

Comunn Gaidhlig Inbhir Nis

The Gaelic Society of Inverness

Established 1871

**All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary:
Anne Souter, 15 Green Drive, Inverness, IV2 4EX**

Happy New Year

I wish to convey to all members of the Society the good wishes of your Co-Chomairle (Council) for the New Year. The past year has been a very busy and interesting year for the Society. Our various activities have been a considerable success. Our larger events were well attended and well received. The consistent fine quality of the papers read at our regular meetings contributed greatly to the increasing numbers attending these meetings. The papers presented to the Society, and later published in our Transactions, are recognised as authoritative and the research supporting them authentic. This gives your Council much encouragement and satisfaction.

Ceannard Ur, Chief of The Society 2002

The Society extends a very warm welcome to our new Chief, Dr. Farquhar Macintosh. Dr. Macintosh is a distinguished scholar and educationalist. We hope that he will derive much pleasure and satisfaction from his term in office.

We also wish to record our thanks to Morag MacLeod of The School Scottish Studies for her support and encouragement during her term as Chief.

Secretary

Most of our members will be aware that Dr. Hugh D. MacLennan, a most distinguished and energetic Secretary, has had to relinquish his administrative ties with the Society as he has taken up the post of Head of Marketing with Caledonian-MacBrayne, based in Gourock. Thankfully he is not cutting all his ties with the Society as he will continue as Editor of the Society's publications. As we pass on our good wishes in his new post we acknowledge, with sincere thanks, his considerable contribution to the Society's work.

The Society has been fortunate to have been able to appoint Mrs Anne Souter to the post of Secretary. Anne is well known to the Gaelic community as she has been active in the promotion of Gaelic Language and Culture for many years. We wish her well in this post – our expectations are of a long, happy and productive association.

Membership

The membership of the Society continues to increase; it is very reassuring to see that many of these are through recommendation. From July 2002, owing to increasing costs, our **Subscription** is to increase to **£15.00** per annum. This is the first increase for a number of years and we hope to retain this level for at least three years. A new Standing Order Form will be sent out to members in Spring. I hope as many members as possible will take advantage of this method of payment – it saves time and effort for both the Society and members. (A Standing Order is under the control of the individual member and can be cancelled at any time.)

The Gaelic Society of Inverness Library

Our librarian, Mr Murdo MacLeod, adds to our library on a regular basis newly published Gaelic books and also books which deal with the many facets of Highlands and Islands life. An Appendix, listing books recently added to our Catalogue, is now available from him at , 45 Crown Drive, Inverness. IV2 3QH.

Society Website: www.gsi.org.uk

The Society Website, containing information about the Society, its history, a news page and details about forthcoming meetings, is available worldwide. The site has become a regular source of membership enquires, particularly from North America.

Syllabus for 2002

The syllabus will be sent out to members in the very near future. In the meantime, I wish to draw to your attention some of our attractive events for the early part of the year.

Thursday, 10th January 7.30 p.m. at The Netley Centre, Bishop's Road, Inverness

Joseph Hobbs, Chancer Rancher? – Dr. Hugh Dan MacLennan.

Friday, 18th January 7.30 p.m. at Inverness Town House

In association with Inverness Area Committee and The Libraries Department of Highland Council, the Society will mark the 100th anniversary of the end of The Boer War in an evening with Edward Spiers, Professor of Strategic Studies at Leeds University, and others who will reflect on the involvement and attitude of Highlanders to that war. Please watch the press for more details.

Friday, 8th February 7.30 p.m. at Eden Court Theatre

The Society has commissioned Cailean MacLean to present a programme entitled, "Music in Exile". This production will explore:

- * Music which was taken by emigrants to The New World;
- * Music composed in the Gaelic idiom over there;
- * The return of this Music to our own land.

The planning for this event is now well advanced. More details will be released nearer the time. Tickets will be available directly from Eden Court Theatre Box Office, Tel.: 01463 234234. The Society itself does not sell tickets for this function. Please come and support this important event – encourage your friends to come too.

Saturday, 13th April, Culloden Anniversary Service at the Cairn.

Fuller details will be released nearer the time.

Annual General Meeting of The Society

The AGM is to be held on Friday 26th April 2002. Formal notification will be issued in due course.

Transactions of The Gaelic Society of Inverness

The Society hopes to publish Vol. 61 of The Transactions during the middle of 2002.

Clach air an Carn

Last February's Event, at Eden Court Theatre, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the School of Scottish Studies was recorded by The BBC and will be broadcast on Radio nan Gaidheal as follows:

- * Part 1, Friday 28th December at 8.30 p.m.;
- * Part 2 Monday 31st December at 7.00 p.m..

R. MACCRIMMON

Chairman

21st December 2001