

Scottish Island Voices

Outdoors

Slices of contemporary Hebridean Life and Work
in
32 English and Gaelic videos presented for language learners



Croftwork and Harvesting – Peat Cutting – Lazy Bed Construction
Catching Razorfish – Surfing and Windsurfing

Short online films with transcripts and translations,
suitable for pre-intermediate to post-intermediate learners,
totalling 2 hours 40 minutes of listening material between the two languages

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Acknowledgements

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Feedback

Comments and suggestions welcome to Gordon Wells at sm00gw@groupwise.uhi.ac.uk.

1. INTRODUCTION

The first series of forty Island Voices/Guthan nan Eilean videos portrayed various aspects of cultural and vocational life in the Uists. Within those tight limits the portrayal of island life was necessarily selective and restricted. Fortunately, with the help of funding from the European Social Fund, a follow-up project has been made possible which allows for more than tripling the size of the original video resource bank, as well as widening the geographical spread to take in neighbouring Hebridean islands to the north, south, east, and west.

A broadly environmental theme runs through the new materials, which have been divided up into three categories. These are “Outdoors”, “Generations”, and “Enterprise”. This document relates to the Outdoors section only. The same format used in the original successful series is retained. Short documentary clips in plain language are used to introduce a community topic, venue or event. Authentic speech “talking head” interviews complement the documentaries, supplying more personal insights from community members delivered in natural language and so providing a greater challenge to the learner/listener. Links to the online video clips, transcripts and translations can be accessed via <http://guthan.wordpress.com>.

2. VIDEO LIST

	English	Gaelic
21	Croftwork and Harvesting Documentary	Croftwork and Harvesting Documentary
22	Interview: Crofter Roddy Red Tie Macdonald	Interview: Crofter Roddy Red Tie Macdonald
23	Interview: Biodiversity Officer Anne Maclellan	Interview: Biodiversity Officer Anne Maclellan
24	Peatcutting Documentary	Peatcutting Documentary
25	Interview: Peatcutter Archie Campbell (Process)	Interview: Peatcutter Archie Campbell (Process)
26	Interview: Peatcutter Archie Campbell (Social practices)	Interview: Peatcutter Archie Campbell (Social practices)
27	Lazybeds Documentary	Lazybeds Documentary
28	Interview: Demonstrator Angus Macdonald	Interview: Demonstrator Angus Macdonald
29	Interview: Co-ordinator Tommy Macdonald	Interview: Co-ordinator Tommy Macdonald
30	Razorfish Documentary	Razorfish Documentary
31	Interview: Demonstrator Alec Beaton	Interview: Demonstrator Alec Beaton
32	Interview: Cook Mary Anne Mackay	Interview: Cook Mary Anne Mackay
33	Surfing Documentary	Surfing Documentary
34	Interview: Surfer Will Lamb	Interview: Surfer Will Lamb
35	Windsurfing Documentary	Windsurfing Documentary
36	Interview: Windsurfer Angus Johnson	Interview: Windsurfer Angus Johnson

3. CATALOGUE OF ENGLISH VIDEOS

E21. Crofting and Harvesting Documentary

Content / topic: Crofting, particularly at harvest-time

Duration: 7.02 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: Roddy Macdonald's croft at Aird in Benbecula is the location for this documentary which looks first at silage production, and then in more detail at the more traditional practice for harvesting corn, including the construction of stacks. These are welcomed by conservation bodies.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

E22. Crofter Interview

Content / topic: The crofting year

Duration: 4.07 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Roddy "Red Tie" Macdonald summarises the crofting year, listing the different activities that are undertaken in different seasons. He talks in more detail about his traditional method of harvesting corn, and how it helps conservation bodies.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – listing activities in chronological order, and giving reasons for particular practices.

E23. Biodiversity Officer Interview

Content / topic: Conservation and crofting life

Duration: 6.08 minutes

Level (listening level required): B2

Summary: Anne Maclellan describes her duties as Biodiversity Officer for the local council, including interaction with local schools and crofters. She describes in some detail a scheme that assists crofters to harvest corn in a way that helps rare birds, and comments on shared interests between crofters and conservation bodies.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc - describing daily duties, and highlighting topics or events of particular interest.

