

Rich Hill is forming a new beginning Gaelic class. It will meet on Monday evenings (starting Monday, March 19) at the Richard Hugo Writing Center on Capitol Hill in Seattle. (His apologies to those in Seirm rehearsals Monday evenings...this was the only time he could get the classroom.) If you are interested in joining this class, or for more information on weekly classes, contact Rich at (206) 459-1010.

New Weekly Gaelic Class

Slighe nan Gaidheal

PO Box 20667
Seattle, WA 98102

PH.: 206-903-9452

www.slighe.com

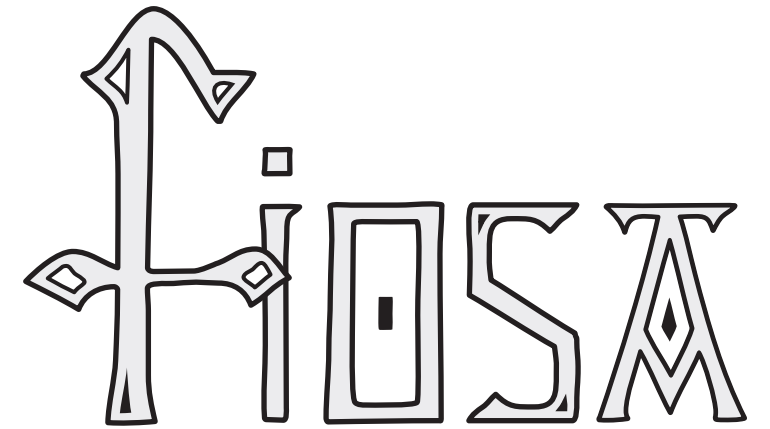


Seattle's Gaelic language
& cultural society



AM
BRADAN

Quarterly newsletter of Slighe nan Gaidheal



Seattle's Gaelic society

An t-Earrach

No. 2, 2001

Norman Kennedy on Bainbridge Island!

Norman Kennedy will lead an in-store waulking on Sunday, April 22 from 3 to 5 PM at Churchmouse Yarns and Teas, 118 Madrone Lane, Bainbridge Island WA 98110

Churchmouse Yarns and Teas is located in Winslow around the corner from the Blackbird Bakery. For more information, call Churchmouse Yarns and Teas at (206) 780-2686 or Sandy Blue at (206) 524-4072, or e-mail Sandy at sbluefox@sprintmail.com

Norman will also be teaching a spinning workshop, sponsored by Madrona Fiber Arts, on Bainbridge Island on May 5th and 6th. For more information about this workshop, contact Suzanne Pederson at (425) 391-2295 or suzanneped@msn.com

Change in Mod Prep Activity

We had planned to have a Mod Preparation Activity Day on our Slighe Second Saturday at the Queen Anne Masonic Center on April 14. However, we did some "market research" and found that the number of competitors entering solo and small group events was limited, and would not justify the expense of renting the hall for the day and evening. So, a change in plans! Instead of an all-day event, we are having a "Get Your Jitters Out" céilidh at Diane Moss's home in Shoreline on that evening. From 8 PM to midnight, come with food and beverage, song and instrument... If you have a piece for the Mod that you'd like to present, there will be an appreciative audience waiting for you. Contact Diane at (206) 542-6034 or by e-mail at zawamoss@seanet.com for details and directions.

Big Calendar Update!

Check the calendar on page 5 for a hint at how exciting 2001 is going to be!

There are new items, changes and further details on events that were already in the planning stage at last publishing time!

Dunvegan Foundation Grants Funds for Feis Shiatail 2002

by Pandora Fitzpatrick and
Penny DeGraff

Once again, Slighe nan Gaidheal will benefit from our growing relationship with the Clan MacLeod. Our grant proposal to the Dunvegan Foundation for funds to assist in producing Feis Shiatail 2002 was approved, and a grant of \$1,000 is on its way to Slighe nan Gaidheal.

In 1998, the Dunvegan Foundation granted funds to Slighe nan Gaidheal to purchase a complete set of Canan's Speaking Our Language instructional materials. These books, audiocassettes, and video cassettes (along with many other wonderful Gaelic resources) are available to members upon inquiry to Kathryn Cole, Chairperson of the Library & Archives Committee.

News from the Board of Directors

by Diane Moss

This year's board (Kathryn Cole, Duane Michael DeLuca, Pandora Fitzpatrick, Seumas Gagne, Kevin MacKenzie, Diane Moss) has been meeting monthly and working steadily on issues of importance for Slighe nan Gaidheal. At our board retreat in December, we were pleased to find we had a common vision of our commitment to the organization, and to the Scottish Gaelic language. The sustainability of Slighe nan Gaidheal and careful budgeting of our human and financial resources have become a priority to all of us.

