

LUNNAINN NAN GÀIDHEAL

Gaelic London

TACHARTASAN GÀIDHLIG AN
LUNNAINN
ANNS NA SEACHDAINEAN
A THA A' TIGHINN
(An t-Òg-mhios 2009)

GAELIC EVENTS IN
LONDON
IN THE COMING WEEKS
(June 2009)

AN t-ÒG-MHÌOS (no “an làthaireachd na neo-làthaireachd”)

Uill, a chàirdean, bha mi a' dol seachad air an taigh-chluiche làimh ris an eaglais Albannaich (Cùirt a' Chrùin) ann an Covent Garden an latha roimhe 'nuair a chuala mi balach òg agus e ag ràdh “Dé 'n gnothach a th'aig eaglais Albannaich an-seo ann an Lunnainn?”. Uill, mar a shaoileadh sibh, b'fheudar dhomh strì ris a' mhiann a bhith a' tionndadh is a' toirt da (agus d'a chuideachd) geàrr-chunntais air eachdraidh nan Albannach ann am 'Baile Mór Lunnainn', ach an àite sin – agus abair nach 'Breatannach' seo! – chùm mi mo chomhairle is chùm mi a' coiseachd.

Co-dhiùbh, feumaidh mi aideachadh gu'n do chuir na 'thuirt am balach òg gu smaointinn mi: ma 's e – a-réir a' chunntais-shluaigh mu dheireadh – an treas baile 'Albannach' a's motha a th'ann gu dearbh, carson nach fhiosrach tuille dhaoine air **làthaireachd nan Albannach** (agus nan Gàidheal gu h-àraid) **ann an Lunnainn?**

Sgeul nan Albannach an Lunnainn, 's e fear fada maireannach a th'ann, ged nach b'e fear sona a bh'ann an còmhnaidh. A' siubhal gu sear o **Chùirt a' Chrùin**, ma ghabhas sinn cuairt bheag gu **Taigh-eiridinn Phàrlain** air iomall a' Bhaile fhéin, gheibh sinn an clàr an cuimhne air **Sir Uilleam Uallas**, a chuireadh gu bàs an-seo ann an 1305, agus iad a' cur gu feum nan dòighean suaimhinte (agus cruaidhe) a bh'ann

Well, friends, I was going past the theatre next to the Scottish church (Crown Court) in Covent Garden the other day there when I heard a young lad saying “*What's a Scottish church doing here in London?*”. Well, as you might imagine, I had to resist the temptation to turn round and give him (and his accompanying group) a potted history of the Scots in 'Great London Town', but instead – and how 'British'! – I kept my counsel and continued walking.

However, I must admit that the young lad's words got me to thinking: if – according to the last census – it is indeed the third-largest 'Scottish' city, why aren't more people aware of the **presence of the Scots** (and of the Gaels in particular) **in London?**

The story of the Scots in London is a long and enduring one, even if it has not always been a happy one. Travelling eastwards from **Crown Court**, if we take a brief walk to **St. Bart's Hospital** on the edge of the actual City, we'll find the plaque in memory of **Sir William Wallace**, executed here in 1305 employing the bizarre (and cruel) methods of the times: he was hanged, drawn and quartered, before they put his head

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aig an linn siud: chaidh a chrochadh, a tharraing is a chairtealadh, mun do chuir iad a cheann air thaisbeanadh os cionn Drochaid Lunnainn (mar a b' àbhaist daibh ...).

Gu nàdurrach, chan ann a-mhàin troimh nàimhdeas is dhòrtadh-fofa (!) 'sna linntean a dh'fhalbh a chomharraichear **càirdeas nan Albannach ri Lunnainn**: 's ann o chionn mòran linntean a tha sinn a' tighinn an-seo 'nar miltean gach bliadhna a dh'fhuireach, co-dhiùbh air sgàth an fhoghlaim, na h-obrach, na malairt no – mar a chluinnear mar a's trice an latha an-diugh – an t-sluaigh-iùil. A thaobh seo, bu chòir dhuinn cumail an cuimhne gu'm b'ann ann an Lunnainn a chuireadh air bhonn dithis de na stéidheachaidhean Gàidhealach a's sine de'n t-saoghal: **Comunn Gàidhlig Lunnainn** ann an 1777 agus **Còisir Lunnainn** ann an 1891 ... agus, ma bheir sinn sùil am broinn na h-àireimh seo de'n chuairt-litir, chì sinn gu'm bheil iad a' mairsinn gu ruige an latha an-diugh fhéin.

