

AG-04: Agallamh le Victoria Kilgour

Interview with Victoria Kilgour, Gaelic Learner

Presenter: Sarah Cruickshank



SARAH:

Cuide rium an-dràsta tha Victoria Kilgour à Glaschu, a thàinig à teaghlach aig nach robh Gàidhlig, ach cha do chuir siud stad oirre Gàidhlig ionnsachadh. Fàilte, Victoria. Nise, innis dhuinn ciamar a thàinig thu gu Gàidhlig ionnsachadh.

VICTORIA:

Uill, bha mo mhàthair ag obair ann an cròileagan ann am Bishopbriggs agus dìreach rinn i suas a h-inntinn gum bithinn-sa agus mo pheathraichean a' dol gu fòghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig an sgoil sin, so chaidh mi ann airson Prìomh a h-Aon, agus an uairsin, ann am Prìomh a Dhà, dh' fhosgail aonad Gàidhlig ann am Bun-sgoil Chondorrait far an robh sinn a' fuireach, so chaidh mi ann a sin agus dh'fhuirich mi ann gu Prìomh a Seachd. 'S an uairsin, chaidh mi air adhart gu Àrd-sgoil Greenfaulds agus rinn mi mo chuid Ghàidhlig aig Àrd ìre agus Sàr Àrd ìre, agus às dèidh làimh, fhuair mi na comharraidhean agam airson an oilthigh, agus chaidh mi air adhart gu Oilthigh Ghlaschu airson Gàidhlig agus Film & TBh a dhèanamh.

SARAH:

Nise, cha robh Gàidhlig aig do mhàthair agus aig d' athair.

VICTORIA:

Cha robh.

SARAH:

Mar sin, an robh duilgheadasan sam bith agaibh a thaobh 's dòcha obair-dachaigh agus a leithid?

SARAH:

With me now is Victoria Kilgour from Glasgow, who comes from a non-Gaelic-speaking family, but that didn't stop her learning Gaelic. Welcome, Victoria. Now, tell us how you came to learn Gaelic.

VICTORIA:

Well, my mother was working in a Gaelic playgroup in Bishopbriggs and she just made up her mind that my sisters and I would be educated through the medium Gaelic in that school, so I went there for Primary One, and then, in Primary Two, a Gaelic unit opened in Condorrait Primary School, which was where we lived, so I went there, and stayed there until Primary Seven. And then, I moved on to Greenfaulds High School and studied Gaelic to Higher and Advanced levels, and later, I got the grades I needed to go to university, and went to Glasgow University to study Gaelic and Film & TV.

SARAH:

Now, your mother and father didn't speak Gaelic.

VICTORIA:

No.

SARAH:

So, did you have any problems with homework and so on?

AG-04: Agallamh le Victoria Kilgour

Interview with Victoria Kilgour, Gaelic Learner

Presenter: Sarah Cruickshank



VICTORIA:

Cha robh mi a' smaoinichadh gu robh aig an àm, ach bha mo mhàthair ag ràdh rium gu robh ise a' faireachdainn caran crosta leatha fhèin nach robh cothrom aice a bhith ga chuideachadh, ach bha mo pheathraichean ann, agus bha iadsan a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig cuideachd, so fhuair sinn air adhart glè mhath.

SARAH:

An robh cothroman sam bith agaibh taobh a-muigh na sgoile airson ur Gàidhlig a chleachdadh?

VICTORIA:

Seadh. Anns a' bhun-sgoil, chaidh sinn ann gach seachdain gu Sradagan, so dìreach cothrom eile, a-muigh às an sgoil, dìreach àite mì-fhoirmeil airson ar cuid Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh dìreach ann an spòrs agus a leithid, so bha sin glè mhath.

SARAH:

Agus an robh dad sam bith eile ann a b' urrainn dhuibh a bhith ris?

VICTORIA:

Nuair a bha mi mu seachd bliadhna a dh'aois, chaidh mi ann gu Còisir Òg Eaglais a' Bhrìc, agus chaidh mi ann 's dòcha sia bliadhna no rudeigin, agus bha siud glè mhath, oir bha sinn a' seinn ann, ach cuideachd, choinnich mi ri cuid daoine a bha a' fuireach 's dòcha fad air falbh, a' dol gu bun-sgoiltean eile agus a leithid, so bha cothrom agam dìreach caraidean ùra agus blasan eadar-dhealaichte a chluinntinn cuideachd, so bha siud glè mhath.

