

# LUNNAINN NAN GÀIDHEAL

## Gaelic London

TACHARTASAN GÀIDHLIG AN  
LUNNAINN  
ANNS NA SEACHDAINEAN  
A THA A' TIGHINN  
(*Am Faoilteach 2010*)

GAELIC EVENTS IN  
LONDON  
IN THE COMING WEEKS  
(*January 2010*)

### AM FAOILTEACH

(*no "Telebhisean - an sealladh o chéin"*)

**Uill, a chàirdean,** beannachdan na Bliadhna Ùir' leibh uile! Tha mi 'n dòchas gu'm bheil sibh uile – a dh'aindeoin na h-aimsreach "Sibéirianaich" a th'againn aig an àm seo air feadh nan Eileanan seo – a' cumail gu math is blàth!

Uill, 'nise, mar a bhios 'fhios agaibh mar leughadairean cunbhalach na cuairt-litreach seo, chan àbhaist domh a bhith a' luaidh air cuspairean a chiththeadh mar "phoileataigeach" no "chonnspaideach" – chan e sin rùn na litreach – ach an uair seo shaoil mi gu'n déanainn eisgeachd le bhith a' bruidhinn air cùis a bhiodh ùidheil do na Gàidheil air fad: **ruigsinneachd nam meadhonan Gàidhlig.** Tha mi cinnteach gu'm bi sibh air cluinntinn mu BhBC Alba, an sianal dìgeatach Gàidhlig a chaidh "air an adhar" airson a' chiad turuis anns an t-Sultain, 2008. O'n a chuireadh e air bhonn tha e a' tarraing a-steach molaidh á iomadh àird agus àireimh móir' de luchd-amhairc a théid thairis air an àireimh aithnichte de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig ann an Albainn, ach – agus 's e "ach" mór a th'ann – aig an àm seo chan fhaighear e ach troimh'n t-saideal no àireimh chuibhrichte de sholaraichean an TBh-chàbaill (no, gu dearbh, troimh làraich-lìn a' BhBC fhéin).

Ged-tà, mar a fhuair mi a-mach o chionn ghoirid agus mi a' faighinn iomadh post-d air a' chùis seo bho bhuidhnean le ùidh innte, **tha**

**Well, friends,** New Year greetings to you all! I hope that you are all – despite the "Siberian" weather that we are currently having throughout these Isles – keeping well and warm!

Well, now, as you'll know as regular readers of this newsletter, I'm not in the habit of mentioning topics that might be seen as "political" or "controversial" – that's not the purpose of the letter – but on this occasion I thought I would make an exception by talking about a matter that is of interest to Gaels at large: **the accessibility of Gaelic media.** I'm sure that you will have heard of BBC Alba, the Gaelic digital channel that went "on air" for the first time in September 2008. Since its inception it has attracted praise from many quarters and an audience beyond the recognised number of Gaelic-speakers in Scotland, but – and it's a big "but" – it is currently only available through satellite or a limited number of cable TV providers (or, indeed, through the BBC's own website).

However, as I have recently discovered by receiving several e-mails on the subject from interested groups, **there is now a wide-**

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**iomairt ann a-nis a tha a' dol fad' is farsaing** gus BBC Alba a chur air Freeview, bun-chlàr an telebhisein dìgeataich a tha "saor-gu-adhar" 'san Rìoghachd Aonaichte (agus am meadhon troimh'm bi a' chuid a's motha de'n t-sluagh a' faighinn an telebhisein 'nuair a théid an craobh-sgaoileadh analogach a chur dheth). Tha seo a' tuiteam còmhla ri sgrùdadh BhBC Alba a thathar a' déanamh aig an àm seo aig Urras a' BhBC, a tha ag iarraidh bheachdan air a' mhór-shluagh. Am measg nan ceist a thathar a' cur tha co-dhiùbh am bu chòir do BhBC Alba a bhith ri 'fhaotainn air Freeview. Ma bhios ùidh agaibh ann an toradh an sgrùdaidh seo, **carson nach tadhail sibh làrach-lìn a' BhBC a ghabhail pàirt anns an t-suirbhidh?** Gheibh sibh fiosrachadh mu'n t-suirbhidh am broinn na h-àireimh seo de'n chuairt-litir, agus 's e **18mh Faoilteach 2010** an ceann-latha deireannach airson freagairt a thoirt seachad.

