

Use of the HGIOCLD4 framework in World Gaelic Week 2023

Background

As a public body the local authority, Moray Council, must provide a Gaelic Language Plan and a draft is currently with Bord na Gàidhlig. At present, there is no designated budget for Gaelic within Moray Council and so when the World Gaelic Week grant offer appeared we jumped at the opportunity.

“ Seachdain na Gàidhlig connects people from all walks of life right across the world to promote, use and learn Gaelic, through a coordinated network of activities taking place across Scotland and internationally, from 20th – 26th February 2023.” The overarching theme was “*Coming Together.*”

We knew from the jointly promoted Gaelic Skills Audit the range of activities that people were interested in and as a partnership, we were committed to encouraging anything to stimulate interest in the language, culture and heritage. Our biggest desire was to source a creative Gaelic tutor for beginners to meet the needs of people who followed the Duolingo or Speak Gaelic programmes.

A partnership bid between Moray Gaelic Group, Dallas Primary School, UHI Moray and CLD was submitted based on what worked well the previous year. Miraculously we received a 100% grant of £500. As partnership was key to the delivery and resourcing of the week it felt appropriate that we looked at QI 3.2 Partnership working to evaluate the plan.

The sessions and outcomes:

- **Cofaidh agus Craic 20th February 2023**

15 people attended the session and exchanged ideas in the Elgin Library including 4 Moray Council Councillors and members of Moray Gaelic group. Participants had the opportunity to see the collection of Gaelic books available for lending through the Libraries Service. *Cleachdi* materials, the Learn Gaelic booklets plus the draft Moray Gaelic Plan were all available for people to pick up. The outcome will be a monthly session for people to come together and use their language plus there are new people to join a beginner's class and a potential facilitator. Some feedback received:

“I wish this could be on every week so I can use my Gaelic.”

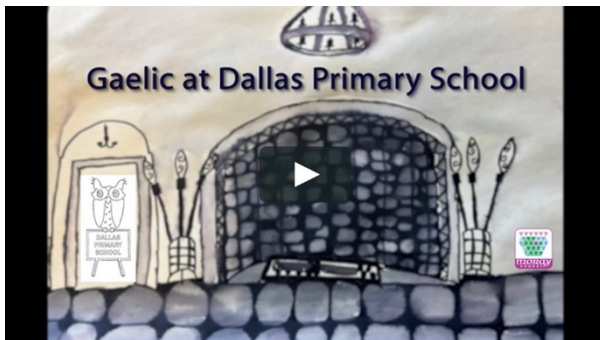
“I was impressed with the depth of knowledge and the enthusiasm (actually that was inspiring) of those in the room; this isn't just about learning the Gaelic (which I look forward to doing) but an almost campaigning zeal to make sure that our culture does not die out.”

“Gaelic is not readily recognised as an area of inequality in Moray, but it is. I want my child to have access to Gaelic medium opportunities.”

- **Dallas Primary School**

An input to Head Teachers on the Gaelic Plan resulted in one Primary School showing interest in progressing ideas. A meeting was held between the Head Teacher, a retired Gaelic teacher and CLD officer to progress a plan. As part of a wider learning context on the Languages of Scotland, Dallas Primary pupils learned about language and culture within. Over a five week period A Feis tutor supported learning about traditional music through song and instrument playing with each child introduced to the , penny whistle and accordion. A retired Gaelic Medium teacher from Inverness supported the school is delivering an introduction to the Gaelic language, teaching the children

greetings, numbers and songs. The pupils created a short video to promote Gaelic in Moray which included a sketch in Gaelic, linked to the local ruined castle, which was filmed and shared on the schools Facebook and Twitter page and on the Education bulletin.



[Dallas Gaelic v1.mp4](#)

vimeo.com

Facebook comments:

- *Sgoinneil! Brilliant.*
- *Love this, we didn't have this in Dallas Primary in 1950. Well done all.*
- *Fantastic work! So interesting and beautiful singing. Well done everyone.*
- *It was so great to see how quickly they had picked Gaelic up.*
- *Very well done. They would make a brilliant choir. Such a brilliant group of kids in a brilliant school.*
- *Abair sgoinneil bhidio! Is toil leam e.*

In addition to the film, pupils also created a radio show celebrating the languages of Scotland which included their learning about Scots, Doric and Gaelic. The children read the Gruffalo in Scots, sang a couple of Gaelic songs and shared their learning and thoughts about the language for a programme on Keith Community Radio, broadcast during Gaelic week:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/KCR1077/top-of-the-class-with-dallas-primary-school-20-february-2023/>

An unexpected outcome is that the Head Teacher has signed up for a Sabhal Mor Ostaig Gaelic Course with the Moray Council CLD Officer.