E24. Peatcutting Documentary

Content / topic: Cutting peats

Duration: 6.24 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: Benbecula resident Archie Campbell cuts peats in the traditional manner with the help of his neighbour Donald Innes. Various stages in the process are shown, as well as the use of the traditional peatknife.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

E25. Peatcutter Interview (Process)

Content / topic: How to cut peats

Duration: 3.39 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Archie Campbell goes through the various stages entailed in cutting peats and storing them.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc - describing stages in a process.

E26. Peatcutter Interview (Social Practices)

Content / topic: Social practices associated with peatcutting

Duration: 5.01 minutes

Level (listening level required): B2

Summary: Archie Campbell describes some of the traditional social customs associated with peat cutting and notes how they have changed in recent times. He also speculates on the relevance of using peat for fuel in today's world.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc - describing social customs and practices and speculating on current relevance.

E27. Lazybeds Documentary

Content / topic: Constructing raised (or “lazy”) beds for potato cultivation.

Duration: 5.19 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: This short documentary, filmed in South Uist, illustrates the steps involved in building lazy beds. Angus Macdonald, on a Life Skills course run by the Cothrom training group, passes on his traditional skills to other participants. Some other activities of the group are also shown.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

E28. Lazybeds Demonstrator Interview

Content / topic: Lazybed construction

Duration: 2.02 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Angus Macdonald talks about the construction and the use of lazybeds. He also mentions the traditional “foot plough” tool that was used to build them.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – relating uses and usages.

E29. Lazybeds Co-ordinator Interview

Content / topic: Benefits of lazybeds

Duration: 3.30 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1

Summary: Tommy Macdonald, life skills co-ordinator at Cothrom, talks about why they dug lazybeds at the centre, and the benefits they bring. He also mentions a bio-diversity scheme that affects the site.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – explaining project history and benefits.

E.30 Razorfish Documentary

Content / topic: Catching razorfish

Duration: 4.59 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: This is a short documentary about how to catch razorfish in South Uist. Alec Beaton demonstrates his technique, and shows others on a Life Skills course how to do it.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

E31. Razorfish Demonstrator Interview

Content / topic: Catching razorfish

Duration: 4.54 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Alec Beaton describes his razorfishing technique, including precautions on how to protect your fingers and not get lost.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – containing description and advice on technique.

E32. Razorfish Cooking Interview

Content / topic: Preparing seafood and other island foods

Duration: 3.41 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1

Summary: Mary Anne Mackay talks about how she cooks locally found seafood, including razorfish. She also talks about older traditions of food preparation and preservation from her childhood memories.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – listing kinds of seafood, and explaining cooking techniques. There is also comparison of new and old customs of food preparation and preservation.

E33. Surfing Documentary

Content / topic: Surfing

Duration: 5.28 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: This documentary follows North Uist resident Will Lamb, originally from Baltimore, as he goes surfing with friends. Preparatory steps are shown, as well as examples of successful and unsuccessful rides.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

E34. Surfer Interview

Content / topic: Surfing

Duration: 6.28 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Will Lamb talks about the best weather conditions for surfing, explaining the significance of different wind directions. He also describes likely conditions at different times of the year. He goes on to talk in more detail about why he likes to go surfing and how it benefits him physically and mentally.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – explaining weather conditions and their consequences, and explaining potential drawbacks and benefits.

E35. Windsurfing Documentary

Content / topic: Windsurfing

Duration: 5.05 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: North Uist resident Angus Johnson demonstrates his windsurfing skills at West Beach in Sollas. The conditions are good for beginners, with a strong wind but a calm sea.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

E36. Windsurfer Interview

Content / topic: Windsurfing and other outdoor sports

Duration: 3.28 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1

Summary: Angus Johnson talks about the best places for windsurfing in North Uist, and why he prefers West Beach. He also talks about other sports he plays, including kitesurfing. He then talks in some detail about the equipment you need for the sport and how much it might cost.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – listing locations, sports, and equipment, and expressing likes and preferences.

