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Pasgan Digiteach airson na Mòdan Ionadail

Digital Support Pack for Local Mòds

CLÀR-INNSE | CONTENTS

1. MU AR DEIDHINN | ABOUT US

- Bòrd-stiùridh agus Luchd-Obrach | Board and Staff members
- Fiosrachadh | Contact details

2. RO-RÀDH | INTRODUCTION

- ACG & The Royal National Mòd - History and Aims

3. MÒDAN ÙRA | NEW MÒDS

- Ciamar? | How? | Pasgan Digiteach | Digital Support Pack | Mapa

4. POILEASAIDHEAN AGUS DÌON ÀRACHAIS | POLICIES AND INSURANCE

- Daoine fo Dhìon Sònraichte | Protection Vulnerable People/Children
- Gàidhlig | Gaelic
- Inntrigeadh | Access
- Cothroman Co-Ionnanachd | Equal Opportunities
- GDPR
- Dìon Àrachais | Insurance
- Measadh Cunnairt | Risk Assessments & Accidents

5. MAOINEACHADH | FUNDING

- ACG
- Togail Airgid | Fundraising
- Iarrtasan | Applications – external agency funding

6. SAOR-THAGRAICHEAN VOLUNTEERS

7. AITHISG GNÌOMHACHAIS NA MÒDAN IONADAIL | LOCAL MÒDS ACTIVITY REPORT

8. NA H-IONADAN | VENUES

9.CLÀR-OBRACH | SYLLABUS | PROGRAMMES

10.SUIDHEACHANTAIS | LOGOS

11.BRITHEAMHAN | ADJUDICATORS

12.SGEAMA MEASAIDH A' CHOMUINN GHÀIDHEALACH | ACG GAELIC TESTING

13.MEADHANAN SÒISEALTA | SOCIAL MEDIA

14.STÒRASAN | SUPPORTING TEMPLATES INFORMATION



"Càirdeil, cridheil, spòrsail: feuch gun tig sibh chun a' Mhòid, agus an teaghlach còmhla ruibh!

……Mòd Ionadail Dhùn Èideann

"Although the Mòd is a competition event, taking part and having fun are the most important aspects!

MU AR DEIDHINN | ABOUT US

BÒRD-STIÙIRIDH | THE BOARD- LEFT TO RIGHT

Maggie Cunningham - Cathraiche | Chair

John Joe Macneil - Iar-chathraiche | Vice Chair

D-I Brown , Eilidh Johnston, Innes Macqueen, Kristine Kennedy, Linda Macleod, Agnes Rennie, Lisa Macdonald, Iain Robertson, Ross Brindle





LUCHD-OBRACH | STAFF

• Pèigi Maclennan Ceannard | Chief Executive, peigi@ancomunn.co.uk

• Seonag Anderson – Oifigear a Mhòid | Mòd Officer seonag@ancomunn.co.uk

• Alison Macdonald- Manaidsear na h-Oifis / Rùnaire, | Office Manager / Secretary alison@ancomunn.co.uk

• Marina Mackay – Oifigear a Mhòid (pàirt-ùine) Mòd Officer (part-time) marina@ancomunn.co.uk

• Fiona J Mackenzie- Oifigear na Mòdan Ionadail | Local Mòd Officer fiona@ancomunn.co.uk

Coinneach Combe- Oifigear Conaltraidh is Tachartasan Didseatach | Digital Communications and Events officer coinneach@ ancomunn.co.uk

Rowan Paterson - Manaidsear Tachartasan | Events Manager rowan@ancomunn.co.uk

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OIFIS STEÒRNABHAIGH| STORNOWAY OFFICE (PRÌOMH OIFIS | HEAD OFFICE) –

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GENERAL OFFICE EMAIL CONTACT – INFO@ANCOMUNN.CO.UK

Gheibh sibh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh air ar Bhòrd aig https://www.ancomunn.co.uk/about/board | You will find more information on our Board at https://www.ancomunn.co.uk/about/board

AN COMUNN GÀIDHEALACH

'S e An Comunn Gàidhealach am buidheann 's sinne 's aithnichte ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig. Bhon a chaidh a stèidheachadh san Òban ann an 1891, tha An Comunn air cliù a dhearbhadh ann an teagasg, ionnsachadh agus cleachdadh a' chànan agus air brosnachadh a thoirt dha leudachadh litreachas, eachdraidh, ceòl agus ealain na Gàidhlig. Aig an fhìor thoiseach bha An Comunn an sàs anns a bhith a' stèidheachadh fèis Ghàidhlig, a' cleachdadh tè a bha ann an Eisteddfod anns a' Chuimrigh mar shamhla. 'S e "Am Mòd" a thug iad air an fhèis seo.

Leis a’ Mhòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail fo sgèith agus obair leasachaidh sna coimhearsnachdan a’ dol am meud, tha An Comunn fhathast a’ daingneachadh na h-amais a bhith a’ brosnachadh agus a’ neartachadh cànan, cultar, eachdraidh agus dualchas na Gàidhlig aig ìrean ionadail, nàiseanta agus eadar-nàiseanta.

An Comunn Gàidhealach was founded in Oban in 1891. It has supported the teaching, learning and use of the Gaelic language and the study and cultivation of Gaelic literature, history, music and art for over 100 years. An Comunn Gàidhealach founded a Gaelic Festival modelled on the Welsh Eisteddfod in 1892. This Festival was called The Mòd and it is a result of considerable endeavours that now, over 100 years later, due recognition has been granted to the Mòd in the form of the Royal Assent. The Festival is now The Royal National Mòd.