Aig a' cheann thall, bitheamaid an dòchas gu'm bi BBC Alba gu dearbh ri 'fhaotainn air Freeview – agus nach bi a-mhàin ann an Albainn fhéin. Tha 'fhios againn, mar eiseamplair, gur e Lunnainn an treas baile Albannach a's motha a-réir àireamh nan daoine a th'ann agus, co-dhiùbh am bheil a' chànain aca no nach eil, gu'm bheil ùidh aig mòran a tha a' fuireach 'sa bhaile seo anns a' Ghàidhlig agus na cùisean Gàidhealach. Ma dh'ionnsaich sinn aon rud thairis air na deich bliadhna a dh'fhalbh, 's ann **gur e "rathad dà-shligheach" a th'anns an telebhisean a-nis, nach bithear 'ga aithnicheadh ann an dòigh "fhulangaich" tuille.** Mar luchd-amhairc, chan e a-mhàin gu'm bi sinn a' coimhead air – an àite sin, bidh sinn a' smaoinichadh air is a' beachdachadh air is 'ga chruthadh

**spread campaign** to make BBC Alba available through Freeview, the platform for "free-to-air" digital television in the United Kingdom (and the means through which most people will receive television after the analogue switch-off). This coincides with the review of BBC Alba currently being undertaken by the BBC Trust, which is inviting opinions from the general public. Among the questions being asked is whether BBC Alba should be available on Freeview. If you are interested in the outcome of this review, **why not visit the BBC website and take part in the survey?** You'll find information about the survey inside this edition of the newsletter, and the closing date for replies is **18th January 2010.**

In the end, let's hope that BBC Alba does become available on Freeview - and not just in Scotland itself. We know, for example, that London is the third-largest Scottish city by population and, whether or not they speak the language, many inhabitants of this city are interested in Gaelic and Gaelic affairs. If we have learned something over the last ten years, it's that **television is now a "two-way street", that it's no longer a "passive" experience.** As viewers, we don't just watch it – instead, we think about it, comment on it and shape it through our opinions expressed through "blogs" and other websites. In spite of what we might believe, the most important thing in the media over the last decade was not *Big Brother* or *Strictly* or suchlike, but one phenomenon that allowed the rest to

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troimh ar beachdan a chuirear an céill troimh “bhlogaichean” is làraichean-lìn eile. A dh’aindeoin na ‘chreideamaid, an rud a bu chudthromaiche anns na meadhonan thairis air an deichead seo ‘chaidh, cha b’e *Big Brother* no *Strictly* no a lethid sin, ach aon rud air leth a cheadaich do’n chòrr a bhith ann: **“dèamocratachadh” nam meadhonan troimh’n eadar-lìon.** An deaghaidh a h-uile càil, mura b’e an t-eadar-lìon, cha bhithinn-s’ a’ sgrìobhadh seo – is cha bhiodh sibhse ‘ga leughadh!

Chan e an telebhisean ‘na aonar a shàibhleas a’ Ghàidhlig mar chànain choimhearsnail – ‘s ann oirne mar luchd-labhairt is -chleachdaidh na cànain’ a tha an dleastanas sònraicht’ a tha sin – ach aig tòiseach an deichead ùir tha cothrom againn a bhith ag ràdh mar ‘bu mhaith leinn gu’m biodh an telebhisean Gàidhlig ann. **Cuireamaid gu feum e.**

Gus an ath thurus ...

exist: the **“democratisation” of the media through the internet.** After all, if it weren’t for the internet, I wouldn’t be writing this – and you wouldn’t be reading it!

Television on its own won’t save Gaelic as a community language – we as speakers and users of the language have that particular duty – but at the start of the new decade we have an opportunity to say how we would like Gaelic television to be. **Let’s use it.**

Until next time ...

### LEIS NA DÙRACHDAN MAR A’S ÀBHAIST

#### EÒGHANN P.

PS/ Ma bhios sibh a’ cur air dòigh thachartasan sam bith ‘san àm ri teachd agus comh-cheangal aca ri Gàidhlig no ris a’ chultar Ghàidhealach an Lunnainn no an Ceann an Earra-dheas Shasainn, cuiribh fios chugam mu’n deidhinn.

PS/ If you are organising any future events relating to Gaelic or to Highland culture in London or the South-East of England, let me know about them.