3. CATALOGUE OF GAELIC VIDEOS

G21. Crofting and Harvesting Documentary

Content / topic: Crofting, particularly at harvest-time

Duration: 7.02 minutes

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Summary: Roddy Macdonald's croft at Aird in Benbecula is the location for this documentary which looks first at silage production, and then in more detail at the more traditional practice for harvesting corn, including the construction of stacks. These are welcomed by conservation bodies.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

G22. Crofter Interview

Content / topic: The crofting year

Duration: 4.44 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Roddy "Red Tie" Macdonald summarises the crofting year, listing the different activities that are undertaken in different seasons. He talks in more detail about his traditional method of harvesting corn, and how it helps conservation bodies.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – listing activities in chronological order, and giving reasons for particular practices.

G23. Biodiversity Officer Interview

Content / topic: Conservation and crofting life

Duration: 6.21 minutes

Level (listening level required): B2

Summary: Anne Maclellan describes her duties as Biodiversity Officer for the local council, including interaction with local schools and crofters. She describes in some detail a scheme that assists crofters to harvest corn in a way that helps rare birds, and comments on shared interests between crofters and conservation bodies.

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Summary: Benbecula resident Archie Campbell cuts peats in the traditional manner with the help of his neighbour Donald Innes. Various stages in the process are shown, as well as the use of the traditional peatknife.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

G25. Peatcutter Interview (Process)

Content / topic: How to cut peats

Duration: 6.10 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Archie Campbell goes through the various stages entailed in cutting peats and storing them.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc - describing stages in a process.

G26. Peatcutter Interview (Social Practices)

Content / topic: Social practices associated with peatcutting

Duration: 5.06 minutes

Level (listening level required): B2

Summary: Archie Campbell describes some of the traditional social customs associated with peat cutting and notes how they have changed in recent times. He also speculates on the relevance of using peat for fuel in today's world.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc - describing social customs and practices and speculating on current relevance.

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Content / topic: Constructing raised (or “lazy”) beds for potato cultivation.

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Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

G28. Lazybeds Demonstrator Interview

Content / topic: Lazybed construction

Duration: 2.23 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Angus Macdonald talks about the construction and the use of lazybeds. He also mentions the traditional “foot plough” tool that was used to build them.

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Content / topic: Benefits of lazybeds

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Summary: Tommy Macdonald, life skills co-ordinator at Cothrom, talks about why they dug lazybeds at the centre, and the benefits they bring. He also mentions a bio-diversity scheme that affects the site.

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G.30 Razorfish Documentary

Content / topic: Catching razorfish

Duration: 4.59 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: This is a short documentary about how to catch razorfish in South Uist. Alec Beaton demonstrates his technique, and shows others on a Life Skills course how to do it.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

G31. Razorfish Demonstrator Interview

Content / topic: Catching razorfish

Duration: 4.17 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Alec Beaton describes his razorfishing technique, including precautions on how to protect your fingers and not get lost.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – containing description and advice on technique.

G32. Razorfish Cooking Interview

Content / topic: Preparing seafood and other island foods

Duration: 4.23 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1

Summary: Mary Anne Mackay talks about how she cooks locally found seafood, including razorfish. She also talks about older traditions of food preparation and preservation from her childhood memories.

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Content / topic: Surfing

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Level (listening level required): A2

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Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

G34. Surfer Interview

Content / topic: Surfing

Duration: 6.45 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Will Lamb talks about the best weather conditions for surfing, explaining the significance of different wind directions. He also describes likely conditions at different times of the year. He goes on to talk in more detail about why he likes to go surfing and how it benefits him physically and mentally.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – explaining weather conditions and their consequences, and explaining potential drawbacks and benefits.

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Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

G36. Windsurfer Interview

Content / topic: Windsurfing and other outdoor sports

Duration: 4.14 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1

Summary: Angus Johnson talks about the best places for windsurfing in North Uist, and why he prefers West Beach. He also talks about other sports he plays, including kitesurfing. He then talks in some detail about the equipment you need for the sport and how much it might cost.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – listing locations, sports, and equipment, and expressing likes and preferences.