Through the organisation and running of the Royal National Mòd and a network of community engagement, An Comunn Gàidhealach furthers the aims of supporting and developing all aspects of the Gaelic language, culture, history and heritage at local, national and international levels.

The Charity No. is SCO01282.

The Association is usually referred to as “An Comunn”, The Association. For many throughout the world An Comunn is the body which represents the Gaelic language.

AMASAN A’ CHOMUINN GHÀIDHEALACH

A bhith a’ brosnachadh cànain, cultair, eachdraidh is dualchas nan Gàidheal aig ìrean ionadail, nàiseanta agus eadar-nàiseanta le bhith:

A’ brosnachadh a’ chànain aig ìre choimhearsnachd

A’ brosnachadh foghlaim, litreachais, ceòl, dràma agus ealain na Gàidhlig

A’ lorg Inbhe Thèarainte dhan Ghàidhlig agus ag iarraidh air buidhnean poblach a bhith a’ cleachdadh a’ chànain bho latha gu latha, le bhith ag obair ann an compàirteachas le buidhnean eile a tha ag obair airson cànan agus cultar na Gàidhlig.

‘S e buidheann neo-phoileataigeach a th’ anns a’ Chomunn agus tha ballrachd fosgailte gu neach sam bith aig a bheil na h-amasan gu h-àrd



CARSON?

“Scottish culture comes in many forms and plenty of people see Gaelic as a way of gaining an insight into the culture. People who move to Scotland often feel like Gaelic gives them a home. Scots have described heritage that they didn’t know was there being opened up to them and suddenly they see their culture in full colour instead of black-and-white. Once you gain access to the Gaelic culture, you get other benefits”

LearnGaelic.net

OBJECTIVES OF AN COMUNN GÀIDHEALACH

The aims of An Comunn are to support and develop all aspects of the Gaelic language, culture, history and heritage at local, national and international levels by:

- Promoting the use of the language in everyday community life.

- Promoting the study and development of Gaelic language, literature, music, drama and all other related art forms.

- Actively seeking official recognition and use of Gaelic as a living language and national asset by local, national and European Governments and other agencies, by co-operating with all other organisations engaged in the provision of Gaelic language and culture

An Comunn Gàidhealach is non-political and non-sectarian, and membership is open to anyone sharing the above objectives





NA MÒDAN IONADAIL AGUS AM PASGAN SEO | THE LOCAL MÒDS & THIS PACK

Local (or Provincial) Mòds are absolutely vital to the development and promotion of our National Gaelic language and Culture. It is through the networks of local Mòds, that our future medal winners gain their performing experience and improve their linguistic skills

This Local Mòd Support pack has been created by An Comunn Gàidhealach as a guide and point of reference for Mòd Committees. It includes useful information, guidance on how to help you in running successful Mòd events and useful document templates which you might need when organising a compliant Mòd.

We hope it will be useful in some way for all existing Local Mòd committee members as well as any new Mòd being established and also particularly for any new volunteers you may have

joining your event. As always we would be keen to get your feedback on this resource. If you have any suggestions for additional information that might be useful, please get in touch. If your Mòd committee has any queries relating to any materials supplied here, please contact An Comunn at the Inverness or Stornoway Offices in the first instance. We can supply this document in hard copy also, if you prefer not to use online resources.

Above all, we are not attempting to tell a Local Mòd committee how to run your Mòd. Each Mòd will have different requirements, challenges, and expectations to be met. Each Mòd will have its own distinctive character which is what makes it attractive to participants, visitors and organizing committees. This is what makes our Local Mòds so unique and worth supporting and developing.

We are here to support and guide you with any queries or qualitative information which you might need. We hope that we can all learn from each other, what is successful in one Mòd, may not work for another but if we share successes and challenges, we can develop our own strategies for our own Mòd.

"Cha robh e riamh cho furasta Gàidhlig ionnsachadh"

"It has never been easier to learn and use Gaelic"
……SpeakGaelic.Scot 2024

MÒDAN ÙRA | NEW MÒDS

We are delighted to welcome suggestions and ideas for where we can help develop the network of Local Mòds throughout Scotland (a map of where Mòds are held can be seen further on). The ACG Local Mòd Officer will offer support and information to any interested person or group with an interest in Gaelic language and culture, who wish to explore the possibilities, particularly in areas where there is little or no Mòd activity already.

In order to establish a local Mòd all that is required is for a small committee to be formed (two or three can be enough to begin with) and a bank account to be opened in the name of the Mòd. Zoom and Teams can be utilised these days for meetings, which lessens the pressure on small committees to travel to meetings etc. This might be particularly useful in the Highlands and Islands during the winter when long drives in bad weather mean that members are less willing to attend meetings. There is no requirement for a formal 'Mear' or 'Branch' to be established, but this is an option if so desired by the committee.

Once a date and venue have been agreed upon for a Mòd, the Mòd can be promoted through all the social media channels of ACG as well as on the website. News can also be included in the regular ACG online newsletter.

