

Co-chomunn na Pàirc

Improve your conversational skills in a Gaelic community

Saturday 31 October — Saturday 7 November 2009

Saturday 6 March — Saturday 13 March 2010

These acclaimed new courses will comprise:

- 15 hours' tuition using the exciting new ULPAN method of learning
- Emphasis on improving fluency
- Local visits to experience life in a Gaelic-speaking community
- Learning about the area's remarkable history and culture



This project has received support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and is being run in conjunction with Lews Castle College.



Lews Castle College



Ravenspoint Centre looking out over Loch Erisort

Co-chomunn na Pàirc

Ravenspoint
Kershader
South Lochs
Isle of Lewis
HS2 9QA

Phone: 01851-880236

E-mail: info@ravenspoint.net

Outline of Courses

Co-Chomunn na Pairc, the Park Community Co-operative, with the assistance of Lews Castle College and Bord na Gàidhlig, has arranged two one-week courses for Gaelic learners at different levels. These courses are offered from Saturday 31 October—Saturday 7 November 2009 and from Saturday 6 March—Saturday 13 March 2010. The courses will be based at the Ravenspoint Centre, Kershader, South Lochs, Lewis – where good basic hostel accommodation will be provided – and will each involve 15 hours' of Gaelic tuition using the exciting new ULPAN method of learning, together with local visits which give students a unique opportunity to experience the area's rich Gaelic culture. The visits will include helping in a Gaelic-speaking shop, attending a Gaelic church service, visiting the local school's Gaelic Medium Unit, talking to local residents in their homes, using the Angus Macleod Archive of historical material, and a ceilidh. The emphasis will be on improving your Gaelic fluency while learning about the area's remarkable history and culture.

Course Fees

As a result of support from Bord na Gaidhlig, we are able to offer the courses at the rate of only £250 per person – which includes 7 nights' bed and breakfast, lunches, all tuition and visits. Students may wish to attend on a non-residential basis in which case the fee is £175 and includes tuition, visits and lunches. If students are not previously registered, Ulpan's registration fee is £50.

For further information, please contact Margaret MacIennan on 01851 880236 or email info@ravenspoint.net

Ulpan

This method was first devised in Israel in 1948 in order to teach Hebrew to the influx of different nationalities coming into the newly formed country - Ulpan is in fact a Hebrew word meaning study or studio. It proved to be an exceptionally good way, due to the dynamic methodologies employed of teaching language at speed. It has since then been adapted by many minority languages throughout the world. The Welsh have used it very successfully since the 1960s, it is also used in Ireland, Catalonia and by the Maori people of New Zealand for example. It has only recently been adapted for Scottish Gaelic.

Adult learners of Gaelic tend to find reading and writing skills easier to master rather than conversational skills. With Ùlpan, conversational skills come first, and reading and writing follow a little later. Students learn through repetition of key structures and through language activities, with the emphasis on using the language, rather than on more academic skills like grammar.

South Lochs

South Lochs is a very rural and beautiful part of Lewis with a population of around 400 of whom 61% spoke Gaelic at the time of the last Census.

While subject to change like all areas, it is still a place where Gaelic is spoken on a daily basis, and the courses offer a rare opportunity to experience living in the heart of a Gaelic community.



Ravenspoint is owned by the community through Co-Chomunn na Pairc and houses the area's only shop, as well as a tea-room, hostel, and the Angus Macleod Archive. The latter is a remarkable resource of historical material, much of it in Gaelic, collected by the late Angus 'Ease' Macleod of Calbost, South Lochs, covering topics such as crofting, fishing, the Clearances and Land Struggle, genealogy, place-names, housing and social life in South Lochs.

The courses provide an opportunity to speak to local people and learn about the area's dramatic history with visits to some of the places affected by clearance and emigration.

Please complete the attached enquiry form below and send to Margaret MacLennan at Ravenspoint, Kershader, South Lochs, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9QA or email info@ravenspoint.net. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

ENQUIRY FORM

Name

Address

Telephone

Email address

What is your level of proficiency in Gaelic:

Complete beginner Intermediate learner Advanced learner

Please specify which group of Ulpan lessons (eg 21-30) you would ideally like to attend:

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Please specify which group of Ulpan lessons (eg 21-30) you would be prepared to attend:

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Please indicate your preferred date:

Saturday 31 October —Saturday 7 November 2009 Saturday 6 March — Saturday 13 March 2010

Please note any special dietary or other requirements:

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Signed Date

Please return this form as soon as possible to Margaret MacLennan, Ravenspoint , Kershader, Isle Of Lewis, HS2 9QA, or email to info@ravenspoint.net