

Connel's Joy builds towards Dunoon

IT MAY be another eight months until Mod-goers descend on the streets of Dunoon for the Royal National Mod but a Connel woman has been working to show the Gaelic community that Argyll can throw a great Mod.

Joy Dunlop has been in the post of Argyll and Bute Gaelic Development Officer since September 2004 and is working to promote Gaelic in the area.

Although Joy worked at the Mods in Perth and Stornoway for An Comunn Gaidhealach she will have a larger part to play when the Mod comes to Argyll.

Joy, a former pupil of Achaleven Primary School and Oban High School and graduate of Sabhal Mor Ostaig, is approaching all the schools in Argyll and Bute offering to help them get a choir to Dunoon in October.

She said: 'I am asking all the schools in Argyll and Bute if they would like me to help prepare their competitors for the Mod. A lot say they don't know what to do for a Mod.'

'A lot of the children in Dunoon don't know what Gaelic is, so I am trying to get the teachers down there to enter a choir or children into speaking competitions.'

The Mod committee in Dunoon has been working hard to organise the biggest event on the Gaelic calendar.

Joy has been on hand to help with any problems they come across. 'Local committees begin organising a Mod three years in advance so plans for the Dunoon Mod are well underway.'

'They are all volunteers but have been working hard to raise funds for the last two years and this is the big push now.'

'I'm here to assist them if they need me to contact someone to organise or a fundraising ceilidh.'

'They have a really nice Mod website but it was all in English and they asked me to translate it for them.'

But Joy's work doesn't begin and end with the Mods and she has set up a Gaelic Conversation Circle in Oban which will begin on Monday, January 23.

It will be a continuation of the successful conversation circle held during the summer.

She has also helped to set up the website www.argyllgaelic.org which is a new website outlining the Gaelic events happening in the county.

