



TREÒIR | VÒAR | VIRR
AIG BAILE

BARRAIGH

Clann-nighean an Sgadain

Margaret Anne Elder

“Bhithinn a’ coimhead mo sheanmhair a’ fighe fad an t-siubhail. Gu tric, nuair a choisicheadh i bhon bhaile aice don bhùth no a dh’oifis a’ phuist, b’ urrainn dhi aon stocainn fhigh air an t-slighe is tè eile air an rathad dhachaigh. Bidh gach duine air a bheil cuimhne oirre a’ bruidhinn air a cuid sgilean fighe, thuir Margaret Anne. “Bidh e na thlachd dhomh an ceàrd agus an eachdraidh seo a chomharrachadh còmhla ri òigridh an eilein.”



Is i Margaret Anne Elder a stèidhich Herring Girl Knitwear, gnìomhachas beag Innse Gall le luchd-obrach air a dhèanamh an àird le figheadairean is luchd-ceàird sgileil a tha a’ dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid seann chleachdadh, a bha an impis a dhol à bith, a chumail beò. Bidh a’ chompanaidh a’ cleachdadh pàtrain shònraichte a chaidh a leasachadh sa chiad dol a-mach aig deireadh an 19^{mh} agus aig toiseach an 20^{mh} linn le bannal de bhoireannaich air an robh “clann-nighean an sgadain”, a bhiodh a’ leantainn sgaathan sgadain timcheall air cladaichean Bhreatainn.

Tha e air còrdadh ri Margaret Anne glan a bhith ag obair còmhla ri seann thidsear Sgoil Bhàgh a’ Chaisteil agus neach-ealain lèirsinneach Flòraidh NicThòmais air a’ phròiseact seo, is màthair Flòraidh fhèin mar phàirt de chlann-nighean an sgadain.



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Clann-nighean an Sgadain | Herring Girls

Margaret Anne Elder

“I watched my grandmother knitting every moment of the day. Often, when she walked from her home village to the shop or post office she could knit one sock there and one on the way back. Anyone who remembers her will always talk of her knitting,” Margaret Anne says. “It will be a joy to celebrate this craft and history with the youngsters of the island.”



Margaret Anne Elder is the founder of Herring Girl Knitwear, a small Hebridean clothing company whose workforce is made up of skilled knitters and craftspeople ensuring that an age-old tradition, which was starting to fade into the mists of time, is kept alive. The company uses the unique patterns and styles first developed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries by the formidable band of women known as ‘herring girls’, who followed the shoals of herring around the British coast.

Margaret Anne has really enjoyed working with former Castlebay teacher and visual artist Flora Thomson, whose mother was a herring girl herself, on this project.