



Seirbhis na Càisge

Gaelic Family Service

3.30pm on Sunday, 28th March 2010

Liberton Kirk, Kirkgate, EH16 6RY

Everyone is very welcome to this all-age Easter service, organised by parents and children from Tollcross School. It will be primarily in Gaelic, with English explanations and a bilingual service sheet to help everyone take part. The service is friendly and relaxed with a mixture of new and traditional Gaelic psalms, hymns and songs.

After the service there will be an informal meal to which everyone is invited. There will also be craft activities for the children.

At our last service (Christmas) we had a donation box for Tearfund. We raised enough money to buy 2 goats (India – Disaster Risk Reduction fund) and for school support for 15 children (India – Children fund).

For more information, or if you would like your children to be involved with the readings, please call: Rona Lawson 0131 664 2228.



Iomairt Gàidhlig Dhùn Èideann

The new Edinburgh Gaelic Development Group, Iomairt Gàidhlig Dhùn Èideann (Edinburgh Gaelic Initiative), taking over from previous community groups, has been established by **Comunn na Gàidhlig**, the Gaelic development agency (www.cnag.org.uk) following a well-attended public meeting in January and a public consultation.

The Steering Group will meet for the first time on 31st March. With the support of a Gaelic Community development officer, hoped to be a full-time post, the Group will work together with the Council and other groups on priority areas for Edinburgh, and very much welcomes suggestions, requests from Gaelic-medium parents, staff and pupils.

Ceilidh Culture

Ceilidh Culture is Edinburgh's annual traditional arts festival, which celebrates all aspects of the traditional arts from music and song to dance and storytelling. This year the festival runs from 26th March – 18th April 2010. www.ceilidhculture.co.uk

A couple of events to highlight are: the street fair, running from 2nd-5th April on Castle Street; and the choral and musical workshop event run by the Lothian Gaelic Choir on 1st April (7.30pm) at Tollcross School.

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), as are photographs and artwork. Please send contributions to Marion Thompson:

marionthompson@live.com
07968 405 670

Mòran taing to all those who contributed to this issue: Valerie Macgregor, Rona Lawson, Alasdair Cameron, Ian Macdonald, Wilma Laird, Fiona Mackintosh, Amaia Zulaika. Painting by Corrie Lawson.

Naidheachdan

Edinburgh Gaelic News

March 2010, Issue 1



The **Edinburgh Local Mod** has continued to snowball in popularity and for the first time in recent years is to extend into a two-day event at Tollcross Primary School. Previously it has been packed into just one afternoon, but as entries surge year on year, the decision was taken to spread it over two, less hectic days. Competitions will start at 1.15 pm on Friday, 23rd April, and then again at 9.30 am on Saturday, 24th April - aiming to finish by lunchtime. It is a great opportunity for families to engage in one of the largest Gaelic cultural events in Edinburgh in a relatively informal and supportive setting.

Adding to the festive atmosphere will be a café in the dining hall and new for this year, a variety of stalls providing information on Gaelic organisations as well as selling books and quality crafts including cards, jewellery and toys. And for those interested in a memento of the day, a new, Local Mod merchandise stall will be on display. However, anyone wishing to purchase a Mod T-shirt, donning the award winning motif designed by the art competition winner, should order these in advance. You can use your Mod entry form or contact Fiona Mackintosh at: fiona.mackintosh@blueyonder.co.uk.

The Mod has grown into a sizable, cultural experience and its smooth running depends upon helpers. Thank you to those who have come forward but many more are needed. Anyone able to assist would be assigned a simple, specific task for the time they have available.

The Mod organisers urge families to support this event, one of the highlights of the school year, either by listening to the performers or entering competitions. They are especially keen to see more entries from High School children, Gaelic learners and instrumental competitors. Towards these ends, there is now a new learners' oral presentation section while fiddle players are to have their own, separate competitions. There is also a first-time media section for aspiring film makers who should submit a DVD or tape no longer than 10 minutes by Thursday, 1st April.

The full list of the 70, wide ranging competition choices is printed in the Local Mod syllabus. If you require a copy please contact Fiona Mackintosh or get it on the new Local Mod website:

www.modionadaildhuneideann.co.uk or
www.edinburghlocalmod.co.uk

Entries must be completed by Friday, 26th March. Unfortunately organisers are unable to consider forms submitted after that absolute, cut-off date. Competitions include choral and solo singing, folk groups, traditional instrumental competitions, clarsach, chanter or piping, poetry recitation, story telling, Gaelic reading and conversation, poetry and creative writing as well as media and art. It will be great to see you there!

