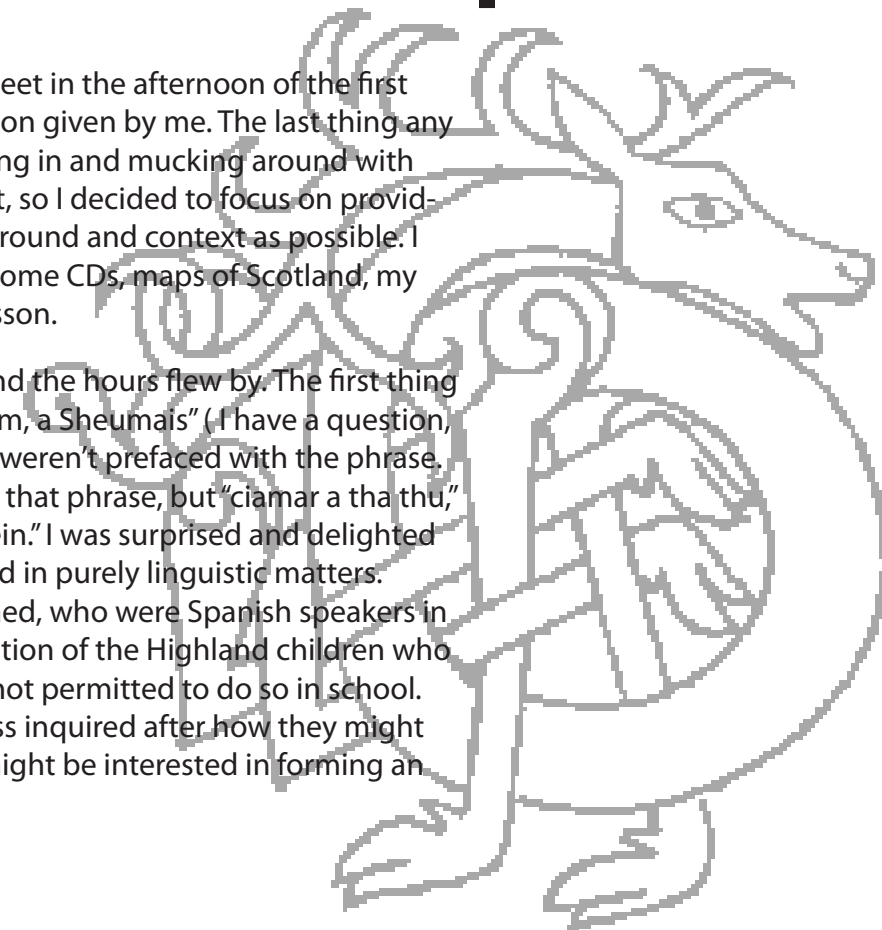
Beannachadh Taighe [45]

Dhe, beannaich an taigh
Bho steidh gu staidh,
Bho chrann gu fraigh,
Bho cheann gu saidh,
Bho dhronn gu traigh,
Bho sgonn gu sgaith,
Eadar bhonn agus bhraighe,
Bhonn agus bhraighe.

God bless the house

From site to stay,
From beam to wall,
From head-end to post-end,
From ridge to basement,
From balk to roof-tree,
Twixt found and summit,
Found and summit.

From Carmina Gaedelica,
translation by Gary Ingle



Gàidhlig Proverbs and Tongue Twisters for the Ath-Bheóthachadh

For your enlightenment and amusement, a collection of proverbs and two Gaelic tongue-twisters created by Rich Hill's Thursday evening Gaelic class:

Proverbs:

Tha cofaidh grad grod!
Instant coffee is rotten!

'S fheàrr sguir na sgìths.
Stopping is better than exhaustion.

An toiseach: dàn. An uair sin: danns.
First: a song. Then: a dance.

Tha eun air làimh na 's fheàrr na dhà anns a' chraoibh.
A bird on the hand is better than two in the tree.

Chan urrainn dhut sonas a cheannach le stampai-chean uaine.
You can't buy happiness with green stamps.

Fuirichidh cat glic do'n iasg gu leum.
A wise cat will wait for the fish to jump.

Chan fhaigh sibh sonas aig an t-sloc grinneal.
You can't gain happiness in the gravel pit.

'S e rud gun phris a th'ann an cluasaig aig an t-sloc grinneal.

A pillow is priceless in the gravel pit.

