



Comann nam Pàrant

Dùn Èideann agus Lodainn

Cuairt-litir air. 38

18th December/18 An Dùbhlachd 2007

'Tis the Season

Are you busy decking your halls with prickly plants? Well, however you're observing *An Dùbhlachd* (the dark month) and its celebrations, Tollcross is looking festively lovely following the switch-on event, and there are many reasons, this season, to be jolly. Read on, for yuletide cheer.

Tra-la-la-la-la, la-la, la-la...



A Season for Joy

Every year there is more for Gaelic-medium parents to enjoy and be proud of. Here is a very brief round up of some of what has already gone by...

- Our Scotland, St Andrew's day
- Tollcross lights event
- BT debate & cross-party party
- Friendly Gaelic family service
- Fèis concert starring our kids
- Fantastic Meantime gig/cèilidh
- Fabulous fun at the school fair
- Harp and fiddle events a-plenty
- Cruinneachadh & nativity play
- CnP Christmas-party merriment

And there is still much to come...

Christmas/New Year events

☞ Final assembly and carols at Tollcross Primary Friday 21st

☞ A service of lessons and carols in Gaelic at Greyfriar's church on Sunday 23rd December at 12.30 pm

☞ Bothan celebrates the Old New Year on **Saturday** 12th Jan. The usual mix of music, chat, company and bar, plus something special. Meadow Bar, 8.30 pm, £3.

Big, big celebrations next year

2007 has seen tremendous growth in Gaelic events and developments in Edinburgh.

Now, 2008 is set to be a very special year indeed for all in Edinburgh with ties to Gaelic.

Next year will mark 20 years of Gaelic-medium education in the capital, 25 years of Cròileagan, and Bothan's 5th birthday.

2008 is also the year we expect Edinburgh City Council's Gaelic plan to gain official approval.

All of these will, in the Gaelic tradition, require to be marked by celebration! In anticipation of this, a new events group met recently to begin organising...

- ★ A dinner/dance, probably at the Assembly Rooms, with top-name entertainment, aiming to attract 500+. Likely early in 2009, this will be the culmination of the year of celebration
- ★ A host of other major events involving former GME students, Gillian's new band/music group ventures, and much more besides
- ★ Exciting youth events, and involvement of our young people in the design and look of things
- ★ Events surrounding the next community/partnership forum around November time, sponsored by Bothan as a joint event involving Glasgow and Aberdeen
- ★ A fitting programme of events to launch the plan

This (in addition to Bothan, ceilidhs, family, arts and festival events) will be a major undertaking. We are fortunate that the group so far includes a dozen or so enthusiastic people with varied talents and involvements.

We are still seeking more of you to come on board, and be at the very centre of *Edinburgh's year*. Time commitment need not be enormous. If you would like to be included in events organisation information, contact our Gaelic development officer, John MacLeod: 07906 318 561 or e-mail john@andarach.com

We intend that at the end of the year, we will have established a permanent events framework for the capital that will continue to attract increasing numbers. To that end, the Gaelic Partnership will ask, through our Gaelic development officer, for Comunn na Gàidhlig to provide Edinburgh with a full-time strategy/development co-ordinator to support us in these efforts over the next two years at least.

Gaelic forum a milestone

The Community Open Gaelic Forum last month was an immensely important coming together of the whole spectrum of interests within and beyond the Gaelic community.

Over 70 people gathered to hear Councillor Deidre Brock, senior Council officer Nick Croft, and Bòrd na Gàidhlig's language plan manager, Peadar Morgan, speak about and answer questions on Edinburgh's Plan and the national context. We learnt of some very significant progress - see below.

The conference also heard views from the community on: adult learning, the arts, and Gaelic at school (the parental perspective and from High School student Robbie Greig). Robbie's message was clear and personal - much remains to be done before secondary GME can meet the needs of our young people. It is clear that Edinburgh's plan must firmly and rapidly address this.

We also heard from two friends from the Western Isles now living in Edinburgh, who cited lack of information as the main reason for not having been involved in Gaelic community events.

John MacLeod and chair Roddy John MacLeod took us through the huge advances that have been achieved since the first forum in 2006. It was agreed that the forum should take place annually around November time.

A full report is available from John MacLeod: 07906 318 561 or e-mail john@andarach.com.

All is now possible: Gaelic Plan

You could be forgiven for thinking the cancellation of the launch of the revised plan on 7th of this month represented a set-back.

