**Bòrd na Gàidhlig**

Brath Naidheachd
*Press Release*

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# CO-CHOMUINN NA PÀIRC AIR AINMEACHADH MAR GNÌOMHACHAS GÀIDHLIG NA BLIADHNA

**08 An t-Iuchar 2010**

Thathas air Co-chomunn na Pàirc, ann an Ceann a Deas na Loch ann an Leòdhas ainmeachadh an diugh (Diardaoin 8mh an t-Iuchar) mar Gnìomhachas Gàidhlig na Bliadhna.

Chaidh an fharpais "Gnìomh" a ruith, airson a' chiad uair am bliadhna, le Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) bhon chùmhnant a th'aca le Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean (InG).

Chaidh an Co-chomunn a thaghadh airson a' phrìomh dhuais air sàilleabh na tha iad a' dèanamh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, agus cho follaiseach 's a tha an cànain san obair làitheil aca. Tha duais de £3,000 ann airson a' chiad àite.

Chaidh an naidheachd fhoillseachadh le Ministear na Gàidhlig, Fiona Hyslop BPA is i tadhal air na h-Eileanan an Iar.

Thuirt am Ministear: "Tha e follaiseach dha rìreabh gum bheil cothroman ann do chompanaidhean a tha dèanamh obair 's a' Ghàidhlig 's an latha th'ann, agus tha Co-chomunn na Pàirc na fìor dheagh eisimpleir dhan sin leis a h-uile càil a tha iad a' dèanamh, is a bharrachd air sin 's an dòigh 's am bheil iad stèidhichte 's a' choimhearsnachd 's am bheil iad ag obair."

Tha Co-chomunn na Pàirc stèidhichte ann an Ionad-tadhail Rubha an Fhithich ann an Cearsiadar. An sin tha bùth, cafaidh, ostail agus nithean eile son luchd-turais a thàladh leithid taigh-tasgaidh a' chomuinn eachdraidh ionadail agus tasglann Aonghais MhicLeòid.

Thairis air a' bhliadhna chaidh seachad tha a' chompanaidh air leasachadh a dhèanamh air na seirbheisean a tha iad a' tabhann dhan choimhearsnachd agus dhan luchd-turais, mar eisimpleir le bhith a' ruith dà chùrsa Gàidhlig fad seachdain, far an tug iad an luchd-ionnsachaidh a-mach dhan choimhearsnachd, a' cleachdadh muinntir an àite airson a bhith a' leasachadh comasan labhairt an luchd-ionnsachaidh.

Thuirt Iain Randall, Cathraiche a Cho-chomuinn: "Tha sinn air leth toilichte agus moiteil an duais a tha seo ghlèidheadh. Tha a' Ghàidhlig aig cridhe a h-uile rud 's am bheil sinn an sàs

agus tha mise dhan bheachd gun toir an aithne seo togail mhòr dhan luchd-obrach agus dha muinntir na coimhearsnachd 's am bheil sinn ag obair.

"Tha e na amas againne an tuilleadh 's an tuilleadh a dhèanamh thaobh na Gàidhlig 's na bliadhnachan a tha romhainn, oir tha e follaiseach dhuinn gum bheil iarrtas son a leithid a sìor dol am meud."

Chaidh na tagraidhean 's an fharpais a mheas le riochdairean ChnaG; Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean; agus Bòrd na Gàidhlig. 'S an dàrna àite bha Croitearan Leòdhais, companaidh a th'air a bhi frithealadh feumalachdan chroitearan is coimhearsnachd Leòdhais bho chionn còrr is leth cheud bliadhna. Chaidh iadsan an taghadh leis cho deònach is a bha iad dèiligeadh ri luchd-frithealaidh 's a' Ghàidhlig, agus an àite th'aig a' chànain anns na soidhnichean is stuthan margaideachd aca. Tha duais £1,500 an luib an dàrna àite.

'S an treas àite bha companaidh teicneòlas-fòn Luathnet a tha ag amas air seirbheis bann-leathann a thabhann gu sgìrean na Gàidhealtachd is nan eilean tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ma mhiannaicheas an luchd-ceannach. Chaidh an taghadh leis cho stèidhichte 's a tha a' Ghàidhlig ann am planaichean is feallsanachd na companaidh, is cho follaiseach 's a tha a' chànan anns na stuthan margaideachd aca. Tha duais £500 an luib an treas àite.