- **Moray and Gaelic by Iain Mac an Tàilleir Tuesday 21st February 2023, 7-830pm**

34 people attended an online input on “Moray and Gaelic” by Iain Mac an Tàilleir which firmly challenges and provides evidence for anyone who thinks that Gaelic did not exist in Moray and is not of interest. A teacher who now lives in Ottawa with family roots in Moray, serenaded us with Mairi’s Wedding on the flute whilst people joined the meeting. Some participants had attended previous sessions and other Moray residents were new and have signed up to future initiatives.

Feedback:

“This was an exceptionally interesting talk, by an extremely knowledgeable person.”

“Why is this information, relevant for history and geography as well as language and culture, not taught in Moray Schools?”

“This is a neglected piece of our local history...and awareness to these needs to happen.”

- **Gaelic Plan Holders “Collide”**

15 people came to the session at UHI Moray, the Partners were:

Historic Scotland; Scottish Forestry; Highlands and Islands Enterprise; UHI Moray; UHI Inverness; Education Scotland (Inspectorate and Gaelic leads); Skills Development Scotland; Visit Scotland; Fire Scotland; Feis Moray; Bord na Gaidhlig; and Moray Council’s Education Community and Resources Head of Service.

The session started with a short pre-recorded presentation from Roddy Mclean on “Moray and Gaelic Placenames” to set the scene.

Following on from this, introductions were made and information shared about the status of plans and opportunities for partnership working. The Dallas School film was shown in the break to highlight what can be achieved when connections are made. Two potential opportunities were offered to influence future content:

1. The development of a Gaelic Ambassadors Award to encourage the learning of Gaelic , history and culture;
2. The development of a digital footprint on “Moray and Gaelic,” that potentially all partners could use, but in particular Moray’s schools. Iain Mac an Tàilleir has kindly written a paper to be used to support the development of Gaelic in Moray.

“This was a very interesting focussed meeting, that hasn’t been done before, with a lot of buy in.”

Developing the ideas further will be the focus for future meetings and funding bids. The Dallas Project will also be written-up for Education colleagues.

- **Keith Community Radio**

Iain Mac an Tàilleir kindly agreed to a further programme based on Gaelic Place names in Moray. He also talked about being a pupil in Moray when he and a group of his peers were not given the opportunity to study Gaelic at High School. This was broadcast twice on the 27th and 28th March.

<https://www.mixcloud.com/KCR1077/seachdain-na-g%C3%A0idhlig-world-gaelic-week-27-february-2023/>

Selection of quality indicators and challenge questions

How well did we work as a partnership? Indicator 3.2 GOOD!

The group worked hard to maximise our resources to promote the week. The local press did not however publish our press release, which was disappointing so we relied on social media and emails. In kind offers of venues, skills, IT expertise and refreshments extended the budget. The goodwill of people to see activity happen and challenge knowledge about Moray’s history was amazing and galvanised the group. There was a lot of progress based on snatched phone-calls and emails to pull everything together. Legacy in coming together was a key theme, knowing that we started from a low base so building up a resource of materials was fundamental. We now have the Moray historical facts to develop our partnership opportunities, thanks to a small pot of funding and committed people. A further evaluation via Survey Monkey to the 92 known participants will provide further evidence including a question on potential new partners/activists. Ideas for 2024 have already started to flow ,so World Gaelic Week is firmly in the calendar for partners and participants.

A comment received from a native speaker: *“Tha e fìor dhrùidhteach na tha sibh air a' phrògram airson na Gàidhlig! Mealaibh ur naidheachd.... sgioba!*

("It is impressive what you have done on the programme for Gaelic! Congratulations..Team.")

For further information contact:

Karen J. Delaney
Strategic Partnership & Policy Officer,
Communities CLD Team
Moray Council
Tel 07800 670 692

