

# LUNNAINN NAN GÀIDHEAL

## Gaelic London

TACHARTASAN GÀIDHLIG AN  
LUNNAINN  
ANNS NA SEACHDAINEAN  
A THA A' TIGHINN  
(An Gearran 2010)

GAELIC EVENTS IN  
LONDON  
IN THE COMING WEEKS  
(February 2010)

### AN GEARRAN (no "An domhan is na th'ann")

Uill, a chàirdean, uaireannan saoilidh mi gur i beatha "sgoilte" a th'againn mar Ghàidheil: ma 's e *Donald MacDonald* a theirear ruinn ann an saoghal na Beurla no *Dòmhnall MacDhòmhnail* ann an Gàidhlig na h-oifig, mar eiseamplair, 's e *Dòmhnall Mór* no *Dòmhnall Òg* is m.s.a.a. a theirear ruinn aig baile! Ach, mar dhuine, an ionnan *Donald MacDonald* ann am Beurla agus *Dòmhnall Òg* ann an Gàidhlig? A thaobh seo, caomhnaibh smuain do Mharie Smith Jones: 's e sin an t-ainm a bh'oirre ann am Beurla, ach ann a cànan fhéin 's e **Udach' Kuqax\*a'a'ch** a bh'oirre.

Dh'fhaodadh nach cuala sibh a-riamh mu Mharie Smith Jones. "Cò ise?", dh'fhaighnicheadh sibh. Uill, 's e sean bhean-ualas a bh'innte, á Baile na h-Acarsaid ann an Alasga. Fhuair i bàs timcheall air dà bhliadhna air ais, anns an Fhaoilteach 2008. Agus **'nuair a fhuair ise bàs, fhuair a cànan-se bàs còmhla rithe.**

Bha Mrs. Smith Jones 'na ball de mhuinntir nan Èigheagach, fear de na cinnidhean dualach a bhiodh 'nan còmhnaidh fad oirthir Alasga is a-steach ann am broinn na dùthcha. Ged a bha clann aig Marie, cha tug i a cànan daibh. Mar a mhinich ise fhéin e, phòs i fear-labhairt na Beurla anns na 1940an agus, aig an àm ud, cha robh meas mór ann air cànainean is dòighean nam muinntirean dùthchasach. Mar

Well, friends, sometimes I think we lead "split" lives as Gaels: if we're called *Donald MacDonald* in the English-speaking world or *Dòmhnall MacDhòmhnail* in official Gaelic, for example, we're called *Domhnall Mór* or *Dòmhnall Òg* etc. etc. at home! But is *Donald MacDonald* in English the same person as *Dòmhnall Òg* in Gaelic? In this regard, spare a thought for Marie Smith Jones: that was her name in English, but in her own language she was **Udach' Kuqax\*a'a'ch**.

You might never have heard of Marie Smith Jones. "Who is she?", you might ask. Well, she was an old lady from Anchorage in Alaska. She died about two years ago, in January 2008. And **when she died, her language died with her.**

Mrs. Smith Jones was a member of the Eyak people, one of the native tribes that used to live along the coast of Alaska and into the interior of the country. Although Marie had children, she did not pass on her language to them. As she explained it herself, she married an English-speaker in the 1940s and, at that time, there wasn't a great appreciation for the languages and customs of native peoples. As Gaels,

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Ghàidheil, bidh tuigse againn fhéin air an t-suidheachadh seo.

Mu'n do chaochail i, co-dhiùbh, chuir Marie ùine seachad còmhla ri cànanaichean (agus ris an còrr de luchd-labhairt na h-Èigheagais a bha fhathast beò aig an àm ud) a' déanamh chlàraidhean anns a' chànain. Air an dòigh seo, agus mì-choltach ris na h-uiread de chànainean a fhuair bàs air beul an luchd-labhairt aca 'nuair a fhuair iad fhéin bàs, bidh cothrom aig na ginealaich ri tighinn a bhith a' cluintinn mar a bhiodh na h-Èigheagaich a' labhairt anns an teangaidh aca fhéin.

Fhad 's a bha mi a' leughadh an artagail air Marie is cànan nan Èigheagach, bha aon abairt ann a ghlac mo shùil gu h-àraid: a-réir an ùghdair, **chaidh a' chànain á bith o chionn 's gu'n deach a "domhanachadh"**. B'fheudar dhomh am facal a leughadh iomadh uair feuch gu'n robh mi 'ga thuigsinn gu ceart. 'S eadh, le bhith a' déanamh feum de'n fhacal "domhanachadh", cha robh an t-ùghdar airson ràdh gu'n deach cànan nan Èigheagach a sgaoileadh chun nan ceithir ranna ruadha mar a' Bheurla, an Fhraingis no an Spàinntis, ach gu dìreach a chaochladh – milleadh na cànan, seach a sgaoileadh, troimh bhuaidh is neart an t-saoghail a-muigh. Theirinn-sa gur e sin an cleachdadh a's ìorantaiche de'n fhacal "domhanachas" a chuala mi a-riamh.

