



Saoghal Thormoid – Norman’s World

On consecutive days in the last week of April 2016 Gordon Wells recorded a series of Gaelic conversations with famed writer and entertainer Norman Maclean, in which Norman spoke reflectively of his memories and impressions of Gaelic life in Glasgow and the Hebrides from the middle of the Twentieth Century up to the present day.

The five videos, ranging between 35 and 55 minutes in length, have been posted online. Word for word transcriptions are also available on Clilstore, enabling instant one-click vocabulary checking for Gaelic learners. All in all there are 27,000 words and over three and a half hours of listening material in this collection, forming a unique new resource for serious study by learners and researchers.

Over the week the conversations ranged over a wide variety of topics, including potentially uncomfortable perceptions and depictions of identity. In broad terms, however, each day had a different central focus, as shown in the table below. The “Saoghal Thormoid” project is a collaboration between Soillse, the inter-university research partnership which funded the recordings through its Small Research Fund, and [Guthan nan Eilean](#) (Island Voices), the bilingual community project and archive which posts online video clips of Hebridean life and work. All recordings are free to access.

The hyperlinks in the third column of the table will take you to relevant Island Voices pages. The Wordpress post gives a one-paragraph summary of the day’s conversation, with onward links to the materials. The Clilstore link provides a full scrollable wordlinked transcript with embedded video. The YouTube link supplies the free-standing video alone without supplementary material.

	Topic	Island Voices Links
Monday	Ancestry	Wordpress post Clilstore transcript YouTube video
Tuesday	Education	Wordpress post Clilstore transcript YouTube video
Wednesday	Communities	Wordpress post Clilstore transcript YouTube video
Thursday	Creativity	Wordpress post Clilstore transcript YouTube video
Friday	Gaelic	Wordpress post Clilstore transcript YouTube video

Views expressed by participants in Soillse research do not reflect any official opinion of the Soillse partnership.