We are feeling positive about our current direction, and want to share our enthusiasm with the membership. This issue of Am Bradan Fiosa contains profiles of some of our board members, and we plan to continue to "introduce ourselves" in future issues. We plan to use this newsletter to let you know what we are working on. If you want more details, minutes from our meetings are posted regularly on the Slighe e-mail list and are also available from our secretary, Kathryn Cole.

Please feel free to contact any of your board members if you have questions, comments, or concerns about Slighe nan Gaidheal; e-mail to info@slighe.com or a call to our phone line at (206) 903-9452 will be routed to the appropriate person.

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

Contributors to this issue: Pandora Fitzpatrick, Penny MacLeod DeGraff, Pam Nation, Diane Moss.

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, 2001

Another Beginners' Intensive Planned for June 9

Because of the success of our Beginners' Intensive in February, and requests for more, we are planning another session for beginners on June 9 at the Queen Anne Masonic Center in Seattle. If you attended the February session and want to continue, or if you couldn't attend and want to see what you missed, plan to join us for another day of simple Gaelic conversation and song. For more information, contact edcomm@slighe.com or call (206) 903-9452.

Clan MacLeod Announces Formalized Support for Gaelic Education

by Pandora Fitzpatrick and Penny DeGraff

For many years, Penny McLeod Degraff has been championing Gaelic to the Clan MacLeod and, in the summer of 2000, she approached Pandora Fitzpatrick to write a proposal to the Clan Council for official support for Gaelic. At its autumn meeting in 2000, the Council approved the proposal to establish a Gaelic Education Facilitator to organize Gaelic activities and resources for the Clan.

The Gaelic Education Facilitator's primary goals will be to develop programs to 1) raise awareness in the Clan about Gaelic language and culture and to 2) teach the Gaelic language.

The Gaelic Education Facilitator will organize and supervise programs and initiatives to make Gaelic approachable for busy learners including:

- Gaelic classes and workshops at Clan gatherings and events
- Gaelic lessons in Clan newsletters and on Clan Web sites
- Partnerships with other Gaelic organizations worldwide

Gaelic is easily accessible via music, therefore the Gaelic Education Facilitator will focus early programs on presenting Gaelic song workshops and concerts.

The Gaelic Education Facilitator will take advantage of existing Clan MacLeod programs and structures for publicizing resources, to support Clan MacLeod members as they learn Gaelic. The Gaelic Education Facilitator will work with newsletter and Web site editors and clan booth organizers to maintain and distribute the following:

- Recommended sources for learning and experiencing the language and culture
- Guidelines for "do it yourself" Gaelic culture
- Calendar of Gaelic events in America, Canada, and Scotland

Pandora Fitzpatrick is honored to have been selected as Clan MacLeod's first Gaelic Education Facilitator, and is looking forward to strengthening Slighe nan Gaidheal's relationship with the Clan MacLeod and with other Gaelic organizations, supporters, and learners.

Gaelic Activities at Clan MacLeod AGM

by Pandora Fitzpatrick and Penny DeGraff

Regional Vice President of the Clan MacLeod Society Penny McLeod Degraff is thrilled that the clan's Annual General Meeting is to be held in Edmonds WA this year. The unofficial theme of the Clan MacLeod AGM is the "Gaelic Music of Clan MacLeod" and the AGM planning committee has organized a number of workshops and lectures on this theme and other topics.

Rich Hill will teach a Gaelic language workshop and a Gaelic song workshop, and will focus on the grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation of songs by or about MacLeods. A booklet of MacLeod Gaelic songs will be available for purchase. Colin MacRae will lecture on traditional bagpiping, drawing on his experience learning from his Gaelic-speaking father. Lectures on genealogy, history and traditions of the kilt, MacLeod history, and daily dance workshops will also be available. (By July, we will know if there will be space available in some workshops for Slighe members.)

The evening entertainment options will also include Gaelic! On Thursday August 9, local musicians (including many Slighe members!) will present a concert from 9 -10:30 PM, and not surprisingly it will be titled "Gaelic Music of Clan MacLeod." On Saturday August 11, Seirm will give a short concert at the clan's formal banquet, including the presentation of a new Gaelic song about Dame Flora, 28th Chief of Clan MacLeod. Seumas Gagne, Director of Seirm, is even now composing this new piece.

Clan MacLeod invites members of Slighe nan Gaidheal to attend the nightly informal céilidhs (starting around 10 or 10:30 PM) for dancing, music, and general merry-making. Also, the clan will waulk a tweed on Saturday afternoon (it sure would be awesome if a bunch of you who have waulked before could join in!)