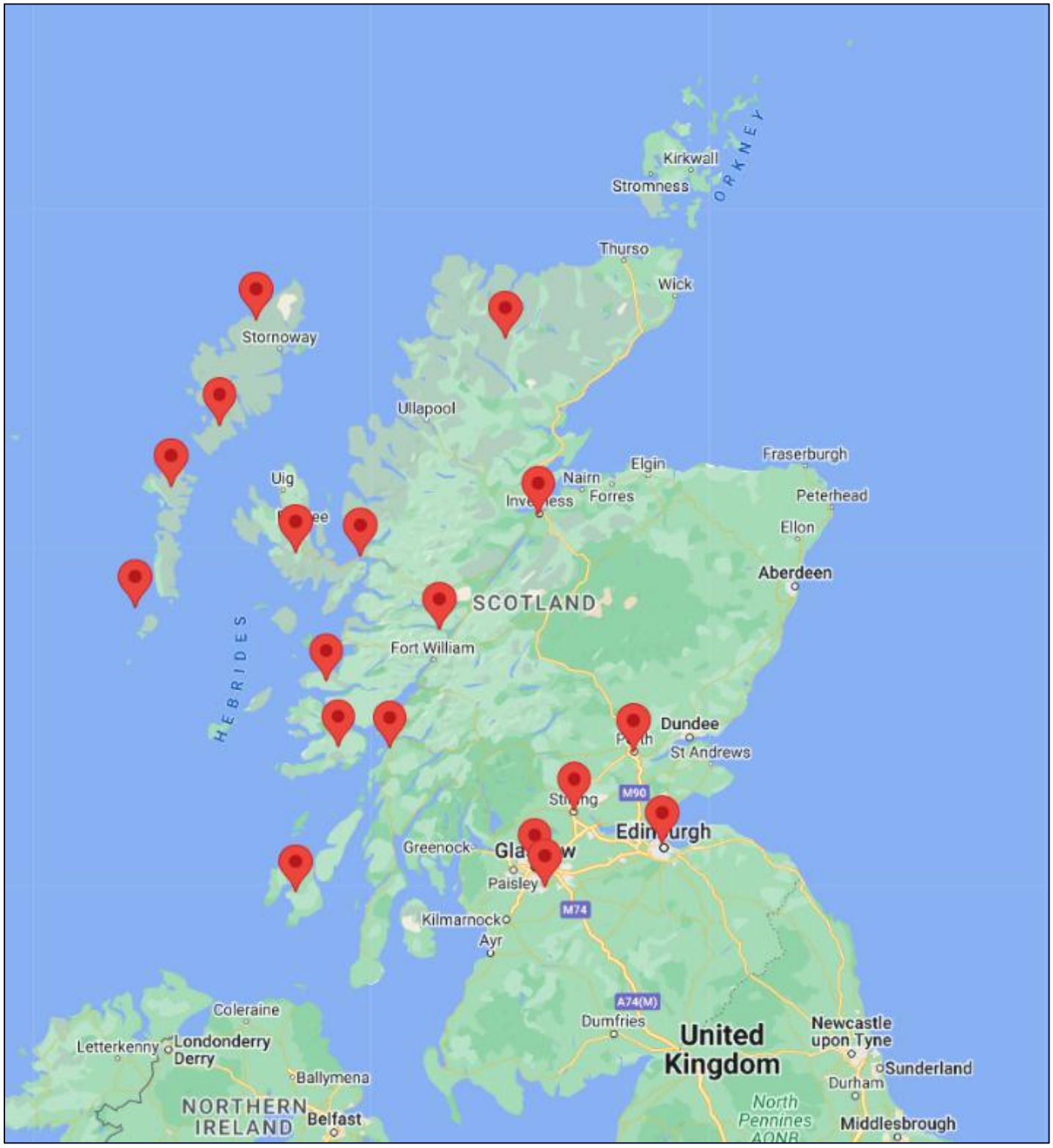
Information on how to form a committee and identify office bearers responsibilities (if the formal route is taken) can be found online from bodies such as SCVO or NCVO where sample templates for constitutions and meeting agendas etc. can be found. A simple constitution template is also included in the appendices in this document which can be adapted to suit your own needs and we would encourage all local Mòds to use these templates wherever possible. Please remember that a Mòd needs to have its own separate committee, whether or not the Mòd is being initially formed perhaps, by another local Gaelic group or organisation- and must have its own bank account to ensure transparency at all times.

Fort William 2017 – Image S. McCook



"THE LOCHABER BRANCH OF AN COMUNN GÀIDHEALACH IS AN ACTIVE AND EXPERIENCED GROUP WHO DELIVER LOCHABER PROVINCIAL MÒD EACH YEAR TO A CONSISTENTLY HIGH STANDARD. LOCHABER, OF COURSE, HAS A STRONG GAELIC HERITAGE AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT 2025 MÒD WILL BE JUST AS SUCCESSFUL WITH THOUSANDS OF GAELS GATHERING FOR THE CELEBRATIONS AND COMPETITIONS IN THE BEAUTIFUL BACKDROP OF LOCHABER*"……*

JAMES GRAHAM 2023


Kirkwall
Stromness
ORKNEY
Thurso
Wick
Stornoway
Ullapool
Elgin
Fraserburgh
Nairn
Forres
Peterhead
Ellon
Aberdeen
SCOTLAND
Fort William
HEBRIDES
Dundee
St Andrews
M90
Edinburgh
Greenock
Paisley
M74
Kilmarnock
Ayr
A74(M)
Dumfries
United Kingdom
Newcastle upon Tyne
Sunderland
Durham
Middlesbrough
North Pennines AONB
Coleraine
Letterkenny
Londonderry
Derry
Ballymena
NORTHERN IRELAND
Belfast

Thig crìoch air an t-saoghal ach mairidh gaol is ceòl…..

