

My name is Sabine Berger, I live in Germany near Berlin and I'm 37 years old. I read about the meetings to discuss the development of the Gaelic language in a local newspaper, the Iteach.

I'd like to support the endurance of the (Scottish) Gaelic language and I'm glad to get a chance to give a personal statement in this context.

For I'm no resident of Scotland nor having any Scottish ancestors this shouldn't be my business. But in my opinion it's very important to keep this language to show the younger generation where they come from, where their origins are. And much of this is better learnt by singing Gaelic songs or hearing Gaelic stories than look it up in historic and dirty documents. Gaelic shouldn't be something late and historic, it should be living and take place now. A matter of course..

For many years I've heard and liked the music by the popular Scottish band Runrig. Well, rock music is not everyone's taste. But I love the stories behind their songs, especially the Gaelic ones. Two years ago I started an internet language course, just to bring the sung words and the strange spelling of the textbook together. Wherever I meet Scots, I ask for the knowledge of Gaelic. Unfortunately, most Scots can't speak - but their children learn the language in school.

So I'm very curious to see the progress in your efforts and wish you good luck.

Greetings from Germany, slán leibh,

Sabine Berger