

Island Voices

Generations

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



*Children's Parliament in Uist and Barra – Crofting and Boatbuilding Skills at School
Lifelong Learning at Scotland's Gaelic College – Family Fun at Grimsay Boat Day*

Short online films with transcripts and translations,
suitable for pre-intermediate to post-intermediate learners,
totalling 2 hours 50 minutes of listening material between the two languages



Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Video List	3
3. Catalogue of English Videos	4
4. Catalogue of Gaelic Videos	10

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to all interviewees and other individuals and groups appearing in the documentaries. Without their co-operation this project could not have been attempted. Music on all soundtracks was produced by Hebridean musicians. Archie Campbell and Alison Dix kindly commented on and proofread the Gaelic documentary scripts. Kent Andersen and other POOLS partners have continued to supply invaluable ideas and encouragement. This project has been part-funded by the European Social Fund Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme.

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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 Generations 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
37	Children’s Parliament in Barra Documentary	Children’s Parliament in Barra Documentary
38	Interview: MCP Sarah Macinnes	Interview: MCP Sarah Macinnes
39	Interview: Parent Isabell Macinnes	Interview: Parent Isabell Macinnes
40	Children’s Parliament in Benbecula Documentary	Children’s Parliament in Benbecula Documentary
41	Interview: Health worker Isabel Steele	Interview: Health worker Isabel Steele
42	Interview: Teacher Catriona Black	Interview: Teacher Catriona Black
43	Work Skills at Sgoil Lìonacleit Documentary	Work Skills at Sgoil Lìonacleit Documentary
44	Interview: Crofter Neil Macpherson	Interview: Crofter Neil Macpherson
45	Interview: Boatbuilding Pupils Duncan Macdonald & Donald MacIsaac	Interview: Boatbuilding Pupils Duncan Macdonald & Donald MacIsaac
46	Lifelong Learning and Scotland’s Gaelic College Documentary	Lifelong Learning and Scotland’s Gaelic College Documentary
47	Interview: Depute Principal John Norman MacLeod	Interview: Depute Principal John Norman MacLeod
48	Interview: Students/Staff Alex Gruba, Kathleen Reddy, Micheal Speirs	Interview: Students/Staff Alex Gruba, Kathleen Reddy, Micheal Speirs
49	Grimsay Boat Day Documentary	Grimsay Boat Day Documentary
50	Interview: Father, Lachie Morrison (Boats)	Interview: Father, Lachie Morrison (Boats)
51	Interview: Son, Pàdruig Morrison	Interview: Son, Pàdruig Morrison
52	Interview: Father, Lachie Morrison (Heisgeir reminiscence)	Interview: Father, Lachie Morrison (Heisgeir reminiscence)

3. CATALOGUE OF ENGLISH VIDEOS

E37. Children's Parliament in Barra Documentary

Content / topic: Youth work and creativity

Duration: 5.06 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: Members of the Uist and Barra Children's Parliament gather with friends and family to clean up a beach. Later in the day they begin work on a piece of communal art in which each MCP invests items of personal significance.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

E38. MCP Interview

Content / topic: Children's Parliament activities and examples

Duration: 1.58 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: Member of the Uist and Barra Children's Parliament Sarah Macinnes describes how it meets, and some of its activities. She also recites a jointly composed poem, produced in the course of those activities.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – describing activities and highlighting favourites, plus sample poetic composition.

E39. Parent Interview

Content / topic: Children's Parliament activities and impacts

Duration: 6.47 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Isabell Macinnes, mother of MCP Sarah Macinnes, offers a parental perspective on the activities of the Uist and Barra Children's Parliament, describing how she thinks they have benefited her daughter.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – relating a series of activities and evaluating their impact.

E40. Children's Parliament in Benbecula Documentary

Content / topic: Youth work and creativity

Duration: 7.10 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: At their year-end meeting Members of the Uist and Barra Children's Parliament reflect on all the work they have done during the course of their involvement, collect awards, and stage a dramatic performance to show the local community what they have learnt, and what they think is important.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

E41. Health Worker Interview

Content / topic: Children's Parliament rationale

Duration: 7.50 minutes

Level (listening level required): B2

Summary: Health Worker Isabel Steele explains some of the thinking behind the establishment of the Uist and Barra Children's Parliament and how it was set up, and relates how it has impacted on her work.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – relating steps in a process and explaining needs and motivations.