Ged-tà, agus an taca ri **ar comh-oghaichean á Éirinn**, 's mathaid nach eil sinn cho 'so-fhaicsinneach' mar choimhearsnachd ann am beatha a' bhaile: an deaghaidh a h-uile càil, thar an dà eaglaise Albannaich, chan eil àite-coinneimh againn anns a' bhaile mar ionad culturail (ged a thathar a' déanamh dhìcheall airson seo 'atharrachadh), agus cha bhithear a' comharrachadh **Là Fhéill Anndra** chun na h-aon ìre ri **Là Fhéill Pàdraig**, mar eiseamplair. A dh'aindeoin seo, 's dòcha gur e cion na 'so-fhaicsinneachd' a tha seo an dà chuid ar laigse is ar neart: 's dòcha nach bi sinn a' mothachainn an fheum' air sanas a chur air ar làthaireachd a thaobh 's gu'm bheil sinn an-seo o chionn cho fada mu thràth air dhòigh

on display over London Bridge (as was their wont ...).

Naturally, the **relationship of the Scots with London** is not distinguished only through bygone emnity and bloodshed (!): for centuries we've been coming here in our thousands every year to settle, whether for education, work, commerce or – as is often heard these days – politics. In this regard, we should not forget that two of the oldest Gaelic institutions in the world were founded in London: **Comunn Gàidhlig Lunnainn** (The Gaelic Society of London) in 1777 and **Còisir Lunnainn** (The London Gaelic Choir) in 1891 ... and, if we have a look inside this edition of the newsletter, we'll see that they survive up to this very day.

However, in comparison with **our Irish cousins**, perhaps we are not so 'visible' as a community in the life of the city: after all, outside of the two Scottish churches, we do not have focal point in the city such as a cultural centre (although efforts are being made to change this), and **St. Andrew's Day** is not celebrated to the same extent as **St. Patrick's Day**, for example. Nevertheless, perhaps this lack of 'visibility' is both our weakness and our strength: perhaps we do not feel the need to advertise our presence because we have been here for so long that we are now simply part of the **'fabric' of the city**, no more, no less.

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's gum bheil sinn 'nise gu sìmplidh
'nar pàirt de '**bhrìgh a' bhaile**, chan
eil na's motha, chan eil na's lugha.

Co-dhiùbh, mar a bhios sinn a'
teannadh ris an **latha a's fhaide**
de'n bhliadhna air a' mhìos seo,
mealaibh na tha romhainn 'san Òg-
mhìos ann an Lunnainn – **Lunnainn**
nan Gàidheal!

Gus an ath thurus ...

Anyway, as we approach the
longest day of year this month,
enjoy what's ahead of us in June in
London - **Gaelic London!**

Until next time ...

TÌORaidh AN-DRÀSD'!

LEIS NA DÙRACHDAN MAR A'S ÀBHAIST

EÒGHANN P.

PS/ Ma bhios sibh a' cur air dòigh
thachartasan sam bith a bhios
comh-cheangailte ri Gàidhlig no ris
a' chultar Ghàidhealach an Lunnainn
no an Ceann an Earra-dheas
Shasainn 'san àm ri teachd, 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

COINNEAMH
CHOITCHIONN
BHLIADHNAIL AIG SPSL

Di-Sathairne, 13s Òg-mhìos 2009
aig 7:00f (airson 7:30f)

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

ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING AT
SPSL

Saturday, 13th June 2009
at 7:00pm (for 7:30pm)

At the **Scottish Piping Society of**
London (SPSL), *The Mudlark* pub,
4 Montague Close, London Bridge,
SE1 (opposite The Glaziers' Hall)
(*Underground: London Bridge*).

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Tha SPSL a' tilleadh gu fear de na h-àiteachan-tathaich' a's fheàrr leis dìreach làimh ri Drochaid Lunnainn airson a **ChCB** am-bliadhna. Ma 's e ball a' Chomuinn a th'annaibh, tiugainnibh a thagadh a' chomataidh ùir agus, fiù 's mur e ball a th'annaibh, tiugainnibh car beag na's fhadalaiche a mhealadh a' chiùil (agus pinnt) – bidh **sèisean neo-fhoirmeil** ann air a' phìob leis na buill fhéin.

*NB/ Airson tuille fiosrachaidh mu 'n ChCB no mu 'n Chomunn am bitheantas fhaotainn, cuiribh fios gu Ceann-suidhe SPSL, **Adhamh Sanderson** air adam@scottishpipingsocietyoflondon.com - no cuiribh tadhal air làraich-lìn SPSL (faicibh gu h-iseal).*

The SPSL returns to one of its favourite 'haunts' just next to London Bridge for its **AGM** this year. If you are a member of the Society, come along and vote for the new committee and, even if you're not a member, come along a wee bit later on and enjoy the music (and a pint) – an **informal session** on the pipes by the members themselves.

