

POOLS Dissemination in Scotland/UK

1. Local/Regional

1.1. Newspaper and Radio coverage

Articles in Am Pàipear, Stornoway Gazette, West Highland Free Press, BBC Radio nan Gàidheal – following press release.

1.2. Education Sector

Article to UHI Millennium Institute newsletter “Compass”

1.3. Partner projects

Discussions with Lews Castle College, Cothrom Training Ltd., Taigh Chearsabhaigh Museum and Art Centre, Ceòlas Summer School. Outcomes include Learning Communities’ approval of joint ESOL-Gaelic literacies project entitled “Multimedia learning in a multilingual community”, and commitment in principle to work towards development of contemporary oral archive in the Hebrides.

2. National

2.1. Scottish Centre for Information on Language Teaching

Article in newsletter/on website.

2.2. Conferences

Invitation to attend ICT and Literacies conference

3. UK-wide

Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research

Initial contact made, with aim to explore links with ESOL and other Community Language interests.

Appendix One: February article for local press

Language Learning Videos: Made in Uist

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is involved in a language learning and teacher training project with a number of other colleges around Europe, and has contracted Gordon Wells, from Aird in Benbecula, to co-ordinate the project locally. Among the project outcomes will be a series of videos in Gaelic and English, as well as a range of other European languages. These videos will be subtitled and used as a basis for both language learning and teacher training. Accordingly, Gordon plans to record a number of DVD interviews around Uist in the coming months. He is keen to work with individuals, community groups, and local businesses in developing useful learning materials in both languages. Vocational areas that could be covered include Catering, Tourism, Media and Business Studies (including international trade), as well as others. All project materials will be published on the website (www.languages.dk) and be available for use free of charge under “copyleft” conditions. With experience of Industrial Language Training in Birmingham, and consultancy for BBC TV on language teaching, Gordon is well placed to develop work-related materials in new broadcast formats.

Gordon has already been in contact with local groups, for example Cothrom, who are running classes in both Gaelic and English for Speakers of Other Languages. If you are learning Gaelic or English, or work with or employ learners of either language, or are involved in any way in any of these fields and have some ideas you might like to discuss with Gordon you can e-mail him on sm00gw@groupwise.uhi.ac.uk or info@gordonwells.co.uk, or phone 01870 603214.

Appendix Two: May article for local press:

Multimedia Learning in a Multilingual Uist

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Cothrom have announced a joint initiative in Uist to tackle literacies for both Gaelic and English language trainees. Entitled “Multimedia learning in a multilingual community” the project will bring together students and teachers of Gaelic and English for Speakers of Other Languages.

With a support grant of up to £6000 from the Scottish Executive’s Learning Connections ICT and Literacies Innovations Fund, the project will focus on developing digital audio/video materials based on students’ own experiences and needs, either at work or in the wider community. The lead tutor for the project is Gordon Wells, who is already involved in filming around Uist.

The project dovetails neatly with the European “Pools” project, in which partner colleges across Europe are working in nine different languages and “pooling” their resources. Following the initial report on this project in the February issue of “Am Pàipear”, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has had discussions with a number of Uist-based groups, including Taigh Chearsabhaigh and Ceòlas, as well as Cothrom, on ways of developing the unique local language mix by taking advantage of modern digital and Internet technology. Lewis Castle College has also been invited to take part. Under the broad title “Guthan Uibhist” (“Voices of Uist”), it is hoped to make a start on a contemporary oral archive that will serve as an educational and community resource.

A spokesperson for Communities Scotland said:

‘We are keen to see technology playing a growing role in developing access to learning in rural areas. Learning Connections’ ICT and Adult Literacies Fund has selected “Multimedia Learning in a Multi-lingual Community” for its enterprising use of digital recording in language learning to enhance opportunities in relevant vocational areas.’

Anyone interested in finding out more, or in contributing to the project, is urged to get in touch with Gordon Wells. You may want to discuss literacy skills or language learning, you may have suggestions for short documentary films or interviews, or you may be interested in website development or DVD production. Gordon can be contacted on 07879 644984, or via e-mail at info@gordonwells.co.uk.