E42. Teacher Interview

Content / topic: Children's Parliament rationale

Duration: 7.26 minutes

Level (listening level required): B2

Summary: Teacher Catriona Black offers an educational perspective on the benefits of the Children's Parliament way of working, and relates how it has helped pupils to develop.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – describing activities in relation to learning processes and academic stages.

E43. Work Skills at Sgoil Lìonacleit Documentary

Content / topic: Secondary school crofting and boatbuilding courses

Duration: 7.37 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: S3 and S4 pupils at Sgoil Lìonacleit have the option of taking vocational courses in crofting or boatbuilding, among other subjects. This film shows crofting pupils involved in both croft-based and class-based work, and boatbuilding pupils constructing oars in the workshop.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

E44. Crofter/Instructor Interview

Content / topic: Crofting skills

Duration: 3.42 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Benbecula crofter Neil Macpherson relates how and why the crofting course was set up, and describes how the course contents relate to the crofting year.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – relating steps in a process and describing contents of a programme of work.

E45. Boatbuilding Pupils Interview

Content / topic: Boatbuilding skills

Duration: 3.08 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1

Summary: Boatbuilding pupils Duncan Macdonald and Donald MacIsaac talk about their school careers to date, and explain how the boatbuilding course works, and how they think what they have learnt may help them in the future.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – listing topics, describing a process, and outlining future plans.

E.46 Lifelong Learning and Scotland's Gaelic College Documentary

Content / topic: Gaelic tertiary education

Duration: 5.31 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is Scotland's Gaelic college. This short film gives a brief tour of the main campus in the Isle of Skye, outlining some of the main facilities and functions of the college.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

E47. Depute Principal Interview

Content / topic: History of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

Duration: 5.04 minutes

Level (listening level required): B2

Summary: Depute Principal John Norman Macleod relates significant events in the history of the development of Scotland's Gaelic College, indicates further development plans, and describes how much he enjoys his work.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – relating a summary chain of events, including future plans, and giving a personal reaction.

E48. Students/Staff Interview

Content / topic: Working and studying at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

Duration: 4.41 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1

Summary: Alex Gruba from Poland, Kathleen Reddy from Canada, and Micheal Speirs from Perthshire, give their impressions of what it is like to study and/or work at Scotland's Gaelic College, including discussion of the relative merits of onsite and distance learning.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – describing personal impressions and reactions, and giving advice.

E49. Grimsay Boat Day Documentary

Content / topic: Family day out

Duration: 5.49 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: The Grimsay Boat Day is an annual community event in May. This film covers some of the major activities at a typical Boat Day, including exhibitions, sales and stalls, boat trips and demonstrations, and evening entertainment

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

E50. Father Interview (Grimsay and Boats)

Content / topic: Maritime connections

Duration: 4.13 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Lachie Morrison is a longstanding Grimsay resident. Here he shares some of his early memories of involvement with boats and the sea.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – referring to seafaring, fishing, or boating matters.

E51. Son Interview

Content / topic: Boat Day activities

Duration: 2.19 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2/B1

Summary: Pàdruig Morrison talks about his involvement in the Boat Day, highlighting favourite activities and past successes. He also talks about his family connection to Heisgeir.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – describing favourite activities, relating specific events, and noting family connections.

E52. Father Interview (Heisgeir Reminiscence)

Content / topic: Youthful memories of Heisgeir

Duration: 5.04 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Lachie Morrison talks about a remarkable episode in his life when his own father took the family to live on the Monach Isles (Heisgeir) off the west coast of North Uist.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – recounting memories of youth.

3. CATALOGUE OF GAELIC VIDEOS

G37. Children's Parliament in Barra Documentary

Content / topic: Youth work and creativity

Duration: 5.06 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: Members of the Uist and Barra Children's Parliament gather with friends and family to clean up a beach. Later in the day they begin work on a piece of communal art in which each MCP invests items of personal significance.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

G 38. MCP Interview

Content / topic: Children's Parliament activities and examples

Duration: 2.05 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: Member of the Uist and Barra Children's Parliament Sarah Macinnes describes how it meets, and some of its activities. She also recites a jointly composed poem, produced in the course of those activities.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – describing activities and highlighting favourites, plus sample poetic composition.