In fact, this is a reflection of how very far we have come in the last few months. We are expecting a *formal* request from Bòrd na Gàidhlig this month that will potentially release funding for Edinburgh to move ahead at full-tilt with all of its plans including real growth in Gaelic-medium education. This is huge progress.

The timetable is for a final consultation to take place from April to October 2008, with both the Council and the Bòrd expected to approve this in Nov. 2008.

It is anticipated that there will be a *major* feasibility study during the same period, looking at how Gaelic-medium targets of around 400 entering primary each year by 2021 can be achieved.

The best options will almost certainly include a Gaelic school, several more nurseries, and significant progress towards full Gaelic-medium education at secondary stage. Parents will be involved at all stages.

The Council's draft Arts strategy has also been revealed, and it is very positive, suggesting a Gaelic arts centre, officer support and better networking. Only support for community initiatives is all but missing, and we hope assistance for *our* plans can fill this gap.

Ùlpan is here

Ùlpan, the fast route to Gaelic fluency, is eagerly awaited by many. It is on schedule and courses are now available.

Tutors and students alike are enthusiastic about the new way to become fluent in a short space of time. It is now a realistic prospect to grow up in Gaelic together with your children.

Courses will run on Wed. evenings from 16th January and Friday afternoons, and it is hoped that Cròileagan and GME parents will be able to receive assistance through grants applied for.

Details: Rona Lawson 664 2228.

Two other projects

BnaG grants have been sought for:

- CnP's Saturday Family Gaelic club offering fun activities for children & learning for parents
- Fèis Gaelic-language music sessions for young people to get together and build skills

Fèis in the New Year

Fèis Saturday classes start on 12th January. Don't be caught out, get those forms to Kaela now. (If you don't have one, pick one up from the Community Centre lobby.) Kaela's phone: 07514 948 268.

Last-minute Xmas present ideas

CnP's fundraising calendars are the perfect gift for the GME family: fridge calendars with school holidays and important dates marked (Gaelic £1, bilingual £1.50), month-per-view calendars to stay organised all year long: sizes A4 (£3), and A3 (£5). Available mornings at Tollcross or phone 07729 307 487.

Fiona MacKenzie's double Christmas CD *Duan Nollaig* is plain wonderful. Loads of well-known classics and new songs, all in Gaelic (very nearly), are sure to have the whole family singing along. Available from Coda on the Mound among other outlets.

Gaelic TV & Radio details return next month - check the Radio Times and TeleG website for now!

Oisean Ealain



**Miosachain CnP:
cho feumail is cho brèagha!**

Next CnP Meeting

Monday 14th January, 6.30-8.00,
Thistle Hotel, Manor Pl. All welcome.

CnP Contacts

Convenor/Editor: Ian MacDonald

Ian.MacDonald@luht.scot.nhs.uk

07729 307 487

Secretary: Julie-Ann Sime

j.sime@freeuk.com

0131 229 1236

Treasurer: Mairi Rogers

mairi.rogers@wmcompany.com

0131 339 9745

Our Address:

Comann nam Pàrant
c/o Tollcross Primary School
Fountainbridge, Edin. EH3 9QG.

Our e-mail:

cnpduneideann@yahoo.co.uk

Members' Web-site & Forum:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cnpduneideann>

Feuch e! A few ideas to try

Àm na Nollaige cridheil is càirdeil agus deagh bhliadhn' ùr dhuibh uile bho Chomann nam Pàrant!

For your diary...

Thu 20 th Dec	Choir at full Council
Fri 21 st Dec	Carol Sevice, Tollcross Last day of School
Sun 23 rd Dec	♫ Carols at Greyfriars
24 th Dec - 4 th Jan:	<i>Holidays!</i>
Mon 24 th Dec	Radio nan Gàidheal 11.30pm Gaelic Carols
Xmas 25 th Dec	Radio nan Gàidheal (9 - 12noon) 9 am Aileag na Nollaige 11.30am Gaelic Carols
26 th /27 th Dec	Radio nan Gàidheal 10 am Children's Mod
31 st Dec	Radio nan Gàidheal all evening till 1 am!

Mon 7 th Jan	Back to school
Sat 12 th Jan	Fèis classes restart
Sat 12 th Jan	Bothan: Old New Year
Mon 14 th Jan	CnP Open Meeting
16 Jan-3 Feb	Celtic Connections www.celticconnections.com
Fri 1 st Feb	Bothan