Sgrìobhaibh chugam air / Write to me on: [eoghannp@hotmail.com](mailto:eoghannp@hotmail.com)

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**CÉILIDH IS  
SUIPEIR BHURNS  
AIG RSCDS**

**Di-Sathairne,  
16mh Faoilteach 2010,  
o 6:45f gu 10.45f**

Aig **Comunn Rìoghail an Iol-Dannsaidh Albannaich (RSCDS)**, Meur Lunnainn, talla Eaglais Choluim Chille, Sràid Pont, Knightsbridge, SW1 0BD (*Fon-talamh: Knightsbridge no Sloane Square*).

**Suipeir** le pìobaireachd is Òraid ris an Taigeis san dòigh neo-bhàsmhoir is boinneig bhig de'n uisge-bheatha!

Dannsadh-céilidh ri ceòl **Fhraing Reid is a chòmhlain-chiùil**.

*Tiocaidean (ri'm faotainn roimh làimh):* £9.50 (*buill RSCDS*); £12:50 (*eile*).

Airson tiocaid 'fhaotainn, cuiribh fios gu Cathraiche RSCDS air [chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk) no 01903 245 718.

**CÉILIDH AND  
BURNS SUPPER  
AT THE RSCDS**

**Saturday,  
16th January 2010,  
from 6:45pm to 10.45pm**

At the **Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society (RSCDS)**, London Branch, hall of St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, Knightsbridge, SW1 0BD (*Underground: Knightsbridge or Sloane Square*).

**Supper** with piping, Address to the Haggis in the immortal manner and a wee drap o' the whisky!

Céilidh dancing to the music of **Frank Reid and his band**.

*Tickets (to be obtained in advance):* £9.50 (*RSCDS members*); £12.50 (*non-members*).

To obtain a ticket, contact the Chairman of the RSCDS on [chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk](mailto:chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk) or 01903 245 718.

Làrach-lìn / Website : [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

**"BLASAD BHURNS" -  
CÉILIDH-DANNSA  
AIG HISL**

**Di-Sathairne,  
23s Faoilteach 2010,  
o 7:00f gu 11:00f  
(an ciad dannsa aig 7:30f)**

Aig **Comunn na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean an Lunnainn (HISL)**, ann an Talla Eabhraic (York Hall), 5-15 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, E2 9PJ (*Fon-talamh: Bethnal Green*).

**"A TASTE OF BURNS" -  
CÉILIDH-DANCE  
AT HISL**

**Saturday,  
23rd January 2010,  
from 7:00pm to 11:00pm  
(first dance at 7:30pm)**

At the **Highlands and Islands Society of London (HISL)**, in York Hall, 5-15 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, E2 9PJ (*Underground: Bethnal Green*).

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Òraid ris an Taigeis le **Alasdair MacRath**; pìobaireachd le **Dòmhnall MacRuairidh**; dannsadh ri ceòl **Deoch 'n' Dorus** – fear de na còmhlain-chéilidh a's baisgeil' a th'ann!

**Suipeir thràidiseanta** is bàr fo chead is crannchur-gill.

*Tiocaidean (ri'm faotainn roimh làimh):* £20 (*buill HISL is 'lùghdachaidhean'*); £25 (*eile*); saor 's an asgaidh do chloinn.

Airson tiocaid 'fhaotainn, cuiribh fios gu HISL air [tickets@thehisl.co.uk](mailto:tickets@thehisl.co.uk) no 01732 850 450.

Address to the Haggis by **Alasdair McCrae**; piping by **Donald MacRury**; dancing to the music of **Deoch 'n' Dorus** – one of the liveliest céilidh bands around!

**Traditional supper**, licensed bar and raffle.

*Tickets (to be obtained in advance):* £20 (*HISL members and 'concessions'*); £25 (*others*); free of charge for children.

To obtain a ticket, contact HISL on [tickets@thehisl.co.uk](mailto:tickets@thehisl.co.uk) or 01732 850 450.

Làrach-lìn / Website: [www.thehisl.co.uk](http://www.thehisl.co.uk)

... AGUS SÙIL AIR AGHAIDH AIR ...

... AND LOOKING AHEAD TO ...