The world will end, but love and music will endure.

NA MÒDAN IONADAIL AN DIUGH| THE LOCAL MÒDS TODAY

The number of Mòds in Scotland (as of Autumn / June 2026), number 20 They include online/ in person / hybrid formats. 2026 sees the development and delivery of a new Mòd in Moray- with other potential venues being confirmed. The Caithness and Sutherland Mòd revisited Golspie for the first time in many years. Hyperlinks will take you to contact pages or websites for information.

Ardnamurchan| Àird nam Murchan

Barra | Barraigh

East Kilbride | Cille Bhrìde an Ear

Edinburgh | Dùn Èideann

Glasgow | Glaschu

Harris | Na Hearadh

Inverness | Inbhir Nis

Islay | Ìle

Lewis | Lèodhas

Lochaber | Loch Abar

Kyle of Lochalsh | Mòd Loch Aillse

Moray | Mòd Mhoireibh

North Lanarkshire | Siorrachd Lannraig A Tuath

Mull | Muile

Oban | An t-Òban

Perth & Angus (Aberfeldy) | Peairt & Aonghas

Skye | An t-Eilean Sgitheanach

Caithness & Sutherland | Cataibh is Gallaibh
(alternating Golspie & Bettyhill | ag atharrachadh eadar Goillspidh agus Am Blàran Odhar)

Uist | Uibhist

Aberdeen | Obar Dheathain



POILEASAIDHEAN AGUS DÌON ÀRACHAIS | POLICIES & INSURANCE

An Comunn Gàidhealach and member Local Mòds are expected to implement a range of policies. The Policies are agreed by the Board each year and will be continually reviewed.

The Policies most commonly requested by Mòds are detailed below and templates which can be adapted, are contained in the Appendices. These policies may be useful when applying for external funding.

- **Daoine fo Dhìon Sònraichte | Protection of Children & Vulnerable People- PVG**

"An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG) agrees that children, young people and vulnerable adults have the right to be protected from abuse and harm at all times and in all situations. This includes children and young people attending or participating in any event organised either by: • the ACG National body • any Branch of ACG • any Local Mòd organising committee working under the auspices of ACG or a Royal National Mòd organising committee"

***It is now legally required that all members of a Mòd organising committee now obtain PVG status. An Comunn will deliver the scheme as an organising body, for all Local Mòds. Alison Macdonald, the Office Manager, will liaise with local committees and organise certification . She will require contacts and names for each member of your Committee to begin the process. If a Committee member does not wish to undergo the process then unfortunately, Scottish Government rules mean that they cannot act in an official capacity at their Mòd. Once your details have been given to Alison and the process begun, if the member does not complete the process using the link sent by Disclosure Scotland, the link will expire in 2 weeks and the process must start all over again**

- **Gàidhlig | Gaelic**

"To clarify the use of the Gaelic language in a work and community context within An Comunn Gàidhealach, the Royal National Mòd and local Mòds"

- **Inntrigeadh | Access**

"to address or remove physical, social, financial, cultural and other barriers to participation in The Royal National Mòd & Local Mòds. Fairness and respect are the main cornerstones of this organisation"

- **Cothroman Co-Ionnanachd | Equal Opportunities**

"An Comunn Gàidhealach aims to ensure that no potential or actual employee, contract worker, tutor or volunteer receives more or less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender, disability, faith or religious beliefs, social or socioeconomic background"

At any event/cèilidh/concert etc., it is recommended that the use of the traditional phrase "Fear/Bean an Taighe" should be replaced with "Neach-cathrach" or "Chair(person) " in English. This may help to avoid any accusation of non - inclusivity.

- **GDPR**

"ACG has several policies which can be adopted by member Mòds.. As with other policies, it is the responsibility of individual Mòds to ensure that they are following GDPR regulations.

Mòds can only hold information on people (who haven't given consent) if there is a legal reason for doing so e.g keeping financial records for 7years which include invoices with addresses and contact details.

Any contracts issued by a Mòd must include a clause in relation to Confidentiality and Data Protection in addition to a clause relating to Photography and Streaming"

There are new regulations in place , 2025 which require each committee , or at least the office bearers to have their own PVG registration. Further informaiton can be found on the Disclosure Scotland website

- **Dìon Àrachais | Insurance**

ACG provides comprehensive insurance for all member Mòds. This gives cover for all Mòd activities 'on the day' and includes Public Liability Insurance. To be covered, ensure that all promotion or social media activity in relation to the Mòd, carries the An Comunn Logo (copy in Appendices)

- **Measadh Cunnairt | Risk Assessments**

In-line with guidance on good practice, all Mòds should carry out a risk assessment before undertaking any programme of Mòd activities. Risk assessment does not have to be complicated but there are five basic steps which can be followed in order to ensure you have taken necessary precautions to ensure the health and safety of your participants and volunteers:

1. Look for and list all potential physical hazards at any Mòd event.

2. Decide who might be potentially harmed and how this might happen

3. Evaluate any risks arising from those hazards and decide whether any existing controls you already have in place, are adequate

4. Record the findings. A simple Word document is sufficient. Ensure it is dated and all names of those involved are included (sample Accident from contained in Appendices)

5. Review assessment when necessary- for yearly events, this should happen annually but if the event venue has not changed , then there will potentially be little to change.