Cha bhi duine beò le puirt-a-beul a-mhàin.
Man does not live by puirt-a-beul alone.

Air cùlaibh gach neul dubh... thig fear eile.
Behind every black cloud... comes another one.

Aon chupa - fo ghàire. Dà chupa - fo mhisg. Trì cupan-nan - fo'n bhòrd.
One cup - laughing. Two cups - Drunk. Three cups - Under the table.

Thoir an aire neo "sayonara"!
Be careful or "sayonara"!

Nuair a bhios am beatha a toirt miaonach dhuit, dean tagais!
When life gives you entrails, make haggis!

Tha feileadh anns a gaoith na 's fheàrr na dhà fo'n ghrèin.
A kilt in the wind is better than two in the sunshine.

Bidh an clàrsach fallamh as aonais lamhan.
The harp is empty without hands.

Cho toilichte ri taiseis teth.
As happy as a hot haggis.

Tongue Twisters:

Bha ùidhe mhór aig na uilebheistean uile anns na h-uain uaine ag ullachadh uighean ùra anns na h-ua-

Cosnach

Comharradh an deagh chosnaich, cadal fada ri gaoith mhóir agus a' chlann a chumail a mach o'n teine. (The mark of a good servant, to sleep long when the wind is high and keep the children from the fire.)

The good servant has everything safely secured before night comes, and thus, having an easy mind, he sleeps soundly, even through a storm. He also keeps the house well-supplied with fuel, so that the fires are big, and the children are forced to keep at a safe distance.

Excerpted from Dwelly, Illustrated Gaelic-English Dictionary

Tionol 2000 by Pandora Fitzpatrick

Tionol 2000 – The Irish Pipers' Club hosted the West Coast Tionol here in Seattle during the weekend of February 19 (Slighe nan Gaidheal's own Judy Webster and Bruce Singleton did a phenomenal job of organizing). Renowned uilleann piper Mick O'Brien of Dublin nearly didn't make it due to winter storms in Chicago, but there's no getting between a Celtic musician and a ceilidh.

The Tionol featured piping, reed-making, whistle, flute, fiddle, and Irish language classes. If you missed Saturday's concert, you missed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see Mick O'Brien and Martin Hayes playing together, as well as Rich Hill and Lillas O'Leary (a sean-nos singer from Limerick, where he teaches at the University, Mr. O'Leary is currently in the US doing post-graduate work at UCLA), and many other fine musicians.

Needless to say, the music and dancing



The Midwife

Story submitted by Síle Nic an t-Sealgair

There was once an old midwife fetched by two little men. They took her to a house she did not know, and as they were coming in at the door, they both dipped their hands in a bowl of water, so she did the same. After that she did her work, and a baby boy was born.

Then one of the men said, "Just bake us some bannocks before you go. There'll be just enough to do us in the jar there, but mind you and put the scrapings of oatmeal from the board back into the jar."

Then they went out, and the old midwife started baking the bannocks, putting the spare meal back into the jar. But the jar was never emptied. She went on baking and baking, but it was half full, just as it was at the start.

At last, the woman on the bed said to her: "You'll never be done if you put the spare meal back. Fling it on the fire." The midwife did that, and she came to the end of the oatmeal at once.

The woman said: "They'd have had you baking forever, if you hadn't heeded me." So the men came back, and took her home. Some while later she saw one of the little men, and asked him how the baby was.

"Do you see me?" he asked. "With which eye?"

"With the both."

"Did you wash your eyes with our water?"

"I just did as you did," said the old midwife.

"Well, we'll soon cure that," the little man said. He blew on her eyes, and the midwife never saw the fairies



Nochd leabhar nua an-uiridh bho Acair, leabhar a tha a' buntainn le ceàrn na Gaidhealtachd a chaidh as cuimhne na daoine cho luath agus gun saoilidh tù, aig tòiseach an linn nua seo, nach robh Gaidheil ann bho iomadh linn a chaidh seachad. Bha daoine ann co-dhiubh ach leth-cheud bliadhna air ais, daoine a fhuair àrach Gaidhealach anns an àite seo agus a làn eachdraidh is beul-aithris nan cuimhne fhéin. Is e Bho Chluaidh gu Calasraid ainm an leabhair seo, agus is e aobhar an leabhair, an oighreachd 's an litreachas 's an eachdraidh den dùthaich taobh tuath a' Chluaidh agus suas gu Loch Laomainn is na Tròsaichean.