Ann an saoghal far am bi dà mhion-chànain 'gan "domhanachadh" (anns an t-seagh ìorantach gu'm bi iad a' dol á bith) gach aon mhìos, **tha eiseamplair Marie 'na rabhadh duinn uile**. Chan eil cothrom aig cànan nan Èigheagach tuille, ach tha cothrom againne mar Ghàidheil a

we can understand this situation ourselves.

Before she passed away, however, Marie spent time with linguists (and the remaining speakers of Eyak who were still alive at the time) making recordings in the language. In this way, and unlike so many languages that have died on the lips of their speakers when they themselves died, future generations will have an opportunity to hear how the Eyaks used to speak in their own tongue.

As I was reading the article about Marie and the Eyak language, there was one turn of phrase that particularly caught my eye: according to the author, **the language died out because it was "globalised"**. I had to read the word several times to make sure that I had understood it correctly. Yes, by using the word "globalised", the author didn't mean that the Eyak language had been transmitted to the four corners of the globe like English, French or Spanish, but the exact opposite – destruction, rather than propagation, of the language through the effects and strength of the outside world. I guess that's the most ironic use of the word "globalisation" I've ever heard.

In a world where two minority languages are being "globalised" (in the ironic sense of becoming extinct) every single month, **Marie's example is a warning to us all**. The Eyak language has no more opportunity, but we have an opportunity as Gaels to use our

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bhith a' cleachdadh ar cànanain – agus a bhith a' gabhail tlachd innt' is moit aiste mar chànanain a tha beò.

Mu dheireadh thall, 's dòcha gu'm bheil sibh a' faighneachd duibh fhéin dé a's ciall do'n ainm dhualach a bh'air Marie. Uill, seo agaibh e - 's e "*fuaim a ghairmeas an sluagh o chéin*". Bitheadh a h-ainm 'na **shluagh-ghairm do luchd-labhairt nam mion-chànain** air feadh an t-saoghail.

Gus an ath thurus ...

language - and to derive pleasure and pride in it as a living language.

Finally, perhaps you are wondering what Marie's native name means. Well, here it is - "*a sound that summons people from afar*". Let her name be a **slogan to speakers of minority languages** across the globe.

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' chultur 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)

#### "SUIPEIR NAM BÀRD": LE MÀIRI-SÌNE CHAIMBEUL AIG CGL

Di-Sathairne,  
20mh Gearran 2010,  
aig 7:00f

Aig Comunn Gàidhlig Lunnainn (CGL), talla Eaglais Cùirt a' Chrùin (ri taobh Taigh-cluiche Fortune), Sràid Russell, Covent Garden, WC2B 5EZ (*Fon-talamh: Covent Garden no Charing Cross*).

#### "SUPPER O' THE BARDS": WITH MÀIRI-SÌNE CAMPBELL AT GSL

Saturday,  
20th February 2010,  
at 7:00pm

At the Gaelic Society of London (GSL), hall of Crown Court Church (next to the Fortune Theatre), Russell Street, Covent Garden, WC2B 5EZ (*Underground: Covent Garden or Charing Cross*).

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Tha an Comunn a' toirt cuiridh chridheil do a chuid bhall is chàirdean a bhith an làthair aig an fheasgar shònraichte seo: **suipeir** an cuideachd **Màiri-Sìne Chaimbeul** á **Ploc Loch Aillse**. Bidh Màiri-Sìne 'gar cur an aithne (no an ath-aithne) oibrichean **Iain MhicMhurchaidh** (1719-82) – *Bàrd Chinn t-Sàile* – troimh òrain is gheàrr-chùnntas air a shaoghal.

Bidh móran againn eòlach air Màiri-Sìne mar-thà, co-dhiùbh troimh a clàraidhean air CD no a h-obair aig Sabhal Mór Ostaig, a' cholaside Ghàidhealach 'san Eilean Sgith-eanach. Bhuannaich Màiri-Sìne **Bonn-Òir Seann-Nòs nam Ban** aig Mòd an Òbain ann an 1992, agus tha i air leth déidheil air òrain na sgìre d'am buin i: tha fiughair mhór oirnn gu bhith a' cluintinn cuid dhiùbh air an fheasgar seo!

Suipeir theth dhà-chùrsach, caifé.

*Inntreas:* £20 (a' gabhail a-steach na suipreach).