"Learning is at the heart of our plans: by encouraging and supporting learners, we can help more people to engage with the rich history of our languages through song, poetry and literature recognising the richness and diversity of Scottish society"





MAOINEACHADH | FUNDING

An Comunn Gàidhealach is pleased to be able to offer support to the Local Mòds on an annual basis. Every Mòd which takes place will be granted a sum, currently to enable the Mòd to be delivered successfully and timeously. This amount may change according to the central funding available in any particular year. The funding for this comes from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and this means that Mòds may not usually receive additional funding from BnG. In certain

circumstances it may be possible to release the funding before the Mòd takes place, especially for any new Mòd which is being established.

In order to release the funding, we ask each Mòd to complete and return the Local Mòd Activity Form (in the attached appendices) along with a copy of your Annual Accounts and summary. This will ensure that we are able to submit the required statistics to our funders Bòrd na Gàidhlig. BnG are requesting more and more 'evidence' statements from the Mòds, in order to justify the spending and the cooperation of the Mòd committees in supplying this information is much appreciated.

The grant will be released once these Accounts and Activity Report have been received and there will be a deadline placed on the receipt of the information. In addition to the hard financial sum which Mòds receive, they also benefit from a package of resources and support from ACG including, amongst others, their Public Liability insurance, tech support and staff time.

Togail Airgid agus Maoineachadh on taobh a-muigh | Fundraising and External Funding

We do also encourage Local Mòd committees to seek external funding, to enhance and develop the activities and competitions they can offer. Activities do not have to be confined to the actual Mòd days. By developing a programme of events and initiatives in the lead up to the Local Mòd, there is the potential for new volunteers and competitors to be attracted to becoming involved, even perhaps those who have not previously been involved in Gaelic affairs.



Writing applications | A' dèanamh iarrtasan

When writing applications, no matter whether for small amounts or large scale capital or revenue funding, keep in mind some of these points:

- Don't be too ambitious. Keep your project ideas manageable and deliverable. You will have to account to your funder for monies spent .
- Keep the application succinct and do not use acronyms or jargon language. Remember that you are describing your work to someone who has perhaps never met you or seen what you do, especially if it is a funding body, not involved with Gaelic affairs. If the application gives you the opportunity to upload a video, photographs or sound files in support of your application, use them! Visual and audio imagery, demonstrating the personal impact of your activity, can make the difference between a successful application and a rejected one.
- Be specific about your project. Rather than say "We will run Gaelic classes for all", say something like " We will run weekly Gaelic classes and monthly Gaelic workshops, for both adult and junior Gaelic learners, at 3 levels of fluency. Each class will be two hours long and workshops will be 6 hours (at a weekend). As specific and detailed as possible without being repetitive and using unnecessary wording.
- Take note of any specific requirements or stipulations in the funding information. Ensure that your Mòd is eligible for this particular branch of funding. Check any 'cross-funding' restrictions or 'match-funding' requirements. Do not apply to more than one funder for the same costs at the same time. Generally if you are successful in both applications you will end up having to turn down one of the funders. This could mean that your chances of getting funding from them in the future are doubtful.
- Ensure your budget is as specific as possible and that your expenditure and income 'match'. Get accurate quotes for costs.
- Target your application to any specific aims of the body or Trust to which you are applying. For example, if it is a 'Community Enhancement' fund, emphasis the Community benefits of your project. If it is a specifically "Gaelic" fund, emphasise the impact your project will have on a) the targeted Gaelic community and b) the wider Gaelic development issue.
- Before submitting, get another committee member to proof read your draft for errors or better wording etc A professional looking application will always have a better chance of success than one full of spelling mistakes, or missing punctuation etc. Ensure

that your application is submitted by the deadline! It sounds very basic, but deadlines can often be missed e.g. by thinking the deadline is 5pm on January 25th for example, when the actual deadline is midday.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig regularly run online workshops for groups intending making applications. Watch out for these and send representatives to them where at all possible. Similar sessions are also run by Creative Scotland and Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

There are many places online where you can find helpful information on how to write applications.

- https://fundraising.co.uk/2022/01/11/how-to-ensure-the-best-chances-of-success-for-your-funding-applications/
- https://scvo.scot/funding/guide/steps

Some examples of where additional funding may be sought for events and projects are below, access through the hyperlinks

- Fèisean nan Gàidheal - Maoin nan Ealain Gàidhlig- Gaelic Arts Fund is a scheme funded by Creative Scotland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig and administered on their behalf by Fèisean nan Gàidheal. It is open to organisations and individuals.
- Foundation Scotland have a diverse range of funding programmes benefitting communities across Scotland. Some of our funds are available on a Scotland-wide basis, and others are aimed at specific geographical areas or themes. You'll find grant size and criteria information on each fund's page, together with any unique criteria. The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations website is also a useful portal for potential opportunities
- Awards for All You can apply for funding to deliver a new or existing activity or to support your organisation to change and adapt to new and future challenges.
- It can be worth checking out such sites as Grants Online. org.uk for local trust funds and charities with funds for smaller local groups.
- Your local Council may have a register of grants or Common Good or Discretionary funds available. For groups in Highland Council area, try their grant pages.



A’ FASTADH AGUS A’ CUMAIL TAIC SAOR-THOILICH | RECRUITING AND RETAINING MÒD VOLUNTEERS

In addition to committee members, Mòds often recruit additional volunteers to help during busy Mòd days or events. Below is a basic guide to recruiting, supporting and, crucially, retaining, Mòd volunteers.