Event Details

Location Edmonds Harbor Inn & Conference Center
Edmonds Senior Center
Richard's Restaurant

Dates August 8-12, 2001

Contact Penny McLeod Degraff penny.degraff@gte.net
Pandora Fitzpatrick pandorafitzpatrick@earthlink.net

Mòd Update

One of the adjudicators originally scheduled to appear is unable to do so, and the rumor from the Mòd committee is that Catriona Parsons is likely to fill in. If the rumors are true, then Catriona would be presenting workshops as well as adjudicating. Stay tuned to www.slighe.com for more details.

Gaelic in the Rockies

Bidh ceann-seachdain Gàidhlig 'ga chumail ann aig An Comunn Gàidhealach — America ann am Boulder, Colorado eadar 8 's 10 dhe 'n Og-Mhìos. 'S e seo an còigeamh bliadhna 'nan sreath a théid an tachartas seo a chuir air dòigh agus a' cheud turas riamh a thig sinn còmhla anns an àird-an-iar de na Stait Aonaichte. Bidh ann air a' char 's lugha ceithir irean de theagasg - sin eadar luchd-ionnsachaidh aig an fhìor thoiseach-toiseachaidh agus an fheadhainn a tha an impis gu bhith fileanta.

Thatar an dùil gur e Seumas Watson (Ceap Breatainn), Dabhaidh Livingston-Lowe (Toronto), an t-Ollamh Seumas Ruairidh MacDhomhnall (Carolina a Tuath), agus Muriel Fisher (a mhuinntir an Eilein Sgitheanaich bho thùs) a bhitheas ann mar thidsearan dhuinn. A bharrachd air na clasaichean Gàidhlig, bidh ann bùthan-obrach, céilidhean, òraidean, réic stuth na Gàidhlig, agus ma dh'fhaoidhte mionaid no dhà gus ar n-anail a leigeil! Ma tha sibh airson tuilleadh fiosrachadh fhaighinn, cuiribh brath gu Glenn.Wrightson@cudenver.edu no fónaibh gu (303) 698-9023.

An Comunn Gaidhealach — America will hold its Scottish Gaelic Immersion Weekend at the College Inn in Boulder, Colorado on June 8-10th, 2001. This is ACGA's fifth annual Immersion, and is the first time it will be held in the Western United States. We anticipate having four levels of Gaelic instruction provided for students ranging from complete beginners to advanced level speakers.

The scheduled instructors are David Livingston-Lowe (Toronto), Seumas Watson (Cape Breton), and Dr. Jamie MacDonald (North Carolina), and Muriel Fisher (living in Arizona, originally from Skye). Workshops, ceilidhs, and forums will round out the weekend activities. For more information please e-mail Glenn.Wrightson@cudenver.edu or call (303) 698-9023 or visit ACGA's website www.acgamerica.org. Bithidh sinn 'gur faicinn 'san Og Mhìos!

Board Member Profile:

M. Diane Moss

I was born in Spokane, and moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington. I earned a BA in medieval history and a Masters Degree in Architecture, alternating my studies with working and traveling in Europe. I practiced architecture until my children were born (Trevor is now 12 and Tamlyn is 9). At that time I succumbed to full-time momhood, and devoted my extra energy to volunteer organizations.

I first heard the Gaelic language at a singing workshop Rich Hill gave at Folklife and I loved the sound of it immediately. When Seumas Gagne started the Gaelic Choir, I joined in its first year, and by the end of that season I had signed up for Rich's weekly classes, so I could understand what I was singing about! I've continued my weekly studies since then, and have served on the Board since April of 1998.

Board Member Profile: Pandora Fitzpatrick

When the Board discussed writing a brief article about each of the Board members, I thought it would be easy. But I keep coming up with hokey and/or stiff third-person accounts of myself, so I'll approach it as if I were having a conversation with a potential Slighe nan Gaidheal member — and we'll see if it's any less hokey!

Pandora (PCF): Hi, my name is Pandora Fitzpatrick, the current President of Slighe nan Gaidheal. We're a Seattle-based, non-profit educational organization focusing on the Scottish Gaelic language and culture.

Future member (FM): Do you speak Gaelic?