A rèir Ceannard ChnaG, Dòmhnall MacNeill, 's e toiseach tòiseachaidh mhath a bh'ann airson farpais a thathas am beachd a chumail son co dhiù an dà bhliadhna tha ri teachd: "Tha sinn toilichte gun d'fhuair sinn deagh thagraidhean airson an duais seo. Tha na companaidhean a chuir air a shon rim moladh air fad, ach chan urrainnear uile duais ghleidheadh. Tha sinn an dòchas gun tog seo aire dhaoine eile agus gum faic sinn an tuilleadh chompanaidhean a' toirt inbhe nas àirde dhan Ghàidhlig 's na bliadhnachan tha romhainn."

Thuirt Stiùiriche Neartachadh Choimhearsnachdan aig Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean, John Watt gun robh iadsan toilichte taic chumail ris an sgeama: "Tha Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean a' creidsinn gu mòr gum bheil a' Ghàidhlig a' cuir ri eaconamaidh na sgìre, agus gu seachd àraid anns na sgìrean dùthchail air an taobh siar. Tha e na thoileachas mhòr dhuinn bhi faicinn an dearbhadh dhan bheachd sin san fharpais seo, le de mhisneachd aig companaidhean na sgìre dhol an sàs ann."

Tha an fharpais 'Gleus' ga chumail cuideachd airson "Coimhearsnachd Ghàidhlig na Bliadhna", agus thèid toradh an fharpais sin fhoillseachadh nas ainmich air an t-samhraidh.

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# CO-CHOMUNN NA PÀIRC NAMED AS GAELIC BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

**08 July 2010**

Co-chomunn na Pàirc, in the South Lochs area of Lewis, have been named today (Thurs 8th July) as the Gaelic Business of the Year.

The competition “Gnìomh”, held for the first time this year, was administered by Comunn na Gàidhlig under their contract with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The Co-chomunn won the first prize because of the amount of work they carry out through Gaelic, and because of the language’s high profile in their day to day activities. The first prize carries an award £3,000.

The announcement was made today by Gaelic Minister, Fiona Hyslop MSP while on a visit to the Western Isles.

The Minister said: “It is quite clear that there are opportunities for companies working in Gaelic these days, and Co-chomunn na Pàirc are an excellent example of this through their current activities and the way in which they are closely linked to the community in which they work.”

Co-chomunn na Pàirc are based in the Ravenspoint visitor centre in Kershader, where they operate a shop, a café, a hostel and other visitor attractions such as the local history society museum and the Angus MacLeod archive.

Over the last year the company has developed the services they offer to the community and to visitors, for example two successful week-long Gaelic courses which took learners into the local community to improve their oral skills.

John Randall, Co-chomunn Chairman said: “We are proud and delighted to have won this award. Gaelic is at the heart of everything we do, and I believe this recognition will be a real boost both to our own staff and to the local community.

“We aim to do more and more through Gaelic in the years ahead because it’s quite clear to us that the demand for such services is growing strongly.”

The competition applications were assessed by a panel of representatives from CnaG, HIE and Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

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In second place was Lewis Crofters, a company who have been serving crofters and the local community for over fifty years. They were recognised for their willingness to deal with customers in Gaelic and for the prominence the language received in signage, livery and marketing materials. The second prize is £1,500.

In third place was telecommunications firm Luathnet who are developing the roll-out of a demand-led bilingual broadband service into the Highlands and Islands. They were recognised for the way in which Gaelic was embedded into their business plan and for its prominence in the company's advertising and marketing. Third prize carries an award of £500.

According to CnaG chief executive Donald MacNeill, this has been a successful first year for the competition which it is hoped to run for at least the next two years: "We are pleased to have received such strong entries for the competition. All applicants should be recognised for what they are doing in Gaelic, but unfortunately they can't all be winners. We hope this award will attract the interest of others and that we'll see more companies giving Gaelic a higher profile in the years ahead.

Director of Strengthening Communities at HIE, John Watt said they were happy to have supported the competition: "HIE believes strongly that Gaelic contributes a great deal to the local economy, particularly in the rural communities in the islands and west highlands. We've been delighted to see the evidence of that in this competition, with companies being sufficiently optimistic and committed to Gaelic to have participated."

Gaelic Community of the Year competition, 'Gleus' has also been run and the results of this will be announced later in the summer.