

## Moostey ny Gaeil ayns Nalbin – Rousing the Gaels in Scotland

Va mee hoal ayns Dunoon (Dùn Omhain), er broogh twoaie yn awin Clyde mysh queig meeilley jeig as feed sheear voish Glasgow, shiaghtin ny ghaa er dy henney son yn Mòd Ashoonagh Reeoil, feailley ashoonagh Ghaelgagh Nalbin – red ennagh eddyr y Guild as y Chruinnaght ainyn. T’eh gansoor da’n Eisteddfod ayns y Thalloo Vretnagh as yn Oireachtas ayns Nerin, agh t’eh lane sloo na ad shen as foddey smoo dy Vaarle ry chlashtyn, son dy vel lane scansh jeh ny sheshaghtyn-arrane Gaelgagh, paart jeh voish ny baljyn mooarey Baarlagh ta lane dy leih nagh vel floaoil, agh s’lhiack lhieu kiaulleeaght ’sy çhengey.

Son shen as ooilley, va Gaelg dy liooar ry chlashtyn er y traid, ayns ny shappyn, ny thieyn-bee as ny thieyn-oast – red nagh vel ry gheddyn ’sy towse cheddin ayns ny feaillaghyn Yernagh as Bretnagh, son dy vel ad taghyrt ooilley ’syn un ynnyd, ayns thie-oast mooar ny ayns magher, ersooyl voish mooinjer as sheshaghtyn-dellal yn voayl ynnydoil. Ta’n Mòd cur lesh £2.5 millioon dys y voayl raad t’eh taghyrt, as cur goo mie yn Ghaelg er e hoshiaght ayn neesht.

Ta’n çheer mygeayrt Dùn Omhain casley dy liooar rish Mannin: va Gaelg dy liooar ayn keead blein as eer lieh-cheead blein er dy henney, agh nish cha nel agh un loayrtagh dooghyssagh er-mayrn jeh’n ghlare ghooie, er-lhimmey jeh un lught-thie ta prowal dy aa-vioghey ee.

She Dùn Omhain y chieud voayl ayns Nalbin er hug mee shilley rieu er laghyn-seyre tra va mee shiaght bleaney dy eash, as v’eh mie dy ve back ayn, ga dy row eh rastagh as fliugh dy liooar ayns mee s’jerree yn ouyr. Cha beagh monney taghyrt ayns shen ec y tra shoh jeh’n vlein er-be dy row feailley vooar ny Gaeil ayn.

Va margey beg jeh ny caghlaaghyn sheshaght Ghaelgagh ayn fud ny shiaghtin, as va mee hene as kuse dy chumraagyn ayn son freayll rick er boayrd Misneachd, sheshaght-streeu ta prowal dy voostey ny Gaeil ayns Nalbin, as shin lhunney *Plan radickagh son y Ghaelg* ec y Mòd. Ta’n pabyr shoh shassoo er nagh vel yn reiltys as ny sheshaghtyn oikoil cur arrey dy liooar da arkys ny co-phobbleyn Gaelgagh ayns ny hellanyn, as y ghlare raad y vaaish ayndoo, ny cur feayslaghyn breeoil er nyn doshiaght.

Va sleih dy liooar va shin taggloo roo coontey mie jeh ny smooinaghtyn ain, as va caa ain dy loayrt rish paart jeh ny sheshaghtyn elley as ard-gheiney yn theihll Ghaelgagh, chammah’s as y BBC as ny pabyryn-naight. V’eh red beg quaagh ve ec toshiaght claare ny naightyn er BBC Alba ry lhiattee Theresa May as Brexit!

Ry-hoi lhaih ny smoo mysh smooinaghtyn Misneachd, as y Plan hene, jeeagh ayns shoh:

<https://bellacaledonia.org.uk/2018/10/23/a-radical-plan-for-gaelic-scotland/>

I was over in Dunoon, on the north bank of the Clyde about 35 miles west of Glasgow, a couple of weeks ago for the Royal National Mòd, Scotland's national Gaelic festival – something in between our Guild and Yn Chruinnaght. It corresponds to the Welsh Eisteddfod and the Irish Oireachtas, but is considerably smaller, and more English is spoken, due to the strong emphasis on the Gaelic choirs, many of whose members are not fluent in the language, but enjoy singing in it.

Nevertheless, plenty of Gaelic was to be heard on the street, in the shops, the cafés and the pubs – this is not found to the same extent in the Irish and Welsh festivals, which take place in a central location in a large hotel or field, away from local people and businesses. The Mòd brings £2.5 million to the local economy, and raises the profile of Gaelic in the area.

The district around Dunoon is fairly similar to the Isle of Man: Gaelic was widely spoken a hundred or even fifty years ago, but now there is only one native speaker of the local dialect left, apart from one family who are trying to revive it.

Dunoon was the first place in Scotland I visited on holiday when I was seven, and it was good to be back, although it was fairly blustery and wet in October. There wouldn't have been much on at this time of the year were it not for the Gaelic festival.

There was a small fair all week with stalls for the different Gaelic organizations, and myself and a few friends were in charge of the stall for Misneachd, a pressure group looking to rouse the Gaels to demand stronger policies to protect and promote the language. We were there to launch *A Radical Plan for Gaelic*, a document setting out our views that the government and official bodies are not paying enough attention to the crisis of the Gaelic-speaking communities in the Hebrides, and the impending death of Gaelic as an everyday community language, nor supporting effective solutions.

We talked to a lot of people who were receptive to our ideas, and had the opportunity to chat with representatives of other Gaelic organizations and leading figures in the community, as well as the media. It was a bit strange to see ourselves at the start of the BBC Alba news bulletin next to Theresa May and Brexit!

To read more about Misneachd's ideas, and the *Radical Plan* itself, go to: <https://bellacaledonia.org.uk/2018/10/23/a-radical-plan-for-gaelic-scotland/>