VICTORIA:

I didn't think so at the time, but my mother told me she felt annoyed with herself because she wasn't able to help me, but I had my sisters, and they also spoke Gaelic, so we got on just fine.

SARAH:

Did you have any opportunities outside of school to use your Gaelic?

VICTORIA:

Yes. In primary school, we attended Sradagan every week, so that was another opportunity outside school, just an informal setting in which to use our Gaelic while playing sports and so on, so that was very good.

SARAH:

And was there anything else you could do?

VICTORIA:

When I was seven years old, I joined Falkirk Youth Choir and I went there for six years or so, and that was great, because we sang there, but also, I met people who maybe lived far away, and attended other schools and so on, so I got the opportunity to make new friends and to hear different accents too, so that was great.

AG-04: Agallamh le Victoria Kilgour

Interview with Victoria Kilgour, Gaelic Learner

Presenter: Sarah Cruickshank



SARAH:

Oir tha blas fìor mhath air a' Ghàidhlig agad, cha chanadh tu a-riamh gur ann à Glaschu a bha thu. An robh duilgheadasan sam bith agad ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh a' chàinain?

VICTORIA:

Anns an àrd-sgoil, bha mi gu math dona le bhith a' litreachadh ann an Gàidhlig, ach cuideachd ann am Beurla cuideachd, so chan ann dìreach trioblaid a bh'ann ann an Gàidhlig idir, ach a-mhàin air a sin, dìreach air sgàth 's nach robh mi ga chleachdadh a-mach às an sgoil, bha e caran duilich uaireannan ma bha mi dìreach airson a bhruidhinn gu mì-fhoirmeil agus gu nàdarra, cha bhiodh na faclan agam uaireannan ach ann am Beurla.

SARAH:

Nise, cha robh thu a' dèanamh ach Gàidhlig a-mhàin mar aona chuspair anns an àrd-sgoil. Mar sin, dè a bhuaidh a bh' aig siud air do Ghàidhlig ma bha buaidh idir?

VICTORIA:

Bha e a' faireachdainn gu math mì-nàdarra a bhith a' dol a-steach dhan chlas dìreach uair a thìde gach latha 's a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig agus fad an latha dìreach a' bruidhinn Beurla, so bha e caran neònach dìreach a' dol a-steach airson an uair a thìde sin, ach cuideachd, nuair a choinnich mi ri cuid daoine aig an robh Gàidhlig, dìreach anns an trannta no aig àm lòn, bhithinnsa a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig riutha so bha siud OK, ach fhathast, cha robh cothroman agam aig an àrd-sgoil, so bha sin gu math neònach.

SARAH:

Because your accent in Gaelic is so good, no-one would ever guess you came from Glasgow. Did you have any problems when it came to learning the language?

VICTORIA:

In high school, my spelling in Gaelic was pretty bad, but it was poor in English too, so it wasn't a problem in Gaelic alone, but apart from that, just because I didn't use it outside school, it was sometimes difficult if I just wanted to speak informally and naturally, sometimes, I only knew the terminology in English.

SARAH:

Now, you only studied Gaelic as a subject at high school. So what effect, if any, did that have on your Gaelic?

VICTORIA:

It felt quite unnatural to go into a class and only speak Gaelic for an hour a day and spend the rest of the day speaking English, so it felt strange to just go in for that hour, but also, when I met other people who spoke Gaelic, just in the corridor or at lunch time, I would speak Gaelic to them so that was OK, but still, I didn't have many opportunities in high school, so that was very strange.

AG-04: Agallamh le Victoria Kilgour

Interview with Victoria Kilgour, Gaelic Learner

Presenter: Sarah Cruickshank



SARAH:

Agus ciamar a leasaich thu do Ghàidhlig mar sin às dèidh dhut an àrd-sgoil fhàgail?