*NB/ Chan fhuilear do na tiocaidean air an tachartas seo a bhith air am faotainn / an gléidheadh roimh làimh o Rùnaire urramach a' Chomuinn, **Tòmaidh MacAsgail** (post-d: [tommymaca@hotmail.com](mailto:tommymaca@hotmail.com); fón: 020 7828 8978). Ma 's e biadh feòil-sheachnaireil a dh'iarradh sibh, thoiribh guth air seo cuideachd.*

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

### CLUB NAM PÌOBAIREAN AIG SPSSL

**Di-Sathairne,  
27mh Gearran 2010,  
aig 7:00f (airson 7:30f)**

Aig Comunn Albannach na

The Society sends a warm invitation to its members and friends to attend this special evening: a **supper** in the company of **Màiri-Sìne Campbell** of **Plockton, Lochalsh**. Màiri-Sìne will be acquainting (or reacquainting) us with the works of **John MacRae** (1719-82) – *The Kintail Bard* – through songs and a brief account of his life and times.

Many of us will already be familiar with Màiri-Sìne, whether through her recordings on CD or her work at Sabhal Mór Ostaig, the Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye. Màiri-Sìne won the **Ladies' Traditional Gold Medal** at the Oban Mòd in 1992, and she is especially fond of the songs of her native district: we look forward very much to hearing some of them on this evening!

Hot two-course supper, coffee.

*Admission:* £20 (inclusive of supper).

*NB/ Tickets for this event to be obtained / reserved in advance from the Honorary Secretary of the Society, **Tommy MacAskill** (e-mail: [tommymaca@hotmail.com](mailto:tommymaca@hotmail.com); tel.: 020 7828 8978). If you require a vegetarian meal, please mention this also.*

### PIPERS' CLUB AIG SPSSL

**Saturday,  
27th February 2010,  
at 7:00pm (for 7:30pm)**

At the **Scottish Piping Society of**

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**Pìobaireachd an Lunnainn (SPSL)**, taigh-òsd' *The Mudlark*, 4 Montague Close, London Bridge, SE1 9DA (mu choinneimh Talla nan Gloinneadairean) (*Fon-talamh: London Bridge*).

**London (SPSL)**, *The Mudlark* pub, 4 Montague Close, London Bridge, SE1 9DA (opposite the Glaziers' Hall) (*Underground: London Bridge*).

Bidh am feasgar seo a' comhar-rachadh tilleadh nam pìobairean Lunnain-neach (is an cuid chàirdean) chun an àit' a's àbhaist daibh gu dìreach deas air Drochaid Lunnainn airson an t-seusain ùir ann an 2010: ceadal air a' phìob-mhóir le **Anndra Hall**.

This evening marks the return of the London pipers (and their friends) to their usual haunt just south of London Bridge for the new season in 2010: a piping recital with **Andrew Hall**.

*Inntreas: £5 (buill SPSL); £6 (eile)*

*Admission: £5 (SPSL members); £6 (non-members)*

Làrach-lìn / Website: [www.scottishpipingsocietyoflondon.com](http://www.scottishpipingsocietyoflondon.com)

**... AGUS SÙIL AIR AGHAIDH AIR ...**

**... AND LOOKING AHEAD TO ...**

**AN T-SEIRBHIS  
GHÀIDHLIG  
RÀITHEIL**

**QUARTERLY  
GAELIC  
SERVICE**

**Là na Sàbaid,  
14mh Màrt 2010  
o 3:30f air aghaidh**

**Sunday,  
14th March 2010  
from 3:30pm onwards**

Ann an **Eaglais Cùirt a' Chrùin**, Sràid Russell, Covent Garden, WC2B 5EZ (*Fon-talamh: Covent Garden, Charing Cross no Holborn*).

In **Crown Court Church**, Russell Street, Covent Garden, WC2B 5EZ (*Underground: Covent Garden, Charing Cross or Holborn*).

Làraichean-lìn / Websites:

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

**CÉILIDH-DANNSA  
AIG HISL**

**CÉILIDH-DANCE  
AT HISL**

**Di-Sathairne,  
27mh Màrt 2010**

**Saturday,  
27th March 2010**

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Aig Comunn na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean an Lunnainn (HISL).

Céilidh an earraich, le ceòl o **The Reel Blend**, agus òrain o **Sheumas Greum** á Loch an Inbhir ann an Cataibh, fear de na seinneadairean Gàidhealach òg' a's àirde cliù a th'ann.

At the **Highlands and Islands Society of London (HISL)**.

Spring céilidh, with music from **The Reel Blend**, and songs from **James Graham** of Lochinver in Sutherland, one of the most reputed young Gaelic singers around.

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

**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*).

Bidh fàilte chridheil aig luchd-tadhail is buill ùra.

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)

### 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*).

Visitors and new members are warmly welcome.

### 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**

### 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**

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