This is primarily aimed at Committees setting up new Mòds, but it is hoped that some of the information may also be useful to those more established and experienced Mòd committees.

Ceum 1: Ag ullachadh | Step 1. Planning

Think about why you want people to get involved and what it is you actually want them to do (the who, what, when, where, why)

Is there a specific skill set needed? Can this be advertised in some way?

Is there someone on your committee who could co-ordinate volunteers? It is better if there is one point of contact for potential helpers.

Ceum 2: Dèan sanas | Step 2. Advertise

There are a number of ways to get people on board to help at your Mòd.

Below are a few examples, adopted by several Mòds.

Make up physical posters and distribute on your Mòd social media, in schools,

libraries, cafes etc

Social media is an obvious way of reaching out to potentially interested people. Again , encourage anyone on the committee who is used to doing regular and focussed social media posts, to undertake this vital task.

A dedicated webpage (even Facebook will suffice) or website if the committee has the budget for this (or perhaps a committee member who can take responsibility for creating and maintaining a site) is vital to advertising the Mòd and connected events. This is the first place people will go to when looking for a syllabus, rules, entry form or general information on the Mòd. Whoever takes on the responsibility of the site/page must ensure to keep it up to date and that contact details are always current.

Ask people directly- this might seem ‘blunt’ or ‘intrusive’ at times, but very often people are happy to help if they are asked, they just don’t want to ‘put their hands up’!

Ask parents/guardians of junior Mòd entrants, for their availability in your online or paper entry form.

Ceum 3: Ullachadh | Step 3 Preparation before the Mòd

Once people have stated their availability, prepare a timetable with time slots. The timetable should allow overlap time between volunteers to allow the handover, to facilitate breaks etc

Ensure that the timetable is distributed the to the whole Committee, not just to those who are actively involved.

Find out if any of the team has any dietary requirements or allergies etc

Think about the daily tasks and how volunteers will know what needs done. Assign names to each task. Think about how you're going to display this to team. Could there be a whiteboard with the name of the task and the name of the person(s) next to it, for example in a common space i.e. staffroom, if the Mòd is being held in a school for example.

If you are using more than one venue, consider having a Venue Manager in each building in order that there is someone to delegate tasks and deal with questions from volunteers etc

Prepare name badges / lanyards / labels -to identify The Mòd team. If budget allows, consider purchasing branded jackets, gilets, high vis vest, sashes etc to ensure that volunteers and committee members stand out to participants and other visitors.

Ceum 4: A' cumail taic do luchd-cuideachaidh air an latha | Step 4 Support during Mòd day

Ensure that any new volunteers know whom on the Mòd committee they should report to. If they are new to the area or the event and have only communicated by email, they may not recognize office bearers etc

Some points to include in the briefing with volunteers:

- Where the volunteers toilets/break areas are
- Have one point of contact for volunteers to call in the event of any issues- preferably with a mobile number. Make sure everyone has this number.
- Where Mòd participants can and can't go at break and lunch times. Avoid stray visitors to staffrooms etc.!
- Who the First Aider is for that day
- Who is responsible for 'looking after' the adjudicators on the day And ensuring they have their packs of sheets, guidelines etc as well as any logistical requirements they may need eg taxis, hotels etc Ensure they have a mobile contact number for the committee.

San dealachadh | Final thoughts

As a general rule, people like to feel they are being helpful. If you ask for volunteers, make sure you have a role for them!


"Providing volunteer opportunities helps people connect with others, learn new skills and gain confidence. It often helps them find routes to employment and can improve health and wellbeing too"
……. www.ncvo.org.uk

AITHISG GNÌOMHACHAIS NA MÒDAN | LOCAL MÒDS ACTIVITY REPORT

One of the conditions of awarding a Local Mòd with their £1,300 grant from ACG, is that a Mòd Activity Report is completed and submitted along with a copy of the Mòd/Meur's most recent accounts, before the grant can be paid out. A template for this activity report is included in the Appendices. The Local Mòd Officer will let you know when the deadline is to have reports submitted by.

When completing this report please ensure that in the 'number of competitors' section, that each member of a choir or group are included, not noted as "1". This gives us a more accurate number of the total number for participants in Mòds as a whole throughout Scotland.

The report and accounts are required by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and must be provided in order for ACG to draw down their funding.



NA H-IONADAN | VENUES

Your choice of venue for your Mòd is crucial to the success of your event. There will be many criteria to consider when choosing your venue.

- Location. Is your choice of venue close to facilities and transport links?
- Size. Are there enough rooms to accommodate all your competitions? Is there enough break out space for adjudicators, competitors and visitors to relax e.g. café and toilet facilities
- Parking. Is there parking for buses for choirs etc as well as competitors?
- Cost. Research various venues in the area, including schools, church halls, sports centres and see which organization can offer the best deal. Does the deal include charges for electricity, heating etc? Do you have to cover costs of caretakers etc? Local authorities have increased charges for use of schools in more recent years and schools may not always be the most economical option as in past years.
- Are you allowed to provide catering facilities 'in house'?
- Does the building comply with current H&S requirements?