### PLÀNÀIGEADH DO'N BHLIADHNA ÙIR: CINN-LATHA DO'R LEABHAR-LATHA

An-seo aig **Lunnainn nan Gàidheal**, is maith leinn a bhith a' cuideachdadh le plànàigeadh do'n bhliadhna ùir (☺), is mar sin, seo agaibh ceann-latha no 'dhà do'r "**leabhar-latha Gàidhealach**" ann an **2010** (agus cumaibh an cuimhne gu'n ath-ùraichear am fiosrachadh seo ann an àireamhan de'n chuairt-litir ri teachd):

### COMUNN GÀIDHLIG LUNNAINN

Seo agaibh liosta de na cinn-latha ann an 2010 air am bi tachartas ann aig **Comunn Gàidhlig Lunnainn**:

### PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Here at **Gaelic London**, we like to help out with planning for the new year (☺), and so here are some dates for your "**Gaelic diary**" in **2010** (and don't forget that there will be updates in future editions of the newsletter):

### GAELIC SOCIETY OF LONDON

Here's a list of the dates in 2010 on which there will be an event at the **Gaelic Society of London**:

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<b>Di-Sathairne, 20mh Gearran 2010;</b>	<b>Saturday, 20th February 2010;</b>
<b>Di-Sathairne, 20mh Màrt 2010;</b>	<b>Saturday, 20th March 2010;</b>
<b>Di-Sathairne, 12ra Òg-mhìos 2010;</b>	<b>Saturday, 12th June 2010;</b>
<b>Di-Sathairne, 11a Sultain 2010;</b> agus	<b>Saturday, 11th September 2010;</b> and
<b>Di-Sathairne, 13mh Samhain 2010 (CBC).</b>	<b>Saturday, 13th November 2010 (AGM).</b>

Làrach-lìn / Website: [www.comunnlunnainn.co.uk](http://www.comunnlunnainn.co.uk)

**SEIRBHISEAN GÀIDHLIG**

Tha dùil ann gu'm bi seirbhis Ghàidhlig ann an **Eaglais Cùirt a' Chrùin**, Sràid Russell, Covent Garden, WC2B 5EZ (*Fon-talamh: Covent Garden, Charing Cross no Holborn*) air na cinn-latha an 2010 a leanas:

**Là na Sàbaid, 14mh Màrt 2010;**

**Là na Sàbaid, 9mh Céitean 2010;**

**Là na Sàbaid, 12ra Sultain 2010;**  
agus

**Là na Sàbaid, 12ra Dùdlachd 2010**

(a ghnàth o 3:30f air aghaidh).

**GAELIC SERVICES**

It is anticipated that there will be a Gaelic service at **Crown Court Church**, Russell Street, Covent Garden, WC2B 5EZ (*Underground: Covent Garden, Charing Cross or Holborn*) on the following dates in 2010:

**Sunday, 14th March 2010;**

**Sunday, 9th May 2010;**

**Sunday, 12th September 2010;**  
and

**Sunday, 12th December 2010**

(always from 3:30pm onwards).

Làraichean-lìn / Websites:

[londongaelicervices.org.uk](http://londongaelicervices.org.uk) [www.crowncourtchurch.org.uk](http://www.crowncourtchurch.org.uk)

**AN AIFHREANN  
GHÀIDHEALACH**

Am-bliadhna bidh an Aifhreann a' tachairt aig 3:00 f **Di-Dòmhaich, 16mh Céitean 2010**, ann an

**GAELIC  
MASS**

This year's Mass will take place at 3:00pm on **Sunday, 16th May 2010**, at St. Mary Moorfields Church,

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Eaglais Naoimh Moire 'sna Moorfields, Sràid Eldon, Cathair Lunnainn, EC2M 7LS (*Fon-talamh: Liverpool St. no Moorgate*).

Eldon Street, City of London, EC2M 7LS (*Underground: Liverpool St. or Moorgate*).