G 39. Parent Interview

Content / topic: Children's Parliament activities and impacts

Duration: 6.22 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Isabell Macinnes, mother of MCP Sarah Macinnes, offers a parental perspective on the activities of the Uist and Barra Children's Parliament, describing how she thinks they have benefited her daughter.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – relating a series of activities and evaluating their impact.

G 40. Children's Parliament in Benbecula Documentary

Content / topic: Youth work and creativity

Duration: 7.10 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: At their year-end meeting Members of the Uist and Barra Children's Parliament reflect on all the work they have done during the course of their involvement, collect awards, and stage a dramatic performance to show the local community what they have learnt, and what they think is important.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

G 41. Health Worker Interview

Content / topic: Children's Parliament rationale

Duration: 5.55 minutes

Level (listening level required): B2

Summary: Health Worker Isabel Steele explains some of the thinking behind the establishment of the Uist and Barra Children's Parliament and how it was set up, and relates how it has impacted on her work.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – relating steps in a process and explaining needs and motivations.

G 42. Teacher Interview

Content / topic: Children's Parliament rationale

Duration: 8.08 minutes

Level (listening level required): B2

Summary: Teacher Catriona Black offers an educational perspective on the benefits of the Children's Parliament way of working, and relates how it has helped pupils to develop.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – describing activities in relation to learning processes and academic stages.

G 43. Work Skills at Sgoil Lìonacleit Documentary

Content / topic: Secondary school crofting and boatbuilding courses

Duration: 7.37 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2

Summary: S3 and S4 pupils at Sgoil Lìonacleit have the option of taking vocational courses in crofting or boatbuilding, among other subjects. This film shows crofting pupils involved in both croft-based and class-based work, and boatbuilding pupils constructing oars in the workshop.

Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

G 44. Crofter/Instructor Interview

Content / topic: Crofting skills

Duration: 5.07 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Benbecula crofter Neil Macpherson relates how and why the crofting course was set up, and describes how the course contents relate to the crofting year.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – relating steps in a process and describing contents of a programme of work.

G 45. Boatbuilding Pupils Interview

Content / topic: Boatbuilding skills

Duration: 2.53 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1

Summary: Boatbuilding pupils Duncan Macdonald and Donald MacIsaac talk about their school careers to date, and explain how the boatbuilding course works, and how they think what they have learnt may help them in the future.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – listing topics, describing a process, and outlining future plans.

G.46 Lifelong Learning and Scotland's Gaelic College Documentary

Content / topic: Gaelic tertiary education

Duration: 5.31 minutes

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Duration: 6.50 minutes

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Summary: Depute Principal John Norman Macleod relates significant events in the history of the development of Scotland's Gaelic College, indicates further development plans, and describes how much he enjoys his work.

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G 48. Students/Staff Interview

Content / topic: Working and studying at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

Duration: 4.00 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1

Summary: Alex Gruba from Poland, Kathleen Reddy from Canada, and Micheal Speirs from Perthshire, give their impressions of what it is like to study and/or work at Scotland's Gaelic College, including discussion of the relative merits of onsite and distance learning.

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Content / topic: Family day out

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Level (listening level required): A2

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Language notes: Simple documentary narrative and description.

G 50. Father Interview (Grimsay and Boats)

Content / topic: Maritime connections

Duration: 4.24 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Lachie Morrison is a longstanding Grimsay resident. Here he shares some of his early memories of involvement with boats and the sea.

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G 51. Son Interview

Content / topic: Boat Day activities

Duration: 2.05 minutes

Level (listening level required): A2/B1

Summary: Pàdruig Morrison talks about his involvement in the Boat Day, highlighting favourite activities and past successes. He also talks about his family connection to Heisgeir.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – describing favourite activities, relating specific events, and noting family connections.

G 52. Father Interview (Heisgeir Reminiscence)

Content / topic: Youthful memories of Heisgeir

Duration: 7.49 minutes

Level (listening level required): B1/B2

Summary: Lachie Morrison talks about a remarkable episode in his life when his own father took the family to live on the Monach Isles (Heisgeir) off the west coast of North Uist.

Language notes: Unscripted authentic speech at natural pace, exhibiting characteristic "performance errors" - false starts, pauses, repetitions, etc – recounting memories of youth.