Puingean | Points to consider

- With increasing costs of venues, fewer volunteers and in some cases, fewer participants, Mòds are encouraged to consider streamlining their syllabuses Many syllabuses have not been changed or amended for many decades and some of the competitions attract few or no entrants.
- The more competitions held on the day of the Mòd, the more rooms, stewards, adjudicators and Chairs are required.
- Can some of the competitions be merged? Eg Allow 'own choice' and 'prescribed' in same competition. This will allow competitors to perform pieces they may be learning for the National Mòd but also allow other competitors to perform, who may not be going forward to the National Mòd but who want to take part in their own Local Mòd.
- It is all about making it as attractive and as easy as possible for participants and over-stretched teachers and tutors to enter competitors.
- Restrict your syllabus to those competitions which are well subscribed.
- It is also highly recommended that Local Mòd syllabuses are streamlined to match the National Mòd syllabus, wherever appropriate, in terms of competition numbers? This should make it easier for secretaries once again. For example , a child is entered for National Mòd competition number **S09**- Boys (*'S i nighean mo ghaol mo nighean donn òg*) /Girls (*Òganich an òr-fhuilt' bhuidhe*)- Solo Fluent. Have the competition numbered **S09** also in your Local Mòd syllabus.

- We encourage all Local Mòds to work towards an online syllabus and entry system, rather than paper postal systems. This make it much easier for Mòd secretaries to deal with compiling their programmes. An Comunn can assist you with your initial set up, using the same template as used for the National Mòd entry system. Please contact the Inverness or Stornoway office if you require assistance to do this. You may need to consider what payment system you will use. PayPal does not always work very efficiently. Our IT consultant can advise you.

- Programmes: Once your entry system is closed and you know how many entrants you have for each competition, you will be able to compile a programme for the day. You can use this as an 'entry fee' if you wish i.e. say £2 for the programme which is entry for the day. This can be as complex or as simple as you wish but will need the following information

    - Pages for each venue/classroom
    - Competitions listed by number and start time
    - Adjudicators names
    - Competitors /schools names
    - Prizes
    - Details of any concerts

"A common mistake made in syllabus building is to skew more heavily toward quantity at the cost of quality"

.....Harvard University

SUAICHEANTAS | LOGO

An Comunn Gàidhealach has recently undergone a re-branding exercise and now has a new website with a suite of new logos and banners, with new fonts and colours, for use in all publications and online content. We strongly encourage all Local Mòds to use these in their content, syllabuses and timetables. High resolution copies of all logos are included here in the Appendices.

An Comunn Gàidhealach
Organisers of The Royal National Mòd®

"The right logo says everything without saying a word. It connotes feelings of honor, trust, pride, excellence and integrity... It evokes a sense of connection between a brand and consumers. It establishes a bond between a company and its community of fans, friends, critics, allies and champions"

...Forbes.com 2024

BRITHEAMHAN | ADJUDICATORS

An Comunn has a list of adjudicators who have undertaken the ACG adjudicator training and a database is being developed which will eventually be shared with Chairpersons and secretaries of committees only and password protected for GDPR reasons. It is essential that all adjudicators undertake this training to ensure parity in adjudication standards and to avoid ambiguous decisions. Occasionally adjudicators have been hired who have no previous experience, purely on the basis that they are Gaelic speakers or live locally. **A thorough understanding of the syllabus and the required linguistic and musical standards is essential**. Ask the Mòd Office for details of future adjudicator training days. The Mòd officer will be happy to assist with any trouble recruiting adjudicators. Adjudicators guidelines and adjudication sheet templates are included in the appendices. New adjudication sheets are now being trialled with suggested divisions of marking, which will hopefully mean less writing for adjudicators and also save time, with restless audiences awaiting marks!

Please remember that on the day, adjudicators should be looked after extremely well! **They may require accommodation, travel/dinner costs and an expenses form (in appendices)** should be given to them at the beginning of the Mòd so that they can hand it back completed at the end of the day. This will save the committee much time afterwards. They will also require on the day : water, pencils, rubber , sharpener, pens and scrap paper, copious amounts of coffee/tea a well as lunch!

NB -A separate space should be made available for them to relax in at break times- not a general cafeteria or other communal space, wherever possible. Adjudication is a hard enough job without being in a space where competitors and competitors parents can accost the adjudicator to find out why wee Johnie only got 89 marks when his neighbour got 92!

If you attend to the needs of your adjudicators, they are more likely to want to come back next year!

Please also ensure that they have folders at the beginning of the competitions, with adjudication sheets, for Music and Gaelic, copies of the songs/bàrdachd/translations etc. that they will be working with and a marks “abstract” sheet (appendices) for them to record the marks given. They should also be provided with copies of all own choice material, in the weeks before the Mòd

Ensure that you have provided enough prize badges if you are using then – Gold, silver or bronze. Order enough from the Inverness office well in advance of your Mòd. These are priced around £2 each. An order form is included in the downloadable templates





SGEAMA MEASAIDH A'CHOMUINN GHÀIDHEALAICH | ACG GAELIC TESTING

If you wish to offer Gaelic testing at your Mòd, to competitors who intend competing at the National Mòd, please speak to the Mòd officer in Inverness who will help you arrange this. Whilst many competitors now do their tests online, many also prefer to do them in person and this has the added benefit of increasing numbers of participants at local Mòds. There is guidance on the ACG website in regards to what is required at each of the stages of language acquisition – from Levels 1-8.

