

Edinburgh Castle Junior Tour Guide Project

A group of twenty-eight pupils from classes 5 and 6 are currently involved in an exciting drama project, funded by Historic Scotland.

Based at Edinburgh Castle, they are scripting and filming a presentation on the castle for use in schools across Scotland. This will be mainly in English, but with the addition of some key vocabulary in Gaelic. In addition, they are preparing a presentation on the Great Hall, which will be used with schools during next April's **Gaelic Week for Schools**.

As well as writing and drama skills, the project will also include dancing and clàrsach playing. Work is already well under way, under the guidance of drama tutor Karen McKenzie and Gaelic tutor Anne Paterson.

We wish the participants well and look forward to seeing the finished product!

Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) Parental Advisory Scheme

The national organisation of parents' associations, Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta), is still seeking to recruit Parental Advisors to promote Gaelic medium education in Edinburgh. Advisors are paid an hourly rate, and the role will mainly involve speaking with interested parents about GME.

The best advice for prospective parents to GME can come from other parents with personal experience. If you would like to find out more about the role, please contact Magaidh Wentworth on 01463 234138, or: magaidh@cnag.org.uk

Ùlpan Classes – Spaces Available

Units 73-89 Wednesdays 7.15pm-9.15pm
Tollcross Community Centre
Start date Wednesday 15th September

Units 1-24 Beginners

6 Day intensive course, venue to be announced
17, 18, 19 & 22, 23, 24 November
This will be run as a tutor training course. The level of instruction will be equal to that offered at normal beginners' classes.

To register, or for more information, contact:
ulpan@cli.org.uk
01463 226 710

Youth Shinty

Our youth shinty club, Camanachd Dhùn Èideann, has resumed its activities and is offering new opportunities for interested children.

Shinty is a unique, fast, exciting Scottish sport played on grass, with an equally enjoyable indoor version played with rubberised sticks and softer balls for younger children. We offer training in both versions, which have already started:

Outdoors: P4 and above, 6.30pm Tuesdays at the Meadows

Indoors: P1* and above, 11.30am Saturdays at Tollcross (*We prefer P1s and P2s to be supervised by parents for a few weeks until they settle in.)

In addition we are offering free indoor taster sessions to all P3s and P4s:

Indoors : P3 and P4, 12.30pm on Friday 17th and Friday 24th September.

Competition Festival

Friday, 1st October, Camanachd Dhùn Èideann will again be meeting Liberton shinty players for a competition festival. This time this will be at Liberton – outdoors if the weather is suitable, or indoors in a full-sized sports hall. All primary players who have previously trained are welcome to take part, and supporters are also needed.

We hope that this event will be part of a two-day promotional event involving one of Scotland's top sportsmen, Kingussie's Ronald Ross, the only man to have ever scored more than 1000 goals. Ronald is now our Camanachd Association's development officer, and will be playing an active role in encouraging the sport in Edinburgh.

For more information:

camanachd@duneideann.net
07729 307 487 (Ian MacDonald)

Naidheachdan is produced jointly by Comann nam Pàrant and the Cròileagan to provide information for all parents and friends of Gaelic Medium Education in Edinburgh.

All contributions are very welcome (in English or Gaelic). Please send contributions to Marion Thompson:
marionthompson@live.com
07968 405 670

Mòran taing to all those who contributed to this issue:
Anne MacPhail, Alasdair Morrison, Siobhan Campbell, Wilma Laird, Cath Downie, Rona Lawson, Ian MacDonald.

Naidheachdan

Edinburgh Gaelic News

September 2010, Issue 5

Family information morning

10.30am - 12 noon

Saturday 2 October 2010

Dining Hall, Tollcross Primary School

Bring the family along to find out about all our activities: the Fèis, shinty, the Mod, Gaelic classes, and lots more!

Have a coffee and chat with other parents.

Crafts and games for the children!

Make sure you don't miss out on news and social events. If you are not on the mailing list, please send an email to: committee@gaelic-education.org

Comann nam Pàrant
(Dùn Èideann & Lodainn)



Social Scene

We are looking forward to an exciting active year ahead! As well as the special annual Christmas and Barbecue events we would like to have more informal gatherings on a month to month basis.

There are even more parents/caregivers about and it would be great to channel this energy into something positive and fun for all. We want to maintain this sense of community that we are so justly proud of.

And so for October:

You are all invited to
Traverse Theatre Cafe Bar
8pm, Saturday 9th October

(off Lothian Road
next to the Usher Hall)

A huge welcome to any parent/helper who is interested in developing our social scene. It would be great to have representatives from each class to help coordinate activities for the year.