*NB/ To obtain more information about the AGM or the Society in general, contact the President of the SPSL, **Adam Sanderson**, on adam@scottishpipingsocietyoflondon.com - or visit the SPSL website (see below).*

Làrach-lìn / Website: www.scottishpipingsocietyoflondon.com

“PORT AN ÒIG-MHÌOSA” - DANNSA AIG RSCDS

**Di-Sathairne, 13s Òg-mhìos 2009
bho 7:00f gu 10:30f**

Aig **Comunn Rìoghail an Iol-Dannsaidh Albannaich (RSCDS), Meur Lunnainn**, ann an Eaglais Choluim Chille, Sràid Pont, Knightsbridge, SW1X 0BD (*Fon-talamh: Sloane Square no Knightsbridge*).

Dannsa a' mheadhon-shàmhradh – 'san àite àbhaisteach an teas-mheadhon Lunnainn! Dannelsadh ri ceòl **Fhraing Reid is a chòmhlain-chiùil**.

Inntreas:

£8.50; £7.50 (*buill RSCDS*);
£2.00 (*clann*); saor 's an asgaidh
(*clann buill RSCDS*)

“JUNE JIG” - DANCE AT RSCDS

**Saturday, 13th June 2009
from 7:00pm to 10:30pm**

At the **Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society (RSCDS), London Branch**, at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, Knightbridge, SW1X 0BD (*Underground: Sloane Square or Knightsbridge*).

A midsummer's dance – in the usual venue in the middle of London! Dancing to the music of **Frank Reid and his band**.

Admission:

£8.50; £7.50 (*RSCDS members*);
£2.00 (*children*); free of charge
(*RSCDS members' children*)

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*NB/ Airson tuille fiosrachaidh mu'n dannsa no mu'n Chomunn am bitheantas 'fhaotainn, cuiribh fios gu Cathraiche a' Chomuinn, **Jeff Robertson** (post-d: chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk; fón: 01903 245718), no cuiribh tadhal air làraich-lìn RSCDS (faicibh gu h-iseal).*

*NB/ For more information about the dance or the Society in general, contact the Chairman of the Society, **Jeff Robertson**, (e-mail: chairman@rscdslondon.org.uk; tel.: 01903 245718), or visit the RSCDS website (see below).*

Làrach-lìn / Website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk

COINNEAMH CHOITCHIONN BHLIADHNAIL AIG HISL

**Di-Sathairne,
27mh Òg-mhios 2009,
aig 2:30f**

Aig Comunn na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean an Lunnainn (HISL), ann an Talla nan Cuimreach (Welsh Centre), 157-163 Rathad Gray's Inn, Lunnainn, WC1X 8UE (*Fon-talamh: King's Cross, Russell Square no Chancery Lane*).

Chuirear fàilte chridheil air buill a' Chomuinn air fad chun na **CCB**: taghadh a' chomataidh ùir is sùil air ais air a' bhliadhna a dh'fhalbh is sùil air adhart air a' bhliadhna a tha romhainn.

NB/ Na'm bu mhaith leibh tuille fiosrachaidh mu 'n Chomunn is 'amasan is a thachartasan 'san àm ri teachd 'fhaotainn, cuiribh tadhal air a làraich-lìn (faicibh gu h-iseal).

Làrach-lìn / Website: www.thehisl.co.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT HISL

**Saturday,
27th June 2009
at 2:30pm**

At the **Highlands and Islands Society of London (HISL)**, in the Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8UE (*Underground: King's Cross, Russell Square or Chancery Lane*).

All members of the Society will be warmly welcomed to the **AGM**: election of the new committee, review of the year gone by and looking forward to the year ahead.

NB/ If you would like to obtain more information about the Society, its aims and its future events, visit its website (see below).

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... AGUS SÙIL AIR ADHART AIR ...

... AND LOOKING AHEAD TO ...

DEALBH-CHLUIICHE
GHÀIDHEALACH:
PRÌOMH-THAISBEANADH
AN LUNNAINN

"Bha mi 'nam latha bréagha":
dealbh-chluiche le
Iain Fionnlagh MacLeòid

Sè coimhlionaidhean gu léir:

Là na Sàbaid / Diluain,
12ra / 13s Iuchar 2009
19mh / 20mh Iuchar 2009
26mh / 27mh Iuchar 2009

Aig 7:30f

Ann an **Taigh-cluiche Finborough**,
118 Rathad Finborough, Lunnainn
SW10 9ED (*Fon-talamh: Earl's Court*
no West Brompton).