Please encourage your Mòd participants to develop their linguistic skills by attending classes or courses wherever possible. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig will be happy to advise on residential courses and there are many online resources available today.

https://www.learngaelic.net/

https://speakgaelic.scot/

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05mzzhr/episodes/player Beag air Bheag







MEADHANAN SÒISEALTA | SOCIAL MEDIA

Very often, social media pages such as Facebook, “X” (formerly Twitter) and Instagram are the most popular places for people looking for information about your Mòd. If you have someone on your committee who is used to using the various platforms, then perhaps they would be willing to be responsible for the content, which should be consistent. Facebook is best for ‘established’ information such as the publication of syllabus or timetable and adverts for events “X” is good for ‘fast response’ information, updates on Mòd day, responsive information which needs to be spread quickly. Instagram is good for images and Tik Tok is good for videos. “Threads” is a relatively new text app which is similar to “X” but is linked to Instagram and like “X” is good for sharing text, images an video as interacting speedily with other users. “Mastodon”, also a Twitter-type platform, has a Gaelic thread . All of these are useful tools which do not cost anything apart from time but require someone to keep them updated and relevant. If you have someone who can ‘schedule’ and ‘cross-link’ posts over platforms, that will save time. “Tweetdeck” (now known as “X Pro”) works for “X”. Buffer works very successfully for scheduling posts – this means you can schedule snippets of information, dates, syllabus links, events, photos etc all months in advance and don’t need to

worry about remembering to post them at the time. It is very easy to use and just requires a free log in registration. Facebook allows scheduling also - go to your Page, click Publishing Tools at the top. If you don't see Publishing Tools, click *More , click + create* in the top right, write your post, select schedule and choose your date and time for it to be published. "WhatsApp" of course is good for spreading information quickly perhaps, to other committee members, or for asking questions - have a group chat when you can spread vital updates quickly without waiting for people to check their emails. Especially useful on a busy Mòd day when people are in several different venues, trying to chase down missing competitors or adjudicators!

STORASAN | APPENDICES

Templates of documents are in the attached files. Please check that you are using the latest version of these- they are updated regularly. You will find the most recent version for download on the Local Mòd page on the ACG website . These are provided for you in Word format so that you can edit them.

1. Stiùireadh do Luchd-cathrach |Chairperson's Guidelines (Gaelic & English)
2. Stiùireadh do Bhritheamhan | Guidelines for Adjudicators (Gaelic & English)
3. Bun-reachd simplidh | Simple Constitution template
4. Suaicheantas ACG | ACG Logo
5. Aithisg Gniomhachais na Mòdan |Provincial Mòds Activity Report
6. Clàr Thubaistean | Accident Report Form
7. Riaghailtean | Rules of An Comunn
8. Buidseat |Budgeting
9. Ceòl | Music Adjudication Sheet
10. Gàidhlig |Gaelic Adjudication Sheet

11. Dleastanasan | Committee Roles
12. Foirm Òigridh | Junior Entry Form
13. Poileasaidh-Inntrigidh | Access Policy
14. Poileasaidh Gàidhlig ACG | ACG Gaelic Policy
15. Sgeama dìon nam buidhnean so-leònte | Protecting Children & Vulnerable Groups Policy
16. Poileasaidh co-ionannachd chothroman | Equal Opportunities Policy
17. Geàrr-chunntas coinneimh | Sample meeting minutes
18. Foirm-cead clàraidh | Sample photography and Filming Permission Form
19. Clàraidhean | Agendas
20. Saor-thoilich | Volunteer Sign Up Sheet
21. Expenses sheet
22. Adjudicator's Evaluation Sheet
23. Abstract Sheet
24. Adjudicators and Chairpersons Checklist
25. Chair report
26. Secretary's Report
27. Treasurers Report
28. Bràistean | Order form for medals


EDEN COURT THEATRE CINÉMA



“Lasaidh mo chridhe fhathast le sòlas nuair a chuimhnicheas mi air cleachdaidhean agus gnàths nam beann. Có neach a thogadh anns a’ Ghàidhealtachd nach d ’fhiosraich an tùs òige, an deòthas inntinn leis an éisdeadh sgeòil nan Gael agus eachdraidh na Féinne. Cha dì-chuimhnich mi ri m ’bheò an toil-inntinn leis an éisdinn ri seanchas nan aosda nuair a labhradh iad mu euchd nan laoch bho’n d’ thàinig iad. ’S cinnteach mi gun do chuidich seo ri clanna nan Gael a thogail suas ann am barrachd buaidh os ceann gach sluaigh anns an domhan – mar a bha am beachd air àrdachadh le bhith cluinntinn cliù agus treuntas an sinnsear a ghnà ’ga luaidh – le bhith ’ga dheothal mar gu’m b ’ann le bainne ’me màthar agus a ’fàs ’nan cridheachan le neart, mar a bha ’na cuirp a ’cinntinn….

“My heart still blazes with joy when I remember the traditions and customs of the Highlands. What person, who was raised in a Gaelic community, did not experience in their early youth the mental exhilaration with which tales of the Gaels and the adventures of the Fianna are listened. I will never forget for as long as I live the enjoyment with which I listened to the lore of the old people when they would speak about the exploits of the warriors from whom they were descended. I’m sure that this enabled the Gaels to be endowed with qualities superior to other people of the world – since their ideas were elevated by constantly hearing references to the fame and excellence of their ancestors – by drinking it as though with their mother’s milk and growing in their hearts with strength, as their bodies were developing”

……..In a letter from an Ardgour resident to the periodical An Teachdaire Ùr Gàidhealach 1836



An Comunn Gàidhealach

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