So all parents/caregivers from the High School right down to Croileagan will be made to feel most welcome on our social committee. Our meetings can take place in houses, bars, the school, wherever and whenever is convenient.

If you are interested in helping, please come to the above event and meet 7.30pm beforehand. Do give your name if you cannot make it this night.

All volunteers can email: sascampbell@yahoo.com beforehand if you are very organised!

**We look forward to seeing everyone
on 9th October!**

Mòran taing
Social Committee

Siobhan Campbell, Mike Mullard, Colin Monk

Comann nam Pàrant Update

As you will be aware, Edinburgh Council recently issued a revised report on the development of GME in Edinburgh: *Gaelic Medium Education - Outcome of Discussions with the Scottish Government and Options for Development*.

The revised options for **primary and nursery** are:

- A) A dedicated GME primary school at Bonnington, including a nursery.
- B) Two units, Tollcross and Leith Walk. The Leith Walk option has been revised to include nursery provision, which was ruled out in the earlier paper.
- C) A new option of extending Tollcross by building an extension around the lift area, to create a maximum of 4 new classrooms. This would address the projected GME roll until only 2014/15. This option also involves building a new standalone nursery in the playground (where the boathouse is) to create an additional 20 nursery places.

The earliest that any of these options would take effect would be August 2012. This may mean capping the P1 intake of 2011 at 17, or some temporary measure such as using the community centre to provide additional classroom space.

For **secondary** provision, the Council have retained the option of relocating from James Gillespie's to Tynecastle. Their paper claims there is no other high school with capacity which is considered to be sufficiently central.

Comann nam Pàrant will hold a parents' meeting to discuss these revised options:

7.30pm, Tuesday 5th October
137 Dundee Street
(above Fountainbridge Library)

Your attendance at this meeting is important.

Comann nam Pàrant would like to reassure parents that we are committed to ensuring that among other issues, there is no capping, and that no move from James Gillespie's will take place while this poses any risk to the future of Gaelic Medium Education in Edinburgh.

Edinburgh Local Mod 2011 Volunteers Required

The Edinburgh Local Mod is the largest annual Gaelic Cultural event in Edinburgh. Over 150 competitors took part in the Mod this year with over 200 separate performances taking place.



It is clear to many that the Mod has outgrown Tollcross Primary School, so to accommodate the ever increasing numbers a new venue will be announced later in the year. It is no longer possible to hold the Mod on a Friday afternoon and following on from last year, where part of the Mod was held on the following Saturday morning, the entire Mod will take place on:

Saturday, 2nd April, 2011.

These changes however, are not enough to ensure the ongoing success of the Mod. We urgently require volunteers to assist with advance planning and running the event on the day, and in particular we need volunteers to assume responsibility for the following tasks:

Treasurer / Assistant Treasurer
Secretary
Publicity
Funding - Sponsorship / Fundraising
Learners Section Co-ordinator
Instrumental Section Co-ordinator
Fiddle Section Co-ordinator
Singing / choral Co-ordinator
Secondary Liaison
Chief Steward
Photographer
Concert / Ceilidh Co-ordinator
Cafe Manager

If anyone is in a position to assist with these roles, or if you feel you can help in any other way, then please

contact the committee – contact details are listed below.

The Edinburgh Mod provides our children with the opportunity to perform, to increase their confidence and improve their musical talents, but it also gives Edinburgh a chance to showcase Gaelic Culture, to build bridges with the broader community and to raise awareness of Gaelic in Edinburgh.

It's up to us, as members of the Gaelic Community, to ensure that the Mod is a well run and attractive event for everyone.

It really is vital that there are more volunteers to help with the event. The future of the Edinburgh Mod depends on it.

Please get in touch!

Alasdair Morrison: adm.siubhal@blueyonder.co.uk
Catriona Pirie Morrison:
cat.teeniebash@blueyonder.co.uk
Fiona Mackintosh:
fiona.mackintosh@blueyonder.co.uk
Anne MacPhail: anna.nicphail@hotmail.com

Have You Heard About Sradagan?

Sradagan are Gaelic medium community groups offering out-of-school activities for children aged 5-12, including games, music, drama, crafts and the arts. They provide an opportunity for children to develop their Gaelic skills in a social setting, which is particularly important for children with little exposure to Gaelic outside of school.

The groups usually meet once a week for an hour and a half, for a small charge. There is currently no such group in Edinburgh, and setting up one could be a great opportunity for our children. Parent helpers are not required to be Gaelic speakers.

It would be great to show support for a Sradagan group in Edinburgh.

If you think you could help, please contact:

Coinneach Combe:
coinneach@cnag.org.uk