PCF: I've been learning since January 1998, and can understand a lot when conversing with a native Gaelic speaker. At first it was hard; I've found that sometimes it's easier and sometimes I didn't make much progress. I took weekly classes for about a year and a half with Rich Hill. I took advantage of every opportunity to use and increase the Gaelic I was learning — I went to Feis Shiatail 1998 (the organization's first festival of classes and workshops), to Ceolas (a week-long summer school of Gaelic language and music classes) in Scotland, to Cape Breton to study at the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts & Crafts, I think I've been to almost every intensive day held in the Pacific Northwest, I participated in Gaelic conversation groups, I joined Seirm (our Gaelic-only choir)...

FM: If you're of Irish heritage (which I am assuming based on your surname), why study Scottish Gaelic?

PCF: A co-worker and I were discussing books we liked, and we landed on Diana Gabaldon's Outlander series. About a week after that conversation, she saw a flier about Rich's class, and asked me if I'd like to take the class with her. It was love at first sight on my part! I have some

Scottish heritage — my maternal grandfather's ancestors are Littles, one of the Border clans.

FM: How did you get involved with the Board?

PCF: I joined Slighe in 1998, started getting involved in activities other than classes and generally being enthusiastic, and that October I ran for election to the Board. Learning to work with a team of volunteers for a cause that excites deep passions while running a business has been educational — it is hard work, but it's been fun and rewarding through all the challenges.

FM: If it's that challenging, why are you still on the Board?

PCF: That's a tough question. After working so hard on Féis Shiàtail 2000, I was close to being burned out. Over the past months, I've scaled back on what I'm involved in on a day-to-day basis. With the new Board in place and working together well, I'm excited again. I'm glad we've taken the time to re-examine the reason Slighe exists — and I'm glad we are renewing focus on our Gaelic education efforts. In the beginning, I had a dream that I'd be able to converse in Gaelic within a Gaelic-speaking community of learners, to conduct my life outside work almost entirely in Gaelic — and I still have that dream.

FM: What do you do outside Slighe nan Gaidheal?

PCF: I work for a local venture capital fund. My title is "Fund Administrator," which means a combination of executive assistant, investor relations, network administrator, and office manager. I'm studying for Microsoft Windows 2000 certification. Most of my family lives in Seattle, so I have dinner with my parents and my sister's family every week. I like to cook and drink good wine...listen to good Celtic music.

Calendar of Events

- Apr 14 **"Get the Jitters Out" Mod Preparation Céilidh** Diane Moss has offered her home for a pre-Mód céilidh. From 8 to midnight, come with food and beverage, song and instrument... If you have a piece for the Mod that you'd like to present, there will be an appreciative audience waiting for you. Contact Diane at (206) 542-6034 or by e-mail at zawamoss@seanet.com for details and directions.
- Apr 21 **Seirm** presents its pre-Mòd concert. Come and check out what Seirm members are preparing to wow the adjudicators with. Individual competitors, the choir and friends will perform. 7:30 PM Central Lutheran Church on 11th behind the Broadway Reservoir. Tickets at the door, \$5 members, seniors and students, \$7 general public.
- May 8-12 **Mod Vancouver** For more information, contact Maureen Lyon via e-mail at muirneag@istar.ca or via phone at (604) 536-1367.
- Jun 9 **Gaelic Intensive for Beginning Learners** Instructor(s) TBA. Registration 9:30 AM, classes all day. Ceilidh 8 PM. Registration is \$25 non-members/\$20 members for all classes, & ceilidh, \$5 ceilidh (members & invited guests).
- Jul 28-29 **PNW Highland Games** in Enumclaw
- Aug 8-10 **Clan MacLeod Society of America Annual General Meeting.** Edmonds Harbor Inn Conference Center, Harbor Room. **Seirm** performs. Contact Penny DeGraff for more information. Informal céilidhs every night.
- Aug 11 **MacLeods Waulk a Tweed.** Edmonds Harbor Inn Conference Center, Harbor Room. Contact Penny DeGraff for more information.
- Aug 17-19 **Gaelic Camp.** Dates are still tentative, but the Gaelic Education Committee is excited about the prospect of re-starting this great summer event as an in-town Gaelic language intensive with a very exciting out-of-town guest teacher. Watch our Web site at www.slighe.com and here in *Am Bradan Fiosa* for more details.
- Sep 8 **Gaelic Intensive** Instructor(s) TBA. Registration 9:30 AM, classes all day. Ceilidh 8 PM. Registration is \$25 non-members/\$20 members for all classes, & ceilidh, \$5 ceilidh (members & invited guests).
- Oct 27 **Annual General Meeting.** Time TBA.
- Nov 10 **Gaelic Intensive** Instructor(s) TBA. Registration 9:30 AM, classes all day. Ceilidh 8 PM. Registration is \$25 non-members/\$20 members for all classes, & ceilidh, \$5 ceilidh (members & invited guests).