Agus rud eile, chan ann bho ollamh Albannach no oileanach Gaidhealach a thàinig an leabhar, ach bho sgoilear Ameireaganach, Michael Newton, a tha a' foghlaim 's a rannsachadh aig Oilthigh Dhùn Eidean an deidh a cheum PhD san Roinn Cheilteach. Mar a sgrìobh Iain Mac Aonghuis san Fhacal-Tòisich: "Is docha gum bi e na annas le cuid de dhaoine gur e sgoilear òg Ameireaganach a tha air an obair ionmholta seo a ghabhail os làimh. Ma bhitheas, gura math an t-annas e."

Is leabhar da-chànanach e, agus faclair is dealbh no dhà ann; tha sgeulachdan, rannan, agus nòtaichean is mìneachadh gu leor ann cuideachd. Cha do leugh mi-fhíin an leabhar gu h-iomlan fhathast, ach an deidh dhomh sùil a thoirt air agus sgeul no dhà a leughadh faodaidh mi radh gur fiach a' phrìs e agus a bharrachd. Tha e ri fhaotainn bho amazon.co.uk aig £ 13.99 – feuch gum bi thu a' dol a-steach troimh www.slighe.com, troimh amazon.com agus an-sin gu amazon.co.uk.

Book Review: Bho Chluaidh gu Calasraid

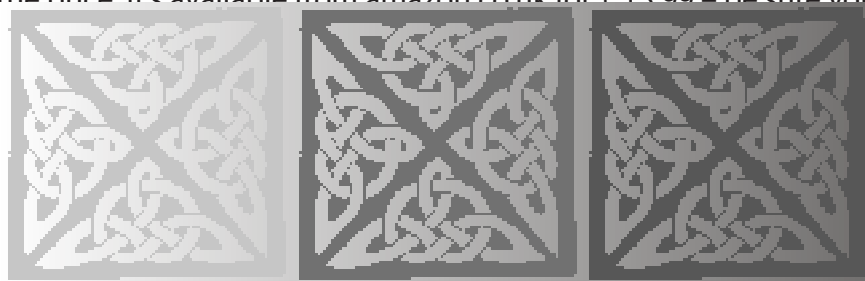
by Gary Ingle

A new book came out last year from the Gaelic publisher Acair, dealing with a corner of the Gaidhealtachd that seems to have disappeared from memory so quickly that one would think, at the start of this new century, there were no Gaels in the area for centuries past. But there were people only fifty years ago who had a Gaelic upbringing in this place, people whose own memories were full of history and oral tradition. The book is Bho Chluaidh gu Calasraid ("From the Clyde to Callander"), and it deals with the heritage and literature of the region on the north bank of the Clyde and up to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

This book is not the work of a Scottish professor or Gaelic student, but an American Celtic Studies Ph.D. doing post-doctoral work at Edinburgh University. From the foreword by Iain Mac Aonghuis (Gary Ingle's translation): "It may be a surprise to some that it is a young American scholar who has undertaken this praiseworthy effort. If so, it is a welcome surprise."

