

Gaelic in the Landscape

Monday February 1st Boat of Garten Village Hall, Strathspey

Monday February 8th Craggan Room Mar Lodge, Deeside

The Cairngorms National Park (Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh) is overwhelmingly a Gaelic landscape and as such it possesses great cultural richness in addition to its acclaimed natural qualities. This one-day course is designed to give non-Gaelic speakers a better appreciation of the names which commonly appear on the map of Highland Scotland, with particular reference to the Cairngorms. Consideration will be given to mountain names, colours and other landscape descriptors, and also to how the Gaelic language is constructed so that participants will be better equipped to interpret the environment for themselves. Correct pronunciation will be encouraged and emphasized. Consideration will be given to some anglicized forms of names, and respect will be shown to the Scots language terminology in the eastern portion of the Park, but the bulk of the day will be concerned with the pure Gaelic landscape of the upland areas in the central and western parts of the Park and, by extension, in the rest of Highland Scotland. Places of cultural significance or which are connected to story or legend, will be highlighted.

The course will be delivered by Inverness-based Gaelic journalist, broadcaster and author, Ruairidh MacIlleathain (Roddy Maclean), who is also a hillwalker and Nordic skier. The day is aimed at any non-Gaelic speaker who wishes to have the tools to be able to better interpret, and therefore enjoy, the Gaelic landscape of Highland Scotland, notably in the Cairngorms National Park. The entire day will be held indoors. You will be asked to bring along a copy of a relevant map (local to the venue you wish to attend), a pad to make notes on, and if you own one a Gaelic dictionary (perhaps Dwelly's Illustrated Gaelic-English dictionary).

The day will cost £10

Tea, coffee and lunch will be provided.

To book, contact Andy or Sam, tel 01479 870535/537 or e-mail

AndyRockall@Cairngorms.co.uk or SamMasson@Cairngorms.co.uk

Please be sure to specify which date/venue you wish to attend.

Spoon carving a one day introductory course with Jon Warnes

Saturday February 27th, Glen Tanar Estate, Deeside.

Sunday February 28th, Inshriach House, Strathspey.

Inspired by the Scandinavian style of spoon carving Jon will show you how to make a functional and elegant wooden eating spoon from freshly cut birch or sycamore.

Participants will use simple hand tools to carve Scandinavian style eating spoons. There will be a range of spoon carving tools and knives to try out and a demonstration of sharpening. Jon will bring a collection of spoons to provide design ideas.

You will take home a carved spoon and will have been introduced to the safe use of sharp hand tools and the fundamentals of spoon design.

No previous skills are required to come on this workshop. But part of the day will be spent working out of doors, you will need to be prepared for the conditions at this time of year.

You might like to look at a couple of books before you come;

Making Traditional Wooden Eating Spoons. Eric Rogers.

Swedish Carving Techniques. Wille Sundqvist.

The day will cost £10

There are only a few places on this event, to allow close supervision when working with tools. Tea, coffee and lunch will be provided.

To book, contact Andy or Sam, tel 01479 870535/537 or e-mail AndyRockall@Cairngorms.co.uk or SamMasson@Cairngorms.co.uk
Please be sure to specify which date/venue you wish to attend.

Both events are supported and funded by: -



The European Agricultural Fund
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