Other cultural events in the next month include:

The **Edinburgh International Harp Festival** running from 9th-14th April 2010 at Merchiston Castle School includes a number of workshops and concerts: www.harpfestival.co.uk

The **Edinburgh Youth Gaitherin** provides young people (from primary 5 onwards) with the opportunity to learn and develop skills in traditional music, song and dance. The Easter Gaitherin takes place at Bruntsfield Primary School from Monday 5th April – Thursday 8th April 2010, and will culminate in a concert and ceilidh on the Thursday evening. For more information: www.eyg.org.uk

Comann nam Pàrant News

www.gaelic-education.org

The next meeting of the Gaelic parents' association, to which all parents are welcome, will be:

7pm Monday 10th May 2010

Tollcross Community Centre room 1

Comann nam Pàrant Committee

At the recent AGM, a new committee was elected:

Convenor: Alasdair Cameron

Vice-convenor: Ian Macdonald

Secretaries: Julie-Ann Sime and Ruth Quigley

Treasurers: Mairi Rogers and Declan Thompson

Croileagan rep: Fiona Mackintosh

Members: Marion Webster and Nina Macleod

Get in touch: committee@gaelic-education.org

Update on the Gaelic Language Plan

The consultation on the City of Edinburgh Council's draft of the Gaelic Language Plan for Edinburgh ran up until the end of 2009. The Council received 333 replies to the consultation, considered an exceptionally high number, and is preparing a report and recommendations for changes to the Plan to be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig in the next few months.

In addition, Children and Families is examining the way forward to accommodate the growth in GME, and expects to report on options in May. Parents should ensure that their councillors know their views on the development of GME prior to the Council meetings in

May. For advice on lobbying, or for a list of Edinburgh Council contacts, please get in touch with the CnamP committee.

Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) Parental Advisory Scheme

The national organisation of parents' associations, Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta), are seeking to establish a team of committed and enthusiastic Parental Advisors who will promote Gaelic medium education in their local areas. The advisors will be paid an hourly rate and the job will involve activities such as:

- Distribution of information leaflets and booklets
- Making contact with parents to discuss opportunities for GME
- Liaising with schools to organise Open Days for prospective GME parents and attend with parents
- Organising promotional events and promoting Gaelic medium education at other events
- Arranging to visit parents in their home if appropriate

The best advice for prospective parents to GME can come from other parents with personal experience. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Magaidh Wentworth on 01463 234138, or:

magaidh@cnag.org.uk

Parents Like Us
Leith Links, 7th-9th May 2010
www.parentslikeus.co.uk

Parents Like Us is a huge festival aimed at pre-school children and their parents. There are many exhibitors and hands-on activities. It presents an ideal opportunity to advertise Gaelic Medium Education to a large number of young families.

This year, the **Cròileagan** (Gaelic Playgroups) will be running two hands-on activities during the festival. We would very much appreciate any help that could be offered with running these activities. It would be great to have some help from a few of the older children, and we are particularly looking for some good singers!

You can book tickets online from the 22nd of April. When you are telling your friends about our events, please let them know that no knowledge of Gaelic is necessary.

Saturday 8th May 12.30pm Cur is fàs (Sow and grow)

This is a hands-on planting event for ages 3-5. The event will be led by Kirsteen Murray. Children will plant their own flower, fruit and vegetable, and learn a simple Gaelic song: *Boiteag*. Children can take home their planted pots, and there will be free balloons and other goodies for every child!

Sunday 9th May 11.30am

Oinc mù uac! (Oink moo quack!)

This is a fun animal session for ages 0-3 which will be led by Fiona Mackintosh. Children will make an animal puppet and learn a simple Gaelic song: *Bidh Cù ag Ràdh Uf Uf Uf*. There will be free balloons and a Gaelic nursery rhyme CD for every child!

In addition to the hands-on events, over the course of the festival, **Comann nam Pàrant** will have a stall providing information about Gaelic Medium Education. It would be very beneficial if there were a number of parents with children in GME around who could chat with interested families. The more parents that there are, the more lively the impression!

There will be a couple of simple craft activities at the stall, making Gaelic bookmarks and badges.

If you can help with any of the events, or for more information, please contact the Cròileagan:

croileagantollcross@hotmail.co.uk



Look out for the exhibition: **Air Iomlaid (On Exchange)** running at the Fruitmarket Gallery (Market Street) from 10th April – 9th May 2010 which displays artwork of children from Clas 6/7 at Tollcross Primary School and children from Bun-sgoil Shleite on the Isle of Skye. The works were completed as part of an exchange programme.

See photographs and some lovely artwork at:

http://air-iomlaid-english.blogspot.com/2010_02_01_archive.html
<http://www.lasairealain.com/airiomlaideng.asp>



The **Cròileagan** has a new logo! We now have our own *panda-ruadh*.

Our *panda-ruadh* is a little bit sad because it has no name. We would love it if someone could think of a nice name for the cuddly creature. Please send your suggestions to:

croileagantollcross@hotmail.co.uk

or drop them in to us on a Wednesday or Friday morning at the Community Centre. We have a prize for the nicest name!