VICTORIA:

Uill, nuair a chaidh mi air adhart chun a ... Oilthigh Ghlaschu, anns an dàrna bliadhna agam, dh'fhuirich mi ann am flat còmhla ri còignear eile aig an robh Gàidhlig. 'S e Sgeama Còmhnaidh nan Oileanach a bh' ann, so chuir sinn iarratas a-steach agus fhuair sinn as a' flat seo. Bha còignear againn shìos a' staidhre agus triùir ann am flat shuas a' staidhre agus bha siud dìreach sgoinneil, air sgàth 's nach robh mi a-riamh air bruidhinn Gàidhlig aig an taigh agam, so, a-nise, bha còignear eile mum chuairt a bha a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig gu làitheil, agus dìreach suidheachadh air leth mì-fhoirmeil, agus gach latha, bha feum againn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn agus cuideachd tachartas Gàidhlig a chur air dòigh. So, 's e an tachartas a bh' agam ... Chan e tachartas ceart a bh' ann, ach thòisich mi prògram rèidio aig an oilthigh air Subcity Radio, agus thòisich mi a-mach dìreach a' dèanamh prògram gach mìos, prògram ciùil, ach a bhith a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig. An uairsin, an ath bhliadhna, rinn mi gach cola-deug e, agus às dèidh sin, gach seachdain cuideachd, so tha mi a' smaoinichadh gun d' fhuair mi tòrr misneachd a-mach à sin agus cuideachd le bhith dìreach a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig gu làitheil còmhla ris na caraidean agam dìreach ann an àite mì-fhoirmeil.

SARAH:

Dè an ìre aig a bheil thu a-nis, agus dè a tha thu a' dèanamh?

SARAH:

And how did you improve your Gaelic after leaving high school?

VICTORIA:

Well, went I went on to the ... to Glasgow University, in my second year, I stayed in a flat with five other Gaelic speakers. It was the Gaelic Language Residency Scheme, so we submitted an application and we got this flat. There were five of us downstairs and three in the flat upstairs and that was fantastic, 160 because I had never spoken Gaelic in my own home, so, now, there were another five people around me who spoke Gaelic every day, and just a very informal setting, and we had to speak Gaelic every day and also to organise a Gaelic event. So my event was ... It wasn't really an event, but I started a radio programme in the university on Subcity Radio, and I started out just doing one programme a month, a music programme, but in which I only spoke Gaelic. Then, the next year, I did it every fortnight, and after that, every week as well, so I think I gained a lot of confidence from doing that and also from speaking Gaelic on a daily basis with my friends just in an informal setting.

SARAH:

What level are you at now, and what do you do?

AG-04: Agallamh le Victoria Kilgour

Interview with Victoria Kilgour, Gaelic Learner

Presenter: Sarah Cruickshank



VICTORIA:

Uill, an-dràsta, tha mi aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, agus tha mi a' dèanamh an cùrsa Dioplòma ann am Meadhanan Gàidhlig. Agus tha mi air cùmhnant eile a shoidhneadh a ràdh gu bheil mi gu bhith a' cleachdadh Gàidhlig gu làitheil, agus tha sin gu math, math cudromach dhòmhsa, dìreach a bhith ann an suidheachadh Gàidhlig a-rithist. Cha robh i agam tron samhradh, so dìreach a' faighinn air ais a-steach chun a sin. Agus cuideachd, tha mi feumach air am briathrachas air sgàth 's gu bheil mi airson faighinn a-steach gu na meadhanan Gàidhlig cuideachd, 's tha mi a dhìth air a' bhriathrachas cuideachd.

SARAH:

Dè cho cudromach 's a bha e dhut gun do dh' ionnsaich thu Gàidhlig agus a bheil thu a' smaoinichadh gu bheil e air a bhith na bhuannachd dhut? Gun teagamh.

VICTORIA:

Gun teagamh. Tha mi cho taingeil ri mo mhàthair. Mholain-sa gu duine sam bith, oir bha dìreach iomadh cothrom agam tro Ghàidhlig nach biodh idir air a bhith agam mura robh mi ga dhèanamh agus 's e buannachd a th' ann dha-rìreabh. –

SARAH:

Mìle taing, Victoria.

VICTORIA:

Mòran taing.

VICTORIA:

Well, just now, I'm at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, and I'm studying for a Diploma in Gaelic Media. And I've signed another contract which states that I will use Gaelic on a daily basis, and that is very, very important for me, just to be in a Gaelic situation once more. I didn't have that over the summer, so I'm just getting back into it now. And also, I need to learn the terminology because I want to get into the Gaelic media too, so I need that terminology too.

SARAH:

How important is it to you that you learnt Gaelic, and do you think it's been beneficial for you?

VICTORIA:

Without a doubt. Without a doubt. I am so grateful to my mother. I'd recommend it to anyone, because I've been given many opportunities through Gaelic that I wouldn't otherwise have had and that's definitely a benefit.

SARAH:

A thousand thanks, Victoria.

VICTORIA:

Thank you.