Ma bhios ùidh agaibh anns an **ùr-sgrìobhadh Ghàidhlig**, tha sinn cinnteach gu'm bi sibh eòlach air oibrichean an **ùghdair òig** seo á **Eilean Leódhais** mu thràth. Anns an deilbh-chluiche seo – a chithear ann an Lunnainn airson a' chiad turuis - bidh e a' measgachadh Gàidhlig is Beurla, cogaidh is sìth, slàinte is euslainte, cuimhne is diochuimhne ...

Tiocaidean: £13, £9 (*lùgh-dachaidhean*); ri 'm faotainn air loidhne troimh'n làraich-lìn (*faicibh gu h-iseal*) no air 0844 847 1652 (*seirbhis 24u*).

HIGHLAND PLAY:
FIRST PERFORMANCE
IN
LONDON

"I was a beautiful day":
a play by
Iain Finlay MacLeod

Six performances in total:

Sunday / Monday,
12th / 13th July 2009
19th / 20th July 2009
26th / 27th July 2009

At 7:30pm

At the **Finborough Theatre**,
118 Finborough Road, London SW10
9ED (*Underground: Earl's Court*
or West Brompton).

If you are interested in **modern Gaelic writing**, we're sure that you're already familiar with the works of this **young author** from the **Isle of Lewis**. In this play – receiving its London première – he mixes Gaelic and English, war and peace, sickness and health, memory and forgetfulness ...

Tickets: £13, £9 (*concessions*); available on-line through the website (*see below*) or on 0844 847 1652 (*24hr service*).

Làrach-lìn / Website: www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

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

... AND JUST AS AN 'AIDE-MÉMOIRE' ...

**CLASAICHEAN-
SÀMHRAIDH DO
DH'INBHICH AIG RSCDS**

Di-Ciadaoin,
10mh Òg-mhìos 2009
17mh Òg-mhìos 2009
24mh Òg-mhìos 2009

Bho gu 7:15f gu 9:15f

Aig Comunn Rìoghail an Iol-
Dannsaidh Albannaich (RSCDS),
Meur Lunnainn, ann an Sgoil
Mharlborough, Sloane Avenue,
Kensington, SW3 3AP (*Fon-talamh: South Kensington no Sloane Square*).

Inntreas: £6 an clas.

**SUMMER CLASSES
FOR ADULTS
AT RSCDS**

Wednesday,
10th June 2009
17th June 2009
24th June 2009

From 7:15pm to 9:15pm

At the Royal Scottish Country
Dancing Society (RSCDS),
London Branch, at Marlborough
School, Sloane Avenue, Kensington,
SW3 3AP (*Underground: South Kensington or Sloane Square*).

Admission: £6 per class.

Làrach-lìn / Website: www.rscdslondon.org.uk

"CLUB NAN CÉILIDH"

Di-hAoine,
12mh Òg-mhìos 2009 /
19mh Òg-mhìos 2009 /
26mh Òg-mhìos 2009

Di-Sathairne,
27mh Òg-mhìos 2009

Bho 7:15f (airson 8:00f)
gu 11:00f

Ann an Taigh Cecil Sharp,
2 Regent's Park Road, Camden NW1
7AY (*Fon-talamh: Camden Town*).

Hé, mar a's teoth' an t-side, 's ann
a's beothaille an dannsadh ... na
diochuimhnichibh ur féileadh – agus
ur n-uisge!

"CÉILIDH CLUB"

Friday,
12th June 2009 /
19th June 2009 /
26th June 2009

Saturday,
27th June 2009

From 7:15pm (for 8:00pm)
to 11:00pm

At Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's
Park Road, Camden NW1 7AY
(*Underground: Camden Town*).

Hey, the hotter the weather, the
livelier the dancing ... don't forget
your kilt – and your water!

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Inntreas: £12.50; £6 (lùgh-dachaidhean – ri 'm faotainn 'aig an dorus' a-mhàin).

PS/ Ma bhios "earrann de dh'aodach breacanach nach bi beag-sheaghail" oirbh, théid a' phris a lùghdachadh air £1! ☺

Admission: £12.50; £6 (*concessions* – available 'on the door' only).

PS/ If you wear a "significant piece of tartan", the price is reduced by £1! ☺

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 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*).

Làrach-lìn / Website: www.coisirlunnainn.org.uk

Post-d / E-mail: 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**

Deireadh teirm an t-sàmhraidh: Di-Ciadaoin, 24mh Òg-mhìos 2009.

Làrach-lìn / Website: www.citylit.ac.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*).

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**

End of summer term: Wednesday, 24th June 2009.