



Island Voices Guthan nan Eilean

Supporting Speech
through
Language Capture and Curation

Oral Heritage Roundtable, Hitzargiak Congress, 23-24 June 2016

The Gaelic Language – Numbers (1)

- Census 2011
- Just over one per cent (1.1 per cent or 58,000 people) of the population aged 3 and over in Scotland were able to speak Gaelic, a slight fall from 1.2 per cent (59,000) in 2001.
- There were decreases in the proportion of people able to speak Gaelic in all age groups apart from those aged under 20 years which had a 0.1 percentage point increase.

The Gaelic Language – Numbers (2)

- In 2011, the proportion of the population aged 3 and over in Scotland who could speak, read, write or understand Gaelic was 1.7 per cent (87,000), compared with 1.9 per cent (92,000) in 2001. Within this group, the number of people who could speak, read and write Gaelic in 2011 was 32,000, 0.6 per cent of the population aged 3 and over; this was the same proportion as in 2001.

The Gaelic Language – Numbers (3)



- For Scotland as a whole, the proportion of the population aged 3 and over able to speak Gaelic was 1.1 per cent (58,000 people); a slight fall from 1.2 per cent (59,000) in 2001. The council areas with the highest proportions able to speak Gaelic were Eilean Siar (52 per cent), Highland (5 per cent) and Argyll & Bute (4 per cent).

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Basic Approach

- Original Format:
 - Scripted introductory video clips in “documentary” style – plain language/“Teacher talk”
 - “Talking head” interviews – authentic speech (unmediated)
 - Produced by project staff
- Later Developments:
 - More “User Generated Content” encouraged
 - Including audio (and sometimes text)
 - Additional languages

Guthan nan Eilean – Island Voices Platforms

- [Wordpress](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Ipadio](#)
- [Clilstore](#)

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Exemplification

- Gaelic Documentary – [Peatcutting](#)
- Gaelic Interview – [Peatcutting: Social Practices](#)
- English Documentary – [Peatcutting](#)
- English Interview – [Peatcutting: Social Practices \(with transcript\)](#)
- Polish Documentary – [Peatcutting \(with transcript\)](#)

Guthan nan Eilean – Island Voices Community Engagement

- [Bonnie Prince Charlie](#)
- [The Great War](#)
- [Gaelic Journeys](#)
- [Storytellers](#)
- [Sgeulachdan Thormoid](#)

Guthan nan Eilean – Island Voices Research/Reports



- <https://guthan.wordpress.com/research/>
- Perceptions of Gaelic Learning and Use in a Bilingual Island Community: an Exploratory Study (2011)
- ESOL in the Hebrides and Island Voices: “Hey, hang on a minute, tha mise bilingual!” (2012)
- Gaelic Digital Literacies in a Bilingual Community: a Sampling of Practices and Preferences (2013)
- CALL Support in Context: Contrasting Approaches in Irish and Scottish Gaelic (2014)
- Sharing Gaelic Voices: Peat-cutting in Polish, or Surfing in Sindhi? (2016)

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