Làrach-lìn / Website: [www.stmarymoorfields.net](http://www.stmarymoorfields.net)

**... AGUS DÌREACH MAR 'CHOBHAIR-CHUIMHNE' ...**

**... AND JUST AS AN 'AIDE-MÉMOIRE' ...**

**BBC ALBA:  
COMH-  
CHOMHAIRLEACHADH  
POBLACH**

**BBC ALBA:  
PUBLIC  
CONSULTATION**

Mar a bha sinn a' luaidh air roimh seo, tha Urras a' BhBC a' cur comh-chomhairle aig an àm seo ris a' mhór-shluagh air BBC Alba – an sianal digeatach Gàidhlig – an ceann a chiad bhliadhna. Na'm bu mhaith leibh ur beachd air an t-sianal a chur an céill (a' gabhail a-steach co-dhiùbh am bu chòir dha 'bhith ri 'fhaotainn air Freeview), cuiribh céilidh air an làraich-lìn no sgrìobhaibh gu Urras a' BhBC aig an t-seòladh a tha gu h-iseal. **Chan fhuilear do na freagairtean a bhith air am faighinn gu ruige Di-Luain, 18mh Faoilteach 2010.**

As we were mentioning earlier, the BBC Trust is currently conducting a public consultation on BBC Alba – the Gaelic digital channel – after its first year. If you would like to express your opinions on the channel (including whether it should be available on Freeview), visit the website or write to the BBC Trust at the address below. **Replies must be received by Monday, 18th January 2010.**

Làrach-lìn / Website:  
[www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/consultations/departments/bbc/bbc-alba-review/consultation/consult\\_view](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/consultations/departments/bbc/bbc-alba-review/consultation/consult_view)

Seòladh post-d / E-mail address:  
[trust.consultations@bbc.co.uk](mailto:trust.consultations@bbc.co.uk)

(Cuiribh "BBC Alba Review" ann an ceann-cuspair a' phuist-d / Put "BBC Alba Review" in the e-mail header)

Seòladh puistéal / Postal address:  
**BBC Trust (BBC ALBA review)**  
**180 Great Portland Street, Lunnainn / London W1W 5QZ**

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Agus na 'regulars': cumaibh an cuimhne gu'm bi na tachartasan  
seo a' ruith fad na bliadhna!

*And the 'regulars': don't forget that these events run  
throughout the year!*

**CÒISIR LUNNAINN**

A' chòisir Ghàidhlig ann an Lunnainn; coinneamh gach **Di-Màirt** ann an **talla Eaglais Cùirt a' Chrùin** (ri taobh Taigh-cluiche Fortune), Sràid Russell, Covent Garden, WC2B 5EZ aig **7:00f** (*Fon-talamh: Covent Garden, Charing Cross no Holborn*).

A' chiad choinneamh de'n bhliadhna ùir: **Di-Màirt, 12ra Faoilteach 2010**. Bidh fàilte chridheil aig luchd-tadhail is buill ùra.

**CÒISIR LUNNAINN**

The **Gaelic choir in London**; meets every **Tuesday** in the **hall of Crown Court Church** (next to the Fortune Theatre), Russell Street, Covent Garden, WC2B 5EZ at **7:00pm** (*Underground: Covent Garden, Charing Cross or Holborn*).

First meeting of the new year: **Tuesday, 12th January 2010**. Visitors and new members are warmly welcome.

Làrach-lìn / Website: [www.coisirlunnainn.org.uk](http://www.coisirlunnainn.org.uk)

Post-d / E-mail: [coisirlunnainn@fmail.co.uk](mailto:coisirlunnainn@fmail.co.uk)

**CLASAICHEAN GÀIDHLIG**

Anns a' **CityLit**, 1-10 Sràid Keeley, Holborn, WC2B 4BA (*Fon-talamh: Holborn no Covent Garden*).

**Ìre 1:** gach **Di-Ciadaoin** aig **6:00f**

**Ìre 2:** gach **Di-Ciadaoin** aig **7:30f**

*NB/ Tha na clasaichean air tòiseachadh a-ris airson teirm an earraich (a bhios a' ruith gu ruige **17mh Màrt 2010**). Gheibhear tuille fiosrachaidh mu na clasaichean (agus mu'n CityLit gu coitcheann) air an làraich-lìn – faicibh gu h-iseal.*

**GAELIC CLASSES**

At the **CityLit**, 1-10 Keeley Street, Holborn, WC2B 4BA (*Underground: Holborn or Covent Garden*).

**Level 1:** every **Wednesday** at **6:00pm**

**Level 2:** every **Wednesday** at **7:30pm**

*NB/ Classes have started up again for the spring term (that runs until **17th March 2010**). More information about the classes (and the CityLit in general) on the website – see below.*

Làrach-lìn / Website: [www.citylit.ac.uk](http://www.citylit.ac.uk)