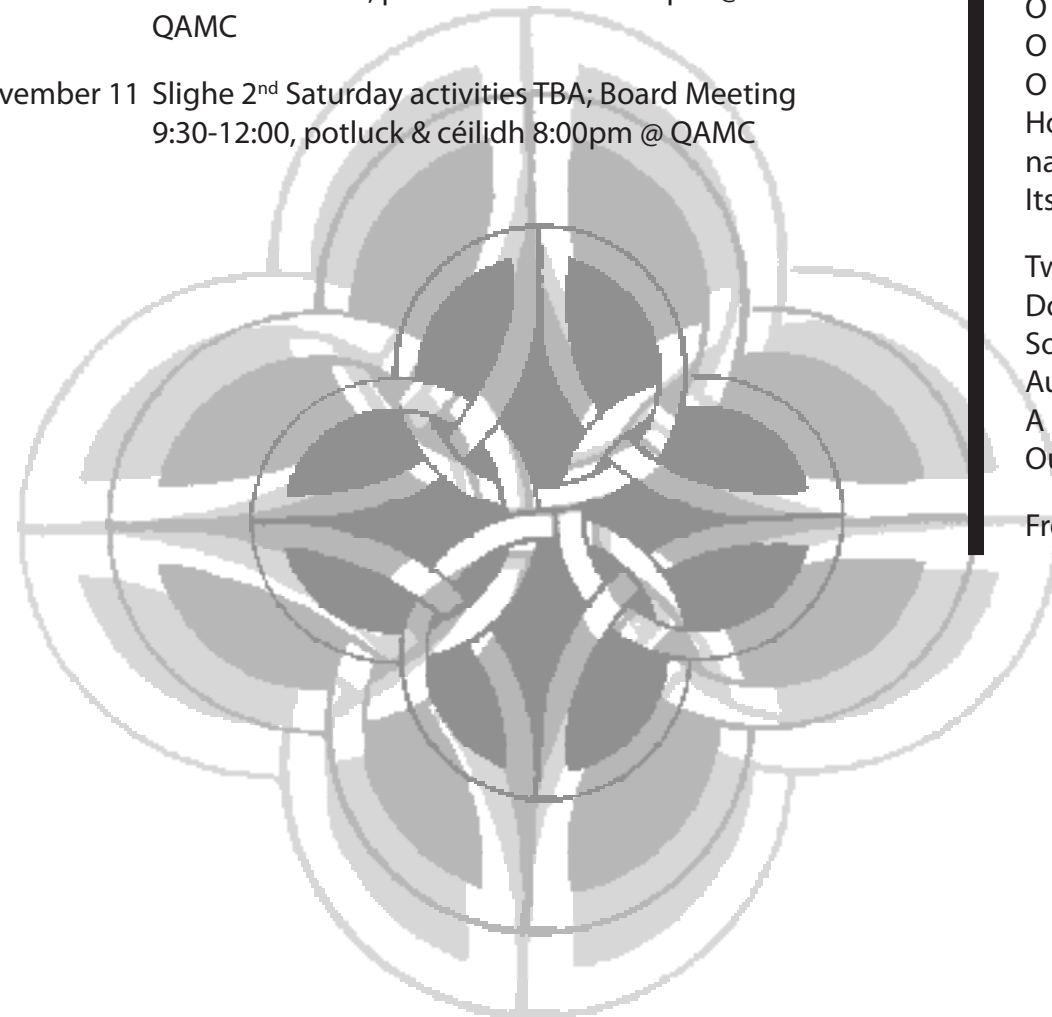
The book is bilingual, with a glossary and a few pictures; there are stories, poetry, and copious notes and explanations as well. Though I haven't read the entire book yet, after glancing through it and reading a few stories, I can say that it's well worth the price. It's available from amazon.co.uk for £ 13.99 – be sure you enter from the Slighe web site; go through

Newton, Michael
Bho Chluaidh gu Calasraid
(From the Clyde to Callander)
Acair Limited 1999



Calendar

- April 29 Ruith nam Bradan 2nd Annual Great-Kilted Fun Run
- May 1-7 Féis Shiàtail activities – see Féis brochure and Web site for details @ Town Hall
- May 13 Board Meeting – time & location TBA
- June 10 Slighe 2nd Saturday activities TBA; Board Meeting 9:30-12:00, potluck & céilidh 8:00pm @ QAMC
- July 3-7 Ceòlas, South Uist
- August 18-20 Gàidhlig Camp
- September 9 Slighe 2nd Saturday activities TBA; Board Meeting 9:30-12:00, potluck & céilidh 8:00pm @ QAMC
- October 28 AGM & activities, potluck & céilidh 8:00pm @ QAMC
- November 11 Slighe 2nd Saturday activities TBA; Board Meeting 9:30-12:00, potluck & céilidh 8:00pm @ QAMC



Duan na Muthairn [9]

A Rìgh na gile,
A Rìgh na greine,
A Rìgh na rinne,
A Rìgh na reula,
A Rìgh na cruinne,
A Rìgh na speura,
Is aluinn do ghnuis,
A lub eibhinn.

Da lub shioda
Shios rid' leasraich
Mhinich, chraicich;
Usgannan buidhe
Agus dolach
As gach sath dhiubh.

O King of the moon,
O King of the sun,
O King of the planets,
O King of the stars,
O King of the globe,
O King of the sky,
How lovely thy countenance,
Its beauteous curve.

Two silken curves
Down by thy loins
Soft-skinned;
Auspicious gems of power
A cluster
Out of every thrust of them.

From Carmina Gaedelica,

